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by Jordan Smith • p.30

VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 12 NOVEMBER 21, 2008

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Everybody Plays the Fool

Neither party is sainted, and dominance tends to encourage the worst of political habits

BY LOUIS BLACK

To be fair is not to be flat, nor is it to be nonjudgmental. To demonize is to denigrate a person and his or her motives; to disagree, even violently, with others' ideas is not to demonize but simply to disagree. To oppose, even to campaign actively against, is not to exclude, nor is it to ghettoize. Some readers noted that last week's column contained a call for unity in the wake of Barack Obama's election but pointed out that I then went on to castigate certain right-wing radio talk-show hosts, as well as the audiences that believe in them.

Unity is marching in lockstep. Unity is not abandoning disagreement and debate. Unity is not blindly accepting all ideas as being equally worthy. Supporting the president-elect does not mean arguing for mindlessly following the leader.

Not to go into the subject at great length again, but my reading of the Constitution is that its genius has more to do with the process of government than with specifics about the type of government. It seems very much structured to invite debate (even intense and hostile debate) to prize compromise, and to be disposed against one group and/or one ideology dominating all the others while controlling the direction of government.

The very nature of this country's constitutional republic is to insist on a clash of ideas, creating vigorous debate resulting in, it is hoped, the very best of them emerging into prominence. The origin of these ideas – Republican, Democratic, Independent, the people – does not lend them a pedigree; only the quality, reality, and appropriateness of the idea itself does. Obviously, this is not always the case, and all too frequently we see vigorous debate that results in the lamest and most homogenized ideas being translated into legislation.

Unity does not even mean all Americans joining hands, marching and thinking in lock-

step, and singing happy songs of Americans together. Unity does not mean that all adhere to a single platform. Any one party dominating all three branches of government makes me extremely nervous, whether it was the Republicans during the first six years of the Bush administration or the Democrats in the coming legislative session. Neither party is sainted, and dominance tends to encourage the worst of political habits.

I condemn equally right-wing pundits and left-wing pundits who indulge in the notion that the biggest problems facing Americans are not very difficult issues that offer no easy or obvious resolution but other Americans with different opinions – many, if not most, of whom are very specifically unpatriotic and malevolent. The left participates in this as much as the right does, though not nearly as successfully. The pundits who encourage such distrust and hostility are doing the country a grave disservice, and those who believe in what they are saying (granted, only a slice of their audience) are equally scary.

This is not to argue for censorship, nor is it an attempt to shut pundits up. It is an expression of an idea that is very critical of them, offered as something to think about rather than with the purpose of instigating any kind of restriction, regulation, or denial of their speech.

To disagree is to disagree; it is not to even hint at legislative solutions. Central to this is that the free flow of ideas should result in disagreements, arguments, and debates. To disagree is not to try to silence, but to invite more voices and more volume.

I really believe most people are trying to do what they think is best for this country. As

much as I've disparaged the current administration, I don't think it is made up of evil folks who are trying to do damage. The biggest part of the problem is that these Republicans didn't act enough like Republicans. Arguing that their ideas demonstrate an arrogance, intolerance for discussion, and strict ideological agreement is still not to attack them but their ideas and the execution of those ideas.

Now, thinking something is in the best interest of the country and its being in the best interest are not one and the same. Not only can they be very different, but the very concept of having a firm grasp on what is objectively in the best interest of the country misstates the options.

In my job, there are days where I am making dozens of decisions. Most of the time, one does not chart a detailed biography of those decisions and their consequences, because that is usually nearly impossible to discern. Sometimes, though rarely, a decision is completely wrong or wonderfully right, but the vast majority of the time you move ahead, making ever more decisions, hoping that the vessel is afloat and heading in close to the right direction.

This is a column of ideas and opinions. Hopefully, most of the ideas are reasonably thought through, while the opinions are informed and logical. I do not possess the "truth" or even "truths." It is often shocking to realize how many people offer the "truth," rather than just mere opinions, and how many know that they are not only absolutely right but are, in addition, on the side of good. Especially if one simplifies disagreements by characterizing them as conflicts between good and evil, right and wrong, there is no reason to question oneself or be slowed by doubts. Their pursuit of the truth is pure, neither tainted by self-interest nor restricted

by any unquestioned ideology at the heart of their reasoning.

Alex Jones is highly regarded internationally as an expert on the ongoing worldwide conflict between the evil of the new world order and the good of those resisting it: not just an expert but a pioneer, a John the Baptist come out of the wilderness to speak truth to power and encourage all to come to knowledge. Now, on most matters I do not have knowledge and know not the truth, because I have very different ideas and opinions from Jones' and the "truth" movements – which means I'm close-minded, uninformed, and scared of the truth. So be it.

Early this year on one of his shows, Jones explained how everyone had opinions in the same way they all share a body part for defecation, but that he offered the "truth." He had gotten this truth from conversations and interviews, often with important national and international leaders, through extensive reading – often deeply into books and reports that would scare off most by their very density – and by constantly critically considering the news. Finally, he talked about researching at some of this country's great libraries, proudly noting that he had gone deep into their collections, accessing the stacks – the very stacks – themselves.

Given Jones' gift for the dramatic, to me his incantation of stacks conjured up the image of the crippled newsboy Billy Batson going deep into the dark of the subway farther than anyone else dares to venture. There he encounters an ancient wizard, as well as the deities Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles, and Mercury. The wizard grants Batson the ability to transform himself into Captain Marvel by saying, "Shazam." I realize that I'm getting carried away here by my own fantasy, certainly not by Jones.

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Postmarks

Claiming one has, speaks, and knows the "truth" seems extravagant and grandiose to me, but then I don't. Even most scholars acknowledge that research and reading can lead to viable and logical ideas, but few claim to have found the "truth" as often as currently so many others claim.

I accept that I'm part of the dumbed-down, compliant masses whose brains are scrambled and who have been broken by the state. Still, as I have occasionally pointed out, this is a column of ideas, suggestions, and theses – but certainly not one of truths. Given my druthers, I'd start near every sentence with "I think" or "It might be" or "I've come to believe," but given the amount of criticism my weary prose already earns, it would be even more annoying and less readable.

I hope this column, among many other things, stimulates readers to think, if only to explore the depths of my ignorance and the spectral beauty of their knowledge. It does seem vainglorious to state that this is all about encouraging an exchange of ideas, but that's what I still believe is a critical aspect of its intentions. Often responses are far more strategic and knowing than I am so that, rather than engage in discussion, they deride my very ideas, with their "truths" trumping my opinions. If I play no role except that of the fool, is it still enough? ■

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THANKS FOR SUPPORTING UNION

Dear Editor,

As a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091, I wanted to thank Michael King for his honest reporting ["Point Austin," News, Nov. 14] on the labor dispute between our labor union and Cap Metro CEO Fred Gilliam. After getting blasted in the *Statesman* and *KEYE* News, it was great to see someone in the press say out loud that we weren't just a mob of greedy blood-sucking leeches. We got so much support on the picket line from people passing by that we knew we had support in the community, but it is nice to see it confirmed in print. Thank you.

Clifton Smith

MONITOR BIKES AND CARS

Dear Editor,

A biker-for-transportation myself, I fully support the Austin Police Department cracking down on bikers breaking traffic laws ["APD vs. Cyclists," News, Nov. 14]. However, I would like to see APD crack down on cars creating unsafe transportation issues for bikers. In the past week alone, I have had cars get in the left lane to turn right around me (clipping my back wheel), turn left in front of me, and push me dangerously far right on the road. Yes, unsafe bikers are a problem; however, cars creating unsafe situations are much more likely to cause fatalities. Priorities, APD?

Riley Lym

A DANGEROUS CANARD

Dear Mr. Black,

I assume you have started breathing again ["Page Two," Nov. 14]. With oxygen having refreshed your mind, can you now see the irony of your exaltation of "unity" juxtaposed with your denigration of certain media personalities and politicians and, by implication, the tens of millions of Americans who support and agree with them?

The unity that you think Sen. Barak Obama is capable of creating is a dangerous canard. If the people of this country move forward in lockstep, they march to either one form of totalitarianism or another. Disagreement, debate, and petitioning our government are codified as fundamental rights in our Constitution. They also make our nation a healthier place, contrary to what your column implies.

As to the idea that government might be working well, I am again hopeful that respiration has restored your mental faculties. The government we have today mocks the constitutional premise that individual liberty is innate. You're thinking of the PATRIOT Act and its spawn. Yes, but I'm also thinking of the myriad intrusions into our personal economics, businesses, and lifestyles. The government, in these regards, has rendered our Constitution a tattered relic of history.

Your Postcard IV says that the idea of this country is that we all share the exact same rights in relationship to our government. Of course the relatively few who pay the majority of the taxes would be justified in wondering why that idea is not in practice. Why do they have less right to their own work product than someone who produces less? Other examples of the same underlying contradiction abound.

And need I remind you that our government, despite ever-increasing taxation, continues to make exorbitant promises that even those taxes are insufficient to support? Wall Street obviously has its share of idiots, but the stupidity of our current government in spending money we don't and are unlikely to be able to produce is unequaled in the history of the world.

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a time for basting *The Austin Chronicle* offices will close at 3pm, Wednesday, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday and will remain closed through Friday, Nov. 28. We will resume our regular business hours on Monday, Dec. 1.

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Reader
COMMENT
of the Week

austinchronicle.com/comments

On bike laws:

"We need a separate bike code, not one that emulates motor vehicles, and certainly not a citation system where fines are based on car crimes. A ticket for \$275? That's a decent used bike and a year of upkeep. And for a good deal of people who cycle commute out of necessity, that amount could exceed a week of take-home pay.

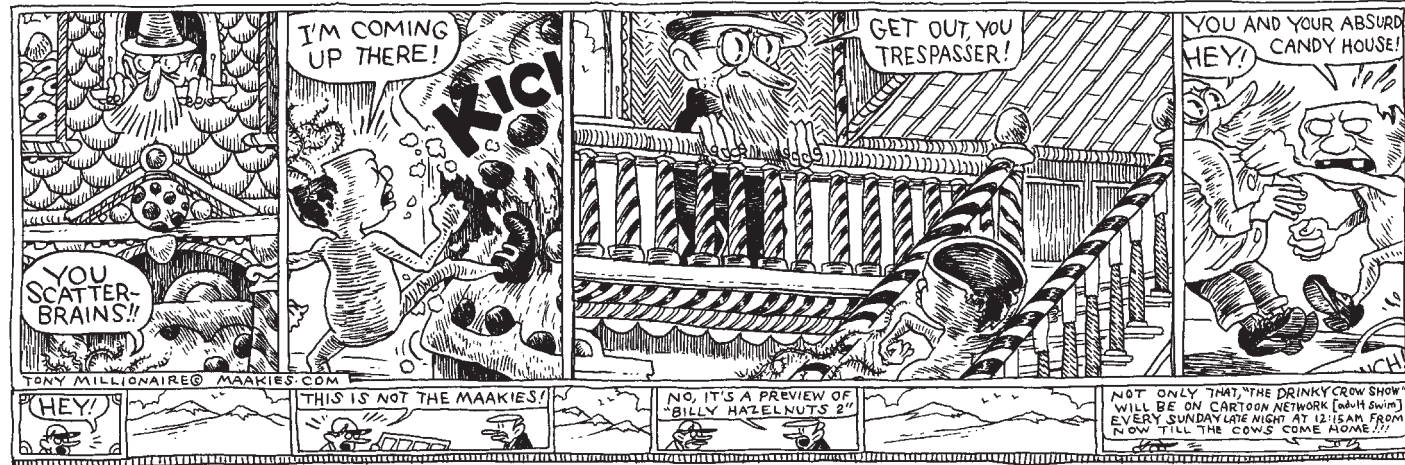
"Everything about this is disproportionate, starting with pure physics: cars easily kill, bikes don't.

"Every time I see a cop pull over a kid on a bike, I think the same thing: If this is how they spend their time, then we've got way too many cops on the payroll."
— Benji

"APD vs. Cyclists," News, Nov. 14

It is timely to quote Gene Healy, author of *The Cult of the Presidency*: "If we need heroes in our lives, we shouldn't go looking for them among professional politicians, for God's sake. Because in politics, wherever there's a promise, there's an unspoken threat. And when a presidential candidate promises to save the world and solve all your problems, it's not going to be free."

Breathe deeply, sir. The government is not working well, unless your ideal is the moral supe-



riority of the state over the individual. Of course, that is the exact opposite of the vision of our Constitution.

Sincerely,
William H. Graves

LEGALIZE AND DECRIMINALIZE!

Dear Editor,

It is amazing to think that marijuana legalization isn't supported as much as the movement for decriminalization ["Reefer Madness," News, Nov. 14]. Why do we as citizens still allow ourselves to be called criminals and think it great to only pay a "small" fine if caught? Our collective "stash" money continues to go to the black

market, divided among a few, and the amount of time and money wasted on abstinence policies instead of a tobacco/alcohol-like information and regulatory system is draining our already shaky economy. Wouldn't our efforts be more effective by getting what we can out of a commodity that is not going away? It is, after all, only our rights and economy that are in jeopardy.

Matt Kaemmerling

WRITE-IN VOTES FOR PAUL?

Dear Editor,

Where are the write-in votes for Ron Paul? I found it quite odd how votes for president in the Nov. 7 issue ["Nov. 4 Election Results,"

News] had candidates for president in Travis Co. listed as receiving votes. As little as one vote, for example, Thaddaus Hill, was enough to be listed.

I am sure Ron Paul received more than one write-in? Just checking.

Don Williamson

[News Editor Michael King responds: Under Texas law, only those write-in candidates who have filed as such with the Secretary of State's Office are eligible to have their votes counted. Ron Paul did not file as a write-in candidate and in fact endorsed the Constitutional Party's Chuck Baldwin, who at press time Nov. 5 had recorded 23 votes in Travis Co. The final vote totals may have changed slightly since that date, but Paul will not be among them.]

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KEEPING KIDS TOGETHER

Dear Editor,

I am writing to comment on the article "Proposed Southwest School Boundaries Spark Concerns" [News, Nov. 14]. I am a big fan of *The Austin Chronicle* and value your informative articles.

However, I would like to add information to the story, as it appears that only Mills Elementary representatives were interviewed for the story. There are several other schools/kids that will be very affected by this boundary matter, and we would appreciate a more balanced view of this important issue.

Like many Mills families, our family lives in a section of Circle C. We have fifth- and second-grade sons that attend Kiker Elementary and are directly affected by the boundary discussions. One of the proposals on the table, being heavily lobbied by the Mills representatives, would split Kiker families – some classmates would attend the new middle school, and others would attend Bailey Middle School. Just like Mills, we don't understand why classmates would need to be split between schools, but one of our main goals is safety for our children. If all of Kiker attended the new school, many of our kids could cycle to the new school and avoid MoPac altogether.

Although "keeping kids together" is very important for all families involved, the same issue affects both schools. The task force has stated that although they would like to keep families together if possible, the primary criteria in their decision is safety, distance, and school capacities.

If Kiker families were split at Escarpment as Mills has recommended, Kiker students would need to travel approximately six miles to Bailey Middle School through some of the most deadly intersections in all of Austin – several fatalities have occurred at MoPac and LaCrosse alone. Yet the same families would only need to travel as little as two miles to the new middle school, through mostly neighborhood streets – a much safer alternative.

On the contrary, Mills families only need to travel about three miles to Clint Small Middle School. Furthermore, Clint Small would be severely under capacity if it lost Mills students. One argument is that even more of the Mills families should attend Clint Small Middle School to put Clint Small at ideal capacity.

Thank you for listening and giving me the chance to bring additional information to your story.

Best regards,
Bill Blagdan
Kiker Elementary parent

DON'T THROW OUT PASSENGER RAIL WITH BATHWATER

Dear Michael,

Re: Michael King's "Point Austin: Nobody in Charge" [News, Nov. 14]: While I respect your support of labor in its dispute with Capital Metro, I regret that in your anger with the board, you chose to disparage passenger rail. Being already far behind other progressive cities (and even less progressive cities) in expanding public transportation to include rail, Austin can't afford to burden this critical initiative with every other dispute that invokes our ire.

Your criticism of passenger rail as being taxpayer subsidized ignores the fact that buses are also taxpayer subsidized. Yet surely neither one of us would advocate doing away with buses on that count. Furthermore, passenger rail is the perfect antidote to suburban sprawl, as opposed

CONTINUED ON P.12

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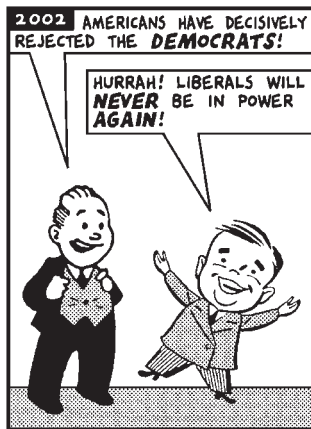
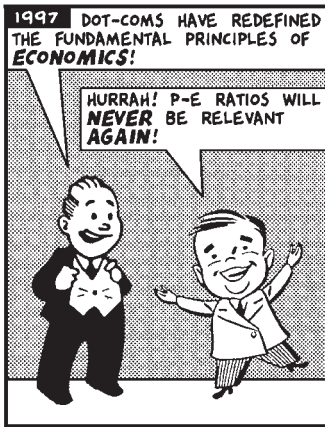
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by TOM TOMORROW

THE END OF HISTORY AGAIN



to supporting it as your comments imply. The new development taking shape around the Leander rail stop – dense, walkable, and mixed-use – clearly makes that point.

Because change is difficult, we need all the help we can get convincing the region of the merits of passenger rail as it is hopefully put before voters next May. I would like to think we can count on you and the *Chronicle* to support something that is so consistent with your historic support of the environment, public transportation, sustainable development, and reduced auto dependency – all hallmarks of an effective passenger rail system.

Sincerely,
John Langmore

regardless of the consequences. It appears to me that they intend to help a developer and ignore the overall needs of the neighborhood. Hopefully, the city and Cap Metro will realize this fault in their plan and build another station at Woodrow and Anderson Lane. An Anderson Lane Station is in the center of the area to be served and would reduce the need to commute to the station in a car. The Crestview Station, because of its location on the edge of the neighborhood at a congested intersection, will be more of an impediment to ridership than an aid.

Charles Lokey

DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

Dear Editor,

Goldman Sachs executives shouldn't be applauded for the foregoing of bonuses in the light of the nearly trillion dollar "bailout" of the banking industry and Wall Street investment firms.

These men took hundreds of millions of dollars home in salaries, options, bonuses, loans, and other perks while their companies were teetering on the brink of failure.

These men should not only forfeit their bonuses but a percentage of their salaries covering the problem periods and going forward until the crisis is resolved; after all, they are responsible for creating the problem.

We should hold the senators and representatives accountable who had oversight of the banking industry, as well as the heads of regulatory agencies.

They should be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for defrauding the people of the United States, not patted on.

The Rev. J. Lafayette Breedlove II

RAIL PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS NEEDS

Dear Louis,

I feel that the placement of two MetroRail Red Line stations in such close proximity as in Capital Metro's current plan does not address the needs of potential commuters in the Crestview area. The stations that I feel are too close to one another are the Highland Station and the Crestview Station. The Crestview Station, located at the congested intersection of Airport and Lamar, would be more beneficial to the neighborhood as a whole had it been placed centrally between the Highland Station and the Kramer Station. This station's placement exhibits poor planning and an inherent desire of the city leaders to support new concepts in housing and living

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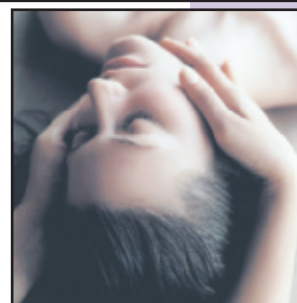


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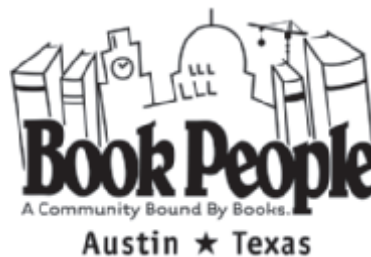
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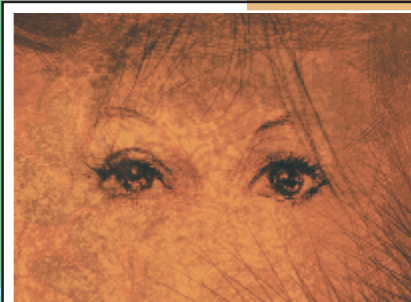


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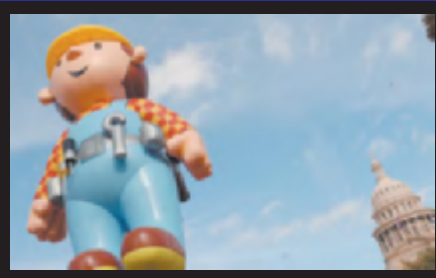
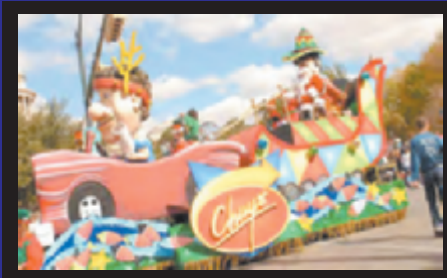
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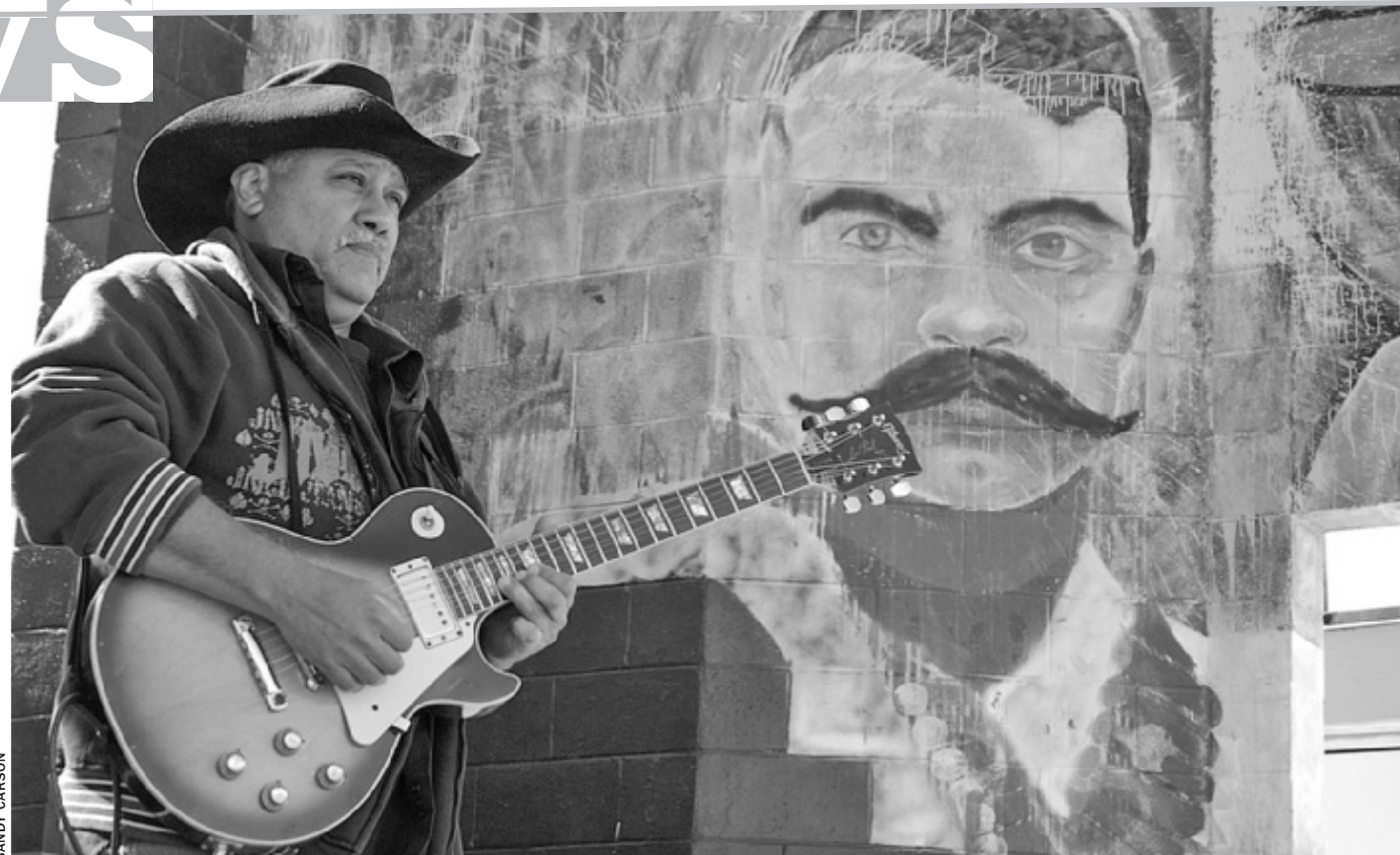
- › City Council meets today (Thursday); among the tasks, reconsidering the design teams for the **new central library**. See "City Hall Hustle," p.20.
- › Who will be the new **House speaker**? Rep. Tommy Merritt, R-Longview (who wants the job himself), has called a summit of all 10 candidates for the job. Arm-wrestling tournament? See what Austin's state reps think of the fight for the gavel in "Who Wants to Be 'Anybody but Craddick'?" p.27.
- › Red WilCo no more: Fresh off its victory in House District 52, the **Williamson Co. Democratic Party** voted Friday to turn its campaign headquarters into a permanent office.
- › **UT Medical Branch** at Galveston began firing 3,800 employees on Nov. 18, at a rate of 600 employees a day; the UT Board of Regents blames financial losses after Hurricane Ike.

Naked City

› **REACHING OUT TO AUSTIN'S HOMELESS** On Saturday, Nov. 15, kicking off **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**, Stand Down Austin – the local chapter of a national program that provides access to basic health, legal, financial, housing, employment, training, and veterans services to the homeless – held its eighth annual **Stand Down** event, a daylong gathering to raise community awareness and provide one-stop access to the city's charitable resources and organizations. At A.B. Cantu Pan American Recreation Center on East Third Street, volunteers provided haircuts and immunizations and distributed clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags, and medical supplies; dozens of local community-service organizations – including Foundation Communities, Capital Area Food Bank, United Way, SafePlace, and the Texas Veterans Commission – distributed information and provided counseling. Outside, social outreach ministry Mobile Loaves & Fishes served free hamburgers and hot dogs, and local bands kept the crowd entertained throughout the day. Kassi Darakhshan, Stand Down committee member and program coordinator of the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps project, said such events are vital to bringing social-service providers into a single, accessible community so they can better serve Austin's growing homeless population. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

› **ADULTS AND THEIR TOYS** Willie is free: On Oct. 29, the Texas Attorney General's Office reported to federal District Judge Lee Yeakel that the state would not appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court a ruling that overturned Texas' ban on the sale of **"obscene devices."** The state lost its bid to uphold a retail ban on anatomically correct sex toys "designed or marketed as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs," on appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The state was sued by Austin-based Reliable Consultants Inc. (which owns **LeRouge Boutique** and the seven-store chain **Dreamers**), whose owner, Doug Richards, and general manager, son Cloud, argued that the moralistic Texas toy ban presented an unconstitutional infringement on the private sex lives of adults. A two-judge panel of the 5th Circuit agreed, ruling that the ban ran afoul of the 14th Amendment's guaranteed right to "engage in private intimate conduct in the home without government intrusion." (See "Dildos No Longer a Hard Sell," April 25.) With Texas calling uncle on the case, only Kansas and Alabama still have laws on the books banning the sale of sexual devices. – *Jordan Smith*

CONTINUED ON P.20



Don Turnley & Shotgun House entertained the crowds Nov. 15, kicking off National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week with a daylong festival at the A.B. Cantu Pan American Recreation Center. (See "Reaching Out to Austin's Homeless," left.)

Unaccountable

In the public school testing frenzy, responsibility and consequences flow only downward

BY MICHAEL KING

As the semester winds down and Austin ISD calculates its annual tax bump, it's time to get worried again about troubled public schools. Under the gun this year are Pearce Middle School and Reagan High, both on the northeast side and both facing the threat of state closure next year if the students cannot achieve sufficient improvement on standardized tests, the dreaded Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. With the Lege session looming, Reagan students and supporters are sponsoring a Capitol rally for the school this Saturday afternoon. Rep. Dawnna Dukes, a Reagan alum (Rep. Donna Howard is another) has promised to sponsor legislation to modify or put an end to school closure as a consequence of "accountability." The votes to do that are likely a long shot, but in that politicized context, it's worth recalling that the closure policy partly originates in federal law, aka "No Child Left Behind," an Orwellian euphemism for a practice that sends administrators, teachers, and especially students and their families scrambling for alternatives when the neighborhood school is shuttered.

The district and both schools have made administrative changes and program adjustments to address the test scores, in fact part of a complex matrix that affects all student subgroups (i.e., racial, economic,

disabled) and, by all accounts, emphasizes and rewards "teaching to the test." Beyond that, the project becomes motivating the larger school community, especially parents and neighbors, to get directly involved in the success of the schools and their students – such an effort worked remarkably well at Webb Middle School, which fended off potential closure last year.

Comedy Gestapo

A couple of weeks ago, Dukes and the district sponsored a Pearce community forum aimed at building morale and getting more community buy-in to the school's success. The event was well-attended – principal James Troutman says he had a rough count of 350 – and students, teachers, and parents chimed in that they believe in Pearce, echoing the year's slogan, "Success is the only option." Quite a few attendees listened on headphones to a simultaneous Spanish translation; among the school's many challenges is a significant number of English language learners.

Troutman informed the parents that while student test scores have measurably risen this year, they do not yet meet state standards in all categories. Later he told me that the central challenge for the entire school

CONTINUED ON P.21

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QUOTE of the WEEK



"She couldn't get elected if two of her opponents died."

– Political consultant Peck Young, quoted in PolitickerTX.com, on former Austin mayor and state Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn (above), who's considering another run for mayor

► **KRUSEE VICTORY** Mike Krusee is in the clear now that a **Driving While Intoxicated** charge against him has been dropped. On Nov. 17, in County Court at Law No. 1, visiting Judge Chuck Miller accepted a written statement from Williamson County Attorney Jana Duty that, while the arresting officer had grounds to make the stop and arrest, a jury would be unlikely to convict. The retired state rep was arrested on April 30 after failing a field sobriety test, in the judgment of the arresting officer. After a request from the Department of Public Safety, Attorney General Greg Abbott agreed to withhold the dash-cam video of his arrest. Released after the dismissal, the video appears inconclusive; Krusee was not obviously intoxicated. "From the state's perspective, they didn't have sufficient evidence for a prosecution," said Krusee's attorney Jason Nassour. "Quite frankly, the video speaks for itself." — Richard Whittaker

► **PERRY TAKES A BACK SEAT** Gov. Rick Perry has stepped down as chair of the **Republican Governors Association**. At the annual conference in Miami on Nov. 14, Perry moved to finance chairman, while ultraconservative Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina was elected the new chair. Perry's last public appearance in the job was an awkward RGA joint press conference at which the media was interested only in hearing the GOP's failed vice presidential candidate, Alaska's Sarah Palin. When Perry took the RGA's top seat in December 2007, it was widely seen as a move to improve his national profile for a possible vice presidential run. — R.W.

► **FLDS INDICTMENTS** A Schleicher Co. grand jury handed down eight new indictments last week against four members of the Mormon break-away sect the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** — including one new felony charge against imprisoned FLDS prophet **Warren Jeffs**. Jeffs, convicted on a charge of rape-as-accomplice in Utah and in prison awaiting trial on similar charges in Arizona, was newly indicted for sexual assault; he's already been charged with bigamy and aggravated sexual assault of a child by grand jurors in West Texas' Schleicher Co., where the FLDS built a compound and its first-ever temple, just outside Eldorado. Three other men — not yet named — were indicted on bigamy charges, and one was charged with "conducting an unlawful marriage ceremony involving a minor," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said in a press statement. To date, 12 FLDS members have been indicted on criminal charges as "part of the ongoing and continuing criminal investigation," Abbott said. — J.S.

► **ELECTION DAY, PART TWO** Think the elections are over? Silly you. Gov. Rick Perry has called a special election on Dec. 16 in Harris Co.'s Senate District 17. Democrat **Chris Bell** and Republican **Joan Huffman** survived a six-way race on Nov. 4 to finish retired Sen. Kyle Janek's unexpired term. On Election Day, former U.S. Rep. Bell finished first, with 38.4% of the vote to former District Judge Huffman's 26.1%; since a majority was required to win, they'll go to a run-off. In the House, recounts are expected in two races. Republican **Brian Walker** has asked for a retrial of the votes in Jacksonville's House District 11 after Democratic incumbent Rep. **Chuck Hopson** kept his seat by 102 votes. It's even closer in Irving's HD 105, where incumbent Republican **Linda Harper-Brown** held off Democrat **Bob Romano** by only 20 votes (Romano announced his intention to request a recount last week but had to wait for the Dallas Co. clerk to certify the Nov. 4 results). If the current votes stand, the House is split 76-74 with a Republican majority, but if either seat flips, this could go 75-75 or 77-73. — R.W.

EVERYBODY'S ON VACATION

Propositions and lawyers and auditors, oh my!

BY WELLS DUNBAR

At City Hall, to cement someone's job security, first you gotta can him.

That was the Catch-22 the City Council became ensnared in Monday, at a specially called meeting canvassing the results of the Nov. 4 election. After pro forma approval of the results, a second item addressed **Proposition 1** — the city auditor proposition, which had passed resoundingly (71%). By appointing the auditor to a fixed five-year term and requiring a council supermajority to boot him, Prop. 1 was written by the council with the intent of keeping current auditor **Steve Morgan** in his office while further insulating him from political retribution. The move grants "autonomy and independence ... from city influence," said Council Member **Mike Martinez**. So what did council do next? Simple: vacate his office and appoint him "acting" city auditor while a panel is convened to fill the permanent position.

Who else could elucidate this Möbius strip of logic, other than your city law department?

A few clarifications: Morgan will undoubtedly be returned to his current capacity, and requiring a nominating committee (comprising three council members, the city manager, and the state auditor) to name the auditor is spelled out in the City Charter. "What it affects is what we lawyers call 'a vacation of the position,'" says Assistant City Attorney **Jenny Gilchrist**, reasonably enough. "It essentially creates the position anew," she says, meaning the office "of the current occupant ... is rescinded by operation of law. So what council will do is appoint an acting [auditor], because in our city code, there is a fairly complicated process they have to go through in order to actually make an appointment" — the aforementioned nominating committee.

While red tape may be a fact of municipal life, there's an incredulity at City Hall concerning the legal department's tardiness in spelling out the proposition's ramifications. To put it simply: Could we get a little more proactive, please? "It's not exactly concerning to me, but I was ... surprised to see that the issues of appointing an interim auditor and then doing the 'search' for a replacement

for the new auditor never came up during the discussions when we were talking about this ballot initiative," said Martinez at the council meeting. "At least I don't recall it." The facts seem to back him up. Gilchrist says: "We weren't asked to do an analysis of the impact of the charter amendment until fairly close to Election Day. So while there was a presumption it would have an impact, we did not do the analysis." Still, you'd think at some point in reviewing the ballot language, the department, headed by **David Smith**, would have briefed council — not to mention the voters — on its full effects.

City legal's taken its share of lumps — for deference to Wal-Mart in the Northcross debacle, its role in drafting what critics reflexively called biased ballot language, from **Paul Robbins** just about every time he opens his mouth, and so on — of which this appears to be the latest scrape.



NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

Carole Keeton Strayhorn's nonannouncement for mayor last week reminded us all that silly season's right around the corner. The Hustle reached out to another potential candidate, but when we reached **Brewster McCracken** on Nov. 10 — the first day candidates could begin spending on elections — his mind was squarely in marriage mode. The mayor pro tem has since tied the knot with Sarah Groos, the LBJ Library's programs manager; the two are honeymooning in Zihuatanejo, on the southern Pacific coast of Mexico, having left seemingly as soon as Martinez returned from his honeymoon with new bride Lara Wendler, chief of staff to Texas senator and death row phone foe John Whitmire. The Hustle sends his best wishes all around.

As for its meeting today (Thursday, Nov. 20), council receives an after-the-fact presentation on the qualifications process for teams vying to design the new central library. It's a little strange, since the three finalists have already made their pitches to the council, with the decision since slated to come in December. Can we assess late fees?

Drop a line: wells@austinchronicle.com.

res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.80.

THURSDAY 20

BLACK DEMOCRATS MEETING 6pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th. www.blackaustindemocrats.net.

LIVE MUSIC MARCH Join the march to City Hall, and show your support for a thriving live music scene. (See "Live Music Task Force," p.24, and "Music Department," Music, p.68, for more.) 1pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. www.saveaustinmusic.com.

MICHELE NORRIS The NPR co-host of *All Things Considered* presents Listening to America in an Election Year: Did the Press Get It Right? 7pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, UT campus, 1900 University Ave. Free.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Join

Transgender Education Network of Texas and more than two dozen local organizations in honoring those who lost their lives for simply being who they are. 6:30pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220. www.transgenderdor.org.



FRIDAY 21

PRAY FOR PEACE People of all faiths are welcome to put their spiritual vote in for peace. Bring a song or poem if you're so inclined. 12:15-12:45pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. www.stdave.org.

SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS VIGIL Join the road trip to protest the **School of the Americas** (aka the School of Assassins) at Fort Benning, Ga. The bus leaves town today at 6pm and returns Monday, Nov. 24, at 7am. Help change U.S. foreign policy in Latin America with an estimated 20,000 like-minded protesters. \$260-336. To sign up, call 626-6176 or visit www.soaw-austin.org.

SATURDAY 22

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE 10am. Pearce Middle School, 6401 N. Hampton. Free. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

AUSTIN UNCHAINED DAY Take a break from Wal-Marts and Targets, and spend your hard-earned dollars where they'll count the most — at Austin's homegrown businesses. (See "Keep Our Dollars Weird," p.22.) www.ibuyaustin.com.

COMMUNITY GARDENS COALITION hosts a meeting open to anyone interested in helping Austin's community gardens thrive. 1:30-3:30pm. Alamo Recreation Center, 2100 Alamo St. RSVP: sari@sustainablefoodcenter.org.

NATIONAL FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY United Way Capital Area, Hands on Central Texas, and Success by Six all encourage volunteering as a family on this annual day of service. Register at www.handsoncentraltexas.org.

STAND UP FOR REAGAN Join Rep. **Dawnna Dukes**, the Reagan High School band, and others marching from the Capitol to the Texas Education Agency in support of projects to improve Reagan's academic performance and keep the school open. 2:30-4:30pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress.

SUNDAY 23

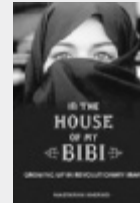
EMPTY BOWL PROJECT Bring \$15 for the Capital Area Food Bank, and get a bowl of soup prepared by one of 30 local restaurants. The bowls, donated by Central Texas potters, are yours to keep. 11am-3pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St. www.austinfoodbank.org.

HEART OF TEXAS PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION hosts this monthly get-together for former and future Peace Corps volunteers, friends, family, and the Corps-curious. Noon. *Hostelling International*, 2200 S. Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. www.hotpca.org.

MONDAY 24

EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT hosts a collection of panels, workshops, and keynotes to help you develop leadership and management skills while you network. 7am-5pm. Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort, Lost Pines, 512/248-2044. \$249 (\$199, members). www.ewtg.org.

NASTARAN KHERAD shares *In the House of My Bibi: Growing Up in Revolutionary Iran*, her memoir of life in Ayatollah Khomeini's theocracy. 5:30pm. Follett's Intellectual Property, 2402 Guadalupe.



TUESDAY 25

KHABELE FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY Check out the open house, and see how alternative schools make learning a life lesson. Noon-3:45pm. *The Khabele School*, 801 Rio Grande, 480-8142. Free. www.khabele.org.

community is “just staying focused” on the goal of raising the test scores while still effectively teaching the broader school curriculum. The forum event is part of the ongoing school/neighborhood effort; this week, Troutman noted, parents are invited to the school for a celebratory Thanksgiving lunch.

Not surprisingly, the external pressure has generated some cracks in the harmonious facade. In October, Troutman sent a memo reminding faculty of grading schedules (and a new computer system that will allow parents Web access to their children’s grades), using what he now calls “tongue in cheek” phrases: “BIG BROTHER is ALIVE and WELL!!!” and the “Gradespeed Gestapo is watching!!!” Some teachers didn’t take kindly to the memo, and after AISD got wind of it, Troutman sent an apology. “It wasn’t in the best of taste,” he told me, but insisted he did not mean to intimidate or offend anyone.

More substantively, some teachers (fearing retaliation) have privately complained that Troutman is an ineffective administrator and has poorly managed school discipline. He says that in fact disciplinary referrals at Pearce have dropped dramatically over the past year, as have assignments of students to home suspension or alternative education. He added that Education Austin, the teacher and staff union, will soon be providing workshops in “positive behavior support” at the school.

The Pearce Mission

Teachers are understandably worried about their own futures as well as that of the school. At the Pearce forum, Education Austin’s Louis Malfaro struck a discordant note when he charged that the former Johnston High teachers – 75% of whom had to be “reassigned” under TEA’s punitive closure rules – were essentially cut loose without support by AISD, and many could not find other positions and left the profession. District spokesman Andy Welch said that while some teachers did indeed find positions in other district schools, the awkward timing of

the Johnston closure diminished reassignment options. “I think we did the absolute best and fairest that we could,” he said.

Malfaro called for the district to change a policy that effectively punishes teachers who accept the risk of working in an already disadvantaged school. “Students will suffer,” he said in a press release, “as quality teachers who want to work with high-needs students avoid assignments that could lead to losing their employment.”

All these potential reverberations are certainly in the air, not to mention the larger cloud of empowering the testing obsessives, bureaucrats, and their commercial allies beyond all reason (“students are being tested to death,” a Pearce teacher told me). Dukes (also a Pearce alum) vowed to the forum, “This is my school, and I won’t let anybody at the Capitol forget it,” raising the question of just how much weight local authority might carry at the TEA. Dukes exhorted the crowd, “We must consider Pearce as a mission for each and every one of us.” Said District 1 trustee (and Pearce alum) Cheryl Bradley: “We are not supporting children by closing a school. ... We have to bring the resources, embrace the children, and do what needs to be done.”

Judging from the enthusiastic response from the crowd on this night, the core members of the Pearce community have gotten the message that the future of the school is in their hands – pending always the tyranny of the numbers and the TEA. Dukes noted the experience of Webb, calling it “a success story that is unusual, but not impossible to emulate,” although those present remained painfully conscious as well of the shadow of Johnston, now Eastside Memorial High.

It remains to be seen whether Pearce and Reagan, the district, and the broader Austin community can successfully follow the Webb example and thereby turn a corner for East Austin schools. ■

The Stand Up for Reagan march and rally takes place Saturday, Nov. 22, 2:30-4:30pm, on the south steps of the Capitol.

THURSDAY 27

OPERATION TURKEY aims to cook, package, and deliver food and clothing to 3,500 homeless Austinites today, and they need a lot of volunteers to make it happen. Register online at www.operationturkey.com. 9am-2pm. The Soup Peddler, 501 W. Mary, 373-7672; Bikini’s Sports Bar & Grill, 6901 N. I-35, 454-2247.

THANKSGIVING AT THE LBJ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM is open for the holiday, so stop by and check out the newest exhibit, “To the Moon: The American Space Program in the 1960s.” 9am-5pm. Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, 2313 Red River. Free. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu.

ONGOING

APD VICTIM SERVICES UNIT needs Crisis Response Team volunteers to help respond to distress calls from people in crisis situations. Volunteers should have some background in crisis intervention or counseling; training begins Fri., Jan. 16. Applications at www.cityofaustin.org/police.

CITIZENS AT LAST EXHIBITION uses archival photos, newspapers, cartoons, and cards to show

the history of the women’s suffrage movement in Texas. Through Feb. 15. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

COMPUTER RECYCLING Get rid of that obsolete computer the green way. Dell and Goodwill have teamed up to offer free recycling services for any brand computer. Drop off the hardware at any Goodwill store. www.reconnectpartnership.com.

HOUSING MARKET STUDY SURVEY Help the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office figure out what Austin’s housing needs are – fill out the city’s online survey: www.cityofaustinhousingsurvey.com.

NOMINATE A GREEN BUSINESS Austin Business Journal will recognize Austin’s most eco-friendly businesses with Going Green awards. Nominate your favorite businesses by Dec. 5 at www.austin.bizjournals.com.

WINTER SEASON DONATIONS With temperatures dropping, it’s time to remember those without protection from the elements. New or gently used blankets, jeans, and coats are needed at Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh. Call 305-4174 or see www.frontsteps.org.




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Austin Unchained

Keeping our dollars weird

When visitors come to town, they search out uniquely Austin places to nosh, hear live music, and spend. Vacationers want the fun-and-funky experience of shopping at Room Service Vintage or Hatbox, not the same Old Navy; Tesoros Trading Co. or Planet K, not Wal-Mart; South Congress, not the mall. On Saturday, Nov. 22 – **Austin Unchained Day** – the **Austin Independent Business Alliance** is calling upon natives to do the same: Patronize locally owned retailers instead of chain stores for one day. Better yet, AIBA asks all Austinites to consciously shift \$100 of their holiday season spending to locally owned businesses.

This year, the local economic shadows cast by the darkening national economy provide a fresh reason to heed the Austin Unchained message. A key rationale for shopping at locally owned retailers is that dollars spent here stay here, to a far greater extent, and boomerang around Austin. A landmark study done in 2002 compared the local economic impact of shopping at two beloved Austin indie stores – Waterloo Records and BookPeople – to that of shopping at Borders. (At the time, the chain planned a new store across Lamar.) The **Liveable City** study found that \$100 spent at Borders had just \$13 in local economic impact; the same expenditure at Waterloo and BookPeople yielded a \$45 impact.

A more recent 2008 study by **Civic Economics** (the same local firm that did the Austin study and several others) confirms that trend. The research for **Local First** of Grand Rapids, Mich., examined the economic impact of a 10% shift in market share, from chains to locals, across an \$8.4 billion countywide retail market. It found that shifting \$840 million – of the same spending – to locally owned businesses from chain stores would create \$137.3 million more in local economic activity. That included creation of 1,600 more local jobs, paying \$53 million in all, and a multiplier effect spreading the wealth across many sectors, not just retail.

“In today’s national economic climate, it is more important than ever to keep profits here in Austin, rather than sending them to Wall Street,” said Frank Lynn, executive director of AIBA. The group estimates that if each Travis Co. household redirected \$100 of holiday spending from chain stores to locally owned merchants, the local economy would get a \$14 million boost.

UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

Unless you love the mall, it’s generally more fun to browse small, one-of-a-kind neighborhood shops anyway – such as those in AIBA’s five **Independent Business**

Investment Zones, areas rich in indie biz storefronts. The atmosphere and merchandise are more eclectic and personal, the service hometown-friendly, the drive shorter, the quality often better. There’s also something to be said for the grassroots satisfaction of helping neighbors realize their entrepreneurial dreams. But as much as average Austinites brag on – but don’t patronize – our live music scene, many locals forget about shopping at the “only in Austin” places that attracted us here in the first place.

Conventioners know better! “Visitors don’t want malls; they want unique destinations where shopping is the main attraction but where they can also grab lunch, maybe see some live music, too,” reports Cheri Winterrowd of the **Austin Visitor Center**. The AVC storefront on Sixth Street helps more than 150,000 visitors a year, she reported: “Some two-thirds of the visitors ask about shopping, and we distribute around 500 IBIZ brochures a month.” She added, “We’re getting increasing interest in ‘off the beaten path’ places like South Lamar and the East End – which is why it’s nice to have the IBIZ brochures.” The **city of Austin** is providing about \$35,000 annually to AIBA to market the IBIZ districts with banners, brochures, and advertising.

Of course, townies spend far more than tourists shopping for everyday staples – like booze. Twin Liquors is a textbook example of a locally owned indie biz that gives back more to the Austin economy and community. The family-owned business, with roots extending back to the 1800s, has grown from

ALT-WEEKLIES ENCOURAGE READERS TO GO LOCAL

The **Association of Alternative Newsweeklies** has launched a new **Shop Locally Owned** project through more than 70 of its member newspapers across the country. The Austin Unchained idea was picked up by the **American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA)** and taken to other cities; this year, AMIBA co-developed a new holiday-season project to promote the message with AAN, a trade organization of 130 alternative newspapers (including *The Austin Chronicle*). “Conscious shopping, like voting, is a powerful way to make change,” noted AMIBA spokeswoman Erin Kilmer Neel. Many alt-weeklies are challenging readers to make official pledges to spend at least \$100 at locally owned stores in the next month. (If the combined 17.5 million readers of indie newspapers followed through, they could shift more than \$2.9 billion to indie stores and thus pump up their local economies.) The *Chronicle*, in true indie fashion, never quite got with the official AAN program but instead has spun off its own **Shop Local** campaign.

– K.G.

one store to 55 in Central Texas – with the economy-stoking administrative functions retained in Austin. (Twin Liquors’ new Hancock Center mega Marketplace will open Nov. 22, 3-6pm, and hold special Austin Unchained tastings.) Owner David Jabour noted that because they’re from here, they make a special effort to carry, promote, and sell locally produced wines and spirits: Tito’s

Handmade Vodka, Treaty Oak Platinum Rum, Dripping Springs Texas Vodka, Paula’s Texas Orange, Savvy Handcrafted Vodka.

Twin Liquors has lent its 70 years of retail experience and industry connections to help Central Texas wineries and spirits entrepreneurs conceive, incubate, start up, market, and distribute their wares. “We just really get excited about being able to develop a locally produced product,” said Jabour. “We’re going out of our way to make sure we’re doing everything we can to promote them, through our own reputation as one of the most progressive spirits retailers in the county.” The trade publication *Market Watch* named Twin Liquors Retailer of the Year in 2004 and gave the company a community-service award for its support of more than 500 charitable events annually. That’s typical, says AIBA, of indies’ stronger “I live here, I give here” passion – yet another reason to spend with them.

DOING THE MATH

Why do locally owned businesses have three times the economic impact? According to the Civic Economics studies, while both indies and chains hire local sales staff, indies create more local employment because they hire administrative, marketing, advertising, legal, accounting, and other help in town, not in Bentonville. They purchase goods, business-to-business services, and available wholesale merchandise in Central Texas. Plus, the income enjoyed by local entrepreneurs gets spent on their Austin-centric lives – not sent away to corporate or distributed to shareholders.



(Anecdotal evidence provided to AIBA also suggests that its members pay higher hourly wages than comparable chain stores.) To account for the economic bounce on the dollar, a multiplier is used to calculate “total economic impact.” For example, in the Borders vs. BookPeople/Waterloo study on \$100 spent, a multiplier of about 50% yielded the \$13 vs. \$45 impact figures.

The 2008 Civic Economics study for Grand Rapids states: “The magnitude of these impacts is such that, under ordinary circumstances, economic development organizations and public agencies would rally to the cause, actively recruiting and incentivizing any firm promising such an impact. As it happens, consumers can themselves create these impacts with only a modest shift in their habits and behavior.”

Citizen outcry against city incentives that effectively favor chain stores over home-grown has risen to a fever pitch of late; it also fueled the 2002 Borders vs. BookPeople study. Based on Civic Economics’ research, incentives to help locally owned retailers thrive might be more effective economic development policy now – not to mention a powerful way to rebuild citizen trust. What magnitude of new economic activity and sales-tax revival might be enjoyed if the city and the Chamber of Commerce threw their resources behind a “rally to the cause”? That question begs for a City Council work session.

Meanwhile, there’s holiday shopping to be done. For those fretting about the local economy, AIBA has a cheering suggestion: Make a list, then check it twice for ways to patronize the shop around the corner.

– Katherine Gregor

For more information, including a listing of AIBA members hosting community events and offering special discounts on Nov. 22, visit www.ibuyaustin.com.

Cap Metro Aftertaste: No Love Lost

Last week, right at the *Chronicle's* Wednesday publication deadline, members of **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091**, representing about 800 drivers and mechanics of **Capital Metro**, voted to accept the contract offer of **StarTran**, the subcontractor that employs them. The Nov. 12 vote officially brought an end to a three-day strike and 18 months of working without a contract. The vote was 289 to approve the contract, 44 against. At ATU's Wednesday night press conference, ATU 1091 President **Jay Wyatt** said he considered the strike a success, despite being disappointed with aspects of the contract. "We didn't get screwed too bad," he laughed. "The majority of the members stuck together and stood up to Capital Metro," he said. "It's like going into a fight with a bear with a toothpick. Capital Metro has a lot of money and the best union avoidance attorney in the country," referring to the company's chief negotiator, **Tom Hock** of Ohio-based Professional Transit Management.

Wyatt said he's pleased with the wage increases secured: 3% per year through 2011, which he described as consistent with the national average for transit workers. However, the union accepted a \$1,200 bonus this year instead of getting a 3% raise retroactive to 2007 and had to accept increased insurance costs. "A lot of the employees, even though they voted to

accept this contract, were upset about the fact that they didn't get the retroactive pay back to 2007, and they didn't want to see the insurance change," Wyatt said. "But we had to tell them this was the best we could do under the circumstances."

Wyatt also leveled some serious accusations at Capital Metro about its conduct during the strike. "They lied to y'all and told y'all that they had a quarter of the people back to work," he said. "They brought in people from out of town that weren't even driving the buses. They were taking the buses out on the streets and parking them on the streets. They weren't picking up people. ... They were taking buses out and parking them, because they didn't know the city and were getting lost all over the place.

"Look at all this tax money they wasted," he went on, accusing StarTran of paying replacement workers high wages "to bust this union" and putting them up in hotels. "They could have just negotiated the contract."

Contacted for a response, Capital Metro chose not to directly address Wyatt's allegations: "Now that StarTran and the union have a contract, it's time for all of us to move forward and renew our efforts to provide high quality and critically important transportation services to the citizens of Central Texas," said spokesman Adam Shaivitz.

— Lee Nichols



Registered nurses from across the state gathered at the Capitol Nov. 13 to rally for the Texas Hospital Patient Protection Act, which would shine a light on unsafe practices in hospitals. Such legislation would, among other things, set a minimum RN-to-patient ratio, allow provisions for nurses to serve as patient advocates, and establish whistle-blower protections for RNs.

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JOHN ANDERSON

LIVE MUSIC TASK FORCE (OF MILLIONS)

"At the risk of sounding dramatic, this is a landmark week in Austin music," declared **Live Music Task Force** Chair **Paul Oveisi**, who also owns Momo's on Sixth Street. "We have an opportunity to step up as a community and build a foundation of a live music infrastructure that could catapult Austin to be a cutting-edge music city."

After nine long months of work by the 15-member volunteer task force, created by City Council in January, its recommendations, reflecting substantial community input, will be presented to council at 2pm on Thursday, Nov. 20. The next hurdle: turning all those good ideas into new city policies, programs, and community initiatives that actually work to support the music scene and related sectors of the local economy.

The new nonprofit **Save Austin Music** has dubbed this "the Week That Will Change Austin Music Forever." SAM is partnering with the **Austin Music Foundation** for a march to City Hall on Thursday to demonstrate community support for the live music scene. Ralliers will gather at 1pm at Antone's (213 W. Fifth; free parking at City Hall). Notes SaveAustinMusic.com: "The LMTF will tell City Council how the City can help support our industry and how they can help us make a living in the music busi-

ness in Austin. But these recommendations will have little effect without public support."

Bobby Garza, a task-force member, musician, and aide to Council Member **Mike Martinez**, noted this week, "It's going to be up to folks who care about this stuff to lobby council, push forward the recommendations they think are good ideas, and make sure action gets taken." The most emphatic push will need to come from council resolution sponsors **Martinez, Will Wynn, Sheryl Cole**, and their colleagues. Here in the live music capital of the world, no elected official would dare be "against" live music. Certainly it bodes well that Garza and mayoral aide **Rich Bailey** have been closely involved in making the task force a success. But other recent citizen recommendations – memorably those of the **Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force** – have languished without council adoption or much staff support.

Look for council to take its first action at its Dec. 11 or 18 sessions, likely directing city staff to pursue one or more recommendations. The central one: "Establish a central Music Department (MD) within the City of Austin governance structure." If it's not officially someone's job to implement the 15 pages of bright ideas, they won't get far. Realistically,

city funding will have to wait on the 2009-2010 city budget; given shrinking local sales-tax revenues, even that now looks dubious. So as not to lose momentum, the task force recommends tasking an existing city staffer (ideally reassigned full-time), or a team, with the responsibilities outlined in the report.

Many of the suggested improvements would cost the city little other than staff time. (For a detailed analysis, see "Music Department," Music, p.68, and "Can the Bands Play On?" July 18.) Big-ticket items, such as providing central affordable housing for musicians, would likely need private-sector participation or other funding. And members will need cost-benefit estimates from the budget office, headed by Chief Financial Officer **Leslie Browder**, and/or the **Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office**, overseen by Assistant City Manager **Sue Edwards**.

A detailed economic development analysis would define the potential return on the city's investment. The music industry was credited by a 2004 city report with generating nearly \$1 billion in local economic activity. An effective Music Department potentially could pay for itself by growing the local music industry and thereby

yielding more sales- and property-tax revenues. The task force recommends an active three-pronged strategy: 1) recruit needed industry elements, such as record labels, distributors, booking agents, and talent management; 2) attract complementary industries, such as digital and film; and 3) incubate and foster growth of existing industry elements already in Austin. To make fast tracks, the city's Economic Growth wing potentially could partner on this effort with **Opportunity Austin**, the economic growth arm of the Austin **Chamber of Commerce**.

Urged Oveisi: "I can't emphasize the power of proving that the community is behind this report. Numbers speak volumes to our elected officials." Observing that the task force has already required "many months of public forums, late-night work sessions, surveys, meetings, consultations with people all over this planet," he said: "I ask more. Participate. Pay attention. Be involved."

And don't ignore the bands' tip jars.

– Katherine Gregor

The Live Music Task Force recommendations – including recent changes regarding sound enforcement and control – are posted online at www.cityofaustin.org/council/livemusictaskforce.htm.

Fate of the Texas Two-Step

If the panel of **Texas Democratic Party** leaders gathered at the AFL-CIO hall last Friday wasn't clear on what's wrong with the party's dual primary/caucus system, **Amy Wright** gave them a good visual to work with. It was a chair. She had to sit in the chair to give her testimony because of a devastating car wreck months earlier.

"February 16 was a pretty memorable day for me," Wright told state Sen. **Royce West** of Dallas and a collection of county party chairs and other party dignitaries. "I spent the day at a party event learning about caucuses. ... And then on the afternoon of February 16, I was involved in a pretty horrible car accident." The tragedy left three people dead and Wright in Brackenridge.

"I watched the Democratic primary debates from my hospital bed," Wright said. "My husband brought the forms to send for an absentee ballot so I could vote in the primary election. And then I watched ... as the Democratic caucus system became the focus of our primary election in Texas. I couldn't go to the caucus in my precinct; I was in one of the many hospitals in our state that night, along with many other patients, doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff."

Wright was one of a long line of people testifying to the advisory committee, most of them opposed to the Democrats'

so-called "**Texas Two-Step**."

Perhaps you were sleeping under a rock last March; otherwise, you probably recall that presidential delegates to the **Texas Democratic Party Convention** are allocated according to a bizarre, unique system in which two-thirds are decided by the primary popular vote and the other third are selected by those who attend precinct caucuses immediately after the polls close on election day.

The system has had little consequence in the past, as the Democratic nomination was often wrapped up by March, but this year it was crucial to the Clinton/Obama contest, and it resulted in the odd situation of Sen. **Hillary Clinton** winning the popular vote but Sen. **Barack Obama** winning a majority of the state's delegates.

Many of those testifying complained that the system favors the physically fit with enough free time to attend the caucuses – and dilutes the influence of the elderly, the ill, single parents, and those in the military.

Members of the panel, however, were surprisingly defensive in their reactions, and some insisted that the system was



SANDY CARSON

City and Austin Fire Department officials line up behind City Manager Marc Ott in a show of support for his recommendation of Rhoda Mae Kerr as Austin's first woman fire chief. Kerr, the fire chief of Little Rock, Ark., is expected to appear before City Council today (Thursday) to receive the council's formal blessing. Kerr will begin her new duties Feb. 2.

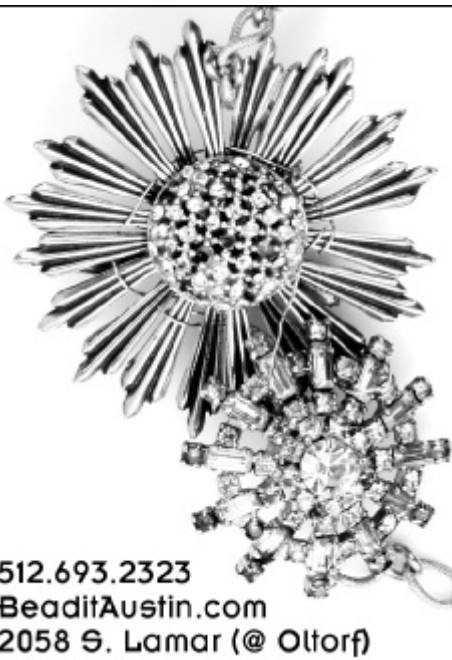
essential to building the party. Reacting to comments that the system just benefited party insiders, Cameron Co. Judge **Gilbert Hinojosa** replied that "people who had never been insiders before came into the system. Noninsiders had bigger involvement than ever before."

"I don't know were the influx of new blood is going to come from in relation to party operations," said Hopkins Co. party Chair **Bill Brannon**. "Some of these people that participated this year will run the party for a long time."

A few attendees made similar testimony in support of the two-step, but they were far outnumbered by opponents. Some pointed out the obvious: The big flood of new party activism this year came not because of enthusiasm with the caucuses but because of the heated passions around the two candidates in play.

The hearing was the final of seven held around the state. Opponents of the two-step have organized a website, www.changethecaucus.org.

– Lee Nichols



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Solid Waste Who's Driving the Train?

City staff, the citizen's **Solid Waste Advisory Commission**, and the city manager's office are potentially heading for a showdown after the commission called for outside counsel and consultants to be brought in to determine who exactly is in charge of the city's trash policies. At stake, SWAC Vice Chair **Rick Cofer** said, is "the deeper policy discussion ... of who makes decisions in the city of Austin."

Two issues brought matters to a head. First was the quiet mothballing of plans for a materials-recovery facility (see "City Adds Costs and CO₂ to Recycling Program," Oct. 24) that was supposed to start receiving waste from the new single-stream recycling bins in October. Instead, private contractor **Greenstar** is shipping the waste to Dallas, and the proposed \$19 million facility has instead become a proposal for a \$72 million Green District to incorporate the various recycling functions. Then there was the seemingly unilateral decision by the city's legal department not to oppose a permit application by **BFI Waste Systems**. The application, currently before the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**, would allow the embattled **Sunset**

Farms Landfill in northeast Travis Co. to rise another 75 feet (see "City Hall Hustle," Nov. 14) – even though SWAC and City Council had passed resolutions opposing the expansion in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

In response to staff's actions, SWAC unanimously passed two resolutions at its Nov. 12 meeting. The first requested that the city hire external legal counsel to investigate canceling the Oct. 31 agreement with BFI and to examine whether what legal did was ... well, legal. The second called for a "comprehensive internal and external departmental review of **Solid Waste Services** to evaluate the positioning of the department to handle the immediate challenges posed by developing a long range plan, implementing zero waste, and other issues."

City Manager **Marc Ott** has already proposed an internal review, and SWS public information officer **Jill Mayfield** said the department is "always open to people looking at us."

In a letter to council, Ott stressed that SWS is "a department in transition." But SWAC Chair **Gerard Acuna** questioned whether it was SWS, its programs, or city management that was in transition: Looking at the meeting agenda, he said, "None of this was new; none of this is a recent suggested item; these are things we have been planning for years."

Both SWS and city legal insist they did nothing untoward. City public information officer **Reyne Telles** said, "The law department believes that its actions, with regard to the [BFI] agreement, comply with the policy direction given." The May 17, 2007, council resolution opposes "the Allied BFI Landfill expansion applications as filed" (emphasis added), but the instructions to the city manager are simply to work with Travis County and TCEQ toward the closure and improvement of the landfill. Telles pointed to the successful negotiation of a Nov. 1, 2015, closure date for the landfill, as well as additional environmental quality controls, as presumably fulfilling the council's explicit charge.

As for the materials-recovery facility, SWS Assistant Director **Don Birkner** had previously said that the department's biggest concern was making sure the plant was integrated into the city's proposed Zero Waste Plan. At the Nov. 12 SWAC meeting, SWS Director **Willie Rhodes** noted that introducing single-stream recycling in October is diverting an additional 40% of waste away from landfills. Cofer countered with his own number: 150,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a month that hauling the trash to Dallas creates. "No one is denying that single stream was a success," he said. "The concerns of the community are how those successes have been diminished or even tarnished."

Council Members **Lee Leffingwell** and **Laura Morrison** are said to be pushing for further investigation of the decision-making behind the BFI and Greenstar agreements, and the SWAC is asking for an external, independent audit of Solid Waste. Acuna praised the commitment and abilities of SWS staff but, like council, wanted to know why two policies had died within the department. "If this had happened within the private sector, someone would be unemployed," he said.

– Richard Whittaker



Plastic Bags Are So 2007

Austinites have begun to get the message about disposable plastic bags being bad for the environment. "The hardest part of reusable bags is remembering to take them into the store with you," said Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** on Nov. 17 as he and colleague **Mike Martinez** presented the city's interim study on its **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle initiative**. Both encouraged more businesses to join the program's partner firms (including H-E-B, Randalls, Target, Walgreens, and Wal-Mart) so the city can reach its July 2009 target of a 50% reduction in bags headed to landfills. The report's quick stats: 40% fewer plastic bags were given away at participating stores in the first half of 2008 compared to the same period in 2006; 443,227 reusable bags were supplied; the weight of bags recycled went up 20%. Martinez said these results validate council's decision not to pass a complete bag ban, adding, "You don't need to use a stick when you can use a carrot." Rick Cofer of the Ban the Bags Coalition released a statement applauding the city's progress but added, "I remain convinced that aggressive measures will be necessary to reduce our communitywide plastic shopping bag waste to zero." – Richard Whittaker

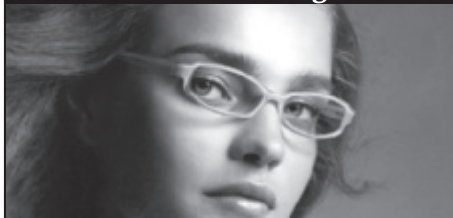
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To read the City Council resolution on the Sunset Farms Landfill application to the TCEQ, see this story at austinchronicle.com.

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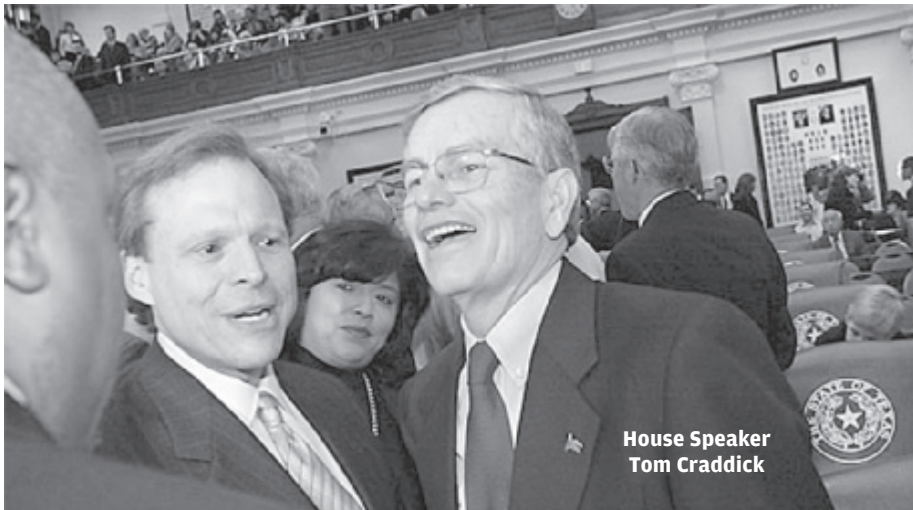
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JOHN ANDERSON

House Speaker
Tom Craddick

WHO WANTS TO BE 'ANYBODY BUT CRADDICK'?

Two years ago, when Rep. **Brian McCall**, R-Plano, considered challenging House Speaker **Tom Craddick**, he was criticized by fellow Republicans for being "the Democrat candidate." Now Republican challengers to Craddick's power talk openly about bipartisanship, and the all-Democratic Austin delegation is waiting to see who emerges as the new front-runner.

While hopes of an outright Democratic speaker have faded in recent days, 64 of

the 74 House Democrats have signed caucus leader **Jim Dunning**'s "anyone but Craddick" pledge, making them the single biggest unified voting block in the House and potential king-makers (as Rep. **Valinda Bolton** puts it, "Anyone but Craddick can't be everyone but Craddick"). The problem now is waiting for the GOP to coalesce behind one candidate, hopefully a moderate. "It's on the Republican end of the field, which is why I'm not getting calls every day," said Rep. **Mark Strama**.

With the addition this week of **Burt Solomons**, R-Carrollton, as of Nov. 18, 10 reps have filed speaker paperwork with the Texas Ethics Commission (five Democrats and five Republicans). Three have emerged as apparent front-runners – Solomons; **Jim Keffer**, R-Eastland; and **Tommy Merritt**, R-Longview – but none seems to have pledged for the 76 votes required yet, so the back-room meetings continue without an obvious

winner. "There are so many loops to be in," said Rep. **Donna Howard**, "that I doubt anyone is in all of them."

Rep. **Eddie Rodriguez** is frustrated that anyone is blaming his party for Craddick's power. "As Democrats, we have done our part," he said, pointing to indecision across the aisle. "The problem with replacing Craddick is Republicans. They can't seem to fix on anyone, and, with several candidates, if any one of them had the numbers, they would say so."

But what about the 10 Dems yet to sign Dunning's pledge? According to Rep. **Elliott Naishtat**, "Since the jury is still out on what the 'Craddick Democrats' will do, the jury is still out as to whether or not Tom Craddick will be replaced as speaker." Not being on the list is not necessarily a sign of being pro-Craddick, just of cautiousness; Rep. **Dawna Dukes**, often criticized for not following the anti-Craddick orthodoxy, said she's "still processing my decision" on which speaker candidate best helps her district.

That doesn't mean Craddick can count on old allies: Rep. **Al Edwards**, D-Houston, was considered a Craddick D until he announced last week that he's a "solid supporter" of fellow Houston Dem and Speaker Pro Tem **Sylvester Turner**.

If Craddick loses, where would he go? The expectation, Rodriguez said, is that he gets a senior committee chair. "By seniority alone, he should get that, but he shouldn't be calling the shots." – *Richard Whittaker*



KATE X MESSER

Some 2,000 Austin residents joined tens of thousands of protesters across the nation Nov. 15 to speak out against California's narrow approval of Proposition 8, banning marriages between same-sex couples.

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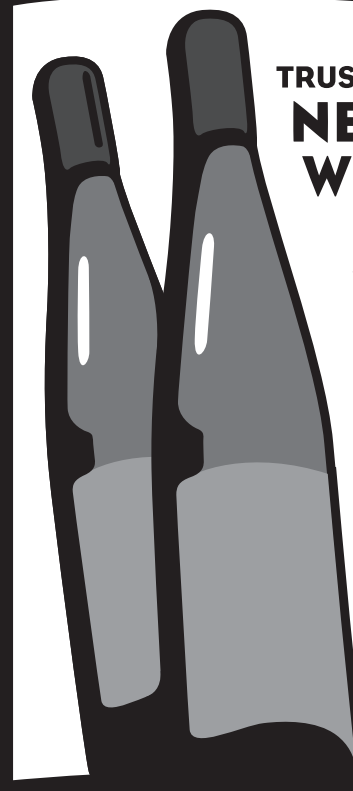
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An End to TYC's Problems ... and to TYC?

Daniel Bryant strikes a quiet-spoken and rather bookish figure. A nuclear medical technician, he's thinking about attending law school. Looking at him, you wouldn't expect that 12 years ago he was sentenced to the old San Saba State School, run by the state's juvenile prison system, the **Texas Youth Commission**.

On Nov. 12, Bryant joined other TYC graduates in the Capitol Extension to discuss his experiences. Hosted by House Corrections Committee budget officer Rep. **Jim McReynolds**, D-Lufkin, and advocacy group **Texans Care for Children**, the panel put a human face on current and former child offenders. It also preceded the release of the **Sunset Advisory Commission's** report on how to continue reforming TYC and child offender programs in general after the sexual- and physical-abuse scandal that ripped the agency apart last year. The report may be the biggest bombshell since the Legislature passed **Senate Bill 103** – a bill that, as its author Sen. **Chuy Hinojosa**, D-McAllen, noted, was only the beginning of a long process.

Sunset staff issued a joint report for TYC, the new **Office of the Independent Ombudsman**, and the **Texas Juvenile Probation Commission**. The reason, they wrote, was that “historically, TYC and TJPC have operated in silos.” Condemning them for failure to improve communication and cooperation, even after repeated legislative interventions, staff made a radical proposal: Dissolve both TYC and TJPC, and replace them with one single agency, the **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**.

The plan already has one powerful supporter – Criminal Justice Committee chair Sen. **John Whitmire**, D-Houston, praised the staff's bold vision and called it “a very credible report” that centered on the children. Unifying the agencies is essential, he said,

because “it needs to be a seamless system from courthouse to probation to TYC to parole and back to the community.”

The report emphasizes keeping young offenders in or near their hometowns and using community resources as much as possible: Known as the **Missouri model**, it reduces recidivism, advocates argue, and gives better access to qualified counseling services – essential, considering how many young offenders come from abusive backgrounds. The report echoed what Bryant and other panelists said hours before the report's release: that the lack of joined-up services, family counseling, and integrated case management helped put many children in TYC and failed to get them ready for outside life. Panelist **Arimis Joliff**, who, post-TYC, is working toward becoming a vocational nurse, argued that the most urgent reform is simple: “Just someone to talk to,” he said, would help many inmates. Meanwhile, Bryant argued for increasing the age limit for being in TYC to 21. “People don't realize that your maturation is stunted,” he said.

If adopted by the Legislature next session, the Sunset staff recommendations would shrink TYC dramatically. Since its inmate population fell from 5,000 to 2,000 in the last year, some layoffs are inevitable. The agency, which has already closed several facilities and imposed an administrative hiring freeze, proposes cutting 172 jobs by 2011. The report recommends closing three more facilities (Victory Field, West Texas, and Ron Jackson II) and integrating TYC's and TJPC's Austin headquarters. The estimated \$620 million in savings could entice support from fiscal conservatives, but since the TYC caucus of the **Texas State Employees Union** voted to oppose any closures or staff reductions, they may balk at losing 587 full-time employee positions between the two agencies.



Texas Youth Commission graduates Arimis Joliff (l) and Daniel Bryant spoke last week at the Capitol

SANDY CARSON

TYC Executive Director **Cherie Townsend** and TJPC Executive Commissioner **Vicki Spriggs** rejected the report, arguing that interagency collaboration is better than ever. While **Texans Care for Children** Executive Director **Eileen Garcia-Matthews** praised the report's support for regionalization and providing “a continuum of services,” she warned against dissolving TYC, adding, “Such consolidation may further delay existing reform efforts.” Similarly, **Scott Medlock**, trial attorney for the **Texas Civil Rights Project**, urged caution. TCRP recently settled a major lawsuit on behalf of four abused former inmates, in which TYC committed to further reforms of its secure facilities. “TYC is moving in the right direction,” he said.

Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report Recommendations

- 1) Abolish TYC and TJPC, replacing them with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
- 2) Formalize communication between TJJD and the Office of the Independent Ombudsman.
- 3) Give TJJD oversight of public and private nonsecure correctional facilities.
- 4) Implement higher certification standards for probation and detention officers, and move disciplinary proceedings to the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

“I don't know what they're so proud of,” said Whitmire, noting that only last month TYC canceled a contract with **Youth Services International** after giving them \$1.2 million to run the completely empty Eagle Lake facility. Existing reforms (such as Rep. **Valinda Bolton's** House Bill 3309, providing extra counseling services) have still not been fully implemented. Medlock agrees that poor communication between TYC, TJPC, and state mental-health agencies leads to children with diagnosed problems being shipped between agencies with no notification.

Of all who've weighed in, Bryant had the simplest message for reformers of the system. Remember who this is really about, he said, “These are kids.”

– Richard Whittaker

Banning Books With TMI

A young-adult book written entirely in text messages has some Round Rock parents saying, “WTF?” The **Round Rock Independent School District** school board is expected to vote tonight (Thursday) on whether or not to ban **TTYL** (“talk to you later” in text speak) by Lauren Myracle, a book considered controversial for its frank depictions of sex and gratuitous use of the word “stiffie.” Instead, Superintendent Jesus Chavez decided to restrict the book to high schools. In October, a group of parents had petitioned to ban the book, calling it “obviously vulgar and offensive to the average person.” Two school/parent committees voted to keep it on the shelves, but parent Sherry Jennings went over their heads to the board. This isn't the first time **TTYL** has come under fire. According to the American Library Association, **TTYL** was the seventh most-challenged book in 2007, and Myracle – as unpopular with parents as she is popular with tweens – was the ninth most-banned author.

– Justin Ward



TFN Report: Texas Scientists Support Evolution

The **evolution vs. creationism** (or “intelligent design”) wars are expected to flare up again this spring, when the right-tilted **State Board of Education** votes to adopt new curriculum standards for science education in Texas' public schools. In preparation for this debate, the **Texas Freedom Network** – a nonpartisan nonprofit that fights the influence of the religious right in public policy – has conducted a statewide survey among college biology and biological anthropology instructors regarding their opinions on the science underlying evolution.

The latest tack in the creationists' fight to discredit evolution in public schools is an assertion that “controversy” exists in the scientific community over evolution's validity. TFN suspected that the controversy was simply a work of political fiction, and the results of their survey appear to prove them right.

In a report on the survey results authored by UT-Arlington sociology professor **Raymond A. Eve** and psychology doctoral student **Chawki A. Belhadi** (both specialize in research related to evolutionary biology), TFN reported five major findings among the 464 Texas scientists surveyed: They overwhelmingly (98%) reject intelligent design as valid science,

95% insist that neither intelligent design nor creationism be taught in science classes, 94% said that the “weaknesses” of evolution advanced by intelligent design proponents are not valid scientific criticisms, about three-quarters of them believe that emphasizing the supposed weaknesses would substantially harm students' college readiness and job prospects, and 91% rejected the notion that religious faith and a support of evolutionary theory are incompatible.

The scientists overwhelmingly reject the notion that “creationism” and “**intelligent design**” are different concepts. Proponents of intelligent design have argued – unsuccessfully, in court – that I.D. is a science distinct from the religious concept of creationism and thus the teaching of it in public schools does not violate church/state restrictions.

The report also noted that even among biology faculty at religious colleges, 89% support the teaching of evolution.

The 59-question survey was sent out to a total of 1,019 college faculty at 50 Texas institutions on Oct. 22, 2007, and responses were accepted through Jan. 30 of this year. The 464 responses that came back were received from all schools except Sul Ross State University. The full report may be read at www.tfn.org.

– Lee Nichols

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

PUBLIC WORKS WORK

Here's an idea: Instead of wasting our tax money on Wall Street slicks who don't use it to help anyone but themselves, why don't we use our public funds to build something in America?

Like what? Like bridges to replace those in disrepair, upgraded and expanded schools and libraries, high-speed rail networks to connect our population centers, energy-saving technologies for every home and building, public transportation for all of our cities, state-of-the-art Internet systems everywhere, and public parks.

America has important work that needs to be done. America also has millions of workers who need good jobs. Let's combine the two needs so we can lift our country up and move forward together.

"There is no better time than today" to launch a major public works program. That's not a quote from some lefty do-gooder but from the head of the National Association of Manufacturers. Corporate executives are now joining labor leaders, mayors, and other progressives who see the urgent need to invest in and rebuild America, creating new infrastructure and new middle-class opportunities all across our land.

George W. and his gang of laissez-faire ideologues oppose this. They assert that such a bold national undertaking would take too long to help with the current financial collapse. Hello, George – state and city transportation officials say they could have 3,000 highway projects and 8 billion dollars' worth of mass-transit projects under way in less than 90 days. Let's get the money to them! This is not a time for more ideological claptrap from right-wing theorists. It's a time to restore America's can-do spirit, turning our grassroots people loose to build.

This should not wait until next January. Congress should come together now, this month, and begin to move money where it'll do some real good for everyone in America.

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

BIG OIL'S CHARM OFFENSIVE

ExxonMobil wants you to know that it cares about poor African children. Several are featured in a recent TV ad touting Exxon's donations to a charitable effort in Africa to fight malaria. Chevron wants you to know that it's a caring corporation, too. It's running a TV ad touting its concern about alternative energy, featuring a touching tagline that says: "This isn't just about oil companies. This is about you and me."

Why the push to show Big Oil's gentle side? Because new profit figures show yet another quarter of the ongoing money grab by these giants. Exxon's take for the three summer months, for example, was nearly \$15 billion – the most profit of any corporation in history. So the money grabbers are putting on masks of altruism, hoping we won't notice their pockets bulging with our dollars – and hoping we won't demand that Congress take away the billions of dollars they get each year in tax subsidies.

To see the true heart of the oil barons, however, don't look at their ads – look at their production numbers. While prices rose in the past year, pinching consumers hard, the big refiners deliberately cut back on gasoline production to hold prices up. While diesel shortages were squeezing the economic life out of U.S. truckers, the refiners ignored domestic need because they could get a higher price by shipping American diesel to Europe, South Africa, and Australia.

Worse, though, is Big Oil's failure to use its windfall profits for development of new oil supplies. The corporations claim that they need enormous profits in order to explore for oil – yet last year the Big Five spent only \$10 billion on exploration, while dumping \$55 billion into the pockets of their top executives and major investors.

Oil company image ads aren't fooling anyone. Their attempts to appear touchy-feely are as hopeless as hanging an air freshener on the tail of a hog.

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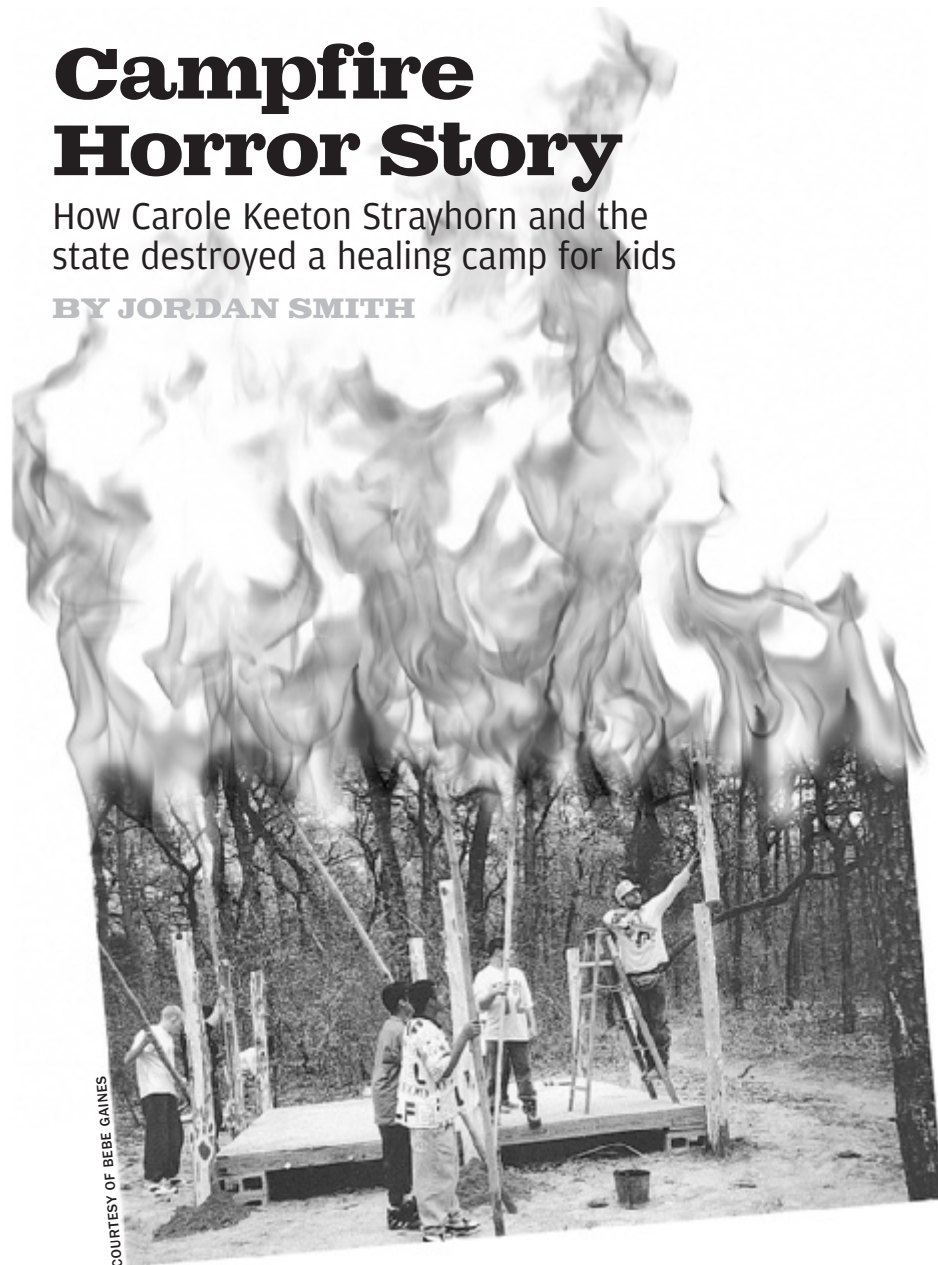
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Campfire Horror Story

How Carole Keeton Strayhorn and the state destroyed a healing camp for kids

BY JORDAN SMITH



COURTESY OF BEBE GAINES

It was just after 11am on Aug. 13, 2004, when the SUVs began to arrive. They'd made their way down the park road, canopied by the tall pines that blanket Bastrop County, to arrive at the entrance to the Woodside Trails Therapeutic Camp and School. Inside the Chevy Suburbans were Texas Child Protective Services caseworkers who'd come to take custody of 22 foster boys, ages 12-17, all of whom the agency had previously placed at the camp.

The camp was frantic with activity and apprehension, and camp administrator Betty Lou "Bebe" Gaines was working hard to maintain calm. Just an hour and a half before, she'd gotten a call from the deputy commissioner at CPS, who informed Gaines that agents were on their way to remove the boys. It was in their best interest, Gaines was told.

The children didn't agree. After the phone call, Gaines called for the entire camp (with campers and staffers, nearly 50 people) to "circle up," and she delivered the news. "I said, 'The state has decided that you're not

safe here,'" Gaines recalled recently. "One kid says, 'Well, we are safe here.' I said, 'It doesn't mean you're not safe – just that [the state] has the right to say that you're not.'"

The kids were adamant; they did not want to leave. One suggested the group pack into the camp vans and flee to Mexico. Another suggested they "melt into the woods" and climb high into the Lost Pines. That might work, the kid opined, because he'd never "seen a [CPS] caseworker climb a tree." Gaines said: "'Let's think that over.' I said that a lot that day." She let the kids have their say, then refocused the group. There's nothing you can do to prevent this, she told them. The only thing you can do is "be decent about it." The kids were about to be picked up by strangers and placed in temporary custody of other strangers. As scary as that might be, Gaines reminded the boys, they should be respectful and kind and helpful and then say, "I learned that at Woodside Trails." As the kids settled down, one boy piped up, "What's next?"

What was next would prove devastating as well as illogical – even surreal. Singled out by the state for condemnation as a negligent facility, Woodside Trails would be closed and the youths in its care scattered to the winds, with virtually no subsequent oversight. Yet the public record would eventually show not only that the camp was doing its difficult job but also that none of the allegations against the program or its staff would be sustained.

The Perfect Storm

The state closure was a stunning turn of events for the people of Woodside Trails, a primitive therapeutic camp on 120 acres of piney wilderness just west of Smithville that had been in operation since 1982. The camp was one of a very small number of specialty providers within Texas' foster-care system, a placement of last resort for extremely tough cases: kids who had been horribly abused, mentally, physically, and sexually. In the process, many had themselves become sexual offenders. Over its more than two decades in operation, Woodside Trails took in hundreds of boys who had been wards of the state for a very long time – many for most of their young lives – and had bounced around from placement to placement as their foster families found them too difficult to handle. (One boy, who spent several years at the camp, had been through 32 placements in nine years.) Among them were the extremely anti-social – narcissists, addicts, molesters, and liars. Woodside Trails was for these kids, quite literally, a last chance to get control of their lives – a final stop before the penitentiary.

Working with this population of children is risky for everyone involved. "Our children were dangerous; they did dangerous things, and they hurt people," Gaines said. Making it even more risky, to some degree, was the way Woodside Trails approached its work: in a primitive setting, where the children lived outside year-round and were responsible for creating and building their own camps; hands-on, with counselors providing not only emotional support but physical attention – hugs and kisses and hand-holding were common – something that in other facilities is discouraged, if not forbidden.

Within that context, it was not surprising that in July 2004, one of the Woodside Trails campers – 13-year-old Joseph D. – made a horrifying allegation. He claimed that one of Woodside's counselors, 36-year-old Jack Reynolds, had sexually abused him that spring while he was living at the camp, forcing Joseph both to masturbate and perform oral sex on him. This happened, Joseph told investigators, in the middle of his Woodside Trails campsite known as Twin Pines, in front of the campfire.

Allegations of abuse by campers were not unknown and were dealt with, by Gaines and her staff, strictly by-the-book: They cooperated with CPS and the Bastrop Co. Sheriff's Office, opening the camp and their records to scrutiny.

This time was different.

Not the allegation itself – according to documents filed subsequently in federal court, it wasn't the first time Joseph had made similar allegations, later proven false, or had threatened to make such allegations. Joseph was a seriously troubled kid, with a history of lying and of sexually abusing others. But the timing of Joseph's latest claims proved disastrous for the camp. The summer of 2004 was a particularly tricky time for the state's foster-care regulators with the Department of Family and Protective Services, which was facing a political onslaught initiated in late 2003 by then-Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. Responding to a string of news stories exposing serious excesses and abuses, Strayhorn undertook a review of the entire foster-care system. In April 2004, with great fanfare, she released a comprehensive and extremely unflattering report on the state of foster care in Texas and the agency that oversees it. In short, the agency was on edge.



Bebe Gaines

“The state has decided that you're not safe here.' One kid says, 'Well, we are safe here.'” – Bebe Gaines, recalling the day Woodside Trails was closed

More alarmingly, Strayhorn's report singled out Woodside Trails (initially not by name) as a particularly poor caretaker of children. Joseph's explosive allegation followed a few months later, at a moment when the political environment was volatile and any potential allies were intimidated into silence. The timing created a perfect storm that hit the camp and pulled it under – taking Gaines, Reynolds, and the kids with it. And in the short term, it didn't help that Gaines and her colleagues at Woodside Trails decided to fight back – thereby becoming even more directly a Strayhorn target.

The Strayhorn Steamroller

Concerns about the Texas foster-care system exploded into headlines in late October 2003, when *The Dallas Morning News* published a piece about the Houston-area Daystar Residential Treatment Center, which housed emotionally disturbed foster kids. According to the *Morning News*, not only was Daystar founder Clay Dean Hill apparently making a mint from the system – he received more than \$1.5 million in salary in 2002 – his companies were also doing quite well, earning more than \$4 million for their services to the state that same year. However, some of Daystar's wards weren't doing nearly so well: Children were living in "isolated trailers," and in 2002, a girl died in Daystar's care, the daily reported. According to state regulators, the girl's death was "blamed on insufficiently trained staff, poor supervision and the use of 'excessive force' to control the child."


It certainly wasn't the first time the foster-care system had been the subject of bad news, but the Daystar piece released a political flood. "The system had come to one of those periodic points where the job was overwhelming the resources," said one longtime observer of the system.

Three days later, Strayhorn responded to the story with shocked incredulity – and a promise that her office would get to the bottom of whatever problems DFPS might be hiding. "The whole thing is about accountability. Where are those dollars being spent, and on who?" she said. "Children are not only our most precious resource; these are our most vulnerable children." Strayhorn announced she would undertake an immediate and sweeping performance review of the child-welfare system. "I really can think of no better place to put our time and resources." It did not go unnoticed that her vow came at the beginning of the 2004 political season, amid the widespread presumption that Strayhorn was considering a run for governor.

When Gaines first heard of Strayhorn's plans, she was pleased. Taking care of children removed from their families is a tough job, not only for the foster parents and group homes where the children land but also for the agency and workers tasked with ensuring their safety. Child Protective Services caseworkers are a beleaguered bunch – with potentially hundreds of cases on each worker's plate, generating relentless turnover. The attrition rate at CPS is roughly 34%. The Child Care Licensing division has a more modest turnover rate of 9.6%, but with fewer than 100 caseworkers and more than 10,000 foster facilities to monitor, the job can be daunting. (In 2003, there were more than 25,000 children in the foster system, and the state spent more than \$315 million to take care of them. In 2007, the number of kids in custody of the state had grown to more than 33,000, with


CONTINUED ON P.32

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Woodside Trails campers work with Gaines building boats.

COURTESY OF BEBE GAINES

a cost for the state of nearly \$371 million.)

In Gaines' mind, Strayhorn's investigation would root out inefficiencies and confirm that child protection caseworkers are seriously overworked and that the system is seriously underfunded, considering the size of the population it is intended to serve. "I thought: 'What? A politician interested in the foster-care system? I'm on board!'" she recalled. "I was so naive."

Six months later, Strayhorn's staff had finished its review, and the comptroller convened a dramatic press conference to publicize the result, a 292-page report titled "Forgotten Children." With a plethora of charts and plenty of melodramatic photos, Strayhorn announced that the foster system lacked leadership and oversight and tolerated wildly disparate standards of care that ultimately put thousands of children at risk. "The truth is that some of these children are no better off in the care of the state than they were in the hands of abusive and negligent parents," Strayhorn said.

Strayhorn's visual aids included poster-size photos from the report that purported to depict the deplorable conditions Strayhorn and her investigative staff found during "unannounced" visits to various residential facilities.

These included shots of grimy sleeping and food-storage areas, bathrooms, and recreational areas. The offending facilities were roundly lambasted. (Strayhorn personally made 11 visits to the various facilities, she said, while her staff conducted 26 "surprise" inspections.) "I saw filthy living conditions, makeshift outhouses, unsanitary food storage," Strayhorn told the assembled reporters. "That's not care. That's cruelty. That's not educating. That's endangering."

Although Strayhorn didn't name the facilities she'd singled out for criticism, those at the facilities immediately knew they'd been targeted. Gaines and her staff saw right away that many of the pictures of the supposedly "filthy" facilities were in fact pictures of various parts of Woodside Trails – including the report's most enduring image of what Strayhorn called a "pee wall," a crudely built urinal in the woods near one of the campsites. Gaines and others connected to Woodside Trails were shocked – primarily because the characterizations of the facilities depicted were taken out of context or completely fabricated, says Gaines.

The feeding frenzy had begun. There were editorials in major dailies applauding Strayhorn's efforts and decrying "substandard"

facilities and care, and Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick empaneled a special committee to investigate the system.

Gaines and the Woodside Trails board of directors decided to fight. "I can just tell you [Strayhorn] twisted and turned and misrepresented so much in that report," Gaines told the *Houston Chronicle*. The problem, Gaines said, was that Strayhorn was simply "upset by the whole idea of therapeutic camping" – a concept the comptroller obviously didn't understand. "We do good work here. We work with really, really difficult children. The outdoor setting is part of the philosophy."

Woodside's unique approach to therapy included having the children live outside all year in permanent camping structures – concrete slab floors with platform beds (covered by mosquito netting in the summer and walled in with thick plastic in the winter) and stretched tarp roofs. Each of the camp's four living sites, which housed up to 12 campers each, was built and maintained by the children living there. If the campers wanted to construct a swing, an outdoor shower, or a recreation area, for example, they were respon-

**"I thought: 'What? A politician interested in the foster care system? I'm on board!' I was so naive."
– Bebe Gaines on her initial response to the Strayhorn investigation**

sible (with adult oversight) for the design and construction. Each campsite had a fire pit and a special structure for counselors. There were also latrines and urinals – hence the famous "pee wall" – and campers did prepare some meals for themselves at the camp sites. The procedures were a purposeful part of the campers' therapeutic experience – concrete, specific opportunities to learn responsibility and practical chores.

For most of the children at the camp, the keeping of secrets had helped destroy their young lives and eventually brought them to Woodside Trails. They were abused and told not to tell, or they abused and threatened others. Thus, the approach at the camp was exactly the opposite. Their problems had been "generated in secret, conducted in secret," Gaines said. "We turned it all out. Everything was everyone's business; everything was out in

the open." And that extended to the outdoor living environment. "They are responsible for their quality of life in their social group," Gaines said earlier this year. "So they have a lot of say in increasing their quality of life." The idea was to allow the children power to bring order to their often chaotic lives. The wilderness setting played a major role in that process. "These kids are so distracted by so many things. When they get to the rhythm of the earth ... it just slows them down," said Gaines. "There's this miracle ... of the woods."

The outdoor living at Woodside did have indoor aspects: There was a large industrial kitchen and dining hall where kids ate two hot meals each day; there were indoor toilets and shower rooms; there was a large school, staffed by Smithville Independent School District teachers, with a computer lab and well-stocked library; and there was room for the children to sleep indoors when the temperature dropped lower than 25 degrees.

None of this was mentioned by Strayhorn (nor in subsequent media reports, which parroted many of Strayhorn's incorrect statements about the camp – including that Woodside Trails lacked electricity and running water, as *The Dallas Morning News* reported and never corrected). Instead, Strayhorn called on DFPS to change regulations to force rustic camps like Woodside Trails to conform to "permanent" therapeutic camp standards, where children don't spend the year outside.

In essence, Strayhorn called for an end to therapeutic camping altogether and for Woodside Trails to close. Woodside's supporters were stunned. Board Chair Robin Peyson, then working for a state agency, said she received a call from one of Strayhorn's expenditure analysts, Ruthie Ford, who Peyson said threatened her job if she didn't watch what she said about the camp and the comptroller. "I had no experience with politics," says Peyson. She called a friend, a legislative staffer at the Capitol, to ask what she and the camp

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should do to deal with the Strayhorn-led assault. The friend said, "You need to get on your knees and beg for help, and ask ... Strayhorn what you should do," she recalled. "I said, 'I can't do that, and the board won't do that.' [My friend] said, 'Well, then you'll get run over.'" (Ford could not be reached for comment.)

The Campaign

As a professional politician, Carole Keeton Strayhorn has never been known for subtlety. Rather, the former Austin mayor and feisty 69-year-old, who has branded herself "One Tough Grandma," is a political juggernaut prone to sensational official displays aimed at sound bites and headlines. Strayhorn's crusade against foster-care abuse (and, ultimately, against Woodside Trails) had inevitable political overtones as she contemplated a 2006 gubernatorial run – standing in defense of defenseless, abused children certainly couldn't hurt that ambition. (Ultimately, Strayhorn lost that race, placing third of four candidates.)

Despite subsequent legal proceedings that have exonerated Woodside Trails and its staff of the charges against them, Strayhorn remains unrepentant over her actions against what she calls "that so-called camp." Interviewed recently about the controversy, she told *The Austin Chronicle* that she was not responsible for the troubles at Woodside Trails. "I did not close Woodside Trails," she said. "The state closed it." (See "Strayhorn on Woodside Trails," p.34.)

Woodside's attempts to fight back against the negative media reports were at best nonproductive and seemed to be getting them into more trouble with Strayhorn and, by extension, with DFPS. Veteran child psychiatrist Dr. Michael Weiner, who was a volunteer at Woodside Trails and has more than 30 years of experience with residential treatment, penned a long letter to Strayhorn offering to help her navigate the camp's treatment data. "When the comptroller first started to rumble, naive as I was, I thought she was a comptroller who counted things and was interested in the quality of care," he said last month. "Well, we had all the backup for all the stats, and I said ... 'You're welcome to send people and look at the backup.' I thought that would solve the problem."

Instead, Weiner got a form-letter response. "And they never came to look" at any of the data, he said. "They weren't interested in the quality of the program." The camp's consulting psychologist, David Poole, got a similar response when he tried to communicate with Strayhorn. "From my perspective, Strayhorn got it in her mind that she was some sort of gifted grandma and that she cared about these kids where no one else did," he said recently. And when she came across this very specialized wilderness program, "she just presumed, I guess, that this

CONTINUED ON P.34


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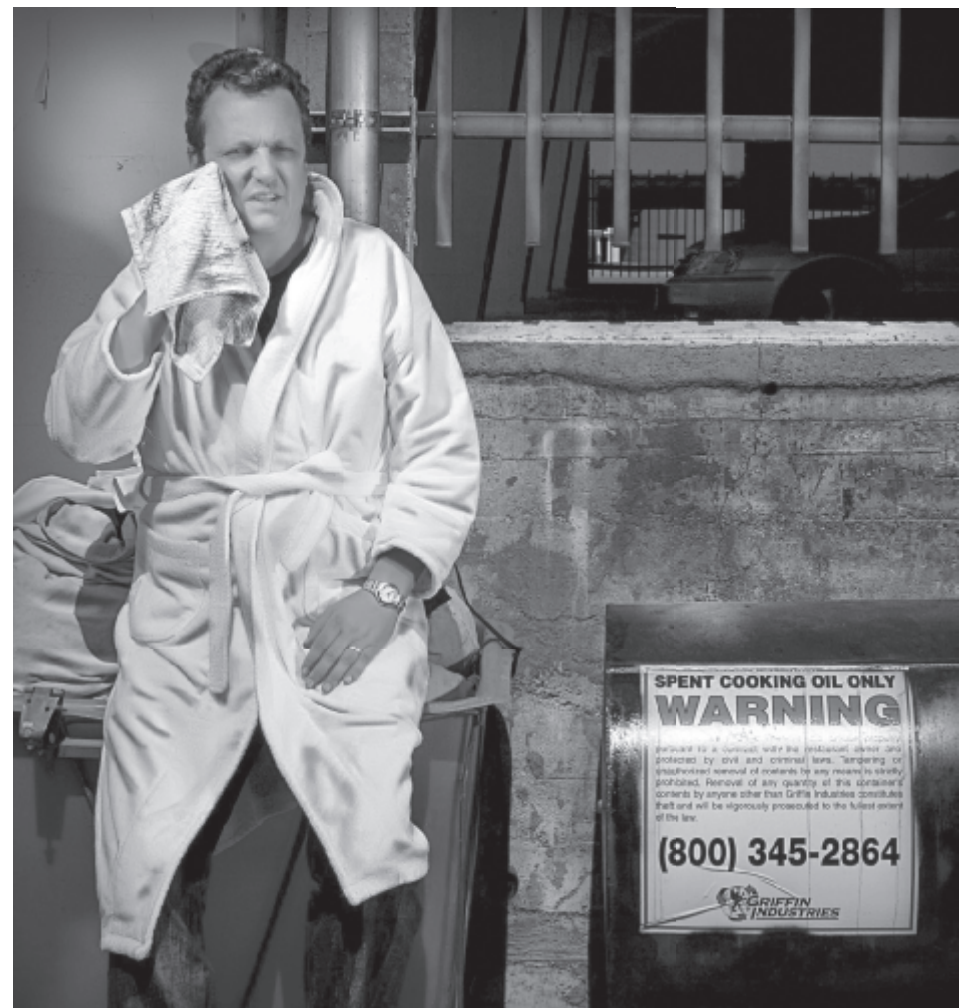


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was abusive of kids or not helpful.” In all, he said he doesn’t think Strayhorn ever “did much investigation” of the camp. He wrote a couple of letters, explaining the program and offering to help her understand it better. In response, Poole said he got a letter from Strayhorn that “said, basically, ‘I know more than you do.’” For whatever reason, he said, it seemed that Strayhorn had “decided to scapegoat the place. And apparently she had allies in the press.”

Although therapeutic camping had been in use in Texas since the 1940s, no one at DFPS seemed able to explain to Strayhorn how the program worked or to point out that it was only employed for a small minority of foster kids at serious risk of dropping out of society altogether. (The camp could only hold 48 campers at one time, and many children in the care of Woodside Trails remained at the camp for more than one year.) Instead, regulators, lawmakers, and other state officials seemed incapable of getting past the fact that the children lived outside. All year.

During an August hearing before a House interim committee set up to investigate DFPS, Diana Spiser, assistant commissioner for Child Care Licensing, told lawmakers the agency was proposing a new regulation that kids could only have a “wilderness experience” for 14 days at a time, buffered by 21 days of living inside. And although Gaines tried to explain the philosophy of the camp, lawmakers kept peppering her with questions about why the kids had to be outside for so long. Among the most persistent of questioners was Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio (then serving as a state representative), who sat in on Gaines’ testimony during an Aug. 4 hearing. Uresti had been a Marine, he said, and not even Marines actually like living outside. “It’s no fun being outside,” he opined. “Everybody likes a warm shower; everybody likes a warm bed.” Uresti said he’d rather see children housed in Texas prison facilities, where at least there are modern conveniences such as television.

Things quickly got worse for the folks at Woodside Trails. Suddenly, the state’s abuse and neglect hotline was lighting up with complaints about the camp and the quality of care there. According to court records, the state received at least 40 complaints (everything from the staff not being paid enough to complaints that campers were being physically abused). They were hardly random or coincidental – as it turned out, they had been called in by members of Strayhorn’s own staff. Yet under the law, every single complaint, however generated, had to be investigated by DFPS – further ratcheting up the pressure on department investigators.

There didn’t appear to be any political will within the agency to take a position that might slow the Strayhorn juggernaut. “I think Strayhorn’s report spooked the department,” said one source with knowledge about the camp and the agency. “And so they went out [to the camp], and it was kind of like finding gambling in Casablanca. They’d been placing kids

there [for years], they knew what [the camp was about], and then they go this time, and they’re just shocked, shocked, shocked. And so it all kind of fell apart.”

Lies Told and Untold

The beginning of the end for Woodside Trails came on July 12, 2004. That morning, DFPS investigator Darla Jean Shaw placed a call to Bastrop Co. sheriff’s investigator Steve Suriano with news that a 13-year-old named Joseph D. had made an “outcry” of sexual abuse that needed investigation. Joseph, then living at a residential treatment center in Lockhart, told a worker there that he’d been sexually abused by a counselor at Woodside Trails, where he’d lived for three years before moving to Lockhart later that summer. According to Joseph, his “in-camp” counselor, Jack Reynolds, had fondled him and had forced him to fondle and perform oral sex on Reynolds. The

CONTINUED ON P.36

Strayhorn on Woodside Trails ‘Absolutely nothing political’

The most important responsibility of Texas’ elected comptroller is to see that “tax dollars are being spent wisely,” says Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who was elected to the post in 1998. Thus, she says, she was compelled to investigate in late 2003, when a series of articles regarding the state’s foster-care system, and the possibility of financial improprieties by at least one state-contracted foster-care provider, was published by *The Dallas Morning News*. The fruit of her investigation was unveiled in an April 2004 press conference, with the release of her office’s 292-page report, “Forgotten Children.” The Strayhorn-led investigation into the foster-care system, run by Texas’ Department of Family and Protective Services, delivered scathing results. The system was overburdened, and as a result, children’s lives were in jeopardy. “I found some saints in foster care,” she said recently, and some sinners. “I’m a mama and a grandmama more than anything else, and I found some places that I wouldn’t want a child or a grandchild for 24 hours, and certainly not day-in and day-out.”

Among the sinners Strayhorn found, she still believes, was the Woodside Trails Therapeutic Camp. The camp was one of several she singled out (though not initially by name) in her report as being a dirty and dangerous place for foster children. (Strayhorn now says that not all of the camp was problematic – the inside spaces, including the school, kitchen, and dining areas, were fine, although she didn’t mention any of this in her report. “Sure, the inside was great, but that wasn’t the part I was concerned about.”)

Strayhorn visited the camp, unannounced, on at least three occasions, she said, and what she found there disturbed her. “These kids were fixing at least half of their meals themselves, outside on plates that you couldn’t scrape the crud off of,” she recalls. There was trash strewn around the campsite and in particular near the dining areas (“there was trash out there everywhere,” she said), and she was startled to find a cooler full of the children’s food sitting outside in the middle of the day without ice. The first time she went to the camp, just outside Smithville, it was winter and had been very cold and sleeting. Yet the children were sleeping outside.

In particular, Strayhorn was taken with a story she says she was told by the youngest camper, a 9-year-old boy, who she says told her that he was made to sleep by himself on a cot

away from the other campers’ shelters and right next to an outdoor urinal, which in her report Strayhorn famously dubbed the “pee wall.” If “he was good, I was told, he would have plastic over his cot; if he wasn’t, he wouldn’t have plastic over his cot,” Strayhorn recalled. The boy’s story greatly disturbed Strayhorn: “At the time ... my oldest granddaughter was 9 years old, and I mean, that’s a baby, really,” she says. “And I knew what this kid was doing, sleeping by himself on that cot. ... I couldn’t sleep that night. And I called CPS the next day. My staff, we worked with CPS the next day, and I wanted that kid moved immediately. And they promised me they would get on that.”

Asked about Strayhorn’s story, Woodside Trails administrator Bebe Gaines said the child she spoke to had in fact been moved to a separate cot, by the counselors’ area, but for safety reasons. Gaines added that no child was ever denied cover as a disciplinary measure.

Other than making that one call to Child Protective Services, on behalf of a single child, Strayhorn is adamant that she did not wield any of her political power to shut down Woodside Trails. “I did not close Woodside Trails,” she said. “The state closed it. I don’t have the authority. ... I couldn’t do it.” Indeed, Strayhorn says that nothing about her investigation into the foster-care system or subsequent report on its failings, and failing institutions, was politically motivated. “That is absolute hogwash,” she said. “There is absolutely nothing political about this. I’ll tell you what there is about this: There is concern that the way ... this state has to be judged [is] by how we treat our most vulnerable citizens,”



Carole Keeton Strayhorn

“The truth is that some of these children are no better off in the care of the state than they were in the hands of abusive and negligent parents.”
– Carole Keeton Strayhorn, releasing the results of her investigation into foster care

she continued. “These kids don’t hold fundraisers, they don’t hire lobbyists, and they don’t make political contributions. And so they are pushed to the bottom of the pile.” Going to bat for foster children doesn’t win political influence, she said – in fact, quite the opposite, she contends. In this case, her advocacy on behalf of foster children ended with her being named a party in federal lawsuits filed by Jack Reynolds and Gaines. Strayhorn was ultimately dismissed from the suit by a federal magistrate who nonetheless concluded that in criticizing the camp, she and her staff had behaved badly. Strayhorn considers that nonsense also. “That is absolutely not so,” she said. “I would’ve been thrilled to sit on the witness stand and talk about this. I promise you I would have.”

Strayhorn says that the proof of her good intentions is that she’s continued to fight for foster children since leaving office. “I guess my answer to you that this is not political is that I’m still doing it,” she said. Indeed, Strayhorn has set up a new nonprofit group, the Our Texas

Grandchildren Foundation (www.ourtexasgrandchildren.com), to provide mentoring support for foster children. In the long term, Strayhorn says she hopes to make the foundation a player at the Capitol, to push for “systemic changes in the system that will make it better for everyone.” The group is starting out small but already has attracted heavy legislative hitters Sens. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and John Carona, R-Dallas, as co-chairs of the group’s Leadership Advisory Council. “I get passionate when I see kids that are not in good situations,” she said. “I’m not out to get anyone; I am after changes in the system so that we can protect our most precious resource, which is our kids. Whoever wants to say it was for political reasons, that’s their business, but it wasn’t. Ever.” – J.S.

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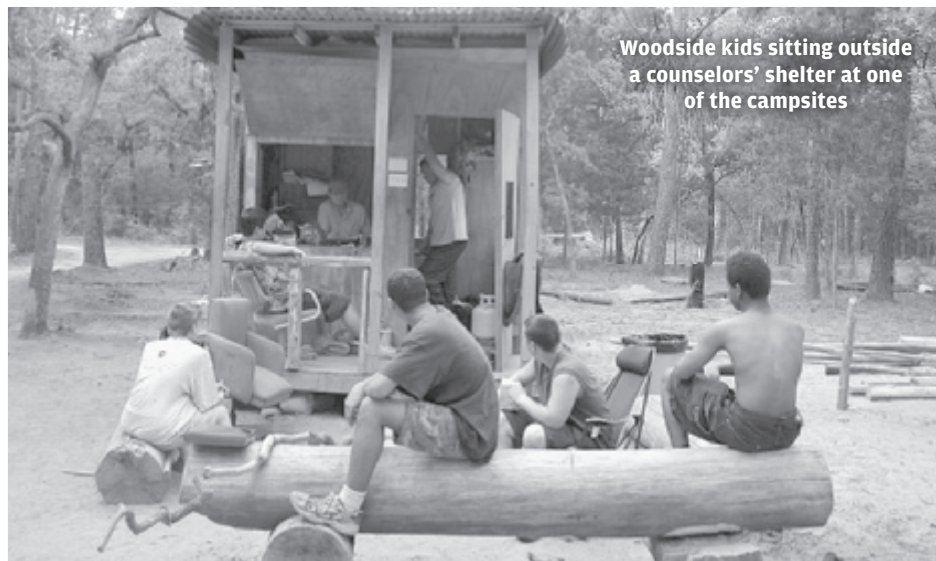
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Woodside kids sitting outside a counselors' shelter at one of the campsites

COURTESY OF BEEB GAINES

next day, Suriano and Shaw met in Bastrop to observe an interview of Joseph, conducted at the county's Children's Advocacy Center.

According to Joseph, the abuse began with Reynolds "hang[ing] around me a lot ... and he sort of started to get a little in my boundaries and then ... he started to ask me to have sex with [him]," he told the interviewer. Joseph claimed the abuse took place at Woodside's Twin Pines camp, both in Joseph's bunk and at the camp's fire pit during the "three to four weeks" before Joseph moved to Lockhart.

That same day, Shaw made a trip to Woodside Trails. She asked Gaines about Reynolds' relationship with Joseph but declined to tell her why she was asking or to tell her that Joseph alleged he'd been sexually abused at the camp. "Gaines could not be told about the specific allegations due to a criminal investigation," Shaw noted in her report. Before leaving, Shaw interviewed several young campers from the Twin Pines site – none reported having seen any abuse – and she gathered from Gaines a stack of "log notes" regarding Joseph's daily treatment and activities at the camp.

It's not clear whether Shaw did any additional investigation over the next several weeks. Suriano, it seems, did not. Instead, based solely on the content of Joseph's interview, Suriano filed for an arrest warrant and on July 22 took Reynolds into custody. (Reynolds was later released on bail.) In a 2006 deposition, Suriano, a 25-year veteran officer who now works for the Texas Attorney General's Office, said it wasn't at all unusual for him to make an arrest before conducting any independent investigation into an allegation of sexual abuse. For him, Joseph's tale alone was compelling enough to act. Nobody seemed to take note of the fact that Joseph D.

was assigned to the camp because he had been a sexual offender himself and that specifically he was in a camp program designed for habitual liars – nothing he said was to be accepted as true unless it could be independently confirmed.

Over the next few weeks, people at Woodside Trails feared the worst. On Aug. 13, it came true; CPS caseworkers, directed by DFPS supervisors, descended on the camp to remove the 22 kids the agency had placed there. (Kids placed there by county probation departments were removed soon after.) "As most of you know our concerns about [Woodside Trails]

have greatly elevated during the last week to two weeks," Shaw's supervisor in DFPS' Residential Child Care Licensing division, Char Bateman, wrote in an e-mail to colleagues. "Late last night it was decided to remove CPS children from this facility. We had long discussions with executive and legal staff ... and it was thought that since we still have open, serious investigations [of the camp], we could not take [action to revoke the camp's license] but rather would be on stronger ground to take an adverse contract action. The CPS staff

have notified [Woodside] of the contract action and have moved their children," she continued. "Elected officials were notified before we took the action."

The children cried as they were taken away from the camp (some forcibly, in "shackles," recalled Cheryl Burns, Smithville ISD's director of curriculum, who was Woodside's school principal), their sleeping bags and clothes packed into the back of the state SUVs; the camp staff was crying, too, and bewildered by what was happening – how had things gone this far, Gaines wondered.

But at least one person was pleased: "It's about time," Strayhorn said in a press statement released that day. "I hope this is the beginning in a change of attitude at [DFPS]

and the needs of the children will be put first, where they should have been all along."

Just three days later, on Aug. 16, Shaw and Suriano again interviewed Joseph D. According to Shaw's report, the purpose of the interview was to gather additional details about the alleged abuse. But Joseph arrived with rather different information: He told the investigators that he'd invented the allegations against Reynolds. Joseph said that none of the accusations – that he'd fondled Reynolds and that Reynolds forced Joseph to perform oral sex – was true. According to a transcript of this second interview, the investigators pressed Joseph: He shouldn't worry about what would happen to the camp, the other kids, Reynolds, or Gaines; none of them could hurt him – except, Shaw noted, other children could be abused if Joseph didn't tell the truth. The truth, said Joseph, was that he was uncomfortable with his close relationship with Reynolds, but none of the allegations of abuse was true. "Why did you say ... those things about Jack, that he did those things to you?" Shaw asked Joseph.

Joseph paused. "I don't know," he said quietly.

"You don't have any idea why?" Shaw asked.

"No," he said.

Permission to Lie

It wasn't until Aug. 20, a month after Joseph's initial outcry and following his recantation, that anyone connected to the abuse investigation finally got around to talking with the accused counselor, Jack Reynolds. That day, Shaw and her colleague Sharron Loyd sat down with him to discuss his work at Woodside and his relationship with Joseph. Reynolds was open, discussing at length how he came to work with Joseph at the camp.

Reynolds, then 36, had moved to Bastrop from Austin after the tech bubble burst, ending his job as domain administrator at a local Verizon call center. Reynolds happened to be a member of a nonprofit organization that had purchased a piece of property in Bastrop. To save money, Reynolds moved in, but professional jobs in Bastrop were hard to come by.

In the spring of 2003, on a whim, Reynolds decided to check the employment ads for "laborers" in the local paper, and there he found the ad seeking counselors for Woodside Trails. He went to check it out. Quickly, he was hooked. "It was the first and only job I've had in this life that I absolutely loved," he said recently. Woodside Trails was an intense work-

ing environment, and part of the approach of "openness" required that the adults working at the camp accept that they too might have issues to deal with, and they had to be willing to expose their weaknesses to the children – that was the only way to help the kids move beyond their troubled pasts. "You had to relate to them to 'reraise' them," said Gaines. "We had to love them as our own, treat them as our own."

Every potential employee at Woodside was first required to spend a "48-hour observation shift" in one of the campsites, recalled Reynolds. He did his two-day turn at the Twin Pines camp, where Joseph D. was living. The observation shift went well; Reynolds took the job and was assigned to work with the

kids in Twin Pines. At his first meeting of the campsite's counselors, Reynolds' supervisor announced that each counselor would need to pick two campers to be their "in-camp" pals, kids they'd work closely with. The supervisor said everyone could choose one child, and he would assign them a second. When it was his turn, Reynolds chose the only child whose name he already knew: Joseph D. "At first, everybody started laughing," Reynolds recalled. "Then they were relieved," because they knew Joseph wouldn't be assigned to them.

What the others knew that Reynolds didn't was that Joseph D. was one of the camp's most troubled kids. "He was a very charming little kid who really had an ability to have people care about him," Reynolds recalled. "But he was very sociopathic and ... used his skills to manipulate people. Clinically, there are no 'sociopaths' under 18,

but he was the closest they had ever seen out there, not caring about the pain he causes."

Joseph was a very troubled kid. He'd seen his father survive a hatchet attack to the head, only to see his father later attempt to murder his pregnant mother. At 13, he'd been branded a sexual predator – he'd been molested, had molested other kids, and had exhibited sexually inappropriate behavior with a puppy – and demonstrated a troubling lack of empathy. Lying was a particular problem for Joseph – so much so that camp officials had to place Joseph on a special program called "Permission to Lie." The program, an intense intervention, was reserved only for children who are "acute-

"From my perspective, Strayhorn got it in her mind that she was some sort of gifted grandma and that she cared about these kids where no one else did."

– Woodside Trails consulting psychologist David Poole



David Poole

CONTINUED ON P.38

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ly anti-social and whose habitual lying poses a particularly frightening danger to the facility and the staff ... and other residents," Reynolds has written. Under the program, everything Joseph said was considered a lie unless corroborated by a third party. In the 22-year history of Woodside Trails, only one other camper had ever been placed in the Permission to Lie program.

Regardless of Joseph's particular problems – or perhaps because of them – Reynolds was determined to reach the child and to help him overcome his difficulties. Reynolds, an affable and articulate man, is also stubborn – and so he was with Joseph. Reynolds refused to give up on the kid; he was determined to make a connection. Not surprisingly, Joseph resisted, Reynolds told investigators Shaw and Loyd. In fact, in response to Reynolds's approach, Joseph threatened to falsely accuse Reynolds of sexual abuse. The threat was documented in the camp log in February 2004, and Joseph ultimately apologized in a handwritten note also included in the log. Those notes were among the logs Gaines had given Shaw back in July. "I was mad at you because you wouldn't let me run away and you could not be my [in-camp counselor] for a while and I thought that meant you wouldn't be my [in-camp] at all and you wouldn't spend time with me," he wrote in an apology. "I was afraid you wouldn't work with me like we were. I'm really sorry Jack R seriously."

During the interview on Aug. 20, Shaw pressed Reynolds, asking him repeatedly whether he'd abused Joseph. Reynolds forcefully denied each allegation. Reynolds thought – or hoped – that would be that. He didn't yet know that Joseph had already recanted his abuse claim, but he did know Joseph and his history and assumed that Shaw, and then Suriano – who'd investigated previous claims of abuse made by Joseph against others that were determined to be false – would look at the whole picture and see that Reynolds had done nothing wrong.

That didn't happen. Instead, on Aug. 25, based solely on the testimony of investigator Suriano, a Bastrop Co. grand jury indicted Reynolds on two counts of sexual assault of a child. Also that day, Shaw penned a so-called "reason to believe" letter to Gaines (and another to camp board Chair Peyson), informing her that DFPS had concluded that she had been neglectful of the children in her care – and specifically, of Joseph, for allowing him to

targeted. Gaines was never even told that she was the subject of any investigation, nor was she ever interviewed by DFPS regarding her alleged neglectful supervision until Aug. 26 – the day after the department concluded she was at fault and a danger to children.

After months of battling with DFPS and the comptroller, Woodside Trails was, effectively, shut down. Gaines, Reynolds, and their supporters concluded that the entire episode was

tions that Joseph had made against Reynolds and others; she omitted any description of the setup of Twin Pines, whose open design meant any abuse would be within the view of at least 10 other people; and she neglected to interview other residents of the Twin Pines camp.

Significantly, Shaw did not even mention that Reynolds was no longer employed at Woodside Trails during the period Joseph alleged the abuse had occurred. According to Joseph, he was abused by Reynolds during the month of May, just before Joseph moved to Lockhart. In fact, Reynolds had left the camp in April 2004. In federal court this summer, Shaw said she felt that information simply wasn't necessary. "I felt I had enough for a preponderance of the evidence," she said. It's not that that information wouldn't be "important, but you can't include every tiny piece of information." Ultimately, Shaw conceded that she didn't think that information was important: "I didn't include it, so I guess I didn't."

To Gaines and Reynolds, Shaw's admissions under oath strongly suggest that the DFPS motives were political – that Reynolds, Joseph D., and Gaines were used as a means to an end. "I don't think they [ever] believed [Joseph's allegation]. I think they used it as a way to shut Bebe [Gaines] down and get the comptroller" – and, ultimately, the Legislature – "off their ass," Reynolds said recently. "Intentionally and knowingly labeling me as a child molester to achieve a political goal, that's pretty scary." The alternative explanation, Reynolds points out, is that Shaw and DFPS are simply incompetent.



Jack Reynolds

"Why did you say ... those things about Jack, that he did those things to you?" Shaw asked Joseph. Joseph paused. "I don't know," he said quietly.

be abused by Reynolds. "[W]e have made the decision that you pose an immediate threat or danger to the health and safety of children," Shaw wrote. "We have also instructed your employer [the Woodside Trails board] that they must immediately remove you from contact with children."

Woodside Trails was shuttered, Reynolds was branded a criminal, and Gaines' career working with foster children was over.

Neither Gaines nor Reynolds could comprehend what had happened or why they'd been

about politics: Strayhorn's pressure on DFPS to shape up – and shut down Woodside – had worked. Department officials have denied that charge, but documents related to Shaw's investigation suggest otherwise. To begin with, Shaw's investigation was shaky at best. She omitted many key facts from her reports that would support Reynolds' contention that Joseph's allegations were false (and would support the validity of Joseph's recantation). Indeed, she omitted information about Joseph's propensity to lie and about the false allega-

Vindication

It's been more than four years since the kids were taken away from Woodside Trails in a fleet of state-owned Suburbans. Yet the legal wrangling over what happened there – including the indictment of Reynolds on two sex assault charges – continues. Ultimately, the charges against Reynolds were dropped – but



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only after he doggedly sought access to Joseph's recantation. In March 2005, the Bastrop District Attorney's Office finally dismissed the charges. Reynolds and Gaines were further absolved of any wrongdoing by State Office of Administrative Hearings judges, who conducted due process inquiries of DFPS' investigations. The SOAH judges found that there was no credible evidence to support DFPS' conclusions, and Gaines and Reynolds were cleared of any wrongdoing. "This case presents many emotional, controversial, and disturbing facts, but none of these facts prove that Mr. Reynolds sexually abused [Joseph D.]," the SOAH judges wrote in their opinion in Reynolds' case. "Other than the initial outcry and Shaw's interview with [Joseph] it is unclear from the record how [she] reached her finding on sexual abuse." Ultimately, the judges concluded that there "is simply no evidence showing that sexual abuse occurred."

Reynolds, representing himself, filed a federal civil rights suit against DFPS employees, which the state ultimately settled. (Gaines' attorney, Susan Henricks, says Reynolds' is the only case she knows of in which the state has actually settled with a pro se litigant.) Reynolds has filed a second suit, in state court in Bastrop County, against Suriano and prosecutor Kathryn Holton, accusing them of false arrest, malicious prosecution, gross negligence, and abuse of process, among other claims. At press time, the case was pending.

Gaines also filed suit in federal court against Strayhorn and nine DFPS employees (including Shaw and former DFPS Commissioner Thomas Chammond). Strayhorn was ultimately dropped from the

suit – but not before the comptroller got a polite but savage scolding from U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Austin. "It is worth noting here that the Court is not saying that its eyebrows have not been raised by the treatment of [Gaines] in this case," Austin wrote. "No doubt much of [Strayhorn and her staff's] behavior in this case ... is untoward and petty. No doubt much of the behavior is (much) less than one would expect from an elected official or her staff."

The case against the DFPS employees went forward, however, and on Aug. 13 – four years to the day that the children were taken from Woodside Trails – the state settled with Gaines (just

two hours before the case was set to go to the jury), awarding her \$300,000 in damages, the largest amount the state will indemnify its employees. "In this case, it was so blatant that they didn't have any evidence of abuse. It was not credible and not thoroughly investigated," said attorney

Henricks. DFPS is "used to, with small operations like [Woodside], jumping on them with their full force, and you can't fight back. They're just piling on, 'We'll bury you here,'" she continued. "It was really compelling to me that these people had really gotten railroaded, and [DFPS] really didn't have a case. Most people won't [fight back]. They'll just fold."

For Gaines, the legal victories have been bittersweet. Although her camp administrator's license has been restored, the allegations of neglect wiped from her state record, she'll never again be able to work with foster children. She's simply too big a liability, colleagues from other state-contracting treat-

CONTINUED ON P.40

"Intentionally and knowingly labeling me as a child molester to achieve a political goal, that's pretty scary." – Former Woodside Trails counselor Jack Reynolds

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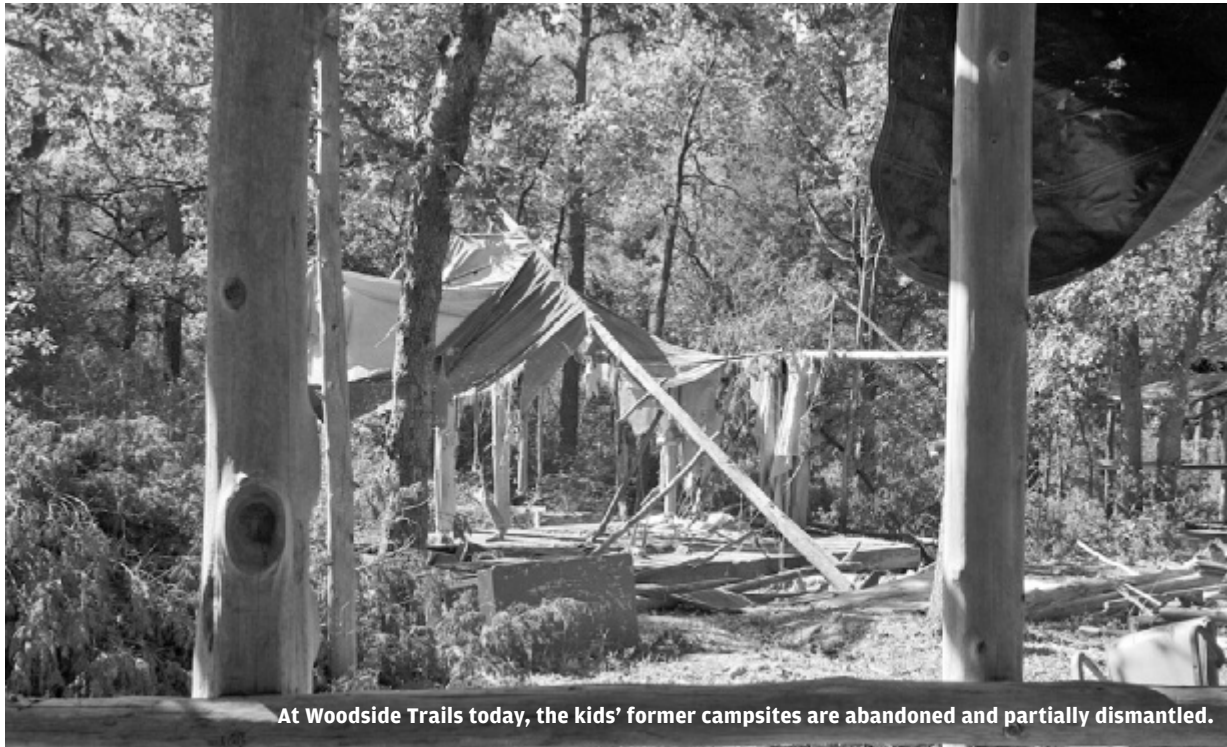
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At Woodside Trails today, the kids' former campsites are abandoned and partially dismantled.

JANA BIRCHUM

ment programs told jurors in federal court – they can't take the chance that Gaines would again attract the ire of DFPS. Yet Gaines remains determined to help the state's "forgotten children." Woodside Trails is closed, but the property is now being transformed into the Eagle Pines Academy, a place for adolescents who have outgrown state care to live, learn life skills, and receive training in "green skills" – water harvesting, solar energy, green building. (See "Woodside's Future," at right.)

"This is a hugely underserved population," Gaines said recently. They leave foster care with few skills and are at high risk for ending up homeless. Gaines is hoping the new academy can help lead these young people to stable lives.

Overall, Strayhorn's crusade to reform the state's foster-care system had very mixed results. Strayhorn's report highlighted the overuse of psychotropic medications for foster children, and in response, DFPS wrote its first policy and guidelines for their use and hired its first-ever staff child psychiatrist and medical director – "one of the great steps forward" to come out of Strayhorn's crusade, said one political observer. "So she had a tremendous effect." And DFPS is performing somewhat better, say agency observers. The department has implemented more family-based safety plans and are opting more often for "relative care," both ways to avoid removing children from their families altogether.

The question remains: At what cost were these modest accomplishments made? "We rebuilt hearts, minds, and souls," at Woodside, says board Chair Peyson, and Strayhorn destroyed that – taking down Gaines, Reynolds, and the campers in the process. "She allowed [children] to be sacrificed on the altar of her personal ambitions." Others suggest that Woodside was nothing more than the victim of a "political drive-by" – and that nothing that happened was actually about Woodside Trails. The camp was "ground up in the middle of forces far larger – it wasn't really about what was happening at Woodside Trails," said one observer. Strayhorn

might have been "genuinely well-motivated" in her ambitions, but she didn't know "anything about foster care" and thus needed a "sensational" story to drive the policy. Woodside Trails was a convenient prop. "Did Woodside Trails matter?" asks one source close to the case. "In a way, Woodside Trails never mattered."

That's not the memory of the children of Woodside Trails. "Late yesterday, [DFPS] effectively closed the Woodside Trails therapeutic camp in Bastrop by revoking its license. It's about time," Strayhorn said in an Aug. 26, 2004, press release. "I hope the children removed from Woodside ... will find the love and nurturing they so desperately need and deserve."

It didn't work out that way for many of the children pulled from the camp. Some stayed in touch with Gaines, but many disap-

peared – some ended up in shelters; others disappeared to the streets. Many of the children were moved from placement to placement, says former Woodside school principal Cheryl Burns, who could track the kids based on how many times Smithville ISD received requests for their academic records. In the first year after Woodside closed, she received requests for the same children's records "three and four" times. It was heartbreaking, says Burns – many of the children had made such progress and had actually graduated to being able to attend school at Smithville's regular high school campus. "We felt pretty successful with what we were doing," she said.

"The hardest thing was being there the day" CPS removed the children. "These kids did not want to leave this place where they felt safe," she continued. "In my 20-some-odd years in education, it was an eye-opening event. I kept thinking, where is the life of the child here?"

For Reynolds, the experience was painful but in retrospect has provided him a clear sense of what really matters. "I'd floundered most of my life. I always wondered about my legacy – would anyone even know I was here?" he said. "I know now that the single greatest contribution you can make in this world is to raise your kids well. I learned that at Woodside Trails." ■

Ultimately, the [administrative] judges concluded that there "is simply no evidence showing that sexual abuse occurred."

Wx web extra

See a video interview with Bebe Gaines at the campsite formerly known as Woodside Trails, with this story at austinchronicle.com.

Woodside's Future Eagle Pines Academy

Woodside Trails may be gone, but the wooded acreage for which it was named still remains – and now that many of Woodside's former campers have "aged out" of the foster-care system (at 18 years old), half a dozen have returned to the rustic setting they once called home. The transition from state care to independent adulthood can be especially tricky for foster kids, and Bebe Gaines hopes that she can ease that transition. Gaines has been trying to help them in any way she can, she says – "help them find cars, help them find jobs, help them with relationships" – and in the process, she seems to have hit upon a win-win idea for the kids, the land, and the surrounding community: an educational program in which young adults can learn skills for sustainable living.

Living sustainably was always part of the Woodside experience, to a degree – campers learned carpentry and self-sufficiency as part of their therapy. The kids who have returned are carrying on that tradition, but they're updating it, too. Now, they want to learn how to build adobe, straw-bale, and cob houses, as well as learn about photovoltaic installation, organic gardening, and biofuel technologies. Green skills, says Gaines, are a particularly good fit for former foster children: "It's a brand new field. It doesn't require extensive formal education and credentialing, plus there's a lot of funding available right now. Many of these kids end up not being able to pay their bills. Many never get to own anything. We can teach them how to live frugally and how to give back, as well."



COURTESY OF BEBE GAINES

Woodside Trails campsite under construction in the early Eighties

The school's mission is multifaceted: It will be a "trade-school, demonstration-project, community education center for sustainable living," says Gaines. It is coordinated through the Eagle Pines Academy, a former Smithville boarding school, and will eventually provide six-month, one-year, and two-year programs – but right now, the program is more modest. Earlier this month, students held their first workshop – on rainwater harvesting – funded by a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority. About 35 people showed up from the surrounding community, a mix of people there to learn, to share their knowledge, and to donate money to the school – a nonprofit organization. The rainwater collection tank that they built will be used, among other things, for watering the garden and washing clothes.

"Older [foster] kids are an underserved population," says Gaines. "They need marketable skills, but they're kind of an unusual work force. They need more attention. They have a cross between being entitled and having low self-esteem. They're a very challenging group of kids." Of course, says Gaines, these kids aren't really kids at all. But though they range in age from 18 to 24, some are not quite grownups, either. The hope is that Eagle Pines will change that.

– Nora Ankrum
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Paradox Obama '08

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

In Lubbock on Election Day, I saw two boys, maybe age 8 or 9, cavorting on the lawn of an elementary school – a school that was whites-only when my contemporaries were 8 or 9. One boy was black, the other white. They were pals. You could tell by their ease with each other and how they caught each other's signals. Nothing unusual about mixed-race pairings these days in this oh-so-conservative city, especially among the young, but, watching these two, I remembered a snippet of history: that the White House was built, in part, with slave labor.

And I thought: Obama will probably win today, and that black kid will go to school tomorrow feeling a kind of pride he's never felt before. Black kids all over this country, all over the world, will go to school tomorrow feeling a pride they've never felt and something more than pride: the knowledge that what had been impossible was now possible.

No matter what happens now, that fact will stand. Its importance is immeasurable – especially for the young.

And that is why, for the first time in my life, and despite my political reservations, it was a pleasure to vote for Barack Hussein Obama. Voting, for me, has always been a solemn act. This time it felt festive. Festive because I was voting for an intellectual unapologetic about his intelligence; festive because of all the vileness one rejected by voting for him; and festive because it was a vote for an African-American who could win. For all these reasons, not race alone, this election was a vote for a change in consciousness. A maturation of the American character. A deepening of what Steve Erickson would call the American imagination.

After (or was it during?) Obama's speech on election night, Ginger Varney phoned. Ginger and I could fairly be described as hard cases when it comes to politics, deeply suspicious of any who seek power (as our founders wanted us to be!) – but there we were, unable to speak for our tears, crying and happily laughing at the same time. I doubt anyone of our generation believed we'd live to see such a day.

(And I marvel yet again that Martin Luther King not only believed; he *knew*. Where did he find the love in his heart to have such faith in us?)

Ginger had been to an election-night party where a white 24-year-old said to her, "I voted for him, but I don't see what the big deal is." So she described for him a scene from her Texas childhood: how, in a department store, when she was 6, she caused shocked commotion when she drank from the "Colored" water fountain.

The 24-year-old was stunned. "They had different water fountains?!"

Ginger told me that when she went to Lubbock's Monterey High School, there was one "person of color," a Latino. I pass that school often now and see white, black, brown, yellow, and all sorts of mixes. Obama's election is a great political expression of that fact, that change – which is something to remember: It's not that Obama is the change; it's that his election is an expression of decades of painful, difficult, incremental changes.

We all know that Obama's election is no cure-all for racism. Still, the facts impress: "His 52 percent share of the popular vote exceeded that of any Democratic candidate since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 – and topped Ronald Reagan's 1980 majority against Jimmy Carter" (*The New York Times*, Nov. 9, p.19). "Mr. Obama lost the white vote, it is true, by 43-55%; but he won almost exactly the same share of it as the last three (white) Democratic candidates; Bill Clinton, Al Gore and John Kerry. And he won heavily among younger white voters" (*The Economist*, Nov. 8, p.13). He "carried the white working-class vote in Indiana, one of the reddest of the red states and a onetime stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan" (*The New York Times*, Nov. 8, p.27).

In what may spell disaster for the Republican Party's future, Obama "won 66% of people aged 18-29 and 68% of first-time voters. ... He lost whites without a college education by 18 points – only a small improvement [my italics] on [John Kerry's 2004] result. ... Mr. Obama won 66% of the Latino vote. ... He did better than Mr. Kerry among whites with a college education, a group that voted for Mr. Bush in 2004. ... He improved his party's performance among voters who earn more than \$200,000 a year by 17 points [!] ... [and] he beat Mr. McCain among independents" (*The Economist*, Nov. 8, p.39). Obama won 24% of white evangelicals and born-again Christians, "a gain of only three percentage points over Mr. Kerry," but "Mr. Obama doubled his support among young white evangelicals (those ages 18 to 29) compared with Mr. Kerry. The increase was almost the same for white evangelicals ages 30 to 44" (*The New York Times*, Nov. 7, p.24).

Any way you cut it, Obama's was a decisive, across-the-board triumph.

He did it with a uniquely American combination of inspiration and cash.

That's a nice but fair way to say that Obama won the election the old-fashioned, tried-and-true American way: He bought it.



PEAT DUGGINS

Let's admit, we progressives, that this is what we'd be saying if a conservative Republican won by outspending a liberal Democrat 3 to 1 in Florida, more than 2 to 1 in Virginia, and with similar totes in all the swing states (CNN, *The Situation Room*, Nov. 5).

To emphasize the money is not to take away from the brilliance of the greatest political campaign in modern times, so let's put it in its most positive possible light:

It was Obama's genius to know that the hardened crust of American habit and prejudice could be broken. It was his genius to know what most of us did not, which is that for many Americans, the habit of prejudice and suspicion was only a crust, and, if that crust could be broken, what lay beneath was essentially good and invaluable. But the Democratic primaries taught Obama and his inner circle two things. One: that they could raise unprecedented oodles and oodles of money. Two: that it would take oodles and oodles of money to break through that hardened crust of suspicion and prejudice.

By the time he'd cinched the nomination in June, it was clear that for Obama to win, he had no choice but to break his promise of limiting himself to federal campaign financing. He wouldn't say so outright, but breaking the racial barrier would depend in equal parts on inspiration and cash, making necessary the betrayal of one promise for the fulfillment of another, older, greater

promise – which brings us to the Obama paradox of 2008.

A paradox consists of at least two aspects that are opposite yet equally true. Repeat: *opposite yet equally true*. It is equally true that Obama inspired his way into the Oval Office and that he bought it. The inspiration was real. So was the cash. The inspiration was beautiful. The meeting of money and politics is never pretty. How it all will interweave in Obama's administration is, for now, mere speculation. I suspect there will be a constant and even tortured dialectic between the demands of an inspired citizenry and the demands of money and the moneyed. Obama won by the power of a paradox, and his administration, for good and for ill, will be a paradox of power.

Many accept Obama's line that his campaign was really publicly funded because of all the common folk's small donations. Hey, only \$72.8 million of his \$488.3 million came "in chunks of \$25,000 or more" (*The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 5, p.3). But Obama's transition team is populated by what may be called ambassadors of money, raisers of vast sums (Associated Press online, Nov. 12). So we'll see, won't we?

Yes, we will.

The inspiration of Barack Obama proved real. But we'd best remember that the story of America remains, in the words of James Boy Medlin, "the tale of a people in search of a country and a country that can be mighty hard on searchers." ■

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THE arts

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY

Prospective revisions

"What are your prospects?"

Seen in a Dickens novel, that question might be understood as referring to a character's opportunities for advancement in the world. Heard in a Mamet play, however, it would more likely be taken as an allusion to a salesman's customers, as: What marks have you pinpointed to pay for whatever it is that you're peddling? And spoken on a tract of land, the same question could be an inquiry after either the view of the landscape or the yield of its mineral deposits. "Prospect" is a word with many facets, open to multiple interpretations, which is one reason that it appealed to curator Jade Walker as the title for a new group show that opens this week at Creative Research Laboratory.

"The concept for 'Prospect' came from an interest I had in understanding how perspective and the notion of 'space' might be interpreted utilizing a wide range of media," says Walker, who is CRL's director. "The term 'prospect' offered various meanings, as well. Most importantly, it was the idea of an outlook or view starting from one particular spot ... which was the University of Texas and, more specifically, the Department of Art and Art History."

CRL is an off-campus venue through which faculty, students, and alumni of the department may exhibit their work. Walker's open call for "Prospect" received more than 80 responses, from which she selected works by 17 individuals, two collaborative pairs, and one collective group to exhibit. The majority

came from "young, ambitious artists," says Walker, which meant "the hopeful anticipation and expectations that come with the term 'prospect' also fit beautifully with the concept." Her "prospectors" – "the term seemed to have a nostalgic connotation that made me think of gold miners acting as frontiersmen, and I liked that for this exhibition," she adds – are mining ideas around "what we perceive as the home, the city as an object, landscape as man-made, and virtual spaces as interactive."

The collective Crafthole, she says, submitted stills for a video that imagines the futures of each of its four members: "They are working in video to frame the given images and control the moments in time we may see each character. Besides the obvious use of one set perspective conceptually, they are taking the single view from the camera each time and employing feminist film theory as they recontextualize themselves as objects in many shots."

In some instances, artists working in the same medium have taken the idea of "space" in opposite directions. Beatrice Thomas and David Waddell both created installations with recycled materials, but while Thomas uses white plastic to portray a man-made scene (a life-sized facade of a ranch house in crochet), Waddell employs plastics, colored papers, and the like to fashion a scene from nature (albeit a cartoonlike one). While photographer Wendel A. White looks to the past, removing space around nostalgic buildings to single out a shape,



photographer Santiago Forero looks to the future, saturating a machinist shop with intense colors to turn it into a frightening space out of science fiction.

These diverse ways in which artists translated that term "space" was the thing that most surprised Walker in curating the show. "Although the call was ambitious, the word is heavy with angles," she says. "Some very simple works showed landscape, such as a beautiful photograph by Erik Culver, while others really investigated the way time and space connect to reference the future or the here and now, such as a collaborative team

of undergraduate designers that are using wireless live feed to set images from outside the gallery back inside."

Walker couldn't allow such inventive explorations to be shown in the same old CRL, so she got creative with "space" herself: All of the 90-degree angled corners in the gallery are being removed to change visitors' immediate perception of where they are. Sounds like the prospects for "Prospect" are good.

– Robert Fairies

"Prospect" runs Nov. 22-Dec. 13 at Creative Research Laboratory, 2832 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 322-2099 or visit uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab.

ARTHOUSE

Congratulations on the show – and the baby, too

Timing, as they say, is everything. And we doubt you'll hear any argument from Elizabeth Dunbar. The Arthouse curator spent last Friday overseeing the final installation of "Rapture in Rupture," an exhibit of work by Lauren Kelley, Shirir Mordechay, Mindy Shapero, and Nicolau Vergueiro that she curated, then celebrating the show's opening with a crowd at the Jones Center. And then on Saturday, she gave birth to her first child, Samuel Alexander Dunbar Tucker. (He was not due for another couple of weeks, but maybe he just couldn't wait any longer to see his mom's latest show.) Mother and son are doing well. She dubs him her "best curatorial effort so far." "Rapture in Rupture" runs through Jan. 11, 2009, at Arthouse's Jones Center for Contemporary Art, 700 Congress. For more information, call 453-5312 or visit www.arthousetexas.org.

– R.F.

SALON CONCERTS The tale of two instruments

Few things are more joyful than a reunion. Long lost friends who happen to run into one another on a city street. Long lost brothers embracing in an airport terminal. But what about long lost stringed instruments? If you have ever wondered what a stringed instrument reunion would look like – or sound like, for that matter – the wait is over. Just such a reunion will take place at this month's Salon Concert, featuring guest artist Brian Lewis.

Allow me to explain: In 1863, Napoleon III commissioned a set of stringed instruments from Gand Frères, two brothers who were renowned luthiers in Paris. The set was cut from the same piece of wood, and the instruments were given the same serial number. One hundred forty-five years later, Lewis and Douglas Harvey, both international concert artists based in Austin, discovered that they each owned a Gand instrument with that exact serial number. Lewis' violin and Harvey's cello were brother instruments, born in Paris and miraculously winding up in Texas a century and a half later. Clearly, a duet was in order. Lewis asked Kathryn Mishell, artistic director of Salon Concerts and a renowned composer, to write a piece for the two instruments.

Mishell had several ideas about how to approach such an interesting story. "I could have used musical quotes from composers writing at the time of the instruments' creation," she says. "Or if I had known where they have been in the last 145 years, I could have used that and infused parts of the piece with, say, Spanish music if one of them had spent any time in Spain." In the end, Mishell decided to take what she describes as the more "universal" approach. This gets us back to those airport terminals and chance encounters. The duet is titled "Reunion" and is about the experience of togetherness, separation, and, if we are so lucky, togetherness again.

Though there are many fine modern instruments, Mishell describes an older instrument as having a "mellowness, a richness of sound, a depth of resonance that can be a joy to play." She goes on to describe the particular excitement of hearing a duet played by two instruments cut from the same wood. "Matched instruments such as these Gands should have the special quality of blending wonderfully. I've heard them individually, and they are beautiful instruments. I can't wait to hear them together!"



People like to anthropomorphize objects, imagining their desk chairs are mad at them or their cars possess a certain temperament. But in this case, the story is so lovely and the serendipity so potent, it is hard not to imagine the Gand violin and the Gand cello joyfully crooning together after years of separation anxiety. When Lewis asked Mishell to compose the duet, he told her: "They are true brothers. ... They will be united publicly in the 21st century after having been apart since the 19th century. Ah, the tales they could tell if notes were words."

– Hannah Kenah

"Reunion" will be performed as part of Salon Concerts' Instrumental Magnetism, Nov. 23-25, Sunday, 4:30pm, and Monday, 7:30pm, in a private home; Tuesday, 6pm, at the Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 989-0539 or visit www.salonconcerts.org.

Welcome to My Studio

The East Austin Studio Tour offers a rare chance to see where artists work and live

BY KATHERINE CATMULL



Jennifer Balkan at Dog House Studios

PHOTOS BY TODD V. WOLFSON

Visiting someone's home is like visiting the inside of her head: You know a whole lot more about her, very quickly. Visiting an artist's studio works the same way – especially if it's also the artist's home. You see the work's ecology.

The East Austin Studio Tour is your best opportunity all year to get that inside look at the environment where art bubbles up. For two days, artists all over the Eastside open the doors of their studios (which sometimes means their homes) to the public, in order “to encourage creative dialogue among artists and their peers, as well as between artists and their city,” Big Medium says, and, hey, “their city” – that means you.

This is the seventh year for EAST, the growing-like-a-weed offspring of local arts nonprofit Big Medium, and this Saturday and Sunday will see 250 artists in 151 East Austin venues welcoming visitors. Tour guides and maps are available for free all around town or at www.eastaustinstudiotour.com.

Jana Swec, who co-founded EAST with Shea Little and Joseph Phillips (all three still participate in it), recalls that “the whole concept started with us working out of our studios as artists with a band of friends around the neighborhood doing similar things. We planned on having a weekend where we'd all open our doors and try and get people over to see our work. Then it just started to explode.”

Swec says, “Talking about my work with others helps me understand it better myself

and how it's perceived.” But she says EAST offers visitors unexpected rewards, as well. “People go home and want to start creative projects. The artist's studio is always such a private, personal, intimate space. It's a rare chance to see how an artist lives and thinks.”

And during EAST, that studio will be your oyster: You can talk with the artists, learn techniques, watch a demonstration, and perhaps even buy a piece or two, all in what one artist calls their “natural habitat.”

When the studio is in the artist's own home, the oyster opens up even wider. “There is something incredibly intimate about seeing an artist's work in their private space,” says Dana Younger, one of the artists and artisans behind Blue Genie Art Industries. Blue Genie – which makes parade floats, bas-reliefs, and other gigantic, beautiful, and/or hilarious things at what *Texas Monthly* described as its “studio-cum-fun house” – has participated in EAST since its inception. But this year, Younger is showing his own work at his small home studio. “To me, what is compelling about visual art is that it is a window into the mind of the artist,” he says. “Seeing art in the home or studio of an artist creates a bridge to understanding that artist's creative process.”

Visitors to his studio will see his new oil paintings, swirls of Turner-like color and motion, which he describes as “energetic abstract paintings in limited color palettes, which are reminiscent of things like trees,

storms, and flowers.” As an EAST veteran, Younger says: “It's been amazing to see the event grow in attendance and sophistication. The gang at Big Medium continues to astound everyone with their creativity and diligence.”

Blue Genie's focus during EAST is “allowing people to see us in our ‘natural habitat,’ with whatever our current projects are being showcased,” Younger explains. This year, that includes a 10-foot-tall Texas A&M class ring, which will be cast in bronze “and placed in front of the new alumni center at A&M.”

Blue Genie will also feature the work of Blue Genie partner Rory Skagen, as well as Blue Genie staffers Michael Merritt, Ryan Day, Kristin Hogan, and Dan Morrison. And finally (it's a big warehouse), Blue Genie is also hosting the Architectural Artisans Collaborative.

Like Younger, painter and printmaker Satch Grimley works from a home studio, which he's opening to EAST visitors for the second time this year. Although it involves “a lot of pressure and hard work,” it also – as a dinner party might do for the rest of us – “provides a great incentive to do some house projects that would probably never get done otherwise. Leading up to the event, I question whether it's worth it, but once it's over, I'm sure I'll decide it was.”

Grimley has participated almost from the beginning. “It's definitely gotten better every year,” he adds. Like Younger, Grimley remarks on both the increasing popularity and increas-

ing sophistication of the event. “But I think it still has a really rich local flavor,” he says, a “block-party-ish atmosphere.”

A native Austinite, Grimley was drawn into screen printing in part because of an interest in the poster scene for local musicians. His home studio “is also a working print shop, producing numerous gig posters and fine art prints for designers and artists worldwide.” Grimley's own work includes serigraphy and painting, as well as leaping, swirling collages.

Ginko Studios, the workspace of porcelain maker Sunyong Chung and her husband, architect turned sculptor Philippe Klinefelter, expands the home-studio concept into a compound of the artists' “studios, residence, and guest artists space.” “We've not officially opened our house to the public,” says Chung, “but we've welcomed anyone who was curious or wanted to tour the house. We believe that the experience of art in its total environment can be powerful.”

For EAST, Chung will show some of her delicately colored porcelain dinnerware, as well as a sculpture she is working on, intended for display at the San Angelo Museum of Art. Klinefelter will show his large, nearly complete granite sculpture *Earth Fountain*, commissioned by the city of Fort Worth Public Art program. Guest artists showing at the studio include Leslie Nowlin (documentary photography), Melanie Schopper (bright, strongly shaped ceramics), Alison McMillin (soft sculpture), and Chris Novella (mixed media).

Some artists feel trepidation at the prospect of strangers swarming their homes. “I imagine I would feel somewhat vulnerable if I was showing in my home studio,” says Catherine Hart, “as the public would suddenly have a window into not just my work and artistic output but also my personal life.” Since Hart's home studio does not fall within the tour's eligibility boundaries, she will be showing her drawings and paintings elsewhere. “I get to sidestep” that vulnerability, she adds, “but I wonder if I would leave more of an imprint for the public if they saw the whole package of me as an artist.” Her husband, printmaker Matt Rebholz, is also showing at EAST.

Hart's first experience with EAST last year was “wonderful” and “came at a great time for me, because I needed to see my work come together in a show format.” This year, she will show some of her newer pieces, which include “large drawings and paintings that are bigger than anything I have ever made. This scale shift has been a really rewarding and difficult challenge for me, and I'm eager to hear what people will think of it.”

Of course, not all artists work from home. Painter Erika Jaeggi has a studio at Pump Project Art Complex, a nonprofit that offers low-cost studio space in a bright-yellow warehouse on Shady Lane. Still, she calls it “completely in the Austin and artistic spirit to open up one's home for a studio tour.”

This is Jaeggli's second year with EAST. She recalls last year as "a truly incredible event. We had a constant flow of people coming into our space." Jaeggli articulates one of the great strengths of EAST: "Seeing work in an artist's studio is a totally different experience than viewing it in a gallery or exhibition space. It allows viewers to connect not only to the work but also to the artist and the process."

Visitors will see her current series of watercolors, "Masks," which features children "wearing costumes and dressing up. I was interested in exploring the concept of identity as it relates to a young child who is in the process of forming his own self," she says. Jaeggli is not the only Pump Project artist; 18 of the more than 30 who share the complex's 20 studios will be showing work, as will two guest artists.

Some artists are private enough that even opening their nonhome studios can be unsettling. "I've never participated in a studio tour before, and frankly, it makes me nervous," says painter Alec Drummond, who moved here from Brooklyn this summer. He will be showing at his studio at Big Medium. "Having strangers passing through my studio, which is somewhat of a private space, for two days is going to be difficult. I've been on studio tours in Brooklyn, and I always felt as if I was somewhat of an interloper, even if the artist's space was made public." But as a newcomer to Austin, Drummond "had heard about what a big event EAST was," so he jumped in.

His current work is shaped abstract painting on paper. "I've done a lot of landscape and figurative painting in the past, so this is a relatively new direction for me," he says. "I suppose that all that past work informs what I'm doing now." Working with shaped paper means "I can cut and add freely to the form; the shapes force me to confront the edges."

Having a home studio can be a mixed blessing. Last year, painter Jennifer Balkan moved her studio out of her home and into Dog House Studios, which she shares

with painters Pablo Taboada and Karen Maness, who will also show work during EAST. Dog House "feels like home, since we're in a cozy old house just two miles from where I live," Balkan says. About her home studio, she says, "I had been working out of a small room, and my stuff was migrating into other parts of the house. It was getting out of control." But initially she hesitated to move out, "since I had been accustomed to being able to work at any moment I felt the inspiration and being near my work at all times and just not having to get dressed to go anywhere." But she adds, wryly, "I must say it's all a bit healthier now."

A participant in EAST since its earliest days, Balkan says the project has grown so much that last year she was unable to escape to visit other artists' studios.

"People can visit art spaces and galleries any old time," she says. "But they don't always have the opportunity to visit the space where the production happens." Balkan's 2007 show at Wally Workman Gallery was nominated for an Austin Critics Table Award; this spring, the *Chronicle* said her "Hidden Meaning" show, which featured paintings of women in animal masks, "celebrates and challenges traditional portraiture" and looks at identity with "beautiful and accepting skepticism." (See "Jennifer Balkan: Hidden Meaning," Arts Listings, May 23.) Now, Balkan says, "I'm trying some new things," including incorporating sewing and beading in the paintings.

During EAST, Balkan will also show new "micropaintings," oil paintings smaller than a sheet of paper (like her 2007 "Ridiculed & Wounded Candy" series), which are much more affordable than a full-sized canvas. "Everyone deserves to own original art," Balkan says firmly.

That's an excellent philosophy. Once you've toured the homes and studios of the blazing East Austin arts scene and seen what Sunyong Chung calls "art in its total environment," consider capturing some art, or at least some inspiration, and bringing it back to your own home. Just make sure you capture it alive.

Seriously I, by Jennifer Balkan



"There is something incredibly intimate about seeing an artist's work in their private space," says Dana Younger. "It's a bridge to understanding that artist's creative process."

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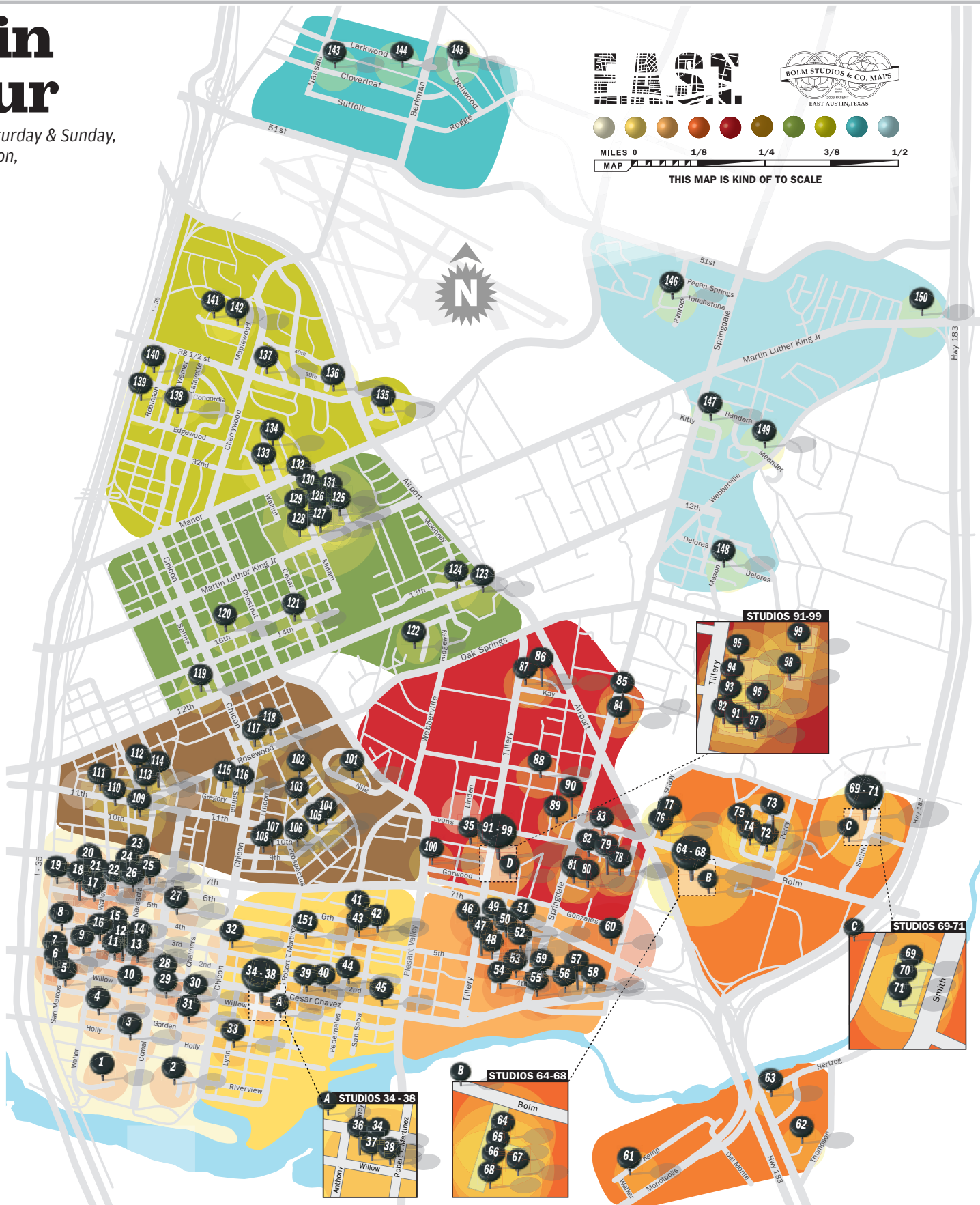
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1601 E. Fifth #106
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- 29) **Willow Arts Carrie Kenny Deanna Miesch Jaqueline May**
1617 Willow
- 30) **Dog House Studios Jennifer Balkan Karen Maness Pablo Taboada**
1701 Willow
- 31) **Jacob Borshard**
1704-B Garden
- 32) **Super! Alright! Creative Studio Adreon Henry**
301-A Chicon
- 33) **Barrio Mexican Religious Art**
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- 34) **Art Palace Gallery**
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- 35) **Leslie Omana Begert**
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- 73) **Frederick Tabares**
1113 Emmitt Run
- 74) **Jamie Jo Fisher and Chris Campbell**
5609 Steven Creek Way
- 75) **Trisha Allen**
5808 Steven Creek Way

- 76) **Sexy Picnic Artist Studios**
1109 Shady Ln. Ste. A
- 77) **Substance Distributing Inc. Design Studios**
1109 Shady Ln. Ste. B
- 78) **Ginko Studios Melanie Schopper Lesley Nowlin Alison McMillin**
800 Gullett
- 79) **Philippe Klinefelter**
800 Gullett

- 80) Casey Woods
801 Springdale
- 81) The WIM Group
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- 82) Federico Archuleta
4609 Lyons
- 83) Ian Shultz
920 Chote
- 84) Austin Artistic Reconstruction
1023 Springdale #105
- 85) Colin McIntyre
1023 Springdale #106
- 86) Arthur Simone
3204 Kay
- 87) Clay Under Fire Studio
3204 Kay
- 88) John Mulvany
Carter Cox
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- 89) Blue Genie Architectural Artisans Collaborative
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- 90) MASS Gallery
1023 Springdale
- 91) Bleep Labs
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- 93) Texas Toast Studio
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Sarah Lantz
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austinchronicle.com **NOVEMBER 21, 2008** THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE **49**

ALPHABET JUICE: THE ENERGIES, GISTS, AND SPIRITS OF LETTERS, WORDS, AND COMBINATIONS THEREOF; THEIR ROOTS, BONES, INNARDS, PITHS, PIPS, AND SECRET PARTS, TINCTURES, TONICS, AND ESSENCES; WITH EXAMPLES OF THEIR USAGE FOUL AND SAVORY

by Roy Blount Jr.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 384 pp., \$25

OUR MAGNIFICENT BASTARD TONGUE: THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF ENGLISH

by John McWhorter

Gotham, 256 pp., \$22.50

new in
nonfiction

"Writers love a good list," begins Roy Blount Jr.'s entry for lists in his book *Alphabet Juice*, which both contains many lists and is itself a list. But one needn't read the lists entry to know that "extraordinary miscellaneity" and "rhythm" are "two keys to a good list" – both qualities are evident on nearly every page of *Alphabet Juice*. For instance, Blount lists his favorite UrbanDictionary.com entries for "hater" (including: "4. NOT someone who hates a hater"), and following that, he lists a few choice examples of the threatened art form headlines (including: "City Pledges Strict Enforcement of Law"). In fact, well before I reached the Ls, Blount had won me over with both his abilities as an unimpeachable digresser (that's the miscellaneity part) and by pacing this list of entries such that one can enjoy reading it even in lengthy doses (the rhythm part).

For all its meandering, *Alphabet Juice* does congeal around a specific idea. This idea, represented by the word "sonicky," is introduced by a discussion of pig utterances. Ours go, "oink

oink." In Russia, it's "chrjo chrjo." The point of this is to call out "scholars of linguistics" on their belief that the dissimilarity of pig noises across the globe reveals that "the relation between a word and its meaning is arbitrary." Blount disagrees and fires back with ammunition culled from the more discernible sections of the world's barnyards. After he explains that it's damn hard to spell "any of the various sounds that pigs make," he spends the rest of the book turning the notion of randomness in language construction into an idea only the most tone-deaf, ivory-tower elitist would claim. After all, are we really to think it random that "sphincter, or squeeze constricts the throat"? Or is it just a happy accident that a cave person might "without the benefit of any verbal tradition come up with something close to nausea" to communicate that feeling.

Blount emphasizes that "the music of words" is an essential ingredient in language construction. But given that he provides little more than the one example of scholars' reasoning, I doubt he writes to persuade scholars. No, instead of writing for peer review, Blount is using this argument as a reason to wax away on his favorite "Letters, Words, and Combinations Thereof." And fortunately for his readers, this is something he clearly takes joy in doing.

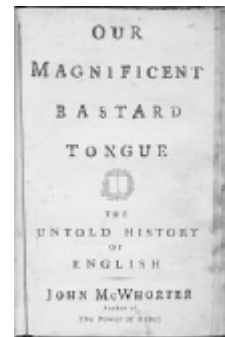
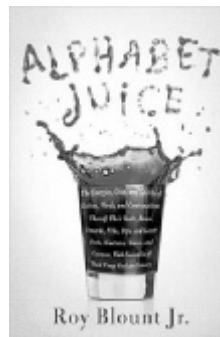
In a sharp contrast of purpose, John McWhorter is definitely out to persuade scholars with his book *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*. McWhorter reimagines the history of English in a new version that goes on the offensive against historians' insistence that randomness played a role in the creation of Middle English. McWhorter's insight, as well as his self-professed frustration with the history of English, stems from his

observation that English is more peculiar for its grammar than for its words. From the Old English of *Beowulf* to the Middle English that emerged in the 14th century (following 300 years of French rule), McWhorter says, "English lost a perplexingly vast amount of grammar." Also, during this period, English gained two pieces of grammar unlike "what any languages on earth were taking on!" The oddities are: the "meaningless do" used to formulate questions (as in, "Do you wanna shut up?") and the -ing suffix used to form our present tense (as in, "I'm walking here"). McWhorter writes that "specialists in the history of English sincerely believe that English started using 'do' and '-ing' by itself, and that it is irrelevant, or virtually so, that Welch and Cornish have the same features." Being that Welch and Cornish shared Britain with Old English, this would seem an unlikely coincidence.

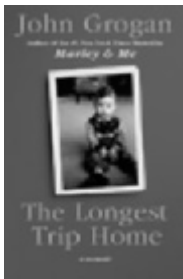
As I read *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*, I was reminded a bit of Richard Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene* inasmuch as that book sought to disabuse its readers of the fallacy that Darwinian evolution is a random process. If *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue* can become a sort of *Selfish Gene* for English-language history, then that is great for McWhorter and an important contribution to

the project of advancing human understanding. And although McWhorter's somewhat tedious debunking of counterarguments gave me that alright-already feeling in places, by the end of the book, all was forgiven. After all, we are on the cusp of inaugurating an unapologetic intellectual as our next president, and in that spirit, these two books that appear earnestly interested in advancing the Enlightenment project are valued examples of an optimistic new age.

– Tim Warden



Events at BookPeople



THE LONGEST TRIP HOME

JOHN GROGAN

Thursday, November 20 7:30 PM

HarperCollins

John Grogan's debut memoir, *Marley & Me*, was an international bestseller, and he brings his trademark wit and grace to the much-anticipated follow-up, *The Longest Trip Home*. In his new book, Grogan details his boyhood growing up in a devout Catholic home outside Detroit in the '60s and '70s. The faith and fervor so important to his parents continued to elude him, much to their chagrin. *The Longest Trip Home* is a poignant look at identity and family. He will be at BookPeople tonight at 7:30 PM to sign copies of his books.

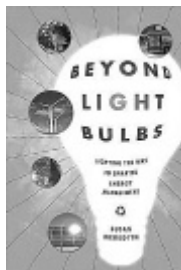
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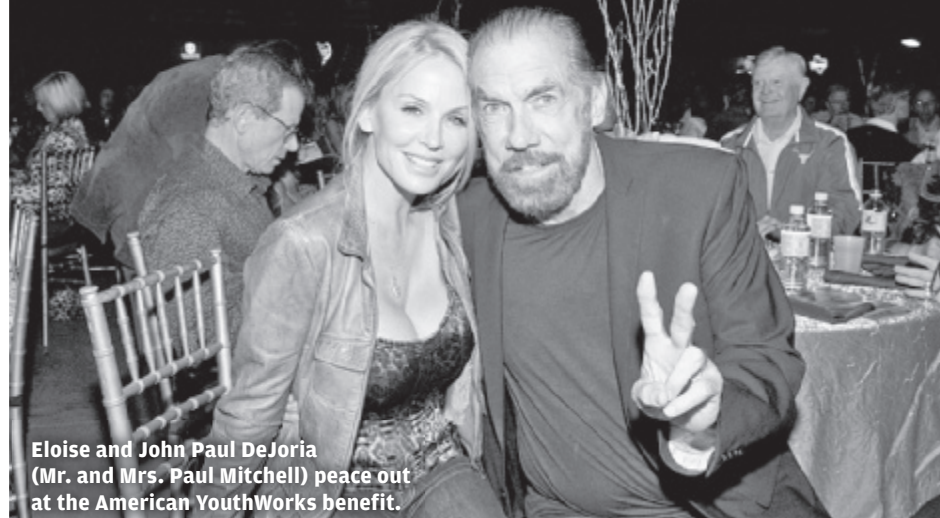


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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER



Eloise and John Paul DeJoria (Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mitchell) peace out at the American YouthWorks benefit.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CASELLI

HELPING CLIFFORD Along with *Antone's: Home of the Blues*, another of **Clifford Antone's** legacies is the **Help Clifford Help Kids** benefit that raises crucial funds to help out the at-risk kids at American YouthWorks. But the benefit is a perfect example of giving – Texas style. The best part was the mix of supporters – from the formidable social dragons to music celebrities to artists to folks just like you and me. Well, folks just like you, anyway. The first **Cliffy Award** went to **Carla and Jack McDonald** for their unceasing support

of **American YouthWorks**. Along with a magnificently engraved crystal vase, the McDonalds received a year of **Paul Mitchell DeJoria**. Jack noted that they might have preferred a year's worth of DeJoria's top-shelf **Patron** tequila. Done. No problem. **E! News' Dave Adelson** was the emcee, and after the auctions, speeches, and congratulations were over, **Delbert McClinton** gave a terrific show ... and it is estimated that the event brought in approximately \$250,000. Hell, yeah!



Top: Carla McDonald (l) with Dale Dewey and Karen Landa. Bottom: The irrepressible Bob and Lisa Wade, party animals, Help Clifford Help Kids.

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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“Practically getting a **lap dance** from the 50-year-old dynamo **vaporizes** most notions of **objectivity**.”

- Raoul Hernandez

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Satisfying a craving for a warm-from-the-oven, homemade cookie requires several activities: finding a recipe, shopping for quality ingredients, mixing, and baking. After you've eaten the one or two cookies that fulfill that initial need, you're left with extra ingredients, dirty dishes, and many extra cookies. What if there were a way to have one or two (or six or a dozen) freshly made cookies to feed that nagging cookie hunger without all the extra bother? Cookie Lounge is the answer to any impending cookie dilemma. This first of its kind venture is the brainchild of Austin entrepreneurs **Artie Rogers, Stacey Gillar, and Paul Vaden**, along with award-winning pastry chef **Mark Chapman**. Their chic new shop in the West

Campus area offers a taste-tempting selection of cookie essentials just waiting for customization.

Start with one of the six basic batters, choose up to three mix-ins (chocolates, nuts, candies, dried fruits), designate the size and number of cookies you would like, and put in an order. The possibilities are endless and could eventually lead to the discovery of the personally perfect cookie. (Mine is currently the **toasted peanut butter dough with salted**

peanuts, Butterfinger bits, and dark chocolate chips!) Relax in the shop (or in the comfort of your home or office) for eight to 10 minutes, and then enjoy that custom-designed cookie, hot from the oven, with ice-cold milk (plain or flavored), creamy Blue Bell milkshakes, an eclectic selection of sodas, or French-press coffee. To really gild the lily (uh, cookie), order it à la mode or with drizzles of butterscotch caramel or dark or white chocolate. Cookies are never made in advance here, and the kitchen uses only the finest ingredients, such as Plugrá butter, Valrhona chocolate, Remember When Dairy milk, Torani syrups, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Bat City coffee, and Sesa Teas. These cookies make delicious and thoughtful gifts, and Cookie Lounge will gladly deliver in the central-city area.

- V.B.W.



JOHN ANDERSON

After years as a successful stand at the Sunset Valley Farmers Market, the Austin Farmers' Market, and the Triangle, Thai Fresh has found a brick-and-mortar home in South Austin. Unlike many another start-up, Thai Fresh has hit the ground running, drawing customers from Travis Heights and Zilker in addition to the Bouldin Creek and Galindo neighborhoods. The fact is, **Jam Sanitchat**, the powerhouse behind Thai Fresh, is both a fabulous Thai cook and an impressive businesswoman.

Jam started out teaching Thai cooking at home, on location, and at Central Market. Next, she sold her marvelous food at farmers' markets, and then, before she opened the Mary Street location, she used Internet listservs to find out exactly what area residents wanted. The result is a combination Thai restaurant, deli, grocery, and cooking school that is being enthusiastically embraced by the community.

Along with her partner, **Bruce Barnes**, and her mother, **Orawan**, Jam makes some of the best Thai food you are likely to find in all of Texas. She uses locally grown and produced ingredients, including pastured chicken, grass-fed beef, and Berkshire pork. "The farmers' market got me used to

the good stuff," Jam laughs, "and now I can't go back!"

At the **Thai Fresh deli** counter, there are usually 11 or so prepared dishes that change daily, though certain dishes, such as pad thai and coconut soup, are always present. Panang curry, masaman curry, pad prik king, Drunken Noodles, sticky rice with mango, spicy lemongrass soup, vegetarian egg rolls, and Waterfall Beef are only a few of the 45 dishes on the rotating menu. Everything is priced between \$5.99 and \$11.99 a

pound and is sold in reusable, microwave- and dishwasher-safe containers. If you decide to eat in, you can get a one-

two-, or three-item plate (\$6.50, \$7.50, \$8.99), with your choice of white or brown rice.

The **grocery** at Thai Fresh is as uniquely tailored to area customers as the prepared food: Not only are all the basic Thai ingredients for sale, such as coconut milk, rice noodles, and curry pastes, but also many local farmers' wares - **Richardson's** beef and pork, **Remember When Dairy's** milk and butter, **Simmons'** pastured eggs, local produce, and herbs. It's a miniature farmers' market right in the neighborhood, and it's open every day.

- Kate Thornberry

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► An alliance of local independent business owners encourages Austin shoppers and diners to redirect their spending to local businesses for **Austin Unchained**. For an updated listing of specials and events, go to www.ibuyAustin.com. Also, a number of restaurants and businesses will offer specials to customers who present a **Go Local Austin** loyalty card (www.golocalaustin.com) during the day. Saturday, Nov. 22.

► **Terry Thompson-Anderson**, author of *The Texas Hill Country: A Wine and Food Paradise* and *Texas on the Plate*, will be selling and signing books this weekend at **Alamosa Cellars** (325/628-3313, www.alamosawinecellars.com) near Bend, about 90 miles north of Austin. Sample some of the artisan foods featured in Terry's book along with tastings of Alamosa wines. Saturday, Nov. 22, noon-5pm.

► **The Belmont** (305 W. Sixth, 457-0300, www.thebelmontaustin.com) joins the Austin supporters of the annual **Coats for Kids** drive by hosting the first **Belmont Butter Ball**. The holiday buffet benefit comes complete with musical entertainment by **Dale Watson & His Lone Stars**. Admission is \$10 or the donation of one coat. Buffet tickets are \$15. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 6-11pm.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

This is another one of those weeks with a lightning round of unrelated news items, so just hang on! If you would rather not cook but prefer a fabulous Thanksgiving meal that appears homemade, there are restaurants and caterers galore ready to do the work for you. For those of you planning to eat out, we've compiled a big list of eateries that are serving Thanksgiving Day, so be sure to check out Restaurant Roulette, p.58, and make those reservations now... **Twin Liquors Marketplace** (1000 E. 41st, 451-7400, www.twinliquors.com) opens in **Hancock Center** this weekend. The new 15,000-square-foot store is stocked with a huge selection of wines, spirits, beers, and cigars. Facilities also include several dining and tasting areas and a classroom for wine seminars that can double as a dining room for wine dinners or community functions. The store is open Monday through Saturday, 10am-9pm... Austin restaurants are commemorating anniversaries this month with special promotions for their customers. **Mangia** (multiple locations, www.mangiapizza.com) celebrates 20 years of dishin' up Chicago-style stuffed pizza in Austin by offering \$20 Mangia gift certificates with every catering package purchased for 12 or more people through Wednesday, Nov. 26. Call 374-0800 for more info or to book a catering delivery. And at the **Z'Tejas Avery Ranch** location (10525 W. Parmer, 388-7772, www.ztejas.com), its first anniversary special - an oak-fired rib-eye steak with two side dishes (\$19.99) - is available during dinner hours through the end of the month... Concerned readers alerted us to the closure of some **Delaware Sub Shop** (www.delawaresub.com) outlets, so we checked with the head office of the home-grown sandwich chain that turns 30 next year to see what's up. The office manager confirmed that founder **Pete Ademski** had closed five stores owned by franchisees in the past year. The Ademski family continues to run the original store (8105-C Mesa, 345-3816) and a northwest suburban outlet (10401 Anderson Mill Rd., 331-7344), and they're negotiating leases for new locations in both Central and South Austin to open in the coming year... And speaking of sandwich shops, the second outlet of the **Firehouse Subs** chain (201 University Oaks Blvd., 512/244-9494, www.firehousesubs.com) has opened in Round Rock. Check out their hot and cold sandwiches, chili, salads, and desserts daily from 10:30am to 9pm... The owners of **Berryhill Baja Grill & Cantina** (3600 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Ste. A-110, 327-9033, www.berryhillbajagrill.com) have come up with a tasty way to give something back to their community by creating the new **Westlake Platter** (crab cakes, taquitos, shrimp diablo, tamales, and quesadillas) and donating 10% of the proceeds from platter sales to the **Westlake High School Chaps Athletic Club**, from now through the end of May 2009. They've designated 10% of the proceeds from gift-card sales through the end of the year to the group, as well. Be sure to consider orders of the delicious Berryhill tamales (beef, chicken, pork, spinach/corn, and holiday turkey) for all your upcoming holiday celebrations... And last but certainly not least, hearty congratulations to pastry chef **Mark Chapman** and recent "Best of Austin" award winner **Dawn Orsak** on the birth of their son, **Rome Wilder Chapman**. The 7-pound, 14-ounce, 21-inch apple of their eyes arrived on Thursday, Nov. 13.

MÁLAGA**440 W. Second, 236-8020****www.malagatapasbar.com****Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm;****Brunch: Saturday-Sunday, noon-4pm;****Dinner: Sunday-Wednesday, 5-10pm; Thursday, 5-11pm; Friday-Saturday, 5pm-12mid**

When Málaga opened nearly 10 years ago, the restaurant's owners, Alejandro Duran and Greg Schnurr, built upon a trendy concept in dining that was not exactly new but had been little known to Austin – a bar serving a variety of cocktails and reasonably priced wines, paired with small plates of Spanish-inspired comestibles, known as tapas. From a tiny kitchen at the back of its Fourth Street location, Málaga introduced Austin to Spanish classics such as *papas bravas* – crisp roasted potatoes dusted with paprika and saffron, served with a generous dollop of aioli – and plates fanned with Spanish cheeses, chorizo, and fruit. Since that time, Málaga has become an anchor of the Downtown scene, despite changing tastes and food fashions, as well as more than one busted economic bubble that sent many conventional restaurants into free fall. Málaga's endurance over nearly a decade can be mainly attributed, in my opinion, to two things – a well-priced yet eclectic selection of wines and flavorful, amply portioned, and also reasonably priced tapas. Combine these with a restaurant that is chic and urban, without being overly pretentious, and it's no wonder Málaga has weathered both fair winds and foul.

Málaga's recent move to a larger, more expensive location at the end of Second Street in the peak of a national economic firestorm may be its greatest challenge. Though one

might think the move is ill-timed, a visit to the restaurant on Friday or Saturday night is enough to confirm otherwise. The new space is twice the size of the former location, and still it manages to bustle in the evening, though lunches are just catching on. Unlike the former closed and cramped space, the new Málaga has an inviting outdoor patio fronting Second Street, as well as a cavernous interior decorated in warm tones accented in black.

Here, cozily ensconced in a sidewalk seat, eyeing the smartly dressed clientele, and absorbing the groovy rock en español background sounds, you can almost imagine you're in a cafe in Spain – unless you look at your watch. Prime time here starts at the very un-Iberian dining hour of 8pm, though late diners will also be pleased to find the kitchen still going strong until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

With the new space also comes a much larger kitchen. Málaga has always had a reputation for serving authentic tapas, despite the constraints of the previous kitchen. The expanded kitchen has given Executive Chef Duran, who hails from Spain, more freedom to add new dishes and flex his culinary muscle. At the new Málaga, lunch is served seven days a week, and many of the newer items are only served at lunch. These include an expanded selection of tortillas – including one made with tuna – as well as some very tempting Spanish flat breads called *cocas*. The *coca de pato ahumado*, a chewy flat bread topped with smoked duck, caramelized onions, figs, and Spanish blue cheese, should not be missed (\$10). Soups, salads, and sandwiches are also new. Málaga's clean yellow gazpacho, made from yellow tomatoes and seasoned with oranges, sparkles brightly. We paired it with a grilled



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

sandwich filled with lamb, arugula, sweet onions, and curried mayonnaise (\$10), whose surprising sweetness paled next to the gazpacho but which was nonetheless well-executed.

I was hoping that Duran might consider adding paella to the dinner menu, but the dinner format is still exclusively tapas, with some tasty new additions. Do not ignore Málaga's excellent *albóndigas* (meatballs, \$8.50), boldly spiced and bathed in a delicate tomato sauce redolent with cinnamon and peppers. Small roasted red peppers (*piquillo* peppers) stuffed with Spanish goat cheese surrounded by capers and olive oil, tender garlicky shrimps accented by a satiny homemade aioli (\$9), or a soul-sustaining tortilla Catalan made from sliced potatoes, red peppers, chorizo, and egg (\$9) are some of the other plates that make a satisfying impression and yet leave the palate

with a haunting desire for just one more taste. In fact, there are so many inviting bites on offer at Málaga – from the seared coriander-crusted tuna drizzled with preserved lemon oil (\$9) to the crispy cumin-laced bites of pork accompanied by a fruity aioli (only \$4 at happy hour) – that I recommend going with a large party and ordering as many of the dishes as possible. Tapas, like Chinese dim sum, are meant to be shared by groups. A little bite of this, a small taste of that, the passing, the sharing, and the wine pairing all converge in this singularly convivial form of dining.

Top an evening off with a caramel pine nut flan paired with a glass of Sherry or Málaga's cream-drenched tres leches cake (warning, these are larger than tapas-sized; both \$6) with a glass of dessert wine; the glamour of Málaga rarely fails to please. – Rachel Feit

MULBERRY**360 Nueces, 320-0297****Dinner daily, 5-11pm;****Bar: Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-1am;****Friday-Saturday, 5pm-2am;****Brunch: Saturday-Sunday, 10am-4pm**

New Yorkers Michael Polombo and Lawrence Bondulich surprised New York critics by opening two very popular and acclaimed wine bars on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, in a neighborhood that *Village Voice* reporter Elizabeth Stanek calls the "Grand Prix for the stroller set." Now they've re-created the successful concept in Downtown Austin, where their first venture is on the street level of the posh new 360 Condominiums.

Mulberry has been getting a lot of cheery blog buzz, and it was certainly afire with delighted customers when we went on a Thursday evening. Manhattanites would feel comfortable with mulberry's shoulder-to-shoulder crowds and tiny footprint. The seats at the bar are the most spacious and get the most attentive customer service when the place is crowded, which is often. Parties of one or two should have no trouble finding a seat. Larger groups will either have to sit in a line or be willing to wait for one of the two tables – one of which is bar-stool height, the other regular chair height. During nice weath-



er, the regular tables outdoors should help alleviate crowding.

Mulberry's wine-by-the-glass menu is well-thought-out, including a delicious Château Roques Mauriac (\$9 per glass), a white blend of Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Muscadelle from the Entre-Deux-Mers area of Bordeaux.

Any bar with white Bordeaux by the glass is all right by me.

We ordered two appetizers. The cheese and meat trays offer 10 selections, and you can choose one for \$6, three for \$15, or five for \$21. We chose a spicy Calabrese salami, a perfectly cured *coppa*, and a mild Caciotta cheese. All were tasty and skillfully presented. Although the serving sizes were small, the quality was top-drawer.

Our other appetizer – *fegatini*, crostini, vanilla Brandy raisins (\$8) – was spoiled by an unappetizing, off flavor in the livers. We've had *fegatini* all over Central Italy (as *pâté di fegatini*). It's a catchall term for chicken liver pâté combined with whatever the house thinks will go well. Mulberry's kitchen staff adds sage, brandy, and butter, so the added ingredients weren't at fault. Bloggers have been raving about mulberry's dish, so our problem was likely a single bad batch of livers. In any case, we sent the dish back, and the item was removed from our check.

Mulberry offers about a dozen main courses. We chose the glazed Berkshire pork chop, roasted potatoes, and spinach (\$22), which featured a very sweet glaze atop a moist chop. Both the spinach and potatoes were cooked carefully and presented very nicely. We also

had the meatballs, white wine, and lemon broth (\$14), a huge serving of meatballs swimming in a delicious sauce. The dish was perfectly cooked and deliciously flavored, but the meatballs fell apart at the touch of a fork, the result of far too much breading in the mix.

With our main course, I ordered a bottle of Domaine des Côteaux des Travers Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau (\$39), a rustic, flavorful Rhône wine. Unfortunately, it arrived at the table much too warm, as though it had been stored in or near the kitchen. Mulberry is not the only Texas restaurant that serves its reds too warm. A few minutes in the ice bucket fixed the problem.

Dessert brought a lovely and rare Dutschke "the Muscat" from South Australia's Barossa Valley. Finding this wine has been substantially more difficult since Robert Parker gave it a score of 95, making the small serving under-standable, even at \$14 a glass.

Despite the kitchen problems and the competition from the many other Downtown Austin wine bars, we will be going back to mulberry. We loved the crowd, and the service was sparkling, smart, and timely. The problems with food are easily rectified, and I'm sure they'll be ironing those kinks out shortly.

– Wes Marshall

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- 2 Qts. Candied Yams
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HOTELS

DRISKILL HOTEL The famous mezzanine brunch tradition continues with seatings every half-hour from 11:30am to 2:30pm. This is a popular event, so make sure to reserve early. If you don't make it upstairs, the 1886 Cafe will be offering plenty of your favorites as well as a seasonal menu for lunch and dinner. Reservations are a must later for the six-course prix fixe main event in the Driskill Grill with service from 4:30 to 9:30pm. **Grill: \$85 per person, \$62 for wine pairings. Brunch: \$75 per person, \$38 for children under 12. Sixth & Brazos, 391-7121 for reservations. www.driskillgrill.com.**

TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS offers a groaning holiday brunch in the ballroom from 11am to 4pm. Reserve early; the seafood stations alone are worth your decisiveness. **Adults, \$68; children ages 1-6, \$20; children age 5 and under, free. 98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. www.fourseasons.com/austin/dining.**

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F AUSTIN Drink mimosas while listening to Margaret Wright on piano, and enjoy an array of Thanksgiving favorites, as well as the unexpected for brunch in the Capital Ballroom. **10:30am-2:30pm. Adults, \$57.95; children under 12, \$29. 701 Congress, 721-2008 for reservations. www.austin.intercontinental.com.**

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Banderas restaurant invites you to a special Thanksgiving spread for brunch from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Expect a full breakfast buffet with waffle stations and all the goodies. Reservations suggested. Later, enjoy a prix fixe holiday menu from 5:30 to 9:30pm. **Brunch: adults, \$45; children ages 5-12, \$18; children under age 5, free. Dinner: adults, \$25. 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 343-2626 for reservations. www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/aushs-renaissance-austin-hotel.**

OMNI HOTEL DOWNTOWN serves a traditional Thanksgiving brunch in the Atrium Lounge from 11am to 3:30pm: \$45 for adults, \$17.95 for children under 12. Later, enjoy the usual à la carte dinner menu at Ancho's, plus a few holiday surprises from 5:30 to 9:30pm. **700 San Jacinto, 476-3700 for reservations. www.omnihotels.com/findahotel/austindowntown.aspx.**

OMNI HOTEL SOUTHPARK offers seating in the Onion Creek Grille for a full brunch buffet with carving stations and the traditional Thanksgiving spread. Reservations suggested. **11am-2pm. Adults, \$37; children ages 6-12, \$15.95; children age 6 and under, free. 4140 Governor's Row, 448-2222. www.omnihotels.com/findahotel/austinsouthpark.aspx.**

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HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN is slinging what is promised to be "a decadent holiday buffet" in the Southwest Bistro, where you can count on flowing mimosas as well as contemporary cuisine and traditional favorites. **11:30am-5pm. Adults, \$52; children ages 5-12, \$27; children under 5, free. 208 Barton Springs Rd., 480-2035 for reservations. www.austin.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels.**

HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN Liberty Tavern has lunch and dinner covered with a full-court brunch from noon to 5pm and a prix fixe plated holiday dinner service from 5 to 9:30pm. **Brunch: adults, \$39; children under 12, \$12.95. Dinner: adults, \$34; children under 12, \$12.95. 500 E. Fourth, 482-8000. www1.hilton.com/en_US/hj/hotel/AUSCVHH-Hilton-Austin-Texas/index.do.**

RESTAURANTS

MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL weighs in with yet another elegant Thanksgiving with a three-course prix fixe, served in both the ballroom and mansion dining areas. **10:30am and 2:30pm seatings. Adults, \$49.50; children, \$17.50. 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. www.mansionatjudgeshill.com.**

DOÑA EMILIA'S SOUTH AMERICAN BAR & GRILL will be hosting an extensive holiday buffet this year, complete with your favorite South American dishes, as well as fried turkey and all the trimmings. **10:30am-4pm. Adults, \$22.95; children under 12, \$10.95. 101 San Jacinto, 478-2520. www.donaemilias.com.**

HUDSON'S ON THE BEND will be offering a special à la carte menu including some signature dishes from its fall menu, as well as special holiday options. Children's menu available. Seatings are limited, so reserve early. **11am-4pm & 6-9pm. 3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369. www.hudsonsonthebend.com.**

GREEN PASTURES This annual Thanksgiving brunch buffet has so many fans, it's sold out again this year. **11am-2pm. \$55 per person. 811 Live Oak, 444-4747. www.greenpasturesrestaurant.com.**

THE CARILLON Feeling conflicted between turkey day and game day? No sweat. Enjoy Thanksgiving brunch in this lovely room before strolling over to Darrell K. Royal Stadium for the UT vs. A&M game. Dinner includes roasted butternut squash bisque, roasted maple turkey, and veal blanquette. **11am-4pm. Adults, \$36.95; children under 12, \$16.95. 1900 University, 404-3689 for reservations. www.meetat-texas.com/restaurants.html#carillon.**

SHORELINE GRILL Located at the Four Seasons Hotel, this place invites those who are tired of buffets and prix fixe menus to join it for a limited menu with a nice variety of choices. The herb-infused portobella mushroom with goat cheese will please vegetarians. **98 San Jacinto, 477-3300. www.shorelinegrill.com.**

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— Virginia B. Wood

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Frank & Angie's might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic home-style dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date especially those on a budget. - Zagat

Friendly staff and quick service are especially good given the volume of business this pizzeria does. What shines at Frank & Angie's is the pizza. The sauce is made daily, the crust is thin and crisp, toppings are fresh, and the cheese blend is delicious, a bit salty, and caramelized beautifully at the edges. Don't miss the cannoli for dessert. It's one of the best in town. - Fearless Critic

Beautifully baked, thin, chewy crust holds sauce and mozzarella cheese packing incredible flavor. Forks up. One of the "Standouts of Austin's Best Pizza." - Dale Rice, *American Statesman*

If you think pizza parlors should be low-key, colorful - and, of course, have great pizza - you've come to the right place. - Frommer's

Frank & Angie's is the closest you can get to Brooklyn in Austin. From great pizza and excellent pasta to the Sinatra memorabilia on the walls, this place is bellissimo! - *Insite Magazine*

In defiance of the Austin area's college-fueled pizza saturation, Frank & Angie's has fought its way to the top of the pack with its unique, New York-style pizza, ingredient-intensive calzones, and a general Brooklyn-esque atmosphere. - *City Guides*

Great freakin' pizza! - **Tibetan Monks**

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III FORKS is serving up a four-course prix fixe menu with a choice of carved bird or Chateaubriand. **11am-5pm. Adults, \$42; children under 12, \$14.95. 111 Lavaca, 474-1776. www.iiiforks.com.**

KATZ'S DELI & BAR For the 30th year in a row, Katz's puts out on Thanksgiving with roasted turkey breast, giblet gravy, and all the trimmings. **10am-midnight. \$15.95 per person. 618 W. Sixth, 472-2037. www.katzneverkloses.com.**

MIRABELLE RESTAURANT This eclectic bistro should have some surprises in store for us on the extensive prix fixe menu, which includes choices of six appetizers, six entrees, and six desserts. **11am-3pm. \$34.95 per person. 8127 Mesa, 346-7900. www.mirabellerestaurant.com.**

NUNZIA'S AT THE Y Wander among carving, omelette, pasta, and kid stations here for a great family holiday. **10am-3pm. Adults, \$34.95; children under 12, \$9.95. 7720 Hwy 71 W., 394-0220.**

HILL COUNTRY PASTA HOUSE invites you and your's for an Italian, seafood, and traditional holiday buffet with a limited menu available as well. **Adults, \$27.95; children under 10, \$14.99. 11am-4pm. 3519 RR 620 N., 266-9445. www.hillcountrypasta.com.**

MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S Known for changing menus and fresh seafood, the offerings on Thanksgiving are sure to be traditional favorites. **\$19.95 for turkey, \$18.95 for ham. 401 Congress, 236-9600; 11600 Century Oaks Terrace #100, 836-0500. www.mccormickandschmicks.com.**

BAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT AND BAR Let the experts in home cooking lay out the big turkey and all the trimmings. **Adults, \$12.95; children under 12, \$6.95. www.austinbakehouse.com.**

PORTABLA offers its regular menu for dining in, and for taking home, turkey breast by the pound and select sides. **1200 W. Sixth, 481-8646. www.portabla.com.**

STALLION GRILL We're so glad to know it will be open for turkey business. Not only that, it has a great family take-out deal that includes a smoked or roasted turkey, dressing, two sides, six rolls, and a pie for \$54.95. Be sure to order by Nov. 24 for pickup on Thanksgiving. **5201 Airport, 380-9433. www.stalliongrill.com.**

HOOVER'S COOKING is celebrating with a holiday prix fixe menu including a choice of six main dishes, select sides, and of course, all the trimmings. First come, first serve. Full family or individual meals available for takeout. Orders taken through Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving Day pickup. **11am-7pm. \$15.49 per person. 2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006. www.hooverscooking.com.**

THREADGILL'S is offering a select holiday menu with all the trimmings at both locations. Full family or individual meals and dishes available for takeout. Order today through Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving Day pickup. **11am-10pm. 6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440; 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304. www.threadgills.com.**

KERBEY LANE CAFE is open on every holiday just like your grandma's house. On Thanksgiving, expect the same popular prix fixe turkey dinner that sold out last year. Get there early. All locations will be open except the original on Kerbey Lane. **Various locations. www.kerbeylanecafe.com.**

LA MADELEINE invites you to sit down and relax with a turkey cranberry melt or to take out an \$85 family feast that serves six to eight. Order by Nov. 24 for pickup on Thanksgiving Day. **Various locations. www.lamadeleine.com.**

LUBY'S CAFETERIAS invites you to come on in for turkey and dressing, two sides, and dessert for \$11.99, or take out the combination or signature family packs that feed 10-12 guests for \$94.99. **Various locations. www.lubys.com.**

FURR'S FAMILY DINING has a Thanksgiving spread to eat in or take out, including a Holiday Hot Pack that serves eight to 10 guests for \$63.99. **4222 S. I-35, 443-3818; 4015 S. Lamar, 441-7825. www.furrs.net.**

CITY OF AUSTIN hosts various community dinners at a minimal per plate cost. **www.cityofaustin.org/parks/thanksgiving.htm.**



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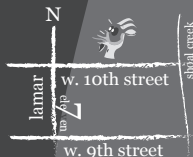
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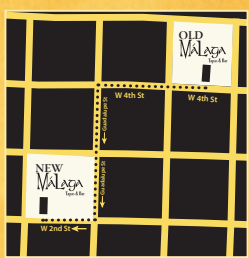
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screens

A LESS WILD SIDE TO ARGENTINA

AFS Essential Cinema: More Than Buenos Aires: Film Renaissance in Argentina

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

Midway through Argentine director Carlos Sorin's 2004 film *Bombón: El Perro*, a scene takes place the likes of which I've never seen. And if you'd asked me beforehand if it were the kind of scene I'd be interested in watching, my answer would probably have been a resounding "Of course not! What the hell are you talking about?" Ahh, how little I knew then ... three nights ago.

The scene involves a few men and a dog. The dog, Bombón, is a purebred male Argentine Dogo, a stately beast the men are trying to get to breed with a female Argentine Dogo in the hopes of turning him into a profitable stud. Bombón has been brought to a dog ranch in the middle of nowhere by his owner, a quiet, guileless, unemployed, and middle-aged auto mechanic named Juan (played by Juan Villegas), and his trainer, a boisterous, larger-than-life character named Walter (Walter Donado), both of whom are looking to Bombón and his perfect genes to lead them to the promised land of economic security, a land a million miles removed from their local Patagonia, a desolate region at the southernmost tip of South America.

Only one problem: Bombón is indifferent to the temptations of the fairer sex (smart as well as stately), and upon being thrust into a pen with two beautiful members of his breed, he promptly acknowledges them both, contemplates mounting them, thinks better of it, and then lays quietly down on the ground and falls asleep. Nonplussed, Walter and Juan head into the pen in the hopes of teaching their Dogo about the joys of copulation and transmuting his education into gold, even going so far as to aid in his mounting.

There's no great action to this scene, no great drama – save for the threat of lingering poverty – and yet I couldn't take my eyes off the screen. How, I wondered, did the film's animal handlers manage to train a dog to feign sexual interest and then turn away from his lust with exaggerated indifference? In all my years of movie-watching, I'd never seen an animal come close to the kind of performance this mastiff was giving; Alan Arkin wishes he could do bemused nonchalance with such conviction. And then there was the attempt at forced consummation, which is played for laughs only insofar as the entire idea of it seems so absurd.

No jokes are told, no scenery is chewed, no gags are overplayed. There are just a couple of grown men trying with all their might to force a dog into an erection and a conquest. The entire scene has the air of unforced reality to it – the rarest of virtues in the world of cinema.

This kind of magnificent understatement is all over the latest installment of the Austin Film Society's ongoing Essential Cinema Series, More Than Buenos Aires: Film Renaissance in Argentina, which opens Tuesday with the Austin premiere of *Bombón* and will feature movies by Julia Solomonoff (*Hermanas*) and Sundance Award-winner Lucrecia Martel (*La Ciénaga*). The films tackle the smallest kinds of drama, forging the brash explosiveness of Hollywood and the colorful extremes of their Latin American cousins from Mexico and Brazil in favor of tales of domestic restraint and quiet personal redemption. Argentina may have invented the tango and given the world footballer Diego Maradona, but its movies are the very soul of modesty.

Take Jorge Gaggero's *Live-in Maid*, which closes the program on Dec. 23. Its story couldn't be simpler: A once-glamorous upper-class matriarch named Beba (Norma Aleandro) is forced to fire her maid, Dora (Norma Argentina), after 30 years of service due to a recent slide into destitution. Quietly giving in to depression, loneliness, and self-loathing, Beba is a grown child, lost in a world she never bothered to understand, seeking solace in alcohol and the past, and grasping at financial security by selling her possessions one by one. Like a sweater with a loose stitch, she unravels slowly, imperceptibly, but inevitably, without friends to count on or family to take comfort in. Meanwhile, Dora is back on her feet after barely hitting the ground, accustomed to the ways of the hard world and to placing the demands of work and material need over the call of anything even resembling desire.

The two women couldn't be more different, and though their curious intertwining is the heart and soul of *Live-in Maid*, Gaggero never gives in to the siren song of Hollywood sentimentalizing or easy coincidence. With matter-of-fact naturalism and



La Ciénaga



Historias Mínimas



Hermanas



Bombón: El Perro



Cama Adentro

attention to detail and without the use of a musical score, writer/director Gaggero simply places us inside the world of two aging women whose approaches to surviving in a society that could do without them are miles apart. Circumstance is key, not motivation. Life is simply what it is, and Gaggero, like so many of his contemporaries in Argentine film, isn't interested in the situations that arise out of contrivance but rather the drama that is born out of real life. ■

All screenings take place Tuesdays at 7pm at the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. Admission is free for Austin Film Society members, \$4 for general public. For more information, visit www.austinfilm.org.

THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

The Criterion Collection, \$39.95

In the early Sixties, at the peak of the Cold War, only space travel might have been considered hotter than the mysterious world of spies. President Kennedy expressed admiration for the novels of Ian Fleming, and given the political climate, it's no coincidence that the character of James Bond made his first screen appearance in 1962 (*Dr. No*). Still, even Kennedy couldn't

have predicted that Fleming's novels would spawn the longest-running, most lucrative film franchise in cinema history.

No similar franchise would follow the film adaptation of John Le Carré's 1963 bestseller, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*.

Directed by Martin Ritt and shot

in deep noir by director of photography Oswald Morris, *The Spy* went into production in 1964, the year in which Sean Connery (as Bond, in *Goldfinger*) made the Aston Martin DB5 the ultimate object of desire for men the world over, whilst also discovering a naked gold woman sprawled across his bedsheets. Compared with the glamour of Bond then, *The Spy* was thriller by way of kitchen-sink drama – pointedly so, in fact, as the film reunited Morris with Richard Burton and Claire Bloom, all of whom worked previously on the film version of John Osborne's classic class-warfare drama, *Look Back in Anger* (1958).

In *The Spy* Burton portrays a man unable to shake off the cold, literally and figuratively. Throughout a densely plotted, unyielding film, his features appear pinched, while his hands remain permanently thrust into the deep pockets of his trench coat. Significantly, the making of the film was not without its own Cold War, between star and director. As the shoot drew to a close, director Ritt shouted, "I've got the last good lay in an aging whore!" Well, not quite, as Burton's greatly underappreciated performance in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (1966) will attest. Still, he was newly married to la Liz, and his career had undeniably reached a crossroads. Burton's work in *The Spy* features one of the last major salvos his talent would fire in the unwinnable war against his own character.

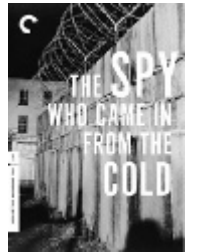
– John Davidson

ALSO OUT NOW ...

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson: Collector's Edition (Magnolia Home Entertainment, \$26.98):

It was Thompson's literary hero, F. Scott Fitzgerald, who wrote, "Show me a hero and I'll write you a tragedy." This clear-eyed documentary suggests the good doctor took Fitzgerald's theme closely to heart.

Monty Python's Holy Trinity (Sony Pictures, \$39.95): *The Holy Grail*, *Life of Brian*, and *The Meaning of Life*, together in one box set? The Pythons' genius (for comedy, not repackaging) surfaces again in time for Christmas.



Nov. 25: *Bombón: El Perro (Bombón: The Dog)* (D: Carlos Sorin, 2004)

Dec. 2: *Historias Mínimas (Intimate Stories)* (D: Carlos Sorin, 2002)

Dec. 9: *Hermanas (Sisters)* (D: Julia Solomonoff, 2005)

Dec. 16: *La Ciénaga (The Swamp)* (D: Lucrecia Martel, 2001)

Dec. 23: *Cama Adentro (Live-in Maid)* (D: Jorge Gaggero, 2004)

Inside the Mind of the Muscles



Jean-Claude Van Damme on being Jean-Claude Van Damme **BY MARC SAVLOV**

“Je suis fasciné par l’air. Si on enlevait l’air du ciel, tous les oiseaux tomberaient par terre. ... Et les avions aussi.”

Translation: “I am fascinated by air. If you remove the air from the sky, all the birds would fall to the ground. ... And all the planes, too.”

– “Abstract thinker”
Jean-Claude Van Damme

Say what you will about Jean-Claude Van Damme’s checkered film career, but the *Muscles* from Brussels has rarely been anything less than committed. Committed to what, however, has long been the question. A case study in steely determination and a hopeful athletic romanticism that allowed him to master, from the age of 10 forward, multiple key martial arts disciplines including karate, Muay Thai, tae kwon do, kickboxing, and those legendary airborne splits. Unbeatable. But still in Brussels, dreaming of Hollywood.

In 1982 he moves to Los Angeles – with no leads, no contacts, no English – and drops his family’s surname Van Varenberg in favor of, well, you know. By day he delivers pizzas, cruises cabs, odd jobs. By night he stalks the nightclubs hoping for a break, an introduction, a chance. What he gets is uncredited extra work in *Breakin’*. Ouch.

And then one night in 1986, Van Damme catches sight of producer Menahem Golan exiting a restaurant. Golan, who, with his partner, Yoram Globus, oversees exploitative-action Cannon Films, is a major player: *Missing in Action*, *American Ninja*, *Invasion U.S.A.*

Van Damme, in an inspired, if reckless, moment, dazzles (and terrifies) Golan with one of his soon-to-be-signature high kicks that nearly exfoliates the poor producer’s cheek. The producer is nonplussed but impressed enough to meet with Van Damme and set him up with his first major role: *Bloodsport*. The film is crap but *fun* crap, and it nonetheless rakes in the cash. The *Muscles* have arrived. Sort of.

If you know anything about Van Damme, whether it’s the increasingly uninspired films he

acted in during the mid-Eighties to mid-Nineties (after that, they stopped being released in most American markets) or his drug-and-divorce-filled personal life that regularly made for tabloid fodder, then you know his was a story of promise squandered. One bad script led to another. *Double Impact*, *Street Fighter*, *Double Team*, the *Universal Soldier* series; even the fact that Van Damme helped bring John Woo to America for *Hard Target* was upstaged by his own damnable mullet and Lance Henriksen’s infinitely more interesting villain.

Dreams die hard, all the more so when you’re a washed-up action star with a penchant for making bizarre, Zen koan-esque statements to the international press. Bernard-Henri Levy Van Damme was not. Still, it hurt to be mocked, or worse, forgotten.

But most of us – hardcore film geeks and Alamo Drafthouse denizens excepted – *did* forget.

This is about to change, and in a very surprising way, with the release this week of *JCVD*, a darkly comic riff on *Dog Day Afternoon* by way of Charlie Kaufman’s absurdist sensibilities. It’s nothing less than a revelation, part mea culpa for all the lousy movies Van Damme’s cranked out to pay the bills of late, part brilliantly executed career turnaround. Jean-Claude Van Damme, it should be noted, plays Jean-Claude Van Damme, or a close approximation thereof. It’s one of the most riveting, emotionally devastating, and altogether unexpected performances of 2008. And, love the guy or hate him, *JCVD* really needs to be seen to be believed. Down for the count? Nope. Back from the dead.

The Austin Chronicle spoke to Van Damme from Bangkok, where he’s just wrapped his second directorial effort, the *True Romance*-inspired *Full Love*, which also stars his son and daughter.

Austin Chronicle: *There’s a sequence in JCVD that is going to blow people’s minds, not because of any action or stunt work but because it’s such a naked exposure of who you are and what you’ve been through. Without giving anything away, could you speak to that a bit?*

Jean-Claude Van Damme: To be able to talk about yourself, and also about the others, you have to open yourself to show people you’re not just like a genius or a special guy. Just like a normal guy. And then you can start to talk about life, because you first open yourself to the screen, to the people, to the audience, and then you have the right mode – so naked! – the right mode to talk about us. People are surprised to hear that I’m one of you guys. [In my career] I was at the right time, the right place, the right moment. And it is true that some people are working so hard and are very intelligent, and if only you give them half the chance that I had, well, sometimes you can

“So the most important [thing] in life is to think, ‘What am I going to do with this life, as a creator?’ In the small way and in the big way, people should create something. And then their life is beauty, you know?”
– Jean-Claude Van Damme

[feel] guilty from that. But now I feel good with *JCVD*, because all that guilt [that I felt] is over. I worked very hard to make [*JCVD* and *Full Love*]. And I’m sure some people push as hard as me and do not get the same results. And that sucks, because me, I know what pushing is.

AC: *What brought you back to directing* [Full Love] 12 years after *The Quest*?

JVD: Yeah, *The Quest* was a movie directed without being directed. *Full Love*, which I’m also producing, is not like that. I spent one day doing 29 shots in a big club called the White Rose, with lots of extras. It’s 35 millimeters, and believe me, you see mistakes if you are very attentive, and the mistakes make the story [not] look real, and then it starts to look like a movie, the actors start

to look like actors and not people who are telling the truth. But because the actors are being with me for a long time and because I talk to them with lots of passion – with tears in my eyes, because I know this script so well – when I talk about the film and I give all my insights to them, they absorb it, they feel it, and that’s what you do. And then they go away from my hotel room, and then I’m naked, then you’re naked, and you’re sad. And then you wait for the day when you start to shoot with the camera, rolling, because then you can resee and refeel what you left them with, and they come back with added thoughts about making this true story which is based on another reality.

AC: *You just turned 48, and suddenly you’re back in the game after a pretty rough couple of decades, both professionally and personally. If you had the chance to do it all over again, would you?*

JVD: First of all, no, I wouldn’t change anything. I am JCVD because of life, because of my life; I am what I am, you know? And even if I want to restart again, it would be too tiring. Just to think about what I’ve done in my life – and I don’t want people to think I’m [bragging] “blah, blah, blah” – but I left early from my country, I’ve been all around the world, and I’ve seen the same hotel, motel rooms, you know? I like to stay in the same rooms. I’m getting old. I’ve done so much traveling and training and competition and parties. Really, my body should be broke in pieces, but not yet. I don’t know why. I guess my passion for life, my passion for many things. The good things and the bad things.

AC: *What has Jean-Claude Van Varenberg learned from Jean-Claude Van Damme, or vice versa?*

JVD: The most important thing I’ve learned is that [in] life, in general, you really have to think that life is like a window. You open a window, and you look from left to right or right to left, depending on your religion, and your life is gone very rapid. It’s there, and it’s gone, very fast, very quick. So the most important [thing] in life is to think, “What am I going to do with this life, as a creator?” In the small way and in the big way, people should create something. And then their life is beauty, you know? Even though they have problems with the wife, divorce, accidents, drugs – whatever it is, the *mission* is still there. And the mission is to create that dream we want to do in life. Lots of people don’t have a dream; they just are well-educated, and they go to work, and they build a family, but they have to do something they enjoy. I’m sure some lawyers enjoy [being] lawyers. Me, I wanted to be a movie star. But what’s a movie star? It’s nothing special. Now my joy is to make good movies. After 20 years of being in the business, I finally found joy in trying to make the best movie possible, by being there, by being very attached to a script, by being responsible for a story. And also to respect that story. And to become that story. That’s the most beautiful experience you can have. ■

JCVD opens in Austin on Friday, Nov. 21. See Film Listings, p.92, for review.

Enter the Age of the Hybrid Viewer

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Well, it's true. I've officially morphed into a hybrid viewer – that is, someone who skips between watching content online and on TV, depending on what is most convenient.

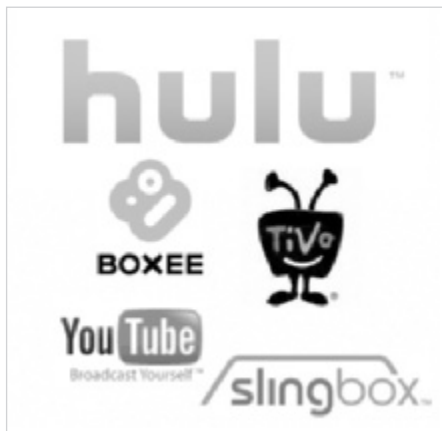
I kicked myself when I discovered I missed the **60 Minutes** episode featuring Barack Obama last Sunday. No worries – I found it online and watched it at www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/16/60minutes/main4607893.shtml. When I discovered that a football game interfered with my DVR recording of *The Unit* – yes, I watch *The Unit* – I flipped over to **Hulu.com** and got my testosterone fix. (I could have gone straight to CBS.com, but Hulu makes it so much easier.)

As a person continually frustrated with TV news, I was happy to find www.change.gov. Prior to the election, this was ground zero for the Barack Obama campaign. Now the website keeps readers up to date on the workings of the Obama transition team with video and blog content, including a new weekly address from Obama himself. It's not particularly flashy, but that's not what I'm looking for. Like a lot of other voters, I'm eager to see how Obama gets down to business, but I don't want that information to be filtered through a chorus of talking heads. By watching it in its unadulterated form on www.change.gov, I can decide for myself how relevant or important that information is.

I've already sung the praises of Hulu in this column, but this week I thought I might hyperventilate when I found out about a new service called **Boxee**, which allows Hulu users to view content on their TV. I'm curious to check it out, but I'm willing to wait until the bugs get worked out. Apparently, there are many – at least, according to tech maven **Daisy Whitney**, who writes at length about her experience using Boxee at TVWeek.com.

And now Hulu has some competition, in the form of the upstart **Sling.com**. Like Hulu, Sling is another broadband video aggregation site. While Sling creators agree that Hulu has already set the bar high, they believe their site offers some intriguing bells and whistles, including Facebook-like social networking capabilities. Those who follow the media landscape closely already know that the precursor to Sling is Slingbox, which, like Boxee, allows viewers to view online content on their TVs. The difference is that Slingbox is an actual device you have to purchase and connect to your TV and DVR. From what I read online, using this device is not without its kinks as well, making the appearance of Sling.com an important development.

So what's a viewer to do with all these choices? Embrace them. Hulu, Sling, Fancast,



The way we consume media is being redefined by the likes of Hulu and YouTube.

and – let's not forget – YouTube (which is ramping up to become something more than the place to watch goofy shorts) are individually and collectively changing the future of media watching.

As always, stay tuned.

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

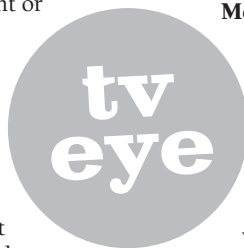
Austin-based ON Networks recently launched its online series **Smart Girls at the Party**. The series features Amy Poehler (*Saturday Night Live*), along with **Meredith Walker** (a former producer for Nickelodeon's *Nick News*) and musician **Amy Miles**, seeking out ordinary girls doing extraordinary things. Each girl is interviewed in a roundtable format by Poehler, giving each a chance to speak candidly about what she does and why she does it. Following segments move away from the studio (so far, all episodes have been shot in New York) to watch the girls in action. A trailer and the first episode of *Smart Girls at the Party* are online now at www.smartgirlsattheparty.tv.

Cable access show **Primetime Tejano**, hosted by **Jerry Avila**, celebrates its 18th year with a special anniversary celebration and awards ceremony Nov. 23. The special event, featuring Sunny Ozuna Jr. and the Starlites, will be held at the H & H Ballroom at 4404 Brandt Rd. Call 845-3136 for tickets and more information.

A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All premieres Nov. 23 at 9pm on Comedy Central. Costumes and set pieces from the special will be sold on eBay to benefit Feeding America.

Rosie O'Donnell returns to TV as host of a new prime-time variety series called **Rosie Live** on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 7pm on NBC.

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



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music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Come Together

After nine months of discourse, the **Live Music Task Force** presents its overview and recommendations to **City Council** today (Thursday, Nov. 20) at 2pm. The 15-page report hinges on the creation of a centralized **Music Department** that seeks to facilitate communication between all “music industry stakeholders” and manage both the **Public Assembly Code Enforcement** and all permitting issues associated with live music venues, among other things. Also at issue is the mapping out of an all-encompassing **Downtown Entertainment District** that would extend from **Red River** to **Butler Park** and include designated free-zones for busking. It’s worth noting that among the changes to the initial draft released last month is the removal of a provision outlining the administrative permit process for temporary music sites.

The overview doesn’t directly address the current Austin sound ordinance, stating instead that more study is necessary to conclude the most appropriate way to measure music frequencies. The task force does, however, recommend requiring all outdoor live-music venues to utilize a city-approved sound engineer, whose standards for operation at each

venue would be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Music Department, not to mention prohibiting outdoor music from being audible to a single family residence, which should strike a chord in the Barton Springs area. The task force’s recommendations represent only the tip of the iceberg though, as City Council must now weigh each particular item and its budgetary implications.

Local musicians certainly won’t see any immediate relief in the form of golden parachutes or government bailouts, but if they’re lucky, they might see some long overdue parking breaks and a trickle-down benefit from the proposed infrastructure.

“I’m impressed with its comprehensive nature of the problems facing music businesses and musicians,” attests **Casey Monahan** of the **Texas Music Office**, which serves as a clearinghouse of resources for music industry professionals. “This is a positive first step at reorganizing and reinvigorating city government efforts.”

Show your support by joining local nonprofit **Save Austin Music** and the **Austin Music Foundation** at **Antone’s** for a march to City Hall today, 1pm. See “Music Department,” p.68, for more.



Back in the saddle:
Freda & the Firedogs

DOUG FREEMAN

Revolutionary Ways

Marcia Ball doesn’t remember the last time she played with **Freda & the Firedogs**, her progressive-country outfit that was produced by **Atlantic Records’ Jerry Wexler** and backed **Doug Sahn** upon his return from the Bay Area in the early 1970s (see “Nowhere but Texas,” Dec. 13, 2002). Nevertheless, the cosmic quintet gathered last Saturday at **Joe Gracey’s** Spicewood studio to cut Sahn’s “Be Real” in homage to the original **Texas Tornado** for *Keep Your Soul: A Tribute to Doug Sahn*. The Lone Star-studded compilation, due in late March through **Vanguard Records**, features a stellar stable of local talent, including **Jimmie**

Vaughan (“Why, Why, Why”), **Alejandro Escovedo** (“Too Little Too Late”), the **Gourds** (“Nuevo Laredo”), and **Terry Allen** with **Joe Ely** (“I’m Not That Kat Anymore”), while co-producer **Shawn Sahn** covered “Mendocino” with **Augie Meyers** for the occasion. “If you start with an artist that was really inspired, the rest tends to follow,” opines co-producer and *Chronicle* scribe emeritus **Bill Bentley**, whose previous tributes to **Roky Erickson** (*Where the Pyramid Meets the Eye*) and **Moby Grape’s Alexander “Skip” Spence** (*More Oar*) rank among the all-time best of the genre and helped bring both artists long overdue critical and cultural recognition.



NATHAN JENSEN

Honey Bop

The *Chronicle* Music staff cast its official **2009 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** ballot in record time this year, with proto-punks the **Stooges** unanimously earning the No. 1 spot for the third time. Priority placement was given to the “Queen of Rockabilly,” **Wanda Jackson**, just above hip-hop and rock pioneers **Run-DMC** and thrash icons **Metallica**, who ride the lightning at Houston’s **Toyota Center** tonight (Thursday, Nov. 20) with Austin’s the **Sword** and **Down** in tow. The rest of the nominees – **Bobby Womack**, **War**, **Little Anthony & the Imperials**, and **Chic** – were deemed too insubstantial for commemoration, leaving the fifth and final spot for **Jeff Beck** – inducted in 1992 as a member of the **Yardbirds** – for his status as a historically underrated guitar god and for the profound influence 1968’s *Truth* had on **Led Zepplin** and other heavy metallurgists of that time. **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, who ushered in *Texas Flood* in 1983, was eligible for nomination this year yet was passed over, along with **Doug Sahn**, the **Fabulous Thunderbirds**, and the **13th Floor Elevators** (still).



SANDY CARSON

Ian MacKaye

The Argument

At the **Compound** last November, **Ian MacKaye’s** largely acoustic performance with the **Evens** turned into a lecture, the Dischord Records co-founder outlining the purpose of the setting and the pillars of the DIY movement he helped create. Last Friday at the **St. Edward’s University Ragsdale Center**, the **Fugazi** and **Minor Threat** frontman unplugged completely, fielding questions for more than two hours and riffing on everything from **Al Jourgensen** to **Henry Rollins**. Perhaps the most surprising revelation was MacKaye’s initial vocal inspiration: “I wanted to sing like **Janis Joplin**.”

Random Play

Screen-printing surrealists **Josh Chalmers** and **J.D. Fanning** of **Oh, Beast!** open the doors to their **Bearded Lady** shop this weekend as part of the annual **East Austin Studio Tour** (see “Welcome to My Studio,” the Arts, p.46). Patrons can dig through the archives Tuesday through Saturday, 11am-6pm, and score old releases from **Perverted Son Records** for less than \$1. Be sure to scope Bearded Lady’s latest show poster at the **Scout Inn** on Friday for the **Supersuckers’** 20th

anniversary tour, a benefit for the **Handsome Joel Foundation**, with **Pure Luck**, **Chaparral**, and **American Graveyard**.

Elephant 6 alumnus **Julian Koster** of the **Music Tapes** is caroling across town on Friday with help from the **Singing Saw Symphony**. To request a bit of personal holiday cheer, drop a line to musictapescaroling@gmail.com. Recipients willing to entertain outside guests on caroling night and/or lend the group a place to crash will be given priori-

ty treatment. Meanwhile, local soulsmith **Dan Dyer**, alongside *American Idol* season six winner **Jordin Sparks**, helps flip the switch for the Macy’s Great Tree Lighting at the **Domain** on Saturday, 6pm.

Get in the van: Local nonprofit **Operation Turkey**, which delivered 3,500 Thanksgiving meals to Austin’s less fortunate last year, is in need of large vehicles to help transport food this year. Local bands willing to help out should visit www.operationturkey.com.

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Across the great divide: the King Khan & BBQ Show at Mohawk on Saturday, Nov. 15, and the Red River Flats

JOHN ANDERSON

Music Department

Assessing the Live Music Task Force recommendations

BY DOUG FREEMAN

The Mohawk encapsulates both the promise and struggle of the contemporary Austin music scene. The venue has become a linchpin of Red River, transforming a continually failing club space into a local indie hub. The newly cemented wall encasing the outside stage also serves as a cold symbol of the uneasy balance between Downtown development and live music.

Owner James Moody lounges easily inside the dimly lit club. The recycled-wood walls and taxidermy animals give the empty venue the feel of a punk rock hunting lodge. As the clock rounds to 5pm, the bartenders begin stocking for the Thursday night crowd.

“What’s happened traditionally is that the music [community] isn’t organized, thoughtful, or on time,” offers Moody, a partner in Transmission Entertainment, the local booking and promotion enterprise responsible for Fun Fun Fest. “There’s been a lot of conflict over the years, and music’s just said, ‘It’s not even worth going,’ so we’ll just get run over, and then we’ll drink a beer, and we’ll bitch about it.”

As Austin continues to grow, the music scene has largely fallen behind and failed to adapt. The charge falls partly against the city, whose trademarked claim as the live music capital of the world has rarely spurred substantial efforts to help foster its reality. Even more accountable is the actual music community, which has

never coherently organized itself to petition its interests to City Council. This week, however, the Live Music Task Force (see “Can the Bands Play On?” News, July 18) presents its final recommendations to City Council.

The culmination of more than nine months of research and discussion from a diverse commission of local music and government representatives, the task force’s recommendations are sweeping in scope and transformational in intent. The thrust of the task force’s goals is the establishment of the Music Department within city government, an office that will shift the consideration of live music in Austin from a largely cultural priority to an economic one. That refocus ensures the local music industry an opportunity to capture the council’s attention but could well enact unprecedented changes on the Austin music landscape and its relationship to local government.

Chief among the efforts of the new department, as outlined in the task force recommendations (www.cityofaustin.org/council/live-musictaskforce.htm), would be the much needed fostering of an infrastructure, promoted by government incentives and designed to cultivate development both locally and through the recruitment of national businesses. Such goals are rightly argued as vital to the sustainability of Austin music – live and otherwise –

but they must also be tempered with concern for the independence that’s always defined the local scene and outlook for the music community over purely political and economic gains.

“We’re trying to ring the bell on what we think is possible,” says Moody, who served on the Live Music Venues Subcommittee of the task force. “It hasn’t been easy to be a start-up in this town. It’s a very important time, and if we don’t do this right, it could go the other way.”

Suffragette City

The creation of the Music Department within the city manager’s office serves as the cornerstone of the task force’s recommendations to City Council. If and how council decides to implement such an administration will largely determine the effectiveness of the mayor’s Year of Austin Music endeavor.

“Right now we have three city employees whose jobs touch on music, but it’s not their primary focus,” attests the mayor’s chief of staff, Rich Bailey. “Because of the importance of music in Austin, we think there should be a department dedicated to the growth of the music business and subsequent growth of musicians making a living as musicians.”

The department would offer the music community an invaluable foothold within the

The thrust of the task force’s goals is the establishment of the Music Department within city government, an office that will shift the consideration of live music in Austin from a largely cultural priority to an economic one.

city government and facilitate communication between industry stakeholders while implementing and collecting venue fees for the city. How the proposed department is managed will be even more important, however. The recommendations specifically declare that “the Music Department (MD) should be independent of the existing Cultural Arts division, in part because of its focus on the ‘for profit’ nature and activity of live music and the role it plays in economic development.”

The tasking of the department outside the umbrella of the Cultural Arts Division is important for redefining live music in Austin as a fundamentally economic interest.

“The recommendation of having an identified and specific Music Department under Economic Development is recognition of the economic impact of live music in Austin,” asserts Bailey. “We had a study done in 2001 and again in 2005 that showed the economic impact of music in Austin at a billion dollars a year. Twenty-thousand people make their living in or around music; we have 8,000 musicians; \$25 million a year in sales tax is generated by music, not to mention the festivals that we have: South by Southwest is \$97 million; ACL brings in \$36 to \$37 million.

“This is about economic development.

“Some people are saying that this should be under Cultural Arts, and we’re saying no, it’s different,” he continues. “Although music obviously is culture, our Cultural Arts department is more attuned to basically taking taxpayer money and saying we value cultural arts and we’re going to put money into it, whereas music doesn’t really need money given to it.”

Austin’s music scene, for better or worse, has held a largely laissez-faire relationship with city government, communication sparked from the community generally coming in the form of rare outbursts concerning sound ordinances and development. A centralized Music Department will give its community direct access to government yet also allow the city more direct influence and control over the music scene. With economic development serving as the primary motivation of the department, it’s imperative that the music community finally organize itself coherently to ensure that its interests are validly represented rather than letting the department become an overwhelmingly governmental influence upon the music scene.

CONTINUED ON P.70

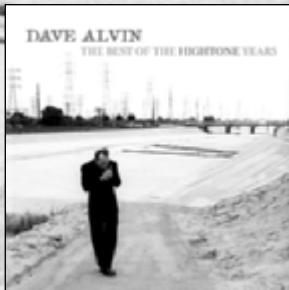
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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

A study in contrasts: (l-r) the Broken Neck on the Eastside and the Austin Music Hall, overseen by the 360 Condominiums

“I really think that how the city responds to the music community will be hinged upon who becomes part of the Music Department,” says Bobby Garza, task force member and percussionist for Maneja Beto. “That’s one of the things that musicians ought to be very concerned about. They need to ask who they’re hiring and what their background is – how they feel about music and weigh in on that stuff. Council’s never going to be able to make that decision on their own until we start hearing from venue folks and musicians.”

We Built This City

The most valuable asset of Austin’s music scene is its wealth of talent, yet there’s a comparable dearth of local infrastructure to help musicians reach beyond Austin city limits. Cultivating the local music industry would not only allow artists more opportunities but is also an economic sector to which the city seems perfectly attuned and that could generate substantial revenues.

The task force recommends that the Music Department develop the infrastructure by recruiting outside businesses to relocate to Austin while creating and financing new assets within the community. The goal is to foster a self-sustainable industry with a national reach, including Austin-based record labels, PR firms, booking agents, management, and distribution.

“In Nashville, New York, and L.A., that infrastructure has been in place for decades, so we’re playing catch-up to a lot of these cities,” offers task force Chairman Paul Oveisi. “What we’re asking for is a team that will speed up that whole catch-up process. Some of the stuff we have to go outside of Austin for – for example, making it attractive for national booking agencies, management, and distributors to set up shop here in Austin.

“But geography is becoming less and less important, so we have to sell the city on some other things, like quality of life, tax incentives, and other things.”

Nashville provides a telling juxtaposition to just how neglectful Austin’s city government has traditionally been toward the local music scene.

“The music office in Nashville is the mayor’s office,” laughs Jim Hester, a senior adviser to the Music City mayor. While Nashville doesn’t have a designated music department within the city government, the music industry is an inherent priority for the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Chamber of Commerce. Nashville also benefits from professional associations within the music scene, with the mayor currently assembling a more comprehensive

Music Business Council of industry representatives to serve as an advisory committee.

Lacking a similarly longstanding dedication to and organization of the music industry in Austin, the task force views its cultivation as similar to the city’s efforts in becoming a technology center in the last decade, and the incentives that the city could provide would be invaluable to the music scene. Such recruitment of outside resources, however, would have to be done in close concert with local artists and existing businesses, focusing on the elements they need to supplement the local infrastructure rather than supplant it.

More important is the need to recognize that the music industry is rapidly changing, and rather than simply attempt to transpose already tenuous business models onto Austin, the city has the opportunity to foster the entrepreneurial opportunities that will define the future of the industry. With Austin’s strong tech and gaming industries already in place, the city stands ripe to incubate new start-ups that would allow us not simply to play catch-up but leapfrog cities that are bound to traditional models.

Takin’ It to the Streets

If the task force’s recommendations are going to be approved by City Council and if they’re to be implemented with due deference to the local scene’s interests, responsi-

Precisely because the Music Department would concentrate the government’s ability to define standards and enforce regulations, the music community must become more involved on every level in asserting its role within city at large.

bility falls upon the local music community to show its support and influence. The usually fractious and disengaged sentiments that have typically characterized the scene must be overcome to organize a coherent association and build upon the momentum of the task force.

“I think the city has met its obligation as far as having a real long conversation with very educated people about what the city can do better, and I think some of the onus is on us now as musicians to figure out how to speak as some semiunified voice,” suggests Garza. “I was hoping this discussion could be the

impetus for musicians to get together and talk about how to advocate for their own interests. Everybody else does that, and it seems silly that musicians don’t do it.”

However difficult it may prove to band musicians and professionals together, it’s imperative in light of the influence that the government could potentially hold over the music scene and its development. Just as the Austin Independent Business Alliance galvanized behind Proposition 2 to voice its concerns over retail development within the city, so too must the music community form professional associations that will represent its interests with singular force.

Furthermore, such professional associations must strive to be as inclusive as possible, with larger companies and more established venues helping cultivate the prosperity of smaller and less entrenched businesses. Precisely because the Music Department would concentrate the government’s ability to define standards and enforce regulations, the music community must become more involved on every level in asserting its role within the city at large.

“If you want to have an impact, you need to have the venue owners and the musicians who live within the neighborhoods go to those monthly meetings of the neighborhood associations and make them understand that you’re part of the neighborhood as well and that you want to be good neighbors,” says Bailey. “At the same time, if there are bad apples out there, the city needs to be prepared to say, ‘We’re going to shut you down or prescribe punitive action to you if you consistently do not take into account the issues that your sound has on the people who live within 500 or 600 feet of you.’”

City Council now has the opportunity to support the local music industry with tangible benefits and incentives, as well as returned rewards. Council should approve and allocate the budgetary funds for the creation of the Music Department but, more importantly, ensure that the city manager creates and staffs the office with regard to the task force’s recommendations of music as an economic priority over a simply cultural value. Council will likely begin to act upon the recommendations presented on Nov. 20 during mid-December sessions, and funding would not be established until the 2009-2010 city budget (see “Live Music Task Force,” News, p.24).

Until the Music Department is created, the task force has called for an interim individual or team to be appointed by the city that can begin addressing the recommendations and culminating resources. It’s the music community, however, that must first act in showing its support to the City Council in concentrated force for the task force’s recommendations and fight to oversee that they’re properly implemented in order to preserve the very notion of Austin as the live music capital of the world.

“If we don’t have this, what is it that we really have? What are we known for?” wonders Moody. “The live condo capital of the world’ is not very cool.” ■



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JOHN ANDERSON

Sound on Sound

While the designation of the Music Department and its charge of developing infrastructure foreground the task force's recommendations, each of the four subcommittees have contributed goals, as well, both immediate and long-term. Here are some highlights from the report. — D.F.

THE LIVE MUSIC VENUES SUBCOMMITTEE

- Adopt a definition for a live-music venue that's inclusive but doesn't include "venues who offer live music without consideration of the law, neighborhood concerns, the necessity for proper gear and engineering, staff, etc."
- Consider incentives and minimize fees to live-music venues to enhance soundproofing and energy efficiency.

MUSICIAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

- Offer financial support to the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians and the SIMS Foundation, and help connect musicians with their services.
- Research the possibility of creating a physical-health facility for musicians.
- Promote affordable housing through incentives to builders and designate specific artist/musician housing within an affordable-housing matrix.
- Provide designated parking Downtown and incentives for parking-lot owners to offer space for musicians.
- Centralize resources for job training for music-industry professionals and loans for businesses and education.

SOUND ENFORCEMENT & CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE

- Train and qualify sound engineers through a certification program, and require all outdoor music venues to utilize city-approved engineers.
- Recommend all new commercial venues adhere to enhanced soundproofing construction and future residents of nearby venues be notified and sign acknowledgments of proximal live music.
- Transfer enforcement responsibilities outside the proposed Downtown Entertainment District from the Police Department to the Public Assembly Code Enforcement.
- Collect data and provide an annual sound-complaint report.
- Enact penalties following three violations within a year and city-facilitated mediation between venues and neighborhoods following three separate validated complaints.

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Create a large, centrally located Downtown Entertainment District that includes loading zones, density bonuses, transit hubs, designated busking areas, and new sound ordinances.
- Establish process for creating satellite districts with adjusted benefits.

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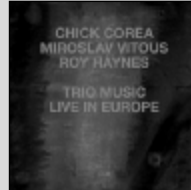
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THE CURE

4:13 Dream (Suretone/Geffen)

Stasis generally suspends the law of diminishing returns in the uppermost strata of classic rock acts. Once the ultimate masterpiece ascends – *Exile on Main St*, *Back in Black*, *Disintegration* – even the music gods require a miraculous harmonic convergence to reel off a four-star album late in life (Dylan’s *Time Out of Mind*). Rule of thumb usually dictates three strong mixtape additions per release over the next 20 to 30 years. The Cure inventor Robert Smith remains almost immune to studio dilapidation, but if lucky No. 4:13 *Dream* could never hope to equal the seminal goth pop of *Three Imaginary Boys* (1979), *Pornography* (1982), and/or *Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me* (1987) by design of natural evolution, neither is it the *Wild Mood Swings* of the post-*Disintegration* (1989) paradigm. 2004’s eponymous *Dream* precursor proclaimed “The End of the World” with typically Smithian apocalyptic, and the fire still burns here, only in hook up (“Sirensong”) not break down. Musically, the languid phosphorescence of opener “Underneath the Stars” (“floating here like this with you ...”) picks up where 2000’s sodden *Bloodflowers* left off, except its lyrical bent is immediately buttressed by the *Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me* of “The Only One.” Despite the opening declaration of “I won’t try to bring you down about my suicide,” even *Dream*’s lithe three spot, “The Reasons Why,” belies the silence of a breakup with well-known birds on a wire. “Freak Show” reaches back to the band’s late-1970s herk and jerk in its jaunty syncopation. The *Dream* gets a bit fuzzy midway, the melodic seeds of “The Real Snow White” never properly sown and Smith’s front-and-center vocals overpowering the song’s underdeveloped through line. Ditto for “The Hungry Ghost,” which again finds the maple syrup of pop criers in exceptional voice on a track that never fully materializes. First, best, and hopefully last Cure back draft Porl Thompson ignites one of his trademark Hendrix maelstroms on the all-too-brief “Switch,” while turning up his guitar would have electrified otherwise zippy highlight “Sleep When I’m Dead.” Closer “It’s Over” rages like the beginning. The *Dream* ain’t over.

★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

live shot

OF MONTREAL

Fiesta Gardens, Nov. 13

Somewhere between dancing swine and accompanying Buddhas, the centaur drama and acid passion plays, not to mention frontman Kevin Barnes’ hanging himself onstage, Of Montreal’s bacchanalian baptism down by the riverside tripped the light fantastic. With a three-tiered stage and triptych of video screens hovering behind them, the Athens, Ga., sextet fulfilled its reputation as one of indie music’s most dynamic live shows. Though the throng of fans outside the fenced patch of park stretched down the road as the set began and the corral to exit the makeshift venue was even more clustered, the unconventional setting provided the perfect kind of displaced paradise for the band’s alternate reality, a spectacle of androgynous, orgiastic revelry that was part rave, part Bowie-esque art-pop hodgepodge. The relentlessly segued set launched appropriately with “Id Engager” and blasted through “So Begins Our Alabee” and “She’s a Rejector,” synapse frittering psychedelic jams blustered by dual drum kits and Barnes’ shrill, glam falsetto ringing off the metal rafters. Dropping into latest LP *Skeletal Lamping*, piano ballad “Touched Something’s Hollow” presented the only brief reprieve before sliding into the frantic “An Eluardian Instance” and ecstasy-laced bubblegum bounce of “Heimdalsgate Like a Promethean Curse.” “Wraith Pinned to the Mist and Other Games” erupted the masses behind a funky bassline, while the space-soul



SANDY CARSON

swirl of “St. Exquisite’s Confessions” oozed Barnes’ hypersexualized spite alongside crowd favorite “Bunny Ain’t No Kind of Rider.” Live, Of Montreal is all spectacle, so as Barnes progressively shed his clothes (eventually being painted red onstage), surreality overtook night and culminated in his emergence from a coffin covered in shaving cream for the *Pet Sounds*-on-psilocybin romp of “A Sentence of Sorts in Kongsvinger.” Perhaps oddest of all was the one-song encore of Franz Ferdinand’s “Take Me Out.”

– Doug Freeman

AC/DC

Black Ice (Columbia)

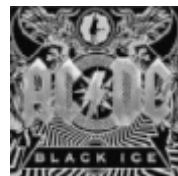
Even Rick Rubin, messiah of rock & roll second comings, failed to produce a proper AC/DC phoenix with 1995 nadir *Ballbreaker*. One *Stiff Upper Lip* (2000) later, the Aussies continue to chisel out heavy brick and mortar R&B on 14th studio LP *Black Ice* without the urgent indecency and iron force that defined the Bon Scott era. There are a few cheap thrills on the hourlong Wal-Mart exclusive, such as back-burner boogie “Big Jack” and the voltaic thunder of “Skies on Fire,” while the title track and opener “Rock n’ Roll Train” hop the rails of *Highway to Hell*. Eternal problem child Angus Young kicks and screams with tighrope guitar seizures as brother Malcolm locks down the back line, but the two don’t deliver lyrically (“War Machine”), and singer Brian Johnson’s wheezy throe has weakened considerably with age. For those who truly want to rock around the clock, *Black Ice* never brings the heat. (AC/DC’s AT&T Center show in San Antonio, Friday, Dec. 12, is sold out.)

★★★ – Austin Powell

GOJIRA

The Way of All Flesh (Prosthetic)

The third CD from this French quartet comprises the same environmentally minded death metal as 2005’s *From Mars to Sirius*. Tight and heavy and not terribly fast, *The Way of All Flesh* recalls Cathedral or Entombed in its groovier moments, but, more often, the chromatic, midtempo riffs and heavily syncopated drumming echo Mastodon. Indeed, this is the case with some of the strongest tracks, such as the choppy, lurching “Toxic Garbage Island.” For better and worse, Gojira doesn’t have the vision of today’s best



metal; its music is purer, without much tendency to sound commercial, but also without a sense of reinvention. As a result, the album drags at more than an hour, and tracks aiming for a more mainstream aesthetic, notably “A Sight to Behold,” are weaker. Barring those, there are 45 minutes of perfectly solid death metal here. (Gojira grinds La Zona Rosa, Saturday, Nov. 29.)

★★★

– Daniel Mee

FRIDA HYVÖNEN

Silence Is Wild (Secretly Canadian)

Where Tori and Fiona made the piano a vehicle for broken silence, Swede Frida Hyvönen slyly updates the story with animal magnetism on her second LP. Over 13 songs, she spans the spectrum of female emotion, her voice clear and matter-of-fact, even when she doubts herself, as on the plaintive “Why Do You Love Me So Much” (“Have I by mistake been extra charming? Oh, the chances are alarmingly low”). She grits her teeth and grips the minor keys on slow-burning stalker standout “Highway 2 U” (“Look into my eye, dear. Eye of the tiger. Do you understand?”) and argues with herself to comedic effect on “Enemy Within.” She’s abandoned the gray clouds of 2006 debut *Until Death Comes*, replacing them with more colorful arrangements and assured choruses while keeping the schmaltz to a minimum. Frida’s a modern woman with her own sound and fury, and *Silence* breaks it open.

★★★★

– Audra Schroeder

RAY LAMONTAGNE

Gossip in the Grain (RCA)

Ray LaMontagne’s third effort opens with a blast of suave Memphis horns on “You Are the Best Thing,” bolstering gritty soul vocals with a powerful swagger that announces the Maine songwriter’s expanded vision. *Gossip* finds the

perfect balance between his raw emotional pull, singed in the soft sway of “Let It Be Me” and on desperate ballad “Winter Birds,” with Ethan Johns’ deftly layered production and arrangements, which accents “I Still Care for You” with haunting steel and hazy reverb and “Sarah” with delicate strings. The bluesy stomp of “Henry Nearly Killed Me (It’s a Shame)” kicks the dust with a train-chugging harmonica, while “Hey Me, Hey Mama” licks banjo and lopes like Old Crow Medicine Show. LaMontagne’s infectiously playful ode to the White Stripes’ Meg White dominates, though the breathiness of “A Falling Through” and closing title track drift a bit too airy and hollow.

★★★★

– Doug Freeman

THE PRETENDERS

Break Up the Concrete (Shangri-La)

This is a good time to ask veteran rock stars if they have any idea what they’re doing. You know, musicians who haven’t put out a truly inspired album’s worth of music in decades. In this downloadable world, the emphasis away from long-form album to the power of the song leads to the question: Why not take the five really good tracks on *Break Up the Concrete* (“Boots of Chinese Plastic,” “Love’s a Mystery,” “Rosalee,” “One Thing Never Changed,” “Don’t Cut Your Hair”) and offer a stellar EP for download? Nothing wrong with these 11 cuts; they’re classic Pretenders slam dunk. Yet the biggest critique about Chrissie Hynde’s perennial rock roadster is that it’s so distinctive as to be repetitive in that Ramones way, whereas with most albums, gems nestle with filler. This isn’t a crime, nor even more than a mild complaint, but rather provocation.

★★★

– Margaret Moser



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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Blind Justice: An administrator of criminal-case appeals in Louisiana committed suicide in 2007, partly (according to his suicide note) because of guilt that, for 13 years, he had complied with a judge's order to deny, sight unseen, all appeals filed by defendants who were acting without lawyers. (Under state law, only death row convicts get assistance for appeals; all others, even convicted murderers, either fend for themselves or forfeit the right to appeal, no matter how indigent.) According to the administrator (the extent of whose claims are still being investigated by the state Supreme Court), none of the supervisory judges involved in denying the 2,400 appeals ever read a single word in them.

LEAD STORY

Dutch designer Eric Klarenbeek, 29, has developed jewelry consisting of tiny crystals or flowers that hang directly from the eye via microthin medical wire attached to either prescription or blank contact lenses and, in the light, give the appearance of tears streaming down the cheek. He expects the jewelry to hit the market soon, according to an October report in London's *Daily Mail*, at a price of about \$325. Though the adornments appear to be painful or dangerous, Klarenbeek said users of his prototypes so far have been amazed at their comfort.

IT'S GOOD TO BE A BRITISH PRISONER

1) *The Sun* reported in September that officials at London's Holloway Prison had recently staged a morale-boosting costume dance party for female inmates, even though Holloway houses Britain's worst female murderers. As a result, families of murder victims learned that the killers had a jolly good time dressed up as, for example, vampires and ghouls covered with fake blood. 2) Britain's Prison Service issued guidelines recently calling for guards to refer to their male charges by "Mr." and their surnames to foster decency and respect. Inmates should be treated, said one official, "like [we expect] our children to be treated."

CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

Residents of an Austin neighborhood undergoing a federally mandated sewer replacement noticed that, for several weeks starting in September, the work crews would spend the first three hours of their 12-hour days digging a huge hole in the street and the last three hours refilling and paving over it (repeating the process each day). The 20-by-20-by-20-foot hole in Monroe Street was too big to be covered with metal plates, and the city's policy of minimal traffic disruption required repaving for nighttime use, at least doubling the cost of the work.

Pay Those Dentist's Bills! 1) In October, a 58-year-old patient accused the Rush Green Dental Practice in Romford, England, of injecting Novocain in preparation for an extraction but then refusing to pull the tooth until he had handed over an additional 30 pounds (\$47). (The patient had to go home to get his ATM card, according to a *Daily Mail* report, and did not make it back until the Novocain had begun to wear off.) 2) Police in the Bavarian town of Neu-Ulm said they were investigating a dentist who allegedly barged into the home of a 35-year-old patient in September, tied her hands, forced her mouth open, and removed dentures worth about \$500, because the woman's insurance company had declined to pay.

PEOPLE WHO NEED ATTENTION

1) In October, Travis Fessler of Florence, Ohio, broke a Guinness world record by holding 11 Madagascar hissing cockroaches in his mouth for the mandatory 10 seconds. 2) Briton Sarah Burge, 49, broke the Guinness world record for the most cosmetic surgery, having now spent a total of 539,500 pounds (\$850,000) on more than 100 procedures, according to an October report in London's *Daily Mail*.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOLLIES

1) Police in Cobb County, Ga., said in October that County Commissioner Annette Kesting had asked local high-vooodoo priestess George Ann Mills to perform a death ritual on her longtime political rival Woody Thompson (cancer or a car accident preferred). Mills acknowledged helping Kesting on some family issues by sacrificing three hens and a rooster, but said she would never help take a human life. 2) In Flint, Mich., two people (an assistant to the mayor and a local activist) accused City Councilwoman Jackie Poplar of assault following a rancorous council meeting. Poplar allegedly sprayed the pair with a can of Raid proclaiming: "Pests! We need to get rid of these pests!"

RECURRING THEMES

The latest evidence that, for men, size is important: 1) Following a men's room argument in Durban, South Africa, in September five men of Indian descent left a bar, returned with guns, and killed three patrons. According to police, the altercation started when one Indian man at a urinal called attention to a white South African man's small size, and the incident escalated. 2) In August, the indecent-exposure conviction of a Houston urologist was upheld on appeal despite the doctor's insistence that he is so small (2.8 inches) that it would have been impossible for his sex organ to be seen by anyone even if he had tried to expose himself.

A NEWS OF THE WEIRD CLASSIC (MAY 2003)

Researchers at Plymouth University in England, with a small Arts Council grant, could not quite test whether an infinite number of monkeys with an infinite number of typewriters could produce the works of Shakespeare but did see what six Sulawesi crested macaque monkeys would write with a computer over a four-week period. According to a report in *The Guardian*, the apes produced about five pages of text between them, mostly consisting of the letter "S". According to professor Geoff Cox, the monkeys spent a lot of time sitting on the keyboard.

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

Send your *Weird News* to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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AUSTIN EVENTS CALENDAR PARTY

Another year of Austin events conveniently placed on a calendar so you don't have to do it. Beer and music accompany your party vibe. The event is free, but you must sign up online to attend. 5-8pm. Cathedral of Junk, 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. Free. www.austinfunstuff.com.

BLACK DEMOCRATS MEETING Every third Thursday, 6pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057. www.blackaustindemocrats.net.

DRAGAOK WITH KNT It ain't singin'. It's draggin'. Join Kings N Things for Dragaoke: BYO music and facial follicles. Sign up at 9:30pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002.

LIVE MUSIC MARCH As the Live Music Task Force unveils its recommendations and begins implementing them (see "Live Music Task Force," News, p.24, for more), supporters of the scene gather at Antone's for a march to City Hall. Let your voices and the music be heard. 1pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. www.saveaustinmusic.com.

NPR JOURNALIST TALKS MEDIA Michele Norris, co-host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, tackles the topic Listening to America in an Election Year: Did the Press Get It Right? 7pm. UT campus, AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave. Free.

OLMEC CULTURE CONFERENCE Experts gather to discuss Olmecs as the foundation of civilization in Mesoamerica. Thu.-Fri., Nov. 20-21. UT campus, AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/lillas/conferences/olmec/index/.

SOLAR AUSTIN HAPPY HOUR Tuan Pham, president of PowerFin Partners, leads the discussion of all things sun-powered. 6:30-8:30pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237.

TIG'S GIGS You may remember her as the dyke cop on *The Sarah Silverman Program*, or you may remember her from her salad days in Austin – eating salad and hitting on your best friend. Either way, it's Tig, and she's back for five nights. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

THURSDAY, NOV 20 TO THURSDAY, NOV 27

calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Join Transgender Education Network of Texas and more than two dozen local organizations in this 10th annual remembrance, honoring those who lost their lives for simply being who they are. 6:30pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220. info@tentex.org, www.transgenderor.org.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Torche Red 7
San Saba County CD Release Continental Club

FRIDAY 21

ELEMENTARY STUDENT ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT Third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders from local elementary schools worked with local architects through an outreach program organized by the American Institute of Architects. Come out to see what these little builders have come up with. 9am-noon. UT campus, Goldsmith Hall, 452-4332. Free. sally@aiaaustin.org.

FAMILY PLUS HEALTH FAIR 10am-1pm. Texas Preparatory School, 400 Uhland, San Marcos, 512/805-3000. www.bgcct.org.

HANDSOME JOEL BIRTHDAY BENEFIT See box at left. 7:45pm-2am. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 799-2265. \$15. www.handsomejoel.org.

HOOPNOTICA WORKSHOP Get in on the latest fitness trend: hula hoops. Spin and twist your way to a shapelier you. Hoopnotica founder Rayna McInturf teaches both the introductory class at 6pm and the intermediate class at 7:30pm. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 877/GO-HOOPN. \$29. www.hoopnotica.com.

JAM OUT AT DONNA JAM Help out Capital Area Food Bank with Robin Smith, Noelle Hampton, and Porcelain. 6:30pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825.

LA CAGE DINNER THEATRE Drag queens make you hungry? How 'bout some parmigiana with your Minelli or Alfredo with your Babs? Yes, you can enjoy your favorite divas with your fave dish. 8pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 696-2371. \$40. saffiretrinity@yahoo.com, www.myspace.com/lacageaustin.

MULTIMEDIA FRIDAYS Art, jazz, hip-hop, poetry, and performance all take place in the old (and tiny) Camp Fig gallery space every Friday. Fifth Gallery, 305 E. Fifth, 669-6558. Free.

PRAY FOR PEACE People of all faiths are welcome to put their spiritual vote in for peace. Bring a song or poem if you're so inclined. Fridays, 12:15-12:45pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196.

SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS VIGIL Call or go online to sign up, and get on the bus to protest the School of the Americas – aka the School of Assassins – at Fort Benning, Ga. The bus leaves Austin on Fri., Nov. 21, at 6pm and returns on Mon., Nov. 24, at 7am. Help change U.S. foreign policy in Latin America with an estimated 20,000 like-minded protesters. 626-6176. \$260-336. www.soaw-austin.org.

THANK GOODNESS I'M BI The ambisexual happy hour that gathers on the first and third Fridays of every month. Look for room directly across from the dartboards. 7pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 370-9573. www.main.org/binetaustin.

OLMEC CULTURE CONFERENCE (See Thursday, 11/20.)

TIG'S GIGS (See Thursday, 11/20.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Brocca

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
U2 3D @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Conor Oberst & the Mystic Valley Band Stubb's
Alejandro Escovedo Antone's
Supersuckers Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
Gang Gang Dance Mohawk
Funkfest III The Parish
Foot Patrol CD Release Continental Club

SATURDAY 22

ACORN PLANTING Put on sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and pants, and choose one of two venues for acorn planting. Help create habitats for golden-cheeked warblers at Lower Bull or Cortana (specific directions provided when you register online or call). Lower Bull, 9:30-11am; Cortana, 1-5pm. 263-6443. www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland/online/registration/ecowebevents.cfm.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE Everyone's welcome (that means you, too, ladies) to this conference encouraging kids to keep their eyes on the prize of individual responsibility and education. Keynote speakers will be followed by workshops in small groups. 10am. Pearce Middle School, 6401 N. Hampton. Free. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

AUSTIN UNCHAINED DAY Take a break from the Wal-Marts and Targets of the world, and shop locally. If just for a day. Remember that money spent locally stays local and benefits your community; something the Austin Independent Business Alliance has been saying since Unchained's inception in 2003. 441-2123. www.ibuyaustin.com.

CITY WIDE HOLD UP The Texas Wranglers and roughly 700 student volunteers will be running around Austin and "holding up" citizens in an effort to encourage them to donate money to Easter Seals of Central Texas. Seems a bit extreme, but if it helps disabled people, maybe extreme is what's needed. 9:30am-4pm. 504/491-8615. www.citywideholdup.com.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GATHERING The Austin Community Gardens Coalition invites the public to talk about the future of local gardening and take a tour of the Alamo Community Garden. E-mail to RSVP 1:30pm. Alamo Recreation Center, 2100 Alamo St. sari@sustainablefoodcenter.org.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR Galleries littered throughout the Eastside will swing their doors wide open for the masses to see what they're up to. No good we imagine. But that makes for the best art, no? Dust off your walking shoes or tune up that bike and see what the other side of I-35 has to offer. Go online for a list of participating studios and a map. See "Welcome to My Studio," the Arts, p.46, for more. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 10am-5pm. 385-1670. Free. www.eastaustinstudiotour.com.

GLAMOUR & GLITTER: AN EVENING OF SISTERHOOD Come hang with the United Court and Kappa Gamma Mascara. all to benefit SafePlace. 8pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.

JUNK TOUR YARD MAZE Is it art or junk? Better yet, is it for sale? TJ Lazer Phone, DJs, and experimental films start up when the sun goes down. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 9am-9pm. 2608 Rogers, 696-0336. Free. www.palfloat.com.

LOCAL RIDERS HAPPY HOUR Bring your racing motorcycle to this grand opening and get some food, drinks, and moto-schmoozing in return. 3-7pm. Rever Corsa, 4602 Weletka #100, 266-3546. www.revercorsa.com.

HANDSOME JOEL BIRTHDAY BENEFIT The Supersuckers headline this benefit for the Handsome Joel Foundation's Safe Ride Program. HJ was killed by a drunken driver in 2003. For a complete lineup, see Club Listings, p.108. 7:45pm-2am. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 799-2265. \$15. www.handsomejoel.org.



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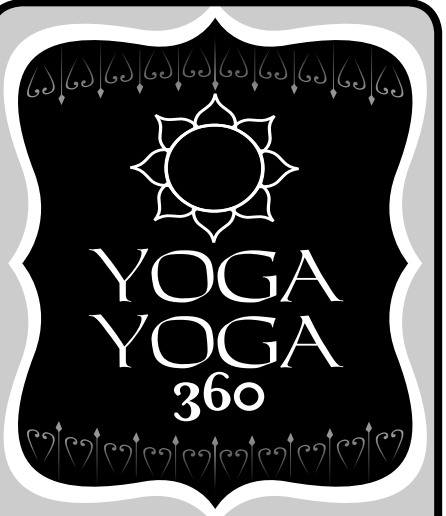


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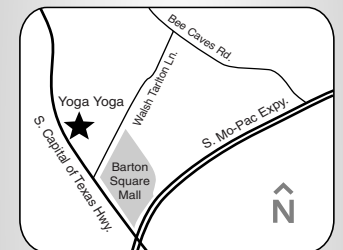
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- 2:00 Prenatal Q and A
- 2:00 Ashtanga for Beginners
- 2:30 Prenatal Yoga
- 3:30 Hatha Star
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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

New Mexican hotels offer a wide variety of amenities and comforts. With the holiday vacation season coming up quickly, you'll want to make reservations soon. Here is a list of some of my favorite finds.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Santa Fe means eating Frito pie from the Five & Dime on the plaza across from the Palace of the Governors. Centrally located in the state, this is a good city to start a visit to New Mexico. The Frito pie included, this is a world-class culinary city.

El Rey Inn is my personal favorite lodging in Santa Fe. Built in 1935, this is the kind of Route 66 holdover that you dream of finding. It's laid out in the old motor-motel fashion with parking outside your door. The well-maintained rooms are small but roomy, and some have kitchens and fireplaces. The free breakfasts are not to be missed. \$-\$\$, www.elreyinnsantafe.com, 800/521-1349.

The **Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa** is a self-contained recreation area with shuttle service to the plaza and the ski slopes. Rumor has it that James Taylor and Diane Keaton are regulars. Originally a retreat for the first bishop of Santa Fe, many of the unusually large rooms have fireplaces. The restaurant and bar are fine places to end a day of exploring. \$\$\$, www.bishopslodge.com, 800/419-0492.

Sunrise Springs is hidden away on the southern edge of Santa Fe. This eco-friendly resort has a variety of rooms, from hotel-style to cabins, with private courtyards. The restaurant and spa overlook a spring-fed pond. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, www.sunrisesprings.com, 800/955-0028.

Taos is one of those cities where everyone who has ever been there reminisces about how it was in the good old days. It's a great place for those who enjoy skiing, hiking, and other year-round outdoor activities.

El Monte Sagrado resort in Taos is remembered by old-timers as a set of tourist casitas on the edge of town. The little cabins have grown up with private hot tubs and patios featuring views of the mountains. Additional rooms were completed this year, expanding the hotel's price range. The restaurant and bar are top-notch. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, www.elmontesagrado.com, 800/828-8267.

Espanola is often overshadowed by its better-known neighbor cities, but it makes a great base camp for the north-central pueblos and ski resorts.

Inn at the Delta is a family-run operation that includes the inn, a florist, a restaurant, a day-care center, and a bar. The rooms are spacious, with Kiva fireplaces, and decorated in Mexican tile. The hearty free breakfast is a good way to start the day. \$\$, www.innatthedelta.biz, 800/995-8599.

Visiting the **Rancho de Chimayo Hacienda** is like staying at a ranch house in the mountains. The rooms are small, but each one has a fireplace. It's a long drive to anywhere from here, especially since the neighboring Rancho de Chimayo Restaurante will be closed until April 2009 because of a fire that destroyed the kitchen. \$, www.ranchodechimayo.com, 888/270-2320.

907th 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.

outoftown

GREEK FESTIVAL Everyone can be Greek for a day while enjoying dancing, food, activities, and entertainment. Thu.-Sun., Nov. 20-23. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 3511 Yoakum Blvd., Houston, 713/526-5377. \$5. festival@agoc.org, www.greekfestival.org.

SEASIDE TREASURE FESTIVAL brings area artists and vendors together for a show and sale to benefit the residents of Galveston. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22. Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St., Galveston, 409/744-4526 x783. Free. www.moody.org/stf.

WALKWAY OF LIGHTS is a holiday tradition of a million tiny lights on 130 sculptures in Lakeside Park. The extravaganza begins with a parade at 6pm on the first night. Nov. 21-Jan. 3. Marble Falls, 830/693-2815. Free. www.marblefalls.org.

BRAZOS VALLEY WORLDFEST celebrates international awareness with cultural displays, demonstrations, international cuisine, performances, children's

crafts, educational competitions, and many other activities. Sat., Nov. 22. Main Street, Bryan, 979/862-6700. Free. www.brazosvalleyworldfest.org.

SIMPLE SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES continues with Joe Cordi bringing a grand piano into the cave that was once a bandit hideout and a speakeasy. Sat., Nov. 22, 5:45-8:30pm. Longhorn Caverns State Park, Burnet, 877/441-2283. \$17/\$27 with dinner. www.longhorncaverns.com.

POINSETTIA CELEBRATION Be the first to see the season's crop of holiday flowers along with other plants, arts & crafts, special activities, and Santa. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 10am-4pm. Ellison's Greenhouses, Brenham, 979/836-0084. \$2/\$1. www.ellisonsgreenhouses.com.

HARVEST FEST is a fun-filled folk fest featuring Polish, German, Mexican, Indian and other traditional dancers, entertainers, musicians, and food. Sat., Nov. 22, 11:30am-5:30pm. Margaret Alkek Pavilion, 715 Maple St. next to City Park, Bandera, 830/796-4447. \$10/\$5. www.banderacowboycapital.com.

MASTER CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE Learn to stop letting life's changes dictate your path. 2pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. 206-B, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

NATIONAL FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY United Way Capital Area, Hands on Central Texas, and Success by Six all encourage volunteering as a family on this annual day of service. Go to www.handsoncentraltexas.org to register to volunteer.

RED LEAF ROCKS STUDENT CONCERT Students of this school of rock show off what they've learned. The money goes to a scholarship fund for future rock stars. 6:30-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 444-4769. \$5. www.redleafschoolofmusic.com.

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free. www.austinsahajayoga.org.

SAMI SHOW MARKETPLACE Find an unexpected gift for that special someone. This market for jewelry, home decor, and more has been doing its thing since 1975. Sat., Nov. 22, 10am-5pm; Sun., Nov. 23, 11am-4:30pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/255-2255. \$4 (kids free). www.samishow.com.

SAVE REAGAN MARCH Reagan High School is facing possible closure at the end of the school year. A march from the Capitol to the Texas Education Agency precedes students themselves describing what Reagan has meant to them. Rep. Dawnna Dukes will also be fighting for kids' right to learn. 2:30pm. Texas state Capitol, 1100 Congress, 450-1880. www.austinvoices.org.

TEEN READS DOUBLE HEADER P.J. Hoover signs *The Emerald Tablet*, and Stacy Nyikos signs *Dragon Wishes*. Fantasy, where is thy sting! 2pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

THE BUSINESS OF SHOW Learn to make it in the entertainment industry from established L.A. talent agents, and get ready for your close-up. 9am-3pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 818/563-3363. \$150. www.inpservices.com.

TREE-LIGHTING CONCERT Austin's favorite experiment in upscale New Urbanism, the Domain, hosts this tree-lighting with performances from Dan Dyer, the Austin Girls Choir, and *American Idol* winner Jordin Sparks. 6pm. The Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 795-4230.

TRIANGLE TREE-LIGHTING This family-friendly evening features performances, crafts, and a big jolly guy in a red suit. All this leading up to a tree-lighting. Proceeds go to Operation Blue Santa. 5-8:30pm. The Triangle, 4700 Guadalupe.

UNDER WHERE? Live music at the 'Pit: I'm Gorgeous Inside, Terri Lord in Her Underwear, and the Guise. Hey, I'm gorgeous inside Terri Lord's underwear, too. And as journalists, we must add the disclaimer that we cannot confirm the appearance of any actual underwear in the proceedings. 10pm. The Cockpit, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.

VEGAN THANKSGIVING COOKING CLASS Learn to make a gluten-free, vegan Thanksgiving meal, and then enjoy the fruits of your labor with a feast. 9am-2pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2276. \$55. www.naturalepicurean.com.

WOMEN & FAIR TRADE EDUCATION & SALE Learn about Fair Trade and do some holiday shopping at the same time. Buy beautiful, handmade crafts, toys, pottery, jewelry, and clothing from women directly affected by globalization. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 10am-7pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 474-2399. www.womenandfairtrade.org.

WORKSHOP: NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO HEADACHE PAIN 1:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.

YELLOW BIKE BASICS Learn to tweak your shifters and brakes for optimal moving and stopping performance. So that's what all those little screws are for. The Yellow Bike Project will be offering its services and tools until the farmers' market closes for anyone with an ailing bicycle. Sign up for the workshop at www.austinyellowbike.org. 10am. Austin Farmers' Market Downtown, Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074. Free.

YOGA YOGA GRAND OPENING Go online for a schedule of free classes, attend, and possibly win a door prize. 9am-6:30pm. 381-6464. Free. www.yogayoga.com/360.

TIG'S GIGS (See Thursday, 11/20.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Art Palace, Creative Research Laboratory, Mexic-Arte Museum

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Austin Video Bee Extravaganza #4 @ Salvage Vanguard Theater, 5pm

Morristown: in the air and sun @ St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 2pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

The Sting @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm

Thunder Road @ Mercury Charlie, 8:30pm

U2 3D @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Alejandro Escovedo Antone's

Heartless Bastards Stubb's

Sister Nancy Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

The Black Crowes Austin Music Hall

Sarode Maestro Aashish Khan

Monarch Event Center

SUNDAY 23

CAGED BIRDS SING Rob Faubion and his lovely "ladies" bring La Cage, voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitneys and Barbras done up with ridiculous flair. Sundays, 9:30 & 11:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

EMPTY BOWL PROJECT Bring \$15 for the Capital Area Food Bank and get a bowl of soup prepared by one of 30 local restaurants. The bowls are donated by Central Texas potters and are yours to keep when you're done. Live music aids your digestion. 11am-3pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. www.austinfoodbank.org.

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN discusses how to treat people as ends, not merely as means. 10:30am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

EVENING OF GIVING This after-hours shopping event features entertainment, food, a silent auction, and a fashion show featuring students from Westlake High School. The proceeds from this holiday shopping bonanza go to the Simon Youth Foundation and other local charities. 6:30-9pm. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 327-7040. \$10.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4 to 10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. Sundays through Dec. 14, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5 (free, babies). www.flyingtheatermachine.com.

HARRY'S COUNTY FAIR Step right up, and get your fortune told (you will see lots of hunky men), get kissed by a Q Boy (in the kissing booth), and benefit local charities. It's a cake walk. Oh, and there's one of those, too. 4pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. Free, \$1 game tickets.

HEART OF TEXAS PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION hosts this monthly get-together for former and future Peace Corps volunteers, friends, family, and the Corps-curious. Noon. *Hostelling International*, 2200 Lakeshore Blvd., 444-2294. Free. www.hotpca.org.

HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT Connie Britton and Taylor Kitsch from *Friday Night Lights* host this evening of music with Bob Schneider, Carolyn Wonderland, Guy Forsyth, Kacy Crowley, the Band of Heathens, and special guests the African Children's Choir. 5-8pm. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth, upstairs, 434/286-2462. \$25. www.africanchildrenschoir.com.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION Austin Area Interreligious Ministries brings people together under the banner of peace. All congregations and individuals are invited to participate. 4pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 478-5684. www.aaimaustin.org.

MOSQUE TOURS The Austin Muslim Speakers' Bureau offers tours and brief seminars about the Muslim faith. E-mail to RSVP or to schedule a tour at another time. 11am. North Austin Muslim Community Center, 11900 N. Lamar. Free. outreach@masaustin.org, www.masaustin.org.

BY KATE GETTY AND KATE X MESSER

gayplace

GRASSROOTS 101, QUEER-STYLE Last week-end's national protest in response to the passage of anti-gay propositions across the country was a call-up to sideline queers, a call to action and involvement in your community for the sake of our families. Pundits (including this one) went nuts over the young age skew of the grassroots organizers who launched the multicity event less than one week prior to its scheduled date. The wildfire nature of the Join the Impact movement heralds a new wave of activists and potential for our struggle. It's 'bout time.

Send gay bits to
gayplace@
austinchronicle.com.
Visit
austinchronicle.com/
gayplaceblog.

Why stop there? Tonight is another opportunity to engage in Grassroots 101, Queer-Style, as this evening is the 10th annual **Transgender Day of Remembrance** and will be observed at 6:30pm at Austin City Hall. The event began as one vigil to commemorate vivacious Boston club denizen and eventual murder victim Rita Hester back in 1998 in San Francisco. The vigil sparked similar memorials that have set off waves of activism across the globe. If you are new to queer community or still looking in from the sidelines, welcome. Join us. It's a long row, and we need as many oars as we can get. See Thursday, 11/20.

PASTRY QUEEN HOLIDAY CLASSES Rebecca Rather of Rather Sweet Bakery shows how to spice up your holiday table. Expect five recipes that will make for happy yuletide eaters. *Sun., Nov. 23, 6:30-9pm; Mon., Nov. 24, 10am-12:30pm.* Central Market Cooking School, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1041. \$50. www.centralmarket.com.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR (See Saturday.)

JUNK TOUR YARD MAZE (See Saturday.)

SAMI SHOW MARKETPLACE (See Saturday.)

WOMEN & FAIR TRADE EDUCATION & SALE (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Near Dark @ Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm

The Sting @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Blind Boys of Alabama, Preservation Hall Jazz Band Long Center for the Performing Arts

W-S Burn, Nanobangbang, Aurora Plastics Co. Salvage Vanguard Theater

The Band of Heathens, Carolyn Wonderland The Parish

MONDAY 24

AUSTIN BUTTERFLY FORUM MEETING

Members of this group gather to share their experiences and pictures of backyard insects and butterflies. E-mail to participate with pics and stories of your own. 7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. dh787@yahoo.com.

BABY BLOOMERS Bring the kiddiest of kids (ages 3 and younger) for a playdate including story time, a sing-along, and more childish and educational antics. Mondays, 9am-noon. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4-8 per parent/child. www.austinkids.org.

EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT Executive Women in Texas Government hosts this collection of panels, workshops, and keynotes that develop leadership and management skills while you network. 7am-5pm. Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234. \$249 (\$199, members). www.ewtg.org.

QI GONG Give your life force a boost through the ancient Chinese art of moving very, very slowly. Mondays, 9:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, donations appreciated. www.rutamaya.net.

TWILIGHT MOVIE-RELEASE PARTY All you teen vampires and their admirers are invited to attend (in costume, if you're so inclined) and talk *Twilight*. Make a Team Edward or Team Jacob T-shirt (bring a shirt or \$5), eat some pizza, and leave satisfied. 6pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.

PASTRY QUEEN HOLIDAY CLASSES (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Murmur of the Heart @ Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm

The Lost Moment @ Harry Ransom Center, 7pm

TUESDAY 25

BELMONT BUTTER BALL Bring a coat or a \$10 donation for Coats for Kids and receive a free drink ticket and a show by Dale Watson. Another \$15 gets you a buffet Thanksgiving meal. Stop giving thanks, and start actually giving. 6-11pm. *The Belmont*, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300. www.jlaustin.org.

IONS AUSTIN Retired naval officer Dr. Scott Jones prepares the public for the disclosure of the extraterrestrial/human connection and discusses its ramifications on peace efforts around the world. 6:30pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 673-7051. Free. www.ionsaustin.org.

JAY WOLF THANKSGIVING SALUTE Local musician Jay Wolf has beaten cancer, and his friends Nathan Hamilton, Ethan Azarian, Tom Banjo, and the Hickoids are helping him celebrate. Donations help him pay his medical bills. 8pm. Cactus Cafe, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515. Free, donations appreciated.

KA-ASHO AFRIKAN WOMEN'S TEXTILE GATHERINGS Women of African descent are invited to hone their skills, learn new ones, and maintain ancestral traditions at this textile lounge. E-mail or call to RSVP Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm. 1300 Yorkshire Dr., 552-6277. Free. sankofaasaf@gmail.com.

KHABELE FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY Check out the open house, and see how alternative schools make learning a life lesson. Noon-3:45pm. *The Khabele School*, 801 Rio Grande, 480-8142. Free. www.khabele.org.

STEAK NIGHT, CHOCOLATES FOR CHARITY, & STRIP-OFF

Come early for a \$6 steak (or chicken) with all the fixin's, plus the adventure in mouthfeel known as **Chocolates for Charity**, run by the United Court to benefit local nonprofits. Then stay late for Jame Perry's original amateur strip-off. Tuesdays, 6pm & 12mid. *Charlie's Austin*, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.



KATE X MESSER

TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY Local tenor Andrew Heller sings the holiday hits, a tree is lit, and the proceeds go to Seton Hospitals. 5:30pm. *Four Seasons Hotel*, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. Free. www.fourseasons.com/austin.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bombón: El Perro @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

The Godfather @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Doug Gillard Club de Ville

Toni Price's Grateful Tuesday Continental Club



Festival Tickets and Special Events Reservations Available Online
Come to Dickens on The Strand
December 6 & 7, 2008

Support Galveston's Recovery
www.dickensonthestrand.org

Submit

your community
group or nonprofit's
**wishes and
needs** for inclusion

in this year's list of lists.

Contact Meghan by Tue., Dec. 2 at

wishlist@austinchronicle.com.

wish & list
2008

austinchronicle.com

THE AUSTIN
CHRONICLE

THURSDAYS STUDENT BODY STRIP OFF

Over
\$400
in Cash
Prizes

21+ No Cover / Minors (18+ with ID): \$5 Before 11pm / \$10 After 11pm

Oilcan Harry's 211 W. 4th St. 512.320.8823 oilcanharrys.com

WEDNESDAY 26

LIVE AT THE DRIVE Austin's hunky leather bar continues free live music nights. This week: the Ramifications, Lux Divon, Mouse About. 10pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. Free. www.chain-drive.com.

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

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Godfather: Part II @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Blitzen Trapper Mohawk

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY 27



LBJ LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS Why not be thankful for our very own presidential library with its regular hours even on Thanksgiving? Check out the latest exhibit about the U.S. space program during the Sixties. 9am-5pm. Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, 2313 Red River, 721-0200. Free. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu.

OPERATION TURKEY Register online at www.operationturkey.com to help cook, package, and deliver food and clothing to the homeless. The goal is to help 3,500 people, so every hand helps. Won't volunteering feel better than a third helping of turkey? 9am-2pm. The Soup Peddler, 501 W. Mary, 373-7672; Bikini's Sport Bar & Grill, 6901 N. I-35, 454-2247.

THANKSGIVING YOGA Hatha yoga in the park. 11am. Butler District Park (between Riverside & Barton Springs Road). Donations appreciated. www.austinyogateacher.com.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Wayne Hancock Continental Club

now ...

TRANSFORMATIONS PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES Katy Koonce, LCSW, offers two transsexual support groups with a holistic approach. 329-6699. Donations accepted.

FOODIES Or as they in the know, whose love dare not speak its name, say: Women Who Love Women Who Love Food. Yuh huh. This legendary e-mail-based social network holds weekly meet-ups, private house parties, and special events for the lay-deez. Somebody has to. E-mail Kitty Poo-Poo to get on the list. beatsagogo@aol.com.

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

MY DINNER AT CHARLIE'S Well, now you never have to leave Charlie's, Austin's gay club right next to the Capitol dome, cuz every Monday through Friday, it's Charlie's Cafe for lunch (11am-2pm) and dinner (5-9pm). Then there are free burgers on Sundays, free tacos on Fridays, and one of the best steak nights around on Tuesdays. Nourishing in so many ways. Mon-Fri., 11am-2pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.

OUTDOOR YOGA Forget the studio. Try hatha yoga in lovely Butler District Park. See www.outdoor yoga.org for a schedule of instructors and the exact location. Sun-Fri., 5-6pm; Sat., 11am-noon. \$5 suggested donation.

NOMINATIONS FOR ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES are now being accepted. The National Trust for Historic Preservation compiles this annual list of threatened cultural and architectural heritage. The deadline for nominations is Fri., Dec. 5, so call or go online for more info. 202/588-6141. www.preservationnation.org/issues/11-most-endangered.

DONATIONS FOR WINTER SEASON With temperatures dropping, it's time to remember those without protection from the elements. New or gently used blankets, jeans, and coats are needed. Go online or call for more info. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.

CITIZENS AT LAST EXHIBITION The latest exhibit from the Capitol Visitors Center uses archival photos, newspapers, cartoons, and cards to show the history of the women's suffrage movement in Texas. Through Feb. 15. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

SANTA'S RANCH Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up to the North Pole. He's spending most of his time among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. Through Jan. 1, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels, 830/743-1293. \$20/car. www.santasranch.net.

PROJECT HOLIDAY HELP Perhaps this holiday season should be more about giving than getting. I think Charlie Brown said this, but it's true. LifeWorks helps make this a reality by pairing individuals with a child or family in need this year. You'll receive a wish list and be asked to spend between \$75 and \$150 per individual. Wrapped and tagged gifts are to be delivered to LifeWorks by Dec. 14. 735-2414. holidayhelp@lifeworksweb.org, www.lifeworksweb.org.

HOUSING MARKET STUDY SURVEY Help define Austin's housing needs by taking minutes out of your day to fill out the city's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office's online survey. www.cityofaustinhousingsurvey.com.

COATS FOR KIDS Bring new or gently used coats to any Jack Brown Cleaners location so they can be distributed to Central Texas youth in need of some warmth this season. Sign up your school or business in the coat-drive competition. Donations accepted through Dec. 3. Volunteer to help kids pick out the perfect coat on distribution day. To help, call 467-8982 x292. www.jlaustin.org/coats.

HOLIDAY KID'S ART SUBMISSIONS Kids can help themselves and Raise Me Up – an organization that helps foster kids in Central Texas – by submitting their art for sale. Whatever money is gained from the sale of the art is split between the child artist and Raise Me Up. E-mail brookiescookies@gmail.com for all the submission details. Entries must be received by Dec. 1. Pink Hair Salon & Gallery, 1204 S. Congress, 447-2888. www.raisemeup.org.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. If you weren't conserving already, now's the time to do it, because your money will be saved all year if you do. Go to www.cityofaustin.org/water/wvaverage to find out more or learn the specific dates for your averaging.

COMPUTER RECYCLING SERVICE Get rid of that obsolete computer the green way. Dell and Goodwill have teamed up to offer free recycling services for any brand of computer. Drop off the environment-offending hardware at any Goodwill store. www.reconnectpartnership.com.

CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR RETURNING VETERANS International Chiropractors Association and Dr. Rick Dowell of Central Chiropractic will be cracking spines of returning soldiers free of charge. Central Chiropractic Clinic, 3001 N. Lamar #201, 477-1020. www.central-chiropractic.com.

BECOME A PROJECT HELP SPONSOR Help Project HELP families in need this holiday season by sponsoring a family yourself. You can provide them with a Christmas meal as well as presents from their wish list (gifts must be wrapped, name-tagged, and dropped off by Wed., Dec. 10, 3pm). Cash donations are also welcome. Call for details. Alternative Learning Center Campus, Bldg. 451, 901 Neal, 414-0759.

YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES Military families across the nation can capitalize on a free membership to the YMCA of their choice courtesy of the Department of Defense. Go online for more on this armed-services outreach initiative. YMCAs around Austin. www.asymca.org, www.austinyymca.org.

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (April 22), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them it's for Coats for Cubs). Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.

BROWN SANTA needs volunteers to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to Travis County families this holiday season. If you'd like to participate, call 24-SANTA. Brown Santa is also accepting donations of nonperishable food items, books, unwrapped toys (new), and cash, which you may drop off at the warehouse or mail to: Brown Santa, PO Box 207, Austin, TX, 78767-0207. (You may also donate online at www.brownsanta.org.) Brown Santa Warehouse, 15400 Long Vista Dr. #101.

CANS FOR KERBEY Bring in two cans of food for the Capital Area Food Bank, and receive \$1 off your meal. A dollar from the sale of cookies will also help feed hungry Austinites. Through Thanksgiving Day. All four Central Texas Kerbey Lane Cafe locations. www.kerbeylanecafe.com.

SCHOOLS FOR IKE VICTIMS The Austin Independent School District is looking for children's clothing and school supplies for students who were affected by Hurricane Ike. Drop them off at Baker Administration Center, 3908 Ave. B, Rm. 204, between 8am and 4pm on weekdays. The deadline for donations is Jan. 30.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH Help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology track the movements of birds throughout Central Texas. Sign up online, get an instructional handbook and bird-identifying poster, and watch those bird feeders. Report the species and number of flying visitors, and get your data collected and analyzed. You could be part of the next bird breakthrough. 800/843-2473. \$15. www.feederwatch.org.

... & later

UDHIYA/QURBANI MEAT DRIVE The Muslim American Society of Austin offers shares of meat to be purchased with the animals being slaughtered according to custom. A third of the meat will be available for pickup on Dec. 20, and the rest goes to needy members of the community. \$160. www.masaustin.org.

TRAIL OF LIGHTS RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS The Trail of Lights (like the city of Austin) is trying to go zero waste. You can help by volunteering to be an "environmental ambassador," aka a helper who shows people where to recycle while the crowds are awed by the lights. E-mail to sign up yourself or a group, as shifts are filling up. rebecca.hays@ci.austin.tx.us, www.cityofaustin.org/tol.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



Charity Ridpath (l) and Patsy Izaguirre

JEFFREY HOLMES BROWN

BY THOMAS HACKETT *playingthrough*

“Shotgun!” I called out, unnecessarily. It was force of habit.

Most of the cars in the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired’s recent Braille Rallye were those round little three-cylinder Smart Cars you first started seeing last January, with room for only one passenger – a student at the school who would be translating directions for braille for a volunteer driver.

The car **Gordon Franzen** was driving also had a braille-reading navigator. But in addition to being blind, **Patsy Izaguirre**, 20, was deaf, which meant that she had to sign the directions, and that meant we’d need a translator, too, and a bigger car.

Now remember: Signing is a visual language, but Patsy can’t see, so instead, she signs by touch. That is, with her right hand, she read the directions – e.g., “Go straight on Burnet, and make a left at the Mazda dealership” – and with her left, she signed these detailed instructions into the right hand of her interpreter, **Charity Ridpath**. Patsy and Charity needed to be seated side by side, in other words, holding hands. Additionally, Patsy’s BFF, **Amanda Houston**, 18, was joining us. Since Amanda is also deaf and blind, Charity sat between the two girls in the cramped back seat of Gordon’s Honda. On the one hand, she “listened” to Patsy, and on the other (I’m speaking literally here), she passed along whatever Patsy said to Amanda.

It was through this delicate hand-holding that the three young women navigated Gordon, a retired high school principal, through the streets of Northwest Austin in a

timed road rally, competing against 20 other students at the school. For my part, the only thing I was good for was giving other drivers the finger.

Amanda might have managed that part, too, but that’s not the way she rolls. She believes in staying positive. “Go fast!” she immediately told Gordon. And whenever we got lost, she just kept telling us, “We’re going to win a big prize!”

“Neither of these girls get discouraged, ever,” says Charity, who, as a residential specialist at the school, works constantly with Amanda and Patsy. “They’re used to life being a struggle, so they’re good at keeping positive, at thinking, ‘OK, we’re lost – how can we get unlost?’ And if they’re still lost, they laugh and make a joke of it and still have a great time.”

“I get excited about winning,” Patsy said afterward, “but I’ve learned about being a nice winner, because it makes other people feel happy.”

No argument here. And no surprise, either, that Amanda and Patsy are members of the school’s pep club. Between the two of them, they have enough pep to fuel a large municipality. Aside from the simple exuberance of youth, I think a lot of that enthusiasm comes from the friendship the girls enjoy. As roommates, they can sit talking hand-in-hand for hours on end, gossiping, sharing their feelings, talking about boys – all the usual teenage girl stuff. It’s a giddy experience, having a friendship like that. It’s the prize Amanda and Patsy had already won.

Please write Mr. Hackett at playingthrough@austinchronicle.com.

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **KING OF KOMBAT 5: SEASONS BEATINGS** Mixed martial arts returns to the Crockett Center with Seasons Beatings featuring UFC and IFL veteran **Sam “the Alaskan Assassin” Hoger**, current elite XC superstar **Dave “Pee Wee” Herman**, Austin’s **Matt Thompson**, and for the first time in Texas mixed martial arts history, jujitsu black belts **Dave “the Rock Star” Phillips** and Brazil’s **Rodrigo Pinheiro**. Thirteen bouts in all (subject to change). **Sat., Nov. 22, 8pm (6pm doors)**. Crockett Center, 10601 N. Lamar. \$25-150. www.kingofkombat.com.

★ **FIGHT NIGHT** There are eight bouts on the card with the main boxing event featuring pugilist **Adauto “Gallito” Gonzalez** (9-5, 4 KOs) defending his Texas Super Featherweight belt against **Miguel Delgado** (3-8, 3 KOs). *Chronicle* readers are eligible for discounted tickets; see austinchronicle.com/sports for details. **Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30pm**. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$20-100 (military and group discounts available, charge by phone at 477-6060 or 800/982-2386). www.texasboxoffice.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** Amarillo looks to repeat as 5A champs. See website for bracket info. **Thu.-Sat., Nov. 20-22, 9am (1pm Thursday)**. Strahan Coliseum, Texas State University, San Marcos. \$5-25. www.uil.utexas.edu.

ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY Men’s Basketball Vs. Concordia (Texas): **Fri., Nov. 21, 7pm**. Vs. Concordia (Alabama): **Tue., Nov. 25, 8pm**. www.stedwards.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men’s Basketball Vs. Hardin-Simmons: **Tue., Nov. 25, 7pm**. **Women’s Basketball** Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: **Sat., Nov. 22, 3pm**. Vs. Hardin-Simmons: **Tue., Nov. 25, 5pm**. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Football For more on this, see austinchronicle.com/sports. Vs. Texas A&M: **Thu., Nov. 27, 7pm**. **Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium**. **Women’s Basketball** Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi: **Thu., Nov. 20, 7pm**. Vs. Furman: **Sun., Nov. 23, 2pm**. **Erwin Center, 1701 Red River**. **Men’s and Women’s Swimming** Vs. Washington: **Fri., Nov. 21, all day**. Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. **Women’s Volleyball** Vs. Kansas: **Sat., Nov. 22, 6:30pm**. Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. www.texasports.com.

UT HOCKEY The Longhorn hockey team can fill your local hockey void now that the Ice Bats are gone and the Texas Stars won’t drop the puck till 2009. Vs. Robert Morris: **Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22, 8pm**. Chaparral Ice, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$5 (\$2 students; kids under 6 free). www.texasicehockey.com.

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

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB Volleyball and bowling seasons are currently open for registration. All leagues are coed with happy-hour fun following all games. www.austinsc.com.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin’s most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month, including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. **Mon., Nov. 24, 6:30pm**. *Opal Divine’s at Penn Field*, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.

TURKEY SHOOTOUT 3 ON 3 MEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAY Teams (of three to six players) start the day with round-robin play and end with a single-elimination tourney. Each team is guaranteed five games. One player from each team will participate in the free-throw and 3-point contests. **Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30am**. *Austin Sports Center*, 1420 Toro Grande Blvd., Cedar Park, 512/260-0333. \$90 per team. www.austinsportscenter.com.

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. This month is a gear swap meet. Price your outdoor gear or add it to the free table. **Tue., Nov. 25, 6:30pm**. LCRA Red Bud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm. 225. www.townaustin.org.

FREE WORKOUT FOR MOMS & KIDS is open to mothers and kids of all fitness levels and ages with exercises that are safe for pregnant and recently postpartum women. Participants will go to **Blue Dog Rescue, Any Baby Can, and SafePlace**. Please RSVP **Sat., Nov. 22, 10am**. *Butler Park*, 1006 Barton Springs Rd., 428-5673. Donations encouraged. www.totalmommyfitness.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

RUNSMART LEVEL ONE CLINIC is a four-hour camp based on the book *RunSmart: A Comprehensive Approach to Injury-Free Running*. **Sun., Nov. 23, 9am**. *Smart Sport International*, 1109-B S. Congress, 914-0871. \$60 (includes a copy of the book). www.smartsport.info.

THANKFUL TURKEY 5K RUN & WALK Run the race; win a turkey. The Top 3 male and female runners in each age division and the male and female wheelchair winners will receive: first place, a turkey; second place, a ham; third place, a pie. **Sat., Nov. 22, 8am**. *River Ridge Business Park*, San Marcos, I-35 & River Ridge Parkway, 512/753-6920. \$20 (\$17 for Texas State students). home.centurytel.net/bluebonnetions/tt5k/index.html.

★ **THUNDERCLOUD SUBS TURKEY TROT** In its 18th year, this event is chip timed for the serious runner and is also a good ol’ family-friendly event open to all ages and skill levels. There’s a Kids K and one-mile walk, plus games, arts & crafts, snacks, and more. Proceeds benefit **Caritas of Austin**. **Thu., Nov. 27, 8:30am**. *Waterloo Park*, 403 E. 15th, 479-8805. www.thundercloud.com/turkeytrot.htm.

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Send submissions to POB 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

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

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

BY NICK BARBARO *soccer watch*

The **UT Longhorns** won their first game in the NCAAs, beating Washington State, 1-0, then were ousted, 2-0, by the host **Portland Pilots**, who outshot UT 22-4 and dominated play despite having three starters off in Chile, playing for the U.S. in the Under-20 Women’s World Cup. It was the third time in five years that the Pilots have ended UT’s season in the NCAAs. (Speaking of youth World Cups, the U.S. lost to North Korea, 2-1, in the final of the U-17 Women’s World Cup on Sunday in New Zealand.)

And so, suddenly, the local college soccer season is over, though elsewhere it goes on. **Texas A&M** was the only Texas or Big 12 team to make it through the first weekend in Division I; they’re at Florida on Sunday. **Texas A&M-Commerce** advanced to the final 16 in Women’s Division II. Still alive on the men’s side: Wichita Falls’ **Midwestern State** in Division II and unbeaten **Trinity** of San Antonio in Division III. No Texas teams qualified in Men’s Division I.

The **Austin Aztex** have announced a pair of weekend soccer camps for the holiday season: Dec. 22-24 at West Austin Youth Association and Dec. 29-31 at the Quarries; see www.austinaztex.com for more info.

Aztex affiliate **Stoke City** lost their unbeaten streak in a big way on Saturday, getting trounced at Manchester United, 5-0. This week they host last-place West Brom; that game is on FSC, delayed at 7pm Saturday.

Australia, Japan, and South Korea all made big steps toward qualifying for **World Cup 2010** out of Asia on Wednesday, with shutout road wins in the Middle East. That (and six CONCACAF games after press time Wednesday night) marked the last major international action of the year.

Champions League game day five is Nov. 25-26. ESPN2 has Man. U at Villarreal Tuesday and Chelsea at Bordeaux Wednesday, both at 1:30pm.

The **MLS Cup Final** this Sunday (Nov. 23, at 2:30pm on ABC) pits regular season champ Columbus Crew against the surprising New York Red Bulls, who are acting like they suddenly remember how to play football.

arts listings



Ophelia | Blue Theater, through Nov. 23
Running time: 1 hr, 35 min

When delivering the tragic news of Ophelia's death in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Queen Gertrude calls her "one incapable of her own distress."

Indeed, dealt the double loss of lover and father, bereft of the men who

made decisions for her since she was born, Ophelia's descent into madness – and death – has been often discussed but not nearly as often questioned. Or, as in the case of Tutto Theatre Company's *Ophelia*, completely retold.

From Tom Stoppard to John Updike to Austin's Refraction Arts, the totemic tale of Hamlet has been retold many times (not to mention the countless times it's been straight-up told). So whither Ophelia? As the girls put it, *Hamlet* was never Ophelia's story. More than deconstruct the tragedy of the prince, writer/director Dustin Wills deconstructs the tragic figure of Ophelia. He's found her character and arc broken into five pieces: in love, impassioned, on edge, undone, and in water. Instead of seeing the Ophelia we're used to in the nunnery scene or going mad in front of the court, we see these five parts of Ophelia working out their problems and desires behind the scenes.

So five Ophelias try to figure out this girl/woman/love/royalty/power/father/mother thing called *Hamlet* and fall one by one as the story moves past each's moment in the hierarchy. The ladies form a truly formidable Fab Five of Ophelias, a gaggle of gals at times brimming with sexual excitement, at times being sisterly, at times throwing ideas and concerns at one another. One at a time, they interact with Hamlet and Polonius (both played by the talented Gabriel Luna), then work through their trapped, tricky situations with the other facets of their character.

This may sound esoteric, but Wills' stellar direction keeps it mesmerizing throughout. *Ophelia* is full of so many wonderful moments and images

right from the get-go, when the Ophelias harmonize Gertrude's speech about Ophelia's death. They dance wildly together, Hamlet leaps across the stage, books are hurled, women writhe, pants are taken off – things aren't just happening; they are *happening*, dynamically, all the time. With a shallow pond, five chairs, five ladders, ropes festooning the ceiling, and a wall full of love notes, the set is a playground that the cast romps around.

Ophelia is a terrific blend of simple and complex pleasures: A creepy, synchronized dance that marks the exit of one Ophelia is followed by another unabashedly crowing like a rooster to mark the next day. The electricity of the nunnery scene is balanced by the gals crying, "Fuck yeah!" in unison when Hamlet kisses one of them. Retelling *Hamlet* through Ophelia's eyes could easily be pedantic, mired in metaphor, or boring, so perhaps Tutto's greatest success is telling Ophelia's tale so beautifully, so vibrantly.

This *Ophelia* differs from the character we know. She must act for herself, because she will never be afforded the time and power otherwise. Contrast this with Hamlet, who has the righteous, royal power to do anything and yet dawdles past the chance to choose. Here, Ophelia's successes are her own. So is her downfall, and that's certainly different than the tale we know.

This is the first review where I just don't feel I've done the show justice. There's so much to take in, provocative ideas and great moments and a zillion Shakespearean references that I can't include here. Simply said: *Ophelia* is riveting. – Avimaan Syam

theatre

OPENING

SYLVIA This Sylvia's no goat – this one's a dog. A dog that comes between a happily married couple in this A.R. Gurney comedy classic directed by Michael Stuart for Austin Playhouse. Featuring David Stahl, Bernadette Nason, and Zach Thompson, with Andrea Osborn as Sylvia. Nov. 21-Dec. 28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. No shows on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-30 (half-price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

CIRQUE DREAMS: JUNGLE FANTASY Here's the acclaimed international cast of 25 soaring aerialists, spine-bending contortionists, acrobats, jugglers, and musicians, enhanced by more than 150 spectacular costumes, with the action set in a phantasmagorical jungle. Yeah, it's that sort of awe-inspiring, senses-galvanizing show: Ooooooh, ahhhhh, and altogether lovely. Recommended. Nov. 25-30. Tue., 7:30pm; Wed., 2pm; Fri.-Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., noon & 5pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$25-65. www.thelongcenter.org.

CLOSING

OPHELIA Why should Hamlet's girlfriend get the short end of the dramatic stick? Well, she *shouldn't*, is the answer, and this new play from Tutto Theatre will make sure she doesn't, doing for her what Stoppard did for Rosencrantz & Guildenstern (albeit, we reckon, less comedically). Written and directed by Dustin Wills. (See review, left.) Through Nov. 23. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. \$12-15 (pay what you can, with donation of nonperishable canned food, Thursdays). www.tuttotheatre.org.

POLITICAL THEATRE Out in Bastrop, here is Sorcha Blaine's world premiere of a fictitious meeting between Mary Baker Eddy and John Wilkes Booth with asides by Abraham Lincoln, as directed by Chester Eitze. Through Nov. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Bastrop Opera House, 711 Spring St., Bastrop, 512/321-6283. \$7-10.

THE NINA VARIATIONS Gobotrick Theatre Company presents this world premiere from acclaimed playwright Stephen Dietz, in which two characters from Chekhov's *The Seagull* are given the chance to say all those things they perhaps should have said. Directed by Will Hollis Snider, with Rachel McGinnis as Nina and Aaron Hallaway as Treplev. Through Nov. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 708-1893. \$15 (\$12, students). www.gobotrick.org.

TUNA DOES VEGAS Joe Sears and Jaston Williams return as the lovable and eccentric characters from the "third smallest town in Texas" as they take an antic-filled vacation in the City of Sin. Through Nov. 23. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$27.50-57.50. www.austintheatre.org.

BACCHAE Austin Community College presents Euripides' classic tragedy that features women caught up in ritual madness who take to the hills in a frenzy of intoxication, sex, and, ultimately, violence in worship of the god of wine as he confronts young King

Pentheus of Thebes. (You know, kind of like spring break.) Directed by Arthur Adair. And there's a bit of nudity. Yay, nudity! Through Nov. 23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. ACC Mainstage Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3240. \$6. www.austince.edu/drama.

THREE SISTERS Anton Chekhov's 1901 family saga is replete with sexual heat, gambling addiction, murder, infidelity, magicians, wandering minstrels, and arson. Who could ask for anything more? Directed by Sheila Gordon. (See review, p.88.) Through Nov. 23. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8484. \$18 (\$15, in advance); \$12, students, seniors, St. Ed's community). www.stedwards.edu.

NOT NOW, DARLING The University Theatre Guild presents this cheeky English farce (by Ray Cooney and John Chapman) wherein a furrier's store becomes the intersection of wives and mistresses. Mayhem, yes, ensues. Fri.-Sun., Nov. 21-23, 7pm. UT's Art Bldg., 23rd & San Jacinto, 433-9041. \$7 (\$5, students). www.texasutg.org

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE Out in Leander, the Way Off Broadway Community Players present this Leonard Gershe classic about a young man in his first apartment and the actress who moves in next door and the maternal unit who comes between them. Through Nov. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Crystal Falls Playhouse, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/336-8966. \$15 (\$12, students, seniors; \$8, children). www.wobcp.org.

ONGOING

GETTING MARRIED Different Stages opens its new season with George Bernard Shaw's comedy about the institution, as well as the *superstitions*, of marriage. Directed by Norman Blumensaadt. Through Dec. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. (No show on Nov. 27). Extra show: Wed., Dec. 3, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.vortexrep.org.

DINNER THEATRE

LA CAGE VEGAS A panoply of female impersonators serves up this high drag spectacle evoking the likes of Cher, Liza Minelli, Diana Ross, Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand, and Donna Summer. Song! Dance! Enactments of classic movie scenes! Sequins! And, of course, dinner. Reservations required. Fri., Nov. 21, 8pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 696-2371. \$40. www.myspace.com/lacageaustin.

AUDITIONS

THE INTERVIEW Writer/director Dennis Paddie's looking to cast his one-act about a female reporter interviewing a male porn star, previously produced in this town several years ago and now back for another go. Want to audition? Give the man a call at 210/323-6858.

FENCES August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning tale of a Negro League ballplayer turned trash collector features painfully fractured family relationships and the best of Wilson's trademark dialogue and characters. Lisa Jordan directs for City Theatre. Call for appointment. Sat., Nov. 22, 10am-noon. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. www.citytheatreaustin.org.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 5 issue is Monday, Nov. 24.** 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.

CHRONIC

"I BET IT WAS A LOT MORE
**FUN BEING 'YES ON
PROP. 8'** WHEN IT JUST INVOLVED WRITING A CHECK AND NOT HAVING TO SAY OUT LOUD WHY YOU THINK GAY PEOPLE AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO GET MARRIED."
- Kimberley Jones

PICTURE IN PICTURE ON THE BOYCOTT OF THE **CINEMARK THEATRE** CHAIN AFTER **CEO ALAN STOCK WAS OUTED** AS A "YES ON PROP. 8" CONTRIBUTOR:

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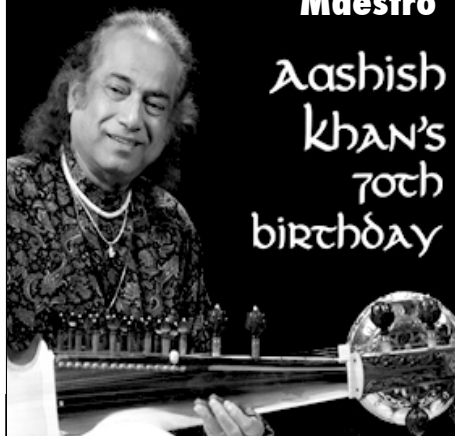


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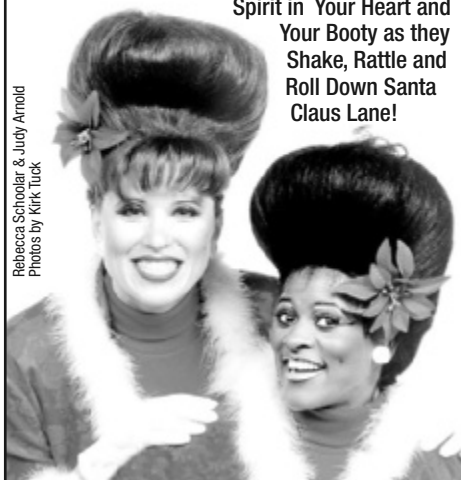
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The Three Sisters

Mary Moody
 Northern Theatre,
 through Nov. 23
 Running time: 2 hr, 35 min

When Marc Pouhé, a tall and regal man, strides onto the stage, you expect to see a commanding display of masculine authority. Instead, he opens his mouth and knows not what to say. He stammers out a few pleasantries, then attempts a quick exit. It is surprising, it is funny, and it sums up what is

essentially wonderful about the Mary Moody Northern Theatre production of Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* at St. Edward's University. When done well, Chekhov is hilarious. The humor is a necessary counterpart to the heart-break and suffering. Without it, you might wonder why you are being made to listen to these characters complain and philosophize. Though the titular sisters may spend much of the play talking about how miserable their lives are, it is clear to the audience that this world, brimming with life and peppered with surprises, is anything but tedious.

Moscow, Moscow, Moscow. It's all the sisters can talk or think or hope about. They lived there when they were young but then moved to a small, provincial town where, according to them, no one is educated or has amounted to anything. Because they plan to return to Moscow, the sisters keep putting life and happiness on hold. They pin all dreams to that elusive city, but for reasons unknown to the audience, the plans never work. The sisters therefore live in a self-inflicted and strangely privileged purgatory. They are wealthy and well-educated. Masha complains of being bored, yet she has an affair with the man she loves and treats her cuckolded husband like dirt. Olga complains of the promotion she will eventually receive. Irina glorifies the idea of work. She imagines it would be better to do manual labor than to, as she does, get up at noon and drink coffee in bed. It's not that there is no real suffering for them. Amazingly, the more they talk about their sorrow, the more real it becomes. As they wait for Moscow, their lives begin to shrivel.



BRET BROOKSHIRE

Sheila Gordon's direction weaves the layered world of this play into a cohesive and entertaining evening. The actors are well-suited to their roles. Ev Lunning Jr. is a wonderful Chebutykin, an army doctor who is everything from kind to drunk to numb over the course of the story. There is good chemistry between Pouhé's Vershinin and Dorothy Anne Bond's Masha. Steffanie Ngo-Hatchie makes a convincingly sweet Irina, and Julia Trinidad is a stalwart Olga. Nathan Osborn broods and charms as the Baron. Finally, the two villains, the brother who gambles away the family's money and his cruel wife, are excellently played by Austin D. Alexander and Lauren Hayes. Hayes is particularly enjoyable as she evolves from nervous country mouse to bitchy tyrant.

MMNT's production is smartly designed. There is a refined air to Michael Massey's intricate set, and Diana Duecker's lights evoke the feel of each passing season. (The play's four acts take place in spring, winter, summer, and autumn.) At times, things are a bit overworked. The staging and the set changes can be intricate to the point of distraction. The actors periodically get caught up in "acting" in order to meet the challenges of this famous text. But those are very minor things to complain about, and if Chekhov wants us to learn anything from his *Three Sisters*, it might be to stop complaining. Stop waiting for Moscow, and live life now! We must be happy with life as it actually is, and Chekhov done well is certainly one of the great joys to be found.

- Hannah Kenah

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

J.R. Brow Local boy makes good? Nah, local boy makes better in the case of seasoned laugh meister J.R. Brow, back at Cap City to battle that somnolent tryptophan for you. And **Bryan Gutman** opens. Nov. 25-29. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

Tig Notaro The popular touring and televised comedian's back, and she has a bundle of new laughs to brighten your night with. **Doug Mellard** opens. Nov. 20-22. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

Cap City Open Mic This gig ranges from "Who let these dipshits onstage?" to "Wow, this guy is awesome!" And, hey, it could be you up there, slaying your friends and neighbors. Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.

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

Improv Out the Wazoo **Parallelogramophonograph** brings the improv funny with **Murphy**. Thu., 8pm. Next, **Midnight Society** presents its sketch comedy showcase called **Airplane!** - like the movie, y'know? Thu., 10pm. **Proctor** features the **Faculty** and **Girltrap**. Fri., 8pm. **That Other Paper** presents **Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues. Fri., 10pm. **Stool Pigeon** features a local celeb jump-starting the improv shenanigans that ensue. This week: **NaNoWriMo** authors. Sat., 8pm. **Cage Match** Testicular gumption, that's what it takes. And wherewithal. Lemon-scented. Sat., 9pm. **Cold, Cold Improv** The ColdTowne house troupe dishes up a comedy conflagration for your entertainment, along with **Midnight Society**. Sat., 10pm.

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

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town returns with its riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and - *ail ail ail* - spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended*. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Joe Staadts**. Thursdays, 10pm.

Here's Chuck Watkins, Who Needs Turkey? Seriously, because the man is, like, *stuffed* with humor, and it twitches out of him like bad secrets at a family Thanksgiving. Except that Watkins is funny - 's what we mean by humor, get it? Also, Sean Mooney and Joe Staadts open. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

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

WAFFLEFEST! Yes, we put that exclamation point there. Because this annual event isn't just a compelling megaspasm of improv goodness all week-end long (although it's that, too); it's also an epicenter of, yes, waffles - waffles that are served up all fresh and toasted and bedecked with syrup and whipped cream, and they're all-you-can-eat with the price of admission. And what drooling idiot, we must wonder, wouldn't enjoy such tasty noms with his comedy? And here's the troupe lineup:

Thursday, Nov. 20: Gigglepants, You're Not My Real Dad, Improv for Evil, 8pm. Unfurled; You, Me and Greg; Girls Girls Girls, 10pm.

Friday, Nov. 21: The Knuckleball Now, Les McGehee Plays Well With Waffles, the Frank Mills, 8pm. ColdTowne, Curtis Needs a Ride, Get Up, 10pm.

Saturday, Nov. 22: Junk, Available Cupholders, Parallelogramophonograph, 8pm. All-Star Maestro, 10pm. \$10 per block of shows (includes waffles).

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK features the best comics in Austin, so they suggest - right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. Tuesdays, 10pm. *Hole in the Wall*, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5.

www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.

KICK BUTT COMEDY There's humor aplenty to be had where the beverages and snacks are always good, here in Gohring-sensei's martial-arts-inflected java joint. **ComedySportz Reunion Shows** Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cut-ups return to the stage with this series of tomfoolery. *Lesfoolery*, actually. Saturdays, 6pm. **Monday Night Mash: Improv** Mondays, 8pm. **Open Mic Comedy** Wednesdays, 8pm. *Kick Butt Coffee*, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.

LAST GAS COMEDY Stand-up comedy every Saturday. Sat., Nov. 22, 9pm. *Homer's Bar & Grill*, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.

dance

MCCALLUM FINE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE ACADEMY SHOW

Blue Lapis Light's Sally Jacques has been in residence at the Fine Arts Academy working with advanced dance majors. The result: a site-specific aerial ballet, as well as modern dance and classical Spanish dance works. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22, 7pm. *McCallum High School Theatre*, 5600 Sunshine. 414-7506. \$10 (\$5, students). www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum.

TWO LEFT FEET

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. *Dancers Workshop*, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. *Hills Fitness Center*, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES Unique, nontraditional twists on standard favorites like Ballet NEXT, L.A. Street Jazz, Cardio Jamz, Cardio Strip-Hop, and more. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone*, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAGON Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations*, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.

ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES Andrea Ariel teaches modern dance to students of all levels. Please call for more information. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. *Khabele Studio*, 701 W. Seventh, 458-4258. \$12 drop-in/\$10 class card.

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. *Quicksilver Dance Center*, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100, 327-2869. First class free.



TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY ACADEMY: POLLY MOTLEY Guest choreographer Motley leads a pair of workshops: one for finding new movement and experimenting with your own personal style, the other for "mature art makers" of all disciplines that focus on performance. Check the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. www.tapestry.org.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

BELLY DANCE WITH FINGER CYMBALS Stacey Lizette teaches all levels of dancers, using different cymbal rhythms with a focus on fluidity of hand and arm movements. (Finger cymbals are available for purchase or loan.) *Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.*

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar, 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.*

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.*

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). Times and prices vary. See the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

TANGO CLASS AND DEMONSTRATION *Sun., Nov. 23, 5:24-2772. Free. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.*

FLAMENCO CLASSES Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. 923-3270.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. Beginner: *Saturdays, noon-1pm.* Intermediate: *Saturdays, 1-2:30pm. 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.*

BELLY DANCE WITH LILY *Through Nov. 20. Thursdays, 8-9pm. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock, 560-0070. \$15 per class. www.lilybellydance.com.*

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3 donation. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

NIA CLASSES The Nia technique is an energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. First class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbuttcffee.com.*

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$5 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

| "JUST FOR YOU," THE EXCELLENT INAUGURAL EXHIBITION AT BIRDHOUSE GALLERY, FEATURES NEW WORK BY JEN FROST-SMITH, KYLE GREENAN, KEVIN C. FOOTE, MICHAEL EGGERT, AMBER VICKERY, AND MORE. OPENING RECEPTION THIS FRIDAY.

classical music

OPENING

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: NOONDAY CONCERT This lunch-hour concert features Michael Schneider, classical piano. A light lunch is served after the concert (reservations required by 10am on concert day; if e-mailing, please write "Lunch" in the subject line). *Thu., Nov. 20, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free (\$5, with lunch; \$3, children). www.cpccaustin.org.*

CONSPIRARE YOUTH CHOIRS: UNTRAVELED WORLDS This rather personal performance offers songs from the diverse cultures of the young singers and their families. *Nov. 21-22. Fri-Sat., 7pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 476-5775. \$10 (\$5, ages 6-17; free, ages 5 and younger). www.conspirare.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: DIRECTOR'S CHOICE Great concert-band music, featuring works by Bach and Holst and an assortment of contemporary composers. *Sat., Nov. 22, 8pm. Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman, 345-7420. \$10 (\$6, seniors, students). www.asband.org.*

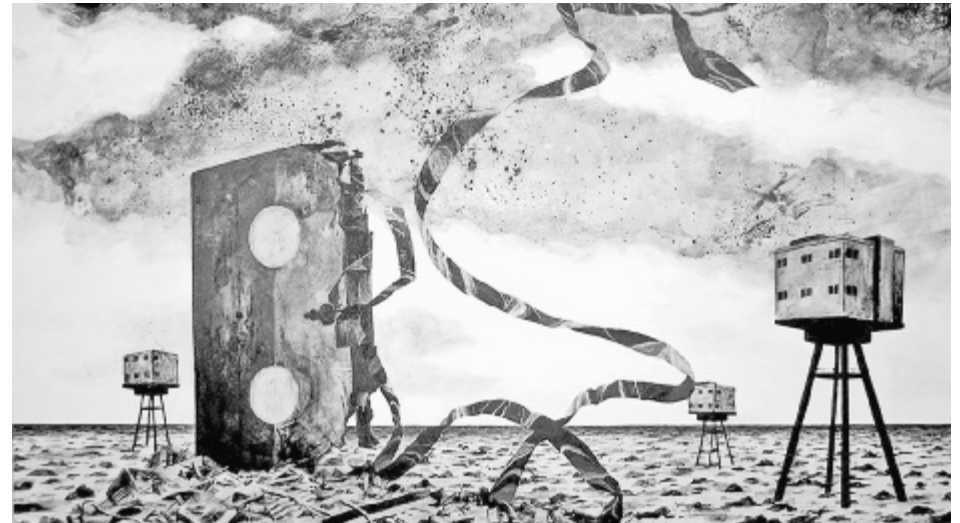
ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: ST. CECILIA SING! St. Edward's Madrigals and Hilltopper Chorale perform a concert of sacred works during the noon hour of this daylong celebration of St. Cecilia, the patroness of music and the arts. *Sat., Nov. 22, 12:30pm. St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd., 428-1297. Free (\$10, registration for the whole daylong festival).*

SANGEET MILLENNIUM: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS This celebration of Aashish Khan's 70th birthday sees one of the world's finest sarode players return to Austin. The Sangeet Millennium Ensemble opens. *Sat., Nov. 22, 8pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100 (in Lincoln Village Shopping Center), 448-2149. \$25-35 (\$15, in advance; \$10, students). www.sangeetmillennium.org.*

SALON CONCERTS: INSTRUMENTAL MAGNETISM Brian Lewis, violin; Robert Rudié, violin; Bruce Williams, viola; Douglas Harvey, cello; and Rick Rowley, piano, perform works by Brahms, Bach, Martinu, and Kapralova and a Kathryn Mishell world premiere. A one-hour excerpted Rush Hour concert is also scheduled. *Nov. 23-24. Sun., 4:30pm; Mon., 7:30pm. A private home (directions given with reservation). \$35. Rush Hour concert: Tue., Nov. 25, 6pm. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. 989-0539. Free. www.salonconcerts.org.*

EVA AMSLER FLUTE RECITAL The guest flutist will perform a recital featuring works by Mozart, Bloch, Faure, and Hindemith. *Mon., Nov. 24, 7pm. Concordia University Chapel, 11400 Concordia University Dr. Free. www.concordia.edu.*

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Bach Cantata Project UT faculty and student musicians present a monthly Bach Cantata selection, along with a short description of the work. This month: *Wachet! Betet! Betet! Wachet!* BWV 70 by J.S. Bach; John Wiles conducts. *Tue., Nov. 25, noon. Blanton Museum of Art, Congress & MLK. \$7 (\$5, seniors; \$3 students; free, members, current UT ID-holders, ages 11 and younger). www.music.utexas.edu.*



visual arts

EVENTS

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR The annual tour of East Austin artists' studios makes this weekend the perfect opportunity to expose yourself to culture and craft. See "Welcome to My Studio," p.46, for much more information. *Sat-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 10am-5pm. All over the Eastside. www.eastaustinstudiotour.com.*

ROI JAMES OPEN STUDIO Recently completed miniature paintings. *Sat., Nov. 22, 6-11pm. 3620 Bee Caves Rd. Ste. C.*

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Ursula Davila-Villa, interim curator of Latin-American Art, leads a gallery talk about the **New York Graphic Workshop**. *Thu., Nov. 20, 12:30pm.* An evening of artistic inspiration featuring yoga in the gallery, WorkSpace discussion, and book club. *Thu., Nov. 20, 5-9pm.* The Bach Cantata Project. *Tue., Nov. 25, noon. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

EAST AFTERPARTY This third annual party-after-the-tour features much art (visual and performance), KOOP's DJ Dennis Campa, live music from Attic Ted, DD Dagger, Candie & the Cavities, and beaucoup brewskis from St. Arnold's while you mix and mingle 'til 'round midnight. *Sat., Nov. 22, 5pm-12mid. G-Spot, 500 W. O'Dell.*

PROJECT TRANSITIONS 20th ANNIVERSARY

Holiday Swing

Join the Board of Directors of Project Transitions for an evening of celebration in support of individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

20th Anniversary HOLIDAY SWING
Saturday December 6, 2008
8pm-Midnight

Dell Jewish Community Campus
 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, TX

\$55 Advance • \$65 Door
Silent Auction • Special Drawing

Sponsorship now available online at:
www.ProjectTransitions.org

OPENING

BIRDHOUSE GALLERY: JUST FOR YOU New work by Jen Frost-Smith, Kyle Greenan, Kevin C. Foote, Michael Eggert, Amber Vickery, and more. *Fri., Nov. 21, 7-11pm. 1304 E. Cesar Chavez. Free. www.birdhousegallery.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY New paintings by Augusto Brocca. Also, award-winning sculptor Gary Yarrington is exhibiting his bronze baroque horses. *Nov. 21-Dec 12. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

MEXIC-ARTE: CREADO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Gráfico, an independent network of Latino printmaking centers, explores the centers' diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. Reception: *Sat., Nov. 22, 7-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through March 1, 2009. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: DARK AND LEAFLESS New York-based painter Benjamin Butler presents new paintings that reflect his continued interest in combining varying modes of 20th century abstraction with those of the decorative arts, folk art, and

"Sunday" painting. Reception: *Sat., Nov. 22, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Jan. 10, 2009. 360 Nueces Ste. C. www.lorareynolds.com.*

CRL: PROSPECT This juried group exhibition showcases spatially inspired art by UT students, faculty, and alumni. Reception: *Sat., Nov. 22, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 13. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

ART PALACE: I DROVE THE MOTHER ROAD HOME TO THE PROMISED LAND A solo exhibition of new work by San Antonio-based artist Justin Boyd. Reception: *Sat., Nov. 22, 8-10pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 20. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.*

CLOSING

BREAKING FREE This exhibition by VSA Arts of Texas presents the work of three Texas artists with disabilities. *Through Nov. 24. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.*

ONGOING

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

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: WONDROUS INSTRUMENTS Take a curator-led tour, and see homemade, odd, or rare musical instruments, exotic tools of the trade, miraculous and magical objects, weird gadgets that "Make Life Easier," and more as this intimate museum presents its latest gathering of precious wonderments for your amusement and edification. *Through Dec. 19. MNAE, 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. \$4. www.mnae.org.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth.*

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

ART ON 5TH: WHIMSICAL TEXAS Vicki Bruner's parodies of social custom are created in watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and pencil. *Through Nov. 30. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.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.pablataboadastudio.com.*

ARTHOUSE: RAPTURE IN RUPTURE Curator Elizabeth Dunbar presents new works by Lauren Kelley, Shiri Mordechay, Mindy Shapero, and Nicolau Vergueiro. *Through Jan. 11, 2009. 700 Congress, 453-5312. Free. www.arthousestexas.org.*

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. *1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.com.*

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

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. *Through March 8, 2009. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

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



L - R: '#138 PYRACANTHA' BY STELLA ALESI | 'ALL THE TIME' BY DAVID LEONARD | 'FRACTAL' BY MIRANDA GRAY

'The Living'

Davis Gallery
Through Nov. 29

What's alive? A plant, a person. A city, a system. A thing that changes to display, over time, reactions to the other living things in the world around it.

Observe what's alive, snap a photo with your mind's sharpest Hasselblad, and transfer that image via precise brushes and well-orchestrated pigments to a surface of two lucky dimensions. They're very lucky, those dimensions, if the artists doing the painting are the ones featured at Davis Gallery's current exhibition, because those artists are Stella Alesi, Miranda Gray, and David Leonard.

Alesi's new works expand her past mastery of living flora and bring, in canvas after canvas, a splendor of photo-real foliage most often heralded by a profusion of fiery pyracantha berries (although the sweet green of occasional loquats serves to cool that incarnadine blaze). A diversity of sizes makes up this latest Alesi selection, each painting seeming a vibrant square carved directly from the air in which the artist experienced it.

Leonard's large scenes eschew the arboreal completely, his deft brush instead capturing the human-built magnificence and constrained chaos of the modern city. New York, Austin, and ... is that San Francisco? The metropolitan densities, the peopled and vehicled hub-urbs captured with their guards down, their ineluctable structures rising to occlude an ever-shrinking sky. What pyracantha could hope to contest the

argument of a traffic light whose most urgent red can nonetheless never halt the growth of the concrete (and steel and glass) jungle that surrounds it?

Gray's an atomy compared to the bigness of her co-exhibitors, working in tricky egg tempera to create images no less realistic yet consistently much smaller – tinier than this tabloid page – and sometimes arranged with a personal, cryptic purpose in mind. Even her straightforward portraits of people or their pets, her depictions of objects tangential to them, are framed by meticulously rendered patterns of ornamental intricacy. And when those human portraits have their heads replaced (as they do in several depictions) by a set of crafting tools or a cactus or an array of graphic novels, what are we to think? We might think – noting that the foremost of the graphic novels in the portrait called *Fractal* is Brian K. Vaughan and artist Pia Guerra's *Y: The Last Man* – about what it means to be the last man alive and about what it means to be alive at all, among the living, among those creatures fortunate enough to spend time in this ceaseless world and in a venue that holds such two-dimensional delights as the Davis Gallery does right now.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.KEEPaustinweird.com.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: SYDNEY YEAGER Yeager's bright paintings continue to evolve with new angular representations of movement and energy. *Through Dec. 13. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: THE LIVING Gorgeous new paintings by Stella Alesi, Miranda Gray, and David Leonard. Seriously, these works could define "gorgeous" as it relates to the natural world. (See review, p.90.) *Through Nov. 29. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

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

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: STEADFAST Works by John Cobb, Jana Swec, Christopher Fitzgerald, and Marc Silva who all stay the course with craftsmanship and technique. *Through Nov. 29. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ARCHIVE The HRC's newest exhibition draws on the center's extensive holdings to provide a comprehensive look at archives, the archival process, and the culture surrounding archives. Literary documents! A video of Mike Wallace interviewing Salvador Dalí! Thrills! Chills! Acid-free paper! *Through Jan. 4, 2009. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE Eleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display through the gardens. *Through Jan. 31, 2009. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

SCREENED EXPRESSIONS: SERIE PROJECT RETROSPECTIVE On display: selected prints from among the 80 artists who have participated in the project (founded by Sam Coronado) during the last decade and a half. *Through Nov. 29. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. www.cityofaustin.org/macc.*

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

NEW EAST GALLERY: LOCATION: BODY DiverseArts presents the newest multimedia works by Gary Schott and Sarah Sudhoff. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

PROJEX GALLERY: PHILIP TRUSSELL The artist's new works, with jewelry by Beth McElhaney. *Through Nov. 30. 1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.*

PUMP PROJECT: THE BODY IN ART Paintings and drawings from the Night Moves Figurative Drawing Group. 702 Shady Ln. www.pumpproject.org.

REAL GALLERY: MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP Members' holiday art exhibition. 2824 Real, 775-0458. www.artworksykathiherrin.com.

SLUGFEST: SQUEAK CARNWATH "Mixing It Up" is a collection of prints, as organized by Tracy Bosche, by this internationally renowned artist. Recommended. *Through Nov. 30. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204. www.slugfestprints.com.*

THE ALCHEMY: DAVID MACK'S KABUKI Sequential images in mixed-media collages of watercolor paintings, delicate drawings, and text are highlighted as writer and artist Mack presents the original artwork related to *Kabuki: The Alchemy*, the most recent volume of his graphic novel series for Marvel Comics. *Through Dec. 10. St. Ed's Art Gallery, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8740. www.stedwards.edu.*

WALLY WORKMAN: RESURRECTION New original works of great texture and depth by Dwain Kelley. *Through Nov. 29. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART: 3 NEW ARTISTS Unique work from Mike Egan, Fort Guerin, and Billy Kirkland. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

SPACES

AMPLIFY CREDIT UNION hosts "Singing the Blues: Art in One Hue." Artist talk: *Fri., Dec. 5, 5:30pm.* Closing reception: *Sat., Jan. 10, 2009, 11am. 2608 Brockton.*

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

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT 102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.

GAY FAY KELLY ART: JERRY DEFRESE Call for appointment. *Through Nov. 28. 1811 W. Eighth, 917-0133. www.gayfaykellyart.com.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

LEAGUE STUDIO: WEFUSE Oil paintings by Martha and Mindy League. *Through Dec. 6. 401 Congress, 473-4343. www.frostbank.com.*

AISD ART FACULTY: NEW WORKS Molding creative minds by day and creating their own works by night. *Through Dec. 5. 617 Congress, 476-0473. www.thehideout.org.*

LITTLE CITY: ENTANGLEMENT Art by J. Lowry Doyle. 916 Congress, 476-2489. [Free. www.jlowrydoyle.com.](http://www.jlowrydoyle.com)

BART FARAR: JACKALOPE MYSTERY THEATRE Recent works by this excellent artist in watercolor, ink, and pencil on wood. *Through Nov. 30. 604 Neches, 477-1268.*

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ATELIER 3-D: SEEKING PRESENTERS The studio needs working sculptors who are willing to present their art to a small, highly interested group of local sculptors and artists. *Thursdays, 2-4pm. 701 Tillery, 385-1115. www.atelier3-d.com.*

HELIOS KILN GLASS STUDIO: CLASSES AND DEMONSTRATIONS Learn while they burn at this professional studio. 10700 Anderson Mill Rd., 996-0960. www.heliosglass.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ESTEEMED POET LI-YOUNG LEE Lee's great-grandfather was China's first republican president, and his father, a deeply religious Christian, was physician to Mao Tse-Tung. Lee is the author of *Book of My Nights*, the 2002 William Carlos Williams Award winner; *The City in Which I Love You*, the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection; and *Rose*, which won the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award. *Tue., Nov. 25, 3:30pm. Southwestern Writers Collection, Alkek Library, Texas State University, San Marcos.*

BRENDAN SHORT debuts his *Dream City*, a story about the power of good and evil in a man's search for every single Big Little Book in existence. A fine product of the Michener writing program. *Tue., Nov. 25, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

NASTARAN KHERAD offers a memoir of life in Ayatollah Khomeini's theocracy, in her dramatic *In the House of My Bibi: Growing Up in Revolutionary Iran*. *Mon., Nov. 24, 5:30pm. Follett's Intellectual Property, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007. www.intellectualpropertyaustin.com.*

A COMMUNITY OF POETS Texas poets reading Texas poetry, hosted by Dave Parsons. Featured poets include Bob Ayres, Ken Fontenot, Ralph Hausser, W. Joe Hoppe, David Meischen, Scott Wiggerman, Ric Williams, Nancy Fierstien, Zara Houshmand, Cindy Huyser, Marcelle Kasprovicz, Judy Jensen, Christa Pandey, and Deb Akers. *Sun., Nov. 23, 4pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

RAMON MONCIVAIS presents his *Beneath the Shadow of the Capitol and Voices From the Classroom*. *Sat., Nov. 22, 11am-2pm. Borders South, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974.*

PEOPLE UNITED features Texas environmental and anti-war activist Diane Wilson on her new memoir about her Pentecostal upbringing, *Holy Roller: Growing Up in the Church of Knock Down, Drag Out; or, How I Quit Loving a Blue-Eyed Jesus*. Allan Campbell hosts, with a regular commentary by Rahul



JOIN THE CLEVER AND LITERARY GEEKS OF LOCAL SCI-FI ZINE 'SPACE SQUID' AT FRUGAL MEDIA THIS FRIDAY.

Mahajan. *Friday, Nov. 21, 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.*

BORDERLANDS BOOK LAUNCH *Texas Poetry Review* launches issue No. 31, edited by Deb Akers. Featured readers include Christopher Cessac, Dale Cottingham, Ralph Hausser, Zara Houshmand, Del Marie Rogers, Robert Wynne, Eric James Cruz, George Klawitter, and others. Always recommended. *Fri., Nov. 21, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.*

SUSAN MEREDITH presents her *Beyond Light Bulbs*. *Fri., Nov. 21, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

BEHOLD THE COMING OF SPACE SQUID! Austin's coolest science-fiction magazine throws a party featuring readings with a theme of Optimism, Hope, and Alien Autopsies. (There's free beer, coffee, cupcakes, and Wi-Fi, too.) Oh, yeah. *Fri., Nov. 21, 4pm. Frugal Media, 5400 N. Lamar #103, 929-3800 x1008. www.frugalmedia.com.*

ACC'S FACULTY & STAFF WRITERS SHOWCASE features poet and memoirist Patrick Collins, poet and critic Carrie Fountain, poet and painter David Thornberry, and writer and filmmaker Luke Garza. *Thu., Nov. 20, 7pm. ACC South Austin campus, 1820 W. Stassney. Free.*

JOHN GROGAN furthers his memoir adventures with his *The Longest Trip Home*. *Thu., Nov. 20, 7:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

STEVEN HOELSCHER AND ERIKA BSUMEK explore the meeting of Native American and Anglo culture as expressed in tourism, consumer culture, arts and crafts, and photography. Hoelscher's *Picturing Indians* focuses on the work of H.H. Bennett. Bsumek's *Indian Made: Navajo Culture in the Marketplace 1868-1940* unravels the layers of meaning that surround the branding of "Indian made." *Thu., Nov. 20, 5:30pm. Follett's Intellectual Property, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007. www.intellectualpropertyaustin.com.*

M.T. ANDERSON sequels *The Pox Party* with his latest, *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II: The Kingdom of the Waves*. Reservations required via e-mail. *Fri., Nov. 21, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. rsvp@bookpeople.com.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival series, part one, with Naomi Shihab Nye discussing poetry and class. *Saturdays, Channel 16. Call ACTV at 478-6800 x10 for exact airtimes.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

SPIRITUALITY GROUP peers into the *Dark Nights of the Soul* by Thomas Moore. *Thu., Nov. 20, 1pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

NEW & NOTEWORTHY CLUB goes all 20th century retro with *Paris 1919* by Margaret MacMillan. *Mon., Nov. 24, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

A WORLD LIT: THE FLAME OF LITERATURE strikes *After Dark* by Haruki Murakami. *Thu., Nov. 20, 7pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680.*

SPICEWOOD SPRINGS MYSTERY CLUB serves up Craig Johnson's *The Cold Dish* (main) or *Death Without Company* (alternate). *Mon., Nov. 24, 7-8:30pm. Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

THE MUCH ADO ABOUT PUBLISHING WORKSHOP Surviving the Book Industry to Become Well-Published is a workshop for professional writers, journalists, authors, and those on their way. See website for location and more. *Sat., Nov. 22, 2-5pm; Sat., Dec. 6, 2-5pm; Wed., Dec. 10, 6:30-9:30pm. \$140. www.independentpublisher.com.*

POETRY WORKSHOP hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr (author of *Whispers in the Wind* and six other books in her Ancestor series) and John Berry. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress for friendly critiquing. *Thu., Nov. 20, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

OPEN MICS

MONDAY NIGHT CAFFEINE for poets, singer-songwriters, and storytellers. Hosted by Edgar Pace. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.*

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

HIDEOUT IN FULL AUTUMNAL COLOR is hosted by Thom the World Poet. Next up is another fine fix. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.*

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamaspresso.*

SAY ANYTHING YOUTH OPEN MIC Austin's newest open-mic performance space for young writers and spoken-word artists. *Through Nov. 17. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 913-9959. Free. www.myspace.com/sayanythingyouthopenmic.*

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, porno theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

BORDERLANDS: TEXAS POETRY REVIEW is calling for submissions of ekphrastic poetry (poetry written in response to viewing art) for its spring 2009 edition. Limit submission to four poems. No submission fee. Mail submissions with cover letter to: *Borderlands, PO Box 33096, Austin, TX 78764. Deadline: Dec. 15. www.borderlands.org.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *what can we not see held to the ground with our black nakedness some boy throws a rock high into the blue air & is it bruised or are holes in a heart small enough to let go there is nothing to forgive & what needs love opens to all who turn & turn & how women at the well do laugh. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Light cannot be captured without being lost
We are as free as product and process
I must release these memories
their true home is with those who remember
and all of us are drowned in waves of forgetfulness
and only ask that you recall.
- Thom the World Poet, from "Processing"

film listings



D: Mabrouk El Mechri; with Jean-Claude Van Damme, François Damiens, Zinedine Soualem, Karim Belkhadra, Jean-François Wolff, Anne Paulevich. (R, 96 min., subtitled)

Jean-Claude Van Damme is the JCVD of the title, and in this career-adjusting film, the Muscles From Brussels advances from laughing stock to smart, respectable action-film star. *JCVD* is a postmodern action movie in which Van Damme, here cast as himself, becomes innocently entangled in bank robbery/hostage crisis, and in a Kafkaesque twist, the police, SWAT team, and throngs of Belgian spectators who spontaneously gather all believe Van Damme to be the perpetrator of the heist.

With a career that has dissipated from its Eighties heights and worldwide acclaim to the last decade's ignominy of direct-to-DVD schlock, Van Damme's current reputation is such that those assembled at the crime scene think that their favorite native son turned international joke has returned to Brussels to immolate in spectacular fashion what's left of his career. Director and co-screenwriter El Mechri uses nonlinear strategies to tell the backstory of how Van Damme has arrived at this particular moment in time, starting with a stunning, several-minute-long shot of nonstop action as we witness Van Damme, the actor, fight his way down a sniper-ridden, booby-trapped street while filming a scene for his latest movie. The way in which El Mechri reveals the artifice to the audience is delightfully "meta" and sets the tone for the rest of the movie. Van Damme, the character, has returned to Brussels for a family visit on the heels of the demoralizing movie project previously seen and a failed custody hearing for his daughter in which his entire film catalog is used against him as proof of his unsuitability as a parent. Even his daughter, when asked by the judge to name the parent she'd prefer to live with, cites her mother since the kids at school laugh at her whenever any of her father's movies plays on TV. A check to his lawyer has just bounced, and Van Damme furthermore learns that he's just lost a movie project to Steven Seagal,

who has promised to cut off his ponytail for the role. The whole situation is a dark reflection of Van Damme's real life in which his five marriages, a custody dispute, and legendary drug, violence, and money problems have been the stuff of international headlines. *JCVD* shows us Van Damme as a defeated, sympathetic man, a hulk of aging flesh and blood (and muscles). El Mechri shoots *JCVD* in deliberately dingy tones that make the film look more like one of the realist offerings of his fellow countrymen, the Dardenne brothers. One sequence, however, disrupts the wonderful flow of *JCVD*, and it's a passage disputed as either the film's *pièce de résistance* or primary foible. I'm in the latter camp on this six-minute-long, single-take soliloquy during which Van Damme floats above the action and speaks directly and truthfully to the camera about his career. Despite its forthrightness, the scene doesn't add any commentary that hasn't already come across through the role itself. It just spells everything out in a more self-indulgent manner. However, post-*JCVD*, we'll never again be able to think of Van Damme as just another kickboxer turned actor. Van Damme is an actor, pure and simple, and proves that he is just as deft and accomplished as the movies in which he appears. (See "Inside the Mind of the Muscles," p.64, for an interview with Van-Damme.) — Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Alamo Ritz

new reviews

AUSTRALIA D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Brandon Walters, David Wenham, David Ngoombujarra, Bryan Brown. (R, 170 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Luhrmann trades in the dance, dazzle, and Tinseltown glitz of his earlier films for the epic scope of this romantic action-adventure story set in rural pre-World War II Australia. Teaming with fellow Aussies Kidman and Jackman, Luhrmann seems to be going for *Out of Australia* by way of *The African Queen*. Opens Wednesday. — Marjorie Baumgarten Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draffthouse South, Tinseltown North

BOLT D: Byron Howard, Chris Williams; with John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)

Bolt, the first offering from Walt Disney Animation Studios to be entirely overseen by Pixar's John Lasseter (who receives an executive producer credit), opens with the kind of action sequence usually reserved for Michael Bay at his most incendiary. Bolt, a steadfast and loyal German shepherd boasting cybernetically enhanced superpowers — heat vision, an earth-shattering superbark, etc. — dodges missiles, motorcycle maniacs, and enough firepower to render lesser canines (say, for instance, Lassie) into so much fluff guts, flees the clutches of the maleficent, green-eyed Dr. Calico (voiced by McDowell) and his two feline fur balls of doom. His mission? Protect, at all costs, his beloved "person," the teenage Penny (Cyrus), and aid in her quest to discover the whereabouts of her sci-guy dad, who has been kidnapped by Calico's minions. It's a truly pulse-quickening and thoroughly audience-pleasing sequence that shows off Disney's new direction in animation (read: more Pixar-esque); it may even be the most exciting action-oriented opening thus far this year. And then ... "Cut!" The film slips out of movie mode and we discover that it's all prop choppers, wirework, and just another day on the set of the hit television program *Bolt*. The catch — obvious but no less entertaining for it — is that Bolt, voiced with surprisingly few annoying affectations by Travolta, has been born and raised on the film studio lot and truly believes himself to possess those "radical canine enhancements" that his character displays every week on TV. Bolt is completely oblivious of his status as a flesh-and-blood nipper, so when he ends up accidentally shipped from his closed Hollywood environs to "the real world," aka New York City, the stage is set not only for a classic Disney road trip but also for a series of alternately comic and wistful revelations regarding the true nature of heroism, friendship, and love. Accompanying Our Hero on his peripatetic mad dash westward are a pair of Disney's better sidekicks: the cynical NYC alleycat Mittens (wonderfully voiced by *Curb Your Enthusiasm*'s Essman, who brings just the right amount of cynical world-weariness to the character) and pudgy hamster Rhino (voiced by Disney animator Walton), an excitable, Bolt-obsessed fanboy who rolls through

the proceedings in a clear plastic exercise ball. This is a Disney film, so there's never any real question regarding Bolt and his friends' ultimate success or failure, but the writing team of Dan Fogelman (*Cars*) and co-director Williams (*Mulan*) have concocted one of the most witty and often hilarious Disney outings in years. Add to that the beautifully nuanced vocal work from all involved, plus some of the most deliriously inspired animation to come out of Disney in years — that opening sequence really does have to be seen to be believed — and the end result is, to quote Rhino, *awwwesome*. Who's a good movie? *Whooo's* a good movie? You are Bolt, you are. — Marc Savlov ★★ Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draffthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS D: Mark Herman; with Asa Butterfield, Jack Scanlon, David Thewlis, Vera Farmiga, Amber Beattie, Richard Johnson, Sheila Hancock, Rupert Friend. (PG-13, 93 min.)

If you're a Nazi and you're contemplating becoming a concentration-camp administrator, there are two movies I can think of to watch as cautionary tales. The first is *The Great Escape*, which will teach you not to assemble the most notorious group of jailbreakers the enemy has to offer behind the same stretch of barbed wire and then leave them to their scheming. The lesson to be learned from the second movie, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, may not be as obvious, but it should probably be heeded with the same vigilance: Don't move your family into a house next door to a concentration camp and then hope they won't figure out what's going on because, inevitably, your 8-year-old son will make friends with one of the Jewish boys imprisoned there and gradually come to realize what a monstrous bastard you are, your wife will begin to go insane after realizing just how much of a monstrous bastard you are, and your teenage daughter will start seeing the sadistic fun to be had in becoming a monstrous bastard like you. In other words, things can get very messy. In writer/director Herman's capable adaptation of John Boyne's bestselling novel, the tropes of the heartwarming indie kids movie get thrown together with the tropes of the low-voltage, war-at-home war drama, and the result is muddled but undeniably affecting. On the one hand, the film is a welcome challenge to our ingrained cinematic sensibilities which tell us to loathe the Nazis without exception. Farmiga plays the wife of a German officer (Thewlis) who didn't realize until her husband's promotion to the rank of concentration-camp commandant that the anti-Semitism and hatred that had been poisoning her country had started to metastasize into institutional mass murder. Watching her wake slowly to the most awful epiphany one could ever wake to is the greatest joy the film has to offer, and Farmiga's performance is a triumph of contradiction, fear, and incomprehension. On the other hand, the interactions between the couple's son, Bruno (Butterfield), and the emaciated boy dying in the camp next door are guilty of the cardinal cinematic sins of forced

adorability and emotional manipulation. Cardinal and predictable. Because what kind of person wouldn't be moved by children from opposite sides of a war struggling to overcome towering inhumanity and age-old bigotry in the name of friendship? And what kind of filmmaker wouldn't therefore be tempted to squeeze that emotional vulnerability for all it is worth? *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* is safe filmmaking all the way, hinting at enough incomprehensible brutality to get hearts aching but unwilling to force audiences to actually stare that brutality in the face, lest sympathy give way to horror. True artists will risk sacrificing audience goodwill for truth and sentimentality for cold historical reality, but Herman doesn't want your respect; he just wants your tears.

– Josh Rosenblatt

★☆☆ Arbor

FOUR CHRISTMASSES

D: Seth Gordon; with Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall, John Favreau, Mary Steenburgen, Kristin Chenoweth, Jon Voight, Sissy Spacek. (PG-13, 82 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. From the director of the improbable hit documentary *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters* comes this holiday-themed romantic comedy about a modern couple forced by circumstances to bring glad tidings (and bite their tongues) to all four branches of their fractured families. *Opens Wednesday.* – Marjorie Baumgarten Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FUEL

D: Joshua Tickell. (NR, 111 min.) Okay, before we go any further, let's get something straight: *Fuel* is not a movie. It may look and sound and feel like a movie. It may call itself a movie and get written about by people who write about movies. It may even win awards given to movies (notably, the Audience Award for a documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, where it played under a different title and shorter running time). But it's not a movie. It's a two-hour infomercial for biodiesel that somehow managed to escape from whatever environmental convention at which it was supposed to quietly screen and is now making its way to local theatres, perhaps to play as one-half of a double feature with *Your Friend the Carbon Offset*. *Fuel's* message is clear – oil is bad; alternative energy is good – and its goals are simple – put Big Oil out of business by selling the American public on the virtues of cleaner energy sources, such as wind, solar, ethanol,

hemp, and world music. It's a noble aim, and God knows there's enough evidence of the devastating economic, environmental, health, and political effects of an oil-based economy to scare the daylights out of anyone who's paying attention. But movies aren't meant to be advertisements, and any documentary out to push a particular ideology – no matter how much you or I may agree with it – is propaganda, pure and simple, and should be saved for monthly meetings. To his credit, director Tickell makes no attempt to hide his evangelistic intentions. He's an alternative-energy zealot who once drove cross-country in a car powered only by fast-food cooking oil and then wrote a bestselling book about it called *From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank: The Complete Guide to Using Vegetable Oil as an Alternative Fuel*. So from the first scene of his film, we know he's happily in the tank for alternative fuels, singing the praises of Mother Nature and American populism and wondering out loud things like, "Is our government for sale?" (That he has to ask such a question is probably indication enough of what kind of big-hearted but perhaps soft-headed hero Tickell is.) Taking his cues from Michael Moore and Morgan Spurlock (*Super Size Me*) but lacking their verve and movie-making instincts, Tickell has put together a good-intentioned, but dull, mishmash that's part autobiography, part first-person travelogue, part history and ecology lesson, and part shamelessly inspirational call to action. Using charts and animated graphics and historical footage, he ties our national obsession with oil to melting glaciers, melting economies, the Iraq war, Hurricane Katrina, and the collapse of the American way of life, getting backup along the way from a whole parade of scientists, experts, activists, politicians, and environmentally conscious celebrities like Woody Harrelson (hemp activist), Willie Nelson (the king of biodiesel), and Larry David (the king of the Toyota Prius). And he's right, and he's good, and he's virtuous to do so, and he should be applauded for his efforts; saving the world, I'm told, is a noble venture. But that doesn't mean his pet project has any business being anywhere near an actual movie theatre.

– Josh Rosenblatt

★☆☆ Arbor

MY NAME IS BRUCE

D: Bruce Campbell; with Campbell, Taylor Sharpe, Ted Raimi, Adam Boyd, Mike Estes, Ellen Sandweiss. (R, 86 min.)

As much as I love Bruce Campbell – and I love Bruce Campbell like Kandarian demons love swallowing souls and deflowering virgins with creeper vines – this feature-length send-

up of the beloved genre actor's onscreen persona is a dull, tired mess. It's not that Campbell – who here directs from a script by Mark Verheiden – has lost any of the lantern-jawed, comic machismo that made him such a pleasure to watch in, say, Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead* trilogy or Don Coscarelli's smartly bizarre *Bubba Ho-Tep*. The disappointment derives more from a lack of necessity from the get-go. I mean, Campbell's already well-known for not taking either himself or his frequently lowbrow filmic résumé very seriously (doubters need only check out his recent turn as the spokesman for Old Spice cologne), and thus this severely over-the-top self-parody comes off as pretty much pointless. Campbell casts himself as a boorish, egotistical horndog with a wicked bad drinking problem. His career (managed by Sam Raimi's brother Ted) is on the skids, his fans pester him and smell bad, and his life is in shambles. Early on, he slurps down a dog bowl of Shemp's Old Tyme Whiskey before drunk-dialing true love Cheryl (Sandweiss, aka the flora-fucked Cheryl in 1981's *The Evil*

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- 2) Knowledge is power (Student Discount Thursdays).
- 3) Maximize your earning potential (Buy-Sell-Trade).
- 4) Work hard, play hard (Open Til 2am on Weekends).
- 5) Decorate Your Life (T-Shirts, Posters, and Bumper Stickers for sale).



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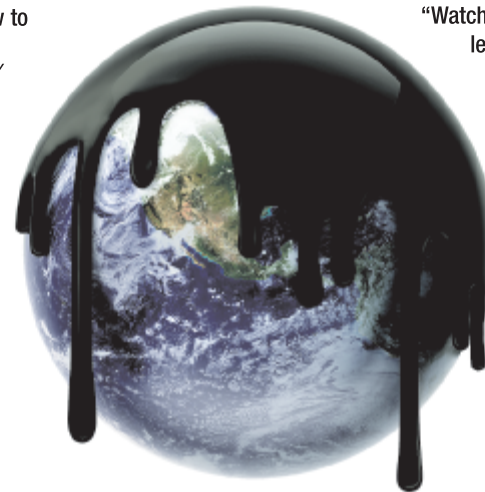
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– DAMIAN VACA, MTV MOVIES



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openings & ratings

Australia (R)

Bolt (PG)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13)

Four Christmases (PG-13)

Fuel (NR)

JCVD (R)

My Name Is Bruce (R)

Transporter 3 (PG-13)

Twilight (PG-13)

★★★★★ 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

showtimes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Master Pancake: Back to the Future: Fri-Sat, 7:20, 10:25
Terror Thursday: Blood Freak: Thu (11/27), 12mid
Hey Homel!: Cue: Fri, 9:45pm
JCVJ: Fri, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45; Sat, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45;
Sun, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Wed, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:20
Feast: JCVJ and Thanksgiving Dinner: Thu (11/27), 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
Big Screen Horror Classics: The Lost Boys: Sun, 7:45pm
Monks: The Transatlantic Feedback: Mon, 9:30pm; Wed, 9:30pm
Near Dark: Sun, 10:10pm
Weird Wednesday: Sugar Cookies: Wed, 11:55pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.

24: Redemption: Sun, 7:00pm
Australia: Wed, 11:45am, 3:20, 6:50, 10:25pm;
Thu (11/27), 11:45am, 3:20, 6:50pm
Bolt: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45pm; Mon-Wed, 12:15, 3:05, 7:15, 9:45; Thu (11/27), 12:15, 3:05, 7:15
Burn After Reading: Fri-Tue, 12:05, 3:00
Changeling: Fri, 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:10; Sat-Mon, 12:00, 3:25, 10:10; Tue, 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:10
***Four Christmases:** Wed, 12:00, 3:00, 7:10, 9:55; Thu (11/27), 12:00, 3:00, 7:10
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 10:00am; Mon-Wed, 12:25, 3:15, 7:25, 10:00; Thu (11/27), 12:25, 3:15, 7:25
Role Models: Fri-Wed, 11:20, 3:10, 7:10, 10:30; Thu (11/27), 12:10, 3:10
Paul Newman Retrospective: The Sting: Sat-Sun, 7:00pm
***Transporter 3:** Wed, 12:20, 3:25, 7:30, 10:10; Thu (11/27), 12:20, 3:25, 7:30
***Twilight:** Fri, 12:30, 3:30, 7:05, 10:15, 10:20; Sat-Wed, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15, 10:20; Thu (11/27), 12:30, 3:30, 7:00
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri-Tue, 12:20, 3:20, 6:55, 9:55

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
Australia: Wed-Thu (11/27, 3/20), 7:00, 10:30
Bolt: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:15, 11:40pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:15pm; Mon, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10; Tue, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:15pm; Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:00, 6:40, 9:15
AFS: Bombón: El Perro: Tue, 7:00pm
Let the Right One In: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40pm; Mon, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40; Wed-Thu (11/27), 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35, 11:50, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35; Tue, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35pm; Wed, 4:15, 9:45; Thu (11/27), 4:15, 7:10, 9:45
Quantum of Solace (open captioned): Wed, 7:10pm
Religious: Fri-Tue, 4:55pm
Role Models: Fri, 11:55am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40pm; Sat, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40; Sun, 11:55am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40; Tue, 11:55am, 1:45, 4:20, 9:40pm; Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:20, 7:05, 9:40
***Twilight:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45; Tue, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45pm; Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:40, 7:45, 10:45
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri, 11:20am, 2:05, 7:40, 10:35pm; Sat, 1:35, 7:40, 10:35; Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon, 7:40, 10:35; Tue, 11:20am, 2:05, 7:40, 10:35pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

Four Christmases: Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:20, 7:05, 9:35
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 9:30pm
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:05pm; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45; Tue, 11:30am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45pm; Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:30, 7:20, 9:45
***Quantum of Solace:** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10; Tue, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (11/27), 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Twilight:** Fri, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 3:40, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15; Mon, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15; Tue, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15; Wed-Thu (11/27), 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 7:15, 10:00; Mon, 4:00, 10:00; Tue, 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

The Bay in the Striped Pajamas: Fri-Tue, 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10
The Duchess: Fri-Tue, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35
Fuel: Fri-Tue, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15pm
Happy-Go-Lucky: Fri-Mon, 12:30, 3:30, 7:10, 9:50; Tue, 12:30, 3:30
Let the Right One In: Fri-Tue, 12:20, 3:00, 7:20, 9:55
Rachel Getting Married: Fri-Tue, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05pm
The Secret Life of Bees: Fri-Tue, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
Synecdoche, New York: Fri-Tue, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

Bolt: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 11:00, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40, 10:50pm; Sun, 10:00am, 11:00, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Tue, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40
Changeling: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20pm; Sun-Mon, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20; Tue, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 8:00pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 8:00, 9:20
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 11:15, 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30
Quantum of Solace (closed captioned): Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45pm; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45
Rachel Getting Married: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:15, 8:05, 11:00pm; Sun-Tue, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
Role Models: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55pm; Sun, 12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40; Mon-Tue, 3:10, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40
***Twilight:** Fri-Sat, 9:30am, 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:45, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 10:15, 11:15pm; Sun, 9:30am, 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:45, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 10:15, 11:15pm; Mon-Tue, 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:45, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri-Sat, 9:35am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10pm; Sun, 8:20, 10:40; Mon, 3:05, 5:40, 8:20, 10:40; Tue, 3:05, 5:40, 8:20

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE
austinchronicle.com/film

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 1:40, 4:00; Sat-Tue, 11:30am, 1:40, 4:00pm
***Bolt:** Fri, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 11:20, 12:10, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 11:20am, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20pm
Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust: Sat, 12:00pm
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Fri-Tue, 12:20, 3:00, 6:05, 8:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:50, 4:50, 6:20, 7:15, 8:30, 9:50, 10:45; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:50, 4:50, 6:20, 7:15, 8:30, 9:50, 10:45pm; Mon-Tue, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:50, 4:50, 6:20, 7:15, 8:30, 9:50, 10:45
***Quantum of Solace:** Fri, 12:45, 2:10, 3:15, 4:40, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 10:10; Sat-Tue, 11:00am, 12:45, 2:10, 3:15, 4:40, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 10:10pm
Role Models: Fri, 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30; Sat, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30; Sun-Tue, 11:45am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30pm
***Twilight:** Fri, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:40, 11:00; Sat-Tue, 11:00am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:40, 11:00pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

***Bolt:** Fri-Tue, 11:30am, 12:20, 1:30, 2:20, 3:15, 4:00, 4:50, 5:55, 6:40, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:15pm
Changeling: Fri, 12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10; Sat, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10; Sun-Tue, 12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust: Sat, 12:00pm
***Four Christmases:** Wed-Thu (11/27), 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Fri-Tue, 12:40, 3:25, 6:15, 9:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Tue, 11:50am, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:45, 7:35, 8:25, 9:20, 10:00pm
***Quantum of Solace:** Fri, 11:25am, 12:25, 1:25, 2:15, 3:40, 5:05, 6:25, 7:55, 9:10, 10:30pm
Role Models: Fri-Tue, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40pm
The Secret Life of Bees: Fri-Tue, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20pm
***Twilight:** Fri-Tue, 12:00, 1:15, 3:00, 4:15, 6:10, 7:25, 9:15, 10:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

***City of Ember:** Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20pm; Mon-Tue, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20
***The Dark Knight:** Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 1:30, 3:10, 5:00, 6:30, 8:20, 9:45pm; Sun-Tue, 1:30, 3:10, 5:00, 6:30, 8:20, 9:45
The House Bunny: Fri-Tue, 7:45, 10:05
Journey to the Center of the Earth: Fri, 2:30, 5:15; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 5:15; Mon-Tue, 2:30, 5:15
***Lakeview Terrace:** Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Tue, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
***Righteous Kill:** Fri, 1:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon-Tue, 1:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00pm
***Sex Drive:** Fri, 2:40, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30; Mon-Tue, 2:40, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30
WALL-E: Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Tue, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 1:15pm; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:15pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15pm
***Bolt:** Fri, 12:35, 1:25, 2:30, 3:40, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:40, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 10:40, 11:35, 12:35, 1:25, 2:30, 3:40, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:40, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 12:35, 1:25, 2:30, 3:40, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 7:50, 8:45, 9:40, 10:30
Changeling: Fri, 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15
Fireproof: Fri-Tue, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Fri, 12:45, 3:40, 7:10, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:45, 3:40, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon-Tue, 12:45, 3:40, 7:10, 10:00
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 1:00, 2:00, 2:50, 3:45, 4:35, 5:20, 6:30, 7:20, 8:20, 9:15, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 11:10, 12:05, 1:00, 2:00, 2:50, 3:45, 4:35, 5:20, 6:30, 7:20, 8:20, 9:15, 10:10pm; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 2:00, 2:50, 3:45, 4:35, 5:20, 6:30, 7:20, 8:20, 9:15, 10:10
***Quantum of Solace:** Fri, 1:10, 2:30, 4:00, 5:15, 6:40, 8:00, 9:20, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 11:50, 1:10, 2:30, 4:00, 5:15, 6:40, 8:00, 9:20, 10:40pm; Mon-Tue, 1:10, 2:30, 4:00, 5:15, 6:40, 8:00, 9:20, 10:40
Role Models: Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Tue, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05
***Twilight:** Fri, 12:20, 1:50, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 12:20, 1:50, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Tue, 12:20, 1:50, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:05, 10:35

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 1:15, 3:35; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:35pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15, 3:35
***Bolt:** Fri, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20
Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust: Sat, 12:00pm
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Fri-Tue, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:35, 1:25, 2:15, 3:20, 4:05, 4:55, 5:50, 6:35, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00pm; Mon-Tue, 12:35, 1:25, 2:15, 3:20, 4:05, 4:55, 5:50, 6:35, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00pm
***Quantum of Solace:** Fri, 12:30, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:25, 5:15, 6:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15, 10:05, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 12:30, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:25, 5:15, 6:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15, 10:05, 10:40pm; Mon-Tue, 12:30, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:25, 5:15, 6:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15, 10:05, 10:40
***Role Models:** Fri, 1:20, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40; Sat, 6:55, 9:40; Sun, 10:35am, 1:20, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40pm; Mon-Tue, 1:20, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
***Twilight:** Fri, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:45; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:45, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:45pm; Mon-Tue, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:45

Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri-Tue, 10:15pm

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM. Call theatre for showtimes for Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Thursday, Nov. 27.

My Name Is Bruce: Fri, 4:45, 7:20, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:25; Mon-Tue, 7:20, 9:25
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Tue, 7:30, 9:50
Synecdoche, New York: Fri, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Tue, 7:00, 9:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Tue, 7:10, 9:40

GALAXY HIGHLAND 100 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.

Bolt (R-D): Fri, 12:50, 1:10, 3:00, 3:20, 5:10, 5:30, 7:20, 7:40, 9:30, 9:50, 11:40, 12mid; Sat, 10:30am, 11:00, 12:50, 1:10, 3:00, 3:20, 5:10, 5:30, 7:20, 7:40, 9:30, 9:50, 11:40, 12mid; Sun, 10:30am, 11:00, 12:50, 1:10, 3:00, 3:20, 5:10, 5:30, 7:20, 7:40, 9:30, 9:50, 11:40, 12mid; Mon, 11:00, 12:50, 1:10, 3:00, 3:20, 5:10, 5:30, 7:20, 7:40, 9:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (11/27), 12:50, 1:10, 3:00, 3:20, 5:10, 5:30, 7:20, 7:40, 9:30, 9:50pm
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:15, 12:45, 2:35, 3:05, 4:45, 5:15, 7:05, 7:35, 9:20, 9:50, 11:45; Sat, 10:00am, 10:30, 12:15, 12:45, 2:35, 3:05, 4:45, 5:15, 7:05, 7:35, 9:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (11/27), 12:15, 12:45, 2:35, 3:05, 4:45, 5:15, 7:05, 7:35, 9:20, 9:50
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:55; Sat, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:55pm; Mon-Thu (11/27), 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:55pm
Role Models: Fri, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:40; Sat, 10:05am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Tue, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25
Soul Men: Fri, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 11:50; Sat, 10:45am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 11:50pm; Sun, 11:50am, 12:15, 10:15am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30,

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

APPALOOSA D: Ed Harris; with Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, Jeremy Irons, Timothy Spall. (R, 114 min.)

Appaloosa is a suitable slow burn punctuated by sudden acts of violence. It's 1882, and lawmen-for-hire Virgil Cole (Harris) and Everett Hitch (Mortensen) arrive in the titular township, a barely conceived place of wood and dirt and whiskey. They come at the town council's request: A scheming, would-be cattle baron by the name of Bragg (Irons, resplendent in his villain's finery and subtexting the inherent dangers of a nascent capitalist system on the range) has murdered the sheriff and his deputies and must be brought to justice. No easy task, that, and it's complicated by the arrival in town of a comely, piano-playing widow, Allie French (Zellweger, wearing a permanent aw-shucks smile), who plays Virgil's heart like a seasoned pro. Harris, directing from an adaptation of Robert Parker's novel, cuts a leathery, desiccated figure as the love-blinded Virgil, who lets his heart get in the way of his work. (10/03/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★★ Tinseltown South

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

D: Raja Gosnell; with Piper Perabo, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Urrie; with the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia, George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez, Plácido Domingo, Edward James Olmos, Loretta Devine. (PG, 85 min.)

If you are an adult going to see this film solo or with a peer, you deserve every tired cliché trotted out. But if you or your moviegoing companion are

anywhere within whistling distance of adolescence, you'll howl at this lowbrow, family-friendly trifle. Aunt Viv (Curtis), an L.A. make-up maven, entrusts her spoiled, designer-clad Chihuahua, Chloe (voiced by Barrymore), to her niece Rachel (Perabo). The niece prefers dashing across the Mexican border for the weekend with her girlfriends to overseeing the dog's ritzy round of beauty treatments and spa appointments. Naturally, the prissy pooch gets lost, and naturally, a string of characters emerges to assist in Chloe's return, including Aunt Viv's studly landscaper, Sam (Manolo Cardona), and his Chihuahua, Papi (voiced by Lopez). The CG effects are fairly irresistible, as is the enormous canine cast. *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* is a silly, if guilty, pleasure. (10/10/2008) - Margaret Moser

★★ CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

CHANGELING

D: Clint Eastwood; with Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich, Jeffrey Donovan, Michael Kelly, Colm Feore, Amy Ryan, Jason Butler Harner, Geoff Pierson, Gattlin Griffith. (R, 140 min.)

Based on actual events from the always entertainingly sordid history of the City of Angels, this period mystery/thriller/proto-feminist battle cry is drenched in the drearily sunlit details of Depression-era Los Angeles. It's a time and place simultaneously inhabited by both piquant reveries and full-bodied corruption. Jolie earns kudos as Christine Collins, a solid and loving single mother whose 9-year-old son goes missing without explanation. She plays the cloched Christine as an everywoman made heroine by virtue of her intransigence, and the performance does everything to make the film feel as gripping as it does. *Changeling* plateaus early though, and it has at least two more endings than it really needs, including a series of courtroom sequences that stops the story dead in its tracks. Eastwood's

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE CINEMA

DINNER - DRINKS - MOVIES - EVENTS



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Bring out the formal wear and the vampire fangs. It's gonna be a magical night!
Saturday, Nov 22 at the Salvation Army storefront



JCVD
Van Damme resurfaces with this epic self-parody story of action star gone bad. It's amazing.
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HEY HOMO! is cordially inviting you to join REBECCA HAVEMEYER at the best murder mystery EVER!
Tues, Nov 25 at the Ritz



THANKSGIVING FEASTS UT vs A&M!
Why waste the Thanksgiving holiday cooped up with family when you can eat here?!
Thurs, Nov 27 - Ritz/S Lamar



NERDCORE RISING
MC FRONTALOT joins us for this hilarious and all-too-real music documentary about nerd entertainment!
Friday, Nov 28 at the Ritz

ALAMO RITZ THEATRE - 320 E 6TH ST

THU, NOV 20	The LABYRINTH SING-ALONG ZACK AND MIRI JIGGY CRUNK: 90s POP-RAP SING-ALONG BLOODSPORT JCVD	700 725 930 955 MIDNIGHT
FRI, NOV 21	JCVD PANCAKE: BACK TO THE FUTURE TERROR THUR: INVASION BODY SNATCHERS	700 930 1145 720 1025 MIDNIGHT
SAT, NOV 22	JCVD PANCAKE: BACK TO THE FUTURE	200 430 700 930 1145 720 1025
SUN, NOV 23	JCVD HORROR CLASSICS: LOST BOYS NEAR DARK	200 315 430 700 930 1145 745 1010
MON, NOV 24	JCVD \$2 MUSIC MON: MONKS	530 700 800 930 930
TUES, NOV 25	JCVD HEY HOMO! presents: CLUE	530 700 800 1020 945
WEDS, NOV 26	JCVD MONKS - TRANSATLANTIC FEEDBACK WEIRD WEDNESDAY: SUGAR COOKIES	530 700 800 1020 930 MIDNIGHT
THU, NOV 27	JCVD WITH THANKSGIVING DINNER! UT vs A&M WITH THANKSGIVING DINNER! TERROR THUR: BLOOD FREAK	530 800 1020 700 MIDNIGHT

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD

BOLT	1105*	130*	400	640	910	1140*
TWILIGHT	1100*	150*	440	745	1045	
ROLE MODELS	1115*	145*	420	705	940	
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN	1125*	210*	500	750	1040	
QUANTUM OF SOLACE	1100*	140*	415	700	935	
QUANTUM OF SOLACE				1150*	MIDNIGHT*	
ZACK & MIRI	1120*	205*	740	1035		
RELIGULOUS			455			
AUSTRALIA (opens Wed)			320	700	1030	
AFS ESSENTIAL: BOMBON: EL PERRO				455	(Tue)	
QUANTUM OF SOLACE OPEN CAPTION				710	(Wed)	
UT vs A&M THANKSGIVING!				700	(Thur)	

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

QUANTUM OF SOLACE	1120	200	440	725	1010
MADAGASCAR 2	1130	205	430	705	945
TWILIGHT	1220	340	345	700	1015
ZACK & MIRI (ends Tues)	100	400*	715	1000	
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (opens Wed)	100	400*	715	1000	
ZACK & MIRI	100	400*	715	1000	
ROCKY HORROR				MIDNIGHT (Sat)	
TV PARTY: HEROES				930	(Mon)

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ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE CINEMA

DINNER - DRINKS - MOVIES - EVENTS

LAKECREEK SHOWTIMES
(183 & LAKECREEK PARKWAY)

twilight (12:30 3:30) 7:00 7:05 10:15 10:20

BOLT (11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:15 9:45

MATINEE SHOWTIMES WILL CHANGE MON 11/24

ROLE MODELS (12:10 3:10) 7:10 10:30

MADAGASCAR 2 (11:45 2:15 4:45) 7:25 10:00

MATINEE SHOWTIMES WILL CHANGE MON 11/24

Zack and Miri make a porno (12:20 3:20) 6:55 9:55

BURN AFTER READING (12:05 3:05)

CHANGELING (12:00 3:25) 6:50 10:10

SHOWTIMES ARE FOR 11/21 - 11/25 ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR UP TO DATE TIMES AND INFO PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITE OR CALL 219-8135

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TWILIGHT (PG-13) Fri. 1:35 2:10 4:10 4:50 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:10 11:55
Sat. 11:00 11:30 1:35 2:10 4:10 4:50 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:10 11:55
Sun. 11:00 11:30 1:35 2:10 4:10 4:50 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:10
Mon. - Thu. 1:35 2:10 4:10 4:50 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:10

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) Fri. 12:50 1:10 3:00 3:20 5:10 5:30 7:20 7:40 9:30 9:50 11:40 11:59
Sat. 10:30 11:00 12:50 1:10 3:00 3:20 5:10 5:30 7:20 7:40 9:30 9:50 11:40 11:59
Sun. 10:30 11:00 12:50 1:10 3:00 3:20 5:10 5:30 7:20 7:40 9:30 9:50 11:40 11:59
Mon. - Thu. 12:50 1:10 3:00 3:20 5:10 5:30 7:20 7:40 9:30 9:50

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) Fri. 12:00 1:40 2:30 4:15 5:00 7:05 7:30 9:30 10:00 11:55
Sat. 11:00 12:00 1:40 2:30 4:15 5:00 7:05 7:30 9:30 10:00
Mon. - Thu. 12:00 1:40 2:30 4:15 5:00 7:05 7:30 9:30 10:00

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) Fri. 12:15 12:45 2:35 3:05 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:20 9:50 11:45
Sat. 10:00 10:30 12:15 12:45 2:35 3:05 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:20 9:50 11:45
Sun. 10:00 10:30 12:15 12:45 2:35 3:05 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:20 9:50 11:45
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 12:45 2:35 3:05 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:20 9:50

SOUL MEN (R) Fri. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45 11:50
Sat. 10:15 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45 11:50
Sun. 10:15 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
Mon. & Tue. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

ROLE MODELS (R) Fri. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:40
Sat. 10:05 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:40
Sun. 10:05 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25
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Murmur of the Heart

Murmur of the Heart (1971) D: Louis Malle; with Lea Massari, Benoît Ferreux, Daniel Gélin, Michael Lonsdale. (R, 118 min.) **Austin Cinematheque.** Only Malle could have delivered this semi-autobiographical portrait of an adolescent boy's maturation which proves equal parts poignant and shocking. Set in Fifties France, the young teen with heart murmurs smokes, drinks, has sex, and has a deeply Oedipal relationship with Mom. Appropriately, this screening falls on the day after the sad anniversary of Malle's death on Nov. 23, 1995. For more info on the series, see www.austincinematheque.com. @Texas Union Theatre, Monday, 7:30pm; free.



grim handling of even grimmer subject matter could have used some paring down toward its histrionic ending, but *Changeling* is still one of the director's most assured and engaging historical horror shows. (10/31/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown South

CITY OF EMBER D: Gil Kenan; with Bill Murray, Tim Robbins, Saoirse Ronan, Harry Treadaway, Mackenzie Crook, Martin Landau, Toby Jones, Mary Kay Place, Liz Smith. (PG, 95 min.)

Based on the young-adult novel by Jeanne Duprau, *City of Ember* digs deep but ends up feeling surprisingly cobbled-together from cinematic odds and ends. Despite boasting a splendidly inventive production design and a comically villainous turn from a thoroughly engaged Murray, this film feels less like a timeless children's classic than a timely tale of living in the abyss. In a prologue that's more than a little vague, we learn that the whole of mankind now lives below ground, having fled there after unspecified apocalyptic events topside have rendered the earth uninhabitable. Following the classic tropes of inquisitive kids saddled with the salvation of the species, two teens – Doon (Treadaway) and Lina (Ronan) – bypass their supposedly wiser elders and join forces to search for a fabled way out of Ember. But, ultimately, the film's undone by the overfamiliar nature of their quest, the outcome of which, while breathlessly paced, is never really in question. (10/10/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8

DOSTANA D: Tarun Mansukhani; with Abhishek Bachchan, John Abraham, Priyanka Chopra. (NR, 150 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. This new Bollywood film is set entirely in Miami and is a romantic comedy in which two male friends pose as gay roommates in order to rent an apartment and foil immigration. However, both men desire the same woman, but she's not interested because she thinks they're gay. (11/14/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

THE DUCHESS D: Saul Dibb; with Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Charlotte Rampling, Dominic Cooper, Hayley Atwell, Simon McBurney. (PG-13, 110 min.)

Taken from the bestselling biography *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* and adapted by three different scriptwriters, *The Duchess* begins with the good-on-paper, bad-in-bed love match between Georgiana (Knightley) and the Duke of Devonshire (Fiennes), who regularly finds comfort in the arms of other women. Stung by the betrayal and her own inability to produce a male heir, the Duchess feeds off the love of society instead, becoming a legendary wit and a much admired, much imitated arbiter of taste. *The Duchess* hits very few wrong notes, but it doesn't hit very many right ones, either. Part of the problem is *The Duchess'* refusal to see its heroine as anything but saintly, even when she's sinning up a storm. Dibb's well-dressed picture hits all the requisite plot points – a bastard child, a beehive on fire, gambling debts galore – but it's a curiously inert, workmanlike production: a whole lot of pomp and circumstance. (10/10/2008) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Arbor

FIREPROOF D: Alex Kendrick; with Kirk Cameron, Erin Bethea, Ken Bevel, Jason McLeod, Stephen Dervan, Eric Young, Harris Malcom, Dwan Williams. (PG, 122 min.)

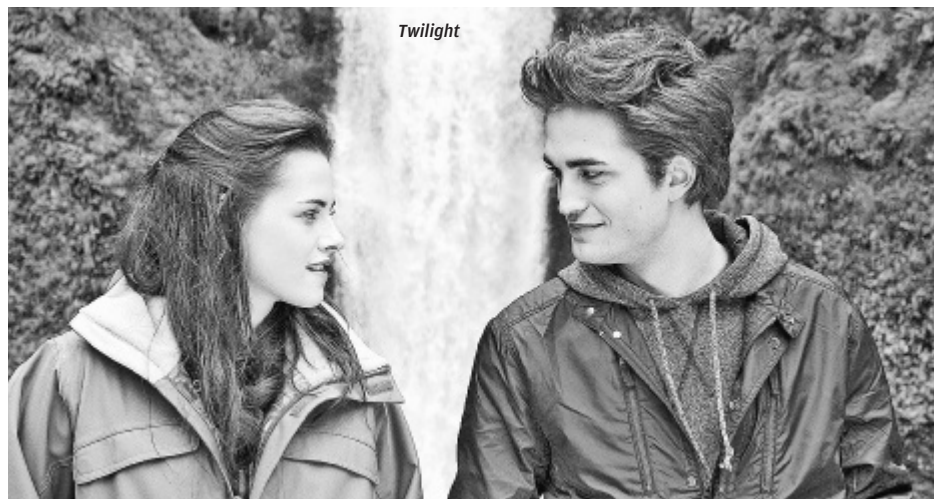
The writing and directing Kendrick brothers, Alex and Stephen (who also made *Facing the Giants*), have raised blandness and narrative predictability to the level of high art. Their hero is Caleb Holt (Cameron), a firefighter who has lost the love connection with his wife, Catherine (Bethea). When Caleb turns to his family for help, father (Malcom), a newly born-again Christian, convinces son to try the Love Dare, a 40-day experiment in altered behavior designed to retighten the bonds of marriage through selfless devotion, faith in God, washed dishes, and a deep appreciation of Bible quotes that are short enough to fit on a refrigerator magnet. *Fireproof*, in other words, is American Evangelical Christian storytelling at its finest, storytelling for a world entirely devoid of gray areas or ethical hierarchies, a world where hatred is tantamount to murder and lust is equivalent to adultery and all of the above equal damnable sin. (10/03/2008) – Josh Rosenblatt

★ CM Round Rock, Tinseltown South

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY D: Mike Leigh; with Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan, Alexis Zegerman, Samuel Roukin, Karina Fernandez, Sinead Matthews, Sylvestra Le Touzel, Sarah Niles. (R, 118 min.)

Leigh's latest is the story of a preternaturally joyful woman (the kind of maddeningly bubbly creature you want to strangle) who parades about London wearing a perpetual smile, quirky outfits, and dozens of rings dangling from her wrists and ears, clanking as she goes. Like Will Rogers (and only Will Rogers) before her, Poppy seems to like everyone she meets. And her cheerfulness is indomitable: She laughs at her job; she laughs with her girlfriends at the pub; she laughs at the doctor's office. Not even an encounter with an abused child is enough to stop her from laughing, and that's the film's problem: Leigh's creation is fixed and unchangeable, admirably optimistic as a person but completely unengaging as a movie character. Who wants to watch a film about someone who's discovered nirvana on earth, who's learned the answer to the universe's great unanswerable questions, and who therefore has no need to keep asking them? (10/31/2008) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Arbor, Metropolitan



Twilight

Morristown: in the air and sun

Morristown: in the air and sun (2007) D: Anne Lewis. (NR, 60 min.) **American Friends Service Committee.** The documentary examines the effects of globalization on local communities as it chronicles nearly a decade of change in Morristown, Tenn., where low-wage Southern workers have been displaced by Mexican immigrants, and everyone is forced to reassess their presumptions about work, family, and community. Panel discussion follows. @St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Saturday, 2pm; free.



THE HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY D: Mickey Liddell; with Haley Bennett, Chace Crawford, Shannon Marie Woodward, Jake Weber, Shanna Collins, Nina Siemaszko, Marin Hinkle. (PG-13, 87 min.)

This is a frighteningly dull updating of *The Omen* and *Rosemary's Baby* for the *Gossip Girl* set. Seriously, given the possibilities for high school evils (mortal, venal, and pretty much any other kind you can think of), it's downright depressing how uninspired *The Haunting of Molly Hartley* turns out to be. A collection of low-grade shock cuts strung together with creaky possession-film signifiers does not a passable horror film make. Newcomer Bennett, looking like the mythical soul of the American teen (post-WB), is the titular teen who has more than her share of blemishes for a high school senior. Granted, they're not on her peaches-and-cream skin. They're more along the lines of family skeletons dangling in the ancestral closet. The key to the horrors at hand appears to lie with Molly's fast-approaching 18th birthday. The real shocker is how hellishly yawn-inducing this utterly pointless and forgettable *Haunting* turns out to be. It's enough to make you scream. (11/07/2008) – Marc Savlov

↓ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR D: Kenny Ortega; with Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu, Monique Coleman, Alyson Reed, Olesya Rulin, Bart Johnson. (G, 112 min.)

Jumping in with the third film in the series presents no continuity problems: The teens from the previous two films are getting the inevitable heave-ho from high school, and they weigh their futures while younger classmates are introduced into the mix (*HSM4* is already in the works). And all the while, they burst into song and dance with a frenzy that's almost beyond human. The music (by David Lawrence) is heavy on the power ballads and fairly undistinguished, but the dancing ... oh my goodness. Director/choreographer Ortega is the best thing to happen to movie musicals in decades. Ortega, who also directed the first two films in the series, seizes the possibilities afforded by the big screen and pushes the frame to its outer limits. Full of color, energy, precision, and creativity, Ortega's choreography unleashes the true spirit of movie musicals, which

exist to remind us that if the beat is right, it can't be wrong. (10/31/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN D: Tomas Alfredson; with Kåre Hedebrant, Lina Leandersson. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

Knives, fangs, and budding desire; corpses in corpses and snowbound ire: Ah, young love. This multi-award-winning Swedish film could be summarized as a vampire tween romance, but that cheap and tawdry sum-up does zero justice to the magnificent emotional resonance of this gemlike bloodstone of a film. The film is a complex examination of what it means to be a young outsider, and its bracing honesty in these matters is on par with Gus Van Sant and Larry Clark. It's creepy in the same way that a youngster's first stirrings of adolescent desire are creepy – both to them and often more so to their elders – when strange attractors come into play and everything seems frighteningly freighted with the surreal, the mysterious, the forbidden. Oskar (Hedebrant), a blond wisp of a bullied, shy boy, and a strange young girl name Eli (Leandersson) are the adolescent outsiders. Their story creates a beautiful horror film, and, more important, a beautiful film. (11/14/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA D: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath; with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer, Andy Richter, Bernie Mac, Alec Baldwin, Sherri Shepherd, Will.i.am. (PG, 89 min.)

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa extends what *Madagascar* did best: fill up the screen with computer-generated visual novelty. The slapstick humor remains, as does the slack plotting. Introducing only a few new characters that are unfortunately unmemorable, this sequel is likewise a decent diversion that's not much worth talking about afterward. The visual cleverness arises foremost from the central quartet of friends – lion, zebra, hippo, and giraffe – which gets placed strategically in the frame to create funny tableaux. But *Madagascar 2* makes the dubious choice of splitting up the foursome in order to explore kid-worthy lessons about individuality vs. fitting in. Many of the zippiest scenes involve Julien the lemur (Cohen), who's puffed up with self-regard yet eager to entertain. There's something bemusingly weird about his character. More of such quirkiness would help adult viewers, but young children will enjoy this piece of sweet cartoon candy. (11/07/2008) – Theresa Everline

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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MAX PAYNE D: John Moore; with Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Beau Bridges, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Chris O'Donnell, Donal Logue, Olga Kurylenko. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Based on the popular video game, *Max Payne* has been adapted for the screen by UT-Austin alum Beau Thorne. He does a fine job of fleshing out what is essentially a convoluted shoot-'em-up better suited to the joystick-and-POV combo. Trouble is, no matter how much craft Thorne poured into this particular script, the end result comes out of the mouth of Wahlberg. That's not good, because the actor bites down hard on the words before they barely have time to exit his mouth. He's so bleakly stoic in his characterization that he ends up trapping inside whatever emotional punch the original dialogue may have carried. But maybe that's the point. Payne is a NYPD cold-case cop whose wife and child were killed by cityscape scum. A loose cannon with no real target, Payne embodies equal parts Will Eisner's *The*

Spirit and free-floating, postwar nihilism. Which war? Does it matter? Not really. With Payne, it's personal. (10/24/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★ Tinseltown South

PRIDE AND GLORY D: Gavin O'Connor; with Edward Norton, Colin Farrell, Jon Voight, Noah Emmerich, Jennifer Ehle, John Ortiz, Frank Grillo, Shea Whigham, Lake Bell. (R, 125 min.)

It's a good thing this movie has been sitting on the shelf for a year or more, because, apart from the difference in release dates, there's little to distinguish this new cop drama from last year's cop drama *We Own the Night* - or last decade's *Cop Land* or dozens of other police procedurals that pit brothers against one another in a struggle between clean and dirty law-enforcement tactics, all played out under the watchful eye of a father figure who's also the top dog in the department's chain of command. With a predictable screenplay, *Pride and*

ANNE HATHAWAY ROSEMARIE DeWITT BILL IRWIN TUNDE ADEBIMPE MATHER ZICKEL ANNA DEAVERE SMITH AND DEBRA WINGER

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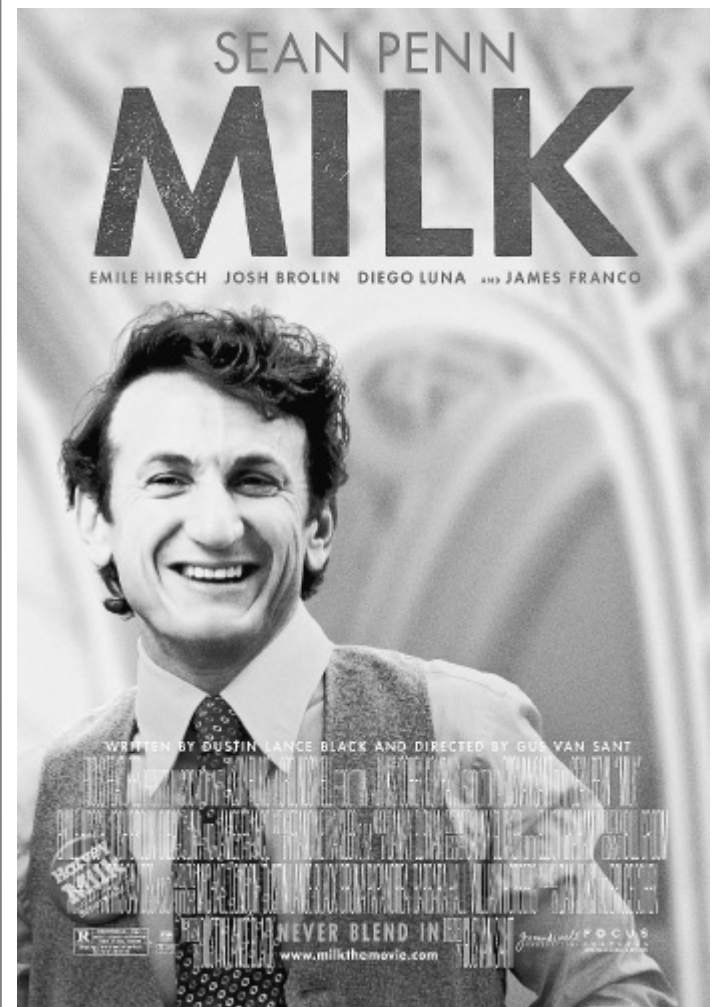
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Near Dark

Near Dark (1987) D: Kathryn Bigelow; with Adrian Pasdar, Jenny Wright, Lance Henriksen, Bill Paxton, Jenette Goldstein, Tim Thomerson. (R, 95 min.) Smart, creepy, violent, funny, and modern vampire movie that benefits from some wonderful performances, a stunning visual texture, and music by Tangerine Dream. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 10:10pm.



Glory's only chance for individuality lies in the manner of its telling. Visually, the film is crisp and detailed (it's shot by cinematographer Declan Quinn) yet the performances, though solid, are less than extraordinary. A film starring such mercurial actors as Norton, Farrell, and Voight raises expectations of fireworks onscreen, which makes their absence all the more noticeable. (10/24/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Tinseltown South

QUANTUM OF SOLACE D: Marc Forster; with Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric, Judi Dench, Giancarlo Giannini, Jeffrey Wright, Gemma Arterton. (PG-13, 106 min.)

Craig's onscreen charisma and exquisitely thug-gish charm are such that he could likely revitalize any number of flagging film franchises with little but a three-second cameo. *Quantum of Solace* proves that *Casino Royale* was no fluke. Director Forster may have seemed an odd choice initially, yet he proves more than up to the task of shepherding James Bond and new Bond girl Kurylenko through a convoluted but not unmanageable plot as both ricochet around the globe in parabolas of vengeance. *Quantum* opens mere minutes after *Casino Royale* ends, and this Bond is bloodier and more enraged than we've ever seen him. Paul Haggis' script (with Neal Purvis and Robert Wade) focuses not on the wages of sin but of vengeance. *Quantum* is a grim, dark, and relentlessly violent film; James Bond as Terminator rather than Templar - but it delivers the goods in bloody high style. (11/14/2008) - Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

QUARANTINE D: John Erick Dowdle; with Jennifer Carpenter, Steve Harris, Jay Hernandez, Johnathon Schaech, Columbus Short, Andrew Fiscella, Rade Serbedzija, Greg Germann, Bernard White, Dania Ramirez. (R, 89 min.)

This effective remake of the 2007 Spanish zombie-contagion film [*Rec*] takes the *kaiju eiga* (monster) verité of *Cloverfield* and repurposes it in the service of baser, gooshier thrills. It has more startles per sequence than you'd expect given that it's been unceremoniously dumped into an abysmal thriller market with precious little fanfare. With all the film's running around in the dark shot from POV angles, it does come off as *28 Weeks Later* meets David Cronenberg's *Rabid* or, alternately, an un-fun-house mirror image of *Night of the Living Dead* with the zombies barricaded inside with you. It's also more than a little like George Romero's *Diary of the Dead* but less self-aware, ironic, and cheerlessly fun. For all its hyperkinetic camerawork and Carpenter's breathless, panic-attack hysteric (and some unnervingly realistic gore effects), *Quarantine* is a one-note nightmare, nicely pitched to the high-C howls of the bitten and the biters. (10/17/2008) - Marc Savlov
★★ Metropolitan

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled

with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eyed, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father, Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spotlight. (10/31/2008) - Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

RELIGULOUS D: Larry Charles. (R, 101 min.)

Though fashioned as popular entertainment with laughs, light moments, and mostly humorous segments, *Religulous* is as serious as a disapproving Jehovah about its mission to upend our rote allegiance to blind religious faith. Bill Maher hosts this globe-hopping whirlwind of interviews with various representatives of Western religious faiths. As always, Maher carries with him his sharp wit. He and director Charles play it somewhat safe by never going toe-to-toe with sophisticated thinkers or experienced theologians. Neither do they delve too deeply into the more indecipherable sense of spirituality that seems to infuse the majority of people even if they don't consider themselves members of an organized religion or faith. Yet if, as Maher states, 16% of the U.S. population identifies as secular humanists who don't believe in God, then that's a large cross section of the country whose voices are muffled by the status quo. It is to them, more than the believers, Maher speaks, in essence saying, "Let my people go." (10/03/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

ROLE MODELS D: David Wain; with Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobb'e J. Thompson, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Ken Jeong, Ken Marino. (R, 99 min.)

Misanthropy in the movies has a new face: Paul Rudd. His character in *Role Models*, Danny Donahue, is cranky, cynical, mean to children, endlessly put-upon, bad with women, and in the midst of an epic



The Sting

The Sting (1973) D: George Roy Hill; with Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Robert Shaw, Charles Durning, Ray Walston, Eileen Brennan. (PG, 129 min.) **Paul Newman Retrospective.** This template for the modern buddy picture stars a duo who can do little wrong in the eyes of the American public. Altogether, this film about small-time Chicago con men won seven Oscars. If only Scott Joplin were around to collect the royalties. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Saturday and Sunday, 7:30pm; \$8.50.



existential crisis. He's like W.C. Fields with chiseled cheekbones and bedroom eyes. When Danny snaps one day, he and his buddy Wheeler (Scott) are forced by court order to take part in a child-mentoring program (run with hawklike vigilance by the indispensable Lynch), where they learn the value of caring about others while struggling to provide guidance to a teenage nerd and an 8-year-old with the mouth of a David Mamet character. Beautifully cantankerous for 45 minutes or so, it's all downhill for *Role Models* once its two self-involved antiheroes actually start turning into role models, and the transition from feel-bad to feel-good comedy is all the more painful for its squelching of Rudd's cosmically dyspeptic disaffection. (11/07/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SAW V D: David Hackl; with Scott Patterson, Costas Mandylor, Tobin Bell, Betsy Russell, Julie Benz, Meagan Good, Carlo Rota, Mike Butters. (R, 92 min.)

It's now been two sequels back since *Jigsaw*, the unlikely star of this - the original torture-porn series - expired on an operating table while his protégé(s) continued dicing and slicing. Keeping Rube Goldberg's evil twin *Jigsaw* (Bell) in the game - and the *Saw* series has become nothing if not a game - has become a matter of which flashback to insert where and when. To their credit, writers Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan (*Saw IV*, *Feast*) find plenty of screen time for their cadaverous dispenser of poetic justice. Unfortunately, only the most forgiving of fans will find this particularly convoluted outing interesting. As series' tradition dictates, *Saw V* opens with a cunningly devised bloodbath, but from there, the film becomes a sluggish police procedural. The *Saw* series is officially self-cannibalizing now, rehashing plot contrivances that felt oddly familiar the third time around. Truly, the greatest torture of all is boredom. (10/31/2008) - Marc Savlov
★★ Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES D: Gina Prince-Bythewood; with Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo. (PG-13, 110 min.)

The Secret Life of Bees starts off promisingly but quickly segues into a sincere and well-meaning coming-of-age story. Adapted for the screen from Sue Monk Kidd's bestselling novel by director Prince-Bythewood, the film tells the story of a girl's maturation, due largely to her escape from the home of her father (Bettany) into the matriarchal embrace of the unusual Boatwright sisters. Set in 1964 against the background of the newly signed Civil Rights Act, the film uses this agitated climate to advance the storyline in a couple of instances but generally exists in a bubble that's devoid of racial bigotry and economic issues. Many are the metaphors comparing the lives and beehives of humans and insects, and the figurative honey often drips off the screen, but the opportunity to bask in the presence of this soulful matriarchy is its own reward. What might have been a mere showplace for songstresses-turned-actresses is much richer than might be expected. (10/17/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Arbor, Hill Country Galleria, Metropolitan

SEX DRIVE D: Sean Anders; with Josh Zuckerman, Amanda Crew, Clark Duke, James Marsden, Seth Green. (R, 109 min.)

It's not *Sixteen Candles*, but it's not *Road Trip*, either. Instead, this comedic car-trip riff on the teen-male libido falls somewhere in between part endearing emo love story, part gross-out semen gag-fest, and, very occasionally, a smart, inspired, non-sequitur-laden hoot. Anything that features *Robot Chicken's* Green as a sarcastic Amish grease monkey with a penchant for pushing the buttons of unsuspecting "English" can't be all bad, and Anders, who adapted the film from Andy Behrens popular young-adult novel *All the Way*, milks the material for all it's worth, so to speak. Lance (Duke), high school virgin/nice guy lan (Zuckerman) "borrows" the '69 GTO of his testosterone-enveloped older brother, Rex (Marsden). Along with secretly insecure, hip-chick buddy Felicia (Crew), they embark on a nine-hour road trip to Poontown, USA, aka the parking lot of Bob's Big Boy, where Ian plans to meet Ms. Tasty, the nom d'amour of his online fantasy girl. (10/17/2008) - Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

SOUL MEN D: Malcolm D. Lee; with Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie Mac, Sharon Leal, Adam Herschman, Sean Hayes, Affion Crockett, Fatso-Fasano. (R, 103 min.)

Thirty years ago, Louis Hinds (Jackson) and Floyd Henderson (Mac) were back-up singers in a top-selling soul trio whose lead singer (played by John Legend) left to start a solo career. His two former partners slipped into obscurity and depression and, in Hinds' case, a life of crime and poverty. Flash forward to the present day: Hooks has died, a star-studded tribute concert is being arranged in his honor, and Hinds and Hooks, who haven't spoken in years and whose dancing and singing abilities have been diminished by the forces of time and disuse, are on their way to New York to grab a little bit of the celebrity life back for themselves before their time is up. Along the way, they engage in all manner of cheap Hollywood preposterousness, straining the boundaries of narrative plausibility as they go and becoming less and less funny as their bitterness gets the better of them. *Soul Men*, in other words, is pure mediocrity. (11/07/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt
★★ Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

Thunder Road

Thunder Road (1958) D: Arthur Ripley; with Robert Mitchum, Gene Barry, Jim Mitchum. (NR, 92 min.) **Hot Rods-n-Honeys.** The pinnacle of all hot-roddin' moonshiner movies, *Thunder Road* is a cult classic. Mitchum also scored a hit crooning the movie's title tune. Preshow music with the Iron City Soul Shakers and Kristi Johnston and trivia contest at 6:30pm. Hot rods and custom cars invited to park and show. Outdoors. (*) @Mercury Charlie, Saturday, 8:30pm; free.



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BURN AFTER READING ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

THE DARK KNIGHT ★★★ Movies 8

EAGLE EYE ★★★ Metropolitan

THE HOUSE BUNNY ★★ Movies 8

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH ★★ Movies 8

LAKEVIEW TERRACE ★★ Movies 8

RIGHTEOUS KILL ★ Movies 8

SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK

D: Charlie Kaufman; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Samantha Morton, Catherine Keener, Michelle Williams, Emily Watson, Dianne Wiest, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Hope Davis, Tom Noonan. (R, 124 min.)

Screenwriter Kaufman's first venture as a director is audacious, ambitious, amazing. It's also intricate, self-referencing, and all-encompassing. Kaufman creates an alternate reality, a reality as elaborate and purposeful as any fantasy film yet as grounded, detailed, and recognizable as life as we know it to be. *Synecdoche, New York* is anchored by the always remarkable Hoffman as theatre director Caden Cotard, whose marriage, relationships, home, and health are all seemingly crumbling. Caden wants to create a great work of art, something that will outlast him and quell his anxieties about separation, inadequacy, decay, and mortality. Time is both concentrated and elongated in the movie; continuity becomes confused; chronology goes haywire, caught between stasis and anti-stasis. All the while, Caden is trapped by disappointment and an inability to move beyond this rehearsal of his life. The absurdity grows, and so does the film's humor. It is, ultimately, a modern masterpiece. (11/14/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

WALL-E D: Andrew Stanton; with Fred Willard; with the voices of Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight, Jeff Garlin, John Ratzenberger, Kathy Najimy, Sigourney Weaver. (G, 97 min.)

What would Stanley Kubrick – or for that matter, Arthur C. Clarke or even Isaac Asimov – have made of Pixar's *WALL-E*? It's the story of the last functioning robot, who leads a lonely existence cleaning up an ecologically devastated Earth, some 700 years after the last human being abandoned the dying planet. When, without warning, a vessel lands in his back yard and deposits EVE (Knight), a female robot who has been sent to discover if any life has blossomed on the home world, WALL-E (Burtt) is immediately smitten. While the film eventually takes both the 'roids off-world, the story remains focused on their blossoming romance. This is Pixar's finest and most emotionally powerful film yet, by turns sad, hilarious, exciting, and, ultimately, hopeful. Those past science-fictioners Kubrick, Clarke, and Asimov would've loved it, I think, and I'd wager my first edition of *The Martian Chronicles* that Ray Bradbury, too, will recognize a kindred soul in *WALL-E*'s life-affirming quest for love. (06/27/2008) - Marc Savlov ★★★★★ Movies 8

ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORN D: Kevin Smith; with Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Traci Lords, Jason Mewes, Ricky Mabe, Craig Robinson, Katie Morgan, Jeff Anderson. (R, 101 min.)

Smith's new film proves that even though you may be able to take the boy out of Jersey, there's still no chance of sidetracking the filmmaker's dominant id. Setting *Zack and Miri Make a Porno* in Pittsburgh, across the Jersey state line, has not diluted Smith's distinctive comedic raunch in the least. However, there is also a sweetness to *Zack and Miri*, which, when combined with the film's perfect casting, makes this Smith's strongest film since 1997's *Chasing Amy*. A romantic comedy, the film is so faithful to the standards of the Hollywood form as to be almost conventional

– but for its obvious porno and scatology. Though it's the films of Judd Apatow (a fellow traveler in the realm of sweet raunch) that brought Rogen's unique leading-man-manqué talents to Smith's attention, in Rogen, Smith has also found a screen soulmate. Along with his smuttiness, Smith wears his heart on his sleeve. (10/31/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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THURSDAY 20

Bloodsport (1988) D: Newt Arnold; with Jean-Claude Van Damme, Donald Gibb, Leah Ayres, Norman Burton, Forest Whitaker. (R, 92 min.) Ultimate martial-arts fighting – plus some kind of plot. The screening is to warm up the crowd for the following day's opening of JCVD starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. @Alamo Ritz, 9:55pm.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978) D: Philip Kaufman; with Donald Sutherland, Brooke Adams, Leonard Nimoy, Jeff Goldblum, Veronica Cartwright. (PG, 115 min.) **Terror Thursday.** This intelligent remake of the 1956 original still inspires the dread of turning into pod people. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Jiggy Crunk: The 90's Pop-Rap Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

Labyrinth Sing-Along (1986) D: Jim Henson; with David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly. (PG, 101 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Remember Me, My Love (2005) D: Gabriele Muccino; with Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Laura Morante, Nicoletta Romanoff, Monica Bellucci. (R, 125 min.) **Il Circolo Italiano.** Modern family dysfunction – Italian style. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm; free.

FRIDAY 21

Back to the Future (1985) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Crispin Glover. (PG, 111 min.) **Master Pancake.** One of the most beloved comedies of the Eighties gets the Pancake treatment – sans syrup. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:20, 10:25pm.

Vaaranam Aayiram (2008) D: Gautham Menon; with Suriya Sivakumar, Sameera Reddy, Divya Spandana, Simran Bagga. (NR, 145 min.) Tamil-language film. @Tinseltown South, 9pm.

SATURDAY 22

Back to the Future (1985) @Alamo Ritz, 7:20, 10:25pm. (See Fri., 11/21.)

La Damnation de Faust (2008) D: Robert Lepage. (NR, 165 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** Lepage has created a vision for Berlioz's contemplation of good and evil that seamlessly marries art and technology. Marcello Giordani stars in the title role opposite Susan Graham as Marguerite and John Relyea as Méphistophélès. James Levine conducts this rarely staged masterwork. @CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, noon.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Draffthouse Village, 12mid.

The Sting (1973) See p.98.
Vaaranam Aayiram (2008) @Tinseltown South, noon, 3, 6, 9pm. (See Fri., 11/21.)

SPACES

Austin Video Bee Extravaganza #4 (2008) D: Various. **Austin Video Bee.** The collective is hosting a happy hour and screening following East Austin Studio Tour hours. It will debut its second video compilation, 2, a compilation curated by each AVB member who invited a guest artist for a total of nine pairings of works on video related to the binary theme. @Salvage Vanguard Theater, 5pm.

Morristown: in the air and sun (2007) See p.96.

Thunder Road (1958) See p.99.

El Violin (2005) D: Francisco Vargas; with Don Angel Tavira, Dagoberto Gama, Fermin Martinez, Gerardo Taracena, Mario Garibaldi. (NR, 98 min.) **EsquinaTango: Noche de Pelicula.** An aging, itinerant fiddler becomes caught up in the peasant revolts of the 1970s. @EsquinaTango, 8:30pm; donations accepted.

SUNDAY 23

24: Redemption TV @ the Alamo. Special two-hour event. @Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

The Lost Boys (1987) D: Joel Schumacher; with Jason Patric, Corey Haim, Dianne Wiest, Barnard Hughes, Edward Hermann, Kiefer Sutherland, Jami Gertz, Corey Feldman. (R, 97 min.) **Big Screen Horror Classics.** The treacherous ground between teenagers and vampirism is explored by this hodgepodge cast of the ubiquitous Coreys and at least two of Julia Roberts' exes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm.

Near Dark (1987) See p.98.

The Sting (1973) @Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$8.50. (See Sat., 11/22.)

MONDAY 24

Heroes TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, 8pm; @Alamo Draffthouse Village, 9:30pm.

Monks: The Transatlantic Feedback (2006) D: Lucia Palacios and Dietmar Post. (NR, 100 min.) The Monks were five American GIs stationed in Germany in the Sixties who were heavy on feedback, nihilism, electrical banjo, and strange haircuts and billed themselves as the anti-Beatles. The Monday show is a \$2 Music Monday special; the Wednesday show is regular admission. @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

Murmur of the Heart (1971) See p.96.



Bombón: El Perro

SPACES

The Lost Moment (1947) D: Martin Gabel; with Robert Cummings, Susan Hayward, Agnes Moorehead. (NR, 89 min.) **Archives Film Series.** Based on Henry James' novella "The Aspern Papers" (which, in turn, is based on the life of Lord Byron), the film is the story of a New York publisher who is in Venice to track down a poet's lost love letters. @Harry Ransom Center, 7pm; free.

TUESDAY 25

Bombón: El Perro (2004) D: Carlos Sorin; with Juan Villegas, Walter Donado, Rosa Valsecchi, Gregorio. (NR, 97 min.) **Austin Film Society: More Than Buenos Aires – Film Renaissance in Argentina.** When an auto mechanic in Patagonia is given a pedigreed dog in exchange for a job, the animal changes his life. They become a prize-winning pair at dog shows. See "A Less Wild Side to Argentina," p.53, for more on the series. @Alamo Draffthouse South, 7pm.

Clue (1985) D: Jonathan Lynn; with Eileen Brennan, Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren, Colleen Camp. (PG, 87 min.) **Hey Homo! Presents.** It's the board game come to life. Rebecca Havemeyer hosts. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

offscreen

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Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (with \$20 fee): Jan. 30, 2009. Deadline (\$40 fee): Feb. 12, 2009. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

SXSW 2009: Call for Entries Filmmakers are invited to submit their new works to the popular annual festival. SXSW considers any and all categories of filmmaking, from narrative to documentary, experimental to music video, short to feature. Complete submission rules and regulations are available on the website. Deadline: Dec. 12. www.sxsw.com/film.

SXSW Texas High School Film Competition is open to all Texas high school students enrolled in ninth through 12th grades for the full 2008-09 academic year. Only films completed in 2008 will be considered. Films must be less than five minutes in length; all films chosen as finalists will be shown in a special program as part of the regular SXSW Film 09 schedule. Final judging will be done by independent filmmakers and industry leaders. See website for details. Submission deadline: Dec. 20. Fee: \$10. www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/submissions/texas_high_school.

The Screenplay Workshop All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. Ongoing classes include the Screenwriter's Toolkit, *Mondays, through Dec. 8, 7-9pm, \$295*; Screenwriting Fundamentals, *Wednesdays, through Dec. 10 (no class Nov. 26), 7-9:30pm, \$250*; Advanced Screenwriting Techniques, *Tuesdays, through Dec. 2, 7-9:30pm, \$250*; and Private Instruction & Story Consultation Packages, *7½ hours of instruction, \$390*. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

The Godfather (1972) D: Francis Ford Coppola; with Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan, Richard Castellano, John Cazale, Diane Keaton, Talia Shire, Robert Duvall. (R, 175 min.) *The Godfather* is just about as great as a movie's ever gonna be. The 1972 Best Picture Oscar-winner is a great pulp drama co-authored for the screen by Coppola and novelist Mario Puzo (the script also won an Oscar). And all the while, we think we're watching a Mafia crime story, but instead, we're actually watching one of the great American family melodramas. There are so many great roles and characters in this movie, and then there's that eternally haunting Nino Rota score. As for Gordon Willis' celebrated cinematography, let's just say that if you've only seen this dark atmospheric stuff on TV, you owe yourself the revelation of seeing it in a theatre. It's an offer you can't refuse. (*) @Paramount, 7pm; \$7.

WEDNESDAY 26

The Godfather: Part II (1974) D: Francis Ford Coppola; with Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton. (R, 200 min.) Just as good as the first one, this sequel skips from Vegas to Sicily to Cuba. (*) @Paramount, 7pm; \$7.

Monks: The Transatlantic Feedback (2006) @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm. (See Mon., 11/24.)

Sugar Cookies (1973) D: Theodore Gershuny; with George Shannon, Mary Woronov, Lynn Lowry, Monique van Vooren, Maureen Byrnes, Daniel Sador, Ondine, Jennifer Welles. (R, 89 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** This nasty, psychosexual thriller is one of the films made by Woronov and her director husband of several years, Gershuny. A porn star is accidentally shot while felling her producer's gun, and the film's antics spiral out from there. Many Warhol figures get another 15 minutes. @Alamo Ritz, 11:55pm; free.

THURSDAY 27

Blood Freak (1971) D: Steve Hawkes and Brad F. Grinter; with Hawkes, Grinter. (NR, 86 min.) **Terror Thursday.** This weird number is a perfect Thanksgiving film about a guy who becomes a marijuana addict and then gets a job at a poultry farm where some pesticide-contaminated meat he eats turns him into a giant bloodsucking turkey. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

JCVD and Thanksgiving Dinner (2008) D: Mabrouk El Mechri; with Jean-Claude Van Damme, François Damiens, Zinedine Soualem, Karim Belkhadra. (R, 96 min.) Jean-Claude Van Damme with all the fixins'. @Alamo Ritz, 5:30, 8, 10:20pm.

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. 5 issue is Monday, Nov. 24.** 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.

imax

Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk (2008)

D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Robert Redford. (NR, 40 min.) The river at risk is the Colorado. Water-conservation advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. joins ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis and their 18-year-old daughters for a rafting trip down the river to the parched Colorado delta. Thu. (11/20)-Wed., 1, 4, 6pm.

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (2007)

D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.) National Geographic uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back more than 65 million years, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*) Thu. (11/20)-Sat., noon, 7; Sun., 7pm; Mon.-Wed., noon, 7pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003)

D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (11/20)-Sat., 10am, 2pm; Sun., 2pm; Mon.-Wed., 10am, 2pm.

U2 3D (2008) D: Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens. (G, 85 min.) In 3-D and on the IMAX screen, these Irish rockers really rattle and hum. (*) Fri.-Sat., 9pm.

Wild Ocean 3D (2008) D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Thu. (11/20)-Sat., 11am, 3, 5, 8pm; Sun., 3, 5, 8pm; Mon.-Wed., 11am, 3, 5, 8pm.

The Godfather
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The Godfather
1972 | 172 min | R
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The Godfather: Part II
1974 | 200 min | R
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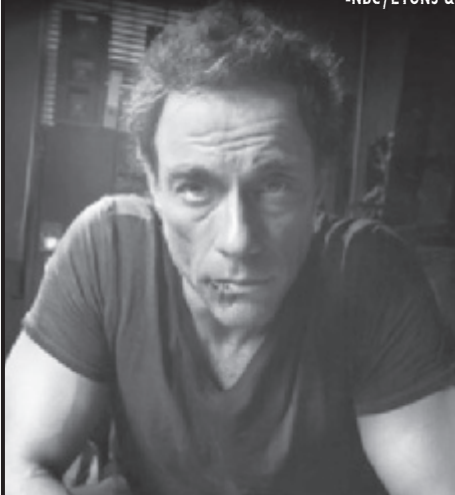
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-RAFER GUZMAN, NEWSDAY

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Midnight Shows Thursday, November 20

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings

Blitzen Trapper

Mohawk, Wednesday 26

L.A.'s the Parson Red Heads and local lady Pink Nasty open outside; O'Death plucks strings inside.

There's something unavoidably reflective in the process of traveling across America, inspirational in its long stretches of

silent, unbroken plains and winding mountain passes. It's not surprising, then, that after Blitzen Trapper's extensive touring across the land in support of last year's breakout, *Wild Mountain Nation*, principle songwriter Eric Earley found himself contemplating the diverse contours of the country in theme and sound on the Portland, Ore., sextet's fourth album and Sub Pop debut, *Furr*.

"This album definitely benefited from all that travel, all that time on the road," he offers. "I think I gained an appreciation for America as a very complicated, fairly un-unified group of regions. I also talk a lot about the Western world in general and that we're not even sure what it means to be American. I think those issues are really important right now, especially with the election that just happened. There's just a lot of turmoil going on socially and

politically. I think that's a thing everyone's thinking about."

That meditation is most noticeable in the more settled sound of the new album, largely trading the genre-bending barrage that defined *WMN* for direct songwriting. Though the eclectic arrangements and instrumentation still burst through the seams, *Furr* was approached more as a live recording than their usual patchworked production, and ballads such as the title track and "Black River Killer" expose a new narrative depth.

"It's a different mode of writing, and I think it's important," Earley opines. "Especially in the history of American music, rock music, and folk music, it's part of a tradition that needs to be kept going. I think it's important to know where that comes from, what folk music used to do and used to be and what it can be today."

— Doug Freeman



GANG GANG DANCE

Mohawk, Friday 21

St. Dymphna, patron saint of those afflicted with mental disorders, works nicely as the titular inspiration for this Brooklyn trio's latest album. Its music defies easy diagnosis, veering from off-the-shoulder 1980s electro-jams to futuristic synth 'n' drum dub, singer/drummer Lizzie Bougatsos chanting and yelping in colorful shades of incantation. L.A. duo Rainbow Arabia gets the kaleidoscope spinning with tribal travels from recent EP *The Basta*. Locals Death Is Not a Joyride open up *The Human Zoo*.

— Audra Schroeder

FUNKFEST III

The Parish, Friday 21 & Saturday 22

Get your groove in order as the third Funkfest takes over the Parish for two fiery nights of deep, soulful jams. Friday telegraphs the hotter of the two with Galactic's monster drummer Stanton Moore leading his trio, while local funk superstars Greyhounds and Topaz set things off. Highlights Saturday include a bevy of Texans with the much tighter Uncle Bruno and the young soul of T-Bird & the Breaks, along with New Orleans funkateers Bonerama and more.

www.funkybatz.com — Jim Caligiuri

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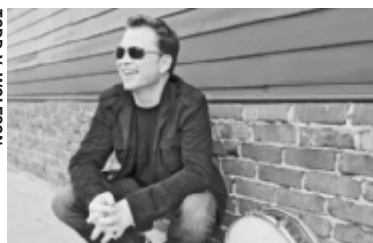
Antone's, Friday 21 & Saturday 22

Austin's patron saint of red velvet rock didn't just release one of best local discs of 2008 in *Real Animal*. Alejandro Escovedo's right up there with the "Red Right Hand" of Nick Cave for this year's Top 10 albums of rockdom! Five-track spin-off *Live Animal* hit Waterloo Records last week, and now back-to-back nights at the Home of the Blues unleash the beast. Dig it, Lazarus.

— Raoul Hernandez



TODD V. WOLFSON



SISTER NANCY

Scout Inn, Saturday 22

As the first lady of Jamaican dancehall, Sister Nancy cooked up a classic with her 1982 anthem "Bam Bam," her patois riding the riddim from Trenchtown dance halls to NYC hip-hop clubs: "I'm a lady; I'm not a man. MC is my ambition; I come fi nice up Jamaicans, so bam bam, what a bam bam." Local dub outfit Grimy Styles channels King Tubby, and Brooklyn DJ Queen Majesty drops dusty gems.

— Thomas Fawcett

SARODE MAESTRO AASHISH KHAN

Monarch Event Center, Saturday 22

To celebrate his 70 years, World Music Grammy nominee Aashish Khan is strumming the golden strings of his sarode, a lutelike classical Indian instrument. Son of sarode master Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and nephew of sitarist Ravi Shankar, Khan has musical bloodlines that trace him back to the court musician of a 16th century Indian emperor. The Hindu-jazz fusion of Amie Maciszewski's local Sangeet Millennium Ensemble opens the performance, 8pm. www.sangeetmillennium.org.

— Thomas Fawcett

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA, PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

Long Center, Sunday 23

Two of the most resilient American musical institutions join forces for what promises to be a soul-stirring celebration. The Blind Boys formed in 1939 and are one of the last bastions of time-honored harmony gospel singing. The musicians of Preservation Hall have been keeping the flame of traditional New Orleans jazz alive for almost 50 years. Both groups perform together on the Blind Boys' latest album, *Down in New Orleans*.

— Jay Trachtenberg

WAYNE HANCOCK

Continental Club, Thursday 27

In what's become a tradition of the finest sort, you can dance off the turkey and candied yams with Wayne "the Train" Hancock's brand of hillbilly bop. Word from his label, Bloodshot Records, is that Hancock's getting ready to enter the studio, so expect some new tunes along with his distinctively energetic, honestly portrayed sounds from a time that's long gone yet still revered. Locals Shotgun Party get it started at 10pm. — Jim Caligiuri

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

FOOT PATROL CD RELEASE

Continental Club, Friday 21

Step into the "Department of Toerections," please. With headliner Pong and opener Churchwood.

CONOR OBERST & THE MYSTIC VALLEY BAND

Stubb's, Friday 21

Omaha's big band channels more emotions than Lifetime.

SUPERSUCKERS

Scout Inn, Friday 21

Cowpunk's Grateful Dead finally Get It Together. Handsome Joel's birthday!

THE BLACK CROWES

Austin Music Hall, Saturday 22

Blues rock *Warpaint*. Ohio garage rockers Buffalo Killers open.

HEARTLESS BASTARDS

Stubb's, Saturday 22

Trudging toward February's *The Mountain*. The Golden Boys pass the bottle first.

W-S BURN, NANOBANGBANG, AURORA PLASTICS CO.

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Sunday 23

The perfect end to the East Austin Studio Tour (see "Welcome to My Studio," Arts, p.46).

THE BAND OF HEATHENS, CAROLYN WONDERLAND

The Parish, Sunday 23

Local licks, a performance by the African Children's Choir, and two stars of *Friday Night Lights*, all in one room. 5pm.

TONI PRICE'S GRATEFUL TUESDAY

Continental Club, Tuesday 25

Wake and bake at 6:30pm.

DOUG GILLARD

Club de Ville, Tuesday 25

GBV's axeman lands with Cavedweller and Jacob Schulze.

live music venues p.104 ● roadshows + club listings p.108



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The Continental Club

MONDAY NOV 24
HAPPY HOUR
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND

THUR NOV 20
H. H. WOODSBOSS
12:30AM

DALE WATSON
11PM

THE BLACK AND HIS LONESTARS
11:15PM
Georgian Company

9:30PM DUCK & COVER
TUES NOV 25
HAPPY HOUR 6:30

Price's GRATEFUL TUESDAY!!
charanga cakewalk
10PM

12:30AM
SAN SABA COUNTY
CD RELEASE PARTY

FRIDAY NOV 21
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
12:30AM

RONG
12:30AM

11:15PM
Footpatrol Churchwood
SATURDAY NOV 22
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

12AM
Jan Moore
DOORS @ 9PM

10PM
SETH WALKER
SUNDAY NOV 23

12AM
XALAPENO CHARLIE DUGGAN TRIBUTE!
EARLY SHOW! DOORS AT 2PM • SHOW 2-8PM
TEX THOMAS, ROBBIE TAYLOR & THE ROEBUCKS,
MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA, LEROI BROTHERS,
LARRY LANGE & HIS LONELY KNIGHT,
THE KEEPERS, ERIK HOKKANEN, TEXANA DAMES,
TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER

10PM
SHOTGUN PARTY
FRIDAY NOV 28
HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

12AM
DERAILERS

10PM
JUNGLE ROCKERS
SATURDAY NOV 29
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

12AM
Two Hoots & A Holler

10PM
ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS

12/4
BLACK JOE NEWS
12/5

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- ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
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- ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
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Sarode Maestro Aashish Khan's 70th Birthday Celebration

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KEISHA HUNT
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THU, NOV 20 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
JESSE DAYTON 9PM

FRI, NOV 21 **GARY P. NUNN**

SAT, NOV 22 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
CORNELL HURD 9PM

TUE, NOV 25 **DEBRA PETERS**
ACCORDION ROUNDUP NO COVER

WED, NOV 26 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
DALE WATSON 9PM
TONY HARRISON 6-8PM

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DEC 05

DEC 27

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- 3) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO Real Animal
- 4) TODD SNIDER Peace Queer
- 5) PONS In the Belly of a Giant
- 6) VARIOUS ARTISTS Voices of a Grateful Nation vol. 2
- 7) CARRIE RODRIGUEZ She Ain't Me
- 8) OKKERVIL RIVER Stand Ins
- 9) VARIOUS ARTISTS Voices of a Grateful Nation vol. 2
- 10) RODNEY CROWELL Sex & Gasoline

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THURSDAY 11/20



DJ DIAMOND TIP

COLLEGE NIGHT, \$2 HOLLER
LAWRENCE LANDERS
10PM-2AM

FRIDAY 11/21

HAPPY HOUR WITH
PREACHER KEEN

SONNY WOLFE 10PM-2AM
BEN BURGESS 10PM-2AM

SATURDAY 11/22

BLACKTOOTH 10PM-2AM
BEN BURGESS 10PM-2AM

SUNDAY 11/23

JT COLDFIRE 9PM-1AM

MONDAY 11/24



MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYZ
8PM-12MID

TUESDAY 11/25

BLACKTOOTH
(FULL BAND) • 8PM-12MID

WEDNESDAY 11/26

PATRICK FLEMING
8PM-12MID

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SKYROCKET

FRIDAY 9:30

LC ROCKS

SATURDAY 9:30

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU	20	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	suede
FRI	21	JOSH KEDZUCH	SKY ROCKET
SAT	22		LC ROCKS
SUN	23		DIAMOND KARAOKE
MON	24	IN THESE SHOES	Josh Allen & THE WHISKEY BROS
TUE	25	LIZ MORPHUS	RUST TONES
WED	26	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS



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EVERY THURSDAY, 6:30-9:30PM

THE HUDSONS

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FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 7PM: **HORTON BROTHERS**

SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 11AM: **SUNDAY BRUNCH W/
THE JEFF LOFTON QUARTET**

7PM: **WILL DUNLAP'S JAM**

TUESDAY, NOV. 25, 7PM: **WILL DUNLAP**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, 7PM: **PTARMIGAN**

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, NOV. 20: **BYRD AND STREET**

FRIDAY, NOV. 21: **BOBBY KENNEDY**

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

THURSDAY, NOV. 20: **SHUT UP AND SING** 9PM-1AM

FRIDAY, NOV. 21: **WYNN TAYLOR LIVE** 10PM-1AM

FREE TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS
@ 9 & 11:30PM

SATURDAY, NOV. 22: **LUKE LAGRANGE
AND THE COVERALLS** 10PM-1AM

SUNDAY, NOV. 23: **SOUTHPARK SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS
THE JUKEBOX HEROES LIVE!** 10PM-1AM

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VAN WILKS
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JULIANNE BANKS
& MORE

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NOV 21 & 22

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SAT: W/ FUTURE CLOUDS & RADAR

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FLYJACK

SMASH RILEY 10:30

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26

T-BIRD & THE BREAKS
& GREYHOUNDS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

ALLEN DANIELL'S BIRTHDAY!
ERIC TESSMER BAND

LATER
Blue Tuesday band

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THANKSGIVING NIGHT WITH
THE SCABS



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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28
JIMMIE VAUGHAN
& THE TILT-A-WHIRL BAND



W/ THE HORTON BROTHERS

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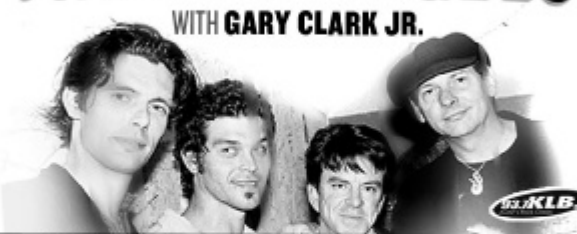
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20

LZ LOVE 8:00 \$8
TOM GILLAM 11:30 \$8
KALU JAMES 10:00 \$8

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21

MICKY & THE MOTORCARS

9:00 SHOW \$10 COVER
THE GOUGERS 12:30 \$10
SONS OF THE REVOLUTION 11:00 \$10

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

OMAR & THE HOWLERS
9:30 \$10

WAYLON PAYNE 12:00 \$10
PLATINUM SONGWRITERS SERIES 7:00 \$10
Monte Warden, Bill Carter & Paula Jean Brown
Austin Songwriters Group Showcase 6:00 \$10

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL
10:15 \$10

THE RESENTMENTS 7:30 \$7

THE SALINGERS 12:00 \$5

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24

WAYLON PAYNE 8:30 \$5
JEFF PLANKENHORN 10:30 \$5
ELEISHA EAGLE 7:00 \$5
ALLEN DANIELS 12:30 \$5

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25

THE BAND OF HEATHENS
8:00 \$10

JOSH HALVERSON 10:00 \$5
AMBER LUCILLE 12:00 \$5
5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26

MONTE MONTGOMERY
SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW! \$10.00

AUSTIN HOMEGROWN
Sommer's Birthday! 10:00 \$5
PAULA NELSON 8:00 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 **BO PORTER**

NOV 28 - GUY FORSYTH AND HONEYBROWNE

NOV 29 - WARREN HOOD & W.C. CLARK

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club listings

THU 20

- 219 WEST** James Speer (7:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Brian Hudson (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR La Tampiquena (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET James Thomas (1:00)
ANTONE'S Duane Allman Birthday Show w/ Austin Blues Society
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Frank Meyers
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Gary Brightwell, Bill Engvall
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove
BEAUTY BAR La Calle Blanca w/ DJ Orion
BEERLAND Generator Benefit w/ Dead Space, Modern Fuckers, the Man Stamps
THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Gypzee Heart (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Butch Hancock (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Vicious Guns (6:00), MonkeyWrench Benefit w/ Spectre in the Cab, Hao Chiang Chiang, Some Say Leland, Canopy (8:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Classical Piano w/ Michael Schneider (noon)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Park

CONTINENTAL CLUB San Saba County CD Release, Georgian Company, the Black (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Wailing Walls

DOLCE VITA GELATO & ESPRESSO BAR Paul Sonnenberg's Trio Bossa Nova (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Kenny & Matt

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Datri Bean, Red Young (6:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

EMO'S El May, Caithlin de Marrais, Owen

EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Nobody's Business, Moosehound (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

roadshows

november

THU 20

- Bill Engvall, Gary Brightwell,** Austin Music Hall
Dead Space, Beerland
Butch Hancock, Cactus Cafe
Owen, Caithlin de Marrais, Emo's
El May, Emo's
Moosehound, Flamingo Cantina
Hammer, Headhunters
Daniel Moore, One 2 One Bar
Torche, Black Cobra, Clouds, Red 7
Zenith Fuzzbomb, Room 710
Fatty Lumpkin, Bombardment by
Aeroplane, Ruta Maya
Strugglebear, Snake Eyes Vinyl
Q-Tip, the Cool Kids, the Knux, Somebody's Darling, Stubb's

FRI 21

- Von Iva,** Beauty Bar
Sass Dragons, Bottle & Bread, Beerland
Dave Alvin, Cory Branan, Cactus Cafe
Trashy & the Kid, Creekside Lounge
The Deathray Davies, the Burning Hotels, Year Long Disaster, Emo's
Switchback, Fiddler's Hearth Roger Creager, Gruene Hall
Oceanus, Lucy's on the Square
The Impossible Shapes, Gang Gang Dance, Rainbow Arabia, Mohawk
Andy Davis, Momo's
George Duke, One World Theatre

Stanton Moore Trio, Robert Walter & Will Bernard, the Parish

Anal Cunt, Kill the Client, Strong Intention, My Son My Executioner, Red 7

Beau Hinze & the Get O Cowboys, Riley's Tavern
Supersuckers, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

Toubab Krewe, Conor Oberst & the Mystic Valley Band, Felice Brothers, Rig 1, Stubb's
The Impossible Shapes, Waterloo Records

SAT 22

- The Black Crowes, Buffalo Killers,** Austin Music Hall
Sean & Sarah Watkins, Glenn Phillips, Cactus Cafe
Wade Bowen, Cheatham Street Warehouse
The Guise, the Cockpit
Jordin Sparks, the Domain
Nada Surf, Delta Spirit, Jealous Girlfriends, Bang Camaro, Crimson Soul, Emo's
Switchback, Fiddler's Hearth Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans, Flamingo Cantina
Richard Bowden, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Roger Creager, Gruene Hall
Ladyfingers, Lamberts
Aashish Khan, Monarch Event Center
Bonerama, On the One, the Parish
Clay McClinton, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill
Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub Sister Nancy, Mossman Soundsystem, DJ Queen Majesty, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

SUN 23

- Fauna Valetta,** Beerland
Robbie Taylor & the Roebucks, Continental Club
Celtic Thunder, Frank Erwin Center
Blind Boys of Alabama, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Long Center for the Performing Arts
Colin Herring, Momo's Mystic Journey, Room 710
The Thing That Always Explodes, Snake Eyes Vinyl
Café Tacuba, Stubb's

MON 24

- Jackie Bristow, Botticelli's Duck & Cover,** Continental Club
Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub
Dana Fuchs, Stubb's

TUE 25

- Duck & Cover,** Beerland
Carley Wolf, Botticelli's Doug Gillard, Club de Ville
Toni Price, Continental Club
Ivoryline, A Thorn for Every Heart, In: Aviate, Emo's
Under the Gun, Headhunters
Subtle, Zach Hill, Truckasaurus, Mohawk
Joy Davis, Momo's

WED 26

- Matt Wilson,** Key Bar
Blitzen Trapper, the Parson Red Heads, O'Death, Those Darlins, Mohawk
The Wrong Ones, Room 710
Adam Gregory, Stubb's

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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IN THE CLUB

THU NOV 20 - DOORS 11PM

CHARLIE SHAFER
 AND THE GNOMES
 WITH SOMEBODY'S DARLING
 AND MIKE AND THE MOONPIES

FRI NOV 21 - DOORS 11:30PM

TOUBAB KREWE

SAT NOV 22



HEARTLESS BASTARDS
 WITH THE GOLDEN BOYS

SUN NOV 23

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH HOLY -
 WITH THERIVERCITY CHRISTIANETTES

WED NOV 26

ADAM GREGORY
 WITH IDGY VAUGHN

FRI NOV 28

TEJAS BROTHERS

SAT NOV 29

MURDER MY SWEET
 WITH MOCK TIGERS
 AND ULTRAVIOLET INDEX

SUN NOV 30

AN INTIMATE ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH
GRAHAM COLTON
 AND **MICHAEL TOLCHER**
 WITH **BRYAN GREENBERY**
 AND **TIM BRANTLEY**

THU DEC 4

ELECTRIC TOUCH
 WITH BLACK TIE DYNASTY AND A.U.X.

FRI DEC 5 - 10:30PM

THE WOOD BROTHERS
 FEATURING **CHRIS WOOD**
 OF MEDESKI MARTIN AND WOOD
 WITH **JOE PUG**

WED DEC 10

MTV PRESENTS
BRENDAN JAMES
 WITH **JONATHAN CLAY**

WED DEC 31 - 9PM

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Andy Macintyre

Saturday 11/22
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Sunday 11/23
Shut Up & Sing!

Monday 11/24
drink specials

Tuesday 11/25
drink specials

Wednesday 11/26
drink specials

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THU 20

Generator Benefit w/ Dead Space, Modern Fuckers, the Man Stamps, **Beerland**

MonkeyWrench Benefit w/ Spectre in the Cab, Hao Chiang Chiang, Some Say Leland, Canopy, **Carousel Lounge**

FRI 21

Handsome Joel Svatek Birthday Party, Foundation Benefit w/ Supersuckers, Pure Luck, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes, American Graveyard, **Scout Inn & Bier Garten**

SUN 23

Xalapeno Charlie Duggan Tribute, Medical Benefit w/ Tex Thomas, Robbie Taylor & the Roebucks, Mystic Knights of the Sea, Leroi Brothers, Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights, the Keepers, Erik Hokkanen, Texana Dames, Two Hoots & a Holler, **Continental Club**

Empty Bowl Project, Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Idgy Vaughn, BettySoo, the Hudsons, Susan Gibson, Shelley King, **Mexican American Cultural Center**

African Children's Choir Benefit w/ Kacy Crowley, Guy Forsyth, Carolyn Wonderland, Bob Schneider, Band of Heathens, **the Parish**

TUE 25

Jay Wolf Thanksgiving Salute, Benefit w/ the Hickoids, Ethan Azarian, Nathan Hamilton, Mark Ambrose, Jay Wolf, **Cactus Cafe**

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robert Chevrier (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Thanksgiving Show w/ Bill Hearne Trio, Band of Heathens (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Hammer, A Mind Divided, Condiment Sandwich

HILL'S CAFE Clay Jefferies

HOLE IN THE WALL Madelyn Cascio (6:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Songwriters in the Round w/ Sherry Brokus & Jim Patton, Nancy Scott (8:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA The News (7:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00), Songwriters in the Round w/ Casey McPherson, Johnny Goudie, Lang Freeman, Ryan Holley (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Raven Tree, the Eastern Sea, Pompeii CD Release (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Ethan Azarian, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves, Leatherbag, Golden Bear (10:00)

MOMO'S Marmalakes, Big Wide Grin, Will T. Massey, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Orange Sky (5:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NEW MINT ROOM ROOFTOP Reggae Night w/ Nazarite Soundsystem

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Liz Morphis (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Texas Renegade

THE OAKS Mike Davis, Tucker Bradley, the Love Band, Jim Wyly, Wood & Wire (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Daniel Moore, Alan Haynes (8:00)

THE PARLOR Something Called Nothing (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bruce Smith, Wynn Taylor (6:00)

RED 7 Clouds, Black Cobra, Torche

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Aces Over Eights

ROOM 710 Oak Is Keeping, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Sabbath Crow, Marshall Dylan

RUTA MAYA Bombardment by Aeroplane, Fatty Lumpkin, Funk-o-Tron

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), LZ Love, Kalu James, Tom Gilliam (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Genuine Cowhide, JWW & the Prospectors, Charlie Hurlin' (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Dale Spaulding (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

SNAKE EYES VINYL Strugglebear (6:00)

SPEAKEASY J.J. Usher (9:30)

STUBB'S Outside: The Cool Kids, the Knux, Q-Tip; Inside Later: Mike & the Moonpies, Somebody's Darling, Charlie Shafter & the Gnomes

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS Baker Hotel (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Shand Walton, Green Mountain Grass

TROPHY'S Solstice, Two Hoots & a Holler

VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Shut up & Sing! (9:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Byrd & Street (7:00)

ZTEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20
GEORGE ENSLE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21 • 10PM • \$5
PONTY BONE & THE SQUEEZTONES
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 • 10PM • \$5
ERIN JAIMES



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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 • 7PM
CHARLIE IRWIN AND FRIENDS

21 FRI 
GANG GANG DANCE w/
 Rainbow Arabia, Death is not a
 Joyride
 9PM @ MOHAWK

611 E. 7TH 
 FRI 11/21 @ 8PM
DEMIRICIOUS and **GATES OF SLUMBER**
 (patio) // **ANAL CUNT** w/ Strong Intention, My
 Son My Executioner, Naw Dude
 SAT 11/22 @ 8PM
TODAY IS THE DAY w/ Zoroaster, Iron Age,
 Lions of Tsavo, Earth Eater // **THE CALM**
BLUE SEA w/ Raven Tree, My Education,
 Clouds are Ghosts (patio)
 SUN 11/23 @ 8PM
THE TRAMPSKIRTS w/ The Admirals Club
 + TBA
 MON 11/24 @ 6PM
ARSONISTS GET ALL THE GIRLS w/ The
 Cast Pattern, Set Aflame, In Case We Die
 FRI 11/28 @ 8PM
THE CABARET w/ xFalsetta, Fire from the
 Gods, Within White Shadows
 SAT 11/29 @ 8PM
BRIDGE FARMERS w/ Betaplayer,
 Passenger, Mechanical Boy, Westbound
 Departure // **PICKLED PUNKS** w/ Black Irish,
 Rend, Exile, Scraps of Life, Blood Royale @
 10PM
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900 RED RIVER 
 THU 11/20 @ 9PM
HARLEM
 FRI 11/21 @ 9PM
THE SO SO GLOS w/ Old Coyote, DJs Ben
 Blackout and Angel Von Ripper
 SUN 11/23 @ 10:30PM
NICHOLAS GINBEY
 TUE 11/25 @ 8PM
DOUG GILLARD (of Guided by Voices),
 Cavedweller, Jacob Schulte
 WED 11/26 @ 9PM
PSYCHOTROPIC w/ DJs Scorpio and
 Whiplash
 THU 11/27
 Thanksgiving Dinner and special music guests
 FRI 11/28 @ 9PM
RIPE w/ The Tunnels, Transexuals
WEDNESDAYS: 5-9PM
GEARS FOR BEERS - Ride your
 bike and get \$3 wells, \$3 imperial
 pints

26 WED 
BLITZEN TRAPPER
 w/ O'Death, Parson Redheads,
 Those Darlins, Pink Nasty, Cartright
 2 Shows for price of 1!
 8PM @ MOHAWK

912 RED RIVER 
 THU 11/20 @ 10PM
FUTURE CLOUDS AND RADAR w/
 Leatherbag, Sally Crewe, Ethan Azarian
 FRI 11/21 @ 9PM
GANG GANG DANCE w/ Rainbo Arabia,
 Death is not a Joyride // **IMPOSSIBLE**
SHAPES w/ Lost Controls, The Bubbles @ 12AM
 (inside)
 SAT 11/22 @ 9PM
FABRICATION 6 w/ Til We're Blue or Destroy,
 Booher and the Turkeyz, The Laughing, Neiliyo
 TUE 11/25 @ 8PM
SUBTLE w/ Zach Hill, Truckassaurus
 WED 11/26 @ 8PM
BLITZEN TRAPPER w/ O'Death, Parson
 Redheads, Those Darlins, Pink Nasty, Cartright
 THU 11/27
gobble, gobble
 FRI 11/28 @ 9PM
MOVEMBER w/ **POP NOIR**
 SAT 11/29 @ 9PM - **ROSEBUDS** w/
 Ovenbirds, Masonic // **ROBERT GOMEZ** w/
 Sara Jaffe - 12AM (inside)
 TUE 12/2 @ 10PM - **PONTIAK** w/
 Radioland Murders, Moses and the Burning
 Bush



401 WEST 2ND 
 THU 11/20
 Jitterbug Vipers @ 7PM
SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND w/
 Casey McPherson, Johnny Goudie, Lang
 Freeman & Ryan Holley @ 10:30PM
 FRI 11/21
SUZANNA CHOFFEL w/ Drew Smith's
 Lonely Choir @ 10:30PM
 SAT 11/22
 Marshall Ford Swing Band @ 7PM
SHOTGUN PARTY w/ Ladyfingers @ 10:30PM
 SUN 11/23
JAZZ NIGHT w/ Ephraim Owens, Brannen
 Temple & Red Young @ 7PM
 TUE 11/25
 Glover Tango @ 7PM
 WED 11/26
 Moonhangers @ 7PM
 FRI 11/28
 DJ Fuckin' A @ 10:30PM

upcoming shows
 11/21 - Von Iva (Beauty Bar), 12/3 - Toasters (Red 7), 12/9 - Hanson Brothers (Red 7), 12/10 -
 Dub Trio (Red 7) 12/13 - Job For a Cowboy (Red 7), 12/14 - Ice Cube (Mohawk), 12/19 -
 Golden Arm Trio (Mohawk), 12/20 - Prototype Presents: A Disco Christmas (Red 7), 1/2-
 1/10 - FREE WEEK (Mohawk, Club Deville, Red 7), 1/16 - Paul Green School of Rock
 (Mohawk), 2/1 - MV & EE (Mohawk), 2/7 - Applesseed Cast (Mohawk), 2/24 - Mr. Lit
 (Mohawk), 2/28 - Bollywood Bash (Mohawk), 3/5 - Kool Keith/Dr. Doom (Mohawk)

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EST. 1977

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FR **HONEYBROWNE**
SA **WADE BOWEN**
SU **BIG JOHN MILLS BENEFIT**
MANY BANDS & SONGWRITERS 5PM-MID
MO **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**
TU **JORDAN MINOR & THE**
BOTTOM DOLLAR BAND
WE **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE**

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Th 20 Shand Walton 6pm
Green Mountain Grass 10pm
Fr 21 Bill Jerram 6pm
Arspoetica, Elephant Orchestra,
AJ Vincent 9pm
Sa 22 Spank 10pm
Su 23 TC 12th Anniversary Party 2pm-Close
Mo 24 Bruce Curtis 6pm
Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 9pm
Tu 25 RC Banks 6pm
Molly Hayes, Robbie Doyen, Boone Graham,
Riley Engemoen & Daniel Furman 9pm
We 26 Erickson 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm

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FRIDAY, NOV. 21 **LES AND THE FUNK MOB**

SATURDAY, NOV. 22 **ROTEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES**

MONDAY, NOV. 24 **S.I.N. - JONATHAN TERRELL**
ON T59 9:30PM

TUESDAY, NOV. 25 **THE NASTY CLAN**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26 **LATIN WEDNESDAY**
THE BREW 9:30PM
SALSA LESSONS 9PM

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Switchback (9:00)

THE FIFTH GALLERY John Gomi (5:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wino Vino (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Bo Porter

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Two Hoots & a Holler (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Roger Creager (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Wicked Pro Wrestler, Higher Than Why, Johnny Hootrock, Lee Baker & the Blackbird Project, Hard Luck Heroes

HILL'S CAFE Fingerpistol CD Release (7:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Darren Hoff & the Hard Times, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends, Chili Cold Blood (10:00)

IGUANA GRILL Woody Russell (6:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Suzanna Choffel, Drew Smith's Lonely Choir (10:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, DJ Diamond Tip

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Cactus Rash, Heroes, Oceanus

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Death Is Not a Joyride, Rainbow Arabia, Gang Gang Dance; Inside Later: Impossible Shapes (8:00)

MOMO'S Andy Davis, Flatcar Rattlers, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Rick Hornyak (6:30)

NUNO'S NORTH Candiland (9:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol Karaoke

THE OAKS Jere

ONE 2 ONE BAR Jon Napier, Derrick Davis (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE George Duke (7:00, 9:30)

THE PARISH Funk Fest III w/ Topaz, the Greyhounds, Robert Walter & Will Bernard, Stanton Moore Trio (9:00)

THE PARLOR Wine & Revolution (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Duncan Earl Walters (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Phil Brown

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 Naw Dude, My Son My Executioner, Strong Intention, Kill the Client, Anal Cunt (9:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Beau Hinze & the Get O Cowboys

ROADHOUSE RAGS Crosswind, Larry Wilson (8:00)

ROOM 710 Curse of the Heavens, Year of the Kid, Bowel, Mala Suerte

RUTA MAYA DJ Reuben, Jahva, Blood Diamondz (9:00)

SÃO PAULO'S Three Jazz Collective (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Micky & the Motorcars, the Gougers, Sons of the Revolution (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Outside: Handsome Joel Birthday Party, Foundation Benefit w/ American Graveyard, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes, Pure Luck, Supersuckers; Inside Later: Black-Eyed Vermillion (7:45)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Spirit of Flamenco (7:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Capital Suspects (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Conspirare Youth Choir Winter Concert (7:00)

STUBB'S Outside: Rig 1, Felice Brothers, Coner Oberst & the Mystic Valley Band; Inside Later: Toubab Krewe

THE STUDIO All U Need (9:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Casa del Swanka (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Bill Jerram, A.J. Vincent, Elephant Orchestra, Arspoetica

TROPHY'S Manifesto

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Horton Brothers (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Wynn Taylor (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Bobby Kennedy (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS The Impossible Shapes (5:00)

SAT 22

AMSTERDAM CAFE Jodi Adair (9:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Fusion (10:00)

ANTONE'S Matt McCormack, Grady, Alejandro Escovedo (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Michael Ballew (7:30)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Wiretree (10:00am)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Buffalo Killers, the Black Crows (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

THE BELMONT DJ Boss Ross (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Paul Luedke Collective

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE The Cornell Hurd Band

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Glenn Phillips w/ Sean & Sarah Watkins (8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CARLOS'N CHARLIE'S Atomic Strawberry

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Ethan Kennedy

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH The Lost Pines (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Wade Bowen (9:00)

THE COCKPIT The Guise, Terri Lord in Her Underwear, I'm Gorgeous Inside (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), Seth Walker, Ian Moore (10:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Blower, Mercy, Churchwood, ST 37

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (9:00)

THE DOMAIN Tree-Lighting w/ Dan Dyer, Jordyn Sparks (6:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Danny Britt & Red Dawg

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Cerronato (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Henry Brun & the Latin Playerz (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: Crimson Soul, Bang Camaro; Inside: Jealous Girlfriends, Delta Spirit, Nada Surf

EVANGELINE CAFE Erin Jaimes (10:00)

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Switchback (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Pocket, the Bandulus, Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sally Allen, Richard Bowden, Mike Meadows, Will T. Massey (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Sean Orr & Texas Gold (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Josh Grider (1:00), Roger Creager (9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Taunto, Barry Whitesnake, Sore Losers, Hit by a Car

HILL'S CAFE John Burkland

IGUANA GRILL Brandon McHose (6:00)

IT'S ALL GOOD BAR Weldon Henson & the Hired Guns

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00), Shotgun Party, Ladyfingers (10:30)

LONGHORN CAVERNS Simple Sounds w/ Joe Cordi (5:45)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Protege (11:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Dremnt the End, 11-Fingered Charlie (9:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Atomic Alive, Language Room, Ember

MOHAWK Neiliyo, Booher & the Turkeyz, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Team Fabrication (9:00)

FUNKYBATZ PRESENTS

FUNKFEST III

NOV 21-22, 2008

NIGHT 1 FRI NOV 21 — DOORS 9:00
THE STANTON MOORE TRIO
w/ **ROBERT WALTER (GREYBOY ALLSTARS B3)**
& **WILL BERNARD (GUITAR)**
GREYHOUNDS
w/ **SPECIAL GUEST TOPAZ**

NIGHT 2 SAT NOV 22 — DOORS 7:00
BONERAMA (NEW ORLEANS)
ON THE ONE (SAN DIEGO)
FLYJACK
T BIRD & THE BREAKS
UNCLE BRUNO
PLUS VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE GUESTS!

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Live Music
Early ...



Late Night
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THU, NOV. 20, 10PM



★ **THROWDOWN** ★
★ **THURSDAYS** ★
★ FEATURING ★
THE EAGLE PRITCHARD
and
MURRY BAND and
MC OVERLORD

FRI, NOV. 21, 9PM



ANGEL FERRER
LATER:
DJ DIAMOND TIP
SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SAT, NOV. 22, 11PM

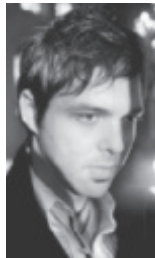


DJ PROTEGE
SPINS 'TIL 2AM



MODELO MONDAY
BEER SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG

MON, NOV. 24, 10PM



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THU, NOV. 27

Cactus 23RD & GUADALUPE
475-6515
THUR • Nov 20 • 8:30PM

BUTCH HANCOCK
FRI • Nov 21 • 9PM
LIVE @ THE CACTUS
DAVE ALVIN
GUEST STAR • CORY BRANAN
TIX @ THE DOOR!

SAT • Nov 22 • 7PM & 10PM

TOAD THE WET SPROCKET'S
GLENN PHILLIPS &
NICKLE CREEK'S
SEAN & SARAH WATKINS
Two Shows • 7 & 10PM • TIX @ THE DOOR

SUN • Nov 23 • 8PM
JAY BRANNAN
SPECIAL GUEST • DANNY MALONE

MON • Nov 10 & 17 • 7PM SIGN-UP • 7:30PM SHOW
OPEN STAGE Hosted by DAN GRISOM & GRAHAM WEBER

TUE • Nov 25 • 7:30PM • FREE SHOW!
JAY WOLF'S THANKSGIVING SALUTE
THE HICKOIDS • TOM BANJO
ETAN AZARIAN • NATHAN HAMILTON
MARK AMBROSE & JAY WOLF
FREE SHOW!

TUE • DEC 2 • 8:30PM
THE TWO HIGH STING BAND

WED • DEC 3 • 8:30PM
THE McMercy Family Band
CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

FRI • DEC 5 • 8:30PM
IN CONCERT • 1ST TOUR IN 24 YEARS!
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SAT • DEC 6 • 7 & 10PM
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ASYLUM ST. SPANKERS
& **GUY FORSYTH**
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FRI • DEC 12 • 8PM
IN THE SPIRIT OF WOODY GUTHRIE
RIBBONS OF HIGHWAY ENDLESS SKYWAY
JIMMY LaFAVE • ELIZA GILKYSON
SLAID CLEAVES • KEVIN WELCH
RAY BONNEVILLE & JOEL RAFAEL
TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
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cactus.union.utexas.edu

Coming Soon

12.4	ED MILLER	12.10	MIKE MCCLURE
	SEAMUS KENNEDY		SCOTT MILLER
12.9	PETER CASE	12.11	GREEZY WHEELS
	GURF MORLIX	12.14	JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE
		12.16	SARA HICKMAN

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The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
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MOOSEHOUND
NOBODY'S BUSINESS

FRIDAY 11.21 *SKA/REGGAE/SOUL* DOORS 9:00
MACHINE GUN RECORDS PRESENTS
RYAN SCROGGINS
& the TRENCHTOWN TEXANS
THE BANDULUS & THE POCKET

SATURDAY 11.22 *LATIN/REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
THE RASPAS
BUBBA HERNANDEZ
Y LOS SUPER VATOS with SOL

FRIDAY 11.28 *NERD CORE/HIP HOP* DOORS 9:00
MC LARS, RIVERCREST YACHT CLUB
YT CRACKER, MC FRONTALOT
MC ROUTER & FULLY ARMED GANGSTERS
UPCOMING SHOWS

11.29: DON CHAM & THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
12.03: TIN CAN PHONE, AGUAHUECOS WITH KALLISTI GOLD
12.04: SOULINT, DENT, TURNOCAT
12.05: DOPE E. OF SOUTH-PARK COALITION WITH HATCH
12.11: ZENITH FUZZBOMB, SAEOTAGE MANUAL, SNAKESKIN PRISON, WHITE KNUCKLE DRIFERS
12.12: CONGRATULATIONS
12.13: GUIDANCE (LIVE & DIRECT FROM HAWAII)
12.18: KID HEHU, T. FOWLER, SERAFIA JANE RAY, SRL, DJ BELOW
12.19: MR. BROWN & INDIANS

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Sat 11/22 **White Ghost Shivers**
9:00pm \$10 Cover

Sun 11/23 **Gospel Brunch Durden Family**
11:00am Indoors/Free

Weds 11/26 **South Austin Jug Band**
9:00pm \$10 Cover

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 / \$5
NAKIA
& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10
TINY TIN HEARTS 11:45
WILL T MASSEY 8:30
BIG WIDE GRIN 7
ORANGE SKY 1
NO COVER HAPPY HR MARMALAKES 5:15

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND 11:30

----- TWO SEPARATE SHOWS -----
FLATCAR RATTTLERS 10
ANDY DAVIS 8

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS 12
PAPERWORK 10:45
STARCASTIC PHEROMONE 9:30
BLACK BONE CHILD 8

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 / \$5
JITTERBUG VIPERS 9:30
MILKDRIVE 8
COLLIN HERRING 11:45

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 / \$5
KACY CROWLEY 7
JENNY REYNOLDS 8:15
NATHAN HUBBLE 9:45
SOUNDFIELD 11:30
NO COVER HAPPY HR AMANDA PEARCY 5:15

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25
PATRICE PIKE
& **JOY DAVIS** 8
BEN MALLOTT 11
SHAWN NELSON
& THE RAMBLERS 12:30
EZRA REYNOLDS 7:15

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26
DAN DYER 10
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 12
BUKKA ALLEN 8:30
LO (FROM PORCELAIN) 7

UPCOMING SHOWS
THE Heatheng
NOV 29
SKYROCKET DEC 12

NOMAD

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THE Parish

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THU 20 NOV

FUNKYBATZ PRESENTS FUNKFEST III

FRIDAY NOV 21 STANTON MOORE TRIO w/ ROBERT WALTER (GREYBOY ALLSTARS) & WILL BERNARD GREYHOUNDS w/ TOPAZ TO OPEN	SATURDAY NOV 22 BONERAMA, ON THE ONE, FLYJACK, T BIRD & THE BREAKS, UNCLE BRUNO PLUS SPECIAL SURPRISE GUESTS FOR A SUPER JAMI
--	--

SUN 23 NOV A SPECIAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FROM THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR
w/ BAND OF HEATHANS, BOB SCHNEIDER, GUY FORSYTH, KACY CROWLEY, & CAROLYN WONDERLAND
HOSTS: CONNIE BRITTON & TAYLOR KITSCH OF FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

WED 26 NOV DJ SHAKEY SOUL SHAKEDOWN	MON 08 DEC BROWNOUT EAGLE CLAW, THE STEPS NAVDO'S BIRTHDAY SUIT BASH!
FRI 28 NOV CRASH GALLERY GOBI, NOT IN THE FACE	THU 11 DEC FLOETRY
SAT 29 NOV 10.1X NEXT BIG THING & THE AUSTINIST PRESENT: LITTLE JOY THE DEAD TREES, TRUE WIDOW (LITTLE JOY IS: RODRIGO AMARANTE OF LOS HERMANOS, FABRIZIO MORETTI OF THE STROKES, & BINKI SHAPIRO)	12/13 DEC JOHN LENNON/PAUL MCCARTNEY TRIBUTE NIGHT
WED 03 DEC HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD	SUN 14 DEC SECOND SUNDAY SOCK HOP!
SAT 06 DEC RING THE ALARM DJ BABY G, JAH MIGHTY, JR. VIBES	TUE 16 DEC LINK AUSTIN LINKAUSTIN.NET

MORE INFO AT FUNKYBATZ.COM

Roux

"Cajun Con-fusion"

WEDNESDAYS: HAPPY HOUR- MANTECA BEAT
THURSDAYS: HAPPY HOUR- THE BELLTOWER 4
LATE NIGHT- 80'S NIGHT
FRIDAYS: LADIES NIGHT W/ DJ JASON
SATURDAYS: HIP HOP

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

MOMO'S Black Bone Child, Starcastic Phromone, Paperwork, Adrian & the Sickness (8:00)

MONARCH EVENT CENTER Sangeet Millennium Ensemble, Aashish Khan (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

NEWORLEDELI Fredy Argir (7:30)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Kevin Fowler

THE OAKS Atom West, Ram Z, Daveed, Jeremy Attick, Kit Likwit, Speedgrovers

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne Sutton, Alan Haynes (8:00)

THE PARISH Funk Fest III w/ Uncle Bruno, T-Bird & the Breaks, Flyjack, On the One, Bonerama (7:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jim Stringer (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Beth Lee, Clay McClinton

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues (8:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Two Hoots & a Holler

ROADHOUSE RAGS Beautiful Mistakes, Jesse Sublett & Jon Dee Graham (7:00)

ROOM 710 Johnny's Body, Black Irish, Contra Coup, the Jungle Rockers

RUTA MAYA Red Leaf School of Music (6:00)

SAXON PUB Monte Warden & Paula Jean Brown, Omar & the Howlers, Waylon Payne (7:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN DJ Queen Majesty, Grimy Styles, Mossman Soundsystem, Sister Nancy

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Chase Holbrook & the Porch Cats (7:00)

SNAKE EYES VINYL Hobomouth (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Rotel & the Hot Tomatoes

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Conspirare Youth Choir Winter Concert (7:00)

STUBB'S The Golden Boys, Heartless Bastards

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ West Coast Pinups, White Ghost Shivers (9:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Spank (10:00)

TROPHY'S Sinners Repent, Shotgun Hustler, Automusik, Crushes

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Luke LeGrange (10:00)

SUN 23

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Eddie Collins (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Woven Bones, Cause for Applause, Fauna Valetta, Toko-Ri Get High

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Danny Malone, Jay Brannan (8:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Kenny Wayne

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Sean Hopper Quartet (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Flying Balalaika Brothers (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Big John Mills Benefit

CONTINENTAL CLUB Xalapeno Charlie Duggan Tribute, Medical Benefit w/ Tex Thomas, Robbie Taylor & the Roebucks, Mystic Knights of the Sea, Leroi Brothers, Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights, the Keepers, Erik Hokkanen, Texana Dames, Two Hoots & a Holler (2:00), Heybale! (10:00)

LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 6:30 - 9 PM	@ CENTRAL PARK 40th and North Lamar call 512.206.1000 for details	@ WESTGATE 4477 South Lamar call 512.899.4300 for details	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM			SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
LZ LOVE
blues, soul, funk

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
THE LOST PINES
bluegrass, americana

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
SEAN HOPPER QUARTET
FEATURING DENIA RIDLEY
jazz

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
ALBERT & GAGE
americana

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
AND THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
LIZ MORPHIS & FRIENDS
jazz

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
CAFE CLOSING EARLY FOR THE HOLIDAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
CAFE IS CLOSED
HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!

upcoming at central park: Nov 29 - RATTLETREE MARIMBA Nov 30 - JOHN FREMGEN, MITCH WATKINS AND PAUL GLASSE DEC 5 - GREG GARING DEC 6 - WARREN HOOD DEC 12 - DALE WATSON DEC 13 - LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA	upcoming at westgate: DEC 3 - TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS DEC 4 - RUBY JANE DEC 7 - SENOR GATO DEC 10 - TOO BLUE DEC 11 - THE LOST PINES DEC 10 - FLOYD DOMINO
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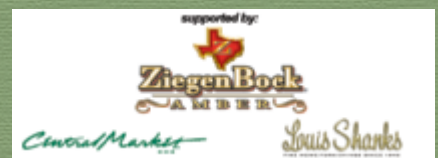
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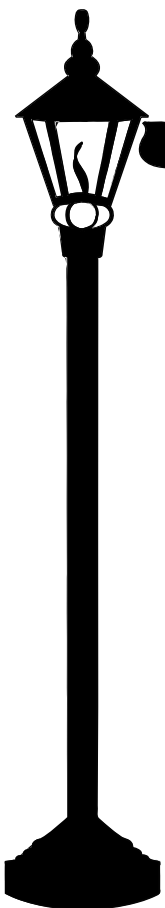
Time

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music • film • conference

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NXNE 09 submissions are open until January 31, 2009.
Apply before December 31 for just \$25 for a chance to get your act on
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THE **CHRONICLE**

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Tameca Jones
Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression:
Retro Eighties w/
DJ Pumpkin Spice

FRANK ERWIN CENTER
Celtic Thunder

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam
(8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques
Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Rick Stockton
& Helen Highwater (noon),
Lucky Tubb (4:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Rockin'
Gospel Project (3:00)

HEADHUNTERS Mallory Valentine,
Horse Opera, the Original
Mexican Bob

HOLE IN THE WALL Dash Kizer,
Alewife, David Nathan,
Eddy Highway, the Basement
Tapes (9:00)

IGUANA GRILL Andy Seymour
(noon)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens,
Brannen Temple, Red Young
(7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)

**LONG CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS**
Preservation Hall Jazz Band,
Blind Boys of Alabama

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL
Karaoke w/ Ryan (9:00)

**MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
CENTER** Empty Bowl Project,
Capital Area Food Bank
Benefit w/ Idgy Vaughn,
BettySoo, the Hudsons,
Susan Gibson, Shelley King
(11:15am)

MOMO'S Milkdrive, the Jitterbug
Vipers, Colin Herring (8:00)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi
Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S NORTH Singer-Songwriter
Jam (7:30)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps &
the Blue Lites (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz
(11:00am)

THE PARISH African Children's
Choir Benefit w/ Kacy
Crowley, Guy Forsyth, Carolyn
Wonderland, Bob Schneider,
Band of Heathens (5:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/
Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (6:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic
w/ Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Pure Luck,
Prison Folk Rock (6:00)

ROOM 710 Jo Hell & the Red
Roosters, Mystic Journey,
Bobbie

RUTA MAYA Laura Freeman
(10:30am), Soul Kitchen
(10:30)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER
Aurora Plastics Company,
Nanobangbang, W-S Burn

SAXON PUB The Resentments,
Bobby Whitlock & CoCo
Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN
Soul Stomp w/ DJ Rufus,
DJ Mel, Prince Klassen
(9:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

SNAKE EYES VINYL The Thing
That Always Explodes,
Naw Dude (6:00)

STUBB'S Brunch: River City
Christianettes (11am),
Outside: Cafe Tacuba (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/
Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken,
Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday
Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET
Will Dunlap (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE
GROVE** Service Industry Night
w/ Jukebox Heroes (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 24

**ABIA: HIGHLAND
LAKES BAR** Bonnie
Whitmore (3:30)

ABUELO'S MEXICAN FOOD EMBASSY
Mark Turk

ANTONE'S Flyjack (8:00),
Smash Riley (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth
Campbell & the Banned
(7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735
Plutonium Farmers (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard
Showcase

BEAUTY BAR Mistress Stephanie
& Her Melodic Cat, Happy
Panjoma (10:00)

BEERLAND World-Famous
Karaoke

BOTTICELLI'S Jackie Bristow

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/
A.J. Kline (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Marshall Ford
Swing Band (6:30),
Duck & Cover, Dale Watson
& His Lone Stars (9:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Austin Jazz
Band, Jazz Jam w/
Freddie Mendoza (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles
Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE
T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham
(7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano
(6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Carson Alexander
(9:00)

LUCY LOUNGE The Spoiled,
Beaux Loy (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE
Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MOMO'S Amanda Pearcy,
Kacy Crowley, Jenny
Reynolds, Nathan Hubble,
Soundfield (5:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS
John Wilson & Joley Flowers

MUGSHOTS Open Mic
w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

NUNO'S NORTH Open Blues Jam
(9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Tim Bruton &
Forest Wayne Allen

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound
System (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Amy Glen (7:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy
Monday Open Blues Jam
w/ Breck (8:00)

SAXON PUB Eleisha Eagle,
Waylon Payne, Jeff
Plankenhorn, Allen Daniels
(7:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB &
GRILL** Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

STUBB'S Dana Fuchs (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Curtis
(6:00)

VINO VINO Kevin Lovejoy,
Ephraim Owens

TUE 25

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES
BAR** Larissa
Montanaro (3:30)

ABUELO'S MEXICAN FOOD EMBASSY
Kurt McMahan

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-
Songwriter Night
w/ Andrea Marie (7:30)

ANTONE'S Eric Tessmer (9:00),
Blue Tuesday w/ Derek
O'Brien, Malford Milligan
(10:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time
Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER
The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BEERLAND Duck & Cover

THE BELMONT Dale Watson &
His Lone Stars (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Carley Wolf

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/
A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters'
Accordion Roundup

CACTUS CAFE Jay Wolf
Thanksgiving Salute,
Benefit w/ the Hickoids,
Ethan Azarian, Nathan
Hamilton, Mark Ambrose,
Jay Wolf (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Golden
Ticket Duo

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Jordan Minor & the
Bottom Dollar Band (9:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Doug Gillard
(9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Toni Price
(6:30), Charanga Cakewalk
(10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn &
the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith
w/ Jon Doyle (6:00),
Greg Williams Quartet (9:30)

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THR NOV 20TH

10PM **The Wailing Walls**
Before the Bombs, Speed Sweat
Feathers Fahrenheit, 9PM Jason Ramsey

FRI NOV 21ST

10PM **Thunderosa**
Butcherwhite
SnakeSkin Prison, Trashy & the Kid

SAT NOV 22ND

10PM **ST-37, Churchwood**
Mercy, Blower

UPCOMING SHOWS

11/28 The Sobscene
11/29 White Rhino, The Vitamins

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W/DJ VIPJ OF THE COOL KIDS
AND VERY SPECIAL GUESTS
10/11pm **WOODGRAIN & TWIN BLADES**

11/21 **VON IVA**
& PRINCE KLASSEN

11/22 **BAD FLIRT W/ DJ MEL**
WEDNESDAY
FRIED TURKEYS

11/26 **CHAMPAGNE JAM W/**
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11/20(T): CONDIMENT SANDWICH, CHARTEUSE, STEREO REFORM, CAW CAW, (P) MIND DIVIDED, (P) HAMMER, H, SUP
11/21(F): HARD LUCK HEROS, BLACKBIRD PROJECT, LEE BACKER, JOHNNY HOOTCOCK,
(P) HIGHTER THAN WHY, (P) WICKED PRO WRESTLER
11/22(S): HIT BY CAR, SORE LOSERS, BARRY WHITESNAKE, TRAUNTO, (P) COSACON STATION
11/23(S): ATOMIC HONKY TONK & NFL FOOTBALL GAMES 12PM-ALL DAY:
THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA, MALLORY VALENTINE
11/24(M): 7PM-MN FOOTBALL, 8PM-OPEN MIC S.I.N. & BANDS
11/25(T): UNDER THE GUN, SCREAMING AT THE SKY, BETH LEE, BILL DAVIS SINGER/SONGWRITERS (P)
11/26(W): BANGI, OKLAHOMOS, CONVOI, (P) ORDET, (P) MATT'S OPEN MIC

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OAK IS KEEPING

Fri 11.21
MALA SUERTE
BOWEL
YEAR OF THE KID
CURSE THE HEAVENS

Sat 11.22
JUNGLE ROCKERS
CONTRA COUP
THE BLACK IRISH
JOHNNY'S BODY

Sun 11.23
BOBBIE
MYSTIC JOURNEY
JO HELL & the RED ROOSTERS

Mon 11.24
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 11.25
The Best Free Show In Town **GIANT DOG**
8pm: Insect Sex Act **MOUSE ABOUT**

Wed 11.26
HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS
THE BULEMICS
THE WRONG ONES

UPCOMING SHOWS
11.28 The Camera, When Cougars Attack, Black Earth, Ezra Reynolds
11.29 The Rockbusters, Rocket Fishmen, Roger's Room Collection, Baby Dick

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th 20 Generator Benefit: The Man
Stamps, Dead Space

fr 21 Black Panda, Monkey Town, The No
No No Hopes, The Ghost Knives

sa 22 Heart & Soul Sound System: Capt.
Jim & Friends spinning the best in reggae
and soul. Couples get in free!

su 23 Fauna Valetta, Cause for
Applause, Christian Bland, Woven Bones

mo 24 Rock and Roll Karaoke

tu 25 Duck and Cover (Denmark), Gina
Lee and the Brisket Boys, Lloyd Tripp

we 26 Safety in Numbers- Holiday Jam:
Chris(t) Stephens, John Myers, Jack
Smith, John Vinyard

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GIRLZ RULE III SHOWCASE
TOMBSTONE UNION
LITANY FOR THE DEPARTED
GRAVE EDEN
STARS COLLIDE
GRAND ARCHER

MONDAY-NOVEMBER 24
HONKY
A GIANT DOG
DESTINATION DELROY

WEDNESDAY-NOVEMBER 26
MATTHEW'S IPOO NIGHT IN THE LOUNGE
KNOW MORE ROBOTS
LAYERS OF STONE
SANDY HANNAH TURKEY TRIP

FRIDAY-NOVEMBER 28
HONKY
BLACK EYED VERMILLION
IZZY COX
& MORE

UPCOMING SHOWS
12/05 - THE BANNER YEAR, SHE CRAVES, BUILT FOR SPEED,
THE NUDOCKS, COURRIER
12/06 - CD FUSE.COM PRESENTS CHAISEURWEIGHT, DRIVER F,
ZLAM DUNK, THE SCOTLAND YARDSALE
12/12 - NINE TRUTH & THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS
12/13 - MUSIC LAB BATTLE OF THE BANDS & FIXALS

FRIDAY-NOVEMBER 21
BROKEN TEETH
DEEJER
EXIT THE SUN
SEDIUM
THE FOLLOW THROUGH

SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 23
BASE
TRIGGERMAN
THE LEFTIES
STARBOARD GREEN

TUESDAY-NOVEMBER 25
BOB SHOWDOWN
DROGERS AND ROYALISTS
THE DRY SEASON
JASON RAMSEY
VENSON'S FIXINS

THURSDAY-NOVEMBER 27
THANKSGIVING
NO BANDS
MATTHEW
IN THE LOUNGE
OPENS AT 9PM

SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 29
SEAN MCGLORE BOY BASH
SNAKESKIN PRISON
TRASHY & THE KID
AUTOMATIC CYCLE
EL CHARCO
JOE'S ROCKET SHOPPE

Friday • Nov 21 **LIVE MUSIC!**
Christopher Anton 12 AM
www.myspace.com/christopheranton
Exit 11 PM
www.myspace.com/exitproductions
Carbon Theory 10 PM
www.myspace.com/carbon

Saturday • Nov 22 **LIVE MUSIC!**
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJS VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Nov 23 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday • Nov 25 **90'S NIGHT**
SO LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJS BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday Nov 26 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJS PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thursday, December 11 • **LIVE!**
VENETIAN SNARES 12 AM
OTTO VON SCHIRACH 11 PM
CYRUS REX 10 PM, NAHA 9 PM
advance tickets now available from Secret Oktober

Friday, January 16 • **LIVE!**
DEVISION 12 AM
SEABOUND 11 PM
IRIS 10 PM
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WYNN TAYLOR 8-10PM

Fri., Nov. 21 **PHIL BROWN**
tickets available thru frontgategate.com or at the door - general admission (formerly of Little Feat)

Sat., Nov. 22 **CLAY McCLINTON**
BETH LEE (OPENER)
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Thu., Nov. 27 **OPEN THANKSGIVING**

Fri., Nov. 28 **W.C. CLARK**
JARRETT SCHAUB BAND (OPENER)

Sat., Nov. 29 **BILLY JOE SHAVER**
DOUG WARRINER (OPENER)

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Tue. **THE TROUBADILLOS**
Wed. **WILLIE WEDNESDAY**
Thu. **LADIES' NIGHT - FREE POOL**
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SHOW STARTS AT 10:30PM
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\$2.50 DOMESTIC BOTTLES
ALL NIGHT

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

WED 26

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S In: Aviate, A Thorn for Every Heart, Ivoryline

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis, Beth Lee, Screaming at the Sky, Under the Gun

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR Open Mic w/ Liane Little Eye (7:30)

HOUSE WINE Jay Sims (7:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Colin Crume, the Anchovies (9:00)

MOHAWK Truckasaurus, Zach Hill, Subtle (8:00)

MOMO'S Ezra Reynolds, Joy Davis, Patrice Pike, Ben Mallot, Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers (7:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Beverly Hensley & Paul Eason

ROOM 710 Insect Sex Act, Giant Dog, Mouse About

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues (5:00), Band of Heathens, Josh Halverson, Amber Lucille (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Five Ways From Sunday

SPEAKEASY The Nasty Clan (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Songswap (6:00)

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Mike Premeau, Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

219 WEST Señor Gato (7:00)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Dave Insley (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Brad Evilsizer (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Craig Toungate (1:00)

ABUELO'S MEXICAN FOOD EMBASSY Jonny Dub

AMSTERDAM CAFE Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic (6:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Open Mic w/ Sandy Bradford (9:00)

ANTONE'S Greyhounds, T-Bird & the Breaks (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Tony Harrison, Dale Watson (6:00), Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove

THE BELMONT The Motts (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Condiment Sandwich

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Golden Ticket Duo

CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, the Spazmatics (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Mario Matteoli (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Style Free w/ DJ Orion

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Thomas Heflin (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie Irwin (7:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Paul K. (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Jason Gautreaux, Julieann Banks (7:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00), Hayes Carll (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Convoil, Oklahomos, Bang

KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LITTLE MEXICO RESTAURANT Karaoke w/ DJ Rich Caz

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lucky Jam Sessions w/ Tyler & Lance (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Suede (8:00)

MOHAWK Inside: Cartwright, Those Darlins, O'Death; Outside: Pink Nasty, the Parson Red Heads, Blitzen Trapper (8:00)

MOMO'S Lo 7, Bukka Allen, Dan Dyer, Suzanna Choffel (7:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Clay Jefferies (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H Project (10:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PUSH Weight w/ the Herd

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser (8:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Eric Hisaw

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 The Wrong Ones, the Bulemics, High Watt Crucifixers

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00), Paula Nelson, Carson Alexander (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

STUBB'S Idgy Vaughn, Adam Gregory (10:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ South Austin Jug Band (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson (6:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

THE WINE CELLAR Tucker Bradley (7:30)

ZTEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 27

219 WEST James Speer (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

ANTONE'S The Scabs (10:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CONTINENTAL CLUB Shotgun Party, Wayne "The Train" Hancock's Dance Yer Stuffin' Off Turkey Trot (10:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell (9:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (8:00)

MARIA MARIA Claude 9 (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

SAXON PUB Matt Powell, George Devore (9:30)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes (6:00)

TROPHY'S Solstice, Two Hoots & a Holler



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SATURDAY, 11/22 \$8 COVER
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DARREN HOFF & HARDTIMES 7:30pm

SCOTT H. BIRAM 9:30pm

SIX SONS OF A GUN 6pm

TUESDAY, 11/25 NO COVER!
JENNY REYNOLDS 6:30pm
DRAWING BACK 8pm

NO COVER! WEDNESDAY, 11/26
CORNELL HURD BAND 8pm



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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23RD.
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 DASH KIZER, ALEWIFE & THE BASEMENT TAPES 9PM

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24TH.
TITO AND THE MAN, BLUE RUIN TRIO,
& MONKEYTOWN 10PM

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH.
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH.
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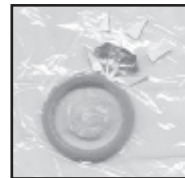
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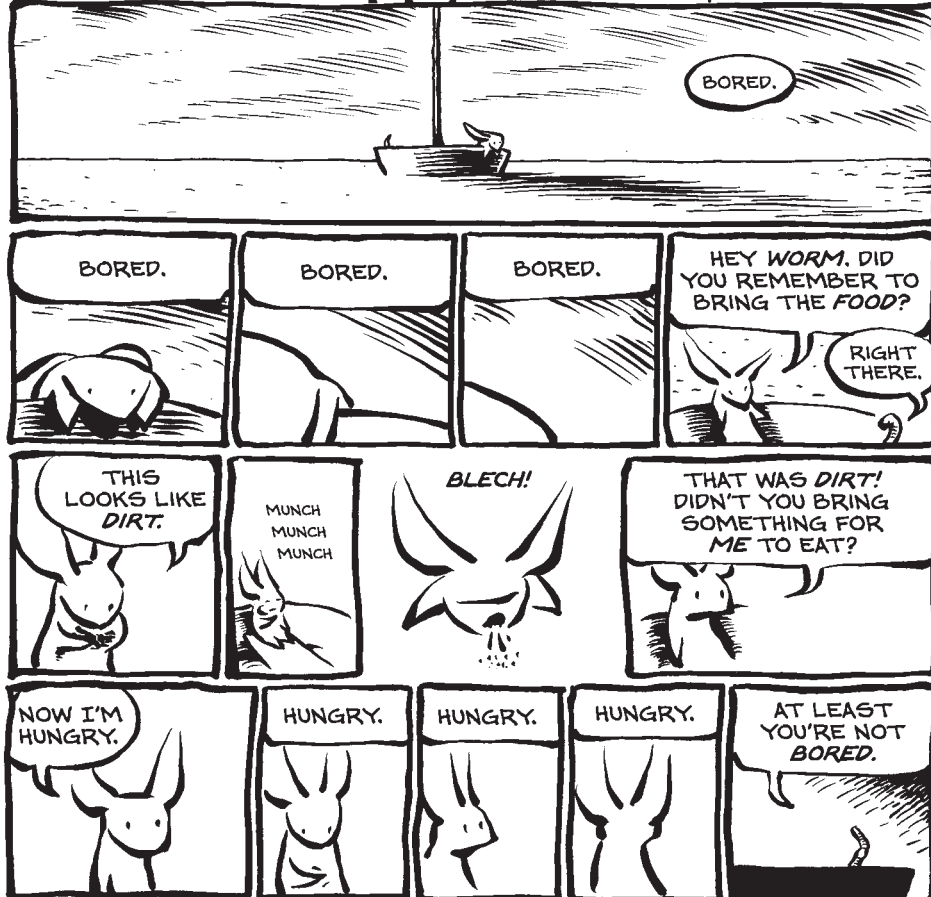
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How to Be Happy (CUTIE ISLAND) 12 OF 8 by Shannon Wheeler

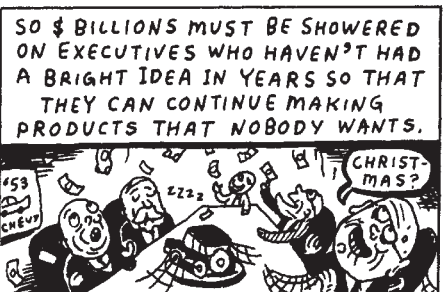
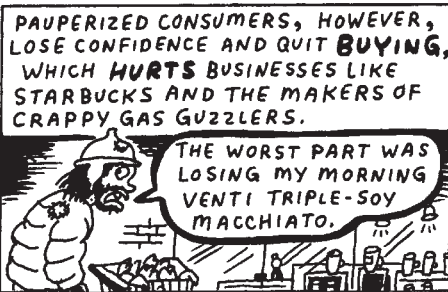
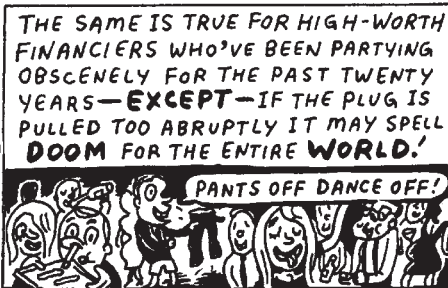


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TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE



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MVELLER

EXEBREAM

by Sam Hurt



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



One of the earliest written works about drug addiction was the 1821 book *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, by Thomas De Quincey (1785-1859). De Quincey expressed his love for opium in a form of literature he called "impassioned prose."

Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Black Panther and activist, coined the term "institutional racism."

The Marx Brothers' childhood home on 93rd Street just east of Lexington Avenue in New York City is in danger of being demolished. Learn more at www.savemarxbrothersplace.wordpress.com.

Some acupuncturists think the way to get rid of migraines is to add more chi by building on the kidney meridian rather than to work on the pain, because migraines drain energy.

R&B singer Little Willie John was insecure due to his height of only 5 feet 2 inches.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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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 Activites
- 515 Classes/Workshops
- 520 Discussion Groups
- 525 Events
- 530 General
- 535 Lost & Found
- 540 Volunteers
- 545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

- 610 Cars
- 615 Trucks
- 620 SUV's
- 625 Motorcycles
- 630 Recreational
- 635 Parts
- 640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

- 710 Equipment for Sale
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- 720 Musicians Available
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Analog Design Engineer needed by ST-NXP Wireless in Austin, TX, to design and develop analog and mixed signal integrated circuits (ICs) and develop new designs for patenting.

Requires Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering or Computer Science and 3 years experience in design and development of analog and mixed signal ICs including capture, layout, test, evaluation and debugging of prototype ICs and design support for mass production.

To apply, mail resume to Rick Spansel, Human Resource Director, ST-NXP Wireless Inc. 7500 Rialto Boulevard, Bldg 2, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735. Refer to 19-L.

160

RESEARCH STUDY

CANCER SURVIVORS

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting focus groups to learn about how people figure out how to talk to their family and friends about their cancer. Survivors of all types of cancers are welcome as long as they are over the age of 18. For more information or to sign up, please contact Andrew Tollison at 512.529.7988 or atollison@mail.utexas.edu. Focus groups will take place during December 2008 and January 2009 so please sign up by November 30, 2008. Focus groups will last approximately two hours, and participants will receive a \$40 gift card as a thank you. All calls and emails are confidential.

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SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at <http://www.123donate.com>.

FLU VACCINE

IS THE WAY WE MAKE FLU VACCINES TODAY BROKEN?

Today's flu vaccines are made from eggs. Researchers need your help evaluating a vaccine made by a new process without eggs that may allow vaccines to be available more quickly. To pre-qualify for this research study, you must:

- Be 18-49 years of age
- Be considered healthy, AND
- Have not yet received a flu vaccine for the 2008-09 season.

Participants who complete screening and are determined eligible by the study doctor will receive vaccination at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may also be provided. To learn more, contact:

1-800-369-2875

www.benchmarkresearch.net



MIGRAINE

ARE MIGRAINES MAKING YOUR LIFE A PAIN?

If so, consider joining our research study. If you suffer from 2 to 8 migraine attacks per month, and have a history of migraines for at least the last six months, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of a medication for migraines. Eligible participants must be

18 to 65 years of age. Office visits, study procedures, and study medication will be provided at no cost. **Compensation up to \$300 will be paid to eligible participants** for their time and effort completing the study.

For more information about this study, please call

1-800-369-2875

www.benchmarkresearch.net



RESEARCH STUDY

Achy, Tingly, Twitchy, Fidgety **RESTLESS LEGS** robbing you of sleep? Jerking, Twitching, Fidgeting. That's how your legs may feel if you have Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) - a condition that makes your legs very uncomfortable when sitting or lying down. The condition can interfere with both sleep and daily activities.

CLINICAL STUDY NOW ENROLLING PATIENTS

This research study is evaluating a medication for Restless Legs Syndrome. If you participate, you get:

- Monitoring of your health as

it relates to the clinical study.

- Study-related medical care and study medication provided at no cost to you.
 - Compensation for time and travel may be provided.
- To Qualify, You Must:
- Be at least 18 years old.
 - Be diagnosed with RLS or experiencing RLS symptoms.
 - Have trouble sleeping due to RLS.

• Other eligibility requirements apply.

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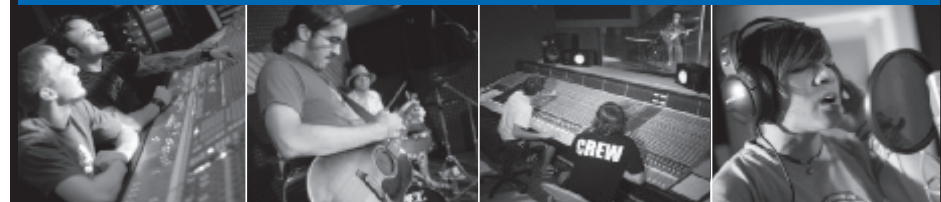
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If you suffer from 2 to 8 migraine attacks per month, and have a history of migraines for at least the last six months, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of a medication for migraines.

Eligible participants must be 18 to 65 years of age. Office visits, study procedures, and study medication will be provided at no cost.

Compensation up to \$300 will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort completing the study.

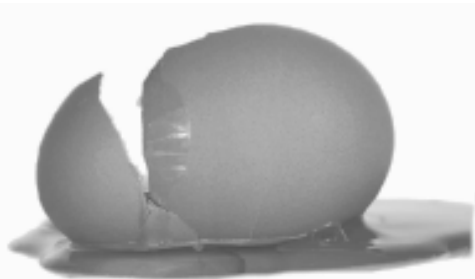


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To learn more, contact:
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Current flu vaccines are made using chicken eggs and take time to produce. This production time and limited supply of eggs may reduce the vaccine availability should a sudden flu outbreak occur.

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To pre-qualify for this research study, you must:

- Be 18-49 years of age,
- Be considered healthy, AND
- Have not yet received a flu vaccine for the 2008-09 season.

Participants who complete screening and are determined eligible by the study doctor will receive vaccination at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may also be provided.

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HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

For more information, please call
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All calls are confidential.

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Flexible hours.

Call 1-800-867-0047 for Dana.

Apply in person at
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RESEARCH STUDY

SEX ABUSE HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

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For more info, please call
(512) 232-4805
All calls are confidential.

SLEEP STUDY

Do you have problems staying asleep at night?

If you fall asleep in 30 minutes or less but have problems staying asleep at night, you may be qualified to participate in a clinical research study studying the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for insomnia.

Volunteers who qualify will receive study medication and study related medical care at no cost. You do not need medical insurance in order to participate and may be compensated for your time and travel.

We are looking for people at least 18 years of age who are: In good general health Have problems sleeping at night for at least one month

If you are interested or want additional information, please call: FutureSearch Trials
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Restless Legs

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CLINICAL STUDY NOW ENROLLING PATIENTS

This research study is evaluating a medication for Restless Legs Syndrome.

IF YOU PARTICIPATE, YOU'LL GET:

- Monitoring of your health as it relates to the clinical study.
- Study-related medical care and study medication provided at no cost to you.

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be diagnosed with RLS or experiencing RLS symptoms.
- Have trouble sleeping due to RLS.

Other eligibility requirements apply.

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**225
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**230
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**235
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CENTRAL \$150 week, cable, telephone, single adult party house, 292-8833.

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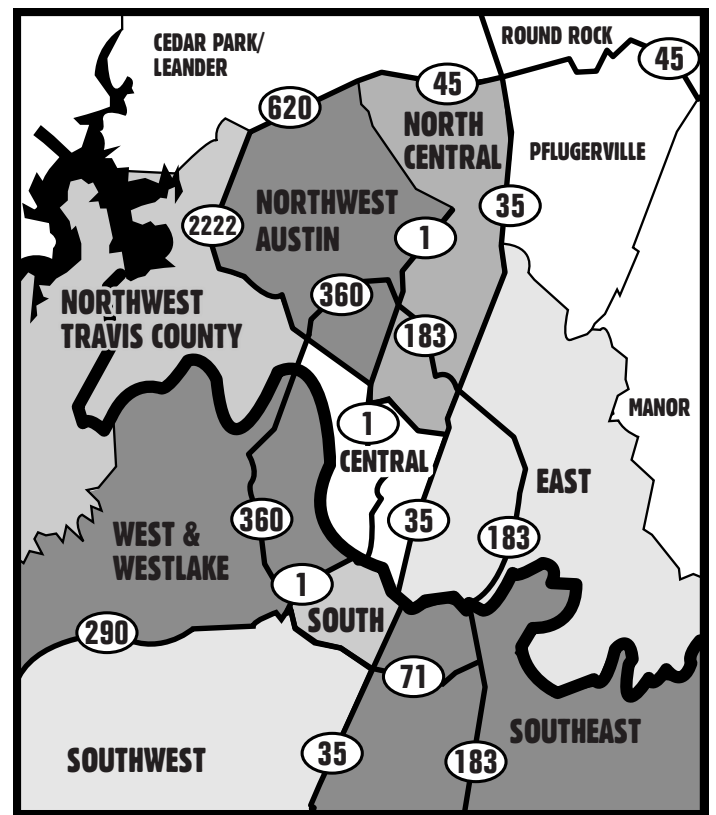
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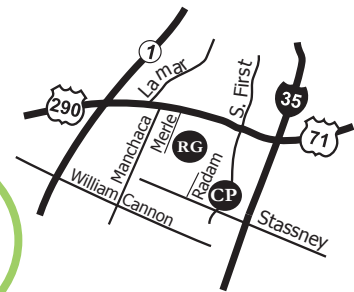
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PERSONALS The Austin Chronicle's personals is one of the best ways in town to meet quality people. Check out a variety of listings in this week's paper, or call 454-5768 for info on how to place an ad. It's time to leave the TV Guide at home.

535**LOST & FOUND**

LOST DOGS Brown/white male & all white female boxers. Male has heart condition and female is deaf. Last seen Westgate/William Cannon area on 10/20. Reward for their return or whereabouts. 512-633-3914.

540**VOLUNTEERS**

MENTORS NEEDED Communities in Schools at Pearce Middle School is currently seeking community mentors to meet one-on-one with students. Mentoring can consist of playing games, sports, tutoring, or just hanging out and talking. Any caring adult can be a Mentor! No experience is necessary and a training is provided. Mentors meet with their student for 1 hour a day once a week. A minimal time commitment makes a BIG difference! For more info visit: www.cisaustin.org Or Contact: Caitlin Morris Mentor & After School Specialist CIS @ Pearce Middle School 512-841-5784 morris.caitlin@cisaustin.org

545**LEGAL NOTICES****467499 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 21st day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered 467499, 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 Glenn Floyd Boxwell and Jeannette Boxwell are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,378.57** 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 March 28, 2003.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 4205, Bar-K Ranches Plat 4, Plat No. 56/89, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7588, Page 338 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,378.57** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
 CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

AV1204 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 4, 2008 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

082911003	1985	JAGU	4DR	R42YDH	TX	SAJAV1344FC933861
082960721	1989	FORD	4DR	W57RWGTX	TX	1FAPP36X9KK227670
083031114	1991	NISS	SD	604XXM	TX	JN1FU212PXM864110
083090608	1998	CHEV	PK	1JWP52	TX	1GBKBC34J7WF039568
085053896	2007	EXTR	TRAL51ZNMJ	TX		3D8BB25287R000220
085053896	2007	MALIBU	BT	5909AN	TX	MB254196K607
085055203	1984	BUIC	2DR	413TTK	TX	1G4AM47A6EH459343
085057655	1992	NISS	4DR	058TTK	TX	JN1HJ01P5NT623246
085057931	1995	SATR	4DR	X87BPY	TX	1G8ZK527XSZ385567
085057933	1980	CHEV	4DR	473ZLH	TX	1L69HAC104253
085057936	1997	FORD	LL	860VHP	TX	1FMDU32E2VUA00884
085058252	1993	CHEV	4DR	LTU12N	TX	1G1JC5445P7198171
085058254	1994	CHEV	VN	BDK454	TX	1GBEG25K2RF174125
085058257	2003	FORD	4DR	512CYW	TX	1FAFP53U83A124829
085058259	1998	DODG	VN	L61TPT	TX	2B4FP25B9WR725457
085058267	1995	MERC	4DR	T64JWW	TX	3MASM10J9SR655613
085058270	1990	NISS	2DR	896VWX	TX	JN1GB2257KU548174
085058271	1999	FORD	2DR	BSB309	TN	3FAKP1136XR231665
085058839	2004	CARG	TRAL76YCFY	TX		4D6EB12144C006490
085058846	1993	CHEV	4DR	537WHR	TX	1G1JC54T1P7210386
085058852	1992	MERC	4DR	H79KDD	TX	2MECM75W8N728390
085059181	1992	TOYT	2DR	X97ZTG	TX	JT2EL46B5N0189337
085059183	1995	FORD	2DR	W56HSD	TX	1FASP111J9S5W332431
085059186	1985	VOLV	4DR	W16RGX	TX	YV1AX8847F1132014
085059256	1993	DODG	VN	H11XPZ	TX	2B4GH2535PR105300
085059261	1993	TOYT	4DR	BWW408	TX	4TLVK12E9PU049257
085059262	1996	CHEV	LL	459MNZ	TX	1GNCE16R2TJ380392
085059427	1987	OLDS	4DR	T36LSL	TX	1G3CX513XH1333200
085059436	1991	OLDS	2DR	003LKY	TX	1G3NF14DXMM036185
085059444	1990	CHEV	PK	YX55	AR	2GCEC19KXL1141772
085059450	2002	TOYT	PK	40YNZ7	TX	5TENL42N2Z2129471
085059656	1991	CHEV	2DR	976GGV	TX	2G1WN14TOM9116261
085059658	1995	FORD	2DR	V78JPP	TX	1FALP4048SF209205
085059659	1985	NISS	PK	LST18	CA	JN6ND06S1F0W09067
085059666	1991	CHEV	2DR	H72FSC	TX	1G1FP23E1ML163505
085059669	1988	DODG	LL	GXF989	TX	3B4GW02Y7J8M36884
085059679	1994	OLDS	4DR	720PHY	TX	1G3WH55M0RD336877
085060073	1996	FORD	2DR	Z07XPY	TX	1FALP62W0TH161604
085060083	1994	DODG	PK	30NJX4	TX	1B7HC16Z1RS672057
085060086	1996	FORD	4DR	B38YHG	TX	1FALP6531TK154794
085060088	1991	CADI	4DR	Z05XNY	TX	1G6KS53BXMU817121

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91-10403
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 16th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered 91-10403, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Walter J. Rajtaczak and Pauline Ratajczak are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$9,807.33 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 October 7, 1999.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 6067, Highland Lake Estates, Section 6, Plat No. 51/76 as described in Volume 6756, Page 564 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$9,807.33 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

94-06459
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE OF a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered 94-06459, 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 Terry A. Lumpkin, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Terry A. Lumpkin, Robin A. Lumpkin, NRC, Inc. (In Rem Only) and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,847.38 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 October 6, 1999.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 15166, Bar-K Ranches, Section 15-A, Plat No. 79/142 as described in Volume 10149, Page 443 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,847.38 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GUADALUPE SEGURA, Deceased, No. 89619 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

GLORIA SEGURA SALES AND FEDERICO SEGURA SR. alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 13TH day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GUADALUPE SEGURA, 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 13th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ D. Mendez

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
- DOMESTIC
THE STATE OF TEXAS

NO. 08-2333-F395 TO: SREELAKSHMI ADUSUMILLI -and to all whom it may concern, **RESPONDENT(S) Sreelakshmi Adusumilli GREETING: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF TWENTY DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.**

THE ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE of Naresh Babu Veera Venkata, Petitioner, was filed in the said Court of Williamson County, Texas, on this 17th day of September, 2008, against Sreelakshmi Adusumilli, Respondent, numbered 08-2333-F395 and entitled:

IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF NARESH BABU VEERA VENKATA AND SREELAKSHMI ADUSUMILLI AND IN THE INTEREST OF HARSHITH NOCHUNDURI

The suit requests THAT THE COURT GRANT RELIEF REQUESTED IN PETITION.

The date and place of birth of the child(ren) who is/are the subject of the suit:

HARSHITH NOCHUNDURI// DOB JANUARY 31, 2003

The Court has the authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child(ren)'s interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to con-

sent to the child(ren)'s adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at office, on this the 22nd day of October, 2008.

LISA DAVID, DISTRICT CLERK
Williamson County, Texas
P.O. Box 24,
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, Texas 78627-0024

By: /s/ Selina Williams, Deputy

ADDRESS OF PETITIONER OR ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER:

John Campbell
1601 Rio Grande, Ste 405
Austin, TX 78701

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-FM-08-005609 TO: UNKNOWN FATHER 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 the 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, 353RD 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 TERMINATION AND ADOPTION OF SARAH MATTHEWS AND ROY MATTHEWS Petitioner(s), filed in said court on NOVEMBER 05, 2008, against UNKNOWN FATHER Respondent(s), and said suit being entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF JAVONTE ZACCHAEUS AND A' DONTA LEE THOMAS", the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship and for adoption.

The Name, Birth date, and Place of Birth of said is as follows:

JAVONTE ZACCHAEUS THOMAS, BORN ON SEPTEMBER 02, 1993, IN LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA
A'DONTA LEE THOMAS, BORN ON JULY 08, 1996 IN AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Court has the 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, November 05, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By: /s/ KATHERINE FRAZIER, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN CAMPBELL, P.C.
1601 RIO GRANDE, SUITE 405
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
TEL: (512)476-6036
FAX: (512)478-8919

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By: /s/ KATHERINE FRAZIER, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN CAMPBELL, P.C.
1601 RIO GRANDE, SUITE 405
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
TEL: (512)476-6036
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AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By: /s/ KATHERINE FRAZIER, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN CAMPBELL, P.C.
1601 RIO GRANDE, SUITE 405
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
TEL: (512)476-6036
FAX: (512)478-8919

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TINA LACHELLE SMITH, Deceased, No. 89099 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

LINDA KAY TAHANE alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered entitled estate, filed on the 14th day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said TINA LACHELLE SMITH, 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. As. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court a] 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 14th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-08-003731 TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AMANDA AUGUSTA COLLIN AND ANDREW A. COLLIN Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: **YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 22nd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 16, 2008, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-08-003731, in which A. JO BAYLOR Plaintiff(s), and HARRY A. COLLIN, JR., RYAN A. COLLIN, STEPHANIE L. COLLIN and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AMANDA AUGUSTA COLLIN, AND ANDREW A. COLLIN Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

PLAINTIFF SEEKS TO QUIET TITLE ON PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BLOCK 34 IN THE LIMERICK SUBDIVISION OF LOT NO. 41, IN DIVISION "B" IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME Z, PAGE 603, OF THE DEED RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 05, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ BRIAN HILL, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
J. GORDON MCHANAY
301 CONGRESS AVENUE,
21ST FLOOR
P.O. BOX 684158
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4158
BUSINESS PHONE: (512)474-9124 FAX: (512)474-8582
EMAIL: GMCHANAY@CHMC-LAW.COM

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TRINIDAD C SEGURA, Deceased, No. 89618 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

GLORIA SEGURA SALES AND FEDERICO SEGURA SR. alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 14th day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said TRINIDAD C SEGURA, 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. As.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court a] 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 14th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-08-003731 TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AMANDA AUGUSTA COLLIN AND ANDREW A. COLLIN Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: **YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 22nd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 16, 2008, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-08-003731, in which A. JO BAYLOR Plaintiff(s), and HARRY A. COLLIN, JR., RYAN A. COLLIN, STEPHANIE L. COLLIN and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AMANDA AUGUSTA COLLIN, AND ANDREW A. COLLIN Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

PLAINTIFF SEEKS TO QUIET TITLE ON PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BLOCK 34 IN THE LIMERICK SUBDIVISION OF LOT NO. 41, IN DIVISION "B" IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME Z, PAGE 603, OF THE DEED RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 05, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ BRIAN HILL, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
J. GORDON MCHANAY
301 CONGRESS AVENUE,
21ST FLOOR
P.O. BOX 684158
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4158
BUSINESS PHONE: (512)474-9124 FAX: (512)474-8582
EMAIL: GMCHANAY@CHMC-LAW.COM

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TRINIDAD C SEGURA, Deceased, No. 89618 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

GLORIA SEGURA SALES AND FEDERICO SEGURA SR. alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 14th day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said TRINIDAD C SEGURA, 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. As. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court a] 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 14th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ D. Mendez

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION
IFB No. B090058-LP

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the **HOWARD LANE I PROJECT (IFB No. B090058-LP)**, a project consisting primarily of construction roadway and bridge improvements including driveways, curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm drainage, 16" waterline, water quality pond, and drainage channels in Travis County Precinct 1, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701 until **2:00 P. M. CST, DECEMBER 18, 2008**, then publicly opened and read aloud. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE. A refundable deposit of \$200.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in list below.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M., CST AT THE Travis County Purchasing Office, Conference Room, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the

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.

YOU BECOME RESPONSIBLE WHEN YOU CO-SIGN A LOAN

My girlfriend wants me to co-sign her car loan. I want to help but am not sure what it means to co-sign. Will I have to make any payments?

Most of us will be asked by relatives or friends to co-sign a loan at some point in our lives. This may be because the borrower does not have a strong credit history. Many times, however, it is because the borrower either lacks the income or assets to qualify for the loan or has bad credit.

Many people who co-sign have the mistaken belief that they are simply helping with the processing of the loan and that the primary borrower is the only person responsible for making payments. This is incorrect.

As the co-signer, you will be fully liable for the debt if the primary borrower (your girlfriend) does not make the loan payments. In addition to the debt itself, as the co-signer, you could also be responsible for paying additional charges, including interest, late fees, and attorneys' fees (if the lender takes legal action to collect on the unpaid debt). Failure to pay any of the owed amount could adversely affect your credit. Furthermore, even if the primary borrower makes payments, your ability to obtain credit may be negatively affected because lenders will consider a co-signed loan as part of your total debt load, which could affect your future ability to borrow.

Also keep in mind that the lender is in the business of evaluating risk, so if the lender refuses to approve a loan without a co-signer, this generally means that the lender believes the primary borrower (your girlfriend) is a bad risk and is likely to default on her loan. The Texas Attorney General's Office reports that as many as three out of four co-signers are asked to repay loans because the primary borrower goes into default.

Be sure you have weighed all the risks before agreeing to co-sign a loan. If you do decide to co-sign, be sure you can afford to pay the debt in the event that your girlfriend defaults.

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.

contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use unit pricing, except as provided for in the Specifications. Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENCY

D-1-GV-04-003064

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353RD District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-04-003064, wherein Plaintiffs are Austin Community College, City of Jonestown, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 7, Travis County Healthcare District and Intervenor are Leader Independent School District, and Barbara Whitrow, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Barbara Whitrow, Attorney General for the State of Texas (In Rem Only), City of Jonestown (In Rem Only) and Reyes M. Muniz (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and intervenors, for the sum of **\$12,880.07** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenors, in the 353RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 3, 2008.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 140, Jonestown Hills, Unit 7, Plat No. 30/3 as described in Volume 12519, Page 1256 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$12,880.07** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs and intervenors, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

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.

D-1-GV-05-004355

**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 21st day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-05-004355, wherein Austin Community College, Manor Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Gregory L. Pack, Sr. a/k/a Gregory L. Peck, Sr., Alphonse Washington (In Rem Only) and Gwendolyn R. Lawson (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,414.70** 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 December 14, 2007.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 236, Block H, Imperial Valley, Section 2, Plat No. 50/62, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2007047983 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,414.70** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

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 October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000718, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District n/k/a Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Marvin E. Howse, Mark Cohen, Trustee (In Rem Only) and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,100.79** 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 September 28, 2007.

D-1-GV-06-001087

**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 15th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001087, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John Maness and Jana Jean V. Stubbs are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$7,692.87** 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 17, 2006.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 682, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 4, Plat No. 44/44, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 8051, Page 883 and document number 2000046057 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$7,692.87** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000718

**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 October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000718, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District n/k/a Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Marvin E. Howse, Mark Cohen, Trustee (In Rem Only) and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$5,100.79** 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 September 28, 2007.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 34171, Highland Lake Estates, Section 34, Plat No. 79/139, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7681, Page 612 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$5,100.79** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-08-000026

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-08-000026, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and George L. Vaughan and Quentin G. Pletsch, in their capacity as Trustee for Covenant Presbyterian Church, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of George L. Vaughan and Quentin G. Pletsch, Samuel (Sam) Williams, in his capacity as Trustee for Covenant Presbyterian Church and Arthur E. Guilfoil, in his capacity as Trustee for Covenant Presbyterian Church are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$12,613.71** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 419th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 9, 2008.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 198, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 38/22 as described in Volume 9227, Page 648 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$12,613.71** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-08-000700

**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 22nd day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-08-000700, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Justin Belt are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$11,371.87** 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 July 25, 2008.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 3092, Bar-K Ranches, Plat 3, Plat No. 57/15 being more particularly described in document number 2007050429 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$11,371.87** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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-301937

**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 October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-301937, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Daniel William Henson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Daniel William Henson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,032.37** 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 February 17, 2004.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 10039, Bar-K Ranches Plat No. 10, Plat No. 63/25

as described in Volume 7469, Page 523 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,032.37** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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GV-504014

**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 21st day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-504014, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John E. McKenzie, A. Jo Baylor (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$45,972.88** 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 December 12, 2006.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 17, Block 4, Chernosky subdivision No. 9 (Olt. 21, Div. B), Plat No. 4/190 as described in Volume 8210, Page 62, Noted in Volume 8210, Page 764 and Volume 8223, Page 211 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas .

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$45,972.88** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-504452

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 15th day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-504452, wherein Austin Community College, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 7 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Joseph D. Talley are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,448.24** 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 May 12, 2006.

I, on the 24th day of October, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of December, 2008 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 4, Lime Creek Acres, Plat No. 79/156, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 9439, Page 945 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,448.24** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 21st day of October, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-504014, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John E. McKenzie, A. Jo Baylor (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$45,972.88** 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 December 12, 2006.

NO. 89,520 ESTATE OF LEE BLOCKER, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT

NUMBER ONE OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LEE BLOCKER

Pursuant to Texas Probate Code 294, notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LEE BLOCKER were issued on the 6th day of November, 2008, in Cause No. 89,520 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: MIRIAM BLOCKER OWEN, ALLISON BLOCKER RUSSELL, and ELIZABETH BLOCKER NALLE

Claims to be presented should be addressed to Independent Executors, Estate of LEE BLOCKER at: 105 East 2nd Street, P.O. Box 690, Elgin, Texas 78621

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. MIRIAM BLOCKER OWEN, ALLISON BLOCKER RUS-

SELL, and ELIZABETH BLOCKER NALLE

By: /s/ Elizabeth Owen, Attorney

State Bar # 00794411

OWEN, BOGART, ROGERS AND NISIMBLAT

105 East 2nd Street

P.O. Box 690

Elgin, Texas 78621

Phone: (512) 281-3326

NOTICE Vacation Villages Association, Inc.'s Notice of Substitute Trustee Sale for timeshare properties at The Shores at Lake Travis scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2008 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for unknown owners of accounts: 2C-0552, 2C-0594, 2C-0614, 2C-0634, 2P-0295, 2P-0335, 2P-0355, 2P-0377, 2P-0395, 2P-0425, 2S-0002, 2S-0124, 2S-0150, 2S-0151 by default of assessment payments, subject to cancellation or postponing, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the real properties identified above. The time-shares are offered for sale in total and no individual or piecemeal bids for fewer than the total offered shall be accepted.

The sale shall be conducted at the Travis County Courthouse, Michael P. Kelly, Substituted Trustee, may be contacted at P.O. Box 150589, Dallas, Texas 75315-0589 or by telephone 214-821-7255 or telecopy 214-821-7251. See Notice for more details.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.

Garagekeeper: Pinkies American Towing Inc

8917 Circle Dr

Austin TX, 78736

512-233-4869

1993 Toyota Paseo

No Plates

VIN # JT2EL45UXP0149163

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION

Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON MELBER LANE IN PRECINCT TWO.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Adjustment, City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 9th day of December, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Request for a Variance to the Land Development Code: An application submitted by The City of Sunset Valley, owners of an approximately 3 acre tract located on the southwest corner of Jones Road and Lone Oak Trail, requesting a variance to the City's Land Development Code to allow a reduced number of parking spaces. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

IRON OUT MONEY ISSUES BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD

Dear Tom and Ray:

A friend and I took a trip in my car. The gasoline bill was \$40. What percent should he pay when I consider wear and tear on my vehicle? How do I calculate the bill fairly?

— Ralph

TOM: He should pay whatever you guys agreed he would pay in advance. These things are best negotiated before you're 280 miles from the nearest Chat 'n Chew and have to ride back home in brooding silence.

RAY: On relatively short trips, people tend to split the fuel cost. If you were going to take the trip anyway, Ralph, you now would have someone to keep you company, someone to pay for half of the gas, and maybe even someone to share the driving. That works for everybody.

TOM: And if your friend were generous, he'd offer to buy lunch since you provided the car.

RAY: If it's a trip that you were not going to make on your own (where the two of you sat down and said: "Hey, let's go to Canada to taste their burritos. Whose car should we take?"), then you might agree in advance to split the cost of an oil change, or your friend might agree to pay for more of the fuel to make up for the wear on the tires, brakes, and other things that wear out with use.

TOM: But, like most deals, if money is an issue you feel strongly about, discuss it before you hit the road. Or suggest that you take his car.

Wait! Don't buy another car without the mechanic's checklist that's included in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." It will help you get a good used car and avoid the clunkers. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

cut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein after described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below. And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following date. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only.

Stor Self Storage, 1508 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660 December 5th, 11:30

Delton Southern, 1716 Kingston Lacy Blvd., Pflugerville, Tx. 78660, Unit 00230, 5 x 10, #0912409

Plastic lawn chairs, Glass tables and Glass tops, King mattress, Infantra mattress and box springs, wicker chair, miscellaneous household goods.

Jessica Rios, 18704 Royal Point Drive, Pflugerville, Tx. 78660, Unit 00236, 5 x 15, #0912414

Queen metal bed frame, Large lawn Rototiller, miscellaneous large plastic sealed bags, miscellaneous boxes, plastic totes.

Alma Burleson, 16701 N. Heatherwild, Apt. 918, Pflugerville, Tx. 78660, Unit 00325, 10 x 10, #0912301

Wooden bedroom dresser, Glass table & top, Art prints, Chair, TV

Crystal McBrady, 1800 Plateau Vista Blvd., Round Rock, Tx. 78664, Unit 00328, 10 x 10, #092346

TV, Dining room table & chairs, TV stands, Entertainment center, Queen mattress & box springs.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 10th of December 2008 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

Wednesday, December 10th 2008.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd., Austin, TX 78748

0086 MARK SMITH, CHAIR, BOXES, BED

0092 CATHY YERBY, WASH-ER, DRYER, SOFA

0229 DAVID PORTER, TABLE, DESK, BOXES

0258 DAVID PORTER, SHELVING, BOXES, TOTES

0265 KIMBERLY WHITE, POOL TABLE, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, WEIGHT BENCH

0443 ERNEST QADIMASIL, SUITCASE, CHAIRS, BOXES

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

F166 JUAN VALADEZ, DESK, CHAIR, TV

I003 ELAINE DAVIS, BOXES K288 ERIC REYNA, COUCH, TABLE, BED

0454 THERESA PAREDES, SHELVING, TABLE, CHAIR

R528 ELAINE DAVIS, BOXES, BAGS, SUITCASE

S558 CAMERON GARBEROGLIO, CHAIR, TOOL BOX, TOYS

S566 RHONDA THOMPSON, BOXES

V711 VIVIAN HILL, TV, TOTES, BOXES

10:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin,

TX 78745

E37 WENDI SCROGGINS, BOXES, PIANO, TOTES
F3 DIANA GUZMAN, TRUNK, BAGS, TOTES

F4 ROBERT G RENTERIA, BOXES, COMPUTER, LAMP
F30 CARLOS RIVAS, DESK, STEREO, DRESSER

K43 THERESE DEGRASSI, DRESSER, BED, TABLE
L24 ANGIE BARRIENTOS, CHAIR, TABLE, FILING CABINET

L55 LINDA CHANDLER, BED, STOVE, BOXES

M55 PAUL MASTERS, HAND DOLLY, SPEAKERS, SOFA
M77 CRYSTAL FRAZIER, SOFA, BOXES, TOYS

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

204 SANDRA MOLINA, SOFA, CHAIR, TABLE

220 THOMAS CLARK, TABLE, CHAIR, LAWN EQUIPMENT

325 ROBERT HERBERT, TV, BOXES, LAWN EQUIPMENT
395 BETTY MORALES, SPEAKERS, TABLE, TV

542 CHRIS DESANTIAGO, TABLE, DRYER, WASHER
555 MARIE REYES, SPEAKERS, BOXES, TOTES

724 DALIA RAMOS, STEREO, TABLE, CHAIR

734 JULIE BRYANT, SOFA, TV, WASHER

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

1021 CAMERON CHRISTOFFER, DRESSER, DRYER, GUITAR

1058 JOHN STEVENS, TABLE, CHAIR, BOXES

2198 JEANNE RICHEY, BED, BOXES, CHAIR

3015 ALICE COLLINS, DRESSER, CHAIR, BOXES

3158 JENNIFER SWIGART, SADDLE, GOLF CLUBS, DESK

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B026 MIGUEL VELA, TV, SHELVING, FREEZER

B029 ADEBOLA JOHNSON, CHAIR, BATTERY CHARGER, TOOL BOX

C054 REBECCA COLEMAN, SPEAKERS, AIR COMPRESSOR, COMPUTER

C069 MATEO MEXQUITIC, CHAIR, BOXES, FISHING EQUIPMENT

C096 WENDY CROUSE, TABLE, STOOL, BOXES

C117 MARCUS JONES, TABLE, SOFA, DRESSER

C122 THOMAS LOERA, BOXES, BED, TOTES

C196 JONATHAN HOUSTON, DRESSER, CHAIR, BOXES

C199 JANICE WASHINGTON, CHAIR, BOXES, COMPUTER

C246 OJ GRAHAM, DRESSER, DESK, CHAIR

C279 IVAN ALVAREZ, LAWN-MOWER, TABLE, TV

C285 NICOLAS GUERRA, TABLE, SPEAKERS, SOFA

C322 BRENDA CARRINGTON, SOFA, STEREO, CHAIR

C336 SUSAN CONSTANCIO, DRESSER, CHAIR, BOXES

D009 CLINT EAVES, LADDER, CHAIR, BOXES

D017 MARIA MCMILLIN, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D019 AIMEE RUSSELL, CHAIR, SPEAKERS, FILING CABINET

12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1008 SHAWN LLOYD, BOXES, FISH TANK, SUITCASE

2052 STEPHANIE HORGAN, BOXES, TABLE BED

3098 ELIZABETH PURCELL, BOOKCASE, BOOKS, TABLE

4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, TV, DRESSER, TABLE

1:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US 290W, Austin, TX 78735

4278 MICHAEL LUMBLEY, HAND DOLLY, CHAIR, CABINET

1:15 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

2114 SHONDA BROWN, CHAIR, DRESSER, DESK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Delinquent Tenants

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All items in the unit generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 11th & 12th of December on or after the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified:

Thursday December 11th 2008

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

2035 BERRI MCBRIDE, TOTES, CHAIR, BOXES

2053 KATHLEEN ATWOOD, YARD TOOLS, LADDER, BOXES

3053 PAUL MASSAY, BICYCLE, BED, SPORTS EQUIPMENT

4013 MARCELINO SANDOVAL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

4165 CLINT WHITE, SOFA, BAGS, SUITCASE

5046 DOMONICA IVORY, SOFA, TABLE

5085 LISA WALKER, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

5185 TRACIE LAYMON, BOXES, CHAIR

9:30am Public Storage @ 1001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

1023 Kathleen Sanders, All items in unit

4015 Tony Earls, All items in unit

3003 Maryann Gillespie, All items in unit

1042 Robert Orona Jr., All items in unit

8043 Gisela Cabadas, Toys, Lawn Equipment, Tile

2062 Sammy Reyes, All items in unit.

6016 Lorenzo Mannelli, All items in unit.

2031 Gloria Yguado, Dresser, Bed, Boxes

5032 Jeannie McDonald, Stereo, TV, Bookcase

5038 Gerardo Vela Contreras, Sofa, Bicycle, Weights

3028 Matthew A Drew, Stereo, Bicycle, Weights

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

C090 Mariah Jackson, All items in unit

B111 Denise Matlock, Bicycle, Bed, Desk

D037 Kenneth P Miller, Sofa, Bed, Desk

B055 Rodney Stennis, Dresser, Speakers, Weights

B044 Larry Thompson, Stereo, Tires, Bed

C022 Phillip Wooldridge, All items in unit

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reinitl, Austin, TX., 78751

247 Greg Chandler, All items in unit

204 Wolf Danziger, All items in unit

155 Wolf Danziger, All items in unit

202 Wolf Danziger, All items in unit

435 Christina Rodriguez, Toys, Bags, Totes

752 Linda Gray, Clothing, Bed, Totes

131 Shirley Hill, TV, Washer, Dresser

722 Michael Shelly, Bed, Toolbox, TV

804 Tommy Recio, Bed, Clothing, Totes

729 Jerrold Scott, Refrigerator, Dryer, Freezer

797 Raul Hernandez, Toolbox, Desk, Dryer

443 Dora Butler, All items in unit

920 Leonard Maxwell, All items in unit

304 Denise Horton, Bed, Boxes, Table

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

N3360 Stevin Woody, All items in unit

447 Rose Lee, All items in unit

3069 Jordan Linscomb, Chair, Bed, Boxes

107 Anthony Mauzy, Bed, Table, Boxes

N3490 Lesedi Trotz, All items in unit

530 Christi Richardson, All items in unit

1231 Marco Aragon, All items in unit

555 Bernice Wyatt, Dresser, Washer, Suitcase

440 Kelly Gill, All items in unit

1111 David Buckingham, all items in unit

N1402 Matthew Fagan, Bed, Toys, Folding Table

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

C018 William Voges, All items in unit

B034 Tiffany Allen, All items in unit

G017 Michael T. Wood, All items in unit

E049 Edward Sosa, Bags, Bed, Boxes

H013 Hugo Zamora, All items in unit

B027 Norma Castro, Lawn equipment, shelving

F008 Brandon Ester, Entertainment center, Clothing, Bookcase

B044 Derrick Russell, Power Tools, Tool box, Toys

A008 Andre Allen Cole, All items in unit

A102 Brad Fox, Washer, Dryer, Weight Bench

J026 Roman Torres, Computer, Refrigerator, Stereo

E042 Kenneth McMahon, All items in unit

H023 Isaias Romero, Microwave, Bags, Toys

A101 Dominique Beasley, Washer, Dryer, Clothing

C016 Tammy Hicks, All items in unit

G009 Kenneth Andre Kindred Jr., Couch, Dresser, Washer

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

C023 Keana Smith, Bags, Boxes, Toys

G048 Madison Pitcher, TV, Computer, Boxes

C061 Jarrett Burleson, Washer, Dryer, Couch

F002 Lindsay Hearn, Microwave, Speakers, Bed

E131 Zenda River, TV, Stereo, Bed

G059 Grace Faz Torres, Exercise equipment, TV, Refrigerator

E074 Gloria Rayborn, All items in unit

E091 Marvin Calhoun, TV, Stereo, Microwave

D033 Jaquen Causey, Dresser, Clothing, Bed

Friday December 12th 2008

9:30am Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

9119 Austin Bounds, All items in unit

8122 Virginia Rosalez, Couch, Bed, Boxes

3141 Eric Rountree, Chest of Drawers, TV, Refrigerator

9105 Belinda Reese, All items in unit

8151 Randy Baker, Lamp, Clothing, Boxes

4116 John Lamphear, TV, Bed, Boxes

7110 Lisa Green, TV, Dresser, Bed

9107 Zebulon Harris, Weight Bench, TV, Computer

1104 Alison Haines, Stereo, Table, Clothing

10:00am Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

1337 Mariam Samandi, Suitcase, Totes, Boxes

10:30am Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

D002 Randall Leggett, All items in unit

4051 Ashly Perez, All items in unit

11:00am Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

E013 Charles Nelson, All items in unit

B041 Derrick L Hunter, Boxes, Bags, TV

11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

B250Catherine Von Ach, All items in unit

A047 Willie Smith, TV, Microwave, Dresser

C318 Henry Rountree, Bed, Chest of Drawer, Microwave

D484 Virginia Ramirez, All items in unit

D479 William G. Graf III, All items in unit

D514 Grace Castro, Couch, Chair, Bed

D616 Joy Surratt, Refrigerator, Totes, Bed

C289 Larhonda Turner, Chest of Drawers, Love Seat, Couch

A012 George May, Dresser, Clothing, Chest of drawers

12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

D053 Christobal Longoria, all items in unit

A268 Marie Thompson, Microwave, Bed, Table

F025 Brooke Bonder, Bed, Boxes, Headboard

E111 Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Boxes, Totes, Computer

E031 Edward Miller, All items in unit

A075 Mike Barnhart, Stereo, Bicycle, Boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

U-STORE-IT hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on December 5, 2008 beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the U-STORE-IT located at 10025 Manchaca Road Austin, Texas. This sale will continue to each designated address location listed below after the completion of the beginning sale. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

U-Store-It #753

10025 Manchaca Rd Austin, TX 78748

512-292-1760

Herberto Cornejo - Ladders, Staging, Wheelbarrels.

Devin Adkinson - Boxes Dresser, Speakers, Stereo, TVs, Drier, Pool Table.

Robert Hart - Boxes, Chairs, Dresser, Coffee Table, Computer Monitor.

Theresa A. Gutierrez - Rug, Totes, Bags, Paint Cans, Decorations, Jack Stands.

Paul Riojas - Bass Buggy Boat.

U-Store-It #751

610 E. Stansney Lane Austin, TX 78745

512-441-830

erson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 13th day of November, 2008.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY HEITMAN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Mary Heitman, Deceased, were issued on November 13, 2008, in Cause No. 89511 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Debra Brewington, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Debra Brewington

Independent Executor, Estate of Mary Heitman, 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 13th day of November, 2008.

/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 ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY LOUISE JONES Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 89,523, styled Estate of Mary Louise Jones, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters Testamentary were issued on the 13th day of November, 2008, to JOHN CALHOUN MILLER of Austin, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and be-

fore such estate is closed. Claims may be presented to said personal representative at the address shown below and said personal representative directs that any such claims be presented to the attorney for said representatives.

JOHN CALHOUN MILLER, Independent Executor and Attorney at Law
1509 Old West 38th Street #3
Austin, Texas 78731-6328

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ERIKA ELISABETH HARTMAN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ERIKA ELISABETH HARTMAN, Deceased, were issued on November 18, 2008, in Cause No. 89,495, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to:

ERIC BECKER HARTMAN, Independent Executor. The residence of the Independent Executor is Austin, Travis County, Texas. The post office address is:
Estate of ERIKA ELISABETH HARTMAN
Law Office of Diane Hebner
507 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED November 18, 2008.

Law Office of Diane Hebner
507 West 7th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2831

(512)477-4158 Telephone
(512)477-2126 Fax

By: /s/ Diane Hebner
Attorney for Independent Executor

State Bar No. 09367300

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Charles Meeks, Deceased,

were issued on November 13, 2008, in Cause No. 08-0546-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: Sally M. Meeks.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Sally M. Meeks
c/o: Steven A. Gonzales
1400 B Bergin Court
Georgetown, Texas 78626

DATED the 17th day of November, 2008.

Cirkiel & Associates, P.C.
1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.
Round Rock, Texas 78664

Telephone: (512)244-6658
Facsimile: (512)244-6014

/s/ Steven A. Gonzales
Attorney for Sally M. Meeks
State Bar No.: 24053232

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On October 30, 2008, Gary Thomas Gillespie qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Eileen B. Hylltin, Deceased, in Cause No. 89,470 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the administrator is c/o Merrily S. Porter, 4004 Ridgela Dr. Austin, Texas 78731, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Gary Thomas Gillespie, Independent Executor of the Estate of Eileen B. Hylltin

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HELEN C. HAINES, Deceased, were issued on November 18, 2008, under Cause No. 89542, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to PAMELA RUTH HAINES.

The post office address is: Representative, Estate

of HELEN C. HAINES, Deceased
c/o Pamela Haines
5504 Aztec Court
Boulder, Colorado 80303

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Jeanette K. Schaefer,
Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sue Lane Tarpley, Deceased, were issued to Donald Lane Davison on November 13, 2008, in Cause No. 89,508, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas. Claims may be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, as follows:

Donald Lane Davison
c/o Edsam M. Ingram
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 13th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram
ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of VIRGINIA ANN BOYD, deceased, were issued on October 28, 2008, in Cause No. 87,453, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Michael David Boyd.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the

time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Sarah Zottarelli
Attorney at Law
Estate of Virginia Ann Boyd
405 W. 14th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 21st day of November, 2008.

/s/ Sarah Zottarelli
Attorney for Michael David Boyd
State Bar No.: 24033501
405 W. 14th St.
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 656-7023
Facsimile: (512) 474-1810

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Portable Cement Silo, B090039-RG

Opens: December 8, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS
TO THOSE INDEBTED TO OR HOLDING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF PEARCE WAYNE NORRIS, Deceased: The undersigned Independent Executor of the Estate of Pearce Wayne Norris, Deceased, of Travis County, Texas, having been granted Letters Testamentary by the County Court of Travis County, Texas, in Probate Cause #89406 on November 6, 2008, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to make payment, and those having legal claims against said Estate to present them within the time prescribed by law at the address below, Dated November 6, 2008, Martha Ann Norris, Independent Executor of the Estate of Pearce Wayne Norris, Deceased, c/o MARYLYN G. MILLER, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 917, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To: All Former Students of Honors Academy from 1999 to 2001

Honors Academy Charter School District will be destroying all Special Education records of students enrolled in the various campuses of Honors Academy from the 1999 through 2001 school years. These files will be destroyed 30 days from 11/07/08. If you would like to obtain records from that year, please fax Michelle Jones at 214-526-3330, or mail requests to: 4300 Mac Arthur Ave, Suite 160, Dallas, TX 75209.

PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS of State Property Code 7001 notices is hereby given to the owner and lienholder of the following vehicle to reclaim the vehicle within 30 days and pay all fees or your failure to do so shall be a waiver of all your rights, title, and interest and your consent to sell the vehicle at public sale:

75 VOLK Vin 2352074018
Garagekeeper: Kenny Hill's Autowerks, 2127 Goodrich

610 CARS

BUY AUTO Don't lose money before you trade in or sell. We buy: Cars, Trucks, & SUVs (used or not running). Call 512-442-4444
topdollarspaid.com

FORD THUNDERBIRD '79
(351) 134,000 miles.

It used to be my daily driver but it has been sitting in my garage for 2 years. It starts and runs great but needs a good tune up. New tires and battery. Mechanic owned for it's first 25 years. I was going to restore it but realized I was never going to get to it.

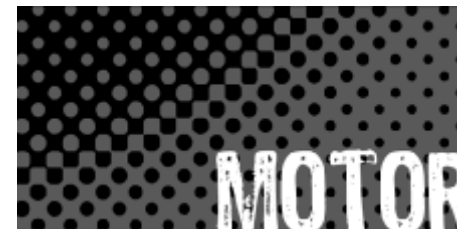
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HONDA CIVIC HYBRID 2005

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610 CARS

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OTHER Im a 23 year old guitarist looking for band mates. It's time to stand up and make a stand against all this Horrible BS music that is reaching peoples Ears I'm looking for some revolutionary people, committed people, people I vibe with. Want to meet and Jam, write Record with people who play for the HEART and are creative. Develop a band to bring this manufactured music down, and get back to the Bloody Roots. No criers, No cryin BS. No excuses Heavy and Light melodic and percussive tribal sound in a rock format. Influences include: Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin, Zakk Wyld from Black Label Society-Ozzy and Pride and Glory, Dimebag from Pantera, Max Cavalera from Sepultura-Soufly, Jimi Hendrix, Just to Name a few. Nick1.vincent@yahoo.com

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SWEET PEA

im a sexy fun cuite pie looking for a little fun. [hotpants99](#), 31, ☎, #128218

ADVENTUROUS HIPSTER BISEXUAL

I'm a laid-back bisexual female who prefers to be with a guy. I'm looking for a bisexual male who prefers women. Let's hang out. [Dreamin-Pisces](#), 21, #127920

BEAUTIFUL DOMINATE REDHEAD

Dominate red head, who is bi, attractive and LOTS of fun. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, blue eyes, perky boobs, nice ass and VERY KINKY. I have male partner to join. [MistressDarian](#), 37, ☎, #127653

TEMPTATION

My name is Tiffany. My boyfriend of a year broke up with me less than a month ago. I'm looking to just have fun. No serious relationships. [delightful_temptation](#), 18, ☎, #127638

ALL ABOUT SEX

Im looking for someone to have a hot, sexual, mindblowing time with :) im a young hot girl looking for a big man to take charge of me. Any fantasies? [PennyLane](#), 21, #127290

WANT TO PLAY?

Tired of the ball and chain! just want a discreet, fun one-on-one! If you want to do things around town that is ok too. [classygurl](#), 36, #126645

JUST PEAKING

Wow didn't know this was out there. I am single and would love to meet my "match". Tend to be attracted to that tall mr. all american type but with a devil inside. [bettyboo](#), 36, #124984

MALE BODY LOVER

Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. [rockett2222](#), 35, ☎, #124473

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN

I see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. [SymposiumLover](#), 21, #119431

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. [austinpartytgurl1985](#), 23, ☎, #119045

DISCRETE FUN

SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. [Funtimes01](#), 30, #117862

HORNY NEED MORE!

29 yr old married HF seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet.26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships.speak spanish. [2noty2bnice](#), 32, ☎, #114844

CLASSY COUPLE FOREPLAY

Attractive couple in 30s looking for Woman/Couple. Attracted to you & you to us.For fun drama free erotic pleasure. Should be Open-minded, discreet,playful not pushy. I'm bi, he's straight. [TexasSugar](#), 33, ☎, #128373

BROADENING HORIZONS

We are a couple looking to spice up our love life. We have decided to try a threesome with another woman to see if it is something we're interested in. [gandf](#), 27, ☎, #128323

CUTE COUPLE DATEING

Hi! poly couple seeking third. cute and curvy /lean and muscular seeking fun energetic girl to date. [CultLeader](#), 21, ☎, #128309

FUN NIGHT

Black couple seeking interested female for a night of fun!M y first time so seeking a female who is interested in making this experience one i will not forget! [muffinberries](#), 23, ☎, #128156

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL

We are a hot, young, lustful couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. [srcn4fun](#), 31, ☎, #128004

NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!

Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! [ATX-Couple4you](#), 31, ☎, #127995

LOOKING FOR SPICE

Couple in love looking to spice things up. I would like to know what its like to be with a woman while my boyfriend watches and maybe join. Couples also. [spicentup](#), 28, ☎, #127932

COUPLE WANTS ...

Bi-sexual male to fulfill wifefs fantasy. 30n45, open, honest and discreet! DDF, H/W proportionate, good looking. Photo required. [desire101](#), 43, ☎, #127818

BI-CURIOS FEMALE

I am a very sexy, very fit female looking to explore my bi-sexual fantasies with another woman/women in front of my boyfriend. He is fit, hung, & fun. [looking4fun](#), 29, ☎, #127762

HOT ADVENTUROUS COUPLE

hot couple looking for female playmate.sex only,no relationship.Wife 5'6",slender,green eyes.Husband 6' muscular,long hair,brown eyes.Both have tattoos.very sensual,open minded.no men. [carpelobo](#), 39, ☎, #127162

B OUR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex,and more sex. [newbies](#), 36, ☎, #127079

TRANNY CHAS'N COUPLE

hot as hell biker couple seeks hot, slim, passable TS for awesome encounters... [seth_roxy](#), 42, ☎, #127681

SEXY ADVENTUROUS COUPLE

We're a couple in love but looking for erotic experiences with beautiful women. We're relatively new to this, but are up for a delicious sexual experience if you are interested... [foxyloxyn-grizzlybear](#), 22, ☎, #127025

AWESOME COUPLE LOOKING

We are a happy couple that have been together 8 years. We are looking for female playmates. You won't be disappointed. [delvallefun](#), 38, ☎, #126459

SEXY COUPLE LOOKING

Sexy young couple, looking for a hot lady to get frisky with. A little girl on girl action to start. We would love to be as discreet as possible. [luckyone](#), 24, ☎, #126216

COUPLE SEEK BI-GAL

oh, where do we start this ad? we want a real guy, bi-sexual. a guy that is looking for a couple. 35-55 years old we are 40's. we are cute. [saustincouple](#), 45, ☎, #125567

NERDY SWEET COUPLE

We are looking for a woman or a man to play with us. We are shy, but adventurous and open to anything once we get to know you. [TrixieGirl](#), 38, ☎, #125322

FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or females only. [080764](#), 44, ☎, #124403

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experimenting with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. [garf5848](#), 49, ☎, #123217

WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... [iris_and_jack](#), 35, ☎, #122165

L-WORD WONDER

Seeking attractive, well-kept, intelligent women size 10 and under for sensuous moments and experiences. Single women only 30's-40's. Let's put the wiggle back in your walk! Sexy Sparkle. [beauvista](#), 40, #127989

FUN KINKY DISCREET

I need to be spoiled I'm into all kinds of play. No lovemaking and can be difficult to keep interested. So if you think you can, let the games begin. [sugar_baby_69_lover](#), 23, ☎, #128304

YOUNGFUN

young and live in austin .. older women is my fetish. [youngandlooking](#), 19, ☎, #127555

WILD CHILD

I am an eighteen-year-old health conscious bisexual female. I am looking for a emotionally-balanced professional couple who would welcome another female into their sexual life. [sweeteighteen](#), 18, ☎, #128243

HOTANDHORNY

Looking for descret fun. Im always down to play. Love Women and men. [BluEyes22](#), 22, #128078

SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER

My master will control and teach me. He should be successful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. [Jean-42DDD](#), 37, ☎, #127400

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Professional Mistress seeking devoted servants, slaves, & submissives who need the guidance of a beautiful and stern Domina. You must be clean, respectful, generous, and discreet! Your privacy is accommodated. [femdom](#), 25, ☎, #127072

EXPERIMENTAL OLDER MAN

I am a 61 year old 6' 200 lb man work out regularly. Like to meet a man or woman for discrete sexual encounters/email. I think I am bi-sexual. [Old](#), 61, ☎, #128430

AN INTELLIGENT STONER???

It's been a long while since my last relationship, so I'm just looking for a chill older (20-30ish) guy to chill and have fun with. Open for almost anything. Word. [interstate420](#), 19, ☎, #127967

VERS TOP

chill dude looking for some casual play from a young good-looking guy. [effhugh84](#), 24, ☎, #127666

UP FOR ANYTHING

48,gwm,6',180#,blk/brn,moderately hairy,partnered but play.looking for men hairy or smooth, uncut preferably, for occasional playtime. seeking all types of experiences. [oscar](#), 48, ☎, #127611

SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Day-time encounters might be necessary. [volcano](#), 48, ☎, #127424

CHASTITY FUN?

Would you like attention, affection, adoration when and how YOU Want it? Can the key to your heart be worn on the same necklace as key to my CB Cage? [Yours](#), 39, ☎, #127186

IN ABILENE, TEXAS:

SWM, 46, 6'2", 190, 34w, br/gr, handsome, masculine and honest. Seeking a tall, white, handsome, masculine, honest man 35-50 to hang out and see where it goes. [Iparish7](#), 46, ☎, #125068

TEXASSUGAR

CLASSY NYMPHO & STUD FOREPLAY

Experienced with a couple swapping in the past, I want to share this with with my equally sexual stud. We should feel attracted to you, and you to us, of course, and give us a good sense that you'll help us have a fun, drama free time.

read the rest of **TEXASSUGAR's** profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Night of the Moustache • Fri., Nov. 21, 7pm
 Tiniest Bar in Texas • 817 W. Fifth
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Hold it off one more week. Do it for us. We know you're all ready to take that peppermint-flavored candy cane stick pony ride into the holiday season, but it's not here yet. It's not time. You just think it is because the Madison Avenue greed whores are already burning up prime time with yuletide schmaltz, no doubt shitting trou at the thought of millions of Americans staying home for the holidays this year making egnog and wassailing instead of wearing out the magnetic strips on their MasterCard at the shopping mall. Pretty much everyone except Bill O'Reilly knows that the "X" in "X-mas" stands for mark next to the line on the credit card receipt where you sign your name, and the credit card season starts whenever the ads start airing and the chumps start charging. For now, it's the day after Halloween, but in a few years the Neil Diamond Christmas Special will be bumping out a tedious, awkwardly uncomfortable hour of the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. Who loses? The kids. Well, not Jerry's kids. They'll at least get to see the Jewish Elvis belt out a soul-stirring rendition of "O Holy Night" instead of watching Gary Lewis phone in his millionth cruise-boat version of "Everybody Loves a Clown" while papa Lewis squeezes out a well-rehearsed teardrop of pride. No, kids all over America will lose because after they've whined for four months about Wiis and Game Boys and pee-squirting dolls, their parents will either a) attempt infanticide or b) actually turn to Jesus. Either scenario is a huge money saver for the parents but an even bigger bummer for the kids. Being dead is no walk in the park (unless you're still haunting one), but being the spawn of a Jesus freak is a one-way ticket to Dullsville. It's the difference between a white-knuckled car chase in *Grand Theft Auto IV* and freezing your ass off handing out sack lunches to the homeless. Both are skills that should be useful to children in the hard times ahead, but real homeless people are rarely as entertaining as video-game gangsters. Plus, all that do-gooding will send the wrong message to America's youth. Capitalism works best when the money trickles upstream to the most wealthy. Turn it around, and the whole model goes to shit. It's probably just as well for the time being. Philanthropy isn't going to service all that Chinese debt any more than irresponsible consumerism, but if the economy is going to hell in a handbasket anyway, we might as well help out the home team, right? That's not a very X-massy sentiment, but Creditmas may not come at all this year. If you want to give this altruism thing a try, you might want to start small, and what better place to do that than at the Tiniest Bar in Texas? This Friday at TBIT a group called Team Spiridon is hosting the "Night of the Moustache," a benefit for Emancipet, an organization dedicated to preventing animal homelessness, and the Dick Beardsley Foundation, a nonprofit providing grants for people seeking treatment for chemical dependency. The event features a silent auction plus music by Eat a Peach, an Allman Brothers tribute band, and Girl Guitar, a group of up-and-coming female artists.

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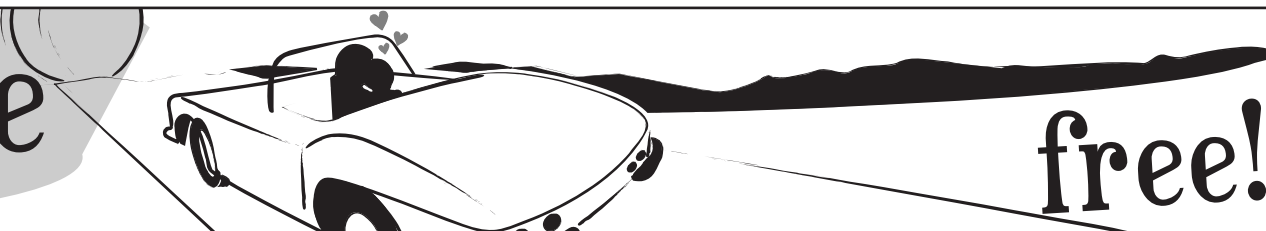
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women SEEKING men

FEELING THE BEAT

Could be music - could be my heart! I love all kinds of music and have a caring heart. Looking to share great and small adventures with a thoughtful man. [frmr_yankee_gal](#), 59, #120550

10FINGERS, 2EYES, 1HEART

I'm an old soul, but I'm young at heart. I'll talk your ear off. But I'll listen your mouth off. And I'll love your heart off too. [heart2heart](#), 22, #128412

GALWAYGIRLTOBE

One more single girl in Austin... shocka'!!! would love to meet some guys that are into movies, dogs, theatre, soccer, traveling, music, and lots of outdoor stuff!!! interested...email me. Take care!! [galwaygirl](#), 29, #128381

COUNTRY BOYS WANTED

I've had an exciting life.I love animals, outdoors/gardening,and western dancing. I am searching for a companion to dance, share quiet evenings, candlelit dinners. Let me tell you more!! [raregem](#), 60, #128378

ENGAGING MOMENTS

We will have long, rambling, totally interrupted talks about everything and nothing, hang out on the patio listening to music and dance. I value personal connections, music, and intelligence.Do you? [ASLbarbie](#), 41, #128073

EXCITED EASILY

Student at Texas State. Looking for something more than the usual hook up that I seem to keep finding. Lots of heart. Love UFC and MLB. [kp1225](#), 19, #128348

MUST LOVE DOGS

Athletic, creative, dog lover looking for ambitious yet laid back man who wants to explore all that life has to offer. Looking to share laughs, adventure, and intimate conversation. [AthleticSynergy](#), 31, #128337

BEA ARTHUR SANDWICH

Can you laugh with me at HEB? Do you mock life and people and yourself? Be kind, but not so considerate that you can't laugh at my irreverent comments. [ejoygro](#), 31, #128208

YO YO YO

um, this is harder to write than my senior honors thesis....so, i'm not doing it. [rarare](#), 25, #128301

EDGY NICE GIRL

Hot, nice girl with an edge looking for same in a boy! Show me Austin through your eyes. No drugs/smokers/psychos/clingers. Let's go out! [hugsandkisses](#), 23, #128307

RUNS WITH SCISSORS

I'm a gregarious hermit, a city-living farmgirl, comfortable in chaos, a nightowl that likes to spoon. Paradox is fun. I'd prefer this in person. [Scrabble?](#) [squidsrule](#), 36, #128166

APHRODITE

Strong minded, funny, sensible, cute. Main focus right now is my career but have time to spend with the right man who is not to needy. [courtand-spark](#), 54, #128237

men SEEKING women

NEW TO TOWN!!

I'm a recent college graduate. I love the culture that Austin has to offer and would like to find someone who wants to experience it with me. [NewToATX](#), 26, #128432

GOLFER SEEKS SOULMATE

I am single, successful, witty and clean. You should be the sane. [DR_NO_NO](#), 46, #128397

ROCKIN' SOUTH AUSTIN

I'm looking for that spontaneous, no limit to what we can do type of woman. Arts, off-broadway, random bar excursions, bike rides, discgolf, strumming a guitar downtown.. lets go! [kaistasis](#), 23, #128390

DEAL, TODAY ONLY!!!!

I'm a super guy, nice as hell, smart, and have my shit together. I want a woman that laughs a lot, turns me on, and isn't afraid of the future. [pulp](#), 32, #128382

THE-DUDE SEEKS SPECIAL-LADY-FRIEND

Overeducated, underemployed, unmotivated, outdoorsy, musical, good dancer, old school romancer, hypocrit, free of ticks, non-smoker, beer drinker, tallgater, two-stepper, well read, cycle riding, open minded good 'ol boy. [CenTexRiverRat](#), 37, #120085

TRUE AUSTINITE

Local entrepreneur looking for a companion who can keep up with me. [entrepreneur08](#), 34, #128364

ROCKN' ROLL LOVE

I love Austin, music, art, good food, back yard bar-b-qs,it speaks to me (how bout you?). So drop me a line, you never know what fate may bring you. [dudarino](#), 31, #128359

CREATIVE,LOVING, HARD WORKING

I'm laid back,enjoy getting out,and I am usually found making something.I would like to meet someone that has no problem being who they really are,and some shared interest's. [KSz71](#), 29, #128358

TRYING NEW THINGS

I'm very easy going guy,Looking to meet foremost a girl that is just upfront about things.Kind of tired of the dumb games that go along with the whole dating thing. [JJ1010](#), 27, #128354

A NEW DRUG

Lets go see a show, sit on a patio and have a beer, or drive into Mexico... all I have to say until I decide to pay for this thing. [robgatx](#), 30, #128351

WANTING A FRIEND..

I'm a very laid-back person. I enjoy playing the guitar, riding my bike, hanging out at the Springs, Peace Park, going downtown, the Greenbelt, etc. etc. [ATXbmx052](#), 19, #128114

DINNER, DRINKS, FUN!

I'm outgoing, independent, and funny most of the time. Love good wine, food, books, animals, traveling, and laughing. Saturday hike through the woods or club for drinks and live music. [crusader95](#), 35, #128329

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CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

women SEEKING women

SWEET, LAIDBACK, FUN

Traditional good girl looking for friends and/or lovers. Love the outdoors and country life although I can party with the best. Very open minded and non-judgemental. No gossip or drama. [katieb](#), 34, #128206

"SECRETS IN SAUCE"

Im not very good at writing about myself. If you are interested enough, you can ask me ... [shewolfann](#), 49, #128103

NEWGIRL: INTOWN 2LOVENBELOVED

I date girls of all races! I'm outgoing; little shy at first. Love live music and dancing. I just want a girl to make me laugh and give me butterflies. [SapphQt](#), 26, #128071

WHAT IT DO!!!

im an openminded person who really just wants to be loved and love in return weather is as lovers r friends.. i love to do things out of the blue. [ilikeu](#), 25, #127959

'I'M SO BADASS!'

I'm a laid back goof with couch potato tendencies tho I love going out. Mexican food, coffee, and music have me grabbing my keys faster than you can say "mexican martini." [shygirll](#), 25, #127823

KISS AND TELL.

I'm a down to earth girl who enjoys hanging out around Austin. I love cooking, watching movies, and playing with my dog. Did I mention that I'm a scorpio? [kristi123](#), 21, #127827

JUST WANNA DATE

I'm told that I am fun and smart. I love to dance and sing kerokie (but obviously i cant spell worth a darn). [manturian](#), 44, #127729

JUST MOVED HERE!

Just moved here from Los Angeles. I've got one dog, and I like to be outdoors...preferably w/her. I enjoy sports, art, movies, and being active in all areas of life. [LBoogie](#), 24, #127458

SINGIN CRAZY GIRL

Fun laid back girl looking for friends and/or relationship with someone i see eye to eye with and can be myself around. [sorrinraven](#), 21, #127453

HOTFIESTYFEMME

I'm an attractive, intelligent woman who is caring, understanding, and strong.I'm looking for someone who is honest,perceptive,funny,communi cative...I could go on but contact me and I'll tell you in person...midnight pancakes at Kirby? [ariesgodness77](#), 31, #127657

men SEEKING men

HONEST AND LOVING

i am honest and loving looking for the same,i will take care of you and will be ready for you as i am a bot-tom looking for top clean ddf. [chcito](#), 63, #128299

DON'T KNOW

I really have no clue what I want in a partner. The best thing is just to keep making friends until something fabulous happens. [DodoYeti](#), 42, #128270

AUSTIN BORN

I'm emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I'm looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. [jmnzptrck](#), 41, #127798

HOPE DIES LAST

haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! [Blue](#), 23, #101322

LOOK HERE, PLEASE!

Looking for friendship, dating. Interests include camping, biking, theater, movies, reading, canoeing, traveling. Politically progressive, romantic, passionate, humorous, and do community work Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine. [AusAbogado](#), 62, #124933

GUY IN BUDA

seeking nice and outgoing men for fun in and out of the bedroom. men who stay active or just quiet time at home, lets get busy or just relax. [rudyinbuda](#), 42, #126941

GAYBOY CODY

IAm 23yrs old iam going to Cosmetology school i have wonderful friends i want a guy to win me over be hot charming and be nice and want me. [macattac2003](#), 24, #125639

Txchzhead

HOOPIN' AND SMILIN'

Perfect date: Canoeing on Town lake with a pic-nic basket. Sharing a hammock under the stars. Taking the dogs to the greenbelt. Are you up for it?

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QUALITY GUY

Yes: Romance, charm, thoughtfulness, adventure. No: Drugs, heavy drinkers, smokers, insecurity, unsafe sex, closet cases, immaturity. **taurusbull86, 44, ☎ #125317**

YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN

I'm a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? **inuyasha86, 21, ☎ #125037**

BES1971

GBM 6'0 175lbs black/brown. Told I have a nice smile. Like to cook/bake, sing, dance, travel, read, theater/movies, hiking/camping, swimming, bowling. Looking for W/H/M to start out as friends That may lead to LTR. Serious reply. **NIUU, 37, ☎ #124639**

JUST friends

EFFIN-A COTTON

I just moved here, and don't know too many people. I'm into all kinds of music, Radiohead, Underoath, Muse, and Sufjan Stevens are a few of my favorites though. **s_g_brian, 20, ☎ #128417**

MEXICAN MUSIC LOVER

i spend way too much time in coffee shops. i am always listening to music. looking for friends. let's have an adventure. **heartsintexas, 22, ☎ #128371**

LETS NAVELGAZE TOGETHER!

Quirky, cute, creative, intelligent and affectionate. I love food and music,

coffee shop conversations and smelling the roses. Laid back gal looking for a companion to hang out with. **U? ScarlettPepper, 31, ☎ #128322**

COUNTRY-CITY BOY

I am pretty much just your average guy. I enjoy anything from going downtown to just hanging out and watching a movie. **Nick9, 26, ☎ #127872**

UNBOUND

More fun than monkeys on a motorcycle! **JakeAustin, 35, ☎ #119674**

MOVING TO AUSTIN

I'm totally down to earth and enjoy indulging in good times with great people! Music is really a huge part of my life and I'm a concert junkie! **DREADCOWBOY, 48, ☎ #128137**

BITE A B*****

Yup you know you are one. **ilike-freestuff, 21, ☎ #128062**

U ONLY KNEW

Looking for enthusiasm, confidence, a little craziness, intelligence, fun, active, girl who is into exploring and such. I just moved back to Austin and love it here! Hit me up! **Bjamins, 27, ☎ #127999**

messages

EVI-MY LIFE STARTED the day I found you. You are my dreams come true. Love you, C

THANK FOR BIG Boys flyers on South Congress- Biscuit smiles upon you!!!!

a Shot in the Dark

ROCK THE CASBAH

We danced the last few slow songs together. You were tall, and handsome, wearing a brown jacket. I have curly brown hair and glasses... should've asked for your#. Dance again? **When: Saturday, November 15. Where: The Parish. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903608**

HOMESLICE PIZZA MAIDEN

I was waiting outside while you were inside ordering a to-go pizza. I should have asked for a slice when you left. Where'd you go? **When: Monday, November 17. Where: Homeslice Pizza. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903607**

THE MOST SUSPICIOUS...

You-you have the biggest ears...You have the longest tail...You have the wettest tongue...the most suspicious eyes. Me-I hate thunderstorms and sometimes am mistaken for Princess Leia. Let's pee together sometime. **When: Monday, November 17. Where: Austin. You: Man. Me: Man. #903606**

FAERIE CHEM-TRAILS

Hey it's Chloe! from Sound Tribe Sector 9, VIP deck on 10-31-08...I think I lost your contact info and you mine. Still want photos? I certainly do. Contact me! **When: Friday, October 31. Where: Stubbs. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903605**

CAROUSEL 11/15 BELLFURIES

You were wearing some stunning 1950's finery. I was at the table behind you and commented on your appearance. I believe that Manhattans are in order! **When: Saturday, November 15. Where: carousel lounge. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903604**

ELCHILE MUY CALIENTE!

Fri, Nov 14th. Lunch. El Chile. You with four guys, went to restroom as I got up to leave. Nice package you were sporting, was that for me? Crotch watcher. **When: Friday, November 14. Where: El Chile on Manor Road. You: Man. Me: Man. #903602**

SHIRTLESS RUNNER SUNDAY

You white gorgeous runner. Saw you at south 1st bridge, then at Mopac bridge. You shirtless, gray track pants. Me: blue shorts, UT cap, yellow/blue shirt, hisp. Wanna run away sometime? **When: Sunday, November 16. Where: Lady Bird Trail Downtown. You: Man. Me: Man. #903601**

RUPESH

You lived next door to me on LaFayette. Saw you at CM recently. Would like to talk to you again. **When: Thursday, October 16. Where: Central Market South. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903603**

WANNA DANCE?

Had a blast dancing/chatting. Promised to dance again sometime before I foolishly drove away. Special circumstances-you'll get a kick. Let's try again w/alternate ending? **When: Saturday, November 15. Where: Jovita's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903600**

PALAZZIO - SOPHIA

We are the "hot couple" that comes to see you... drinks? Gueros-bar-tues-or-thursday night? Signed Hugh **When: Thursday, November 13. Where: Palazzo. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903599**

JENNY FADO SATURDAY

Jenny I saw you at Fado, I held your friend's toes, you called my name, but your friend was insane... maybe we can meet again on our own?Duncan **When: Saturday, November 15. Where: Fado Irish Pub. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903598**

GRETCHEN

You're the most beautiful girl I've ever seen with a kebab **When: Saturday, November 15. Where: right in the face. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903597**

CURLY HAired AWESOMNESS

You complimented me on my crazy hair as you were leaving La Dolce Vita thursday night. Thanks! I like my hair too! I dug your blond curls. Gelato? **When: Thursday, November 13. Where: La Dolce Vita. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903596**

ISO NY PROSECUTING/ ATTORNEY

Looking for prosecuting attorney from New York visiting some friends on 11/7 met you at JBBlacks, You came into town to watch Baylor/Longhorn game. We took pix together. I lost u. **When: Friday, November 7. Where: JBLACKS. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903595**

MR. WIZARD'S ELECTRONICS

Kerri, you were getting your record player fixed after having it in storage. I would like to chat more. I was too shy to ask for your number. Coffee sometime? **When: Friday, November 14. Where: Mr Wizard's Electronics. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903594**

ISO ATTORNEY/FRM NY

Looking for prosecuting attorney from New York who was in Austin 11/7, I met you at JBBlacks, you were in town for Baylor/Longhorn game, we took pix, I lost you **When: Friday, November 7. Where: JBLACK'S. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903593**

HAPPYHOUR@TRUDY'S BURNET

Thurs 11/13:U+3 friend's sitting the bar,I was sitting @the table behind w/mom. Can't believe u just let me leave w/out saying hi. YOU:Blue&W hiteStripedCollaredShirt, AlmostSha vedHead,andTheBiggestBrightestS mile. ME:24,LongBrnHair,DarkPurple eSweater that hung off the shoulder. **When: Thursday, November 13. Where: Trudy's on Burnet. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903592**

HOME DEPOT BRODIE

You wore blue, I wore black. Thought you were cute-could be cuter without hat. Saw you several times then were behind me in line. Maybe there's burgers/beverages in our future. **When: Wednesday, November 12. Where: Home Depot Brodie. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903591**

RED HAired PATHFINDER

you had dyed red hair and asked about vegetarian options, got in your pathfinder with a tu madre bumper-sticker and left me holding my panini. i couldn't stop looking. **When: Thursday, November 13. Where: eva b. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903590**

MARYJANE AND FELIX

We talked about dogs and bikes but we were both excited about what we didn't talk about. Wanna have a play date? **When: Monday, November 10. Where: The Bike Shop. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903589**

GREASY WOLFY HELP

Me, sweet blond damsel- you, sweet helping hand. I would love to ride bikes sometime but can't find a way to respond to your ad. Please find me again! **When: Monday, October 6. Where: Bicycle Sport Shop. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903588**

BUS RIDING BANDANAUDE

Tues pm you were ahead of us in line and then we sat at the same table, but I forgot to say you should let me cook you Wahoo sometime. **When: Tuesday, November 11. Where: NC Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903585**

HALLOWEEN GADJO

You: Beautiful black corset in the drink line at Gadjos. Me: Terrible looking gypsy queen. Did we share a moment, or more? **When: Friday, October 31. Where: Gadjo's Disco. You: Man. Me: Man. #903584**

PIGTAIL CUTIE

Bikini's Bar & Grill, you: Blonde w/ pigtails, blue top waitress although not ours. me: White shirt, glasses sitting near the bar. We were making eye contact quite often.. **When: Tuesday, November 11. Where: Bikini's Bar & Grill. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903583**

RACHEL AT KERBEYLANE

So maybe I did have my friend leave his credit card there this morning, did it work?? When I came back in to get it you seemed busy. dinner sometime? **When: Tuesday, November 11. Where: kerbey lane. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903582**

FANNY PACK FAIRY

It was red as my cheeks, that nifty little hip-hugger. We nearly ran each other over, thanks to a sharp turn, yet all I could say was 'jeeppers'. **When: Friday, November 7. Where: Bouldin Creek. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903581**

THRILLED THE WORLD

U: Great dancer in suit coat and hat 2 rows behind red dress in 1st utube video from thrill the world website. Me: Smitten. Lets go dancing! **When: Saturday, November 1. Where: Day of Dead Thriller Performance. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903580**

JAPANESE MOSHPIT GIRL

Guy with blue hat on your right in moshpit before the Milkmen show. You, texting with a friend. You are, without a doubt, the most beautiful girl on the planet. **When: Saturday, November 8. Where: In moshpit before Dead Milkmen Show. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903579**

ALSO ONLINE:

MORE Shot in the Dark!

Now with photos so you can see who saw you. Search by When, Where, and Keywords. **FREE!**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for Nov. 21-27

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's a ripe time to work on fixing any neurosis that chronically disrupts your economic karma. Can you afford sessions with a psychotherapist who will help you improve your relationship with money? Just in case you can't, I'll offer two exercises that might propel you toward financial self-healing. 1) Twice a day for five minutes, visualize yourself immersed in a joyous and meaningful experience that would be made possible by a more abundant flow of money into your life. 2) Think of three generous acts you want to carry out, three blessings you want to bestow, or three uplifting messages you want to deliver to deserving people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In her book *One Continuous Mistake: Four Noble Truths for Writers*, Gail Sher provides excellent advice for people who want to be writers. I'm offering it to you for your all-purpose use as you enter the reinvent-yourself phase of your astrological cycle. The drive for perfection can be a distraction, Sher says. What's more useful is to be brave and free enough to experiment with possibilities that may or may not pan out. Don't think yourself into a corner, agonizing about where to begin. Simply dive in, and get to work trusting that the agitation you churn up will show you what works. Exult in the revelations provided by the trial-and-error approach!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Longtime conservative writer Christopher Buckley, son of right-wing icon William F. Buckley, voted for Obama. Though he was once a speechwriter for John McCain, a man he admired, Buckley was agghast at how the presidential campaign unfolded. "I didn't leave the Republican Party," he said. "The Republican Party left me." I urge you to be alert for a comparable development in your own life, Capricorn. A group whose ideals you have held dear may be changing right in front of your eyes. Or perhaps a movement you've been part of has veered off course from the principles that drew you to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Never keep up with the Joneses," counsels author Quentin Crisp. "Drag them down to your level. It's cheaper." But I don't recommend that approach, Aquarius. To do so would be as big a waste of your energy as trying to match the consumerist folly of the Joneses. The same holds true about any situation in which you're tempted to compete for status with people whose values aren't very deep: It's crazy to get obsessed with wanting to either be like them or to drag them down. This advice is especially important now, when you're more susceptible than usual to the dumbed-down influences of peer pressure. Try to carve out an independent path without indulging in envy, hatred, or superiority.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do you have a negative opinion of clouds? Are you inclined to regard them as symbols of gloom or malaise, interruptions in what you wish would always be clear blue sky? If so, I'll ask you to revise your view. Consider the fact that in Chinese mythology, there are *xiangyun*, or "lucky clouds" that are harbingers of great blessings. Deities may even ride on them for pleasure. Among the Zuni Indians, the monster known as the Cloud Eater was feared because he devoured clouds that might bring replenishing rain. And modern meteorologists know that white, fluffy cumulus clouds are signs that fair weather is on the way. Armed with these ideas, Pisces, go out in search of your own personal lucky clouds. They're your metaphors of the week.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fifty-five percent of Americans not only believe in guardian angels, but testify that they have been actively aided by the intervention of those divine helpers. Commenting on the results, one religious expert said that "Americans live in an enchanted world." The 55% figure may rise even higher in the coming weeks. A majority of Aries all over the planet, regardless of their religious orientation, could have a mystical experience that will spook and delight them. If you're one of the chosen ones, don't get fixated on or distracted by the sheer amazement of the visitation. Make sure you're alert for its eminently practical guidance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've been hiding a part of yourself from your conscious awareness. That's why I'm going to ask you to take off the mask you wear when you're alone with yourself. You might be surprised when you actually gaze upon your secret face. But I believe it will ultimately prove to be an intriguing breakthrough that will give you good ideas about how to share yourself more completely.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A year ago, I had a vision that your experiences in 2008 would boost your heart's smarts - maybe not up to the same level as your head's intelligence, but much closer than before. I predicted you'd have a growing ability to master your own moods and emotions and speculated on how that would, in turn, increase your understanding of why people do the things they do. So if, during these last 11 months, you've been taking advantage of the potentials I named back then, you have undoubtedly developed impressive new skills in the art of intimate relationships. If for any reason this hasn't happened yet, start playing catch-up immediately.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Activist and author Naomi Klein tells a story about the time she traveled to Australia at the request of Aboriginal elders. They wanted her to know about their struggle to prevent white people from dumping radioactive wastes on their land. Her hosts brought her to their precious wilderness, where they camped under the stars. They showed her "secret sources of fresh water, plants used for bush medicines, hidden eucalyptus-lined rivers where the kangaroos come to drink." After three days, Klein grew restless. When were they going to get down to business and show her the despoiled places? "Before you can fight," one elder told her, "you have to know what you are fighting for." That's good advice, Cancerian. I suggest you immerse yourself in the beauty you'll be serving and stewarding in the future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The Mystic Astrology Wizard says: Close one of your eyes. Tap your forehead three times with the palm of your left hand. Think of a sexy image. Lick your lips, and whisper the words "Love Whisperer." Insert your middle finger in the "Delight-O-Meter" slot. Keep your finger there until the "Passion Lamp" turns on. Flash. Flash. Flash. Thank you. Your evaluation appears below. *Your libido has been a bit off course, semiabsorbed in unfruitful or irrelevant distractions. But now it's realigning itself with the central dream themes of your life. Prepare to experience a truer juiciness.*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I suggest you meditate on the theme of exile. Here are some questions to get you started. 1) Have you ever been shunned by people you care about? 2) Do you know what it's like to unwillingly leave a place that has made you feel safe and secure? 3) Can you remember the desolation that came over you when you found yourself wandering in the middle of nowhere? 4) Has it been a challenge to connect with your tribe or be at peace in the land that makes you feel at home in the world? Whatever your exile is, Virgo, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to figure out how to heal it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dear Rob: In the past I've thought of balance as the ability to move between extremes without falling down. I pride myself on being a Weeble-Wobble, the toy that always swings back up when you try to tip it over. But lately I'm wondering if I should expand my concept of what we Libras do. I have fantasies of experimenting with a balance that more closely resembles walking on a railroad track. I could dip a foot here and there, first this side then that, just for fun, and still remain on the track. Maybe in time I could even dance on the rail. Your thoughts? - Libra in Expansion Mode." Dear Expander: The coming weeks would be a great time, astrologically speaking, to try the experiment you described.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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