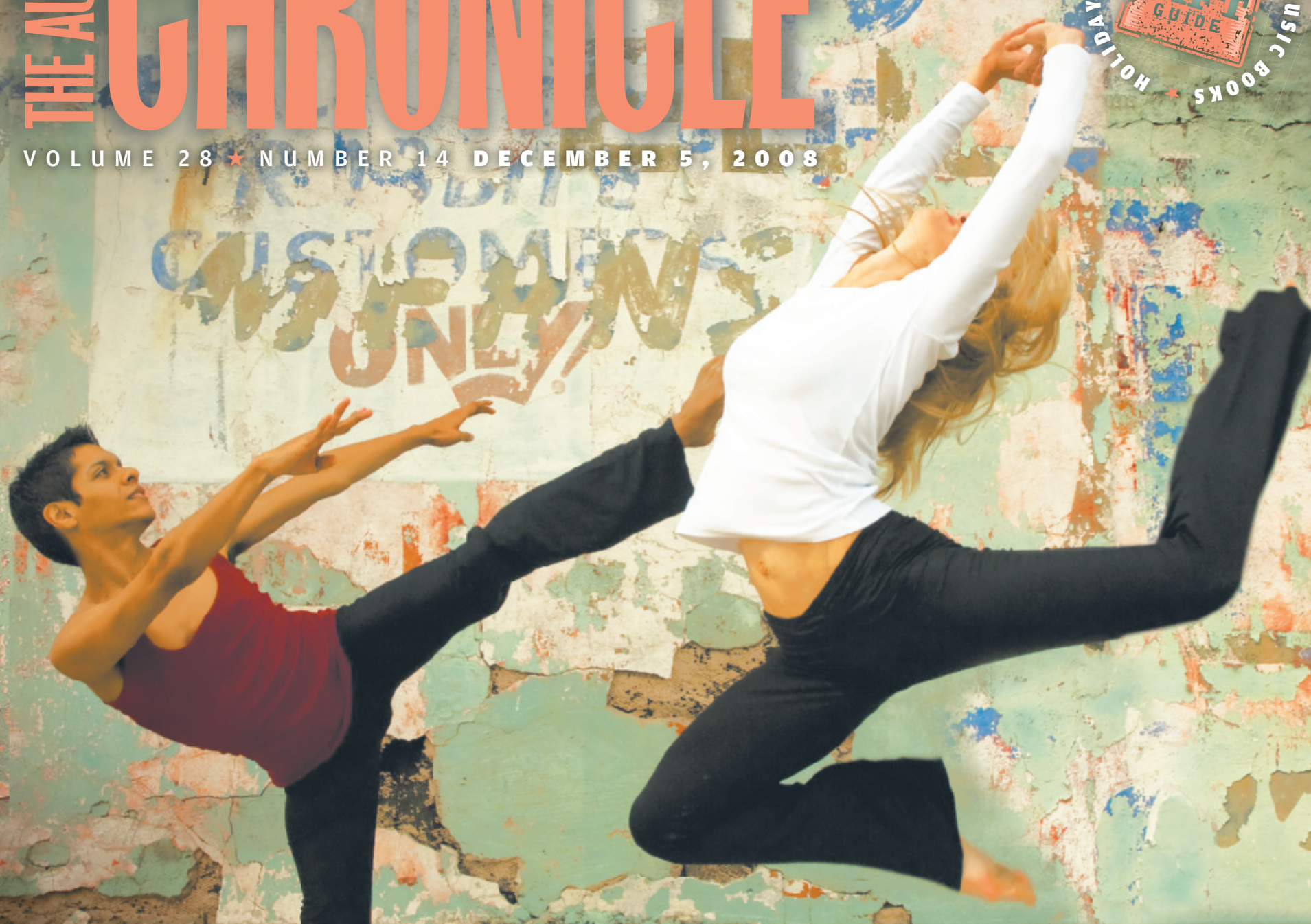


THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 14 DECEMBER 5, 2008

HOLIDAY COOKBOOKS ★ DVDS
★ MUSIC BOOKS
★ GIFT GUIDE

born in east ballet



MOVIN' ON UP

The Life-Changing Dance of Ballet East

BY JONELLE SEITZ P.42

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Apex

JASON BOLAND
Comal County Blue

Produced by Grammy Award winner Lloyd Maines, with guest appearances from Robert Earl Keen, this album appeals to fans of Texas music, country, or Americana. He is of the new breed of traditionalist country singer-songwriters.

\$13.99 CD



Calla Lily

BROTHERS & SISTERS
Fortunately

"This is Summer of Love-evoking rock and country. The whole thing blends together in a cosmic haze, with each part spiraling around the other in perfect, blissed-out balance"

- Lindsay Eanet, *Soundcheck Magazine*

\$10.99 CD

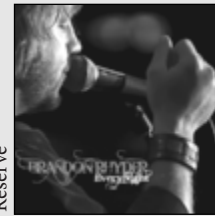


Fun All Wrong

ROGER CREAGER
Here It Is

Creager does not aim for songs with hooks but instead writes about things that inspire him from real life. With a career built on a mountain of experience, enthusiasm, hard work & talent, it's no surprise he's selling out dancehalls and playing for crowds upwards of 10,000.

\$13.99 CD



Reserve

BRANDON RHYDER
Every Night

"It is rare that you meet someone who has such lyrical talents who didn't begin writing at an early age, and it is even rarer to hear someone deliver those songs with such vocal power and passion."

- Radney Foster

\$10.99 CD



Penny Jo Pullus

PENNY JO PULLUS
My Barn Having Burned,
I Can Now See The Moon

Similar to Roseanne Cash and Lucinda Williams, Penny Jo has dug deeper to find the right songs and voice of a mature songwriter, to shake off the "country chick singer" stamp. What Penny Jo is now up to is decidedly different.

\$12.99 CD



Big Label

AARON WATSON
Angels & Outlaws

Aaron returns with his strongest offering yet, *Angels & Outlaws*. Judging by the success of his own indie record label and the fans flocking to his shows each night, he seems to be enjoying his view from way ahead of the curve.

\$12.99 CD



Wagonmaker

SAN SABA COUNTY

...Though Cheating Was Never an Option

"Austin's finally given birth to the who's next of its songwriter roots trail paved by kitchen-sink bands such as Shearwater [and] Okkervil River... surprising and tuneful as anything you'll hear locally or otherwise this year."

- Jim Caligiuri, *Austin Chronicle*

\$12.99 CD



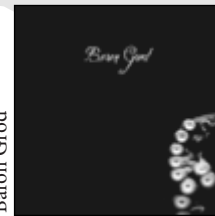
Just Desserts

JUST DESSERTS

Love or Die

Sophisticated and fun world fusion on accordion and cello. "Tango-soaked tunes from Argentina, USA, Catalunya, Serbia, Venezuela, Klezmer, more. Features Cyril Neville, Stanley Smith, Jonathan Doyle, Michael Shay, Jason McKenzie.

\$10.99 CD

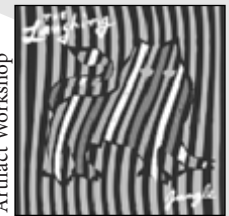


Baron Grod

BARON GROD
Baron Grod

Predominantly instrumental, this sludgy, post-rock, shoegazing Austin quartet provide soaring melodies comparable to Russian Circles and jarring distorted riffs/vocals reminiscent of Isis. Check out their next show Dec. 10 at Red 7 with Dub Trio.

\$6.99 CD



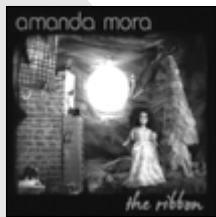
Artifact Workshop

THE LAUGHING
The Laughing

Jungle

Expanding on the art rock of the 70's and adding the manipulated melody of Animal Collective, the Laughing creates what the *Onion* calls "new-wave hooks with hints of art-school neurosis."

\$6.99 CD



Amanda Mora

AMANDA MORA
The Ribbon

Amanda Mora delivers a captivating blend of indie pop and early American swing with a backbone of folk roots. Her debut release, *The Ribbon*, will take you on a poetic and ever amusing journey as only great storytelling and music can.

\$11.99 CD

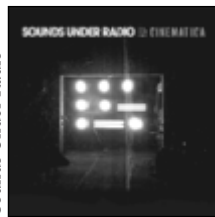


The Unfortunate Heads

THE UNFORTUNATE HEADS
April All Summer

Melding acoustic folk, organ-based psychedelia and warped guitars around lyrical themes of wandering amid bleak landscapes, the band's third LP, like the Algonquin that graces its cover, slices a distinctive path.

\$8.99 CD



Sounds Under Radio

SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
Sounds Under Radio

"...a big-time rock 'n' roll band masquerading as some unsigned indie-emo whatsits!" - *Entertainment Weekly*. This is Austin, TX style Brit Rock... haunting melodies and intimate moments atop a stadium sized, guitar driven rock n roll landscape.

\$8.99 CD



Darling Echo

BRIAN KREMER
Climbing the Vine

Kremer layers his songs with rootsy guitar and his lyric baritone. With influences stemming from the Jayhawks and Richard Thompson, *Climbing the Vine* benefits from appearances by Cindy Cashdollar on steel guitar and the Tosca String Quartet.

\$9.99 CD

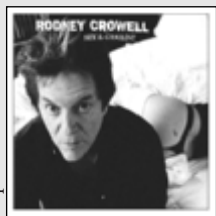


Record Party

THE ACTION IS
Space Fire

The Action Is turn in their 4th full length. Not making the mistake of following the latest and most obvious trends, TAI stick to what they know best: well crafted and intelligent rock 'n' roll reminiscent of Mudhoney and the Hellacopters.

\$11.99 CD



Yep Roc

RODNEY CROWELL
Sex & Gasoline

Sex & Gasoline was produced by the legendary Joe Henry and contains what Crowell says are, "some of the best performances I've given to date."

\$13.99 CD



Yep Roc

RECKLESS KELLY
Bulletproof

Reckless Kelly is back on the rock 'n' roll stage with their most ambitious and venomous album to date. Rollicking guitars and a relentlessly aggressive rhythm section pound out political statements alongside epic road anthems and ragged love songs.

\$13.99 CD



Misra

CENTRO-MATIC/SOUTH SAN GABRIEL
Dual Hawks

Catchy hooks, wiry guitars, harmonies and handclaps, splendid string and horn arrangements, and songs so well written and produced they will make indie-rockers of lesser mettle go home and cry.

\$13.99 CD

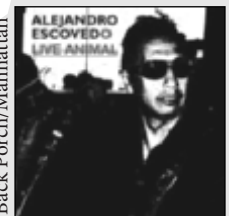


Eleanor Whitmore

ELEANOR WHITMORE
Airplanes

Eleanor Whitmore's *Airplanes* is a perfect example of what happens when attention to pinpoint detail in production and exquisite instrumentation accompanies a well conceived collection of songs; a highly impressive debut album.

\$12.99 CD



Back Porch/Manhattan

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
Live Animal

Known for his enigmatic and engaging live shows, Texas rocker Alejandro Escovedo's live EP, *Live Animal*, features a selection of stellar tracks from his latest release *Real Animal*. The EP is an indie store exclusive!

\$6.99 CD

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SAT 12/13 - 11am-12pm Girls School of Austin Orchestra 12pm-1pm Raks
 Helwa and Ajna Project Bellydance 1-2pm Crossfit Austin Kids 2-3pm
 Hawaian Kona Isle Dancers 3-4 Austin Dance India 4:30-6:30 Raina Rose,
 6:30-8pm Tribal Moon Dance, 8:30-10:30pm Toast
SUN 12/14 - 12-1pm Irish Dance Company 1-2pm Girls school of Austin
 Honors Orchestra 2-3 Capolera evolucado 3-4.15 Ecstatic Dance Austin
 Freeform dance 4:30-6:30pm La Tampiquena, 7-8pm No Mas Bodas,
 8:30-10:30pm Dimitri's Ascent
MON 12/15 - 2:30-3:30pm Jade Day, 4-6:30pm Maximum Bob a.k.a Bob
 Foster, 7-8pm Jan Seides, 8:30-10:30pm J.T.Wright and Solstice
TUE 12/16 - 4-5pm Dimitri's Ascent, 5:30-6:30pm Bob Cheevers, 7-8pm
 Bruce Balmer, 8:30-10:30pm Moonhowlers
WED 12/17 - 4:30-6pm Nevada Newman, 6:30-8pm Harry Bodine

THU 12/18 - 4-5pm Uncle Fungus, 5:30-6:30pm Nulight Tribal, 7:00-8:00
 Unkfunk with Melvin Wilburn, 8:30-10:30pm Big Chief Kevin
FRI 12/19 - 5-6pm Tyler Jordan, 6:30-8pm Dear Henry
SAT 12/20 - 12pm Austin Lindy and Swing Dancers 1pm The Bomb Squad
 Jeerleaders 2pm Csardas Hungarian Dancers 3pm Circus Yogi Skills for Kids
 (juggling, hooping, acrobatics for the family) 4:30-5:30pm Los Jackalopes,
 8:30-10:30pm Miss Lavelle White
SUN 12/21 - 1pm Austin Hoopers 4-6pm 7 Seals and the Wingless Angels,
 6:30-8pm The Lovers, 8:30-10:30pm Athual Rush
MON 12/22 - 2:30-3pm Noelle Hampton, 4-6pm Bonneville County Pine Box,
 6:30-8pm Andrew Sherman Vehicle, 8:30-10:30pm 7 Among Us
TUE 12/23 - 2:30-3:30 David Lewis Morgan, 4-6pm Marcus Graf, 6:30-8pm
 April Hall Band

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Newsdesk ponders the state's **TIPS ON BULK-BUYING PENCILS** > Earache dissects **KANYE'S LATEST EGO TRIP** > The Score's Joe O'Connell on **UT GETTING 'STOOPED'** > Gay Place is **CALLING IN GAY**. Deal with it.
'POSTMARKS' online – updated (almost) daily > **ASK MR. SMARTY PANTS** – sooner or later, he'll answer > **'SOCCER WATCH'** online – updates from everywhere

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Fuel and Frost

Nixon film and doc review responses offer different kinds of surprises

BY LOUIS BLACK

I'm always rushing, never rested, rarely being where I'm at when I'm there. This because of a suffocatingly short attention span, leading to an inability to focus – or maybe it's just disinterest in focusing. Instead of long, leisurely shots, it's all montage set to a soundtrack of too many beats. The only time it slows down, the noises in my head quiet, and I actually concentrate only on what is in front of me is when I am watching movies. It is thus appropriate to begin with a plug for a film opening.

A friend of mine teaches a class at USC, where each week he shows a film that has not yet opened theatrically and has significant members of the creative team – producer, director, writer, and/or star(s) – there to discuss it in a Q&A after the screening.

Visiting L.A. earlier this year with my son, I was a bit disappointed when I learned the film being screened the night we were there was Ron Howard's new film, *Frost/Nixon*, adapted from Peter Morgan's stage play. I'm not usually a fan of films adapted from theatre to begin with: All the ways the play is opened up to breathe to be more cinematic too often come across mostly as ways the play was opened up to breathe.

I do fondly remember the Nixon interviews conducted by David Frost, incredibly powerful and meaningful television at the time. Three decades or so later, as much as I love popular culture, this was one of the few important media events of the time that inspired absolutely no interest in me. I have no great fascination with Frost while, if anything, I'm more than filled up thinking about Richard Nixon as an individual and as president.

As was commonly said to me during a much earlier time, "May the Lord Baby Jesus shut your mouth and open your mind" was again appropriate. As soon as the film began, it vibrated with some of those extra qualities by which cinema can be more than just itself, greater than the sum of all its parts. Often and expectedly, this intense buzzing wrapping my body usually dissipates early

on, allowing me to just watch the film on the screen. *Frost/Nixon* never let up; its electricity never turned down.

There is probably a very long list of reasons why this film shouldn't work. The story of David Frost getting the first television interview with the then-disgraced ex-President Nixon seems inherently static, resistant to all and any cinematic sweetening. So why does it work so brilliantly? An extraordinary cast helps. Just the supporting cast includes Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Toby Jones, and Sam Rockwell. Michael Sheen as David Frost gives an inspired performance, subtle and rich in detail and nuance. Given Frost's larger-than-life TV persona, it would have been easy to lose the man to image and memory, but Sheen doesn't. If the cast was less outstanding, Frank Langella's brilliant turn as Nixon would have overshadowed all else, making for an almost embarrassingly lopsided movie. Instead, the script, direction, cinematography, score, and especially the actors provide just the right context for Langella's performance. Trying to describe it or evoke it by comparing it to other great film performances is like dancing about architecture. Too often the most praised film performances are the most theatrical or purposefully serious. Langella doesn't simply mimic Nixon, nor does he merely foster memories; instead, he offers a multidimensional character.

Even describing it as "multidimensional," though, seems lamely limiting. Langella is Nixon. Which is not to say simply that he creates a fine, detailed portrayal of former American President Richard Nixon, exiled and disgraced by his impeachment. The performance is not so restrained as to be restricted by impersonation. Instead, the actor realizes Nixon as something more than just the historical figure and the man: He overwhelms viewers by creating a meta-character, one greater

than life – yet also one that is very real. More human than theatrical, more eloquent than outrageous, Langella's Nixon ends up detailing the morally complex and too frequently contradictory imprint of Nixon – who Nixon was and how we remember Nixon. Neither beatifying nor demeaning, the performance conveys a most complex individual who contains many layers and all kinds of contradictions. A visionary whose humanity diminished him, Langella's Nixon is a politician of impressive, often brilliant intelligence unfortunately crippled by a catalog of emotional insecurities – one who once looked to the stars but also one so diseased with petty paranoia that he ended up looking down and blinded.

I went expecting nothing. My son and I ended up talking excitedly as we wandered the campus for some time after the movie.

I don't want to raise expectations too high, despite my over-the-top enthusiasm here. The good taste and educated cinematic sensibilities of so many readers usually leaves them uneasy with any kind of critical hysteria; however, my record of excessive critical exhortations should have vaccinated readers against taking my opinions too literally.

While writing about film, I can't help but address the overwhelmingly negative response to Josh Rosenblatt's review of the documentary *Fuel*, currently playing in town. Even though the review questioned none of the film's opinions or the positions it took, Rosenblatt was still faulted for not strongly and overtly endorsing them. Rosenblatt's criticisms were directed toward *Fuel* as a film, especially as a documentary. Documentaries once pretended toward the objective, usually at least trying to be fair in presenting both sides of an issue, but now it is more common for them to be – clearly and without guise – personal opinion essays. The review's criticisms went entirely in that direction, the point being made that, despite good informa-

tion and more-than-reasonable political positions, the failure of *Fuel* was as a film. Finding it seriously flawed cinematically, Rosenblatt also felt that, as documentary, it was way too over-the-top and heavy-handed.

Here I could consider that the hostility in so much of this landslide of angry responses erupted because those responding felt that the film's intentions, politics, and content trumped any other concerns, especially Rosenblatt's petty criticisms. There was outrage that rather than promote the film, he criticized it, that rather than champion it for its eloquence and ideology, he let its petty weaknesses dominate his review.

These responses made it clear that, in all decency, he should have joined chorus with its politics and championed it for its intentions while aiding it in gaining an audience because of the importance of its message. Along the way, some praised it as a film, while Rosenblatt's review was trivialized and dismissed because his criticisms were ego-driven, pissily academic, and/or irrelevant. Again, a comprehensive view of these responses would find me more than startled. There were calls to at least censor him if not outright fire him. The *Chronicle's* long history of not just coverage but often overt editorializing in favor of alternative fuels and our clear concerns with oil-centric transportation planning and decisions, as well as offering a range of readers' voices on these issues in "Postmarks" and online, were negated by this one negative review that didn't even question or criticize its politics but rather the filmmaking.

Some of the letters and comments were quite dramatic, with one suggesting that propaganda films (as one can comfortably categorize such personal-advocacy documentaries) are more valuable than all other films (as long as one agrees with the film's positions, I'm guessing, though this stipulation was not explicitly stated). Given the intensity of so many of the responses, the assumption has to be that readers felt this film's messages

continued on p.10

page
two

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Postmarks

to be so important that the goal had to be to get it seen by as many people as possible. Any hesitation over the film or criticism of it that might serve to dissuade any potential audience members was therefore not just political but also inherently reactionary, not just dismissing its message but arguing in favor of Big Oil.

Once again it turns out that the *Chronicle* staff trusts its overall readership more than readers trust one another. The idea that so many of our readers rigidly follow our opinions – going to see what we like, not going to see what we criticize – is so obviously and completely ridiculous to us that its even unspoken assumption in any argument is pointless. But more than that, in the many and complicated ways it is supposed to work, the *Chronicle* so clearly did this time.

We assume a diverse and educated readership that – rather than being naive, trusting, and eager to be led – is cynical, questioning, and more than comfortable in dismissing or even attacking opinions the *Chronicle* espouses. But even more than that, we count on the discord and the dissent. This paper encourages as broad a reader response as readers wish to offer. Short of libel, in printing responses, we prioritize the critical, even when they are also abusive. Having concerns with the vehemence and narrow focus of some of the responses, I will often respond in turn. But this paper and this column never advocate quiet or complacency; we attack rather than promote censorship and believe in the value of a wide range of opinions rather than believing in or offering one sole, authoritative voice.

Finally, when all is said and done, it is more than likely that far more people went to see *Fuel* because of the controversy than would have if a *Chronicle* review had found it good or even great. We trust the process, the paper, and our readers. We value debate and encourage dissent. ■

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

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MISSING ITEMS FROM 'HORROR STORY'

Dear Editor,

My wife does not understand why, but I love horror stories. I especially enjoyed "Campfire Horror Story" [News] in the Nov. 21 issue of the *Chronicle*. There did seem to be some important items missing from the story.

Here is what I think was missing:

- 1) Current interviews with the kids who were at Woodside Trails when it was shut down.
- 2) Follow-up by Carole Keeton Strayhorn to show that the kids thrown back into the regular foster-care system were better off after being forced to leave.
- 3) Studies cited that prove a grandmother's intuition and fervor are more accurate than the systems and plans of trained professionals.
- 4) Apology by Strayhorn to Betty Lou "Bebe" Gaines and Jack Reynolds for ruining their professional lives.
- 5) Documents from Strayhorn proving that her staff at the time were all trained investigators.
- 6) Statistics from 1982 to 2004 proving that Woodside Trails and therapeutic camping is no better off for kids than being in the hands of abusive and negligent parents.
- 7) Strayhorn to agree to be a foster parent for one year to a "tough care" child and try out her "grandma knows best" therapeutic system.

Other than those items missing mentioned above, I thoroughly enjoyed the article.

Sincerely,
Max Gallegos
Round Rock

REVIEW THE POLITICS NOT THE FILM

Dear Editor,

I am starting a petition to have Josh Rosenblatt fired or at least banned from printing film reviews or at least banned from reviewing films that have anything to do with social-political subjects. His pan of the film *Fuel* borders on criminal [Film Listings, Nov. 21].

Josh – what the fuck are you thinking?! Here we are in the midst of a time where we are mired in hopelessness and despair about our future and a film comes along with a message of hope, positive possibilities, potential creative solutions that most have not heard about – something to uplift us and spark our own creativity – and you discourage us from seeing it based on your pissy attitude and cynical mind. You are pathetic in your shortsightedness. Please keep your petty little opinions to yourself in the future. At the very least – when reviewing a film about social or political subjects – please ask yourself: "What will serve the greater good? For more people to see this and get this information or for it to remain hidden from us and our time spent filled with 'entertainment' that meets your high standards?"

Stephen Summers

TIME WARNER REMOVING QUALITY CHANNELS

Dear Editor,

Your article in this week's issue regarding Time Warner's removal of yet another of the very few quality channels from its standard cable package shows yet again TW's lack of commitment to the public ["The Cable Channel Shell-Game Shuffle," News, Nov. 28]. You noted the most recent casualty, KLRU2, and the first major

CONTINUED ON P.12

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loss, the National Geographic Channel, but you left out what I think is the most significant loss, that of 24-hour radar (Channel 44), which they pulled last spring. This was arguably the most important information available on our cable system, as many whose living is critically impacted by weather relied on it.

I suggest that those such as myself who are concerned about TW's attempts to force us to pay more to get these channels back write directly to the Federal Communications Commission. If you write to the city of Austin's Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs, as I have done, they will pass the buck to TW, who will send you a page-long letter of lies about how the removal of these valuable channels is a benefit to the consumer.

Last time I checked, however, the Soap Opera Channel was still available, thank God. And if you downgrade to the basic package, which I highly recommend, you'll still get QVC!

Guy LeBlanc



maligned in the one news source I have come to appreciate in this city.

Respectfully,
John Langmore

FALSELY MALIGNED IN POSTMARKS

Dear Austin Chronicle,

I greatly appreciate your excellent coverage of the evolution of passenger rail in Central Texas. I was disappointed to see, however, that you chose to publish the portion of Skip Cameron's letter to the editor that was nothing more than a personal attack on me as an advocate of passenger rail [Postmarks, Nov. 28]. Not only am I not paid to advocate passenger rail, but such accusations do nothing to advance the discussion of this important topic and only serve as a distraction.

I hope I can continue to advocate my positions on civic matters without concern of being falsely

ARTICLE WAS FAIR, BUT RAMP ISN'T

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for Laurel Chesky's well-written and fair article "Not in My Graveyard: RAMP vs. Covenant Presbyterian" [News, Nov. 28]. Ms. Chesky gave equal balance to both sides of the issue and managed to make a somewhat dry "land use" story lively and entertaining.

However, I feel Sharon Blythe's portrayal of the Rescue Austin Memorial Park Cemetery organization is very misleading. Her organization of "about 700 members" is a sham. RAMP is, in fact, nothing more than Ms. Blythe and a lengthy e-mail list.

In a manner known to political groups as "push polling," Ms. Blythe approached grieving families visiting Austin Memorial Park and asked them if they wanted the graves of their loved ones disturbed. Of course, many of these family members signed on to "protect" the graves of their family members. RAMP is simply a cover for Sharon Blythe to appear to be more representative than she really is. Why were no other RAMP members standing alongside Ms. Blythe in the photo?

Ms. Blythe's comment, "Once the cemetery is gone, it's gone," is simple fear-mongering. Does she not understand that the proposed gift of a \$2 million columbarium would have extended the life of the city cemetery through the creation of many more resting places? That such a building would improve access, beautify the space, and be a zero-cost-to-taxpayers enhancement of the graveyard? Perhaps not.

To be frank, Blythe's actions in dealing with the city and the church much more resemble those of Samantha Stephens' Bewitched neighbor Mrs. Kravitz, than they do that of a concerned citizen attempting to protect a historic property.

In the interest of full disclosure, let me say that I am a member of Covenant Presbyterian. But I must also point out that the grave of my full-term stillborn nephew lies within the grounds of Austin Memorial Park and is visible from the building in which I often teach Sunday school. My family is certainly in a position to see both sides of this issue. From our vantage point, Ms. Blythe should stand aside.

Final question: If Mrs. Blythe's husband was an American Indian with tribal burial sensibilities, why is he not buried alongside his ancestors on tribal ground? I must have missed that part.

Thank you again for the article.

Whitney Milam
CONTINUED ON P.14

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HOORAY FOR MINCEMEAT!

Dear Editor,
 Hooray for mincemeat ["Mincemeat," Food, Nov. 28]! My mom made pies every year for Christmas, and I do, too. You can buy it premade in blocks that you mix with water or in jars. I love it, but I always encounter folks who have never tried it.

Katy Kappel

'FUEL' NEEDS TO BE SEEN

Dear Editor,
 Gee, if it looks and sounds and feels like a movie ... and the Sundance Film Festival audience deems it worthy enough to award it as such, then who the heck is Josh Rosenblatt to tell us that it shouldn't be in a theatre [Fuel, Film Listings, Nov. 21]? How about the 10 minutes' worth of Wal-Mart commercials I had to suffer through before I got to see what I paid to see, Josh? Care to opine? The fact is that Mr. Tickell admitted that his initially chosen alternative fuel was not the ultimate solution he first thought it to be. His refreshing and inspiring conclusion is that all is not lost, that through a combination of solutions we can envision and hope for a sustainable economy and culture. Please don't relegate this movie to some nonexistent "meeting hall." It needs to be seen.

Jim Wray

MORE 'FUEL' ON THE FIRE

Dear Editor,
 I just saw the movie Fuel despite the horrible review given by your paper [Film Listings, Nov. 21]. I am shocked and amazed that this review made it

past your editing department. Did he even see the film? Everyone in the audience applauded and was inspired. This was an ugly, almost vindictive review and had no justification for calling the film an infomercial. The Chronicle is "supposed" to be a paper of the people. Which people does your reviewer work for - the Bush administration or perhaps the oil industry? Is there some sort of kickback or advertising with your paper that conflicts with alternative-energy ideology? I feel an apology should be given or another review (by another person on your staff) to fairly evaluate this film! This review borders on the libelous side. I will make it my personal mission to make sure that your reviewer is exposed for the small, bitter person he is.

Terrie Resler

CAROLE STRAYHORN DESERVES OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,
 With regard to Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Woodside Trails, Strayhorn is the wrong target ["Campfire Horror Story," News, Nov. 21]. She spoke out on conditions in foster care that urgently needed to be addressed. She deserves our thanks and our support. As to Woodside Trails and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, I disagree with letting children live outdoors in makeshift shelters year-round. That said, it is obvious that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services will stoop to anything to protect itself. It sounds like its pursuit of the individuals at Woodside had more to do with retaliation and less to do with justice. Unfortunately, this scenario plays out in the lives of families on a constant basis.

Lee Spiller

AGAINST EXCESSIVE AIR CONDITIONING

Dear Editor,
 Austin's excessive use of air conditioning does a vast amount of environmental, as well as cultural, damage. Thanks to the widespread use of air conditioning, Austin's population is unsustainably large and still growing. Most of the people who move here will spend their time in climate-controlled buildings and air-conditioned cars. And some of them will deride people who

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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Without such excessive use of air conditioning, people who could not endure hot weather would live elsewhere. That in itself would give our

local environment a break. And many of the folks who continued to live here would walk or ride a bicycle for transportation. We wouldn't have so many cars or parking lots. The air would be much nicer, and the temperature several degrees cooler.

Air conditioning has done and continues to do a great deal of harm to Austin and the surrounding region, both environmentally and culturally.

Yours truly,
 Amy Babich

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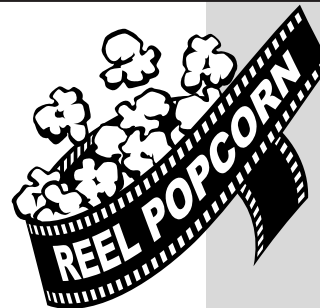
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news

Headlines

- ▶ *Austin American-Statesman* owner **Cox Newspapers** will close its Washington, D.C., bureau April 1, 2009, as part of a series of cost-cutting measures that includes unloading the *Statesman*. There's still no word on whether the daily has a potential buyer.
- ▶ **Shop Local:** The city has launched a new website and interactive map, **ExploreLocalAustin.org**, highlighting small, locally owned businesses. The pilot phase covers six test districts, including South First and North Loop; see "Revving Up for Slow Times," p.32.
- ▶ The **Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services**, which provides care for people with mental retardation, has been condemned in a U.S. Department of Justice report, finding that 53 of the 114 deaths among state school residents last year were from preventable conditions. The DOJ released a similarly critical report in 2006.
- ▶ On Dec. 1, Gov. **Rick Perry's** office slammed the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** for only covering six months of Hurricane Ike reconstruction costs, not the 18 months he requested. The next day, he co-authored a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed with South Carolina's Gov. Mark Sanford opposing all federal bailouts.
- ▶ What **Hurricane Ike cleanup?** The Associated Press reports that three months after the storm hit, only 100 yards of the 30 miles of debris in Chambers County have been removed.

Naked City

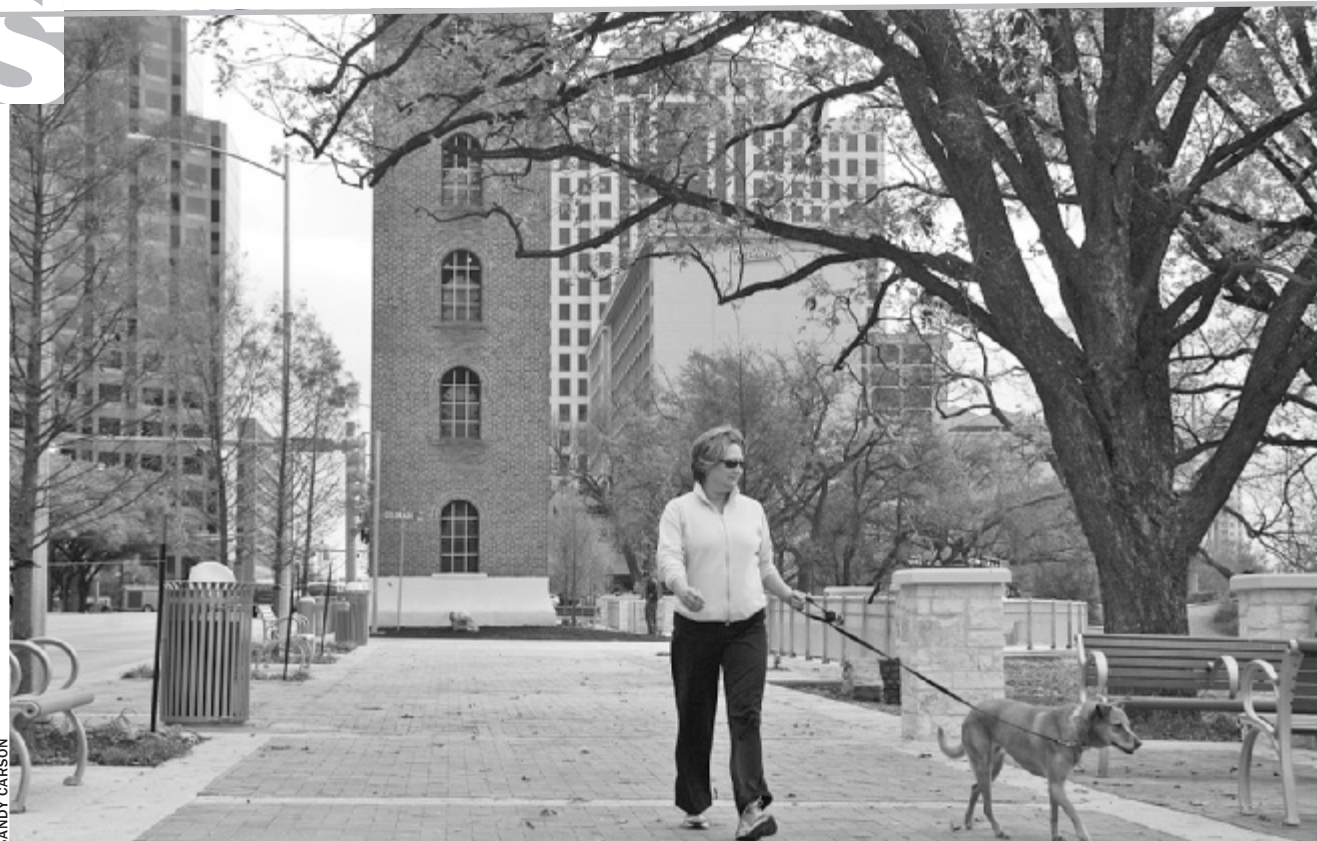
- ▶ **A HUTTO HOLIDAY** Activists protesting **T. Don Hutto Residential Center**, which reportedly houses 293 adults and 92 children, will convene for a vigil on Dec. 7 in what has become a holiday tradition at the Taylor facility. The group will gather at 3:30pm on Austin Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth streets, and then walk to the Williamson County Courthouse, to challenge the facility's multimillion-dollar contract authorizing **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement** to use the facility to hold immigrants – including children and infants – who await deportation. Now in its third year, the contract – between Williamson County, ICE, and contractor Corrections Corporation of America – is up for renewal in January. According to a press release from Border Ambassadors founder Jay J. Johnson-Castro Sr., the vigil will feature community leaders speaking "in support of alternatives to incarceration." Though liberating families is the ultimate goal, the event will also celebrate key victories. "As a result of the lawsuits brought by ACLU and the UT School of Law Immigration Clinic, detainees are now allowed to wear their own clothing," Johnson-Castro said, adding that the clinic recently succeeded in getting ICE to allow detainees to use phone cards that had been given to them (previously they were required to buy phone cards through CCA). Activists will collect donated gifts for child detainees, including new toys, books, music, candy, and warm clothing. For details, call Sherry Dana at 512/868-5181.

– Patricia J. Ruland

- ▶ **PECAN STREET PROJECT PARTNERS** At this week's **Clean Energy Venture Summit**, participants in Austin's **Pecan Street Project** – a collaborative initiative to design and develop a groundbreaking new clean energy infrastructure and business model – announced corporate partnerships with Dell, GE Energy, IBM, Oracle, Cisco Systems, Freescale, and others. The companies will offer staff resources and strategic guidance and help identify technologies to be beta-tested on the local electrical grid. Project participants include the city of Austin, Austin Energy, UT's Austin Technology Incubator, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and the Environmental Defense Fund. Together they are tackling infrastructure, technology, and policy challenges to the use of wind and solar power on a municipal scale. Solutions will be shared nationally and internationally. For more info, see "The Pecan Street Project," Oct. 3.

– Katherine Gregor

CONTINUED ON P.20



SANDY CARSON

Downtown resident Donna Moncrief enjoys a morning jaunt with her dog along the newly completed esplanade on Cesar Chavez Street. The city's \$8.4 million project included a two-way traffic conversion on Cesar Chavez and design and landscape enhancements on the south side of the street.

Bernanke Speaks

The Fed chairman visits, and the news is very mixed

BY MICHAEL KING

It wasn't Ben Bernanke's fault that he dropped into the Downtown Hilton on the same day that the U.S. was officially diagnosed as undergoing a "recession" that, according to those quick-thinkers at the National Bureau of Economic Research, began in December 2007. Nor that the stock market had responded to this clarifying declaration by skidding another 680 points. Had those pieces of overripe bad news held off for another day, the Federal Reserve chairman was still going to deliver the same speech – heavy on somber-wonk crisis policy, light on prognostication. He recited it sonorously and letter-perfect, as any deviation from his text would have been haruspicated in a manner that was once reserved for the steaming innards of sacrificial bulls. As it is, he made the unremarkable declaration that additional federal funds interest-rate cuts (from the diminishingly visible 1%) "are certainly feasible" – rather like announcing he occasionally employs an umbrella in thunderstorms – and by Monday night, there were several hundred breathless worldwide repetitions of the phrase on Nexis, even though his explicit point was that at that level, the likely effects of conventional interest-rate cuts are "obviously limited."

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Whatever else is true about being Fed chairman, it must be simultaneously tempting and discomfiting to anyone to suddenly find oneself the designated Delphic oracle of international finance. Bernanke's predecessor, the truly loony Ayn-Rander Alan Greenspan, relished that role and spoke in a bureaucratic dialect so opaque that his awestruck devotees are still arguing over the punctuation. Bernanke, although clearly an ingrained free marketeer, seems not so ideologically hidebound nor as pompous as Greenspan and is thereby willing at least to speak directly if not with great revelation. His oration Monday, delivered to a couple of thousand attentive Chamberites, had roughly three parts: 1) We've been doing the best we can under difficult circumstances, with measurable success at holding off disaster; 2) it's going to get worse before it gets better; and 3) there are a few things we haven't tried yet but expect we'll have to.

Perry's Two Cents

The address was apparently well-received by the assembled members and friends of the

CONTINUED ON P.20

QUOTE of the WEEK



"The likely duration of the financial turmoil is difficult to judge, and thus the uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook is unusually large."

– Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, speaking in Austin about national economic prospects

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► **UT REGENTS SUED OVER GALVESTON LAYOFFS** The Texas Faculty Association is suing the UT board of regents over its decision to slash staff levels and services at the **UT Medical Branch at Galveston** in the wake of **Hurricane Ike**. In the suit, announced Dec. 1, the association alleges that the board's Nov. 12 closed-door meeting – at which it decided to fire 3,800 employees, including tenured staff – violated the Texas Open Meetings Act. (That the meeting was held at UT-El Paso – the UT system campus farthest from Galveston – hasn't gone over well, either.) The association is represented by attorney Joe Jaworski, who said, "This lawsuit seeks to shine some much needed light on the Regents' shocking decision." If the cuts stand, TFA Executive Director Tom Johnson said they will "render the recovery of this great city all but impossible." – Richard Whittaker

► **LAREDO MAYOR SETTLES IN FIRST AMENDMENT CASE** Score one for the alternative press: City of Laredo Mayor **Raul Salinas** has to pay **LareDOS** newspaper \$15,000 after settling a First Amendment suit on Nov. 25. It goes back to June 4, 2007, when Salinas ordered city staff to remove all copies of the May/June issue of the publication from the City Convention and Visitors Bureau booth at Laredo International Airport (see "Naked City," Sept. 19). He was upset by the cover: a parody of 19th century Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada's Calaveras print *El Jarabe en Ultratumba (The Folk Dance Beyond the Grave)*, featuring Salinas and the City Council as skeletons dancing on money while his dog, Princess, looked on. In his response to the suit, Salinas admitted he'd broken the City Charter and called the case "a learning experience." *LareDOS* Publisher Meg Guerra called the settlement "the quickest way to get to the point that we wanted to, where he admitted what he did and told us why he did it." As for whether Salinas has really learned his lesson, she added, "We hope we'll have some behavior modification." – R.W.

Austin Chamber of Commerce – which we should not forget is a historical euphemism for the Club of Bosses and Major Property Owners and whose direct personal interest in the soundness of investment banking is rather greater than that of the rest of us. Although the formal occasion was the annual Austin Economic Forecast, Bernanke only passingly acknowledged the "strong and diversified" Texas economy before plunging into the "economic and financial challenges" facing the entire nation.

It was just as well. He had been preceded by Gov. Rick Perry, who delivered a thumbnail version of his standard "The Texas Economy Is Booming" speech. Next to Bernanke, Perry sounded roughly like the mayor of Paint Creek about to cut the ribbon on the new branch bank. Virtually oblivious to the historical moment, the governor credited the state's "lower taxes and less regulation" for our relative good fortune and congratulated the audience for doing its economic best "when the heavy hand of government is off their backs and out of their pockets." Perhaps Perry hasn't yet noticed that the guest of honor and the rest of the federal government have been very expensively bailing water – and bailing out sinking financial ships – largely as the result of eight years of ideologically driven negligence and deregulation. Bernanke has been calling explicitly (as he did Monday) for a reversal of those mistakes.

Perry had begun even more strangely by taking a cheap shot at the Top 10% university

admissions law – calling it the worst-conceived idea he'd heard of until the football Bowl Championship Series. He finally acknowledged that Texas cannot avoid the economic challenges facing the nation but said he has "faith that God will continue to bless Texas." Somebody better.

The Long View

I suspect that Bernanke's audience was not entirely deaf to the irony of that juxtaposition and that most of us have already been affected directly or indirectly by the crisis; certainly it's already hit my family, here and elsewhere. Like a lot of folks, I confess I was also listening somewhat for reassurance for the coming year. There wasn't much. Bernanke had nothing to say about the automobile industry (admittedly not quite his bailiwick) and mentioned unemployment only statistically, as another dire economic marker that has steadily been getting worse.

He was a little more forthcoming in the brief audience Q&A. He handily fielded a question on whether "the policy of 'too big to fail'" isn't "inconsistent with capitalism" by saying simply, "That's not a policy; it's a problem" that has to be addressed by regulators once the crisis has passed. Of course, what is called "capitalism" in these discussions is roughly dependent on whose ox is being gored; when it's everybody's oxen, suddenly we're all Keynesian social democrats. And calling on his experience as an economic historian, he flatly dismissed the

increasingly common comparison of this crisis to the Great Depression. "There's no comparison," Bernanke said. "There is an order of magnitude difference in what we've seen and the slowdown we're seeing in this economy and the financial stress we're seeing in this economy and what happened in the 1930s," recalling 25% unemployment and one-third of banks closing during the Thirties. "Let's put that out of our minds," he said. "There is no comparison in terms of severity."

Well, when we're grasping at straws, small comfort is better than none. The chairman doesn't look like he's getting a lot of sleep, and when asked how he'd like to be remembered, he joked, "I'm hoping that the [Washington] Nationals would eventually win the World Series." More seriously, he continued: "I hope it would be that we got the financial crisis under control, that we set a groundwork for ... strong growth in our economy, and that we began a process of healing. ... It's going to take awhile."

Good luck to him. Even the oracle can't say how long before we get better. ■

You can check out Ben Bernanke's Austin speech for yourself on the Fed Reserve's website, www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/bernanke20081201a.htm. "Point Austin" will be on vacation for two weeks, but you can send your own points to mkng@austinchronicle.com.



... returns next week.

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FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.76.

THURSDAY 04

CAMPUS BOUNDARY MEETING Public input is welcome on the attendance zones for the new **Southwest middle school**, slated to open August 2009. (See "School Boundaries: Please All, Please None," Nov. 28, for more.) 6:30pm. *Small Middle School*, 4801 Monterey Oaks Blvd., 841-6700. www.austinsisd.org.

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN WORKSHOP 6:30pm. Lower Colorado River Authority HQ, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

HISPANIC POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST 7:30am. Antonio's Mexican Restaurant, 7522-B N. I-35. \$20 (\$15, members). RSVP at www.gahcc.org.

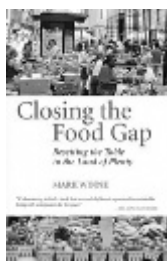
LBJ CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM takes a look at the policy challenges facing the new administration through "the lens of the LBJ domestic policy legacy." Thu.-Fri., Dec. 4-5. *LBJ Library and Museum*, 2313 Red River. www.utexas.edu/lbj/centennialsymposium.

SAVE OUR SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARTY & SILENT AUCTION 6-11pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$10 suggested donation. www.sosalliance.org.

SILVER BOX EVENT A festive cocktail party to benefit **Equality Texas**. 7pm. *The Monarch*, 801 W. Fifth. \$75. www.equalitytexas.org.

FRIDAY 05

MARK WINNE discusses the local food movement, food security, and his book *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*. 7pm. *BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.



WILL TUTTLE The author of *The World Peace Diet* is in town to talk about the role animals

have played in our culture, our history, and the environment. 7-9pm. *Casa de Luz*, 1701 Toomey, 476-2276. \$15-20. www.willtuttle.com.

CENTRAL TEXAS AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK COFFEE TALK welcomes anyone who works with youth to discuss upcoming legislation affecting kids in Central Texas. 9am. *Blue Dahlia Bistro*, 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542. Free. www.ctanweb.org.

SATURDAY 06

ACKNOWLEDGE ME CRAFT FAIR & HOMELESS BENEFIT Do some Christmas shopping, and donate needed items to Austin's homeless (bring toiletries for the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless; beanies and gloves for House the Homeless). 8pm-2am. *Mohawk*, 912 Red River. \$6 (\$5 with donations). www.acknowledge-me.com.

FAIR FOOD MUSIC FEST supports Fair Food Austin's efforts to enact universal labor standards for farmers worldwide. See *Club Listings*, p.102, for a full lineup. 2-7pm. *Music Gym*, 815 E. Sixth. \$5-10 sliding scale. www.fairfoodaustin.blogspot.com.

REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY WALK Join friends of Reagan High today in going door to door to support improving attendance, grades, and morale in the face of possible closure next year. (See "Reagan High Stands Up and Fights," Oct. 31, for more.) 9am-1pm (orientation: 8:45am). Meet at *Reagan High cafeteria*, 7104 Berkman, 653-4935. reaganhs@austin.rr.com.

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR includes stops for hands-on gardening activities, henhouse and farm tours, and lots of tasty samplings. Tours leave from three spots: *Bicycle Sport Shop*, 517 S. Lamar, 9am; *Sunset Valley Farmers Market*, 3200 Jones, 9:30am; *Austin Farmers' Market*, Fourth & Guadalupe, 10:05am. This event is part of *Eat Local Week* (see All Week). 477-3472. \$25 (\$40 per family). www.bicyclesportshop.com.

SUSTAINABILITY TALK Learn about sustainable agricultural and building practices in this talk by **Rod Rylander**, the man who built the Hobbitt House at Earthaven Ecovillage in North Carolina. 3-5pm. *Brave New Books*, 1904 Guadalupe, 480-2503. www.rrylander.com.



SUNDAY 07

BROWN SANTA 5K/KIDS K Get a little exercise to benefit Brown Santa, or just drop off donations of books, toys, and nonperishable food items for families in need this holiday season. 8am-noon. *Travis County Expo Center*, 7311 Decker Ln., 247-2682. \$18-20. www.tcssheriff.org/brownsanta5k.html.

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL STRATEGIES In case you missed him earlier (see Friday), you can join **Mark Winne** today for a talk about strategies for improved local food policy. A light lunch will be served; RSVP to marla@edibleaustin.com. 11am-2pm, 500 E. Highland Mall Blvd., 441-3971.

H.W. BRANDS The historian and UT professor discusses his latest book, *Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt*. 2-5pm. *Scholz Garten*, 1607 San Jacinto. \$18-20. www.scholzgarten.net.

SIERRA CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY 6-9pm. *Barr Mansion*, 10463 Sprinkle Rd. \$15 (\$18, door). RSVP required: rpatterson16@austin.rr.com.

WEDNESDAY 10

BLUE SANTA TOY DRIVE Bring an unwrapped toy, and get a horse-drawn carriage ride in return. First come, first served. 6:30-10pm. *Downtown Fire Station*, Fifth & Trinity, 243-0044.

JULIA MICKENBERG discusses her *Tales for Little Rebels: A Collection of Radical Children's Literature*. 5pm. *Follett's Intellectual Property*, 2402 Guadalupe. www.intellectualpropertyaustin.com.



NATIONAL DAY WITHOUT A GAY Call in "gay" to work today to protest Prop. 8 and similar citizen-trivializing initiatives. www.daywithoutagay.org.

ALL WEEK

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. *Austin Resource Center for the Homeless*, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.

EAT LOCAL WEEK *Edible Austin* presents a week of events – such as the Urban Farm Tour, Edible Austin Tea Party, and Local Food Cook-Off – with proceeds going to the Urban Roots program, which teaches teens to plant, cultivate, and share their own food. Dec. 6-13. Details: www.edibleaustin.com.

BLUE SANTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Applications will be accepted at various times for any of the Blue Santa locations across town. Check www.bluesanta.org for a list of application times and places. *Through Dec. 12*. 974-5017.

BROWN SANTA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, TOO to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to Travis County families. 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 *Brown Santa Warehouse (15400 Long Vista Dr. #101)* or mail to: *Brown Santa*, PO Box 207, Austin, 78767-0207. Donations also accepted online: www.brownsanta.org.

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TCEQ Paves the Way for Shit Creek(s)

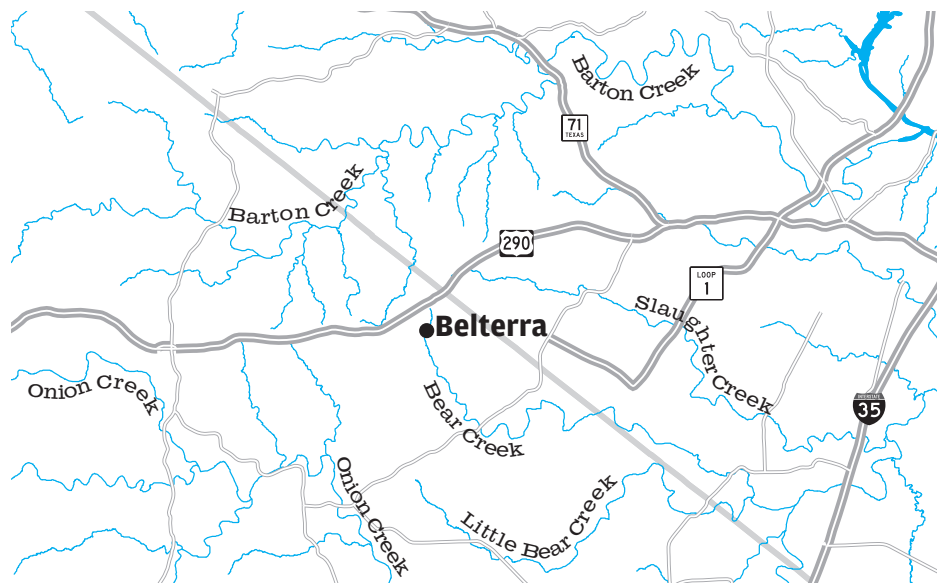
For a local example of the great “global warming debate,” just look at the controversy over discharge of treated effluent – **sewage** in laymen’s terms – in the **Edwards Aquifer Watershed**. On one side are the familiar government entities and environmental groups, such as the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, the city of Austin, Hays County, and the Save Our Springs Alliance. On the other are development interests and their lawyer, **Andy Barrett**, whose lobby list on file with the Texas Ethics Commission includes water giant Aqua America Inc. and an assortment of development and energy companies. Ostensibly in the middle are the commissioners of the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** – all appointed by industry-friendly Gov. Rick Perry. Each side has its own set of scientists, talking points, and convictions, making any environmental topic a lengthy point-counterpoint discussion.

There are three TCEQ-related issues in play, which seem to blend into a single case: One is the contested case of the **Belterra** development in Hays Co. This was a battle before two TCEQ administrative law judges, with each side arguing whether or not to discharge treated effluent from Belterra into Bear Creek, which feeds the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer. Following on its heels is the joint petition filed by the city of Austin and the BS/EACD, which asked the TCEQ for a change of rules to prohibit discharge into the Onion or Barton watersheds. A third TCEQ case on the horizon concerns

Jeremiah Venture’s massive residential development in Hays Co., which is seeking a permit to discharge effluent on thin soil covering the recharge zone.

On Nov. 19, city environmental officials learned the commission had denied the requested rules change (although commissioners moved to create a stakeholder committee to study the issue). Minutes later, the administrative judges in the Belterra case recommended permitting the development’s discharge, albeit with certain conditions. TCEQ commissioners will have the final say. While the results may carry the whiff of a compromise, the protesting parties sounded roundly dejected by the rulings.

The decision on the rules change came as the biggest surprise. Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** had appeared before the TCEQ commissioners to speak in favor of the change, and he read a supporting letter from Hays Co. Commissioner **Karen Ford**. Additionally, the city of Dripping Springs, the BS/EACD, Travis County staff, and even the TCEQ’s own administrative staff all advocated for the change in state rules. The primary reason for the change, explained city watershed expert **Nancy McClintock**, was the inevitable process of eutrophication – an excess of nutrients, such as phosphorus, that ends up in creeks, producing an increase of microorganisms and algae. Such an outcome would be disastrous for the Edwards Aquifer, as several creeks and streams within the Onion Creek and Barton Creek watersheds (specifically Onion, Bear, Little Bear, Slaughter, and Barton) feed the aquifer.



TCEQ administrative law judges recommended allowing the Belterra subdivision to discharge treated effluent into Bear Creek, while the agency’s commissioners rejected the city of Austin and BS/EACD’s request for a ban on discharge within the watersheds of Barton and Onion creeks.

At the state hearing, attorney Barrett was the lone speaker in opposition to the rules change. Barrett, who also represents the Belterra developers, brought up “opposing science” but declined to get into specifics. Despite 95% of the municipalities in the affected watersheds supporting the rules change, and despite nearly two years’ worth of data, modeling, and analysis in the Belterra case, commissioners sided with Barrett and voted down the change, with one commissioner suggesting the matter would best be addressed by the Legislature.

None of the commissioners opted to speak with the *Chronicle* to explain the commission’s thinking on the ruling, but their legal counsel, Les Trobman, said they were concerned that not all the science was in agreement. **Myron Hess** of the **National Wildlife Federation** said the commissioners could have approved the rules change and tasked the newly created stakeholders committee with refining the language.

In a lengthy explanation to the *Chronicle*, Barrett essentially touched on three points: that there was no way a development the size of Belterra could adequately dispose of its wastewater without having to resort to some of it entering the stream; that even on the occasions where the stream would be flowing with effluent, such an outcome was better than letting it flow intermittently; and that the treatment of the effluent was of such a high quality that it

would not trigger eutrophication. “Treating high-quality effluent and discharging a clean treated effluent into the creeks is beneficial,” he said. “I believe that very strongly.” Asked if there is any science that might convince him of the hazards of treated effluent in waterways, he said: “I’m sure there is. I can’t think of it.”

Barrett also reverted to a sort of moral relativism, saying that the creeks were hardly pristine and that people essentially didn’t know how much effluent they were already coming into contact with. He pointed out, for example, that the city of Austin discharges effluent into the Colorado River. The Colorado, known locally as Lady Bird Lake and, to the west, Lake Austin, doesn’t feed the aquifer, however.

Austin state Sen. **Kirk Watson** shared his thoughts on the commissioners’ decision to look to the Legislature for guidance. “It is very common for TCEQ to defer or even abdicate its responsibility to take action on things by hiding behind this concept of, ‘Well, we want to see what the Legislature tells us to do.’” he said. “There are other instances where I believe TCEQ had authority to take action to protect the health and safety of Texans, but they refused or failed to do so, because what they’re doing is saying, ‘We’ll wait until somebody else tells us what to do.’” San Antonio Sen. **Jeff Wentworth**, whose district covers parts of Hays and Travis counties, offered a “no comment” on the TCEQ decision.

Adding to Watson’s comments, Leffingwell told *In Fact Daily*, “I’m not optimistic that anything good is going to come out of the stakeholder process.”

Interested parties can continue to watch the epic struggle over sewage, as SOS and the BS/EACD have filed for a contested case against Jeremiah Venture’s permit application to spray effluent over a sensitive watershed zone. The city of Austin and other municipalities and organizations are expected to join that fight in the coming weeks.

– Jacob Cottingham



JANA BIRCHUM

Travis Co. District Eternity ... er ... Attorney Ronnie Earle felt the love from friends and supporters who descended on Stubb’s Tuesday night for a reception in his honor. Earle is retiring from office and leaving the courthouse after serving for 32 years as the county’s top law enforcer.

– Jordan Smith

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Busted in Aspen, Sued in Denver

As a founding board member and chief financial backer of the **Save Our Springs Alliance**, **Kirk Mitchell** is clearly familiar with litigation, as the environmental group has spent a lot of time and resources in courtrooms, fighting over land use and pollution in the Austin area. And when he ran for City Council in 2002, Mitchell unsuccessfully sued incumbent (and former ally) **Daryl Slusher** to get Slusher thrown off the ballot.

But recently in Colorado, the courtroom got a lot more personal for Mitchell. He's being sued by Colorado State graduate student **Hui Hung**, whom he dated briefly in 2007, for battery, negligence, and false imprisonment. Rejecting the woman's claims, Mitchell has countersued, insisting that Hung was in fact the aggressor and charging her with battery, "extreme and outrageous conduct and infliction of emotional distress," and abuse of the legal process – in essence claiming that Hung's lawsuit is simply an attempt to extort money from Mitchell.

Hung's lawsuit grew out of an incident in Aspen, Colo., in August 2007, when Mitchell and Hung, who had met recently through an online dating service, were spending some time at a home belonging to Mitchell's parents. (Kirk is the son of Houston oil and gas tycoon **George Mitchell**, who was also the developer of the Woodlands). En route in Mitchell's car to the Hunter Creek Trailhead for a hike, they got in an argument over the radio volume. According to Hung, Mitchell became enraged when she asked him to turn down the radio, refused to take her back to the house, then pulled over and dragged her from the car when she demanded to be returned home. In her federal court complaint, Hung further claims that at the trailhead parking lot, Mitchell again pulled her from the car, "threw [her] to the ground [and] began kicking ... her buttocks and legs."

Mitchell has counterclaimed that in fact Hung had attacked him in the car, attempting to grab the wheel more than once, and he was only defending himself – the same reason he later stopped and pulled her from the car. She refused to walk the short distance home, Mitchell says, and followed him briefly on the trail, where she attacked him from behind and tore his shirt. There were no witnesses to the altercations, but shortly afterward, according to the police reports, five hikers found Hung hiding behind a bush near the trailhead, "upset" and "frightened"; she said she

had been beaten. Mitchell was apparently about to drive away. The hikers summoned police, who interviewed Hung and Mitchell at the scene and eventually arrested him for third-degree assault, a misdemeanor.

According to the reports filed Aug. 28, 2007, by the Pitkin County sheriff's arresting officers, Mitchell was highly agitated and told them, "I can't believe you guys are up here for this," and, "There must not be much going on." Other than the broken sunglasses that Mitchell blamed on Hung, officers noted minor injuries on Mitchell's hands ("consistent with someone pulling his hand or thumb") and noted both a bruised handprint on Hung's left thigh (where she says Mitchell slapped her several times in the car) and bruises on her arms and back. (Police photos taken the next day, notes the district attorney's case file, record "injuries which included hand-shaped slap marks on [Hung's] left knee, small bruises to both shins, a medium-sized bruise to the back of her right elbow, a large bruise below her tailbone where she said Mr. Mitchell had kicked her, bruises to both her upper hands, and a bruise on her thigh.") The case file also notes that the 51-year-old Mitchell is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 190 pounds,

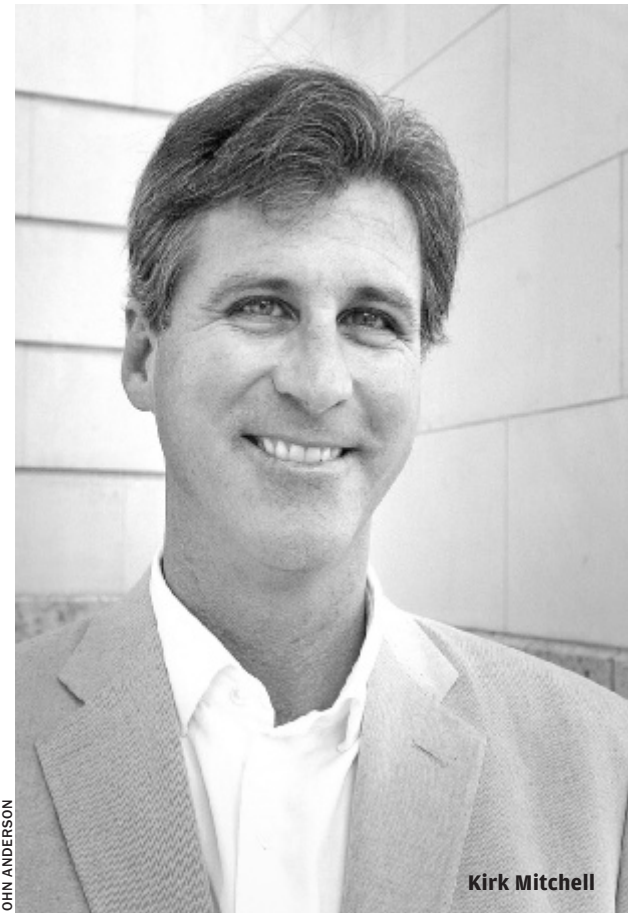
while the 33-year-old Hung is 5 foot 3 and 99 pounds. In September of this year, the assault charge was dismissed in Pitkin Co. court, and Mitchell pled no contest to disorderly conduct. Asked about the dismissal, Pitkin Co. prosecutor **Richard Nedlin** declined to discuss

the specific decision-making process of the office because that constitutes "official work product." He would only say a plea agreement often reduces initial charges, depending on

the specific circumstances. In a March letter to the judge, Hung had called the plea deal "unjust to me and the community" and asked the court that the charges not be reduced and Mitchell receive a stronger sentence, including extended probation.

The court required Mitchell to pay Hung's medical bills, undergo eight hours of anger-management training, and perform 24 hours of self-monitored community service; the court set a January 2009 date to review whether he has fulfilled these conditions. In August, Hung filed suit in Colorado state court, but at Mitchell's request, the case has since been moved to federal court because the parties reside in different states.

The court required Mitchell to pay Hung's medical bills, undergo eight hours of anger-management training, and perform 24 hours of self-monitored community service; the court set a January 2009 date to review whether he has fulfilled these conditions.



JOHN ANDERSON

Kirk Mitchell

Mitchell's attorneys have filed a motion for a restraining order (still pending) in Colorado federal court to keep the case information private and, more specifically, to preclude her from giving the media the police photographs of her injuries, which Mitchell's motion calls "an impermissible invasion of [Mitchell's] privacy." They also claim Hung is attempting to "extort" money from Mitchell by threatening to release (or sell) information about the case to the media, citing a communication from her attorney. (A brief notice of the federal lawsuit appeared in the Nov. 26 *Statesman*.)

Asked about this allegation, Hung's Denver attorney, **Anthony Viorst**, told the *Chronicle* that prior to the criminal plea, Mitchell's attorneys offered his client what Viorst called a "premium settlement" if she would agree to ask the D.A. to drop the charges against Mitchell, but Hung refused. Mitchell's Denver attorney, Carolyn Fairless, did not return calls requesting comment. Attempts to contact Mitchell were unsuccessful.

– Michael King



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TWG Considers Green Line

The **Transit Working Group** reconvened Dec. 1 to begin evaluating a **Capital Metro** proposal for Green Line rail transit service along the congested Austin-Manor-Elgin corridor. Members of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** requested additional information on projected ridership, total costs, land-use changes, and other options and assumptions; Cap Metro and CAMPO staff promised to provide the requested data at the next sessions, scheduled for Dec. 8 and 15.

Air quality was the most compelling rationale presented for pursuing rail transit instead of express bus lines or additional highway lanes. Central Texas is currently within 1 part per million of violating federal standards, said CAMPO Executive Director **Joe Cantalupo**; the region thus is likely to hit federal "nonattainment" status for air quality next year. The next ozone season, which begins April 1, will probably determine our status. If the region comes under federal restrictions, rail transit might be the only project allowed because it lowers polluting emissions, unlike additional road capacity. The other strong rationale presented for passenger rail was its positive track record for creating compact, energy-efficient growth patterns.

A CAMPO staff review found that the proposal met criteria outlined in the Transit Working Group's Transportation Investment Decision Tree, Cantalupo reported. Staff also recommended adding the project to the CAMPO 2035 long-range regional transportation plan now under development, as required for federal action or funding. Asked by Transit Working Group Chair **Will Wynn** which should come first – incorporation into the 2035 plan, to be finalized June 2009, or voter approval – Cantalupo replied, "It would be your choice." He noted that voters might "want the confidence that this would be in the plan before an election." If so, that could push back a voter referendum from May to November 2009.

Right now, the Transit Working Group is vetting whether projects are desired; in a second phase, it will review financing plans, or what Wynn called the "painful process" of a "how will we pay for it" analysis. After sending a Green Line recommendation to the CAMPO board, the Transit Working Group will consider a second submittal from the city of Austin for an urban circulator "streetcar" project. Look for those deliberations at meetings set for Jan. 5, 12, and 26. – *Katherine Gregor*



Capital Metro recently completed its Downtown MetroRail station, located a stone's throw from the Convention Center, in preparation for the transit agency's Red Line services set to roll out early next year.

FIREFIGHTERS GIVE CONTRACT THE AXE

Austin firefighters have overwhelmingly rejected a new labor contract negotiated with city officials over seven months of meetings this year. With just more than 78% of union members voting on the contract, 582 firefighters voted against adopting the document while just 160 voted in favor.

Under the new contract, firefighters would have received raises beginning next year and would have a commitment from the city to fully fund retirees' pensions, says City Council Member **Mike Martinez**, a former firefighter. But members rejected the agreement amid concerns that a specific clause could lower hiring standards and place both firefighters and the public at risk.

Under the negotiated agreement, the incoming fire chief, **Rhoda Mae Kerr**, would have been given flexibility to attract a more diverse field of firefighter candidates, says Martinez. Indeed, diversifying the **Austin Fire Department** has long been a goal for city officials: AFD was under a federal decree over hiring issues until 1982, and things have not appreciably improved since then. Currently, with more than 1,000 employees, there are still only 50 women, 50 African-Americans, and just more than 100 Hispanic firefighters, notes Martinez.

It seems, however, that the new hiring provision has been interpreted by some union members to mean that the chief would have the power to weaken the skills requirements that firefighter recruits must demonstrate, thus weakening the department as a whole. Martinez denies that would happen, because state law, not employment contracts, mandates requirements for firefighter skills.

In a press statement, City Manager **Marc Ott** said he was "disappointed that this contract was not approved." The city "diligently worked in good faith to negotiate and create a contract that was beneficial for both sides," he said. The contract would have "represented our continued commitment" to the

city's firefighters (including pay and benefits – at present, AFD firefighters are the highest paid in Texas, Ott notes).

With the contract axed, firefighters will continue to work under state civil service law, and their wages will be set by city

officials. Whether there will be a second chance for a new contract remains to be seen – at present, Ott does not appear inclined to head back to the bargaining table. "I have been advised by the city's legal counsel that we have fulfilled our statutory obligation for collective bargaining this fiscal year," he said, "and I will recommend to the City Council that we do not engage in negotiations in the near future." – *Jordan Smith*



H-E-B's Feast of Sharing on Nov. 25 drew an estimated 10,000 people to the Palmer Events Center.

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Klingler on Republicans in 2010

At first glance, it's been a pretty good election year for Texas Republicans (especially when compared to the national party). Still, 2008 has been a wake-up call for the state party about how it campaigns. As it starts the long, slow buildup to the 2010 elections, **Republican Party of Texas** Communications Director **Hans Klingler** sees the party getting off its laurels. "We have to continue to not only talk about who is running but why they're running and what they believe in," he said.

For all the Democratic gains in November, Texas is still a pretty red state. Republicans hold the Senate by a comfortable margin and look like they'll keep effective control of the House. With one seat (House District 105) in recount, their worst-case scenario is a 75-75 tie, but a 76-74 majority is also possible. Either way, they look likely to hold the speakership, even if the hand holding the gavel changes after challenges to Speaker **Tom Craddick** are settled. Statewide, Republicans kept their lock on the Railroad Commission, the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the State Board of Education. On the federal side, they picked up a congressional seat when **Pete Olson** dislodged Democrat incumbent **Nick Lampson** in District 22 ("That was a huge diamond in the crown for us," said Klingler). And the presidential race was a 56%-44% blowout for Sen. John McCain.

Yet Klingler sees some serious takeaway points to mull over. "No longer are Republicans going to be able to rest on a top-down strategy. We are going to have to re-engage and re-emerge as experts in get-out-the-vote, which is what we were." The key lesson, he holds, is that the bottom of the ballot, especially House races, can drive voters. "It is proof-positive to us that, for the first time in a very long time, people engaged in the policy discussion of this election. They weren't just voting on personality. They're receptive to policy discussion from both parties, and I think that makes Texas a better place."

That level of local engagement, he argues, is why Democrats did so well in House races but still flatlined for statewide offices. "They still haven't found an appropriate or relevant messenger," he said, "but when Democrats go into full-on recruiting mode, they can recruit candidates who sound moderate to conservative in districts where they need to sound moderate to conservative." He points to two Austin seats as examples of GOP failures to counter that success. "**Valinda Bolton** and **Donna [Howard]** both voted against **Jessica's Law** in an area where that should have been an issue. But when



Hans Klingler



Pete Olson

Republicans don't push that as a contrast and don't make that a demarcation issue, we tend not to perform, even though those are marginal districts."

The one thing that Klingler doesn't see is Texas inevitably flipping to a blue state. The growing block of independent voters always looks for what he calls "the shiniest penny" when it comes to candidates, he said. That's where Sen. **Kim Brimer**, R-Dallas, failed when he repeatedly sued challenger **Wendy Davis** to have her ruled ineligible to run for his seat. "No court in this state was going to rule to kick someone off the ballot," Klingler said. Instead of running on a record as a strong advocate for his district, he said, "he

made her a victim." Klingler doesn't attribute Brimer's loss to a voter rejection of his policies and achievements but rather to Brimer's failure to engage on issues – a misstep that saw him fall from a 59%-41% victory in 2004 to a 48%-50% loss in 2008.

The campaign season wasn't all about defense for Republicans. They made serious gains in judicial races, for instance, which Klingler attributes to Republicans' achieving what the Dems achieved with the House: engaging voters from the bottom of the ticket. "Between 2006 and 2008, we took 203 seats total at the local level, thus flipping 22 courthouses from blue

to red and changing areas where there hadn't been an elected Republican ever," he said.

"Texas still ticks as a center-right state by 5 or 6 points," he concluded. "But that should give no Republican in the state cause for jubilation or the ability to rest." What that means is quickly rebuilding the ground game for which the party was so famous in the 1990s – but also ensuring that lawmakers use the next legislative session to lay out clear policies that voters will think about at the ballot box on Nov. 2, 2010. "Republicans don't lose in Texas because our message is too conservative," he added. "We lose if we don't have a message."

– Richard Whittaker

CRADDICK FOES PREFER SECRET BALLOT IN SPEAKER'S RACE

With a month to go before the next Legislature session, the expected high elbows in the race to become the new House speaker have started. There are no new candidates (10 hopefuls seems plenty), and no clear lead challenger to Speaker **Tom Craddick** has emerged (although the biggest buzz centers on three names: **Jim Keffer**, R-Eastland; **Tommy Merritt**, R-Longview; and **Burt Solomons**, R-Carrollton). So now the argument is about the selection process and whether there should be a secret ballot.

The lack of a secret ballot was widely seen as derailing the 2007 speaker challenge mounted by **Jim Pitts**, R-Waxahachie (too few reps were prepared to publicly oppose Craddick), but Merritt wants one now. "Everyone uses sealed ballots," he said. "The Republican caucus uses a sealed ballot, and the Republican Party uses a sealed ballot to select convention delegates." He's proposed a rule-setting speaker candidate summit on Dec. 17, at which he hopes to get everyone to stand by last session's House resolution standardizing the speaker selection process. "We spelled out the criteria for a sealed ballot," Merritt said, "and hopefully we can get a consensus from the membership before the session."

Craddick has not commented, but his staff has. Press secretary Alexis DeLee told the *San Antonio Express-News* that any ballot "will have to be open if requested by three members." Craddick's parliamentarian **Terry Keel** said the secretary of state gets to decide the rules on the opening day. House Democratic caucus Chair **Jim Dunnam**, D-Waco, gave both comments short shrift and issued a memo stating precedents for a secret ballot, even if the House decides not to have one. "I'm not necessarily advocating that," said Dunnam, who added he was simply responding to "an inaccurate statement" from DeLee. As for Keel, Dunnam was dismissive. "Terry Keel is not a member of the Legislature," he said, "and his duties are over."

But there's a new factor. Since 1973, the Speaker Statute had barred any political campaign expenditure on a speaker race, on the principle that it was House business. In August, the Texas Eagle Forum political action committee, the ACLU, and the Free Market Foundation got the ban overturned in federal court on grounds that it was unconstitutional. Meanwhile, e-mails and letters are circulating from Empower Texans PAC and Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association President Linda Rogers, among others, accusing Craddick's opponents of being too liberal. – R.W.



Chuck Hopson

Texas House: Balance of Power Hangs in the Balance

With one narrow win in the House confirmed in a recount, Democrats are closer than ever to taking the House to a 75-75 split. So now it comes down to one remaining

House recount, plus a Senate run-off, to settle the balance of power in the Legislature.

On Dec. 2, after two days of hand recounts in House District 11, election officers in the district's four counties confirmed that incumbent Rep. **Chuck Hopson**, D-Jacksonville, kept his seat and slightly increased his initial 102-vote margin over GOP challenger **Brian Walker** (the exact numbers will be confirmed by the secretary of state).

So now it comes down to Dallas County's still-undecided HD 105 race, where Republican Rep. **Linda Harper Brown** currently sits 20 votes ahead of Democrat **Bob Romano**. Now the issue is "emphasis" votes. Traditionally, with a paper ballot, if a voter checks a box and then adds emphasis, such as circling or underlining the candidate's name, election officials tend to allow it if the intention is clear enough. But with an electronic vote, pressing the button twice negates the vote. Democrats argued before the 160th Judicial District Court that electronic straight-

ticket votes should stand, overriding deselections. That argument failed on Nov. 25, when Judge Jim Jordan determined he didn't have jurisdiction on the case, so the Texas Democratic Party went to federal court seeking a temporary restraining order against the Dallas Co. Elections Division, claiming voter suppression. TDP Chair Boyd Richie defended himself against allegations of trying to rewrite the rule book, noting, "Win or lose, this has always been about protecting Texans' votes."

Still to come is the Dec. 16 run-off in Senate District 17 between Houston Democrat **Chris Bell** and Republican **Joan Huffman**. Democrats spent the last year building up the Harris Co. party, but Republicans are optimistic that "failed 2006 gubernatorial candidate Bell" is fresher in voters' memories than "popular U.S. Congressman Bell." Neither side is claiming an early victory, because run-offs are too unpredictable. Take the 2007 special election in Fort Worth. While 17,680 voters turned out for the seven-way first round, the run-off turnout plummeted to 10,280, with Democrat Dan Barrett beating Republican Mark Shelton 52%-48%. But because run-offs tend to bring out the base, they can also produce unrepeatable results: In this year's rematch, Shelton pummeled Barrett 55%-43%. – R.W.

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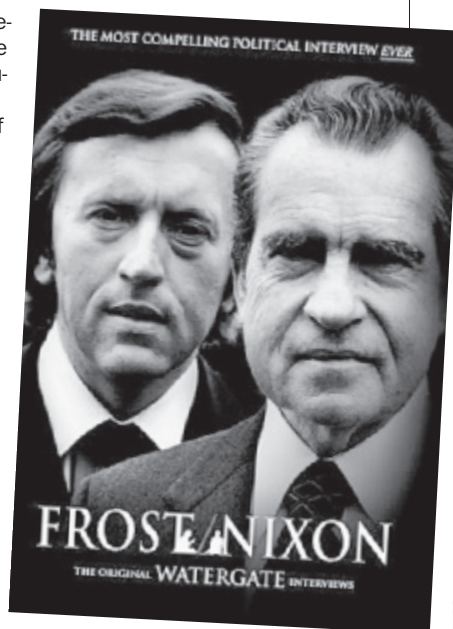
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er the Fourth Amendment still exists – you know, that paragraph that's supposed to protect individuals from unlawful search and seizure? From the Austin Police Department's use of Austin Energy data to look for potential pot growers to the Texas Attorney General's Office's trolling for potential pedophiles in chat rooms to the Bush administration's love affair with warrantless wiretapping, it can be hard to tell if, in this Digital Age, we actually pay any heed to the text of such analog documents. The Fourth may be an oldie, but it's still a goodie – and you can show your pride in the words of our founders at your front door with this welcome mat available in slightly different versions at both EvolveFish.com and Target.com. It's unlikely to keep the cops out, but it just might inspire a chuckle as they break down your door. – Jordan Smith

**FROST/NIXON: THE ORIGINAL
WATERGATE INTERVIEWS****\$24.95, www.frostnixon.com**

Finally on DVD, the original 1977 footage that inspired the play that inspired the Oscar-touted movie: 88 minutes of the meeting between disgraced President Richard Nixon and British satirist turned political interviewer David Frost. This still stands as a blast of hard-hitting and unrelenting journalism, exposing the inner workings of the presidency to the level of scrutiny the voters deserve. Start hoping for the John Oliver/George W. Bush interviews sometime around 2039. – Richard Whittaker

**MAMA VOTED FOR OBAMA**by Jeremy Zilber
Little Democrats, 24 pp., \$8 (paper)
www.littledemocrats.net

From the author of *Why Mommy Is a Democrat* comes this colorful new book. "She didn't vote for an aardvark or a red-winged lark or a hammerhead shark," reads a characteristically Seussian passage. "Mama voted for Obama!" Required reading for young children and Alaskan governors alike.

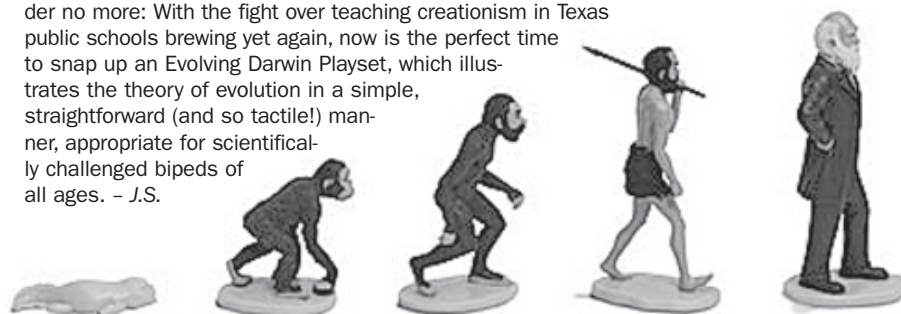
– Wells Dunbar

**T-SHIRTS FROM
FUTUREMAN GRAPHICS****\$19.99, www.futuremangraphics.net**

This gleefully ribald local graphics concern sells several outrageous Ts, such as the anti-condo "Stop Dallying Austin," the bike-empowering/anti-automobile "My other car is my fucking legs," and "Austin. A little blue oasis ... in a big red state." Available locally at Parts & Labour (1604 S. Congress, www.partsandlabour.com) and online. – W.D.

**EVOLVING DARWIN PLAYSET****\$11.99, www.thinkgeek.com**

Don't know what to get for that sassy creationist on your holiday gift list? Or perhaps you're flummoxed with what to buy for your favorite member of the State Board of Education? Look no further, and wonder no more: With the fight over teaching creationism in Texas public schools brewing yet again, now is the perfect time to snap up an Evolving Darwin Playset, which illustrates the theory of evolution in a simple, straightforward (and so tactile!) manner, appropriate for scientifically challenged bipeds of all ages. – J.S.



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the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

FROM UGLY POLITICAL ADS TO THE BEAUTY OF THE RETURN DAY

Now that the long election season is behind us, surely people of all political stripes can agree on one thing: At last we'll get a respite from the bombardment of attack ads, lies, and slimeball nastiness that poured out of too many campaigns.

The worst ad that I saw was not one of those awful screeds claiming that Barack Obama is secretly a Muslim terrorist. Instead, the winner of the 2008 Worst Award goes to a local candidate right here in Austin: Don Zimmerman.

He's a Republican who ran against the incumbent county Tax Assessor Nelda Wells Spears on a cut-taxes platform – which he took to a gory extreme. His ad depicted a man lying in a bathtub that was filled with ice and trickles of blood. He had just cut out one of his own kidneys, explained a narrator, because high taxes left him no choice but to sell his organs. The ad's tagline was "Stop the bleeding."

The kidney man lost, but such political yuck made me appreciate something that happened two days after the election. Out of Sussex County in Delaware, a bright glow of political sanity and even sweetness emerged. People there have a tradition called Return Day, dating back to around 1792.

It's a post-election celebration in which opposing candidates for state and local offices join the public to hear the town crier announce the official election results. The former rivals are paired up to ride to the event together in horse-drawn carriages and antique cars. After the reading of returns, Republican and Democratic leaders jointly lower a ceremonial hatchet into an ornate cabinet. This "Burial of the Tomahawk" officially ends the political season. Then everyone adjourns to a big festival, with food, music, and libations for all.

How civilized! Every place should have a Return Day. Check it out: www.returnday.org.

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.

LINK UP WITH THE OBAMA WHITE HOUSE

If the sweeping vote for change on Election Day is really to bear fruit, We the People must be the ones who nurture it. We can't just crank back in our La-Z-Boys. That's because the business-as-usual crowd is waiting for Obama in Washington: Wall Street bankers, the war machine, 13,000 corporate lobbyists, recalcitrant Republicans, weak-kneed Democrats, the conformist media, and others. These insiders intend to shape his presidency in their image, stifling the people's demand for real change.

We have to be the counterforce pushing insistently, vociferously from the outside. Who's "we"? You and me – determined citizens, working through our personal networks, public-interest organizations, progressive media outlets, the Netroots Nation, unions, community groups, and other connections to grassroots activism.

The good news is that President-elect Barack Obama intends to open a democratic channel that will run from the countryside right into the government, using the two-way electronic pipeline of the Web to link you, me, and a mass constituency directly to Washington decision-making. He used this online relationship effectively in his campaign, turning what's known as Netroots Nation into a prodigious political force that organized locally in every state, raised a massive amount of money, bypassed the conventional media, and coordinated its own actions.

This remarkable tool is now going inside. It'll allow Obama and a core list of e-activists, who already number more than 10 million people, to communicate back and forth instantly, without having to go through the filters of the media and lobbying groups. One of the top Internet staffers for the president-to-be has already notified the activists that "the community we've built together is just the beginning."

If you want to plug in to this grassroots self-government network, the digital link-up for the transition period is www.change.gov.

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Revving Up for Slow Times

How local entrepreneurs plan to weather the recession
 BY KATHERINE GREGOR PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Staring down a deepening recession, what's an Austin small-business owner to do? The consensus advice: Get out in front of it, before it rolls over you.

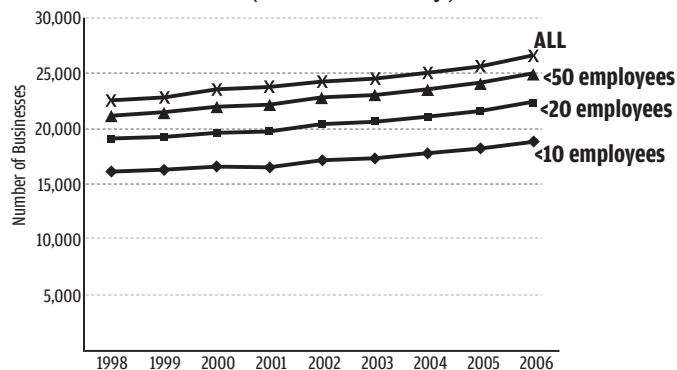
PeopleFund, the leading nonprofit small-business lender in Austin and Central Texas, helps entrepreneurs who contribute to broader community economic revitalization. Many of its clients operate on thin margins; on Nov. 24, PeopleFund sent a letter encouraging all of its 94 clients to seek help and offering advice: Watch accounts receivable; cash is king; keep creditors informed; evaluate your clients. Jaime Noyola, director of lending, said PeopleFund is reaching out to support all of its small-business, nonprofit, and affordable-housing clients but especially those that were in trouble "before all this happened." He's hearing from restaurants and small contractors already hard hit and asking them, "What can they cut, and how fast?"

Noyola is advising small construction companies with little or no work to consider liquidating assets like trucks now, because new construction has dried up: "Deals that were bankable eight months ago, banks won't touch them now." He added, "We advise our clients against incurring debt, because we don't know how long or deep this will go." PeopleFund is increasingly seeing referrals from banks of their existing customers, for whom they can no longer renew lines of credit due to tightened lending requirements.

Entrepreneurs succeed because they're an upbeat, can-do bunch, but in an unraveling economy, reflexive optimism cuts both ways. A report commissioned by BMO Bank of

Montreal found that while 92% of small-business owners believe in their ability to withstand financial difficulties, almost two-thirds are so confident that they have no contingency plan in place for what to do in an economic downturn. Fortunately, Austin has several nonprofits like PeopleFund that offer classes and supportive services, and the city's Small Business Development Program also offers free help to local small-business owners needing to retool their business plans for 2009. (See "Helpful Small-Business Resources," p.34.)

Number of Businesses by Staff Size (Travis County)



COURTESY OF CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The nonprofit SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers free counseling from experienced business executives in four Central Texas locations, as well as a podcast series available online. "Overextended owners short on staff may become spread so thin they don't take time to plan, but that's a key mistake," advises Sabrina Parsons of Palo Alto Software, in a SCORE "Planning in an Economic Downturn" podcast on www.sbtv.com. "To sit down and take time away from the business just to plan may not seem so smart, but especially for small businesses, it is."

Declining Sales and Sales Taxes

Nationally, the entire retail and restaurant sector is in major freak-out mode. In October, U.S. retail sales plunged by 2.8% – the largest drop on record, worse than the November 2001 then-record decline that followed the 9/11 terrorist attacks. But analysts pointed out the drop was primarily in cars and gasoline; excluding those categories, retail sales fell by just 0.5%. In the first two weeks of November, several major retail categories fell about 20%, according to the most recent data available at press time in a MasterCard Advisors report.

For Austin shopkeepers and restaurateurs who normally may do 30% of their business during the holiday season, hopes are not merry and bright. Nationally, Wachovia Economics Group has predicted that holiday revenues, including those from online shopping, will fall below 2001 levels. The National Retail Federation predicted a 1.9% spending increase over 2007 but bemoaned it as the smallest in six years. Standard & Poor's ratings services has predicted that holiday retail sales will decline 2% across all categories.

In Texas, the state comptroller reported that state sales-tax revenues were up 5.2% in October, over October 2007 – those collections reflect September sales. (September tax revenues, on August sales, were up 3.7%.) But in retail establishments (the category includes restaurants and bars), October collections were just \$747.7 million, a 5.9% decrease from the same month the previous year. Austin isn't immune – in November the state made a sales-tax payment to the city of just \$12.8 million, down from more than \$14 million the prior year, a steep decline of 8.8%. For 2008 as a whole, state sales-tax payments to Austin are down 0.05% – bad news for the municipal budget. High-end eateries that depend on expense-account diners report dramatically reduced tabs and empty tables; one established fine-dining restaurant reported that revenues suddenly plunged 30%.

With Texas sales tax hurting, some activists are calling on the comptroller to begin collecting sales tax on online sales – a tactic the state has avoided, under the argument that Web economic development is more important than taxes. Others want a cap on the amount of state sales tax rebated to a single large retailer (generally as an incentive for collecting the tax on time). According to a study by Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Good Jobs First, Texas rebates \$89 million – making it second among states for allowing retailers to retain the most sales-tax revenue. The lack of a cap particularly benefits large chains such as Wal-Mart. The Good Jobs First study found that the country's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, has received \$130 million from such rebates nationally, to date. Leveling the playing field on sales tax could also offer a boost to local small businesses.

Survival Mode

While painful, a recession is unlikely to truly bankrupt most entrepreneurs. Historic data on Travis County provided by Brian Kelsey, economic development coordinator for the Capital Area Council of Governments, shows steady annual growth in the total number of small businesses, from 1998 to 2006. In all categories – businesses with fewer than 10, 20, and 50 employees – the numbers have increased each year, an encouraging trend. The one exception, Kelsey notes, is that "businesses with fewer than 10 employees experienced negative growth in 2001, which implies that they may have been disproportionately hurt when the last recession hit." About 70 disappeared. Yet in 2002, 630 new businesses appear in the "under 10 employees" category; that 3.8% growth rate, in fact, is the highest

**"We advise our clients against incurring debt, because we don't know how long or deep this will go."
 – Jaime Noyola, PeopleFund**

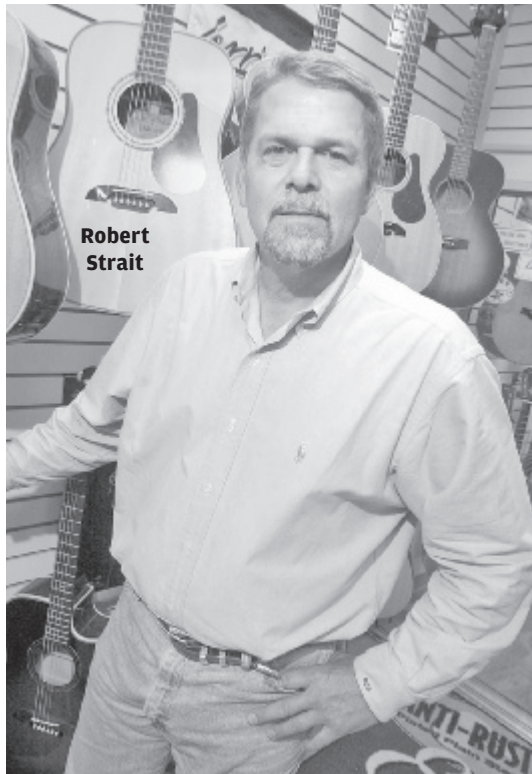
experienced by any single category in one year. One reasonable conclusion: If this recession proves no worse than 2001, it may weed out weak operations but soon create new opportunities.

Of course, statistics only speak in generalities. To assess what's really happening in Austin, I talked with an assortment of small-business owners around town – some with

new start-ups, others established Austin icons. To a remarkable degree, their instincts have already led them to take the steps recommended by professional advisers, e.g., judiciously cut expenses, increase efficiencies, market tirelessly, make sure every customer/client feels valued, deliver exceptional service, never cut quality. Bob Phibbs, author of *You Can Compete: Double Sales Without Discounting*, encourages stores to go local with their marketing: "Look at casting a smaller net with more regional, local or even neighborhood media." Parsons similarly advises against advertising cutbacks but suggests, "Make sure that you really know your market, and that you're focusing on your most lucrative customer segment."

More oft-repeated professional advice that local indies echo: Recognize that competition accelerates in a downturn; expand lower-priced products or services, for which recessions typically bring a countercyclical increase in demand (hot dogs, not steaks). Ask vendors to lower prices or extend payment terms. For well-established businesses with cash, a recession can yield opportunities to acquire struggling competitors or related companies; it's also a great market to "trade up" on staff by acquiring available talent while letting weaker employees go.

We'd expected, given the severity of the economic and financial system news, that we'd find most small-business owners feeling grim and anxious about their survival. Instead, we discovered savvy entrepreneurs who are confident in their own resilience, their business sense, and their loyal customers to get them through – and confident they'll see prosperous times ahead. May they all thrive. ■



Robert Strait

STRAIT MUSIC Opportunities in a Downturn

"I'm worried about it, but I think we're going to be fine," says Robert Strait of the economy. "I don't think Austin is going to be hit as hard as other places." Founded in 1963, the family-owned Strait Music (www.straitmusic.com) has two growing Austin locations, more than 45 employees, and revenues spread across sales and an instrument-rental business. So far 2008 has been a good year, with revenues up 8% to 15% each month over 2007 – although high-end instruments stopped selling for a few weeks in October. "We're lucky that business has been so strong; we've built up a war chest," he notes.

Strait believes he and other small-business owners have advantages in a down economy over corporate competitors: "I know the business; I've spent my whole adult life here; I'm hands-on in all areas. I can

make final decisions so I can react quicker." Strait has already survived the worst without laying off any employees, he points out – such as the devastating 1981 Memorial Day flood at the Lamar Boulevard store and a second high-loss flood in 1991. "That beats the hell out of surviving one year of recession, even if we see a 20 percent downturn."

Recently Strait scrutinized his expenses line by line, then negotiated better deals on necessities like Dumpster service: "Vendors are more motivated, vying for your business now – use that to your benefit; get them to give you a deal; shop around!" He's seizing opportunities created in the downturn, such as acquiring deeply discounted merchandise from a bankrupt competitor. "But we're not cutting anything that would affect customer service or the quality of our products," he emphasizes, nor will he slash his marketing budget. "One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to cut back in advertising and promotion. You have to be strategic and really watch everything you spend, but even in a downturn, we keep up our community sponsorships – things like the HAAM benefit that we do every year."

For newbie entrepreneurs without deep cash reserves, he offers seasoned advice: "You've got to have a plan for what to do if things do turn south for a while." – K.G.

A TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Making More From Giving More

"Thank goodness I started this small!" says Becky Nichols, looking around the cozy A Trip to Bountiful Bakery & Cafe (www.atriptobountiful.com), an oasis of bed-and-breakfast-style charm in a Bee Caves Road strip mall. "Having the lower overhead of a smaller space really saved me." As a new entrepreneur, Nichols worked as her own "bookkeeper, dishwasher, and maid" – a skills set still useful in a tightening economy. If business drops off and she has to cut expenses, she can do it all again. But for now, she says, prospects remain bright. Although she'd anticipated just seven employees in her business plan – developed over a year and a half of research – Nichols now has 14 employees for her diversified cafe, bakery, and catering business.

After losing her 5-year-old daughter, Libbie, to leukemia in April 2004, Nichols drew on "grief energy" to plan and finally open A Trip to Bountiful. She directs a percentage of profits to the Loving Libbie Memorial Foundation, which helps children living with cancer; she also takes hot dishes and cakes to a pediatric oncology clinic and a hospital ward. That charitable mission, which employees and customers have embraced, is at the heart of Nichols' business and her only form of marketing: "I can tell you this: The more I give, the more I make."

At a city of Austin Meet the Lender event, Nichols connected with banker Greg Garner,



Becky Nichols

who eventually provided her financing through Omni Bank: "That relationship has been phenomenal, very important at every step." She also received business mentoring through SCORE Austin (a nonprofit counseling small businesses) and took entrepreneurship classes through the city's Small Business Development Program. While she has a line of credit available, for a cushion, "I have tried really hard not to rely on it. By being disciplined, I get through a lot of things without borrowing." This fall she has continually reminded employees to watch expenses and held off on buying extra supplies or new equipment.

As consumer spending drops, "I'm not trying to build the storefront foot traffic as much; I'm ensuring I have enough food going out the back door" to steady catering customers. She adds: "I worry about the places that only sell one thing, like cupcakes. What happens when they're not cool anymore?"

"In my heart of hearts, I think I'm going to be fine," she says. "All the diligence we've used, in starting a risky type of business, will get us through whatever might come next."

– K.G.

CONTINUED ON P.34



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HCS SALON & SPA

Keeping the Doors Open

"It's getting to the point [that] I can't meet my rent unless I get the traffic up in here," says Renia Harris, owner of HCS Salon & Spa (www.hcssalon.com). "People need a haircut. But the other services we offer are a luxury. In this economy, we've slowed down considerably. It's kind of scary."

Nov. 22 marked Harris' one-year anniversary at the Mueller Regional Retail Center, after 30 years on the Eastside running the successful Hair Corner Salon. "The economy wouldn't even bother me if I was in my old location," says the personable Harris, who remains bullish on Mueller. The move fulfilled her dream of having an upscale, full-service salon and doubled her space, but it tripled her monthly overhead.

"We're in a stuck place," Harris admits. "My business plan was based on filling six out of the eight chairs. Right now I can keep only four stylists part-time, besides myself." In addition to hair styling, the salon offers massage, facials, skin care, manicures, and pedicures, but weak demand for those "luxury" services has made it hard to keep staff. Citing the classic Catch-22 of a start-up, Harris said she's working too hard to aggressively ramp up her marketing as the recession deepens: "I spend most of my time



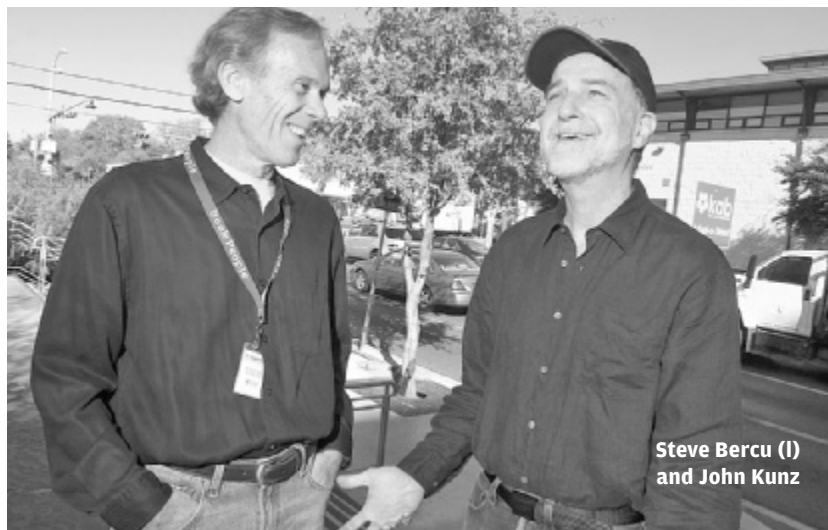
Renia Harris

behind the chair, trying to earn enough income just to keep my doors open." She's invested precious capital in advertising, even offering free services to mothers at the nearby Ronald McDonald House, but hasn't seen business pick up.

Fortunately, Harris has non-profit lenders invested in her success. She received assistance and financing from BiGAUSTIN and several city of Austin departments and programs. "I like working with the city of Austin, because it's really a relationship," Harris said. "I had so many people help me at the city, and it just made a tremendous difference." Recently they eased her loan repayment terms. She's also talking to her landlord, Catellus; the handful of small, locally owned businesses at Mueller pay full market-rate rent.

Although Harris is reluctant to mention it, a racial divide may be the invisible obstacle to filling HCS chairs. The multiethnic salon has predominantly – but not exclusively – African-American stylists and clientele. The surrounding retail center (which has many empty spaces) and the Mueller neighborhood have yielded few new clients. "It has been a big issue," Harris admits. "Caucasians walk in, see African-Americans, and turn around and walk out."

"It's challenging, but I'm so hopeful it's going to turn around!" says Harris, whose faith helps her stay positive. "I'm a fighter, not a quitter. I will do anything to save my business!" – K.G.



Steve Bercu (l) and John Kunz

BOOKPEOPLE & WATERLOO RECORDS Cross-Pollination

As the longtime proprietors who have survived decades of industry, economic, and competitive challenges, John Kunz of Waterloo Records & Video (www.waterloorecords.com) and Steve Bercu of BookPeople (www.bookpeople.com) are unshaken by the current economy. Chatting in the BookPeople cafe recently, they talked about how their unique stores' strong local Austin character makes them more recession-proof.

"Customers understand they really do need to patronize us, or the booksignings and in-store performances could go away," said Bercu. "We're curators!

About 80 percent of our customers don't know what they want. They trust us to pick out the best new books to put on the shelf. It's the same with music over at John's store; people rely on the knowledgeable staff."

While both enjoy the status of tourist destinations, Kunz noted that when traffic at the Austin airport declines, they can feel it at their cash registers. "Customers are looking for values in the store, more than in better times," he observed. "The breadth and depth of our inventory is the draw, so we need to keep that and cover those costs but give

Helpful Small-Business Resources

Small-business owners can tap these city and nonprofit organizations for free or low-cost counseling, classes, workshops, referrals, and other resources. – K.G.

Small Business Development Program, City of Austin

974-7800, www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp

The city's Small Business Development Program supports new and existing businesses by providing free information, advice, classes, and other tools; its Business Solutions Center offers resources, technology, computer stations, and staff (1 Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm). The BizAid program offers help with business development and accessing capital; there are multiple classes in December and January. Online, SBDP's Gold Pages offer a directory of area services from other organizations. Three business owners profiled for this article spoke highly of the help received from SBDP.

SCORE Austin

928-2425, www.scoreaustin.org

SCORE is a national nonprofit association dedicated to the formation, growth, and success of small businesses by counseling small-business owners and educating entrepreneurs. SCORE Austin provides confidential business counseling and advice to entrepreneurs and start-ups; most counseling services are free, and they're provided one-on-one by about 40 volunteers who have business expertise. Workshops are offered for a nominal fee.

BiGAUSTIN

928-8010, www.bigaaustin.org

BiGAUSTIN assists underserved entrepreneurs in Central Texas, offering comprehensive education, tailored business counseling, and flexible loans. It's the area's "leading non-profit micro-enterprise development organization."

Workshop topics in December and January include Access to Capital, Understanding Financial Statements, and Understanding Cash Flow. Information sessions on Dec. 12 and 19 explain the Big Idea Day and Business Plan Competition; the winning submission (deadline Feb. 20) earns \$10,000 in start-up cash.

Austin Independent Business Alliance

441-2123, www.ibuyaustin.com

AIBA is a nonprofit that promotes locally owned businesses; its mission is to shift more Austin spending to locally owned, independent businesses. Members assist one another with business-to-business networking, advice and support, and sharing problems and solutions. Programs include happy hours and luncheons, special events, Independent Business Investment Zone promotions, a member directory, and "I Bought Local" stickers.

ACCION Texas

866/312-3771, www.acciontexas.org

With the largest microloan portfolio in the United States, ACCION Texas provides business loans to both start-up and existing businesses. It helps microentrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create additional employment, and contribute to local economic revitalization. In Austin it's dispersed nearly \$4 million through more than 500 loans since 1999.

PeopleFund

469-5848, www.peoplefund.org

PeopleFund assists the underserved and ventures that have a strong positive community impact. It offers loans and free financial consulting and support services to its clients, who can receive assistance with marketing, budgeting, accounting, and legal needs and setting up advisory boards. For the public, it offers a range of small-business classes and workshops.

Making Local Easy

This week, City Council Member Sheryl Cole issued a call for Austin residents to include small local retailers in their holiday shopping. "Money spent at local Austin businesses stays in the Austin economy and keeps our tax base strong," stated a city of Austin release. "Supporting small retailers this holiday season ensures not only terrific and unique gifts, but also sustains Austin retailers in the fluctuating economy." The city was announcing the launch of ExploreLocalAustin.org, an interactive Web map that makes it easy to find indie-biz shops in six different areas of the city. For more on the local economic benefits, see "Austin Unchained," Nov. 21. – K.G.

discounts when we can." As a collaborative effort with other independent record stores nationally, Waterloo also has added a digital download store to its website.

Few businesses can beat a recession by becoming "curators of culture," but Kunz and Bercu offered advice crucial to their own survival that applies to any industry. "Try to find others in your business to partner and share ideas with, best practices, cross-pollinate," urged Kunz. "For someone new running a microbusiness, the thing you don't have is time – but it's worth it to join peer associations and talk to people with similar problems and solutions."

"Join the Austin Independent Business Association," advised Bercu, an AIBA founder, pointing out that its members pull together and help one another. "Research shows shoppers will specifically seek out a locally owned business, so let them know that's who you are. There's quite a consciousness about supporting local business here; people actually do show a preference."

Both proprietors plan to continue their charitable community involvement, despite the economy. This holiday season, Waterloo will once again sell up to three-quarters of the annual KGSR Broadcasts CDs, which have raised more than \$1 million for the SIMS Foundation. While the project doesn't cover his costs, said Kunz, "We get the love and goodwill of all those people." – K.G.

CONTINUED ON P.36

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DESIGN IT WITH CONSIGNMENT

Reverse-Cycle Retail



Lisa Gaynor

Lisa Gaynor's upscale recycled furniture store, Design It With Consignment (www.designitconsignment.com), resulted from the last recession in 2001. Laid off by Motorola, she followed a path appealing to many corporate employees "freed" in a downturn: going into business for herself.

The beauty of a consignment business is that it's reverse-cycle retail that tends to thrive in a recession, notes Gaynor, citing industry statistics. As a confirmed "consignment shopaholic" living in the Chicago area and Texas, she'd unwittingly been researching her store for years, as she resale-shopped across eight states. After her layoff – with a new house to decorate, plenty of time, and limited cash – Gaynor haunted local furniture-consignment stores, where she began learning the business in earnest. She opened her

4,000-square-foot space off South Lamar on Memorial Day weekend of 2005, after getting city help developing a business plan and obtaining a Small Business Administration loan.

Gaynor's retail business was up 40% in August, over 2007; although it fell in September, it was back up 18% in October and up about 28% in November. "People who wouldn't 'buy used' are now considering it," reports Gaynor. She has 25% more consignors, yielding 50% more stock than a year ago – a boon to business. "People are cleaning out their garages and storage units," she reports. "They're digging deeper into what they're giving up." Since September, consignors have shown more concern about how soon they can pick up a check. She's also had a few sad desperation calls – people hoping to get fast cash for their used mattresses or by selling one lamp. Although customers are spending less on each visit – leading her to stock more inexpensive "smalls" – her overall sales volume has increased.

Still, she says, "I'm considering every financial decision under a microscope right now and holding my breath through the Christmas season."

Like Nichols at A Trip to Bountiful, Gaynor has learned the wisdom of a diversified book of business. She's benefited from expanding into rentals, especially to "staging" services that fill vacant real estate. They've proved a built-in marketing force, connecting her to people who are moving and will need permanent furniture soon. She's also adding delivery service, as another revenue stream. Her suggestion to entrepreneurs whose traditional business is drying up: "Think about what other things your customers are looking for that are right on the edges of what you do." – K.G.



Juan Meza with his son Juanito

JUAN IN A MILLION Never Cut Quality

After 28 years, restaurateur Juan Meza isn't letting a mere global financial meltdown dim his optimism. "I know it's bad out there, but luckily we're moderately priced, and we live in Austin, Texas!" he says with his signature warm smile. Juan in a Million (www.juaninamillion.com) hasn't felt the downturn, yet. "People have to eat. It's cheaper to eat breakfast tacos with us than to go and buy groceries," he says. "Even if there's a ripple effect, we'll be one of the last to feel it."

Meza says he feels secure in his solid base of customers, many attracted by his generous community involvement over the years. He has always given back to Eastside schools and community groups and supported political campaigns and nonprofit causes. He and his wife grew their business very gradually, adding catering, making improvements with cash, not loans. Four years ago, Meza was able to acquire the property next door; his microbusiness tenants provide another stream of income.

Still, Meza knows the reality of hard times. "In the real estate bust of the late Eighties, we hurt like everyone else," he remembers. "We can tighten our belts, because we own the place and the property.

But one thing I've learned, through all these ups and downs, is never cut quality." Even if business drops, "we try to keep everybody – we'd maybe cut back a little on everyone's hours rather than laying people off." Running one restaurant (2300 E. Cesar Chavez) profitably "is a lot easier than worrying about five stores. More isn't always better."

"Longevity means a lot," he muses. "People know us, so it's easier for us to survive." What would he advise worried young entrepreneurs with less experience? "They need to keep their mind strong. Continue treating your customers well; be attentive to their needs – I always let them know I appreciate their being here." Indeed, he's famous for greeting customers personally.

As for the tight credit market, "When times are tough, you can't depend on banks as much, because the help is not there. You have to depend on yourself. In a downturn, it's survival of the fittest. But the people that make it are going to come out stronger. If you can survive this, you'll do well in the prosperous years." With a judicious smile he observes: "This economy is offering life experience you can't learn in the Red McCombs School of Business." – K.G.

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The Death-Wish Kid

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Long ago, writing for a paper in a city by the sea, I lived very differently. Not only because I was younger but because I was terrified. Terrified of myself. Terrified of being a public figure (even my moderate fame freaked me out). And, let's see, terrified of relationships, of being alone, of being with others. And (a big one) terrified that I was crazy. My terrors seeped into everything but my work; I wrote like the person I wanted to be (which turned out to be a good tactic, helping me, over the years, to grow into the person I wanted to be). Nor did it seem to (most) others that I was terrified, because my terror didn't make me hide. It made me reckless. Nobody who took the risks I took could be terrified, right? Ha. Every morning I woke angry and afraid. Then I'd put on my act – Street-Wise Working-Class-Hero Writer – and hide inside it.

That I actually was street-wise and working-class didn't make the act any less an act. And, of course, some people (usually female) saw through it right away. One woman said, all of a sudden: "I see you! A timid Jewish scholar." I shot back, "Not timid." Nor Jewish, and my scholarship has been doubted, but it was "timid" I minded. (Yes, I am timid. It's just that I refuse to behave that way.)

Now, at my advanced age, I've faced my terrors. Oh, I still refuse to fly except for emergencies ... and I know I'd be terrified of Emma Thompson ... and ever since an Arkansas tornado nearly swept me off the highway, I don't relish driving in storms anymore. Still, a bounty to getting older is that you grow tired of the uselessly dramatic aspects of yourself. That includes most fears. They kind of evaporate. It's not enlightenment, but it'll do.

But that's now, and my subject is then. Don't know how I wrote as much as I did because almost every night around 10pm, I was out the door, and, if I came back at all, it wasn't until well after last call. I usually headed for the Taurus Tavern in what was then a rough part of town. It was a small, smoky, noisy joint with a cramped dance floor and terrific bands never heard from again – Andy & the Rattlesnakes, A Band Called Sam, Lofty's Zebra, bands I was the only journalist to write about because less haunted people steered clear of this neighborhood. Killings on that block were famous, though not as frequent as fights and muggings. By definition, then, the Taurus was a club for the seriously haunted.

I'd usually close the joint, then hang awhile with the regulars – Jackie the bartender, Lofty,

Sam, Andy, Debby, Jane, Juke, Milton. Smart, interesting, haunted folk. Finally, in no condition to drive, I'd grab an empty beer bottle by the neck and head for the parking lot. Not that a beer bottle is any good against a gun or much good against a knife or even against two or three unarmed gents, but I'd learned in New York about predators. Street predators are the same as predators in the wild. They prowl for the weak. If you look like trouble, they await easier prey. They don't want complications, they want to score. I learned young to look like trouble.

I laugh at the image now: cigarette between my lips, beer bottle in hand, staring hard into all the shadows – the Death-Wish Kid. My dirty secret (secret from myself) was: I wanted the trouble. I just didn't want to be a sucker about it. Getting jacked up in a street fight seemed an honorable way to solve my tortured little problems, didn't it?

(As I write, I realize I might be exaggerating. It was a tough hood, but in memory I can see it only through the eyes of the drama queen I was then.)

Well, that was the place, and that was the guy, and one night that guy, me, was talking to this new face at the bar about literature. He had a good mind, but I didn't like his eyes. After a while he asked my name. I told him. "You're Michael Ventura? Shit." Not an engaging response to my fame. He was nervous all of a sudden, street-nervous, guilty. "Hey, man, look, I hope you don't mind." "Don't mind what?" "Uh, I, uh, get into clubs all over town saying I'm you." That's what comes of keeping a low profile. I said, "But it didn't work tonight." "Uh, no. Hope you don't mind, man."

I was a hothead then, but it never occurred to me to give him the thrashing that, rightly or wrongly, I felt he deserved. I said: "I always pay the cover, man. Even here." I picked up an empty beer bottle, enjoyed his very nervous response, said good night to Jackie, and turned and went home – amazed, baffled, that anybody, for any reason, would want to be the Death-Wish Kid.

Like I told that faker, I always pay the cover. (Musicians need to eat just like everybody.) The Taurus was the only joint where I was known by name, because they'd become my friends. Other places, I preferred anonymity. So, months later, I was about to hit Club Lingerie and realized I had just 2 bucks. For once, I tried to "Michael Ventura" my way in. The door guy said: "You're not Ventura. He comes in here all the time." Could have shown him my press card, my license.



PEAT DUGGINS

Instead I asked, "What's he look like?" The description was nothing like the clown at the Taurus. I laughed and went home. If a fellow wanted to be me, why not wish him luck? I just hoped this faker had better eyes than the last one.

That was long ago. I don't drink less now, but I've grown up. (As my mother was fond of quoting, "For this relief much thanks." It's the ninth speech in *Hamlet*.) I'm telling these stories because earlier this year, I learned that someone in Texas was being, uh, "me." I don't know my informant personally and can't vouch for the story. It involved a woman, and it got (let's put it nicely) dicey. So, in the interests of public safety, this is me:

I don't do any substances that go under the rubric of "drugs." Never have. Not even pot. As a street kid, I had enough sense to know the only thing I had that was mine for sure was my mind. Underneath it all, I'm kind of a traditionalist. If I were going to fuck up my mind, it would be traditionally: cigarettes, caffeine, booze. Nothing else. Ever. So if the guy does any drugs of any kind, he ain't me.

Except for the occasional South by Southwest pass – or if a friend puts me on the guest list – I still pay the cover. If the guy tries to "Michael Ventura" his way into a venue, he ain't me.

Some years ago I had to make a decision: Either quit drinking or stop embarrassing myself. Well ... I like drinking. A lot. (And I think it was Big Boy Medlin who said,

"Nothing in excess, including moderation.") So I devised some rules:

- 1) Never drink and drive. I hardly go to clubs or parties anymore, but when I do, I don't drink. Nor in restaurants. Nor at private dinners when I have to drive home.
- 2) Never drink with people you don't know. If we haven't known each other awhile, the guy you're drinking with ain't me.
- 3) Never drink with folks you work with.
- 4) Never make phone calls or answer the phone when drinking.
- 5) Never send e-mails when drinking (except to intimate friends of very longstanding who know me all too well and don't take me seriously when I'm foolish).

I'm religious about these rules. Positively fundamentalist. I cause lots less trouble, I'm no longer a public menace, and it's been years since I've had to wince in acute embarrassment at my behavior of the previous evening.

It takes some of us a long time to realize that creating drama for drama's sake isn't really living. Oh, you'll stir up some experiences worth having when you look back on them – if you survive yourself. But stay hooked on the drama, and you'll never know who you really are. Never know the naked experience of encountering who you really are and living it out for real from then on.

Oh, and here's another rule that works for me:

Only get drunk with people you'd want around your deathbed. ■

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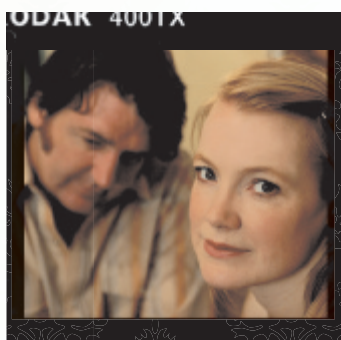
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DAVID OHLERKING

The (Ohler)king is gone

David Ohlerking is leaving.

So many of them leave, these visual artists, these dancers, these theatre sorts.

Ohlerking's a painter and a draftsman, the man who (with Chris Chappell) started the Austin Figurative Gallery that's been host to so many art shows and painting parties and (with a little help from Ellen Bartel and friends) Butoh performances over the past two years. He has galvanized the Austin scene of figurative and other painters, bringing the DIY sensibility of his Houston punk days to jump-start events and conversations and a lingering vibe of something's-going-on-and-it's-good to the often more slackerly pace of local doings. And now he's moving to New Jersey.

Uh, New Jersey? WTF?

"I got in touch with a girl I liked in high school back in Belgium," says Ohlerking,

"and I fell in love with her during a Facebook chat while I was recording some songs at Susan Griswold's studio and she was fighting with some ornery Pro Tools feature."

Of course: It's always about a girl, a boy, a romance. But no:

"So I went up to visit her in Jersey," continues Ohlerking, "and while I was there, I finally met my painting teacher of seven years – Alex Kanevsky, who did the paintings for that *Synecdoche, New York* movie – and spent a day with him. I told him I was considering moving up to his neck of the woods, and he seemed to approve. I also met back up with a former Austin gallery chick who wants to pimp my paintings out in the NYC. When presented with all that potential goodness, I made the obvious choice."



Self portrait by David Ohlerking

Before the artist takes off, though, there's an exhibition and farewell party at Salvage Vanguard Theater on Dec. 7 (see Arts Listings, p.82, for details), where you can get to know what we've got 'til he's gone.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

JIM GAFFIGAN

Thrilla in vanilla



George Carlin called it the "little world," the minutiae that everyday people experience. These days, that microcosmos has been quietly cornered by stand-up comedian Jim Gaffigan. Recognized by his pallidness and blockbuster "Hot Pockets" bit, the native Indianan is ubiquitous from late-night and cable TV appearances, the TBS series *My Boys*, the "Pale Force" cartoons on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*, commercials, and his platinum-selling *Beyond the Pale* DVD and CD. The affable Gaffigan works clean (as in profanity-free, not post-Betty Ford), and his musings on birthday presents, bathrobes, bacon, laziness, and the like merit comparison to the sparkling observationalism of Jerry Seinfeld. Possessing a refreshingly staid stage presence, Gaffigan soft-sells his material, often via a high-pitched susurrus that serves as a clever Greek chorus or an ongoing audience critique, allowing the comic to riff and go off script. The *Chronicle* spoke to Gaffigan in advance of his five-show stint at the Paramount Theatre that will be taped for his next Comedy Central special.

– Steve Birmingham

Austin Chronicle: *I think a fundamental tenet of stand-up comedy is intimacy, and the theatre setting is probably the ideal environment, because you're not competing with curly fries, bachelorette parties, or papered rooms. When you start selling out a half-dozen shows in a single city, what kind of dialogue is initiated about arena-think?*

Jim Gaffigan:

Sometimes when you do a college, they'll put you in an arena or some huge room, and that's not to

say those aren't fun – and for some comics, it works well in a huge arena – but I feel like the quality of the show for the audience might not be as great. I mean, I'm kind of a low-key, quiet comedian. It's different with every theatre, because some theatres at 1,800, the last couple rows are just horrible seats, but in some 2,400-seat theatres, they're all good seats. But when you get to arenas and you're this guy who's occasionally whispering, it seems a little unfair. I don't know. At this point, I don't think arenas make that much sense. I feel like when I do a show, I want everyone to want to come back, you know what I mean? It can be exhausting doing five or six shows in a city. It's kind of like you're either steering the bus, or the bus

is steering you. I'd rather have a conversation with someone in a quieter, more intimate setting than in some big warehouse.

A lot of comedians secretly want to be rock stars, and I'm not one of them. I probably wouldn't have turned it down, but it's not like I was in a band when I was a teenager. I studied finance in college, so I'm kind of like that brainwashed group that was supposed to go have a job that they would do until they're 60

and then go play golf for five years and die. I'm grateful that I actually ended up doing something I enjoy. But a lot of my friends, there's part of them that really wanted to be a rock star. And that's not to say they're seeking fame, because they're sincere, but I don't desire to be on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. The high that I get from coming up with a new joke or doing a theatre show is pretty sweet, and I want to protect that in a way. I would be fine if I was not known or I didn't have any more popularity than I have right now. I would love it if my popularity was not tied to Hot Pockets, but other than that, it's like, "I'm fine."

Jim Gaffigan performs Thursday, Dec. 4, 8pm; Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 7 & 10pm, at the Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. For more information, call 472-5470 or visit www.austintheatre.org.

VESTIGE GROUP

'Tis the season for 'Gorilla Man'

It's that time of year when children start dreaming of Gorilla Man. Well maybe not, but that hairy ape is headed our way to spread some holiday cheer. He appears in an offbeat new rock musical by New York City wunderkind Kyle Jarrow, the Obie Award-winning creator of *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant*. The Vestige Group is producing the regional premiere of *Gorilla Man* – in fact, it's only the third company anywhere to stage the show – and it's a bit of a departure for the theatre company. "A lot of our shows are really edgy and kind of depressing," says Vestige co-Artistic Director Susie Gidseg, who's directing the production. This one, though, is "really campy, but it actually has a message. I would say it's very uplifting." Gidseg was drawn to the show's smart humor. Co-Artistic Director Jen Brown, who found the script online, saw a good fit for local audiences. "I knew this was a show that had to be done in Austin," she says. "It blends the Austin bar/music scene so well with the Austin theatre scene."

This is also the company's first musical, so Gidseg brought Benjamin Wright on board to handle the music direction. She says, "I've learned that if you don't know how to do something, you find somebody who does." What Gidseg does know how to do is mount Vestige's shows in interesting alternative spaces, and *Gorilla Man* is no exception. It will play at the Creekside Lounge, normally home to rock bands and bar patrons. But that's a pretty apt setting for a rock musical that asks the age-old question: Will Billy the Gorilla Boy fall into the same violent tendencies of his rampaging father, Gorilla Man, or will he choose his better future?

Gidseg thinks audiences will enjoy the show even though her hire-sute hero's story isn't the usual yuletide fare. "It has nothing to do with the holidays, but it's one of those feel-good things," she says.

"Everyone come out. It's in a bar. Get a drink. Watch people sing and dance!" So if you want an alternative to wisecracking elves and syrupy sentiments, *Gorilla Man* may be just the warm cup of camp for you. Grab a beer, and tuck in for the terrifying and heartwarming tale of this perplexed primate.

– Hannah Kenah

Gorilla Man runs Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 4-20, 7:30pm, at the Creekside Lounge, 606 E. Seventh. For more information, visit www.vestigegroup.org.

Movin' on Up

Melissa Villarreal's life was changed by Ballet East

BY JONELLE SEITZ PHOTOS BY SANDY CARSON

Melissa Villarreal is darting around the gymnasium at Martin Middle School, desperately seeking someone who can help her. It's summer 1987 and the Eastside teenager, fresh out of eighth grade, has just seen Ballet East Dance Company perform an experimental piece called *The Vagrant*. With an Austin-skyline backdrop to produce an urban atmosphere and soap-opera-style background music to set the mood, the show alternated spoken-word segments with modern dance to comment on city life and poverty in the community. Most of the patrons had paid just \$3 to see the show, but Villarreal, who had recently begun taking free dance classes through a Ballet East outreach program at Montopolis Recreation Center, had scored a free ticket from her teacher. She had come out of curiosity, thinking it might be interesting to see a performance live rather than on television, but sitting on the crowded bleachers, she had experienced a revelation that shook her all the way down to her jelly shoes.

"I was just blown away," she remembers. "I had never seen anything, I had never been to a live theatre or dance performance before, and I remember just watching the dancers and thinking, 'Wow, that is so beautiful.' I remember seeing Rudy," — that would be Rodolfo Mendez, Ballet East director and founder — "and that's what motivated me more than anything, that I could identify with this Hispanic man who was just fierce and moving. And after the performance, I was just so focused that this was what I wanted to do."

Short for her age but with hair teased up inches above her head, the 14-year-old raced among the performers and patrons, asking questions for which everyone had the same answer: "You have to talk to

Rudy." Eventually she cornered Mendez, introduced herself, and cut to the chase: "Can you teach me how to do that?" They discussed her dance experience, which took just seconds since it consisted only of breakdancing and a newly awarded place on Del Valle High School's drill team. Mendez told her to come to company class. "We'll see what happens," she remembers him saying.

What happened was that after the first class, Villarreal became the youngest member of Ballet East. The requirements to qualify back then were pretty basic: "If you could move and you danced, you were in," says Mendez. Not only could Villarreal move, but she could count music. She performed only small roles, but Mendez encouraged her, driving her in his maroon Mustang to and from rehearsals and classes when her parents could not. Realizing that she must have some potential if the teacher was spending his own gas money to get her to practice, Villarreal worked hard, graduated from high school, and committed herself to dance as a life — albeit one that is often relegated to evenings and weekends by the necessity of a day job. (She is the cultural arts and enrichment programs coordinator at the nonprofit Southwest Key.)

Villarreal became both disciple and assistant to Mendez. At first, he used her as a demonstrator to get his points across to the other dancers; later, even though he is a self-described control freak, Mendez began entrusting her with rehearsals. Now 35, Villarreal is in her



Melissa Villarreal (I) and Ballet East dancer J.P. Flores

12th year, officially, as assistant artistic director, a post with a job description that's always evolving. In addition to running rehearsals and coordinating choreographers and dancers of diverse backgrounds who, collectively, weave a pretty colorful tapestry of contemporary dance, she's continually developing her own choreographic work.

Seated in his living room in mid-November, Mendez and Villarreal discussed the history of the company while taking turns bragging about each other. Villarreal on Mendez: "There have been times when Rudy won't even pay himself because it's so important to him to pay the dancers and choreographers." Mendez on Villarreal: "She won't tell you this, but she was singled out by [renowned dancer and teacher] Carmen de Lavallade." Mendez, who will tell you that he dislikes the nickname "Rudy" even though that's what everyone calls him, launched Ballet East in 1978 as a folklorico company. In the early 1980s, he shifted the artistic focus to modern dance, but traditional forms are still taught — sometimes with a twist, says Mendez — in outreach classes. The company's decades-old mission is twofold: Bring dance to the community, and bring the community to dance. With very little overhead — the company is granted space in the girls' gym at Martin Middle School and performs at the smallish, city-run Dougherty Arts Center — the organization pretty much works off grant money. Even adult open classes are, at maximum, \$5 — one-third to one-fourth the industry standard. Mendez regards charging people as "a hassle."

At age 62, he says he now prefers to work with kids, especially those lacking exposure to dance and theatre. (Ballet East's Dare to Dance program, recognized as "one of the top after-school ... programs in the country," reaches 250-350 youth per year.) "I don't think an artistic director or founder ever goes away — until he kaputs," he says, but he's delegated much of the artistic say to Villarreal, whose directorial skills impress him. "Since I've given her the leeway, I think she's rougher than I am. In a way, I trained her well."

Villarreal is Mendez's ultimate success story. "She meets the whole mission of what I was trying to do" with Ballet East, the company founder says: to bring dance to the community and the community to dance.

True, Villarreal is Mendez's ultimate success story. "She meets the whole mission of what I was trying to do. She wasn't the only one — we brought in several people from the neighborhood who eventually went on and got married or did other things. But she was the one who fol-

lowed up with it," he says. "I saw a spark in her, and I knew she could choreograph."

That's something Villarreal has been doing since grade school. Home alone for an hour after school before her parents finished work, she would create routines for herself and her two sisters to songs from Studio 54 albums. "We would put on our little dresses, and I would tell my sisters, 'OK, when this woman sings this, you do this move,'" Villarreal remembers. The television dance show *Solid Gold* also informed her early taste. "There was this African-American woman who was the lead dancer, and I would put my little headband on and imitate her," she says. Though costly extracurricular activities like dance classes

CONTINUED ON P.44



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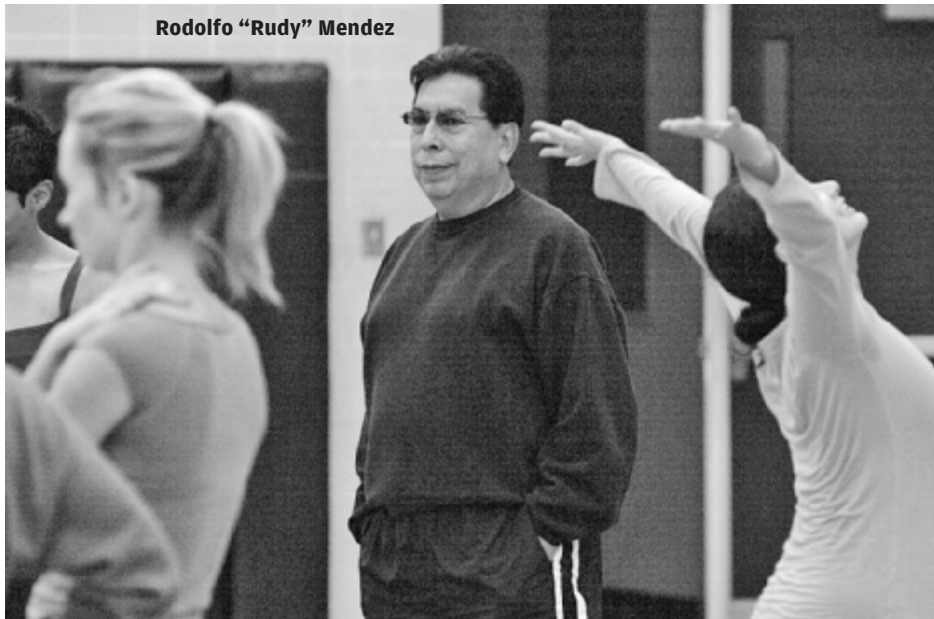
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Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez



were out of the question, her parents were always a receptive audience at home.

When Villarreal was born, her mother and father were just 16 and 17. Villarreal was a toddler when they moved from Corpus Christi to Austin, leaving the support of the extended family behind. "Even though my dad was only a teenager," Villarreal says, "he was just set on wanting to make a life for his family. He wanted to have the American dream and a house for his kids." After he landed a job as an equipment operator for the city, the family was able to buy a house on the Eastside. Once Villarreal and her two sisters were in school (the youngest sibling, a brother, was born several years later), her mother passed the GED and worked various jobs to supplement the family's income.

"You know, I was a young Hispanic girl in the barrio, being raised by teenage parents who couldn't afford very much, who, and I mean this respectfully, but who were not very thoroughly educated. They didn't know what it was that I had a talent in," says Villarreal. Now, though, after having attended all of her performances, her family probably understands what's what in dance. They only missed one show, when her father, who gave her the name "Li'l Magic," was in the hospital.

He died last year after struggling with illness and a work-related disability.

By the 1980s, breakdancing had trickled down from New York to Austin, and Villarreal's stage transitioned from the living room to the neighborhood, where she earned the name "Breakin' Bones." At first, she and her friends danced on cardboard atop the driveway of the vacant house next door; later, they scored some linoleum from someone's dad's flooring business. Villarreal compares breakdancers in the 1980s to kids today who do krump, a newer form of street dance. "Our parents are not equipped financially enough to send us to go take classes," she explains, "but yet there's talent there, so we just kind of find our own talent."

To be a good breakdancer, you have to create unexpected things on the fly, and spontaneity is still important in Villarreal's choreographic process. "We just did whatever we felt through the music and just poured it out," says Villarreal, "and you were just doing whatever you could, doing your best, especially if you were competing." Yet, she says, the same conditions that allowed breakdancing fostered gangs. "You know, you were young, and you were kind of foolish, and you just took it a notch higher," she says, "and I can honestly say that going into

Ballet East kept me out of that, because a lot of my friends ended up in those areas."

Nothing in the driveway or living room prepared Villarreal for structured dance classes. She remembers the first time she attended a lesson at Montopolis Rec: "The teacher was giving a classical barre, and when she said, 'Let's go into first position and plié,' I was like, 'What in the world is this?'" Once she joined the company of seasoned adults, she was insecure about her lack of experience and skill as well as her body type: Reaching only 4 feet, 11 inches and lacking the svelteness often associated with dancers, she was going against all odds physically. But a stubborn streak didn't allow her to quit, and she credits the support of some sympathetic older dancers, her family, and Mendez. (She calls him her mentor; her mom calls him her "other mom.")

Villarreal also didn't quit the drill team, serving as captain her junior and senior years

**"I'm going to win the lottery and create a studio and have a statue of Rudy in front. I'll call it the Mendez School of Modern Dance."
- Melissa Villarreal**

and sometimes even choreographing routines. She won awards at drill team camps and competitions and was invited twice to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, though her family could not afford to send her.

After graduation, Villarreal worked part-time and began some college courses, but when her father became injured and unable to work, she quit school in favor of a 9-to-5 income that would help support the family. Without the commitments of studying or drill team, she spent more time in Ballet East classes and was cast in more pieces, including one by Regina Larkin, a guest choreographer from New York, where she is artistic director of the Joyce Trisler Danscompany. As Villarreal worked with Larkin, her technique and artistry developed. "I remember just watching her move," Villarreal says. "She's an excellent teacher, and I absorbed everything that she had to give."

She was shocked when Larkin invited her to a two-week summer session of master classes in New York. And when Larkin offered up her apartment and Mendez came up with the plane fare, Villarreal obtained leave at her day job and, for the first time, crossed the Texas state line. Though New York City was initially intimidating, the influential teachers and talented classmates challenged and inspired her. She returned home ready to create her own work, and her first piece, "And God Created Woman," premiered on Ballet East in 1997.

Villarreal describes her choreographic process as nonacademic and instigated by music. "It goes back to breakdancing," she says. "Whatever the music started to do, you just found the rhythm and started moving." For her new piece, "The Accused," one of eight ballets in Ballet East's program *Pushing Boundaries* this week, she began with music by Tool as arranged for a string quartet. "The music sounded so wicked that it made me think of witchery," she explains. So she began researching the history and psychology of the Salem witch trials. She considers herself a storyteller type of choreographer: "I like to have a beginning, a climax, and an end." The new piece is her longest ever (16 minutes) and incorporates more dancers than she's used before (14).

Mendez no longer creates new work – "It's too stressful when you have an imagery and it doesn't come out the way you want it" – but he sees Villarreal's new piece as part of some serious choreographic talent that is necessary for the company's progress. Mendez recalls a conversation he had with black dance icon Alvin Ailey some 20 years ago: "He told me: 'You can never stop choreographing. Once you stop, you're not going back.'" It's apparent that the future of the company largely belongs to Villarreal and the dance community that Mendez has created. Villarreal has a plan: "I'm going to win the lottery," she fantasizes, "and create a studio and have a statue of Rudy in front. I'll call it the Mendez School of Modern Dance." Someone buy her a ticket. ■

Ballet East's Pushing Boundaries runs Dec. 4-7, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm, at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 474-8497 or visit www.balleteast.org.



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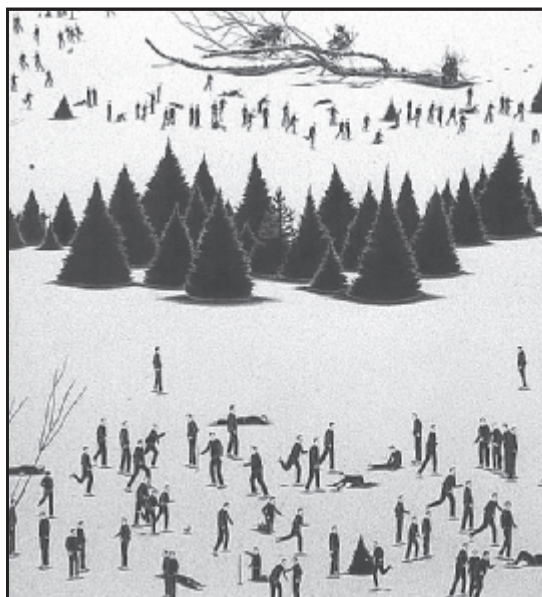
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Here Comes Mr. Achewood

Chris Onstad tours with his 'Great Outdoor Fight' book

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

How do you describe Chris Onstad's Web comic, *Achewood*, to someone who's unfamiliar with it? A modern suburban Winnie-the-Pooh on Stella Artois and acid? A funny-animal version of *Our Town* as reimagined by Thomas Pynchon? The former is too easy, the latter perhaps overly laudatory. Thomas Pynchon with a lisp, maybe?

"I can't explain the strip to anybody," says Onstad, thoroughly lispliss. "Like somebody will say, 'What do you do?' And I say, 'Oh, I write a comic.' And they say, 'What's it about?' And I say, 'No, I can't do that. Just go check it out, and you like it or you don't.' Because it's impossible to explain, you know? It's its own little universe."

It's its own little universe in which self-made millionaire Ray Smuckles and his best friend, the software-programming depressive Roast Beef Kazenzakis, have gotten entangled with, to name a few: a Nigerian e-mail scammer who isn't a scammer at all, various (often fatal) antics involving firearms, the entrepreneurial schemes of their militant-vegan pal Pat, and (the reason for Onstad's current tour) the annual test of red-blooded manliness called the Great Outdoor Fight. Among many other things. Among many other characters, too, some of whom, besides appearing in the semiregular comic, also maintain blogs of their own — blogs at least as funny as the strip itself.

And how funny is the strip itself? See the Pynchon citation above. See also that *Time* magazine hailed *Achewood* as the Best Graphic Novel of the Year in 2007. But note, with those referents, that it's not all about the laffs. Read a few months' worth of strips, and you'll see for yourself: It's about the characters.

"What I hear at, like, every signing?" says Onstad. "I get several people who say, 'Oh man, thank you so much for writing Roast Beef — I struggle with depression, and it really helps me, on the days when I'm down, just to recognize that there's somebody else out there like me.' And I totally appreciate that. And then they always go, 'Yeah, and my friend is totally Ray.' So it's like a duo that exists in nature — like they *pair off* that way. And it really touches me that people identify so closely with this character that I write — not from any firsthand experience with depression but from knowing people who are like that. And it's amazing, when you think, 'Oh, this is more

than just a little 10-second chuckle in people's days, this is more important to them than that.' And people have come to signings, they've driven five or six hours, they've ridden trains, because ... because they want to be a part of it."

And now Dark Horse Comics has released the expanded *Great Outdoor Fight* story arc as a loaded-with-extras hardcover and is jetting Onstad to various nodes of literate geekiness to promote the volume. This Saturday, for instance, he'll be signing at Austin Books & Comics. Which we figured was sufficient cause for an interview.

Austin Chronicle: *You seem like a pretty busy man these days.*

Chris Onstad: Yeah, shit, I have to post a strip after this, and then I have to go hit golf balls with my dad. I'm a busy man.

AC: *And this book tour all over the country — how's that treating you?*

CO: That's been fantastic. It's rough on the body, but it's such a thrill to finally get out and meet the actual people after seven years of just basically working in my house, you know?

It's invigorating. For seven years, the only feedback I really got was either e-mail or just reading amateur criticism online.

AC: *There's a lot of that out there.*

CO: Which sucks. But when people meet you in person, they just wanna say thanks, which is a big ego boost after seven years.

AC: *And how were you able to persevere during those seven ... lonely ... years?*

CO: Well, I mean, I have a family. [Laughs] And, y'know, we try to make money off this thing.

AC: *You ever consider going Monday/Wednesday/Friday, definitely, like XKCD?*

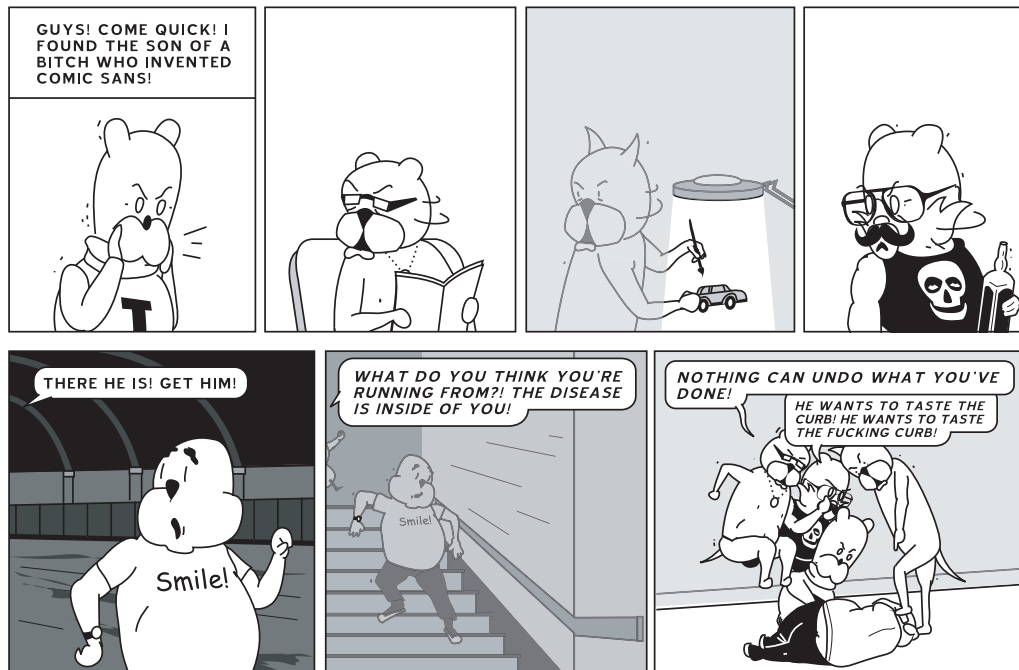
CO: If you take "definitely" out of the equation, then maybe. But, no, it'll be what it'll be. I don't wanna make any promises, because, you know, the muse descends when the muse descends. I don't wanna force it; I just want it to be good when it is up. And with RSS, people don't have to go to the site all the time, they can just get an update; they don't have to sit around and *refresh* anymore.

AC: *What sort of work did you do before Achewood?*

CO: In college I was the editor of *The Stanford Chaparral* — it's a hundred-odd years old, and

achewood

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it's one of the few places where you can get training — well, you don't actually get training; you teach yourself — as a humorist or a satirist. And I always wanted to write, but after college, I didn't have the patience to go to L.A. and make photocopies for five years before getting a writing job, so I went into high tech. And then when I got the pinch from that, I'd been doing the comic for about six months, maybe more. And we figured out we could make a little living off it, and I've been able to work on it ever since.

AC: *And it's turned out really well for you.*

CO: It has. Although, you know, I'm in Silicon Valley, I'm surrounded by lawyers and engineers and executives. And here I am, a cartoonist, trying to fit into the standards of living ...

AC: *You're kinda bringing the curve down.*

CO: Yeah, bringing the housing values down.

AC: *Do you plan on continuing Achewood until the end of your days?*

CO: I think what we're seeing right now is a natural evolution to branch out into other projects. I have a screenplay going for *The Great Outdoor Fight* book. I've got a semiweekly bit that I do on *The New Yorker* website, and I'm enjoying that a lot. And sometimes I sit down and I'm like, "I've had these characters say almost everything to each other at this point, where do I go next?" And there's so much backstory, 1,500 strips and a thousand blog entries, there's so much continuity to be scared of. I have to do a lot of research before I commit a character to doing something in a strip. Like, say that in January of 2005 I had Ray say that he hates onions. And then I write a strip about how much Ray loves onions: I'm gonna get called out on that; it's gonna seem like a big wash. Seriously, the more you go on doing this, the more chances you have to shoot yourself in the foot by moving forward. So you have to move forward a little more slowly and a little more cautious-

ly. Which is unfortunate, because I never wanted to apply "slow" and "cautious" to the way I do things creatively.

AC: *And now here you are, painted into a corner.*

CO: I'd like to branch the strip out in other media at this point. I've had some interest from studios, like, "Oh, you should be on MTV; you should be on Adult Swim; you should be on Cartoon Network." And I'm thinking, "Hey, that would be wonderful — where's the check?" So we'll see if we can get anything going with these people. I don't want *Achewood* just to be a cartoon; that's not where my passion lies. My passion lies in writing. Executing the timing between six and nine blocks every day is tough, and I've done the challenge, and I've met it several times. And so now I wanna try something else out, wake my mind up after seven years.

AC: *Do you have story arcs planned ahead for, say, five months, a year?*

CO: No, because when I know it in advance, then the excitement wears off by the time I get around to doing it. I never wanted to be predictable, even to me. If I do a strip even more than a day in advance, I'll go back and look at it and start tinkering with it, because I feel differently at the time than I did when I was writing it. That's why it's inconsistently produced and presented to people: because it only goes up when I'm feeling that way. I won't sacrifice the quality of it just for the regularity of posting. And I think that's why most newspaper comics and comics in general are no good — because they're sticking to a schedule, because they think they *have* to, because that's how newspapers invented the comics, seven days a week, regular, boom-boom-boom, to create habit. And I want to create habit, but I think posting three days a week with a lot of extra material is habit-forming enough at this point. ■

Chris Onstad will be at Austin Books & Comics (5002 N. Lamar) 7-10pm on Saturday, Dec. 6. For more, visit www.achewood.com.

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New Songs & a New Sedaris Story Added This Season!

after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

DEAR DIARY The sleeping pill is not working. I open my eyes and look at the clock – it has only been four minutes since I last looked. I've tried to sit down and write a thousand times over the last week but haven't been able to zero in on my thoughts enough to write anything cohesive. So I'll back up a bit and tell you the news I received recently. After spending an emotionally agonizing year waiting to die, I was convinced recently that my cancer had metastasized and the end was near. At my mother's behest, I gulped and went for a **CAT scan**. The news was not bad. What I had thought was the cancer spreading turned out to be something else much less severe. But that didn't seem to be great news when I'd resigned myself to dying so long ago. But my doctor hadn't told me the rest of the news: Comparing last year's CAT scan to this year's, the cancer showed virtually no progress. So much for the prophecies of doom and gloom. I'm sure the aggressiveness of the cancer was waylaid by the diet of alcohol and illicit drugs I'd consumed much earlier in the year when I was not quite in control of myself. But this was little solace to someone who had foolishly canceled all his plans and dreams and goals and had no plan for survival. But I've been just playing by ear since then, trying not to be scared about thinking ahead and not to be scared of the phantom living within me that may rear its ugly head at any time. At least my head's been clear for the

last few months. Many difficult thoughts still linger, not the least of which was how badly I treated my family and friends. They all helped me so much, but I was unable to absorb the love and attention lavished on me at the time. Thank God most of them had more faith in me than I did. I was pretty thankful this **Thanksgiving**. Thankful that the past year was over. Thankful that I could still walk and see and function. Thankful for a devoted and loving family. Thankful to have a place to spend Thanksgiving where I'd been forgiven for my abominable behavior... I wrote not long ago about my nephew **Tyler** and how he'd come to me a couple of months ago needing help, and I selflessly turned virtually all of my attention on him. Sometimes that works out, and sometimes it doesn't. But I had to try. *Still* trying. Wondering why, sometimes... A very dear friend is facing the horrible consequences of a very bad judgment call. I ache for him. There but for the grace of God go I. I watched that person go through wrenching hideousness and abject misery as he tried to figure out if he had the strength to face the consequences. This was one of those people who was virtually always by my side in the last year, trying to pull me back from the abyss, and I kept trying to remind him of the words of comfort and love that he had shared with me. But, as we know, the faith has to come from within; no one can give us faith. Comfort, yes. Faith, no. So I can't tell you how



TODD V. WOLFSON

Blanca Fierro and Tim Urano, owners of the new Waterstone Aesthetics

Jaclyn Havlak (aka **Jacki-Oh** on **101X's Hypersonic Radio**). We loved Dallas, and Dallas loved us – and I don't think I ever really want to stay anywhere else in Dallas except the swank and fabulous **Magnolia Hotel**. Really. I can tell you about the masterful massage I had in the hands of licensed massage therapist **Bruce Christman** here in Austin (698-8532). Truly divine. Really. I could talk about the piece on me that was shown two weeks ago on **KLRU's Downtown**, a truly moving piece of direction by **Kevin Pruitt** that wrapped two tales together into a lovely duet of color and words. I was floored by the sensitivity shown by the camera. Really. I could tell you about the fab new **Waterstone Aesthetics** salon (www.waterstoneaesthetics.com), but I'll show you a photo and

heartening it was to see this person last night, seemingly a new person inhabiting my friend's body, facing the consequences with the attitude that he was going on a spiritual quest. Today we hope to find out exactly how bad the consequences are ... and I hope my friend can carry with him even a small part of the comfort and love he has shown me... Damn, I'd wanted to talk about light, frivolous subjects, sparkling with holiday magic: like my trip to the **HRC Black Tie Dinner** in Dallas with the dazzling

give you more info later. Really. I could have written about all those things ... but they paled next to the things that were really running through my mind. All I can really think about is how alive I feel in being able to care about someone else besides myself again. Really.

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

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food

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What better way to comfort homesick Texans than to share the gift of genuine Central Texas **barbecue** during the holidays? Three respected local companies offer a full range of smoked meats, sauces, rubs and marinades, side dishes, and desserts, with the option to shop online or by phone from their full-color catalogs. Check out the **County Line Bar-B-Q** (www.airribs.com, 800/247-7427), **Iron Works BBQ** (www.ironworksbq.com, 800/669-3602), and **Stubb's Bar-B-Q** (www.stubbssbbq.com, 800/227-2283). — Virginia B. Wood

Bark for Peace (www.barkforpeace.com)

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— Kate Thornberry

New Canaan Farms (www.shopncf.com),

located just outside of town in Dripping Springs, has been making outstanding jams, jellies, salsas, and spice mixes since 1979. They're geared for gift boxes and offer five different boxes, as well as three gift baskets, ranging in price from \$28 to \$54. With 33 different products to choose from, including Blushin' Peach Jam, Hill Country Caviar, Texas Pride Jalapeño Mustard, and Brazos River Blackberry Jam, you can send the taste of Texas anywhere in the country. — K.T.

The Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.

(www.stickytoffeepuddingcompany.com): While traditional plum pudding may be scarce in Central Texas, Tracy Claros produces what must be the finest English-style puddings on this side of the pond. Claros, transplanted to Austin from her native British Lake District, began marketing her signature Sticky Toffee Pudding in 2004. Since then, she's added the equally scrumptious English Lemon Pudding, Molten Chocolate Baby-Cake Pudding, and Sticky Ginger Pudding. Each variety is made in small batches from all natural ingredients and sold in individual serving-sized pudding basins imported from England. Order these delightful, authentic sweets online. They are sold in packages of six (\$30 plus shipping and handling) and are shipped priority on Monday-Wednesday for Wednesday-Saturday delivery.

— MM Pack



Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.

Austin Slow Burn (www.austinslowburn.com):

Since 1994, Jill and Kevin Lewis, both well-known AusTex restaurant folks, have been producing a line of award-winning salsas, jams, and chile-affiliated products. Their label, Austin Slow Burn, brings the heat but, more importantly, offers rich, well-balanced flavors. A package of their products will never be regifted, and it should definitely include their Salsa con Habanero (\$3.49), with fire-roasted tomatoes, carrot, and devilish habanero chiles. No gift box is complete without a jar of their wonderful Green Chile con Queso (\$5.99), the perfect cheesy, creamy queso. We also recommend an assortment of their zippy jams and jellies (\$3.29 to \$3.99); choose from Green Chile Jam, Spiced Peach Jam, Habanero Jelly, Hot Apple Pie Jam, Cranberry Jam, and Jalapeño Jam. These are ideal with mild cheeses (goat's milk, Brie, cream cheese, Manchego, etc.), as a glaze or serving sauce with pork or chicken, or whipped with olive oil for salad dressings. All of Austin Slow Burn's products can be ordered online at www.tearsofjoysauces.com.

— Mick Vann

TEENS IN THE KITCHEN AT CENTRAL MARKET

As Christmas closes in, presents accumulate under the tree, and the curious individual inevitably investigates every box with his or her name on it. Some packages you shake. You feel the edges of others. But what of the ones you smell? Or the ones you taste?

I'm not suggesting you chow down on cardboard and wrapping paper but rather that you get a gift whose tastiness will reverberate past the winter holidays. Central

Market has recently opened its Cooking School doors to teenagers, and its monthly class, Teens in the Kitchen, is an excellent outlet for the cuisine-inclined student in middle school or high school.

Themes range from seasonal (the upcoming holiday-gift class, where kids and their parents will make everything from doggie treats to fudge) to regional (French and Italian classes, from earlier this year). In every class, those attending learn hands-on how to prepare a full meal and, at the conclusion, eat said meal and take home the recipes.

With three of these classes under my belt, I know the fun you can have there and the excitement you inspire when you tell your parents that you'll be making dinner tonight. All the instructing chefs are kind, funny (ha-ha, not peculiar), and beyond knowledgeable, and, as the class serves as a test run for making the dishes, all go home confident that they can re-create the delectable dinner.

Gift choices might be made more carefully than ever this year, but consider this: Teens in the Kitchen cooking classes are experience gifts that go beyond just a day.



Rosalind Faires: teen in the kitchen

BARBARA CHISHOLM

The classes themselves are beyond splendid, but that joy is not limited to class time. You will make the meal for your family and maybe for your friends, and you will carry those skills and recipes with you for all the days that you cook. — Rosalind Faires

Upcoming classes:

Kids & Parents in the Kitchen – Holiday Gifts: Sunday, Dec. 14, 10am-1pm. \$65.

Decorate a Gingerbread House: Friday, Dec. 19, 10am-noon; Saturday, Dec. 20, 10am-noon & 6:30-8:30pm; Sunday, Dec. 21, 11am-1pm (for adults only). \$45.

All classes are at the Central Market at 4001 N. Lamar. To enroll, call 206-1014.

Event Menu Dec. 4–31

► **Opal Divine's Penn Field** (3601 S. Congress, 707-0237, www.opaldivines.com) will feature 45-50 of the finest Scottish malt whiskeys at its **Whisky Festival** this evening. The event will include discussions by whiskey experts and an appetizer buffet. Tickets are \$45. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7-10pm.

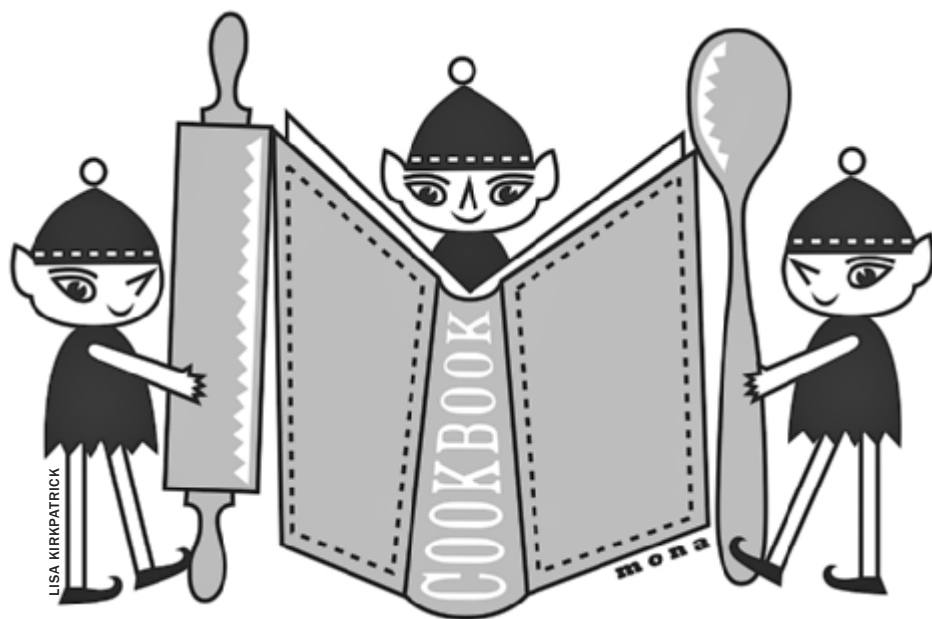
► **Eddie V's** (301 E. Fifth, 472-1860; 9400-B Arboretum Blvd., 342-2642) and the **Roaring Fork** (701 Congress, 583-0000) are getting in the spirit of the holiday season with spiffy new drink menus offering the 12 Cocktails of Christmas, available for \$11 each, now through Dec. 31.

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Looking at the stellar lineup of events for **Edible Austin's** second annual **Eat Local Week**, celebrating the bounty of the late fall harvest, made me very aware of just how far Austin's local food movement has come in the past 15 years. When I started writing about food and restaurants for the *Chronicle* in 1993, there was a small pioneering group of area organic farmers, a handful of artisan-food producers, a few people trying to get farmers' markets off the ground, new legislation that encouraged micro-breweries, and a statewide wine industry still in its infancy. Fast-forward to 2008 – now we can boast a healthy list of farmers and ranchers selling their products at two strong local farmers' markets and a few farmstands, several area farms selling shares in community-supported agriculture programs, a burgeoning group of artisan-food producers, microbreweries that are going strong, and a wine and spirits industry that generates millions of dollars for the Texas economy. Restaurants, grocery stores, and neighborhood markets proudly feature local produce, meat, dairy, and locally prepared foods, plus Texas wines, beers, liquors, and liqueurs. There's a publication focusing specifically on local food and a brand new **Sustainable Food Policy Board** that will advise the city of Austin and Travis Co. about a wide range of sustainable food issues. (See www.edibleaustin.com/sustainablefoodpolicyboard for details, and then call the city clerk's office at 974-2210 about the application process for membership on this new 13-member board.) Eat Local Week runs from Friday, Dec. 5, through Saturday, Dec. 13. Proceeds from many of the scheduled events will benefit the nonprofit market gardening program for high school students called **Urban Roots**. Whether you're a biking enthusiast; a movie or art lover; an aficionado of tea, coffee, beer, or cocktails; or simply someone who appreciates fresh, local food, there's an event to suit your taste; see a complete list of events and participants at www.edibleaustin.com. A sustainable food system enriches our lives, our city, and our environment in so many ways. Support this invaluable community resource not just during the coming week but all year-round. Vote with your dollars and your forks – it is vital for us to demonstrate the value of local food in order to ensure that it will continue to be available... In other local news, in a recent item about the closure of five **Delaware Sub Shops** (Nov. 21), I inadvertently stirred up a hornet's nest among the former franchisees. Turns out the franchise agreements for the five shops were dissolved by mutual agreement, and all five stores remain open with different names and somewhat different menus. **Debbie Mustian's** shops are now **Capital City Subs** (1104 W. 34th, 458-8423; 3654 Bee Caves Rd., 347-1045); **Jayne Maze** has **Calijane's Deli & Grill** (1401 S. I-35, 388-1888) in Round Rock; and **David Tucci's** businesses are now called **Tucci's South Side Subs** (801 E. William Cannon, 440-1850; 7101 Hwy. 71 W., 288-7414). I apologize for any confusion the previous item may have created... **Finn & Porter** restaurant in the **Hilton Downtown** closed in mid-November for a spectacular \$600,000 renovation. The reimagined space will include two private dining rooms as well as an expanded sushi bar and should reopen just in time for New Year's Eve.

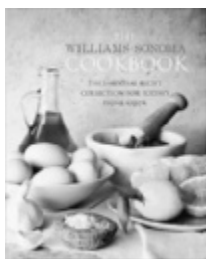
Everything but the Elves

Santa's bag is full of books for cooks this Christmas!



THE WILLIAMS-SONOMA COOKBOOK: THE ESSENTIAL RECIPE COLLECTION FOR TODAY'S HOME COOK

Free Press, 463 pp., \$34.95



Williams-Sonoma has had its pulse on American food trends for more than five decades. For much of America, the name has come to embody taste, not only in terms of kitchen aesthetics but also with respect to culinary arts. The new Williams-Sonoma cookbook builds on that image, offering practical, instructive, and tasteful recipes in one canonical volume to help release our inner chefs.

What I really like about this cookbook is its accessibility and ease of use. This glossy tome features photos of every recipe, which for many novice cooks is essential for visualizing the finished product. The recipes are presented in sensible chapters, divided by courses and food categories, with the final chapter devoted to basic recipes for essential stocks, sauces, and doughs. The end matter consists of useful definitions, followed by a very handy series of tables explaining measurements, doneness temperatures, substitutions and equivalents, and the like.

Here are recipes, both stylish and classic, for every occasion. Within its pages, the home cook will not only rediscover the merits of old-fashioned chicken pot pie or pineapple upside-down cake but also learn the secret to making delicious Sichuan spicy pork and eggplant or rolled Argentine-style flank steak stuffed with peppers, prosciutto, spinach, and bread crumbs. Most of the recipes are executable by home cooks, even those with limited time or experience in the kitchen. A recipe for steamed

salmon with *charmoula* – a Moroccan salsa of lemon, parsley, cilantro, and paprika – can be prepared in less than 40 minutes yet is impressive enough to serve to guests. Another one for tandoori chicken is deceptively simple, yet authentic, and is bound to become a regular on the dinner rotation.

This cookbook also features a healthy smattering of dishes designed for special occasions or to wow dinner guests. A recipe for duck lasagna made with sheets of fresh pasta and topped with a béchamel sauce embodies the precepts of slow food. Ideal for newly married couples, newly independent postadolescents, or anyone who loves to eat, the Williams-Sonoma cookbook promises to become an indispensable part of modern home kitchens.

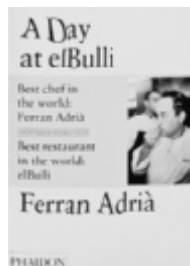
– Rachel Feit

A DAY AT ELBULLI by Ferran Adrià

Phaidon Press, 600 pp., \$49.95

For those in the dark, elBulli (pronounced Boo-yeé), on the Costa Brava just north of Barcelona, is perhaps the best and most creative restaurant in the world. Open for six months of each year and for dinner only, it is definitely the most coveted of all reservations; 8,000 seats receive more than 2 million requests per year, with tables booked a year in advance by lottery. All want to dine on Executive Chef Ferran Adrià's ever-changing 30-course tasting menu, prepared by a brigade of 70-plus chefs.

Phaidon Press is renowned for its art books, and when this title was announced, the buzz was electric. The book offers a revealing behind-the-scenes, hour-by-hour tour of a typical day at elBulli, from 6:15am to locking the door at 2am. At almost 3 inches thick and



600 pages with 1,000 stunning photographs, the book is way too big for the kitchen; instead, it artfully presents an amazing documentary glimpse into the details of the restaurant, from purchasing to prep to production. Of special interest are insights into the creative stages of developing a dish, testing and collaboration, and deciding the presentation.

The reader is in effect a fly on the wall (although I doubt there *could* be a fly in Adrià's modern, gleaming kitchen/cooking laboratory). Recipes, with extensive notes on finishing and presentation, are presented for 30-plus dishes, including cocktails – not that you would have the scientific equipment or culinary skills necessary to re-create them. Simply put, this book is fascinating and captivating on every level; as elite stage voyeuristic food porn for the creative culinarian, moist knickers are all but guaranteed. – Mick Vann

THE BOOK OF NEW ISRAELI FOOD: A CULINARY JOURNEY

by Janna Gur
Schocken Books, 304 pp., \$35



Author Janna Gur is the founder and editor of leading Israeli food and wine magazine *Al Hashulchan* – *The Israeli Gastronomic Monthly*. In her *Book of New Israeli Food*, Gur chronicles the relatively recent progression of Israeli cuisine from spartan austerity into a true gastronomic haven. Although Israel is a young nation, its culinary roots go back thousands of years, constantly evolving through the dishes imported and adapted from the distinct heritages of its melting-pot inhabitants. The explosion of Israel's modern agricultural system has helped to transform the cuisine, providing the necessary produce, fruits, meats, cheeses, and wines. Modern aquaculture provides a constant supply of the freshest fish. There is a whole new generation of home and restaurant cooks eager to learn, experiment, and evolve.

Against this backdrop, Gur provides part cookbook, part culinary cultural exhibition, filled with stunning photographs. Chapters are grouped under salads, the street and the market, simple pleasures, grill, Shabbat, and holidays, but a comprehensive cross-referenced index makes it easy to locate dishes by recipe and ingredient. Recipes ranging from simple and rustic to detailed and more elaborate are easy to follow and reinforced with detailed headnotes, while providing a wealth of variations and hints. Cooking techniques are well-illustrated and explained. This is a book that succeeds for both neophyte cook and trained chef. Whether it's the simple food you expect to find or more creative offerings such as fennel, lemon, and pistachio salad with honey dressing; a grilled lamb kebab baked under pastry in an oniony tomato sauce; or artichoke with fish tartare and argan oil, it is impossible to read through this delicious book and not salivate. – M.V.

THE ART OF MEXICAN COOKING: TRADITIONAL MEXICAN COOKING FOR AFICIONADOS

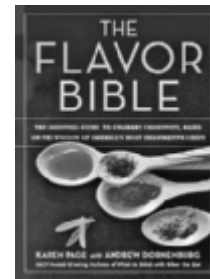
by Diana Kennedy
Clarkson Potter, 512 pp., \$30

One complaint often lodged against Diana Kennedy's cookbooks is that the recipes are too difficult and feature too many "obscure" ingredients. With all due respect to such naysayers, they have missed the point of her life's work. Kennedy's books have never been about quick meals or the "flavor of the moment." Instead, she has dedicated her life to recording, preserving, and honoring the foodways of one of the richest, most diverse culinary cultures in the world. This much-needed reprint of the 1989 classic features every recipe from the original, as well as a new introduction that addresses the changes in the perception of Mexican food in the last 20 years. Kennedy starts with a chapter titled "Corn," which explains the *nixtamal* process for grinding the basic dough for tortillas – Mexican cooking was about "slow food" long before the term came into vogue. The author shares a treasure trove of recipes collected from friends in all of Mexico's geographical regions and all walks of life, from *botanas* to main dishes, soups, salads, and desserts. The last chapter on seasonings and other ingredients describes herbs, spices, chiles, and many other flavorings and products used in traditional Mexican cuisine. The only thing missing is color photographs, but the writing is so evocative and descriptive, the dishes come alive without them. This book – all of Kennedy's books, for that matter – is a gastronomic time capsule to be enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come. For the true aficionado, this will be a much-appreciated keepsake gift.

– Claudia Alarcón

THE FLAVOR BIBLE: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CULINARY CREATIVITY, BASED ON THE WISDOM OF AMERICA'S MOST IMAGINATIVE CHEFS

by Karen Page and Andrew Dornenburg
Little, Brown & Co., 392 pp., \$35



Few food books in recent memory have excited me as much as this one – perhaps because it really isn't a cookbook at all. Instead of prescribed, carefully measured recipes, Karen Page and Andrew Dornenburg give us an insight into the minds of "America's most imaginative chefs" to inspire the reader to create new dishes based on imaginative and harmonious flavor. In their introductory chapter,

CONTINUED ON P.54

pad thai



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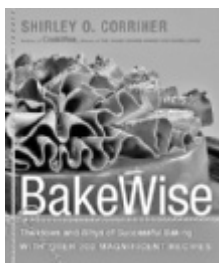
Baking Books

The Top 3 baking books on the market this holiday season are great teaching tools from some of the country's top baking experts. Any of these three hefty volumes would make a great gift for any aspiring or accomplished bakers on your gift list.

BakeWise:

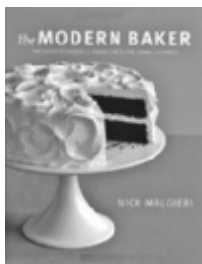
The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking

by Shirley O. Corriher (Scribner, 532 pp., \$40). International celebrity chefs and culinary experts all turn to Atlanta-based food scientist Shirley Corriher when they need advice and explanations about the science behind what happens in the kitchen. Now, so can we. As she did a few years back in the seminal *CookWise*, Corriher once again makes her invaluable culinary expertise available to the home cook and baker. She dispenses a lifetime of baking wisdom through a compendium of wonderfully accessible recipes, each designed to illustrate a useful baking principle. Baking from this book is somewhat akin to having the most knowledgeable grandmother imaginable at your side in the kitchen. It's a must-have addition to the culinary library of any serious baker.



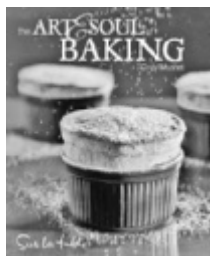
The Modern Baker: Time-Saving Techniques for Breads, Tarts, Pies, Cakes, and Cookies

by Nick Malgieri (DK Publishing, 320 pp., \$35). Nick Malgieri is one of the most respected baking instructors in the country, and his yearly sold-out classes at Central Market Cooking School attest to his enthusiastic Texas following. His newest book offers 150 baking recipes that demonstrate time-saving baking techniques and render delicious results every time. As much as I admire Malgieri and appreciate his foolproof recipes (try the butterscotch scones, the instant sandwich bread, or the chocolate caramel pecan tarts, and you'll see what I mean), there is one glaring technical problem with this otherwise wonderful book: The person who chose the very tiny type font for the ingredients lists should be beaten with a rolling pin!



The Art & Soul of Baking

by Cindy Mushet (Andrews McMeel, 453 pp., \$40). Seattle-based culinary retailer Sur la Table has been delighting home cooks and chefs since 1972 with an eclectic selection of cookware, gifts, and gadgets. Within the past couple of years, it's expanded the brand to include a line of in-house cookbooks. This hefty and encyclopedic volume, written by accomplished West Coast pastry chef and baking instructor Cindy Mushet, is thorough, well-organized, and well-illustrated. Most recipes appear with helpful tips about "what the pros know," and there are often suggestions for modifying recipes to the baker's personal taste.



— Virginia B. Wood

they explain the formula: Flavor = taste (what is perceived by the taste buds) + mouthfeel (what is perceived by the rest of the mouth) + aroma (what is perceived by the nose) + "the X Factor" (what is perceived by the other senses, plus the heart, mind, and spirit). Then they break the formula down further into individual components (sweet, sour, temperature, piquancy, pungency, etc.), flavor affinities, function, seasonality of ingredients, and — just as important — the essence of the moment ("Why do you need or want to cook in the first place?"), which together create the ultimate goal of "deliciousness." They follow with carefully organized charts for every ingredient, type of cuisine, and culinary term imaginable, indicating taste, flavor function, commonly used cooking techniques, tips, flavor affinities, and incompatibilities. All this invaluable information is interspersed with comments and insights from acclaimed chefs such as Monica Pope of t'afia (Houston), Maricel Presilla of Zafra (Hoboken, N.J.), Traci Des Jardins from jardinière (San Francisco), Homaro Cantu from moto (Chicago), Michael Lomonaco of Porter House (NYC), and José Andrés (cookbook author and TV personality) that help explain why and how they create their culinary masterpieces. Give this book to someone who loves to cook; chances are they'll reward you with a fabulous meal prepared with you in mind.

— C.A.

THE WIDOW CLICQUOT: THE STORY OF A CHAMPAGNE EMPIRE AND THE WOMAN WHO RULED IT

by Tilar J. Mazzeo
Collins, 265 pp., \$25.95

The title refers to Barbe-Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin and the titular Champagne is Veuve (French for widow) Clicquot. Barbe-Nicole was a widow at age 27. Her husband left a successful winery, but Barbe-Nicole had no idea how to manage it. Through a combination of grit and ingenuity, within 10 years, she was one of the most renowned and wealthy female entrepreneurs in France. This book is largely descriptive of her successes, with just enough glamour and danger to keep us turning the pages. It's also a testament to author Mazzeo's pit-bull approach to research. Where many journalists might just drink a few bottles of the Champagne and Google "Clicquot," professor Mazzeo (English, Colby College, Maine) digs through mountains of possible material, striking gold about as often as a tourist with a pan and a river. Her assemblage of those nuggets — 23% of the book's total pages are in research notes and a bibliography section — into *The Widow Clicquot* is a miraculous



feat of organization, one worthy of a doctoral thesis. Luckily, the writing generally escapes the monotony of an academic's drone, and in its moments of action, this is actually a gripping story. And while the book appears to be a feminist history/business biography, it's also the appealing story of the author's odyssey.

— Wes Marshall

SECRET INGREDIENTS: THE NEW YORKER BOOK OF FOOD AND DRINK

edited by David Remnick
Random House,
608 pp., \$30

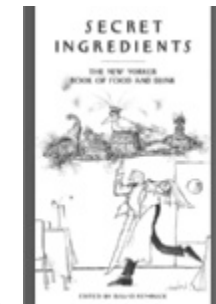
Since its inception under the watchful eye of founding Editor Harold Ross, *The New Yorker's* raison d'être has been maximum intelligence dished up with minimum words and served with healthy seasonings of irony and anomie. Ross wasn't a gourmand, but he just happened to have a few writers on his staff who were, as well as a collection of associates in the magazine's orbit who could qualify as both. *New Yorker* staff writer Adam Gopnik stated that all good food writing is either a "mock epic" or a "mystical microcosm." This book contains generous servings of both. Calvin Trillin presides over the mock epic school. His democratic appetites include bagels and big red herrings, such as his contention that blindfolded, no one on earth could tell the difference between a red and a white wine. At the mystic end, there are poetic confections by the brilliant M.E.K. Fisher. *The New Yorker's* greatest strength has always been humor, and this book has hundreds of pages of supersized laughs with great authors such as Steve Martin, Woody Allen, Ogden Nash, Dorothy Parker, and S.J. Perelman. And then there are the cartoons. Is there any more easily skewerable subject for *The New Yorker's* brilliant cartoonists than the urban food and wine snob? *Secret Ingredients* is the answer to the question, "Well, now, what shall I do with all that time between lunch and dinner?"

— W.M.

EAT ME: THE FOOD AND PHILOSOPHY OF KENNY SHOPSIN

by Kenny Shopsin and Carolyn Carreño
Knopf, 288 pp.,
\$24.95

I always assumed that the character of the Soup Nazi on *Seinfeld* was based on a real person, but I didn't know *whom*. In New York City, however, everybody apparently knew that *Seinfeld* was poking fun at Kenny Shopsin, a guy with a little hole-in-the-wall restaurant in Manhattan that became renowned for both its food and Shopsin's attitude.



If there's anyone on your list who works as a professional cook, this is the perfect gift for them. Just getting to read about a cook who routinely throws customers out of his place because they deviate from the prescribed "rules" of ordering or don't show enough imagination or aren't the kind of people the cook enjoys cooking for is enough reason to revel in this cookbook memoir. To sweeten the deal, Shopsin is a genius: a soup genius. At one time, he listed 900 different soups on his menu, every one of them awesome. His philosophy of soup, his rethinking and consequent deconstruction of soup, and his recipes for soup have utterly changed my own approach to soup — forever! His inability to *not* rethink every aspect of cooking is evident on every page, and in consequence, everything he cooks is a unique expression of his personality and artistry. Besides being an excellent and side-splitting read, this is one of the most revolutionary cookbooks of the year.

— Kate Thornberry

THE FIRESIDE COOK BOOK: THE CLASSIC GUIDE TO FINE COOKING FOR BEGINNER AND EXPERT

by James Beard
Simon and Schuster,
336 pp., \$30

Is there anyone on your list who is inclined to appreciate the unbelievably, gorgeously kitschy? Or even just the unbelievably gorgeous? Because this cookbook, in addition to being one of the tried-and-true, seminal works of American cooking, a book that popularized the idea that red-blooded American men could (and should) know their way around a kitchen, is also the most beautifully illustrated cookbook I have ever seen. Not to undervalue the actual *content* of the *Fireside Cook Book*, but the visual component is overwhelming: Heralded at its publication as "the most lavishly produced American cookbook to date," it has illustrations by husband-and-wife team Alice and Martin Provensen on nearly every page. Their artistic style is the height of stylized 1950s modernism, an extravaganza of wasp-waisted housewives, cooking utensils, Eskimos, anthropomorphic animals having tea parties, white-hatted chefs, policemen, chickens, the mind-bending "vegetable-man," and much, much more. It's simply stunning. And it's also a great and famous cookbook. James Beard has long been recognized as the dean of American cooking, and this is the book that elevated him to those giddy heights. Subtitled *The Classic Guide to Fine Cooking for the Beginner and Expert*, this cookbook is far-reaching in scope and includes a glossary of culinary terms, descriptions of techniques, recipes and variations, and



suggested menus, as well as a very useful discussion of wines and cocktails. It is a testament to Beard's prowess that he manages to get so much essential information into a mere 300 pages. A timeless classic and an excellent gift.

— K.T.

PEACE MEALS: A BOOK OF RECIPES FOR COOKING AND CONNECTING

by the Junior League of Houston
Ingram Book Co., \$39.45.



The Houston Junior League, an 83-year-old women's service organization, has an illustrious history of publishing a terrific cookbook about once a decade. *Stop and Smell the Rosemary* won numerous prizes in 1996, and the group's new endeavor, *Peace Meals*, raises the bar yet again. It's a slick, opulently photographed, large-format tome that would grace any coffee table, but more importantly, it's just full of appealing recipes guaranteed to inspire readers to roll up their sleeves, get cooking, and break bread with loved ones.

There's no hospitality quite like that of Southern ladies, and this is a compilation of stylish, sophisticated, but not particularly complicated dishes from busy women who like to cook and entertain graciously. To prepare these offerings, do you need to know your way around a kitchen and a serious grocery and/or farmers' market? Yes. Do you need to fuss? Not really. Recipes are big on deep flavors and fresh ingredients, such as the amazing avocado-cucumber soup with cilantro or chicken salad punched up with tarragon and fresh cranberries. Chapters — with titles such as "Breakfast and Brunch," "Appetizers and Cocktails," and "From the Garden" — propose menu and party ideas along with clearly well-tested recipes for such occasions as girls' night in or hot dinner on a cold night.

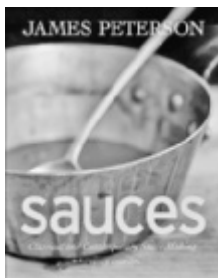
In addition to more than 200 recipes by the group's members, there are numerous contributions from notable Houston restaurateurs adapted for home kitchens, such as Monica Pope's beet tabouli, Robert del Grande's ginger margarita, Michael Cordúa's *churrasco* beef tenderloin, and Tony Vallone's Snapper Sheridan.

— MM Pack

SAUCES: CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY SAUCE MAKING

by James Peterson Wiley,
640 pp., \$49.95

Know someone who longs to attend culinary school but can't take the time away from life to do so? Well, for the truly motivated, here's alternative



access to some of that instruction. Weighing in at 4 pounds and 600-plus pages, James Peterson's doorstop of a book offers at least a semester's worth of self-paced study about sauces, that cornerstone of classical European cookery. Both encyclopedic and methodical, this is a user's manual designed to teach aspiring serious cooks and to serve as valuable reference for the professional chef.

Originally published in 1991, the first edition garnered international acclaim, was translated into French, and was awarded the James Beard Cookbook of the Year. This latest edition includes the fundamental information from previous versions but wraps it in larger contexts of food history and practical application — you learn not only where each sauce comes from and the cooking techniques used to make it but why it's made as it is and how to use it in recipes both classical and modern. What is a liaison, and how does it work? What is a nage? How does butterscotch differ from caramel?

Peterson, a former restaurant chef and culinary instructor at the French Culinary Institute and the Institute of Culinary Education in New York, is grounded in the sauces of France and Italy, and the text reflects this. But there's plenty of information about sauces from other cuisines, from Vietnamese and Japanese to Greek, Spanish, and Mexican. This is a serious investment for serious cooks.

— MM.P



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CHINESE, INDIAN: MASALA WOK Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare, as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok-cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. **1100 Center Ridge #300, 251-9696. www.masalawok.com.** \$

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SEAFOOD: OPAL DIVINE'S MARINA This menu features some seasonal seafood items in addition to favorite Opal's staples. **12709 MoPac N., 733-5353. www.opaldivines.com.** \$ \$

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STEAK HOUSE: COOL RIVER CAFE Elegant steak house and grill with a ski-lodge atmosphere and a full bar. Menu items have a Southwestern flair. **4001 Parmar, 835-0010. www.coolrivercafe.com.** \$ \$ \$

TEX-MEX: VAZQUEZ RESTAURANT Regulars would rise at dawn for the breakfast here, but they swear by the enchiladas as well. **915 E. Braker, 837-2753. \$**

VIETNAMESE: PHO HOANG The broth here is terrific, but it is meat-based, so this isn't a choice for vegetarians. Some say they serve the best pho in town. **2521 Rutland, #400, 339-6002. www.pho-hoang.com.** \$ \$

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, it's a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. **411 E. 43rd, 453-3399. www.quackquacks.com.** \$

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BARBECUE: BOWIE STREET BBQ AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET All-natural Texas-style barbecue in a lunch-counter setting, featuring house-made beef andouille, chicken, pulled pork, baby back ribs, and beef brisket. Available both by the plate and by the pound. **525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.** \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JO'S HOT COFFEE You'll find an array of pastries and breakfast tacos early, and later in the day, look for sandwiches, salads, burgers, and a few hot plates. **242 W. Second, 469-9003. www.joscoffee.com.** \$

FINE DINING: TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS Look over Lady Bird Lake, and transcend the usual hotel-dining scene. Focus on unusual and creative preparations of appetizers and side dishes and terrific steaks and seafood. At dinner, find a special-occasion place with romantic lighting and efficient service. **98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. www.fourseasons.com/austin/dining.** \$ \$ \$ \$

INTERNATIONAL: TASTE SELECT WINES This wine bistro serves a great selection of about 400 hand-picked wines, and the small menu offers fascinating food at reasonable prices. Don't miss the house bacon on either the charcuterie plate or the panini. **202 W. Cesar Chavez, 478-2783. www.tasteselectwines.com.** \$ \$

PUB GRUB: THE TAVERN Austin's most tradition-packed venue for sports viewing and a popular watering (and eating) hole for many decades. The building has been upgraded, and so has the menu and the food. More than 52 TVs. **922 W. 12th, 320-8377. www.austintavern.com.** \$ \$

SEAFOOD: MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S This Portland, Ore.-based chain offers daily changing menus drawn from a fresh list of seafood flown in from around the globe. Great apple pie. **401 Congress, 236-9600. www.mccormickandschmicks.com.** \$ \$ \$ \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: TEXAS CHILI PARLOR An Austin legend serving good burgers, sandwiches, Tex-Mex, and, of course, chili in many varieties to satisfy all tastes, even vegetarian. Laid-back atmosphere with a very eclectic patronage. **1409 Lavaca, 472-2828. www.cactushill.com/TCP/home.htm.** \$

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

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: GALLOWAY SANDWICH SHOP For Southerners, this is the familiar food that your granny used to cook. Meat with two sides, done right, and it changes every day. Try the roast beef and sweet potato pie. **1914 E. 12th, 482-0757. \$**

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

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

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

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

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LOS PINOS Tex-Mex with a bit of Southwestern cuisine mixed in for flair. Be sure to try the fish *borracho*, which is tilapia swimming in chipotle cream sauce, corn, and mushrooms. **4919 Hudson Bend, 266-3231. \$ \$**

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CHINESE: NG HOUSE A spare and spiffy Cantonese oasis for the Chinese-deprived in South Austin. You'll find a huge menu, big portions at low prices, and great specials. 6800 West Gate Blvd. #112, 416-9888. www.nghouse.net. \$

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

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

JAPANESE: UMI SUSHI BAR & GRILL One of the top sushi restaurants in Austin. An aggressive menu with a sizable selection of *nigiri*. Chronicle Restaurant Poll Critics Pick for Best Sushi 2003. 5510 S. I-35 #400, 383-8806. \$\$

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

TEX-MEX: CHUY'S ARBOR TRAILS This newest location is serving all of your familiar favorites in a brightly painted atmosphere punctuated by velvet paintings and metal palm trees. 4301 W. William Cannon, 899-2489. www.chuys.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL GALLO Austin-style Tex-Mex since the Fifties. Family-owned for 42 years. Try the *cabrito*, and stay for the mariachi trio that plays Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. 2910 S. Congress, 444-6696. www.elgalloreastaurant.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: LA REYNA RESTAURANT The Queen of South First. You'll find a casual and friendly atmosphere here and some of the best no-frills Tex-Mex south of the river. 1816 S. First, 447-1280. \$\$

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

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: DRUNGO ICE HOUSE This UT spot offers a full menu including hamburgers and sandwiches, pizzas, soups, and salads, as well as a good list of local and national brews. 2828 Rio Grande, 478-6666. www.drungoicehouse.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR & CAFE This cozy, old North Campus bungalow serves coffee drinks, juice, and beer, as well as a small, eclectic, vegetarian-friendly menu in a comfortably shabby atmosphere. 2908 Fruth, 480-9562. www.spiderhousecafe.com. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, MEDITERRANEAN: LONGHORN PO-BOYS & FALAFEL It seems unlikely, but this tasty and unassuming sandwich shop makes some of the city's best and cheapest falafel. Famous for stuffed grape leaves. 2901-A Medical Arts, 495-9228. \$

FINE DINING: MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL A terrific date spot with a small, romantic dining room and an abbreviated but well-chosen wine list. The cooking is creative but simple, relying on quality, fresh ingredients. 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. www.mansionatjudgeshill.com. \$\$\$\$

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

MIDDLE EASTERN: TOM'S TABOOLEY The kitchen offers tabbouleh, dolmas, baklava, gourmet coffee, and lots of surprising tidbits for lunch and dinner. Pick up some brined grape leaves to cook with at home. 2928 Guadalupe, 479-7337. www.tomstabooley.com. \$

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VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: VEGGIE HEAVEN The menu is heavy on Asian dishes but also offers meat- and dairy-free pastas, sandwiches, and desserts. 1914-A Guadalupe, 457-1013. \$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: THE REDBUD GRILLE The only place in West Lake that offers a full-service bar, the Grille also features sturdy and appetizing meals in addition to its menu of specialty margaritas, martinis, and mojitos. 3267 Bee Caves Rd. at Walsh Tarton, 327-8746. \$\$\$

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

BURGER JOINT: EZ'S Although the hamburgers are very good, they also serve up a plethora of chicken dishes, from battered and fried tenders to oven-roasted rosemary-chicken plates. 3918 N. Lamar, 302-1800. www.ezrestaurants.com. \$

CHINESE: PEONY ASIAN CUISINE The *ama ebi* is sweet as a mother's love, and the miso soup is one of the richest versions of the Asian classic in Austin. 5308 Balcones, 459-3341. \$\$

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

FINE DINING: ZOOT Holding its own in Austin's restaurant scene for years, the menu has remained anchored in understated refinement. 509 Heam, 477-6535. www.zootrestaurant.com. \$\$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: JORGE'S This laid-back, family-friendly restaurant has returned to its tradition of low-key popularity with friendly, old-school-Austin service and unpretentious, good food and drink. 203 Hancock, 454-1980. www.tacosgarcia.com/Austin.php. \$\$

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT offers primavera, rigatoni, fettuccine, pizza, stromboli, lasagna, and wine, wine, wine. If these words mean anything to you, check out these eats. 10710 Research #310, 345-6181. www.brickovenrestaurant.com. \$\$

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

JAPANESE: OSAKA Here you'll find friendly service in a folksy, neighborhood setting, large portions of impeccably fresh fish, and prices that won't topple the average budget. 13492 Research #160, 918-8012. \$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: TINO'S GREEK CAFE Northwest Austin's gift to the Greek culinary gods. Great prices and portions served from a cafeteria line, with oodles of choices for carnivores and vegetarians alike. 13450 183 N. #237, 336-5999. \$

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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*

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screens

HISTORY CIRCLES ITS TAIL

Gus Van Sant on the life of Seventies crusader Harvey Milk and the parallels between then and now

BY CLAY SMITH

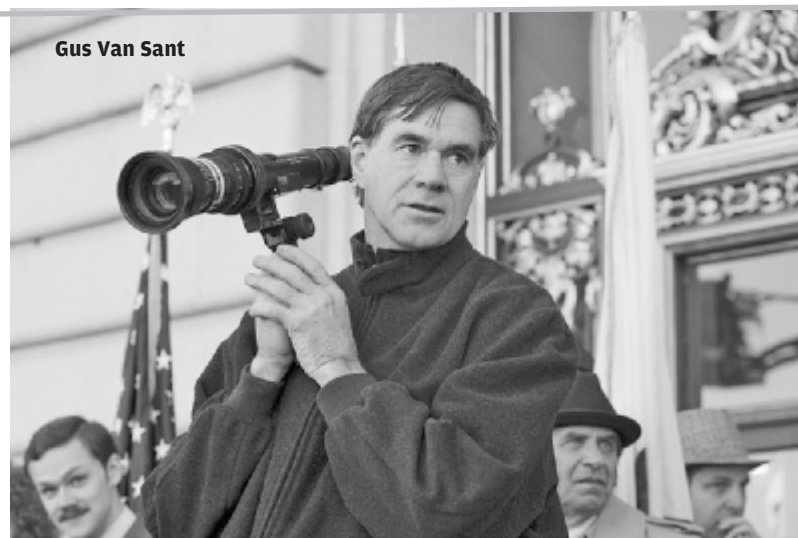
Gus Van Sant's new movie, *Milk*, isn't notable so much for what's in the film as for the timing of the thing: *Milk*, about the crusading gay politician Harvey Milk, gets its wide release tomorrow, one month after voters in California passed Proposition 8, which outlawed same-sex marriage in that state after California's Supreme Court had expressly allowed it. It's true that Sean Penn's performance as Milk is worthy of all the Best Actor buzz he's getting – his performance perfectly nails what a complex person Milk was – but the movie Van Sant has made about Milk is an entirely traditional biopic, with the swelling, inspirational soundtrack and righteous, one-man-vs.-the-machine storyline that term connotes.

That's not to knock Van Sant; only the most jaded and cerebral viewers won't choke up as Milk, who had the verve to keep fighting until he was finally elected to public office as an openly gay man after three unsuccessful attempts, is assassinated by a political rival on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1978. In fact, *Milk* may be just the thing disillusioned viewers need right now. The passage of Prop. 8 has induced a widespread and resurgent gay activism; several Saturdays ago, thousands of protesters gathered at the same time in an estimated 150 cities across America to denounce Prop. 8 (with some 2,000 protesters at Austin's City Hall that day). Dec. 10 has been named Day Without a Gay, when gay people are being asked to volunteer their time at gay-friendly nonprofits rather than show up at work.

Judging from the evidence presented in *Milk*, Harvey Milk would have eyed the passage of Prop. 8 wearily, although he

wouldn't have wasted any time before fighting back. When Milk was on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, a California state senator named John Briggs spearheaded Proposition 6, which would have allowed public school administrators to fire gay teachers. That proposition didn't pass, largely because of the fight Milk and his supporters waged. The parallels between Prop. 6 and Prop. 8 are uncanny. "I think it's an extension of the same idea," Van Sant says. "If the progress is to be seen as the gridiron of a football game, Prop. 6 was more of a defensive line, the ball being in defensive territory, whereas Prop. 8 is an offensive, later yardage, like on the 90-yard line, but ultimately it's the same discrimination."

Van Sant liked *Big Love* scribe Dustin Lance Black's script because it captures what Milk and his friends were actually like and because it focuses on Milk's political life. "It sounded like the characters were real ... like you would think Harvey would sound," Van Sant says. "There were a lot of jokes in there, because Harvey was fond of joking around or telling jokes. ... [Black] decided to tell the story through Harvey's political activity; his gay political activity didn't really exist in the Sixties, when he was in New York. His political activity didn't exist after he was dead. So it condensed the story in an interesting way. It had a really strong philosophy of just Harvey's politics and that was unique and interesting and right-on."



Gus Van Sant

Milk may be inspiring to gay people who feel let down by the passage of Prop. 8, but it has the potential to remind a much wider audience that there is such a thing as joy and humor in political life. After eight years of an administration that has often come off as scolding, nay-saying, begrudging, and arrogant, the life of Harvey Milk serves as a humane antidote to all those chest-beating theatrics. It may be dangerous to assume a life as depicted in a biopic is the real life as it was lived, but what repeatedly comes through in *Milk*, even just before Milk is assassinated in the film, is the politician's energy and delight in the life he has chosen. The people who worked to get Milk elected and advised Van Sant on the film asked him to not neglect that element of Milk's life. "They kept saying, 'We had a lot of fun; this was a laugh riot working with Harvey,'" says Van Sant. "There were so many campaigns – I mean, he ran four times – there were ins and outs of each campaign, but I think one of the things was that he had a lot of energy, and it was fun. It was also serious ... times as well, but for the large part, it was really fun. So they wanted us to hopefully capture that side of it." ■

INDELIBLE

The lasting power of 'Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains'

BY CINDY WIDNER

"You are so jealous of me. I'm everything you wanted to be."

"A cunt?!!!"

"Exactly." – Exchange between Corinne "Third Degree" Burns and the Looters' Billy in *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains*



Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains

bands garnering that label were British, it's true: The Runaways had yet to rectify their reputation as Kim Fowley's jailbait novelty act, and while the Shaggs redeemed the idea of exuberant atonality, they were, in actual fact, their father's dork-rock novelty act. Still, if you were looking for all-female bands as rocking and/or political and/or musically uppity as Crass or the Clash or the Mekons, by 1981 you had plenty to choose from.

Viewed in this context, what history has done with the film *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains* seems a little weird.

Penned by *Slap Shot* writer Nancy Dowd (who later took her name off the credits) and directed by music producer Lou Adler, *The Fabulous Stains* should have been both familiar and a revelation: It's a radical, fun portrait of a fictional all-female band struggling to make it on its own terms. Led by Corinne "Third

Degree" Burns (Diane Lane), the drumless trio includes Burns' sister, Tracy (Marin Kanter), and cousin Jessica McNeil (Laura Dern), all three captured at the peak of their luminescent, surly early teenhood. The Stains leave behind nothing but their sad sack of a Pennsylvania mining town and alcoholic mess Aunt Linda (Christine Lahti) when they score an opening spot touring with has-beens the Metal Corpses and political Brit-punkers the Looters. The Corpses are soon sidelined by an OD, and the Stains' tale unfolds in a tableau of see-through tops and caustic attitude, manipulative seductions, media and mass attention, fantastic one-liners, striped hair, and an army of girl followers who call themselves the Skunks.

A 35mm print of *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains* screens as part of the Alamo Drafthouse's Music Mondays series on Monday, Dec. 9, 10:45pm, at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown.

The wonder of *Ladies and Gentleman, the Fabulous Stains* is not its putative prescience. Rather, it's the brilliant, endlessly quotable writing; the performances (Lane in particular turns in a masterful portrait of articulate teen-girl anger); and the way it manages to cast perfectly so many tropes of the time: cocaine as stand-in for rock & roll excess, a fascination with things Jamaican, Corinne's Poly Styrene overcoat and beret concealing some kind of Benatarish concoction; the sexist bar-boy atmosphere that punk rock, with all its liberating qualities, did little to change.

And so: It flopped. Shelved by Paramount after testing poorly in Denver (Denver?), the film played on for a while in arthouses, largely rejected by punks who might have seen it as too late for the trend. Where it has really lived for the past 27 years is on VHS: Copies of copies, taped during rare cable screenings, instantly became required feminist-rocker viewing, to be passed on like talismans. After the riot grrrl movement exploded in the 1990s and the movie was cited as a major influence, it became almost impossible to find a rad woman who had not at least heard of it – despite the fact that it had seen neither video nor DVD release and only occasionally showed at film festivals and arthouses

(including the Alamo Drafthouse). It was finally released on DVD this year (see "Phases and Stages," Oct. 10).

What seemed like a boneheaded dismissal of an obvious and ever-growing market, then, turned the tiny film into a massively influential cultural document, one that was strengthened by the intimacy and solidarity found in sharing it under the radar. So, though you might and should own it on DVD, don't miss a chance to see it in the theatre, with kindred spirits, and be sure to sing along ("I'm a waste of time ..."). ■

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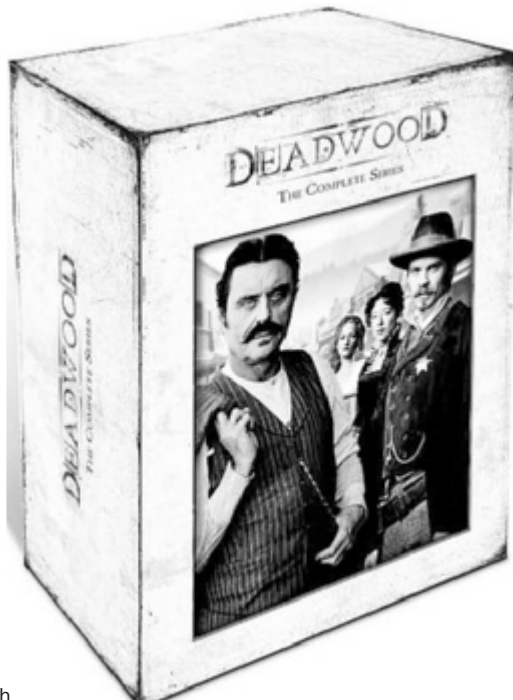
DEADWOOD: THE COMPLETE SERIES HBO, \$179.97

Not being a member of the tribe that celebrates the birth of Jesus, I'd be lying if I said I knew exactly what makes for the perfect Christmas. I know trees are involved and Charlie Brown and Jimmy Stewart, plus bells, snow, sweaters, Santa, and Irving Berlin (one of ours, of course, but who's keeping score?). And then, of course, there are all those lords a-leaping and maids a-milking and swans a-swimming and partridges in pear trees.

But since we're in America and since we Americans like to create our traditions out of the air, I'd like this year to propose a few additions to the perfect-Christmas wish list: gamblers a-gambling, knives a-dicing, whores a-whoring, and corpse-eating pigs in a pen. Call it A Very *Deadwood* Christmas, to be celebrated with a nonstop viewing of the HBO show's 36 episodes, stopping only to drink eggnog every time a character says "cocksucker" or gets stabbed in the chest.

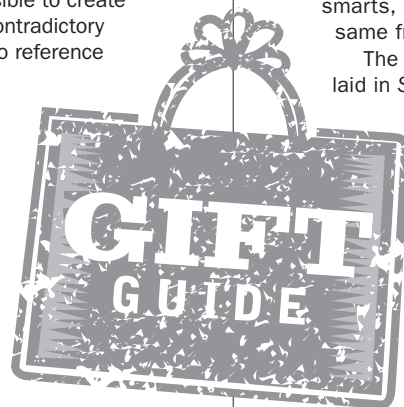
This week, all three seasons of one of the finest shows to ever grace the small screen are being released in one set, complete with innumerable extras, including making-of documentaries and historical featurettes on the "real" Tombstone and its influence on the show.

But the real treasures of this collection (beyond the show itself) are the interviews with show creator and head writer David Milch, a brilliant but self-destructive workaholic and former drug addict who earned his stripes writing for Steven Bochco's *Hill Street Blues* and *NYPD Blue* (which he also co-created) before approaching HBO with an idea about a late 19th century mining camp where there was, as he says, "order but no law." Milch is a type you don't expect to find in television: a thinker



who draws on as much human intellectual and artistic experience as possible to create a three-dimensional and contradictory universe, who isn't afraid to reference Sigmund Freud or W.H. Auden or Henry James or the theory of pseudospeciation or the search for God while discussing the psychological ins and outs of the ultraviolent pimps, brutal psychopaths, degenerate prostitutes, and oleaginous toadies scrounging for dominance in his dark little ecosystem. Milch's show is a masterpiece of vulgarity, violence, and Victorian eloquence; his interviews are proof of the boundless possibilities of human curiosity.

- Josh Rosenblatt



SPORTS NIGHT: THE COMPLETE SERIES: 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION Shout! Factory, \$69.99

The laugh track. The topic was inevitable – it comes up in the commentary tracks and the accompanying docs for this 10th anniversary release – and of course it's there, too, in the whole of the first season, an ill fit for a show that never fit into easy categorization. ABC's forced inclusion of a laugh track in this groundbreaking half-hour hybrid from creator Aaron Sorkin and collaborator Tommy Schlamme (a UT alum) represented for Sorkin "the struggle for the soul of *Sports Night*" (as reported by Tad Friend in a 1998 *New Yorker* piece titled "Laugh Riot"). History knows now that Sorkin and Schlamme got the laugh track killed, but ABC sent the show to an early grave at the end of its second season (their real-life battling with the network worked its way into the show's storyline). The silver lining, believe it or not, came by way of NBC: It gave Sorkin and Schlamme (and much of the same cast and crew) a home for seven years, during which *The West Wing* became top-reviewed and top-rated – a network drama that not only demonstrated

smarts, but demanded the same from its audience.

The groundwork was laid in *Sports Night*

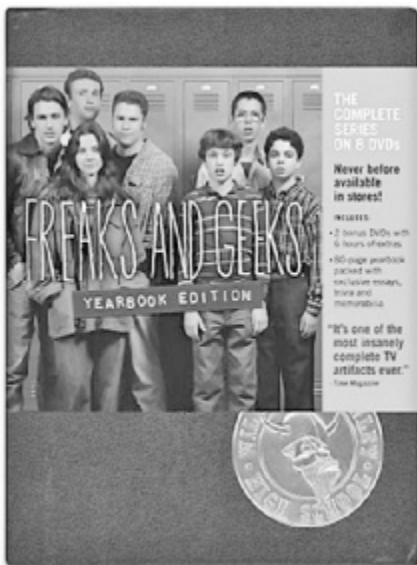
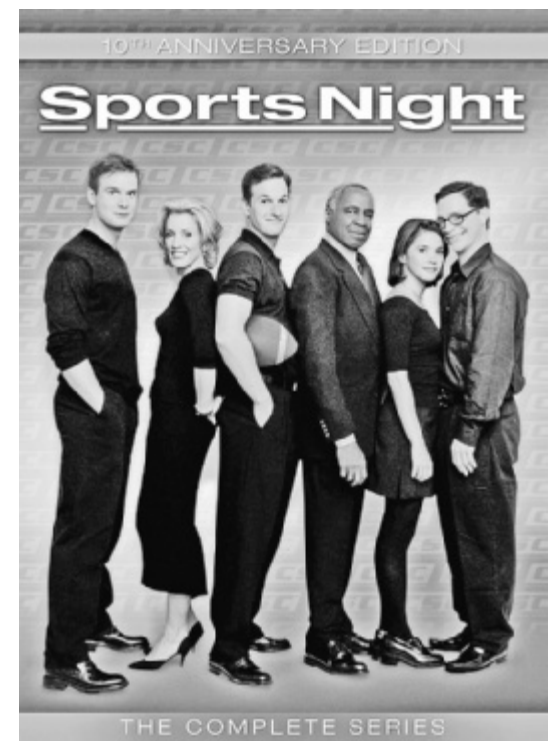
(although, in fact, *The West Wing* pilot sold before *Sports Night's* did; production delays postponed its debut until *Sports Night's* second season). Sorkin's rat-a-tat dialogue, repetition for

effect, and soaring, high-minded monologues are all there. (Close readers will also recognize Sorkin

sticky-fingering his own plots, such as the effect of a father's affair on his son and the relationship dynamic of a bromance, before pop culture had a word for it.) But Schlamme was the one who wore the tread out on the Steadicam and invented the patented walk-and-talk. Together, they paved the way for further adventures in undermining the traditional sitcom (witness *Undeclared*, *Arrested Development*, and *30 Rock*).

Even among the Sorkin faithful, *Sports Night* is often counted as a noble, but failed, experiment: Sports shouldn't be this serious, they sigh. But look again. *Sports Night* has aged remarkably well, save the occasional retro hair stylings, and who wouldn't want to pass 22 minutes and then some in the company of its articulate, flawed, and, yes, funny characters? In the same *New Yorker* piece, Friend said, "Television encourages brief, fierce loyalties." Ten years on, it seems he got everything right but the "brief" part.

- Kimberley Jones



FREAKS AND GEEKS: YEARBOOK EDITION Shout! Factory, \$169.98

My high school yearbooks collect dust in my bookcase, not far from my sole survivor from English majordom: *The Riverside Shakespeare*. Dramedies all. Originally, *Freaks and Geeks*, one of modern network TV's single-season anomalies (1999) – a cable series probably abandoned down the Nile in a reed basket – came bound as a limited-run *Yearbook Edition*, two DVDs of bonus geekery besting the six-disc commercial version. Those began running for \$400 on eBay, so original label Shout! Factory finally reprinted its hardbound book of teenage spells, the only difference being texturing on the original's cover and the new edition's final credit: "Second printing." Collector dweebs breathe easy. Freaks rejoice. One pilot and 17 subsequent 45-minute

episodes tattoo their pure heart onto the arm of television history like a ballpoint pen digging into the soft pulp of school-sponsored souvenirs. 1980 Michigan, McKinley High School breeds a typically hair-pulling melting pot of adolescent metamorphosis, only in the autobiographical wit, conscience, and generosity of creators/writers Paul Feig and Judd Apatow, not only do geeks inherit the earth, but one of them gets SCTV deity Joe Flaherty playing his dad. That lottery-winner, John Francis Daley, has lost none of his toothy endearment in service of Fox's ongoing *Bones*, while James Franco and Seth "Knocked Up" Rogen have standing reservations on Apatow's *Pineapple Express*. And therein beats *Freaks and Geeks*. With every episode featuring at least one giggling cast/creator audio commentary (as well as deleted scenes; don't miss the pilot's reveal), was it really marijuana

caution "Chokin' and Tokin'" that Apatow inadvertently evoked parallel to a film that could be the series prequel: Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused*? As everyone involved with the locally produced updating of George Lucas' *American Graffiti* agreed, veteran casting director Don Phillips should get 10% off the top of every Matthew McConaughey payday, and here the wizard behind the green screen appears to be talent magnet Allison Jones, who won an Emmy for Feig, Apatow, and company. *Back to the Future's* Biff (Tom Wilson) as all-too-human coach Fredricks is inspired, but as anyone who's seen the series will swear under pain of death, Martin Starr as Jesus geek Bill and, really, Busy Philipps as every hot, blond terror of high school define genius. Runner-up: Apatow's Who-powered installment "Dead Dogs and Gym Teachers."

- Raoul Hernandez



THE MICHAEL PALIN COLLECTION: 8 CLASSIC SERIES
BBC Warner, \$249.98

It's not everyone who gets to return to the scene of his own crucifixion and bloody demise. Sure, they say Jesus pulled it off, more or less, but frankly, that's old news. Far more relevant to today's armchair resurrectionist is the second coming of Michael Palin, whose endlessly fascinating post-Python peripatetics have allowed him to revisit the former set of *Monty Python's Life of Brian*, aka the Ribat, Monastir, Tunisia. (Palin's also a good deal wittier than the Nazarene, when you get right down to it.) Tunisia is just one stop on a global journey that has spanned nearly two decades and seven award-winning documentaries, all starring the terminally genial Brit-wit and all collected here on – *holy fucking Christ!* – 19 DVDs. Palin has always been game for anything, and his BBC-assigned jaunts are a plummy gig in any language, but our favorite is his bold attempt to traverse the fictional footsteps of Jules Verne's globe-trotting Phileas Fogg. Going *Around the World in 80 Days* was already a deucedly dangerous dare in 1873, when Verne's epic fiction was first published, but it proves even more preposterous in 1989. Eschewing air travel altogether, the hopelessly comic romantic instead finds himself at the mercy of byzantine Indian railway timetables, potentially treacherous Pacific sea voyages, and, most dangerous of all, American highways. The odds against him completing such a venture in this modern world are ill-advised, and his Passepartout is less of a valet and more of a documentary film crew, but it's genius nonetheless. At this point, it's difficult to think of somewhere Palin *hasn't* been. He's like some elfin, Earl Grey-sipping Werner Herzog, minus the macho but not the Picchu (see *Full Circle*). In between traversing *The New Europe* (Sarajevo, Budapest, Albania, etc.) and voyaging, literally, *Pole to Pole*, the former Python's own brand of *Boy's Own* adventures develops a decidedly humanistic stride. Which is, of course, what makes these brilliantly staged megatravelogs so very edifying in the first place: Palin is ceaselessly curious about his fellow man, and he makes us curious, too.

– Marc Savlov

HOME MOVIES 10TH ANNIVERSARY SET (LIMITED EDITION)

Shout! Factory, \$129.99

Before *Metalocalypse*, before *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, even before Adult Swim morphed from being something really weird and really cool that only a handful of people (like us and you) knew about to being the most freakishly megasmart, meta-funny thing on television – eons ago, right? – there was *Home Movies*. Or, as we like to call it, “Brendon Small and Loren Bouchard’s Flash of Brilliance.” Sure, post-post-ironic meta-comedy is all the rage *now*, but back in 1999 on the Cartoon Network, *Home Movies* was a revelation, and it still is. At the time, the only thing comparable was Comedy Central’s psycho-com dramedy *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist*, with which *Home Movies* shares voice talent. Unlike *Katz*, however, *Home Movies* holds up to repeat viewings, which is good to know before you invest in the 1,560 minutes of it that make up this box set. Ostensibly the comic misadventures of film-obsessed, camcorder-wielding 8-year-old Brendon Small (Small) and his playground pals Melissa (Melissa Bardin Galsky) and Jason (H. Jon Benjamin), Small and Bouchard’s smartass script-work and subtle charac-



terizations elevate the show to lowbrow, high-art status. *Home Movies*’ stealth brilliance is due in large part to its intentionally scribbly, primary-colored animation; compared to this, *The Simpsons* looks like a Man Ray fever dream. Once you’re hooked by those strangely addictive scribbles, though, the series amps up the comedy dope with weirdly naturalistic dialogue and cinephile-centric storylines that fall squarely between Woody Allen and *Peanuts*. (A small niche, to be sure, but a potent one.) With the not-yet-accused-of-child-endangerment Paula Poundstone voicing Small’s mom and Benjamin (again) as the neighborhood alcoholic-cum-soccer coach McQuirk, *Home Movies* stands out, 10 years on, as one of the most original and emotionally/comedically satisfying series in Adult Swim’s already prodigious back catalog. Our favorite episode? It’s a toss-up between “Director’s Cut” and “Those Bitches Tried to Cheat Me.” (What can we say? Stalkers are funny.)

– Marc Savlov

CONTINUED ON P.62

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FOCUS: THE COLLECTED FILMSTRIPS OF BRIAN DEWAN, VOL. 1

Bright Red Rocket, \$44.99

Focus. Focus. It's less a title than a command, a spoken admonition standing in for many others allowed to remain implicit. In both form and function, the chief subject of musician and renaissance man Brian Dewan's *I Can See* filmstrips is the gentle hectoring that prods us children to good citizenship and right thinking, delivered in soothingly stentorian tones against simple, iconic illustrations rendered in Magic Marker. They're about the authority of the beep that compels a dutiful Sunday school teacher, third-grade substitute, or A/V-friendly teacher's pet to advance to the next frame ... and how deranged that is.

In Dewan's classroom, we obey signals that tell us "frozen custard ahead" or that warn of sleeping ghosts. We learn how civic pride can be a deadly sin and how voting, paying taxes, and supporting handicapped accessibility in our municipal pyramids are part of a system demanding not merely sacrifice but human sacrifice, complete with long knives and the forcible extraction of still-beating hearts.



But there's so much more in these surreal lessons and fairy tales than easy irony or the seemingly evergreen hipster vogue for fucked-with totems of preadolescence. There's genuine mystery in the strongest of them, such as "Before the White Man Came," which teaches not the expected PC litany of Euro-colonial depredations but rather sketches an inchoate force of evil that poisons the New World for pilgrims and American Indians alike, while miraculously leaving the wonder of suspension bridges in its wake. For all their hilarity and whimsy, these filmstrips prepare us for a distinctly frightening and irrational world, not unlike the real one that properly scared the bejesus out of us back when we were eating paste. A designer of electronic instruments that look and sound like the unlikely

offspring of old New England churches and punch-card reading computers, Dewan has also contributed album covers to David Byrne (*Uh-Oh*) and They Might Be Giants (*Lincoln*), so this first volume of filmstrips might be just the thing for the hyperactive adult on your Christmas list, an educational stocking stuffer to make him or her sit still and focus. Focus.

— Spencer Parsons

THE DEREK JARMAN COLLECTION (SEBASTIANE/THE TEMPEST/ WAR REQUIEM/DEREK)

Kino International, \$79.95

If you haven't seen it before or if it's been awhile, Derek Jarman's debut feature, the Latin-language, Brian Eno-scored saint's legend *Sebastiane*, arrives almost like a box set on a single disk, a treasure trove of images and instincts lifted, stolen, and alluded to by other filmmakers. For instance, one finds among revelers at a bacchanal a courtesan sporting a look that would later turn up without embellishment on Daryl Hannah in *Blade Runner*. Of course Todd Haynes wears filmmaking debts on his sleeve, so superfans of *Poison* and *Velvet Goldmine* are likely already wise to the appropriated goodies here. On the other hand, Claire Denis fans may wonder what possessed her to credit the scenario for *Beau Travail* to Melville's *Billy Budd* when the plot, look, and location of her movie so scandalously resemble a contemporary *Sebastiane*, with beefier flesh and fewer exposed dicks. Plus, memo to Mel Gibson: Jarman got there first with the Latin *and* the lavishly sadomasochistic homoeroticism in a biblical pageant; dude, *Sebastiane* owns *The Passion of the Christ*.



If I get caught up in Jarman's influence, it's from genuine surprise that comes with reacquaintance through this box from Kino (which also includes *The Tempest*, *War Requiem*, and biographical doc *Derek*). I confess real familiarity only with Jarman's production design on Ken Russell's *The Devils* and late-career directorial efforts *Edward II* and *Wittgenstein*. Of this selection, I'd previously seen only *The Tempest*, so perhaps I'm most qualified to recommend this set as an excellent introduction. And I will, especially for its inclusion of Isaac Julien and Tilda Swinton's *Derek*, a bio that's no mere DVD extra but a real documentary, warm and passionate and beautifully edited. If I still find Jarman's films to work like hunks of

spectacle plunked down next to each other, indifferent to pacing or accumulating narrative weight, I'm now left considerably more impressed by Jarman's powerful use of spectacle itself, so no wonder everybody steals from him. But would it kill Peter Jackson and Andy Serkis to mention Caliban from Jarman's *The Tempest* when they talk about Gollum? The CGI isn't hiding anything.

— Spencer Parsons

ALFRED HITCHCOCK PREMIERE COLLECTION (LIFEBOAT/SPELLBOUND/NOTORIOUS/THE PARADINE CASE/SABOTAGE/YOUNG AND INNOCENT/REBECCA/THE LODGER: A STORY OF THE LONDON FOG)

MGM, \$119.98

PSYCHO, REAR WINDOW, VERTIGO: SPECIAL EDITIONS (UNIVERSAL LEGACY SERIES)

Universal Studios, \$26.98 each

In recalling Hitchcock's most iconic moments, it may be the creepy-crawly ones that come to mind first – a sky blackened with birds, a screech of violins heralding chocolate syrup's circle down the drain – but dig a little deeper, and you'll remember the kisses. A heavenly Grace Kelly filling the frame in slo-mo, the sound dropped out (the better to hear the celestial trumpets). Eva Marie Saint tunneling into Cary Grant's arms. Grant, yet again, making little lippings with Ingrid Bergman. That one – one of *Notorious*' most notorious scenes – was a concession to the censors: Kisses came with seconds-long caps, so Hitch stuck it to the prudens by pulling

the lovers back ever so often, to nuzzle in a neck, nibble at an ear, before sliding back into a kiss that might as well have been magnetized. In *Premiere Collection's* DVD extra, "The Ultimate Romance: The Making of *Notorious*," Peter Bogdanovich recalls a conversation he had with Hitchcock about the inspiration for that scene, in which the lovers are so intertwined, even their breaths seem to come as one. While on a transcontinental train-crossing, Hitchcock spied out the window an adolescent boy peeing against a brick wall, as his best girl held on to him, looking up, down, all around, but never loosening her clutch. Bogdanovich does his best Hitchcock imitation: "Romance must not be interrupted, even for urinating."

So then, yes, Hitch was a romantic, but a complicated one. His movies were never about just love, and his love was never just about love, but love/hate. The three releases in the Universal trilogy – plucked from Hitch's most prolific period – exemplify that:



Psycho's Oedipal mess, *Vertigo's* near-necrophilia, even *Rear Window's* fence-sitting, in which Jimmy Stewart actually requires more than half a second to determine if Grace Kelly is a keeper.

The *Premiere Collection* is more for the Hitchcock completist – *The Paradine Case* makes yet another case for obsessive love, but it's really only interesting in an academ-

ic sense as the last, and most troubled, of Hitchcock's collaborations with producer David O. Selznick. The set also includes the far-superior *Rebecca*, the Du Maurier adaptation with which Selznick lured Hitch to America, and *Spellbound*, not one of the canonical works, noteworthy mostly for its Dalí dream sequence and dabblings in psychotherapy. Oh, and a killer of a last shot, in which a revolver turns away from our hero and on to the camera and, by extension, the viewer. Hitchcock's love/hate stretched to the audience itself, so it shouldn't surprise anyone he turned a gun on the people who put money in his pocket and fed his habit for bloodlust – with an equal emphasis on the blood *and* the lust.

— Kimberley Jones

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How Do You Like Your Revenge?

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

It's said that revenge is a dish best served cold, but in TNT's *Leverage*, which premieres this week, it's served with a wink. The new series starring Academy Award winner **Timothy Hutton** (*Ordinary People*) is not the best thing to come from the "We Know Drama" network, but it certainly keeps you curious.

Hutton stars as Nathan Ford, an insurance investigator who has recovered millions for his company. His loyalty ends when the insurance company he works for fails to cover claims for his critically ill son. The boy's death upends his life, and Ford turns to booze to wash away his anguish. We presumably meet him not long after the tragedy, when an aeronautics executive approaches Ford to recover secret plans a rival has stolen from him. Ford takes the job because the executive invokes his dead son and his obvious desire to see justice served. (Um ... okay.) Ford then assembles a team of white-collar thieves to steal back the plans. How he knows the team is unclear. Did he meet them when he was an insurance investigator? Presumably so, as they all know Ford, and the novelty of him working on the wrong side of the law appears to be enough for them to sign on to the heist. All loners, the thieves insist it's a walkaway job: Once it's over, they will never see one another again. The heist goes as planned, and everyone is pleased to be a little richer. But when a double-cross leaves them empty-handed and left for dead, the team reunites to put things right. Cheating is cheating, no matter which side of the law it happens on. In spite of being loners, the thieves discover that they work well as a team, and thus a vigilante posse is born.

The transformation from being self-centered mercenaries to modern-day Robin Hoods, stealing from the rich and corrupt to give back to the innocent they fleeced, is forced and clings to the very edge of logic. What ultimately makes it tolerable is the engaging ensemble cast. Joining Hutton are **Gina Bellman** (*Coupling*), **Christian Kane** (*Into the West*), **Beth Riesgraf** (*Alvin and the Chipmunks*), and **Aldis Hodge** (*Friday Night Lights*). Each has his or her unique talent: Hodge's Alec Hardison is a computer hacker; Eliot Spencer (Kane) is a "retrieval specialist" who has a miraculous talent for taking down any opponent, no matter how well-armed; Parker (Riesgraf) is a cat burglar with



Timothy Hutton (center) leads *Leverage's* cast of modern-day Robin Hoods.

zero fear of heights; and Sophie Devereaux (Bellman) is a grifter able to crash high-end parties and business meetings and sound as if she's supposed to be there. Trust is a big issue among them, and seeing it develop keeps the viewer's interest, as do the heist movie elements (goofy costumes, the sly bait-and-switch) and enough high-end gadgetry to make a tech-geek salivate.

All of this takes your mind off the details that sometimes beg too much suspension of disbelief. When Parker forces Hardison to rappel down a high-rise, he does so kicking and screaming, but it's still done with elegance. When Devereaux poses as a client

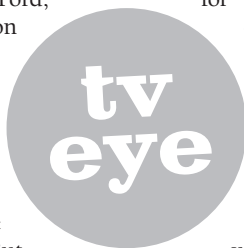
for the double-crossing aeronautics executive, it strains the imagination when she sets up a meeting between him and her alleged clients (who think she's working for the double-crossing executive), all by changing a few door signs. If *Leverage* is trying to be a thriller, it's undercut by its own funny bone, and if it's trying to be droll in the same way

The Sting or *Ocean's Eleven* was, it's hampered by the comic-book quality of the covert activities (the rappelling, the explosions in which the team walks away unharmed while the bad guys writhe in agony). Yet, it's all so darn fun that you want to ignore these bothersome moments to see what will happen next.

Future episodes find the thieves hanging out a shingle called *Leverage Consulting*. They seek redress for an Iraq war veteran injured by a private military contractor, a small church about to be plowed under by an unscrupulous real estate developer, and an adoption agency scamming desperate couples. In a moment in which Main Street appears to be suffering from the sins of Wall Street, the premiere of *Leverage* may be perfect timing for those hungry to see justice served in one tidy hour.

Leverage premieres Sunday, Dec. 7, at 9pm on TNT.

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



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music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

First Step

For the first time in more than three decades, the surviving members of **Faces** – **Rolling Stone Ron Wood, Rod Stewart, Kenney Jones**, and local pianist **Ian McLagan** – rehearsed at an undisclosed location in Europe on Nov. 19, testing the waters for a possible reunion tour. “We were either going to sink or swim,” surmises McLagan. “It’s amazing how the stuff came flying back.” Stewart opened the session with “Stay With Me” from the raucous supergroup’s 1971 touchstone, *A Nod Is as Good as a Wink ... to a Blind Horse*, while Rod the Mod’s touring bassist **Conrad Korsch** sat in on bass for the occasion, temporarily filling the shoes of longtime Austin resident and **Pete Townshend** collaborator **Ronnie Lane**, who passed in June 1997 (see “Here Comes the Nice,” Dec. 8, 2000). While no plans are set in stone, McLagan says Woody’s in fine form (“He’s drinking a lot of coffee”) and expressed interest in both a world tour and writing new material. “People seem to only remember the stories of debauchery and drunkenness, but we were a great band,” concludes McLagan, who kicks off a three-week, Thursday night residency at the **Lucky Lounge** with the **Bump Band** tonight (Dec. 4). “I want to bring the Faces to Austin.”



The Second Coming

Following in the wake of **Scratch Acid**’s scorching return two years ago (see “The Greatest Gift,” Sept. 1, 2006), bastard offshoot the **Jesus Lizard** is reuniting its classic lineup – **David Yow, Duane Denison, David Wm. Sims**, and **Mac McNeilly** – for **All Tomorrow’s Parties**’ the **Fans Strike Back** festival in Minehead, England, May 8-10. “The two aren’t directly related,” says Sims, now an accountant in NYC. “But in the back of my mind, I was thinking that if the Scratch Acid shows were a lot of fun, then this probably would be too.” The outing coincides with the reissuing of the band’s essential **Touch and Go Records** catalog – 1991’s *Head and Goat*, 1992’s *Liar*, and 1994’s *Down* – whose remastering is being overseen by original engineer **Steve Albini**. No local dates have been scheduled, but Sims expects that to change. After all, the Jesus Lizard cut its teeth here. “Before David and I moved to Chicago, we worked on a handful of songs that Duane was interested in recording in an abandoned house in East Austin whose electricity had not been turned off,” recalls Sims. “All I remember was that someone knew someone that had been evicted, and **Poi Dog Pondering** lived next door.” Local tribute act **Jazzus Lizard** signals the second coming at **Room 710** on Saturday.



Reunited (And It Feels So Good)

- Local producer **Frenchie Smith** won’t rule out the possibility of long-gone noise-pop outfit **Sixteen Deluxe** reconvening. “If it were to happen, we would need to figure out a good cause and then figure out how to play together again,” he says. In the meantime, Smith has his work cut out for him at the **Bubble**. He’s putting the finishing touches on the untitled third LP from Australia’s **Jet** (“It’s a very fresh and exciting rock & roll record”) and has a long local itinerary that includes **Scorpion Child**, the **Steps**, and the **Petals**.
- No one spurred more vivid flashbacks this year than the **Butthole Surfers**, who wrap up their latest campaign next Friday in Brooklyn. While no other dates have been booked, bassist **Jeff Pinkus** says the band will play a few more shows, “If we don’t die or kill each other.” Another rarities compilation is also being discussed.
- The **Reivers**’ reunion earlier this year went so well that the local New Sincerity stalwarts have started fresh under a different moniker, **Right or Happy**, and are preparing for a recording session in February. “I’m not sure what era it belongs to,” says singer/guitarist **John Croslin**, “but it’s less the Eighties.” Catch version 3.0 at **Ruta Maya** on Jan. 24.
- The **Arc Angels** bring out the ghosts of Christmas past on Friday with a two-night stand at **Antone’s**, Dec. 5 & 6. Other annual holiday gatherings include a shot of **Paul Ray & the Cobras**’ rattle and hum at the **Continental Club**, Dec. 20, followed by the **Skunks** on Dec. 26.
- In the spirit of the season, the *Chronicle* Music staff compiled its wish list of Texas-tied reunions: classic era **Fabulous Thunderbirds**, **Buick MacKane**, **Two Nice Girls**, **Poison 13**, the **Moving Sidewalks**, **Killbilly**, **Ed Hall**, **Cotton Mather**, **Cherubs**, and **P**.



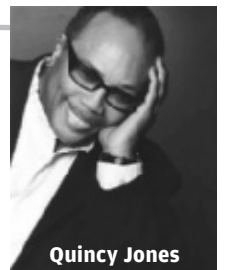
Something else: Maryann Price with the Kinks at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, May 10, 1974

The Village Green Preservation Society

Having finally exhausted the last inch of her storage space, **Maryann Price** is parting with some personal memorabilia through eBay (www.stores.ebay.com/the-intramodality-institute). Considering the local chanteuse has lent her vocal talents to **Dan Hicks & His Hot Licks** and **Asleep at the Wheel**, not to mention the **Kinks**’ *Preservation Act 2*, Price should be sitting on a small fortune. “Like my late husband, **Tary Owens**, I saved copies of everything over the years – show posters, handbills, studio recordings – with the full intention of selling it all one day,” Price smiles. Nothing is priced to move, but all reasonable offers will be considered; haggle at redrum@realttime.net. As for the Kinks’ widely rumored reunion, Price remains a bit skeptical. “I’ve heard things for years now,” she laughs. “I got an e-mail the other day from **Ray [Davies]** asking me if he could be my friend on YouTube, so maybe he was trying to reach me for that. We’ll see.”

Random Play

- Twenty-seven-time Grammy Award winner and longtime humanitarian **Quincy Jones**, who produced **Michael Jackson**’s *Thriller* and the “We Are the World” benefit, will be the keynote speaker at the **2009 South by Southwest Music Conference**. Heralded as one of the most influential jazz figures of the 20th century by *Time*, Q is working on a documentary on Brazil’s annual **Carnival festival**, along with a duets album with **Stevie Wonder** and **Tony Bennett**.
- Longtime local drummer **Michael Bannister**, who backed **Lucinda Williams** and **Doug Sahm**, among others, died Nov. 22 of an apparent suicide in Arizona. He was 58. A memorial show is scheduled for Tuesday at the **Cactus Cafe** with **Peter Case** and **Gurf Morlix**.
- After hosting **Paul van Dyk** in October, the **Sky Lounge** (416 Congress) is quickly becoming Austin’s cloud nine for electronica. Genre kingpins the **Crystal Method** raise the dopamine levels on Friday.



Quincy Jones

True Blues

Alan Govenar's encyclopedic preservation and correction of blues myths

BY MARGARET MOSER



The Iceman Cometh:
Albert Collins,
Dallas, 1982

COURTESY OF ALAN GOVENAR

There may be no regional genre of music more prone to tooting its own horn than Texas blues, and with good reason. Alan Govenar's new book, *Texas Blues: The Rise of a Contemporary Sound* (Texas A&M University Press, \$40), is the finest, most comprehensive roundup yet, at more than a whopping 600 pages and with nearly 500 photos in color and black and white.

The photos tell their own stories in vivid tones, historic ephemera showing cotton fields, advertisements, record labels, sheet music, juke-joint signs, and posters, some of the latter apt reminders that next to Robert Crumb, Austin's Jim Franklin created the most compelling images of blues artists. The faces tell another story of Texas blues: a stiff-backed T-Bone Walker in front a 1920s medicine-show tent; a brooding, pompadoured Freddy Fender hunched over – what else? – his

Fender; Robert Ealy grinning and biting on a stogie; Shemekia Copeland's gold braids contrasted on her copper skin; a dapper Clarence Garlow; and Stevie Ray Vaughan, forever young with Paul Ray & the Cobras.

Yet what drives this massive chronicle more than the images is the rich language of the witnesses. Produced as an oral history, *Texas Blues* approaches its subject by blues region of the Lone Star State, with additional chapters on electric blues and the saxophone, the California migration, and zydeco. It's an effective medium that allows Govenar to record many aspects of blues, from musical and sociological to political, in the music's own voice.

Truth is dicey, however.

Memory becomes faulty, or a timeworn tale gathers new details with repeated retellings. Sometimes the process of recalling history is prone to chronological misplacement, even

“So the question becomes, where were the blues born? It certainly wasn't born in one place. It was a result of the times, the music of newly freed African-Americans.”

by the participant. In the Austin chapter, W.C. Clark cites the rise of his band Southern Feeling as coming after Triple Threat Revue when the opposite is true. It's Clark's story to tell, of course, even with a grain of the don't-let-the-facts-get-in-the-way-of-the-story salt.

Mythology occurs on all levels of history, but art articulates it through paintings, dance, words, and music. Blues particularly enjoys a broad spectrum of emotions, and the desire to heighten one's importance seems inherent in the sound. Some of the myths is self-generated; witness early 1960s interviews by John Lomax wherein Muddy Waters merely cites Robert Johnson's influence. A decade later, Waters describes shows he played with Johnson. At other times, myth is perpetuated for effect, such as blues queen Bessie Smith dying after being turned away from a white hospital. In fact, Smith died in an ambulance on the way to a black hospital in Clarksdale, Miss.

Big-fish myths of the genre serve an important purpose as it turns out: They keep the mystique intact. Such stories also exist on a local level. Just ask Blues Boy Hubbard about Bobby Blue Bland at the Victory Grill. Austin's veteran guitarist is quick to growl that Bland only appeared a couple of times at the venerable Eastside night-spot. That Bland is most often cited as its biggest success chaps Hubbard, who toiled there six nights a week for years. And if you're in San Antonio and lucky enough to chat up Curly Mays, he'll grouse that Spot Barnett played mostly at the Ebony Club, not the Eastwood Country Club where Mays was the man but Barnett now gets the glory. So what is the truth when, as *Delta Blues* author Ted Gioia writes, “facts are scarce and stories often incomplete or confusing”?

Texas Blues author Govenar recognizes that disparity but finds meaning in verbatim conversation, noting that “the beauty of oral history is the way people reveal and talk about the multitude of influences upon their music. Through that, one realizes the complexity and the vast patchwork that creates blues and how it is informed by many other forms of music.”

Govenar freely acknowledges the all-too-human mistakes that occur, such as Clark's. He has concise thoughts on blues mythology and a passion for the subject. Historian, documentarian, and photographer, Govenar also makes a convincing case for Blind Lemon Jefferson as the father of blues over the more fabled Robert Johnson. His current project is writing about Lightnin' Hopkins, a Texas bluesman with no shortage of mythology in a genre rife with it.

“Over the last three decades, the media tended to mythologize Mississippi blues as being

primary in the development of this vast music,” explains Govenar. “One of the real linchpins in this argument is Robert Johnson, though if you look a generation earlier, it's Charley Patton. Patton was a contemporary of [Texan] Blind Lemon Jefferson. And Jefferson was the first country-blues performer to be recorded.

“Jefferson was the most prolific, biggest selling blues performer of his time. He made more than 80 recordings in a little more than three and a half years. From a guitar styling standpoint to his general approach to music, he was doing many of the things Robert Johnson is credited with, only 10 years earlier. Robert Johnson is as well known as he is because of the great appeal he had to white blues-rockers and rock & rollers, particularly the Rolling Stones and British performers.

“Blind Lemon is much lesser known, although ‘Matchbox Blues’ was covered by Carl Perkins and the Beatles.

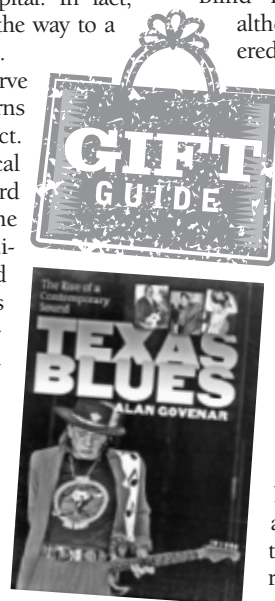
To a large extent, Blind Lemon's music remains unknown because the fidelity of the original recordings are so poor that you only get a glimpse of who he was. People who heard him play marveled at his approach to the guitar, his versatility, the drive, the energy he brought to his playing.”

It's a compelling presentation and one that begins early in *Texas Blues* with Paul Oliver's foreword, in which he suggests the primacy of the Lone Star State's contribution to the genre over that of Mississippi. Govenar's research and interviews took him deep into the 19th century to examine the roots of American blues.

“So the question becomes, where were the blues born? It certainly wasn't born in one place. It was a result of the times, the music of newly freed African-Americans. People agree generally that the blues emerged in the 1890s. It seems to me that Texas and Texas rhythm & blues likewise is not clearly understood. In many ways, the Texas blues sound fed directly into what's called the contemporary blues, but at the same time, it has its own integrity.

“Most of the people in my book of a certain generation talk about T-Bone Walker. He was it. That's who they mythologized. T-Bone Walker was a seminal figure with a direct link to Blind Lemon Jefferson. He applies some of the guitar technique of Blind Lemon to the playing of the electric instrument and transforms it from a rhythm instrument to a lead instrument. In effect, Walker creates the modern sound of the electric guitar.

“People connect to the feeling of the blues. It's the expressive quality of the music, the feeling of truth that the music echoes and resounds – that truth of emotion, being able to lay out there how you feel in a poetic way.” ■



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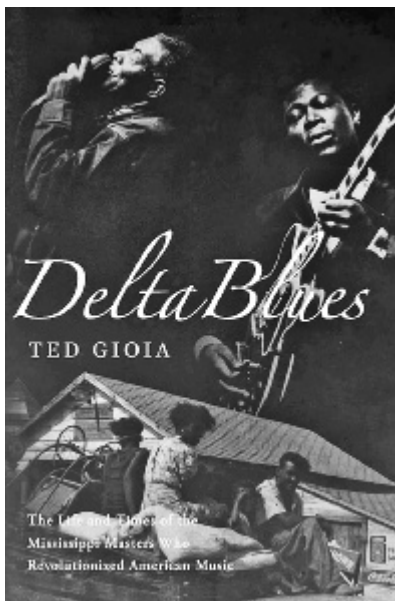


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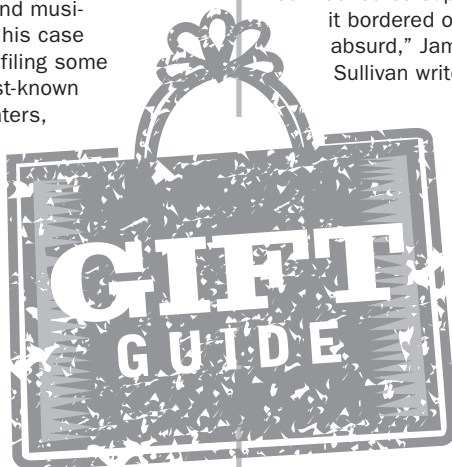
DELTA BLUES: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE MISSISSIPPI MASTERS WHO REVOLUTIONIZED AMERICAN MUSIC

by Ted Gioia

Norton, 448 pp., \$27.95

A provocative parallel finds *Delta Blues* published at roughly the same time as Alan Govenar's *Texas Blues*, given that the two books stand in opposition on where the blues began. The question isn't difficult for Plano resident Ted Gioia, who finds the genre's roots firmly bound to the plantations and prisons of Mississippi. It's a tough, broad topic and difficult to rein in; the absence of blues giants such as Bo Diddley makes it clear that somewhere in the book's nearly 500 pages, its author made tough decisions about who best illustrated his thesis. A well-known jazz critic and musician, Gioia makes his case with precision, profiling some of the region's best-known brands (Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, B.B. King), as well as lesser-knowns such as Son House and Tommy Johnson. Naturally, the Robert Johnson legend is examined, Gioia weaving together the various accounts with his own thoughtful commentary. Tantalizingly, the author spins the devil-at-the-crossroads story with the rarely celebrated Tommy Johnson dealing down his soul, not Robert. Whether the blues began in Mississippi or not, the sounds of the Delta Gioia writes of lie deep within its foundation.

– Margaret Moser



THE WAY I AM
by Eminem
Dutton, 205 pp., \$40
(with accompanying DVD)

Eminem earned his reputation by spraying violent, often funny fantasies across hip-hop culture, so it's disappointing to find the rapper often contrite and relatively buttoned-down in this memoir-cum-scrapbook. With a translucent, blood-red dust jacket that announces across the back, "The Biggest Rapper in History," this image-heavy tome begs to be judged by its cover. And with a new album in the works, Eminem wants to clarify a few points, such as: His duet with Elton John was in response to accusations of homophobia, an Ecstasy trip inspired his spiked peroxide do, and actor Denzel Washington would be his role model if he ever quits hip-hop and goes into film. His sense of humor intact, Em also declares, "I'm the hip-hop Dirk Diggler." Meaning? "I don't have too much of a problem showing my ass to the world." The author deserves credit for apparently penning much of his own autobiography, as well as including captivating images and lyric sheets, but with few personal revelations, *The Way I Am* pales in comparison to Eminem's far more illuminating film *8 Mile*. – Dan Oko

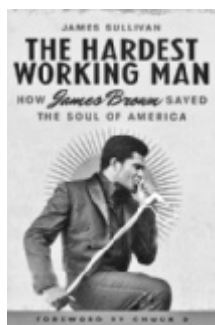


THE HARDEST WORKING MAN: HOW JAMES BROWN SAVED THE SOUL OF AMERICA

by James Sullivan
Gotham Books,
272 pp., \$25

"His was a self-confidence so supreme it bordered on the absurd," James

Sullivan writes of James Brown. After all, what other entertainer was called on to stave off riots? The book tells the story behind Brown's April 5, 1968, concert at the Boston Garden the day after Martin Luther King was gunned down in Memphis and many U.S. cities were in flames. The performance was almost canceled before a radio deejay hipped officials: Thousands of slighted James Brown fans in a city on the brink was a situation worth avoiding. Brown and Mayor Kevin White usually share credit for televising the concert, yet both needed convincing. The complicated negotiations intrigue, but Sullivan never fully commits to the concert and surrounding events, flashing back and forth between Beantown and Brown's early life and career. Despite too many tangential tidbits, it works until the book lurches on in anticlimax for several chapters after the curtain drops



on the big show, addressing everything from the Godfather's well-documented influence on hip-hop to his problems with the Internal Revenue Service. Nevertheless, the concert is a fascinating lens through which to view Boston race relations, the civil rights movement, and Brown's remarkable career as the hardest-working man in showbiz.

– Thomas Fawcett

I WANT TO TAKE YOU HIGHER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SLY & THE FAMILY STONE

by Jeff Kaliss
Backbeat Books,
210 pp., \$24.95

In his classic book *Mystery Train*, rock critic Greil Marcus brilliantly integrated Sylvester Stewart, aka Sly Stone, into the deeper fabric of Americana by suggesting that the creatively outsized, eccentric superstar was a latter-day incarnation of the folk antihero Stagerlee. It's taken more than 30 years since then for this first full-blown biography of Sly & the Family Stone to appear, but its brevity makes it read more like a primer than a deep study of this mercurial character and his daunting, biracial musical family. The basic story of how the Denton-born musician rose from modest, churchgoing beginnings to the pinnacle of artistic and financial success only to become the poster child for an overindulgent, drug-fueled fall is a quintessentially American tale. Unfortunately, the book breezes through every aspect of its subject's life. Had author Jeff Kaliss concentrated more intently on Stone's fascinating rise to fame within the social turbulence of the times, the creative process in making the music, and, at its zenith, the extraordinary impact said music delivered across the social and cultural landscape, this could have been a terrific book. Despite landing a couple of bizarre interviews with Stone, this bio leaves us wanting much more. – Jay Trachtenberg



stantiated innuendo about Pearlman's sexual proclivities, those looking for inside grease will be disappointed. Gray portrays the rotund star-maker as a profligate deceiver since childhood who parlayed an obsession with blimps into a false-front aviation company that fed even more phony business. The first half of *Charade* gets bogged down in documenting Pearlman's early chicanery – a necessary slog, perhaps, but Gray's flat narrative style doesn't help. The tone improves as the book climaxes with a trial right out of a John Waters movie. At one point, Pearlman borrows a page from O.J. Simpson by asking the court for permission to promote US5 from jail to help victimized investors recover the money he'd stolen from them.

– Greg Beets

SUZY, LED ZEPPELIN, AND ME

by Martin Millar
Soft Skull Press,
222 pp., \$13.95
(paper)

It happens time and again: Boy hears *Led Zeppelin II*, boy realizes girls exist, and by the time John Bonham's halfway through "Moby Dick," boy's making some pretty irrational decisions. Martin Millar's recount of the sequence is unique because he was there at the gold rush: 15 in 1972, after Led Zeppelin's first four logic-defying LPs had been released, when the long-haired Londoners finally came to his native Glasgow. The British author does a crack job recalling that youth; 1972's Millar is a befuddled mess allegiant to few things besides rock stars, video games, and Suzy, whose exact characteristics matter less than her representative existence. His tale wouldn't be half so amusing if it weren't for his imperfections and adolescent priorities coming to surface in his most honest moments. As for Zeppelin's role, its blimp couldn't be any bigger in Millar's eye, and while the book's intentionally juvenile writing style gets a little long-winded, the mere timelessness of this rite of passage is something well worth documenting.

– Chase Hoffberger

THE HIT CHARADE: LOU PEARLMAN, BOY BANDS, AND THE BIGGEST PONZI SCHEME IN U.S. HISTORY

by Tyler Gray
Collins, 287 pp., \$24.95

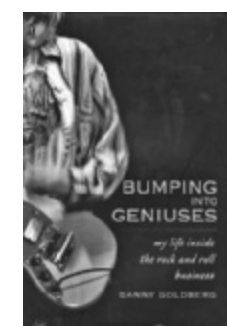
If it weren't for the filmflammy of imprisoned con man Lou Pearlman, Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync might never have existed. Music history is littered with managers hustling their acts, but that was just the tip of Pearlman's iceberg. When his Orlando, Fla., empire finally crumbled in 2007, he'd bilked investors out of more than \$300 million through fraudulent investment accounts. As such, Gray's book reduces the late-1990s "boy band" explosion to just one of Pearlman's many scams. Aside from unsub-



BUMPING INTO GENIUSES: MY LIFE INSIDE THE ROCK AND ROLL BUSINESS

by Danny Goldberg
Gotham, 320 pp., \$26

Bumping Into Geniuses is an especially apt title for Danny Goldberg's stories of his life in the music business. At the beginning, he covers Woodstock because no one else at *Billboard* had any interest in attending. From there, it's a roller-coaster ride involving an unimaginable array of characters

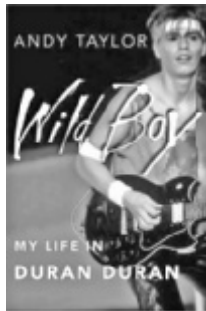


that includes Led Zeppelin, Kiss, Stevie Nicks, Patti Smith, Bonnie Raitt, Sonic Youth, Nirvana, Warren Zevon, and Steve Earle. He was head of Atlantic Records when Hootie & the Blowfish, Stone Temple Pilots, and Jewel sold more than 25 million albums combined and at Mercury when Hanson sold 10 million. Goldberg has a winning way of telling his tale with an obvious love for the music but without an overly inflated ego. His remembrances of working as Nirvana's manager when *Nevermind* took over the world are especially poignant. Goldberg's awe of the talent of Kurt Cobain is perfectly drawn, and the sense of helplessness after the young musician's suicide is palpable. An extended look at the latter days of Zevon's career offers unusual insight into the nexus of art and commerce. One is left with the sense that with more Danny Goldbergs involved in the music business, it wouldn't have its bad rap.

- Jim Caligiuri

**WILD BOY:
MY LIFE IN
DURAN DURAN**
by Andy Taylor
Grand Central
Publishing, 324 pp.,
\$26.99

"I had always said I wanted to be in a band like AC/DC, but fortunately I was either astute enough, or skint enough, to join Duran Duran!" Andy Taylor stiff-arming some serious downstroke on the Power Station's 1985 cover of "Get It On (Bang a Gong)" contextualizes the Duranie's Angus Young nod as anti-heretical. In fact, by the time the author and his bassist bandmate John Taylor larked with Chic power source and its Midas touch - drummer Tony Thompson and sonic whip Bernard Edwards - along with veteran UK soulman



Robert Palmer, Duran Duran was dead. Except Live Aid. Too bad the Fab Five weren't on speaking terms. "It would be the last time we played together for almost two decades," writes *Wild Boy* Taylor in his prologue. Duran Duran's millennial reunion, which included a wild night at Austin's Bass Concert Hall, ended no less diva, Taylor again the first to exit the original English fivepiece. By then, diamond-priced wine rather than cocaine ruled the tours, though not the industry; future music mogul Danny Goldberg netted Taylor \$2 million for his 1987 solo debut, *Thunder*, a crunchy collaboration with Sex Pistol Steve Jones. "That was where Duran Duran came to life," theorizes Taylor in his well-mannered, paced, and structured memoir, "the crossover between the Pistols and Chic: guitar music with a disco beat."

- Raoul Hernandez

CONTINUED ON P.72

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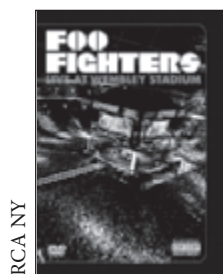
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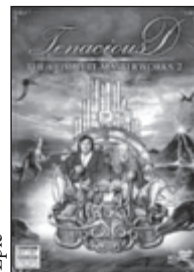
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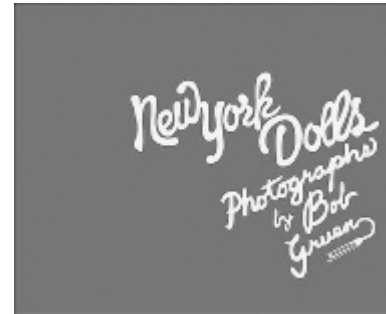
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fashion axe

Just as Jack Kerouac and David Amram fashioned the paragon of spoken word by fusing jazz with poetry in the East Village in 1957, Orville Gibson forever changed the modern guitar in 1896 with his only patent. Using one large piece of curved wood instead of several smaller ones for the sides of his carved archtop mandolin, he created a distinct pluck and resonance in the instrument's sentient structure that's become a universal conduit for creativity. Regardless of time or genre, the guitar is many things: best friend and confidant culling depths of deepest, darkest candor; arbiter of abstraction, inveigler of purity; and ultimately a reflection of its keepers' inner atmosphere. Like an axe, it splices through quiet, solitary moments, excavating material to shape singular, invaluable performances seen throughout the world.

In his chronicle of the love affair between player and instrument, photographer Ralph Gibson presents **State of the Axe: Guitar Masters in Photographs and Words** (Yale University Press, 183 pp., \$24.95). Pairing black-and-white photos taken throughout his career with the words of guitar's many masters, Gibson illustrates his subject as "a medium through which intelligence speaks," as Les Paul says in the introduction. For gearheads and techies, Phil Taylor offers an exhaustive history of David Gilmour's Fender companion in **Pink Floyd: The Black Strat: A History of David Gilmour's Black Fender Stratocaster** (Hal Leonard Books, 160 pp., \$32). Interested in never before released photos or the breakdown of the new tremolo bridge that was installed in 1983? Take a gander.



Seeing rock & roll as more than its performers and music necessitates a peek at its branding. The Beatles' "drop-T" logo and the Stones' lascivious, iconoclastic tongue will forever be recognized, just as the Misfits' crimson skull and the four bars of Black Flag represent a staunch choice to identify with America's seething subculture. Bodhi Oser explores these relationships in his new book, **Band ID: The Ultimate Book of Band Logos** (Chronicle Books, 420 pp., \$40).

Although timelessness is becoming a rarity in music, the New York Dolls surely have a seat in that original assembly. Easily identified by their nominally epicene chrome lipstick logo, their robust sexuality, and their hunger for smashing punk rock into glam's shiny loins created a swagger that's kept listeners and fellow musicians respectful. **New York Dolls: Photographs by Bob Gruen** (Abrams Image, 158 pp., \$24.95) is a satin-covered omnibus of photographs, inter-

views, and commentary that reveals the Dolls head-on, in the formative days of the frothy scene in New York that spawned a slew of greats. Photos capturing Johnny Thunders, David Johansen, and the boys at their peak are priceless alongside words from scene staples such as Debbie Harry and Iggy Pop. Some of the most talented musicians exist within a prism, and when they carve into what composes that greatness, they see that they're still the constant, much like the spirit of Orville Gibson throughout the guitar's evolution.

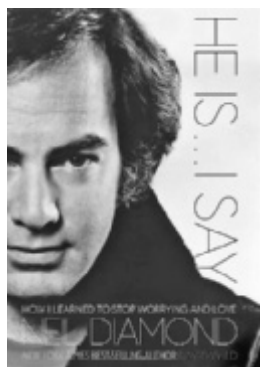
In *State of the Axe*, avant-garde guitarist Alan Licht identifies the dissonance in being a part of something huge by piecing out portions of oneself and the need for time to identify those things. "Guitar satisfies the duality of the desire for solitude and the need to be part of a collective," which is why, as guitarist Liberty Ellman says, "My axe can mend."

— Francesca Camillo

HE IS ... I SAY: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE NEIL DIAMOND

by David Wild
Da Capo Press,
203 pp., \$25

There's a fine line between fanboy and rock critic, and David Wild lets it be known upfront he's a former *Rolling Stone* writer. He then fixes his googly eyed gaze upon Neil Diamond in



He Is ... I Say, a gushing, pun-filled ode to the beloved guilty pleasure. He compares their New York and, in Wild's case, New Jersey upbringings and combined Jewish awesomeness, relating how Diamond's music helped his family through hard times. Then he writes, "I'm a Believer that Neil Diamond is an altogether merciful and loving musical god." Whether that's tongue-in-cheek or not, there's certainly more than a dash of over-the-topness in *He Is*, which is fair enough for a book on this particular subject. Wild's a "recovering rock critic," and there's certainly no criticism, just a flowery surface history of Diamond's rise to fame. The author frames his love letter with short quotes from past interviews with Diamond, but they offer little insight into the man behind "Forever in Blue Jeans." Elsewhere, Wild leaves a performance of a Diamond tribute band — with whom the real Neil is actually going to sit in — because his wife wants to get home by 11pm. Don't worry, David, he's a merciful god.

— Audra Schroeder



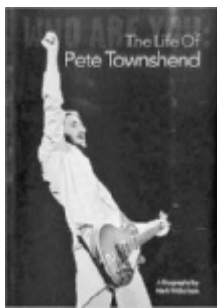
A WISHED-FOR SONG: A PORTRAIT OF JEFF BUCKLEY
by Merri Cyr
Backbeat Books,
176 pp., \$22.95 (paper)

A decade has passed since Jeff Buckley's ill-fated swim in the Mississippi River, and that tragic Memphis night has since spawned a feeding frenzy of posthumous releases eager to cash in on the late musical heartthrob's lingering legacy. This paperback reissue of official Buckley photographer Merri Cyr's *A Wished-For Song* features previously unseen photos and provides fans with a broader spectrum of the personality behind the man: brooding sepia like an Abercrombie model, mugging with a cappuccino spoon dangling from his nose. These images humanize Buckley in a way that the umpteenth reissue of *Grace* can't, but the flimsy interviews and commentary from publicists and other personae from Buckley's life fall short of fleshing out his life and the book. In fact, the vignettes and reminiscences act as filler, distraction from museum-piece pictures showcasing Buckley in his youthful glory, frozen moments of fiery intensity. Those images speak for themselves.

— Melanie Haupt

WHO ARE YOU: THE LIFE OF PETE TOWNSHEND
by Mark Ian Wilkerson
Omnibus Press,
642 pp., \$29.95 (paper)

As Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder astutely posits in the foreword, Pete Townshend is perhaps

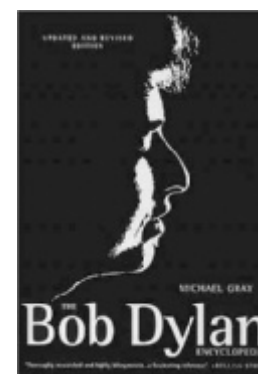


the most introspective and insightful songwriter of his generation, channeling his spiritual and musical devotion through destructive R&B and high-concept rock operas. In his first biography, Mark Wilkerson exhaustively details the life of the Who composer, documenting his encounters in London's swinging mod scene of the late 1960s through his keynote address at the 2007 South by Southwest Music Festival. The author draws on an incredibly wide range of sources (references span 26 pages), including Townshend's interview with the *Chronicle* on his collaboration with the Faces' Ronnie Lane, but he relies too heavily on the insight of others, particularly Dave Marsh's essential Who handbook, *Before I Get Old*, and Townshend's own *The Story of Tommy*, oftentimes getting bogged down with lengthy quotes. The tome would also benefit from the inclusion of you-are-there scenes, such as the Who at the Monterey International Pop Festival, to help break up the chronological trudge, while more background on the teachings of Meher Baba is necessary to understand the transformative effect they had on Townshend's writing. All things considered, however, *Who Are You* remains a worthwhile and thorough look behind blue eyes.

— Austin Powell

THE BOB DYLAN ENCYCLOPEDIA
by Michael Gray
Continuum International Publishing,
756 pp., \$24.95 (paper)

One would expect to find Allen Ginsberg, the Band, and Joan Baez in any reference book about Bob Dylan, but not necessarily Bertolt Brecht, Wyclef Jean, or Mortimer Snerd. With an unparalleled legacy closing in on 50 years, Dylan has touched — directly and tangentially — a mind-boggling array of people, places, ideas, and philosophies cutting across myriad aspects of universal culture.



The interconnections are utterly fascinating, and it's that central aspect of this colossal volume that may be its most daunting accomplishment. Originally published in 2006 but updated, revised, and now in paperback, the *Encyclopedia*

contains lengthy entries for esoterica such as "Film Dialogue in Dylan's Lyrics," "Nursery Rhyme, Dylan's Use Of," and the "The 'Born Again' Period." Generally speaking, his albums, even the most important ones, are given short shrift when compared to individual songs such as "Dignity," "Highlands," and "Jokerman," which are afforded several pages each. Austin is well represented with sections on Willie Nelson, Doug Sahm, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Charlie Sexton, Denny Freeman, Stephen Bruton, and Kinky Friedman. It's easy to get lost in the enormity of it all, even when taking a cursory perusal, but a bit of cultural curiosity should suffice.

— Jay Trachtenberg

IT STILL MOVES: LOST SONGS, LOST HIGHWAYS, AND THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT AMERICAN MUSIC

by Amanda Petrusich
Faber and Faber, 290 pp., \$25

It figures that someone who's best known as a staff writer for online music magazine PitchforkMedia.com would attempt to "discover" the roots of American music and get it all wrong. Ostensibly an *On the Road* for the 21st

CONTINUED ON P.74

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CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

century, *It Still Moves* finds Amanda Petrusich traveling from her home in Brooklyn to the back roads of Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Vermont. She visits Clarksdale, Memphis, and Nashville looking for bits of things that are no longer there, while places such as Austin or New Orleans, where forms of Americana roots she's searching for still exist, are somehow out of reach. Particularly egregious is the way she gets facts wrong. A chapter on alternative country concentrates on Gram Parsons and Uncle Tupelo but ignores the scenes that preceded and surrounded them and badly misses the point of what the music was all about. With a style both annoying and pedantic, *It Still Moves* engages only when Petrusich writes about freak-folk or the "new, weird America" inhabited by artists Devendra Banhart and Will Oldham. She claims she didn't borrow the title of the book from My Morning Jacket, but, like the rest of what Petrusich has to say, the story just doesn't ring true.

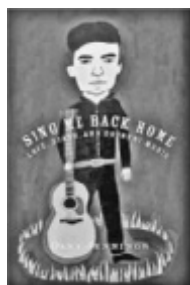


– Jim Caligiuri

SING ME BACK HOME: LOVE, DEATH, AND COUNTRY MUSIC

by Dana Jennings
Faber and Faber,
257 pp., \$24

"Country profoundly understands what it's like to be trapped in a culture of alienation:



by poverty, by a shit job, by lust, by booze, by class," writes Dana Jennings. As an editor for *The New York Times* living in the high-end New Jersey suburbs, Jennings feels that alienation to his core in reflecting back on the roots of his being raised in the "poverty stricken hollers of New Hampshire" with country music as his Proustian foil. There's a conscious paradox that runs throughout Jennings' book, the kind of hard-times nostalgia only possible in having escaped it, but like a classic country song, his mix of willful romanticism with hard reality strikes a poignant chord. Equal parts

memoir and music criticism, Jennings upholds the country music of 1950 through 1970 as a reflection of an overlooked America where the Great Depression lingered well beyond World War II and values were a complex interplay of pride and survival. His readings of familiar songs are unique and often personal, and he regrounds the music to the lives of those for whom it spoke. Jennings' only misstep is in finally equating the genre's soulless contemporary polish with the diminishment of blue-collar poverty; his homestead may be memory, but the realities that the music embodied aren't.

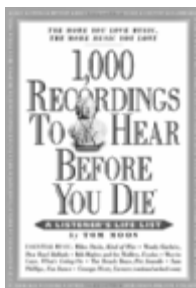
– Doug Freeman

1,000 RECORDINGS TO HEAR BEFORE YOU DIE: A LISTENER'S LIFE LIST

by Tom Moon
Workman Publishing,
1,007 pp., \$19.95
(paper)

Thumbing through this publisher's sequel to *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, informed fans can dig up enough errors – Fugazi concerts cost \$5, not \$15, and "the first great blast of L.A. punk" probably came from the Germs, not Black Flag – to raise concerns about its overall accuracy. In addition, as the list skews perhaps unavoidably toward the mainstream, music geeks of any stripe will come across choices they find questionable, odd, or downright infuriating. Green Day over the Big Boys? Bright Eyes over Cat Power and Neutral Milk Hotel? Screaming Trees and Alice in Chains over everything by Steve Albini, Justin Broadrick, and Daniel Johnston? That said, the book's weaknesses are overwhelmed by its strengths, including unconventional picks that are instantly gratifying, such as Faust, the Magnetic Fields, and Alejandro Escovedo. Author Tom Moon delivers cogent and intriguing defenses of albums that seem easy to dismiss (Madonna's *Ray of Light*), and most importantly, he endorses and explains hundreds of recordings in jazz, folk, blues, art music, opera, and especially world music, making *1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die* a valuable resource for anyone who wishes to leave his comfort zone and develop a more complete understanding of music.

– Daniel Mee



THE PETER YARROW SONGBOOK: FAVORITE FOLK SONGS

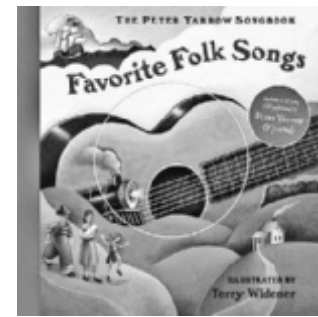
by Peter Yarrow
Sterling, 48 pp., \$16.95

THE PETER YARROW SONGBOOK: SLEEPYTIME SONGS

by Peter Yarrow
Sterling, 48 pp., \$16.95

I was dubious about the intended audience for these illustrated songbooks of folk songs, spirituals, and lullabies, with an accompanying CD by famed folkie Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary fame). Yet when I sat down with my 3-year-old son, popped in the *Folk Songs* CD, and watched in awe as he paged carefully through the book, it hit me: We – mommies and daddies and their music-loving spawn – are the audience. Parents can admire Terry Widener's colorful and poignant illustrations while raising their eyebrows at the somewhat questionable, death- and illness-heavy lyrics of the traditional folk songs, even as little ones like mine ensure that we remain on the same page as the song currently playing. Families can sing along with Yarrow and his daughter, Bethany, to familiar favorites such as "Skip to My Lou" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad," and parents of a certain generation will welcome the presence of "Puff the Magic Dragon" on *Sleepytime Songs*. The packaging leaves a bit to be desired, with the discs encased in flimsy plastic inside the books' front covers, but these are otherwise high-quality songbooks sure to become family favorites for the musically inclined.

– Melanie Haupt



HOW TO BE A PRODUCER IN THE DIGITAL ERA

by Megan Perry
Billboard Books, 246 pp., \$18.95
(paper)

How to Be a Producer in the Digital Era isn't the book you expect from the title. The Digital Age has democratized recording culture, birthing an explosion of home studios while countless professional spaces have closed their doors. DIY has come of age, and producers have followed suit. Yet instead of tapping this new market, Megan Perry's dry but thoughtful and well-written book focuses on the time-honored commercial studio system and major label music, until a final chapter on personal and project studios. The commercial



studio system carries on, though in an adapted and smaller form, and it still needs producers. If you or someone you know wants to be one, Perry has written this book for you. Despite its *Producing for Dummies* feel, *Digital Era* remains thorough and detailed, with topics ranging from artist egos to which microphones to use. Perry takes her subject admirably seriously, setting out not to entertain but to write a practical guide, and succeeds in packing in a ton of information and guidance. Professionals will find little new here, but for aspiring sonic technicians interested in a possible career as a top-shelf music producer, this might be just the book to get them started.

– Graham Reynolds

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Facing a state budget crisis in July, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger fired about 10,000 temporary and part-time workers and ordered the 200,000 permanent employees to be paid only the minimum wage of \$6.55 an hour until the Legislature passed a crisis-solving budget. However, a week later, state Controller John Chiang pointed out that state payroll records could not be changed to accommodate the cut because they were written in the antiquated COBOL computer language, and virtually the only state employees who knew the code were some of the part-timers Schwarzenegger had just fired.

LEAD STORY

The Brazilian designer Lucia Lorio introduced women's lingerie in October containing a global positioning device to enable the wearer to be tracked by satellite. The creator said the password-protected lace bodice would make it easier for women kidnapped by thugs or terrorists to be located and rescued. Critics called it a virtual chastity belt, primarily of service to insecure males curious to know where their women are. (However, the wearer can manually turn the device off.) Another anti-terror lingerie product may also surface someday based on a 2007 U.S. patent issued to a Plainfield, Ill., company for a bra with cups that could also function as air-filtration systems in case of chemical attacks.

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

London's *Daily Mail* profiled two 10-children British families in October to illustrate the inconsistencies of government benefit awards. Sean and Anne Tate and their children live on Sean's truck-driver salary, which is equivalent to about \$23,000 a year, plus the government's standard per-child benefit. Harry Crompton has been out of work for 15 years, and his wife, Tracey, has never held a paid job, yet they receive the equivalent of \$48,000 in various government benefits, which the *Daily Mail* said

would require a tax-paying family to earn the equivalent of \$68,000 a year to draw. The *Daily Mail* reporter also noted that the Tate home is immaculate, and the Cromptons' home is messy.

Two of Oregon's unique public-health markers clashed dramatically for resident Barbara Wagner this summer when she was informed that the universal medical care available to everyone in the state (but with certain service restrictions) would not pay for her expensive lung cancer drug (because her five-year survival likelihood was poor), but she was told, at the same time, that the state would pay for any necessary drugs under its Death With Dignity law (i.e., suicide).

RECURRING THEMES

People whose special land-use and zoning requests are turned down by the government or neighborhood associations sometimes retaliate defiantly, as "News of the Weird" has reported. In July in Bucks County, Pa., two men who were denied the right to tear down a house decided to paint it purple and pink, just to annoy the neighbors. In October in Olympia, Wash., a developer who was denied a permit for a grocery store decided instead to expand his adult-video store next door into an emporium. In September in Potsdam, N.Y., a man wanting to build a convenience store was turned down and so installed a row of nine used toilets in his front yard as artwork.

WOMEN UNDER ARREST

1) The September mug shot of Michelle Allen of Middletown, Ohio, was possibly the Internet's most circulated news photo of 2008. She was inexplicably dressed in a full-body cow suit (with rubber teats) and was allegedly disorderly in chasing children and interfering with traffic. (Alcohol may have been involved.) 2) Shopper Amber Dibartolomeo, 23, was arrested in a Wal-Mart in North Bay, Ontario, in July and charged with selling crack cocaine inside the store. Police said they found \$2,217 in cash on her, along with a can of pepper spray and 27 grams of cocaine (one in her bra and 26 in her vagina).

THINGS YOU THOUGHT DIDN'T HAPPEN THESE DAYS

1) A restaurant owner in Rutino, Italy (near Salerno), told police in November that as he was negotiating over the building's lease with his landlords, one hit him in the head with a chair and two others kicked him repeatedly in the stomach. The landlords were not from La Cosa Nostra but were a priest and two nuns from the local Catholic order that owns the building. 2) In the village of Pumaorcco, Peru, in September, a bus containing 14 British sightseers on holiday was held hostage for five hours by 50 natives wielding pickaxes and metal bars who mistook the sightseers for personnel from a mining company that they believed were exploiting their land. The Peruvian guide finally negotiated their freedom but had to call for another bus, since the villagers completely destroyed the original.

JUST COULDN'T STOP HIMSELF

Bridgeport, Conn., police arrested Michael Smith, 47, in October, for breaking into Holy Ghost Deliverance Church. Smith explained that he was passing the church, spotted a drum set through a window, and could not restrain himself from trying it out. According to a *Boston Globe* report, officers found Smith "in a spirited solo after the church's alarm system went off."

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

Merle Sorenson, 48, had to be rescued from the Columbia River near Quincy, Wash., in October, where he nearly drowned after driving his Humvee off of a boat launch. He told the rescuers that he was trying to clean his tires and wanted to see how far he could drive the vehicle into the water but still be able to back out.

In August, an employment tribunal in Glasgow, Scotland, rejected the age-discrimination charge by 16-year-old Darren Mirren, whose complaint was that Spotless Commercial Cleaning in Glasgow, about a 20-minute ride from Mirren's home, had turned him down for a job because he didn't show up for a scheduled interview. Mirren implied that a person of his age could not be expected to find an address unless they gave him directions.

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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BY JAMES RENOVITCH

AN EVENING WITH TERRI HENDRIX Local musician Terri Hendrix intersperses her songs with stories from her life in music. This ladies-only night is for the up-and-coming musician looking for a few pointers from an expert. 7-10pm. *Momo's*, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$20. www.girlguitaraustin.com.

CAMPUS BOUNDARY FOR NEW SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL Austin Independent School District welcomes community input for the new Southwest middle school attendance zones. The school is slated to open in August 2009 and would affect Bailey, Small, Covington, and Paredes middle schools. 6:30pm. *Small Middle School*, 4801 Monterey Oaks Blvd., 841-6700. www.austinisd.org.

★ **CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN WORKSHOP** If you live or work in and around Tarrytown, Deep Eddy, Bryker Woods, or Pemberton Heights, tonight's your chance to provide feedback about the future development of West 35th Street just east of MoPac. 6:30pm. *Lower Colorado River Authority Headquarters*, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

DRISKILL TREE LIGHTING Come out to ogle the 16-foot tree in the middle of the Driskill lobby. The 1886 Cafe & Bakery will have holiday treats for sale if you need a break from staring at all the lights. 6-8pm. *The Driskill Hotel*, 604 Brazos, 391-7121.

★ **HAPPY B'DAY, BRIT** Britney Spears turns 27, and you'll turn tricks ... um, circus tricks to grab one of the giveaway CDs OCH will offer this night to celebrate the release of La Brit's latest, *Circus*. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Fifteen artisans and vendors join Contemporary Health Care for a holiday craft sale. Live music keeps your shopping legs from getting sore. 4-8pm. *Contemporary Health Care*, 9009 Mountain Ridge Dr. #120 & #140. www.chcaustin.com.

★ **LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER** This puppet rendering of the holiday classic features Tchaikovsky's rousing score. 10:15am. *University Hills Library*, 4721 Loyola, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

SAVE OUR SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARTY Hundreds of items will be up for silent auction to help facilitate the holiday donations. Live music from Bill Oliver's Otter Space Band and the Bouldin Creek Bobkats is also included. 6-11pm. *Mercury Hall*, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$10 suggested donation. www.sosalliance.org.

★ **SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS** This event has too many holiday shenanigans to list. Here are some highlights: sock-skating, funnel cake, Sahawe Indian Dancers, live mariachi music, grade school choirs, drum lines, and Santa on a fire engine. You'll be vomiting red and green by the end. Thu-Sat., Dec. 4-6, 6-11pm. *San Marcos Plaza Park*, 202 C.M. Allen Pkwy. N., San Marcos, 512/393-5900. Free. www.sights-n-sounds.org.

★ **SILVER BOX EVENT** Don your gayest cocktail or festive holiday attire for this supershiny fundraiser for Equality Texas. 7pm. *Monarch*, 801 W. Fifth, 371-1711. \$75.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Gallery Lombardi, Lotus Gallery

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Wilderness *Emo's*
Balmorhea *The Parish*
Leatherbag *Continental Club*

FRIDAY **05**

★ **BOARD GAME NIGHT AT Q** You need only one letter to find Austin's HQ for guys 18-29: Q. Social support, coming-out support, health education, parties, discussion groups, and the occasional game night. Like tonight's. 6pm. *Q Center*, 3408 West Ave., 420-8557. mp_austin@sbcglobal.net, www.qboyz.org.

CANCER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION is for cancer survivors and their loved ones who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. Apply online at www.thecancerconnection.org. Fri., Dec. 5, 6-9pm & Sat., Dec. 6, 9am-4pm. 342-0233. \$25 (scholarships available).

★ **CEDAR PARK TREE LIGHTING** One lucky first-grade or kindergarten student will light the 50,000 tiny bulbs wrapped around a live oak. Who gets the privilege depends on who wins the coloring contest. If you don't win, at least you have caroling, carriage rides, and the yule fire as consolation prizes. 6:30-8:30pm. *Heritage Oak Park*, 875 Quest Pkwy., Cedar Park. Free.

CTAN COFFEE TALK The Central Texas Afterschool Network invites anyone who works with youth to discuss upcoming legislation affecting kids in Central Texas. 9am. *Blue Dahlia Bistro*, 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542. Free. www.ctanweb.org.

★ **LIPSTICKS NIGHT OUT** OK, butches, mind your manners: The Lipstick Lesbians will be painting the town nude, plum shimmer, copper penny, must-have mauve, red-red-wine, and possibly hot pink. First the throng of lovelies will gather and chat for a bit at Bouldin and then hit the bricks and move operations over to Flipnotics to witness the hypnotics of guitarist Aly Tadors. 8pm. *Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse & Cafe*, 1501 S. First, 416-1601. lipsticklesbiansaustin@yahoo.com, www.myspace.com/lipsticklesbians.

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD UT World Music Ensembles get together twice a year. Sounds from the Middle East, South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and more mingle and help earn money for instruments and to entice visiting artists from far-off lands. 8pm. *Momo's*, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$8 (\$5, student). www.momos.com.

ROCK ME AMADEUS MASQUERADE BALL The theme is Rococo-Punk Chic. Ask Falco if you don't know what that means. The Noise Revival Orchestra's new EP will be the soundtrack to an evening of burlesque, a boudoir photo booth, and wig-powdering. Bring a mask, or make your own at the mask-making station to hide your identity. 9pm-2am. *Beauty Bar*, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943. \$5.

TAKE CARE HEALTH TOUR Get all your basic health stats checked free of charge courtesy of Walgreens. Screenings include cholesterol levels, blood pres-

sure, bone density, glucose levels, waist circumference, and body-mass index. Your doctor will have to take it from there. 11am-5pm. *Walgreens*, 5600 S. First, 866/484-8687. www.walgreens.com/takecare.

★ **THANK GOODNESS I'M BI** The ambisexualerous 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.

THE WORLD PEACE DIET Dr. Will Tuttle discusses his book and makes a convincing argument against a meat-based diet in contemporary culture. A light vegan dinner precedes the lecture. 6:30pm. *The Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts*, 1701 Toomey, 476-2276. \$20 (\$15, students). www.naturalepicurean.com.

THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS ART SALE & SHOW Jewelry, paintings, photographs, and ceramics ring in the holiday spending spree if you haven't started already. Dec. 5-6. Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. 2309 Thornton, 440-8485. www.cone10studio.com.

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT Now in its 18th year, this collection of artists and artisans will hopefully supply you with the unique gift you've been looking for. Dec. 5-7. Fri-Sat., 9am-5:30pm; Sun., noon-5pm. *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org/holiday.

★ **SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS** (See Thursday, 12/4.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Brocca, Cafe Mundi, Wally Workman Gallery, Yard Dog

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

U2 3D @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Arc Angels *Antone's*
Red Leaves, **Elvis** *Emo's*
Ground Zero Texas II *Beerland*
Anthony Hamilton *Austin Music Hall*

SATURDAY **06**

★ **ABRAKADOODLE** presents Mercer Meyer's *Little Critter*. Bring your own little critter, and have fun making a paper-stocking collage. 11:30am. *BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

ACKNOWLEDGE ME CRAFT FAIR & HOMELESS BENEFIT Bring toiletries for the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless or beanies and gloves for House the Homeless, and get a dollar off your admission. It's a steal either way. Do some shopping at the many craft tables, listen to a bevy of local bands, or let your jaw drop at the capoeira and acrobat demonstrations. 8pm-2am. *Mohawk*, 912 Red River, 482-8404. \$6. www.acknowledge-me.com.



L - R: SCHLITTERBAHN HILL COUNTRY X-MAS (NOW & LATER, P.81) | TOROS BASKETBALL (SPORTS, P.80) | WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY (ARTS, P.82) | 'MILK' (FILM, P.88) | HOLLY GILIGHTLY & THE BROKEOFFS (MUSIC, P.98)

the talking in a nonsexual way. Teams of four or individuals (for an orphan squad) are invited to participate for the Austin charade crown. Say no more. 2pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$5, individual; \$20, team.* www.myspace.com/austinsoundsilkefun.

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR DEBBIE LELAND clucks out the *Little Prairie Hen* and her other hot titles which include *The Jalapeno Man*. 2:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR SHANA BURG counts *A Thousand Never Evers*. 1pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

DOLORES CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Gifts; ornaments; handmade, hand-sewn, and hand-knitted crafts; and assorted treats to keep you fueled up for more shopping. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, 8am-4pm. *Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Church, 1111 Montopolis, 385-4333. www.doloreschurch.org.*

EAT LOCAL WEEK *Edible Austin* presents a week of events, starting today, with proceeds going to its Urban Roots program, which teaches teens to plant, cultivate, and share their own food. Go to www.edibleaustin.com for a complete list of events and participating restaurants. (See "Food-o-File," *Food*, p.51 for more.) Dec. 6-13.

EDIBLE AUSTIN TEA PARTY Help kick off *Edible Austin's Eat Local Week* with this tea party featuring all the heavy hitters in the local tea scene. Various lectures, tastings, ceremonies, and general steepings will occur throughout the afternoon. Noon-5pm. *Zhi Tea, 4607 Bolm, 363-6301. Free. www.edibleaustin.com.*

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING Sony and Waste Management invite you to bring your used or obsolete electronics (of any brand) to be recycled. With every 1,000 pounds of recycled material, Sony will donate \$100 to the Capital Area Food Bank. Bring your own nonperishable food items to donate if you're so inclined. 9am-4pm. *Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 866/588-0572. Free. www.sony.com/recycle.*

FAIR FOOD MUSIC FEST *Woozyhelmet* and other bands play to support Fair Food Austin's efforts to enact universal labor standards for farmers around the world. See Club Listings, p.102, for a complete lineup. 2-7pm. *Music Gym, 815 E. Sixth. \$5-10 sliding scale. www.fairfoodaustin.blogspot.com.*

FIRE & ICE SKATING BENEFIT All proceeds from this day of skating go to the Austin Fire Department's free smoke alarm program. Children's choirs and a handbell ensemble will accompany your skating and/or falling. Noon-8pm. *Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260. \$10, includes skate rental. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.*

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET Arts and crafts from local artisans steeped in the German tradition (e.g., hand-blown glass, embroidered linens, and more) will be available. Live Christmas music and a visit from St. Nickolous keep the kids (and parents) entertained. 10am-4pm. *German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. Free. www.germantexas.org.*

HOLIDAY ART FESTIVAL Sixty regional artists will be showing and selling their wide-ranging talents, from ceramics to prints. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7. *Austin Museum of Art - Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.amoa.org.*

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Handmade items and other capitalistic temptations await you. 9am-3pm. *Legacy Oaks Christian School, 7915 Manchaca. jbarber@legacyoaks.org.*

HOLIDAY BY THE TRACKS Snow may be hard to come by this far south, but this celebration will have everything else you need for your holidays: pictures with Santa, a craft show, a Christmas parade, children's activities, soul food, and a live nativity. If you're enticed by the window displays, why not get some shopping done? 10am-5pm. *Downtown Elgin. www.elgintx.com.*

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE Stories, crafts, and songs help keep the holidays bright. 2-4pm. *Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940.*

LANTERN MAKING DAY Ten H-E-B and Central Market locations assist the Theatre Action Project in bringing to light endangered nocturnal species. Make a paper lantern to light your way, or go to Central Market North (4001 N. Lamar) for some educational words and that lovable bat herself, Zoe. Noon-3pm. 442-8773. *Free. www.theatreactionproject.org.*

MAGNET CHOICE FAIR See the unique opportunities that local magnet schools have to offer. Raffles from different schools, including the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, will be on hand to

answer your questions. 9am-noon. *LBJ High School, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr.*

MINIS AND FRIENDS STORYTIME with real miniature horses! Not ponies, but tiny little horses. The non-profit group Minis and Friends reads some horse stories and introduces you to their favorite miniature horses. 11am. *Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

NLPOA HOLIDAY CHARITY GALA The National Latino Peace Officers Association supplies a DJ and a buffet with proceeds going to the NLPOA's local scholarship program. 5-9pm. *Copa Bar & Grill, 217 Congress, 335-7776. \$20 (\$15, members). www.nlpoacentex.org.*

PHILIP YATES YARS UP *A Pirate's Night Before Christmas*. Fun stuff, mateys! 2pm. *Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

PUPPETS IN THE LAND OF BLACK & WHITE Live music accompanies the puppet actors as Iris, goddess of the rainbow, saves the day. 4pm. *Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 358-4278. Donations appreciated. www.thirdcoastschool.com.*

REAGAN COMMUNITY WALK Meet at the Reagan High School cafeteria for breakfast and orientation before heading out to deliver academic and family-support information packets to all 950 Reagan families. 8:45am. *Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman, 653-4935. reaganhs@austin.rr.com.*

ROSEWOOD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Admission to this bonanza of local holiday shopping is a few measly cans of food for the less fortunate. 10am-4pm. *Rosewood Recreation Center, 2300 Rosewood, 472-6838.*

SALVATION ARMY KICKOFF PARTY Dale Watson performs in the food court as the bell ringers start ringing. 11am. *Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr., Cedar Park, 512/257-8500.*

SHARING WITH SANTA Food, entertainment, crafts, and games keep the young ones busy while you contemplate your bid on silent auctions with the proceeds going to the Trinity Child Development Center. Some activities require a small fee. 10am-1pm. *Trinity Child Development Center, 5801 Westminster, 928-2212. www.trinitycdc.org.*

SWANG IT, SWANGERS Twinkle toes and those who step on them are all invited to this super swingin' holiday soiree to benefit Project Transitions: Holiday Swing. It's not your grandmother's swing dance. Or actually, it is. That makes it even cooler. 7pm. *Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 454-8646. www.projecttransitions.org.*

TAKE CARE HEALTH TOUR See Friday for more info. 11am-5pm. *Walgreens, 4501 Guadalupe, 866/484-8687. www.walgreens.com/takecare.*

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL Like the East Austin Studio Tour but in the quaint and classy neighborhood off South Congress. Check out artists' studios and look or perhaps buy some art. Help support the scene without the middle man. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, 11am-5pm. *Travis Heights starting at Travis Heights Boulevard, 447-2150. char@charwolf.com, www.travisheightsart.com.*

TREE-PLANTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED If you know how to use a shovel, then you're approved for tree planting with the people at TreeFolks in conjunction with the Austin Parks & Recreation Department. Get specific directions to the meeting point when you RSVP to scott@treefolks.org. 9am. *Northstar Greenbelt. www.treefolks.org.*

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR *Edible Austin* and the Bicycle Sport Shop invite families to jump on their bikes and take rider-friendly routes to farms and community gardens all over town. Tour stops include children's hands-on gardening activities, hen-house tours, farm tours, and samplings. Tours leave from three spots: *Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar, 9am; Sunset Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones, 9:30am; Austin Farmers' Market, Fourth & Guadalupe, 10:05am.* Proceeds benefit Urban Roots youth-development program. 477-3472. \$25 (\$40/family). www.bicyclesportshop.com.

WALDORF SCHOOL WINTER FAIR Food, live entertainment, raffles, vendors, and more await you. Don't spend too much time on the flying fox ride and forget to buy your tickets for the pocket lady. 10am-4pm. *Austin Walorf School, 8700 South View Rd., 288-5942.*

WHEATSVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL These guys know local. Why not get your art or craft from one of the 75 vendors at this year's event? For a complete lineup of live music, see Club Listings, p.102. Sat.-Sun., Dec 6-7, 10am-5pm. *Adams Park, 300 W. 30th. www.wheatstville.coop.*

YULE FEST A holiday craft bazaar with all the usual handcrafted jewelry, clothing, artwork, and more. A percentage of the money from the silent auction and bake sale goes to charity. Sat., Dec. 6, 10am-4pm; Sun., Dec. 7, noon-3pm. *Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 514/918-0107. audrey@yulefest.org.*

CANCER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION (See Friday.)

SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS (See Thursday, 12/4.)

THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS ART SALE & SHOW (See Friday.)

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT (See Friday.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)

Saturday Night Special *Salvage Vanguard Theater*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bolt (sensory friendly) @ *Barton Creek Square, 10am*
Gremlins @ *Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:30pm*
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ *Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid*
U2 3D @ *IMAX Theatre, 9pm*


MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Arc Angels *Antone's*
Holly Golightly & the Brokeoffs *Emo's*
Acknowledge Me Benefit *Mohawk*
Brujeria *Red 7*
Larry Lange & the Chicano Soul Revue *Continental Club*

SUNDAY 07

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET Local and international crafts will be available, as will opportunities to donate money to charities. Remember, it's better to give than to receive. I think Oprah said that. 1-2:30pm. *University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St., 476-5321. www.upcaustin.org.*

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR More than your average holiday bazaar. On top of the usual shopping bonanza (here with a Middle Eastern twist), there will be belly-dance showcases, music, and henna tattoos available. 11am-6pm. *Arabic Bazaar, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. www.wmdproductions.com.*



Spiritual Wisdom

- Spiritual Wisdom on Relationships Workshop Dec. 6
- Spiritual Wisdom on Health and Healing Workshop .. Dec. 13
- Spiritual Wisdom on Connecting with Divine Love Dec. 20
- No Workshop. Happy Holidays! Dec. 27

Free Workshops: Saturdays 2:00-3:30pm

ECKANKAR Center of Austin

223 W. Anderson Lane, Suite B-206

453-0331 • www.eckankar-texas.org

Hwy 183 Access Road at Northcrest, between Lamar and IH-35,
behind the Red Lobster. Call for Directions.

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

Galveston is open for business. A little more than three months after Hurricane Ike blew ashore, the island city is putting the pieces of its lives and livelihoods back together.



DICKENS ON THE STRAND

COURTESY OF GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

An obvious clue that you're nearing the Gulf Coast is the marked increase in roofs covered in blue Federal Emergency Management Agency tarps along I-45. While crossing the bridge onto the island, the city looks like a war zone. A convenience store with a collapsed roof and an apartment building with a missing wall line the highway. A sailboat rests on its side in a field.

The farther you drive into town, the more things begin to look normal despite an occasional pile of debris. The tire shop and the doughnut shop on Broadway Street are open, as is the furniture store. Across town, Moody Gardens is welcoming guests.

On Seawall Boulevard, the 17-foot wall mitigated the storm's waves. In a short time, the hotels and restaurants were open again, and the tourists returned to the sidewalks. The storm churned up a new layer of sand, turning the beaches into treasure chests of lost items. Tourism accounts for 40% of the city's revenue, and having the businesses open is a giant step forward.

Missing along the seawall are the businesses that once hung off the land like strange appendages. The pilings that supported the Balinese Room for 65 years are now roosts for pelicans. The T-shirt shops over the water and fishing pier are all but destroyed. The old Flagship Hotel has a wall missing that exposes pieces of bedroom furniture. It's up to the state General Land Office to decide if they can rebuild the piers.

One of the hardest-hit areas of Galveston was the historic downtown. The storm surge flooded the bay side of town under 6 to 12 feet of seawater. After the tide receded, it left a layer of toxic mud from the waterfront to Broadway.

The good folks of Galveston are amazing in their resilience. The fronts of many of the turn-of-the-century buildings have been cleaned. Workmen are busy with the monumental task of making the stores and restaurants habitable again; progress is being made.

The Galveston Historical Foundation announced that the 35th Dickens on the Strand, one of Texas' best Christmas parties, will still happen on Dec. 6 and 7. Maybe a little scaled back from how it was originally planned, but for the vendors, entertainers, and volunteers, the show must go on. "Now more than ever we need our Dickens on the Strand Festival," said Dwayne Jones, director of the Galveston Historical Foundation. The festival will help raise restoration funds and everyone's spirits. Right now, a very tough Galveston could use a little of both. For information, go to www.dickensonthestrand.org or call 409/765-7834.

909th 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

NATURE IN LIGHTS is a drive-through park with more than 100 animated light displays choreographed to the tunes of the season, plus Santa's Village with refreshments and seasonal crafts. Through Jan. 4, 5:30-11pm. Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, Fort Hood, 254/287-2523. \$5 per car. www.hoodmwr.com.

GONZALES COUNTY BOOK FAIR brings a long list of Texas authors to town to sign and talk about their books. Sat., Dec. 6, noon-2pm. Lifford's Books and Fine Art, 515 St. Joseph St., Gonzales, 830/672-6532. www.gonzalestexas.com.

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS includes a visit from Santa as well as arts & crafts, carriage rides, fun for the kids, and music into the evening. Sat., Dec. 6, noon-9pm. Courthouse Square, Fayetteville, 979/378-2222. www.fayettevilletx.com.

STAR NIGHT offers a tour of the night sky through a high-quality telescope. Reservations required. Sat., Dec. 6, 6-8pm. Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd., 830/825-3442. \$5 (\$2, children). www.westcave.org.

1886 BISHOP'S PALACE TOUR will open one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the U.S. with music and specially trained docents guiding visitors after a monumental cleanup of flood damage from Hurricane Ike. Reservations required. Sat., Dec. 6, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, & 8:30pm. 1402 Broadway, Galveston, 409/765-7834. \$12. www.dickensonthestrand.org.

BUDAFEST gets the holidays going with a parade, arts & crafts vendors, games for the kids, music, and lots of food. Sat-Sun., Dec. 6-7, 10am-dusk. Greenbelt and City Park, Buda, 512/694-3413. www.budafest.org.

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG Local congregations and school choirs invite attendees to participate in the singing free-for-all. 5-6:30pm. Country Bible Church, 303 E. Pflugerville Pkwy., Pflugerville. Free. www.faithinactioncaregivers.org/pflugerville_texas.php.

JANICE AND TOM SHEFELMAN get four seasonal with the picture book *I, Vivaldi*. 2pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE Celebrate Christ's birth with songs from the choir and scripture readings from community leaders. Afterward, get your strength back with holiday treats, and browse the Alternative Gift Market where you can donate to one of 40 participating charities. 7:30-9pm. University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, 478-9387. Free. www.uumc.org.

MANFEST '08 Hosted by the manliest man around, Bigfoot, Manifest is a celebration of facial hair, cologne, and weaponry. Activities include axe throwing, arm wrestling, crossbow shooting, hot-tub lounging, and Huey Lewis cover-band listening. All this at your favorite man-centric barbershop. It's not gay; it's homosocial. 2-7pm. Birds Barbershop, 2110 S. Lamar, 442-8800. Free.

PET PICTURES WITH SANTA Your children aren't the only ones who need a little lap time with Santa. What about your children of the four-legged variety? The money goes to Blue Dog Rescue and its efforts to save local, adoptable pets from shelters and help them find loving homes. 1-4pm. Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197. \$15, picture; \$35, greeting cards. www.bluedogrescue.com.

TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY HOLIDAY FIESTA Help support the bird-loving folk, and get food, drinks, and music from Beto & the Fairlanes in return. Tickets must be purchased in advance via the Travis Audubon website. 5-8pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. \$25. www.travisaudubon.org.

TREE TRANSPLANTING Help remove unwanted bald cypress seedlings to be used elsewhere. Call or e-mail to volunteer and find out the location of the cleanup. 1-5pm. 263-6443. daniel.dietz@ci.austin.tx.us, www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland/online-registration/ecowebevents.cfm.

TRUTH ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY Atheists take X-mas to task with a debunking cleverly titled There Are Two Stories; Neither One Happened; and Serious Scholars Know It. Leave your happily ignorant kids (or self) at home. 12:15pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. www.atheist-community.org.

ZILKER TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY Come see the 155-foot-tall moonlight tower decked out in its 3,300 lights for the season. It might just put you in the spirit of giving. Good thing, because Operation Blue Santa will be collecting toys and money. 6pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/tol.

BAZAAR ARTE (See Saturday.)

BOULDIN CREEK STUDIO TOUR (See Saturday.)

DOLORES CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR (See Saturday.)

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL (See Saturday.)

WHEATSVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL (See Saturday.)

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT (See Friday.)

YULE FEST (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Cool Hand Luke @ Alamo Ritz, 1pm
Gremilins @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:30, 7:30pm
It's a Wonderful Life @ Paramount, 4:30pm
White Christmas @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Ground Zero Texas II Beerland
Manifest '08 Birds Barbershop

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. 19 issue is Monday, Dec. 8. 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:

MONDAY 08

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS Folks with physical limitations who still want to increase their flexibility and relaxation can strike a yoga pose while remaining seated. Mondays & Wednesdays, 1pm. Senior Activity Center at Cobble Stone Cour, 2101 Davis, 712-4451. Donations appreciated.

KEEP AUSTIN HOUSED BENEFIT NIGHT A percentage of sales from this Fair Trade emporium benefits the local AmeriCorps program. 5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 305-4138. Free. www.keeapaustinhoused.org.

PET PICS WITH SANTA Those whose children have four legs can get their pic taken with ol' St. Nick, too. Mondays, through Dec. 15. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. www.theLivingpre.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Cool Hand Luke @ Alamo Ritz, 8pm
Ladies and Gentleman, the Fabulous Stains @ Alamo Ritz, 10:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Brownout The Parish

TUESDAY 09

CHILD ID KITS The Attorney General's Office and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offer free digital ID kits to keep the tykes safe for the holidays. Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr., Cedar Park, 512/257-8500. Free.

CIRCUS COWBOY DINNER THEATRE Put on your favorite dude-ranch duds, and enjoy a smorgasbord of circus and cowboy activities including juggling, pet performances, line-dancing lessons, unicycling, and a Western-themed story that the kids can help create and act out. Did I mention half-price burgers? Yee-haw! Tuesdays, 5:30-8pm. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. No cover. www.chickendog.net.

COATS, CANS, & CORKS The Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association will be collecting gently used coats and nonperishable food items to benefit the St. Louis Catholic Church. 6-8pm. Daily Grill, 11506 Century Oaks #100, at the Domain, 916-3916. free. rsvp@yhpa.org, www.yhpaa.org.

DESTINY BY DESIGN Fifteen Kealing Middle School students have been working with local hip-hop artists after school all semester. They've written, produced, and recorded a song. Now it's time for their first public performance. Throw your hands in the air. 7pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. Free. www.myspace.com/narcissebanks.

FOODIES BYOBB OR SF NIGHT Consider it Foodies' version of Bring Your Kid to Work Day. Calling all FOFs (Friends of Foodies). Bring your own best boyfriend or straight friend to experience the secret society that is Austin's premiere gathering opportunity for women who love women who love women. 6pm. House Wine, 408 Josephine, 322-5210. Free. beatsagogo@aol.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE PEPPER LADY! On this day - Dr. Jean Andrews Day, officially, if our sources are correct - Austin's much-loved chronicler of all things artful and hot-peppery turns 85 years young. Huzzah!

HEALTHY HOLIDAY COOKING Make your holiday soiree a festive affair without killing your guests with fat and cholesterol. 6:30-8:30pm. 301 Seton Pkwy. #203, Round Rock, 512/324-4803. \$25. www.goodhealthcommons.com.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS The holidays can be tough for those who have lost a loved one. Hospice Austin and a panel of experts will give you some

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.

tools for coping. 7-9pm. Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E. 45th., 342-4784. Free. www.hospiceaustin.org

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER See Thursday (12/4) for more info. 10:30am. Cepeda Public Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
It's a Wonderful Life @ Paramount, 7pm
Sisters @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Fishbone Emo's
David Banner, Bun B Austin Music Hall
Eugene Chadbourne Salvage Vanguard Theater

WEDNESDAY 10

BLUE SANTA TOY DRIVE Bring an unwrapped toy, and get a horse-drawn carriage ride in return. No reservations, so it's first come first served. 6:30-10pm. Downtown Fire Station, Fifth & Trinity, 243-0044. austincarrriage@gmail.com.

CALL IN GAY DAY Call in "gay" today on this national Day Without a Gay to protest Prop. 8 and similar citizen-trivializing initiatives across our great land. Workplaces all across the nation. www.daywithoutagay.org.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA The holiday spirit inspires this evening of food, fun, and entertainment. 6-8pm. Oak Springs Library, 3101 Oak Springs, 926-4453.

DYKETACULAR COMEDY Holly Lorka, Allie Rolliston, and your femcee Belinda Carroll yuck it up in a dyke-stylee all to benefit Equality Texas. 9pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. \$5.

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER See Thursday (12/4) for more info. 10:30am. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

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.

PET CLINIC FAIR Dr. John Tarlton will offer dogs and cats all the shots they need for anywhere between \$5 and \$20. You can also look for a new pet or microchip the one you already have. 5-7pm.

gayplace

BY KATE GETTY AND KATE X MESSER

A DISTINCTLY QUEER FEELING Today I woke up with a weird feeling: I was feeling a little gay. Really. Don't know how to explain it, don't know what distinguished this day from any other, but you can bet your bottom dollar, it was most definitely a gay sensation. Gee, we'd all like to cause a gay sensation, wouldn't we? Well we may just have our chance.

You know, this whole **gay marriage** thing has quite a few folks up in one big wedded wad. People who never once considered coupling on a permanent basis, queers who originally smirked at the hetero-normative institution, folks who never gave one whit about the body politic, gay or no, are suddenly paying attention. You want to take away what? Rights that courts already decided were rights? You want to vote on my status as a U.S. citizen? Well, you bitches started the fight back in 2004 with your plot to motivate your voting base with the most base tactic ever: Let's scare 'em with a big pile o' gay. Yeah, those same Bible-thumpers you jerks laugh at behind their pious pews. But you needed them to put into office the necessary idiots to move your plan forward. You used them. And to get them all hell-fired up, you sold us down the river. Not for one second does that absolve the Bible crowd. No, it simply points out that they would rather side with blood-thirsty, oil-chugging, water-boarding assholes than not judge lest they be judged. They had a choice, and they chose your path

Brushy Creek Elementary School, 3800 Stonebridge Dr., Round Rock. sharkblues@yahoo.com.

PHILIP YATES plies his *Pirate's Night Before Christmas*, a piratical version of the Clement C. Moore classic. Dress like a pirate, and meet Philip to get a copy of this great book signed. 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

SPARROW HEAVEN: A PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW Byron Stone, an Austin physician and naturalist, presents a photographic justification for calling Central Texas Sparrow Heaven. 7pm. REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. Free. www.rei.com.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION INFORMATION SESSION Learn what UT has to offer those who want to earn a master's degree in science and create new ventures, products, and services. 6:30pm. IC² Institute, 2815 San Gabriel, 475-8900. Free. www.ic2.utexas.edu/mstc.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Cool Hand Luke @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

THURSDAY 11

101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE

X-MAS This two-stage extravaganza benefits Habitat for Humanity. The Ting Tings, Eagles of Death Metal, and more play outside. Local artists keep things moving on the inside stage. Rock out with your wallet out for a good cause. See Music Listings, p.98, for a complete lineup. 8pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-3667. \$25. www.101X.com.

CAROLING AT NOON The University of Texas Harp Ensemble plucks all the holiday hits. 12:05pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Eighth, 472-1196. Free. www.stdave.org.

GIRLS ROCK CAMP PROCLAMATION Today is officially Girls Rock Camp Day in Austin. So sayeth Mayor Will Wynn at City Hall before the Velvet Pretzels prove the necessity for such a declaration by rocking out. More rock can be found around the corner at Jo's, where the afterparty will rage into the early evening. 5:30pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 809-7799. www.girlsrockcampaustin.org.

THE LAST LI'L CAMP CAMP No more "monthly, like the moon," they say. One last hurrah before the popular queer open-mic talent show goes away for good. *Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse & Cafe*, 1501 S. First, 416-1601. Free. campcampqueers@gmail.com.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Venetian Snares Elysium
Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison's Holiday Show Paramount Theatre

instead of paths of acceptance, forgiveness, and mind-your-own-goddamned-business.

So yeah, I didn't care about gay marriage before. But now I do. Thanks to you. And thanks to every heterosexual American who sat on their ass through the Proposition 8 mess and did nothing to stand up for dignity and what's right. I've tried to rationalize this whole marriage thing by making it personal, by distilling it down to I-didn't-want-to-get-married-anyway sour grapes, but now I give a damn. Now, it really all boils down to this: Fuck you, I'm gay.

And this Wednesday, I'm calling in gay. You heard me: Gay. And I'm not spending one thin dime on anything unless it is gay. If I'm not good enough to enjoy the same rights as the rest of you hose bags, then you can do without my shining face around the office for one lousy day, and you can do without my cash. To quote **A Day Without a Gay**: "Our community contributes \$700 billion a year to this economy (the same amount as the bailout), yet we are not given equal protections under the law that every citizen deserves."

I can't claim it as my idea, but I'm claiming it as my day: This Wednesday, Dec. 10. Yes, it happens to fall on **International Human Rights Day**. Join us? Call in gay: www.daywithoutagay.org. See Wednesday and the Gay Place Blog (austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog).



Matcha Green Tea Day
 Sat., Dec. 6, 10am-6pm
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sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT *playing through*

Here's a metaphysical riddle for you: If a minor league basketball team earns a 30-20 record, wins its division, gets through the league semifinals, and makes it all the way to the championship round

before losing a hard-fought three-game series and no one notices ... did the season really happen?

I only ask because that's how the **Austin Toros'** third season played out, and still I can't shake the feeling that no one noticed; that the Toros occupy a strange, existential negative space at the edge of the city's cultural landscape; that they toil unheard, unseen, and unacknowledged; that most people in town don't even know they exist.

It's not really a feeling, actually, more like an admission of reality. Twenty-five times a season, the Toros play at the Austin Convention Center, and 25 times a season, attendance is ... uninspiring. I remember one night last year when it felt like an entire game was being played just for me. I would have been grateful if I hadn't been so depressed.

The situation doesn't really make any sense. First of all, Austin is a town that loves celebrating itself. Even the smallest crafts fair or louisiest experimental-theatre festival is well-attended and trumpeted as evidence of the city's idiosyncratic charm. So why the disregard for the Toros? What, after all, could be more idiosyncratic than minor league sports?

Second of all, Austin loves basketball; just look at all the attention lavished on the UT men's team the last few years. And yet when you tell Longhorn fans their city is home to an NBA Development League franchise, they look at you with complete indifference. I don't get it: Why bother with a game played by college kids, most of whom will never see the inside of a pro stadium without a ticket, when you can watch athletes who are actually good enough to get paid for what they do? It's like choosing the school cafeteria over P.F. Chang's or a collection of undergraduate short films over a night with **Jim Jarmusch**.

Third of all, the Toros are good. Really good. They're runners-up to the national title. They have future NBA starters on their roster. Attention must be paid. In that spirit, and in honor of the start of the team's fourth season, I humbly offer these four reasons to jump on the Toros bandwagon:

1) **Cardell Johnson** – Forget stats for a second; diminutive point guard Cardell Johnson's nickname is "Squeaky," which automatically puts him in the running for league MVP

2) **Exposure to Small-Town America** – Nearly every time the Toros play, they'll be facing a team from some tiny Midwestern hamlet you've never heard of that is rich in history, deep into a postindustrial economic collapse, and ravaged by a methamphetamine epidemic.

3) **In-Game Promotional Contests** – If watching professional basketball teams vie against one another doesn't satisfy your desire for competition, surely the sight of two overweight kids on tricycles racing to win their family's weekly grocery allowance will.

4) **The Capital City Dancers** – Fifteen lovely and talented young women in spandex who can, with the sway of a hip, make you forget that your team is down by 20 points, that there are only 400 people in the crowd, and that you just spent \$7 on a pretzel.



SANDY CARSON

THE MAIN EVENT

★ CHARADE TOURNAMENT

Two words. First word, two syllables. First syllable sounds like ... uh, what are you doing with your hair? Oh, Cher. Charade Tournament! That's right, it's time to shut up and let your body do the talking in a nonsexual way. Teams of four or individuals (for an orphan squad) are invited to participate for the Austin charade crown. Say no more. Sat., Dec. 6, 2pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$5, individual; \$20, team. www.myspace.com/austinsoundslikefun.*

★ **RUN LIKE THE WIND** features a three-mile walk or run, with or without dog, and distance runs of varying lengths including relays. This event benefits the **Schrodi Training Fund**, overseen by **Animal Trustees of Austin**, which helps owners who can't afford the cost of training to be able to train and keep their dogs. Well-behaved dogs (on leash and with current vaccinations) are encouraged to get in on the fun. Sat., Dec. 6, 7:30am. *Lee Mannix Center for Canine Behavior, 6901 Old Bee Caves Rd., 371-DOGS. shari@lmccb.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** For more on the Toros, see the Score at austinchronicle.com/sports. Vs. Idaho: Fri., Dec. 5, 7:30pm. Vs. Sioux Falls: Tue., Dec. 9, 11am. *Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St., 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. UCLA: Thu., Nov. 4, 8pm. *Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.*
Men's & Women's Swimming Texas Invitational: Thu.-Sat., Dec. 4-6, all day. *Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr.*
Women's Volleyball Vs. Lamar: Fri., Dec. 5, 6:30pm. *NCAA Division I first and second rounds: Sat., Dec. 6, 4:30pm. Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. www.texasports.com.*

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Tue., Dec. 9, noon. *Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. txstatebobs.cstv.com.*

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS' BOOT CAMP Open to skaters of all abilities. Register online now. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7. \$125 (\$75 referees). *www.trollergirls.com.*

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS The Texas Roller-girls' **Executioners** welcome Portland, Ore.'s Rose City **Wheels of Justice**. For more, see austinchronicle.com/sports. Live music by **Scott Reynolds & the Steaming Beast**. Sat., Dec. 6, 6:30pm (doors). *Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann (183 & Burnet). \$15. www.trollergirls.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Wed., Dec. 10, 7pm. *www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Swimming & Diving Principia: Sat., Dec. 6, 1pm. *southwesternpirates.cstv.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE "Try before you buy" lots of new and used golf equipment. There will also be putting and closest-to-the-pin contests, as well as free 30-minute golf lessons. Sat., Dec. 6, 8am. *Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.*

THE SCORE

Your Base on Balls

austinchronicle.com/sports

RALLY 'ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TEE TOURNEY will benefit **Rally Fore a Cure** breast cancer awareness. Sun., Dec. 7, 12:30pm. *Barton Creek Crenshaw Cliffside Course, 8212 Barton Club Dr., 329-7980. \$99 (\$350 per team).*

GIFT FOR KIDS GOLF TOURNEY will benefit the **Boys and Girls Club of America**. Three-player scramble. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7. *The Club at ConCan, 520 Mountain Valley Dr., ConCan. \$299 (\$150 nongolfer). www.centraltexas.golfersguide.com.*

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN FITNESS CIRCLE is a new exercise group that meets every other Saturday to walk laps at Highland Mall. Open to men and women; please bring some water, and wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the food court. Sat., Dec. 6, 9am. *Highland Mall, 6001 Airport, 366-0481. Free. austincircles@gmail.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

MCDONALD'S LIGHTS OF LOVE 5K will feature a chip-timed 5K run for serious runners and family-friendly fun for all. Kids can enjoy music from the **Biscuit Brothers**, games, and arts and crafts and have their picture taken with Santa and Ronald McDonald. After the race, food will be served alongside the sweet sounds of the **Austin Jazz Workshop**. Proceeds will benefit the **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas**. Fri., Dec. 5, 7:30pm (event begins at 5pm). *Mueller Development (airport hangar), 472-9844. www.mcdonaldslightsoflove.org.*

ARC DECKER CHALLENGE HALF MARATHON, MARATHON, HALF MARATHON RELAY Hosted by the **Austin Runners Club**, this challenging course features plenty of hills along with some lovely

rural scenery. Everybody who completes the race will receive a medal. Sun., Dec. 7, 7:30am. *Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker. www.decker.austinrunners.org.*

BROWN SANTA 5K AND KIDS K Hosted by the **Travis County Wellness Committee**, in association with the **Austin Runners Club**, this race benefits the **Brown Santa** program. Choose between the chip-timed competitive version and the slower paced fun run/walk. All kids who participate will receive a T-shirt and medal upon completion. There is also a Wellness Fair and Expo taking place in the banquet hall (8am-noon). Sun., Dec. 7, 8:15am. *Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 512/854-9584. www.tcsheff.org/brownsanta5k.html.*

REINDEER RUN is a fast 5K through North Austin streets, is a part of the **Toys for Tots** program, and will offer kids a sleigh run and more. Sat., Dec. 6, 8:30am. *Lifetime Fitness North, 13725 RM 620 N., 350-9178. www.lifetimefitness.com.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 19 issue is Monday, Dec. 8.** 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 appropriate writer. Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

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

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

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

BY NICK BARBARO *Soccer watch*

The **U.S.** is into the semifinals of the **U-20 Women's World Cup**, after beating England, 3-0, in the quarters; they face Germany on Thursday, 1pm. The other semifinal is France-North Korea, with the final on Sunday, Dec. 7.

All four No. 1 seeds advanced to the **Women's College Cup** Final Four in Cary, N.C., and all three games will be shown live on ESPN2 and ESPNU. The semifinals are Friday – **Notre Dame-Stanford** at 3:30pm, **UCLA-North Carolina** at 6pm – with the title game Sunday, Dec. 7, 1pm. Texas A&M lost at North Carolina in overtime in the quarterfinals. The **NCAA men** are down to the final eight; the quarterfinals are this Saturday, Dec. 6, with the Final Four the next weekend up in Frisco, north of Dallas.

The **Austin Aztex** have announced a strategic alliance with Club de Futbol **Monterrey** – also known as **Rayados** (the striped ones) – of the Mexican first division. Among other things, Aztex players get a great shot to move up to top-division football, the team gets a chance to pick up top-level players on loan, and fans get to see Rayados and perhaps other top Mexican teams in exhibitions at the **Aztex home field**. Speaking of which, sorry I can't tell you where that home field's going to be, but by the time you read this, that agreement should be finalized, and it's good news; see austinchronicle.com/sports for details, as soon as they're released.

The Aztex's primary affiliate, England's **Stoke City**, crashed out of the **Carling Cup** quarterfinals Tuesday, losing at home to second-division Derby, 1-0, on a last-second penalty. Elsewhere, Burnley upset Arsenal, but Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United make it two Premier League teams in the final four.

Euro Champions League group play concludes Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 9 & 10, with the unusual twist that 13 of the 16 places in the knockout stage are already decided. ESPN2 will show games live each day at 1:30pm.

now ...

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

UT GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER Hey Longhorn, did you know your university has a GSC? A queer hub, as it were? It keeps regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm) to help you feel more at home. 232-1831. gsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/diversity/dcce/gsc.

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.

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.*

AMOA: THE ART BLANKET PROJECT Catch a preview of Ian Cion's new community project: blankets printed with artwork by current Dell Children's Medical Center patients, for future patients. These artistic gifts will be displayed at the Austin Museum of Art before each child takes them home for the holidays. *Through Dec. 7. Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free. info@amoa.org, www.amoa.org.*

37TH STREET LIGHTS Rumors of this light spectacle's demise have been greatly exaggerated. This hot mess of holiday illumination soldiers on for your traffic-jamming enjoyment. *37th from Guadalupe to Home Lane. Free.*

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.*

SKATING ON THE PLAZA Lace up the rental skates, enjoy an hour of skating on Whole Foods' plaza, and act like you're a couple of latitudinal lines north. *Through Jan. 12, 10am-9pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260. \$10 per hour session, including skate rental. www.wholefoodsmarket.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.

OPERATION SANDY CLAU Volunteer Mobile Emergency Response Unit and Longhorn EMS are helping emergency responders in hurricane-torn Galveston have happier holidays. They are asking for toys, games, candy or cookies, and gift cards for the families of EMS and fire units. *Drive-Thru Postal, 1712 E. Riverside, 443-5848. www.rehabsector.org.*

VOLUNTEER FOR AGLIFF WORKING GROUPS Austin's queer film fest is organizing – big time – for the upcoming year. They've developed a strategic plan, and now all they need is you: Dedicated volunteers to fill office, programming, and fundraising goals and to offer feedback to evaluate the festival's current direction. volunteer@agliff.org, www.agliff.org.

LOTS OF MILK Gaywad gift alert! Just in time for Gus Van Sant's *Milk* biopic starring Sean Penn, Cinetic is making the excellent Rob Epstein doc *The Times of Harvey Milk* through Amazon Video on Demand and iTunes. www.cineticmedia.com.

SANTA ALL OVER TOWN Good thing Santa can trilocate so he can simultaneously listen to kids' wishes at three different malls around town. Sitting with Santa is free; pics of that magical moment will likely cost you. Here are your options: *Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S.; Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr.; Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. Through Dec. 24. www.simon.com.*

HOLIDAY HEROES Zach Theatre presents Allen Robertson and Shaun Wainright-Branigan in a terrific yuletide show for the kiddos (ages 3-7, although the older one and grownups may enjoy it, too). Call for show-day availability: *Through Dec. 19. Select weekdays, 9:30 & 11:30am. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x236. \$7.*

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Twenty-two straight days of holiday shopping for that increasingly rare unique gift. Eighty artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. *Through Dec. 24: Sun.-Thu., 10am-10m; Fri. & Sat., 10am-12mid. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 444-6655. Free admission. www.bluegenieart.com.*

SCHLITTERBAHN'S HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS If you thought Schlitterbahn was sensory overload in the summer, you should see it decked out for the holidays. There's no Lazy River to help you now. Ice skating, light shows, Rudolph's Reindeer Barn, and a winter wassail hot tub (!) all ring in the holidays for the whole family. Live shows from the professionals and concerts from local schools up the wow and cute factors respectively. One of the slides will even be repurposed as a sled run. Don't expect a silent night. *Through Dec. 21, Fri.-Sun.; Dec. 22-Jan. 4, everyday except Christmas Eve and Day. Schlitterbahn, 381 E. Austin St., New Braunfels, 830/625-2351. \$15 (\$13, children). www.schlitterbahnchristmas.com.*

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS Isn't it worth the extra money to make a candy house made from real gingerbread and icing without all the cleanup? Workshops continue through Dec. 21. Go to www.austinkids.org for a complete schedule. *Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$28-33 per house.*

BLUE SANTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Applications will be accepted at various times for any of the Blue Santa locations across town. Check the website for a list of application times and places. *Through Dec. 12. 974-5017. www.bluesanta.org.*

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA A traditional, European-style, four-course tea service awaits you. Call to make a reservation. *Dec. 5-16, 3-5pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 391-7121. \$48 (\$18, children).*

LAST MINUTE GAMBLING LADIES TRIP Deep discounts on the last slots for slots. Head out on the highway in a faboo bus ... err, "luxury motor coach" loaded to the gills with other divoon women pressing their luck. Destination? An overnight hoopedoo at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, La. Price includes \$20 player's card and \$10 restaurant voucher. \$69??? Why, you've already hit the jackpot. *Departs South Austin, Sun., Dec. 7, 8am. 680-8864. \$69.95 per person, double occupancy, cash, check, or PayPal. rfindlay@girlsgoneclean.com.*

... & later

12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS Plan now to make a date with that time-honored holiday tradition: dysfunction. Oh yes. It is time for *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas*. Get your tickets now. Or wait 'til the last minute, and complain about it, and tell your mom it's her fault. *Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 18-Jan. 3, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and lord knows what else, surrounded by tunes from one of 35 music acts performing this year. Don't worry; post office reps will be on the premises to spare you from lugging that tree-branch lamp home for the holidays. *Dec. 12-24, 11am-11pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 447-1605. \$3, weekdays till 7pm; \$6, evenings and weekends. www.armadillobazaar.com.*

COME HOME WITH KNT In the words of Kings N Things production femme-queen Cherry Poppins: Don't miss this gender-bending ho-ho-homo holiday bash! *Fri., Dec. 12, 10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. www.kingsnthings.org.*

Future Stars of the NBA

AUSTIN TOROS BASKETBALL

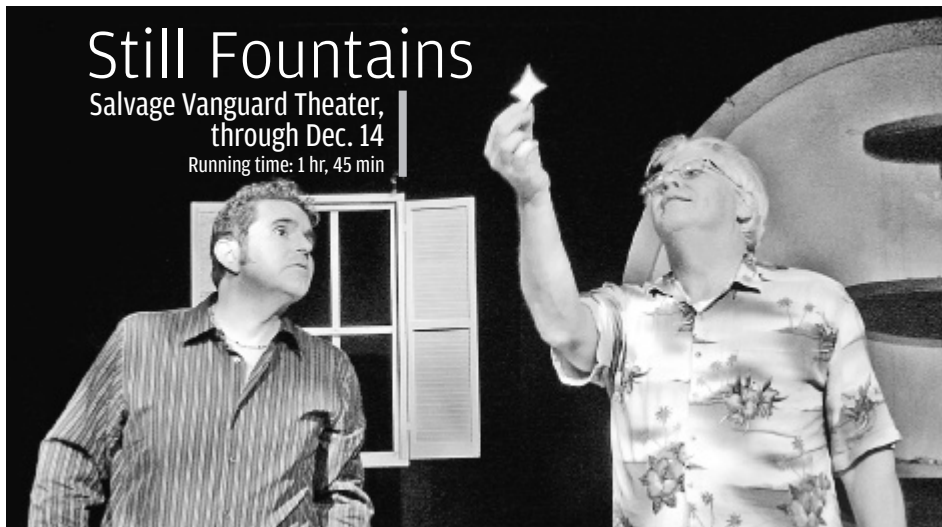
December 5 Toros vs. Idaho 7:30pm
December 9 Toros vs. Sioux Falls 11am

For tickets, call 236-8333 or visit austintoros.com
All Toros home games played at the Austin Convention Center.

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arts listings



Still Fountains

Salvage Vanguard Theater,
through Dec. 14

Running time: 1 hr, 45 min

In the two new plays by Michael Mitchell paired under the title *Still Fountains*, we hear a lot about fountains – what they do and what they mean to a modern Texas family and in the Bible.

What we see, however, are fountains that are, as the title suggests, still. The same towering structure that dominates Yvonne Boudreaux's elegantly spare set serves as the two different fountains that appear in "Highway Home" and "Them," but scarcely a trickle issues forth from it in either play. In "Highway Home," that dribble of liquid suggests something holding back the flow of water, keeping the thing from doing what it was created to do. And the same could be said for some of the characters who gather around this structure in both these dramas.

In "Highway Home," two brothers contend with dreams deferred while their recently deceased mother was alive. In "Them," a man of God with a love of men that he's kept in check for years flirts with the prospect of indulging his true nature. All are males in their middle years who have been restraining some desire within themselves, bottling it up out of some sense of duty, holding it in for years, and as with a blocked water line, as time goes by, pressure builds. For Shannon, the brother who stayed in his crumbling childhood home and tended to his mother in her final years, the need to get away has been roiling inside him, and now he sees his chance to be shed of this place once and for all. That puts him at odds with brother Patrick, who is drawn to reclaim the home that he was driven from by a mother who refused to accept him as a gay man. The two circle the fountain – along with their nephew and his new wife, who have their own interest in the property – through one long night in which past actions are raked over and present motivations questioned. With the unnamed minister of "Them," a medical diagnosis has made his desire to truly know another man more acute, and he risks an encounter with a strange man in a

park, an encounter that turns as much on matters of the spirit as matters of the flesh.

There's a familiarity to these stories – the family get-together at which old wounds are reopened, the repressed individual who seeks freedom in the arms of a stranger – that makes *Still Fountains* feel like a walk down a well-worn road. In some, that will no doubt cause the drama to resonate all the more deeply; in others, it may leave them feeling that they've seen this all before. The strength of Mitchell's writing is that he makes even the most conventional setups seem personal: Every action, every line, *matters* to the character it comes from. Our sense of that is enhanced by the commitment of a strong acting ensemble under the focused direction of Katie Pearl. Pearl choreographs a nuanced dance of the characters, a wary waltz of need and suspicion that sometimes transforms into a duel. That's particularly evident in "Highway Home," where the characters spend much of their time in verbal combat, parrying and thrusting with words. Garry Peters is notable here as the prickly Shannon, a lawyer by training but a duellist by nature, whose eyes betray his constant search for an opening in which to skewer his opponent. Douglas Taylor rarely allows him an easy score as the cool, mostly collected Patrick, but Taylor gives a richer portrayal as the conflicted minister, who seeks to be true to his calling but is drawn to what may be his last chance to be true to himself; his sense of longing and regret is powerful. Not to slight Jude Hickey and Gina Houston, who contribute keen, intelligent work here as well, but these plays belong to those who carry the weight of more years. Mitchell is really telling their stories, the tales of men who have been still for too long and are attempting at last to break free, to move, to flow. – Robert Faires

theatre

OPENING

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY: WORKSHOP PRODUCTION Rude Mechs' newest theatre spectacle, directed by Lana Lesley and Thomas Graves, gets an initial still-working-out-the-kinks outing in the form of an interactive party to which you are invited. What was lost when the West was won? What ingredients make up the best margarita in the world? What leads a single mother to tie her son to the last mountain lion in Texas to toughen him up? Written by Kirk Lynn, with original music by Peter Stopschinski, this "exploration of the wild frontier of parenthood" may answer those questions and many more. With live (rip-snortin') music, video, dancers, a dachshund race: Yeee-ha! *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 4-13, 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$10.*

www.rudemechs.com.

LA PASTORELA The Austin Latino Theater Alliance presents the 11th anniversary production of this comedy about a group of shepherds trying to reach Bethlehem while savvy devils attempt to thwart their progress. Proyecto Teatro's Luis Ordaz directs this classic show in Spanish, with English subtitles. *Dec. 4-20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 241-9799. \$15 (\$8, seniors, children; pay what you wish, Thursdays).*

www.lapastorela.org.

XMAS UNWRAPPED The juicy Jingle Belles of Shrewd Productions spill themselves like holiday nectar upon the Hyde Park stage in this annual showcase of bump-and-grindy burlesque directed by Melissa Livingston. That's Kristen Bennett, Alisha Golding, Shannon Grounds, Cassandra Guard, T. Lynn Mikeska, Marisa Pisano, Sarah Skelton, and Amae Weiss, all scantily and Santa-ly clad as aye-aye candy for your optical stocking. *Dec. 4-20. Thu.-Sat., 9pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 474-TIXS. \$20 (\$15, in advance).*

www.shrewdproductions.com.

J.B. Archibald MacLeish's 1958 Pulitzer-winning play, presented by Second Youth and the McCallum Fine Arts Academy, is a modern retelling of the Book of Job from the Bible's Old Testament and takes place in a run-down circus at the end of World War II. It's God vs. Satan, no holds barred, under the direction of Amanda Perry. *Dec. 4-6. Thu.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 2 & 7pm. Fine Arts Theatre, McCallum Performing Arts Theater, 5600 Sunshine Dr. www.mcallumtheatre.com.*

AW, WE'VE GOT YOUR CHRISTMAS BELLES RIGHT HERE!

In case you don't feel like hitting the long road north or south to catch the spectacle of hilarity that ensues as the Futrell Sisters attempt to fit the local church Christmas pageant into their chaotic holiday schedule, you can catch the delightful City Theatre version of *Christmas Belles* right here in town, vengeful sheep and all. *Dec. 4-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$15-20 (\$12, students; pay what you can, Thursdays).*

www.citytheatreAustin.org.

THE GORILLA MAN The Vestige Group presents its first rock & roll musical, a Kyle Jarrow creation directed by Susie Gidseg. It's about young Billy, who wakes one morning to find thick fur growing on the backs of his hands and discovers the awful truth his mother has been hiding from him for 14 years. "Cast from his home, he sets out on a journey to find his father, the legendary Gorilla Man." Accompanied by a live rock band, no less, it's a fur piece down the road. (See "Vestige Group," p.41, for more.) *Dec. 4-20. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm. Creekside Lounge, 606 E. Seventh. \$15-25 (pay what you wish, Thursdays).*

www.myspace.com/thevestigegroup.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE RADIO PLAY Austin Playhouse presents this Joe Landry live-radio-drama version of the Capra film classic, directed by Lara Toner and starring Rachel Dendy, Molly Karrasch, Michael Stuart, Benjamin Summers, Dirk van Allen, and Ben Wolfe. *Dec. 5-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$10, students).*

www.austinplayhouse.com.

I'LL BE SEEING YOU: A 1940S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL TexARTS presents this show-premiere musical collage, written by Todd Dellinger, that weaves memories of two now-adult children of the World War II era with letters to and from the home front, pictures and slides, and song and dance numbers set to popular and holiday tunes of the era. Featuring a large and lively cast under the direction of Robin Lewis, with musical direction from Mike McKelvey. *Dec. 5-14. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2 & 7pm. TexARTS Morris Theater, 2300 Lohman's Spur, Lakeway, 512/852-9079 x101. \$22-48.*

www.tex-arts.org.

PINOCCHIO American Family Theatre presents the singing, dancing spectacle of puppet-maker Geppetto's eponymous puppet-son as he travels from carnival to Candyland in the belly of a whale. *Sat., Dec. 6, 11am & 1pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500. \$15 (\$12, kids).*

www.oneworldtheatre.org.

RELATIVE SPACE Here's an original, site-specific installation, directed and choreographed by Lisa del Rosario for DA! Theatre Collective, with original music by Travis Cooper. "Using pedestrian, rhythmic, and acrobatic vignettes," with a cast of sharp performers, "the collective will slowly transform the space of Hyde Park Theatre into a sculpted world." Well, damn, a sculpted world! *Dec. 7-17. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY.*

www.datheatrecollective.org.

DREAM. ONE The (insistently lowercased) search party presents "an evening of fantasy, nightmare, and, above all, reverie" in which local directors, actors, designers, artists, and writers have teamed up to present five short plays and one film inspired by dreams. *Thu.-Sun., Dec. 11-14, 8pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. \$10.*

CLOSING

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 Blumensaat. *Through Dec. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30.*

www.vortexrep.org.

ONGOING

CHRISTMAS BELLES Out in Wimberley, it's the "saga of the Futrell sisters" as they attempt to pull together a church Christmas program while battling each other, hot flashes, a surly Santa, and a vengeful sheep. *Through Dec. 14. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. 450 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley, 512/847-0575. \$15-20.* But wait! This holiday comedy is also playing in a different production in **Round Rock**, from the Sam Bass Community Players under the direction of Andy Brown. *Through Dec. 13. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15 (\$13, seniors, students, educators, military).*

www.sambasstheatre.org.

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. *Through Dec. 28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. No show on Christmas. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-30 (half-price for students).*

www.austinplayhouse.com.

THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI O. Henry's classic is brought back to life up there in Georgetown. With songs by Mark St. Germain and Randy Courts. *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger).*

www.georgetownpalace.com.

STILL FOUNTAINS Eugene Sepulveda and Steven Tomlinson's www.abporter.org presents a pair of plays, *Highway Home* and *Them*, written by Michael Mitchell and directed by Katie Pearl. The staged diptych is about people trapped in the circular logic between family and self, about what happens when desire, love, homophobia, religion, racism, and politics intertwine with a deep longing for home. (See review, left.) *Through Dec. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 389-0315. \$15-30.*

www.frontgatetickets.com.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY Zach's annual Motown-inflected hallelaloo, replete with the Santa-suit-bedecked babes of beehives and bodacious belting power, returns with more than a dozen new songs for your ho-ho-holiday cheer. Rebecca Schoolar, Judy Arnold, and Andra Mitrovich star with Cedric Neal – the man who played Sportin' Life in Zach's production of *Porgy and Bess*. *Through Jan. 4. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45.*

www.zachscott.com.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris' ascerbic Christmas memories get some excellent rejuvenation in the form of new elf-star Espie Randolph (who so delightfully galvanized the Zach stage in *Shear Madness* a couple of years back), with director Dave Steakley answering the knock of color-specific opportunity by adding new material, including the Christmas story "Six to Eight Black Men," to the holiday mix. There's also – hurray! – musical enhancement by Meredith McCall and Jason Connor. *Through Jan. 11. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43.*

www.zachscott.com.

AUDITIONS

THE SHADOW BOX NxNW Theatre is casting this 1977 Micheal Cristofer Pulitzer winner about "death, and trying to make sense of it," to run in February and March under the direction of Kyle Evans. Roles available for men and women, ages 25-75, and a teenaged boy or girl. E-mail for appointment; see website for details. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 8-9, 7-9pm.* www.nxnwtheatre.org.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE Steve Martin's much-loved play, about the chance meeting of Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein in Paris, will be presented by the Sam Bass Community Players in Round Rock. They're looking for men and women (ages 20-50) to perform in February. See website for details. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 8-9, 7-9pm.* www.sambasstheatre.org.

THE BIRD AND THE BEE Capital T Theatre is seeking two males and two females (ages 16-30) for paid roles in these two short plays to be produced for FronteraFest's Long Fringe. E-mail for appointment and details. *Sun., Dec. 7.* info@capital.org.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND This Oscar Wilde comedy will be presented by Austin Shakespeare in February and March. See website for cast breakdown and details. Send head shot and résumé to alex@austinsakespeare.org. *Sat., Dec. 13.* Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. www.austinsakespeare.org.

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Andy Ritchie Minneapolis' finest takes in our balmy weather and storms the laughing stage at Cap City this weekend, with local boyo **Brendon Walsh** opening. *Dec. 10-13. Wed.-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.*

Kevin Nealon Surely you recall this clever cove from *Saturday Night Live* circa '86-'95? Anyways, he's good, see, and **Andi Smith** opens for him. *Fri-Sat., Dec. 5-6, 8 & 10:30pm.*

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

This Week: Parallelogramophonograph returns, post-tryptophan-induced-hibernation, with **Level**

5. Thu., 8pm. UpTowne is, y'know, the ColdTowne version of sketch comedy. **10pm.** Once again, it's that **Proctor** show, now with the **Faculty** and **Venn Diaphragm**. **Fri., 8pm.** **That Other Paper** presents **Punchline**, and its showcase of stand-up goodness is also free this weekend. **Fri., 10pm.** **Stool Pigeon** features a local celeb jump-starting the improv shenanigans that ensue. This week, it's Conjurctured's **David H. Walker**. **Sat., 8pm.** **Cage Match** Two teams wage unholy war and heathen mayhem upon each other, improv-style. **Sat., 9pm.** **Cold, Cold Improv** The ColdTowne house troupe dishes up a comedy conflagration for your entertainment, along with some grist for those **Frank Mills**. **Sat., 10pm.**

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

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its riotous musical comedy and sketches, now with the **Unleaded Supremes** singing "The Big Three Bailout," guest comedian **Derek Reid as Barack Obama** with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and a **new illusion** (it's called "Wet!") from 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.*

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

Friday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which three different troupes battle for improv supremacy. *8pm. \$10.* Then you've got the **Double Barrel** show, with two hot gangs of improvisers playing goofball for your amusement. *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: Cochise! Improv for Evil presents this handlebar-mustached, polyester-rocking, gritty TV crime drama all vivid Seventies style like somebody locked Starsky in a hutch with Huggy Bear and only Beretta and Toma could get them out. *8pm. \$10.* **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$10.*

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: **Joel "Cowbell" Keith**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Todd Merriman The Man With the Totally Comedy-Appropriate Name brings some holiday chuckles to the Cheese Palace, with **Doug Connolly** and **Randie Short** opening. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 5-6, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

Ballet East Dance Company & Rodolfo Mendez, artistic director presents,



PUSHING BOUNDARIES

an eclectic array of movement and vision from Austin's most up-and-coming choreographers - Melissa Villarreal, Gina Patterson, Eric Midgley, Sharon Marroquin, Ananda Moss, Toni Bravo and guest choreographer and Ballet East alumni, Dixon Mena

Dec 4,5,6 - 8pm, Dec 7 - 2pm
Dougherty Arts Center
1110 Barton Springs Road

\$12 - adults,
\$8 - seniors/children


general info - 512.385.2838
mendestein@juno.com
www.balleteast.org
ticket info - 512.474.TIXS

This project is cosponsored by Ballet East Dance Company and funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.





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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 ComedySportz Reunion Shows Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cutups 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., Dec. 6, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.**

BREW HA HA is a comedy showcase featuring the nationally acclaimed Jorge Jimenez and Cesar Cervantes, hosted by Rock y Roll Radio's Paul Saucido, with proceeds benefiting the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium. **Fri., Dec. 5, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$30-40 (\$25, in advance). www.hideouttheatre.com.**

JIM GAFFIGAN Comedy Central's one-man laugh factory makes the Paramount Theatre a multiple-performance stop on his very sexy Sexy Tour tour. Be warned, though: This performance may contain "adult content." Oh my stars and little fishes! Oh holy vibrating butt-plugs! (See "Jim Gaffigan," p.41, for more.) **Dec. 4-6. Thu., 8pm; Fri., 7 & 10pm; Sat., 7 & 10pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. www.jimgaffigan.com.**

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects nails the weekend to a late-night comedy wall with this excellent improv showcase. This week: Shannon McCormick & Buzz Moran are **Couching Out**, following the overwhelming reality of **Austin's Next Top Improviser.** **Sat., Dec. 6, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.**

dance

BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: DANCE AUDITIONS

Austin's site-specific aerial dance company is seeking dancers and gymnasts for upcoming productions. Wear tight-fitting workout clothes, preferably without zippers or buttons. Please also bring a soft, long-sleeved shirt for extra coverage. **Sun., Dec. 7, noon-4pm. Blue Lapis Light Studios, 6701 Thomas Springs Rd. Ste. A. 736-9700. www.bluelapislight.org.**

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE The Choreography I class of Austin Community College, under the direction of Kathy Dunn Hamrick, performs its original works and two new works from dance faculty choreographers Darla Johnson and Allison Orr. **Fri.-Sat., Dec. 5-6, 8pm. ACC Mainstage Theater, 1212 Rio Grande. 223-3384. \$6 (\$3, seniors, students).**

READY[SET]GO! A fast-paced evening of diverse new dance from professional and emerging Austin-based choreographers in an intimate setting features Lynn Forney, Ellen Hauck, Katherine Hodges, Jennifer Micallef, Rosalyn Nasky, Leah Smiley-Tubbs, and Lindsey Taylor. **Fri.-Sat., Dec. 5-6, 8pm. Clear Springs Studio, 605 Copeland. \$5-10. www.readysetgodance.com.**

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: INFORMANCE

Kathy Dunn Hamrick directs students from the Choreography I class. **Tue., Dec. 9, 7pm. ACC Rio Grande campus, Dance studio, Rm. 130, 1212 Rio Grande. 223-3384. Free.**

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE TDC celebrates the holiday season with an open house that includes an informal dance demonstration presented by academy instructors and students. Also, a holiday arts and crafts bazaar. **Sun., Dec. 7, noon-4pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. 474-9864. Free. www.tapestry.org.**

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE'S SEMBRANDO HERENCIA: THE JOURNEY BACK

This is PRFD's newest bilingual musical with an original story by PRFD Director Ana Maria Maynard in collaboration with Rupert Reyes. This year's spectacle showcases 30 dancers, as well as musicians and performing arts students, with Cherokee David Hoskins & Family. Also, the debut of PRFD's Junior Company. **Sun., Dec. 7, 3pm. Reagan High School Theater, 7104 Berkman. 251-8122. \$12 (\$10, in advance; \$5, children). www.casita.prfdance.org/sembrando2008.**

BALLET EAST: PUSHING BOUNDARIES Innovative Austin choreographers Melissa Villarreal, Gina Patterson, Eric Midgley, Sharon Marroquin, Ananda Moss, Toni Bravo, and guest artist Dixon Mena offer up a kaleidoscope of dance works. (See "Movin' on Up," p.42, for more.) **Dec. 4-7. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 385-2838. \$12 (\$8, seniors, children). www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty.**

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Two hundred dancers, ages 8 and older, join the company in this 46th annual rite of the holiday season. Choreographed by Stephen Mills to the music of Tchaikovsky, this is the first performance of the ballet at the Long Center. And, as always, every night brings a new celebrity Mother Ginger to the massive scaffold, to disgorge *les bon-bons!* **Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat. 7:30pm; Sun. 2pm. Extra shows: Thu., Dec. 18, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 20, 2pm; Mon.-Tue., Dec. 22-23, 7:30pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. \$15-71. www.balletaustin.org.**

1,001 NIGHTS

DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER This month's smoke-free event features belly dancers from around the state, including Drakon accompanied by Jamie Lynn, Pamela, Alejandra, Sariah, Driшти Dancers, Randomosity, and Gypsy Rogues. Ararat Middle Eastern Fusion offers food for sale; BYOB. **Sat., Dec. 6, 8pm. Eternal Way Center, 1122 S. Lamar. 295-2036. \$10 (free, kids under 12). www.desertpassion.com.**

TWO LEFT FEET

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.**

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.**

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. **323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.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.*

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.**

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 MONTLEY

Guest choreographer Montley 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 focuses 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.**

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.**

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.**

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

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.**

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.kickbuttfoot.com.**

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. **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.**

classical music

OPENING

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: NOONDAY CONCERT

This lunch-hour concert features the **Austin Handbell Ensemble.** A light lunch is served following the concert (reservations required by 10am on day of the concert; if e-mailing, please write "Lunch" in the subject line). **Thu., Dec. 4, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 4472-2445. Free (lunch, \$5; \$3, children). www.cpacstun.org.**

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Miró Quartet and Friends

UT's resident string quartet performs works by Romberg, Boccherini, and Dvorak, with faculty guest artists Marianne Gedigian, flute; Roger Meyers, viola; Adam Holzman, guitar; and Anne Epperson, collaborative piano. **Fri., Dec. 5, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$20 (\$17, UT faculty/staff, seniors; \$10, students. Holiday Choral Concert** The combined choruses of the Butler School of Music perform under the baton of James Morrow. **Sat., Dec. 6, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$10 (\$5, students). www.music.utexas.edu.**

CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

Fri., Dec. 5. 532-7944. \$10. www.austinwindsymphony.org.

SOULFUL RAGAS: SITAR & TABLA CONCERT This rare musical treat features two master musicians from India (Indrajit Banerjee, sitar, and Gourisankar, tabla) performing music from the ancient Indian Vedic times. **Sat., Dec. 6, 7pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. www.casadeluz.org.**

MUSIC AND A MOVIE: A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

P. Kellach Waddle and the musicians of PKW Productions present a live performance to accompany the Stanley Kubrick classic, featuring pieces written or inspired by Beethoven, all of which feature the bass. **Sat., Dec. 6, 7pm. Alamo Draughthouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-8135. www.draughthouse.com/lakecreek.**

THE INVINCIBLE CZARS: NUTCRACKER SUITE

The Invincible Czars perform their zealous version of Tchaikovsky's classic "Nutcracker Suite," as well as tunes from the ballet's score - "Spanish Dance," "Mother Ginger," "Apotheosis," and "Waltz of the Snowflakes" - in this sixth annual concert. **Sat., Dec. 6, 7pm: Holiday Stroll, Third & Congress. Free. Sat., Dec. 13, 2pm: Jovita's, 1617 S. First. \$7. www.invincibleczars.com.**

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: MANUEL BARRUECO

Grammy-nominated guitar superstar Barrueco has been one of the most influential performers of the past 30 years. Hear why in this very intimate setting. **Sat., Dec. 6, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 300-2247. \$40-60 (\$30, ACGS members, seniors, students). www.austinclassicalguitar.org.**

WEIHSNACHTSKONZERT (CHRISTMAS CONCERT)

Willkommen this selection of German Christmas songs performed by the Austin Saengerrunde Choirs, featuring excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" with the St. Edward's Orchestra. Communal singing follows



IMPROV TROUPE PARALLELO-GRAMPHONO-GRAPH PERFORMS AT COLDTOWNE THEATER ON THURSDAY.

the concert. *Sun., Dec. 7, 2:30pm. Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto, 249-0263, 249-0263, 659-7822. Free.*

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA Four of AYO's groups perform, including the Intermezzo, Sinfionietta, Philharmonic, and Symphony orchestras. *Sun., Dec. 7, 2:30pm. Stephen F. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. Free. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: HANDEL'S MESSIAH Guest conductor David Stevens directs one of the most popular oratorios of all time. Guest vocalists include Beth Cram Porter, soprano; Leah Lewis, mezzo-soprano; Casey Finnigan, tenor; William Parcher, bass; and the vocal forces of the Parish Choirs of St. David's Episcopal Church. *Tue., Dec. 9, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064. \$15-35. www.austinsymphony.org.*

ADVENT CONCERTS AT NOON This week: Bella Corda, Austin Guitar Ensemble; Kevin Taylor, director. *Thu., Dec. 11, noon. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsaustrin.org.*

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to orchestra students in grades K-12 from public, private, charter, and home schools who are members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Students should prepare a solo piece or étude of their choice. Scales and sight-reading may also be required. There is a \$100 fee per semester for tuition. See the website for details. *Mon., Dec. 8, 6pm (registration); 6:30pm (auditions). Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

visual arts

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY On the first Thursday of each month, enjoy nine galleries within walking distance with ample parking, all dolled up and awaiting your visit on this day in particular. Venues include Art on 5th, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, Sterling Images, Wally Workman Gallery. See website for gallery map. *Thu., Dec. 4, 6-8pm. 478-4440. www.artaustin.org/westend.htm.*

AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS FUNDRAISER The work of student artists and working professionals is on display in this new exhibition to benefit American YouthWorks. *Thu., Dec. 4, 4-8pm. 216 E. Fourth. 817/944-9954. Free. www.americanyouthworks.org.*

ARTSYER: ARTIST OPEN HOUSE Here's the opening party for Adeline Rem's new studio gallery, featuring her own fused-glass works and pieces by seven other artists. *Sun., Dec. 7, 1-8pm. 3606 Ranch Creek, 775-7111. www.artsyer.com.*

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL Yes, even the tonier hoods have holiday art sales. That's what makes 'em tony, after all, innit? Sculpture, ceramics, woodwork, fiber arts, and more. See the website for a strolling map. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, 11am-5pm. 1410 Travis Heights Blvd. www.travisheightsart.com.*

THE SCREAMER COMPANY RELEASE PARTY The Screamer Company holds a release party for *Three*, its printed collection of art and writing from around the world. Free book, artwork, and live music. *Thu., Dec. 4, 5:30-10:30pm. 107 Leland #3. Free. www.thescreamercompany.com.*

WEBOMIC MAESTRO CHRIS ONSTAD SIGNING THE GREAT OUTDOOR FIGHT You either don't care about this event or you're already contemplating camping out to see the man early. Huzzah! (See "Here Comes Mr. Achewood," p.46, for more.) *Sat., Dec. 6, 7-10pm. 5002 N. Lamar, 454-4197. www.austinbooks.com.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TOM WAITS; G'BYE, DAVID OHLERKING! Before maestro Ohlerking absconds to the Jersey fucking shore, OMG, see his most recent works, and kiss him bon voyage. In the artist's words, it's "paintings of people doing play stuff, at a place where people do plays and play stuff. Done from photos taken by musician Graham Reynolds who is already down with the thespians, interpreted by a painter who has been inexplicably sucked into the theatrical swirling vortex but is pretty cool with it." With live music by the Bob

Spring Hogs. *Sun., Dec. 7, 6-9pm. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS ART SALE This 16th annual event offers jewelry, ceramics, encaustic paintings, fused glass, and more. *Dec. 5-6. Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. 2309 Thornton, 440-8485. www.thorntonroadstudios.com.*

SHOW & TELL: A DIGITAL SLIDE JAM Women & Their Work presents this showcase of the work of four local artists: Lisette Chavez, Angela Fox, Christa Mares, and Rick Mansfield. *Wed., Dec. 10, 7pm. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

OPENING

LOTUS GALLERY: KOOROSH ANGALI New works of surrealism by the Iranian artist. *Through Dec. 31. 1201-B W. Sixth, 474-1700.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Here's a big group show from some of the coolest artists in town. Highly recommended. *Reception: Thu., Dec. 4, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 20. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. *Reception with live music: Thu., Dec. 4, 6-10pm. 2309 Thornton.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART: JON LANGFORD The Wales-born and longtime Chicago resident Langford (of the Mekons, et al.) presents a show of his newest work. *Reception (with live music by Langford & the Far Forlorn): Fri., Dec. 5, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

AUSTIN ART SPACE: 12 X 12 Here's a show of work of restricted dimensions, with each piece – by artists from Texas and across the globe – 12 inches by 12 inches, showcased in what used to be the Artspoken Gallery but has now, phoenix-like, risen again with a fresh moniker. *Reception: Fri., Dec. 5, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 20. 7739 Northcross Dr., 771-2868. www.austinartspace.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY Thirty new watercolors by Sara Jane Parsons. *Dec. 5-31. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: TWELVE You recall the last year or so's worth of blurbs and/or reviews of Workman Gallery shows featured here in the listings? How the reactions have all been positive, to say the least, and sometimes outright gushing – due to the qualities of brilliance so often on display? Yeah, well. As if to push us to the point of some climax or other, the gallery's year-end show features work by 12 of its major artists. NB: If this section of your *Chronicle* feels moist at all, we'll swear it's from tears of joy. *Reception: Sat., Dec. 6, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 23. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: BEN WOITENA This exhibition covers 45 years of work by the noted Houston sculptor who studied with sculptor Charles Umlauf at UT. *Artist talk: Sat., Dec. 6, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 4. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. www.umlauptsculpture.org.*

1305 POSITION GALLERY: CONSEQUENCE This holographic installation by multimedia artist Sally Weber is the inaugural event for the new Eastside gallery. *Sat., Dec. 6, 6-8pm. 1305 E. Sixth, 495-9578. www.1305position.com.*

CLOSING

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 his graphic novel *Kabuki: The Alchemy*. *Through Dec. 10. St. Ed's Art Gallery, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8740. www.stedwards.edu.*

ONGOING

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.*

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

CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS

There's no place like...

Home For
The Holidays

20th
Season
Celebration

Sat. DEC 13 @ 7:30 PM
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
606 W. 15th Street

This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



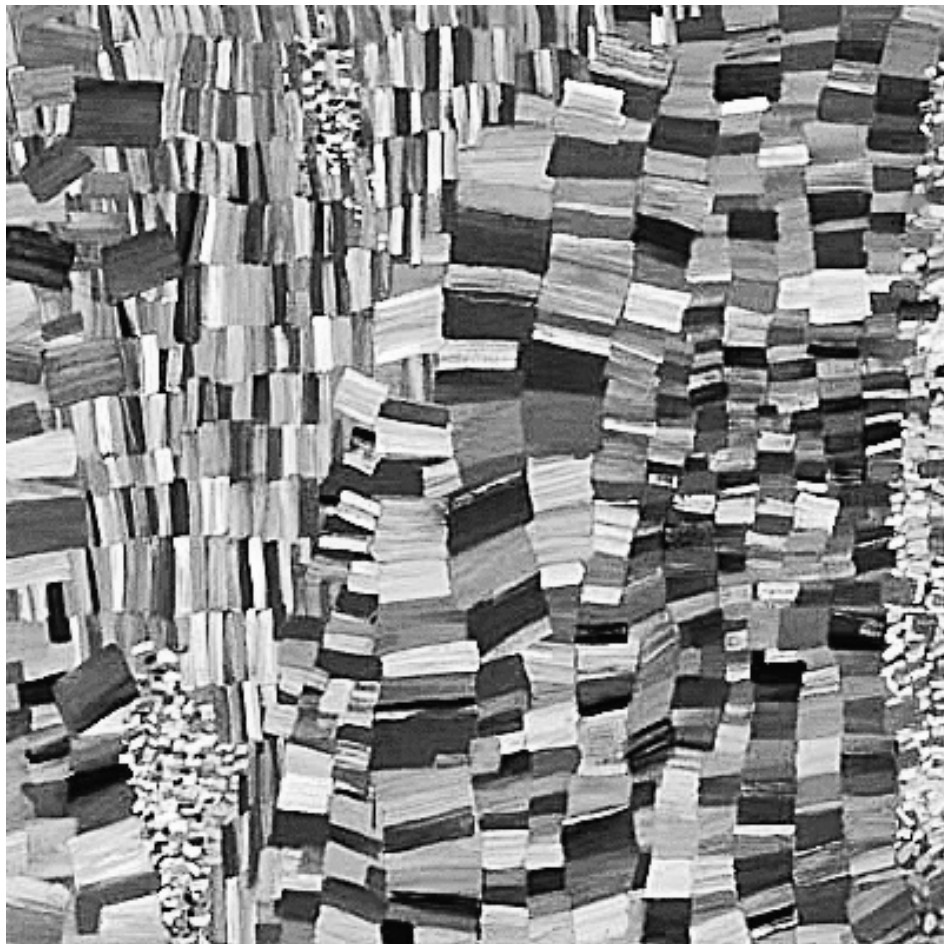
Tickets available at:

CCMCAustin.org
or buy in person at Tapelenders and Lobo

DUDLEY & BOB
WEEKDAYS 6-10 AM
93.7 KLBJ



Dale Dudley - Bob Fonseca - Charlie Hodge - Angela Davis



'Sydney Yeager: Moving Parts'

Picture a spectacular cannon-blast

of confetti: The air comes alive with this dense cloud of shifting hues as thousands of tiny scraps of multicolored paper float and flutter, catching the light – a visual field that's active and festive and seductive, as well. That may be the best approximation I can offer of the feel of the new paintings by Sydney Yeager showing at D Berman Gallery. Canvas after canvas is tightly packed with bunches of small geometric figures that, while perfectly still, suggest motion – and not in the sensually curvy manner of the artist's previous work. The elongated swirls and loops of "Billow and Fold," Yeager's last show at D Berman, have been replaced by punchy little rectangles – sometimes skinny strips and sometimes chunky blocks – that abut and crowd and jostle one another like overheated atoms, that erupt in thick streams or fly in random, chaotic bursts.

These are some busy little abstracts, charged with a different kind of kineticism than Yeager has evoked before. Using such small shapes as the base for the works, she's able to play around even more with color fields and layering, cramming more patches of complementary and contrasting shades into the canvas, packing in more places where shapes can meet and overlap, creating the illusion of greater depth in the image and of intense humming, vibrating activity.

Almost all the paintings share that sense of animation, and yet there's an intriguing degree of variety in the way it's expressed. The way Yeager plays with color here colors the mood of the motion in the various paintings. The dominance of black, white, and gray in *Ordered Clarity*, with its thick, curling clumps of cigarette-thin blocks, calls to mind the slow eddy of fog on a gloomy night. *Under the Influence*, on the other hand, with its voluptuous play of

D Berman Gallery
Through Dec. 13

reds and roses, is the party girl of the exhibition, the one that arrives in a smart little crimson cocktail dress that no one can take his eyes off of; it's a work that dances. And next to it is a piece of sublime contrast, *Local Innocence*, whose soft spring greens and creams give off a calm, pastoral air, say, the gentle movement of a country breeze.

Admittedly, these descriptions take things a bit too far into the realm of the representational as far as interpretations go and may do a bit of a disservice to what are, after all, abstracts. It's just that Yeager's masterful manipulation of shapes and colors creates distinctively different kinds of energy in the various works. Perhaps it's best left said that there is an abundance in them to get your eye moving, and maybe that will spark some movement inside you, as well. – Robert Faires

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.

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. *Through Jan. 10.* 360 Nueces Ste. C. www.lorareynolds.com.

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. *Through Dec. 20.* 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaoboadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE: RAPTURE IN RUPTURE Curator Elizabeth Dunbar presents new works by Lauren Kelley, Shiri Mordechai, Mindy Shaper, and Nicolau Vergueiro. *Through Jan. 11.* 700 Congress, 453-5312. Free. www.arthouseatexas.org.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artsspoken.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.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

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

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appt.* 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeptoaustinweird.com.

CRL: PROSPECT This juried group exhibition showcases spatially inspired art by UT students, faculty, and alumni. *Through Dec. 13.* 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.

D BERMAN GALLERY: SYDNEY YEAGER Yeager's bright paintings continue to evolve with new angular representations of movement and energy. (See review, left.) *Through Dec. 13.* 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

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

DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN A selection of fine art prints by the members of WPA. *Through Dec. 29.* 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

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.* 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE Eleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display throughout the gardens. *Through Jan. 31.* 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO 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.

Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexico-artmuseum.org.

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.

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.artworksbykathiherrin.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, 11am.* 2608 Brockton.

TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Kristen Case's "Six by Sundown" series of figurative photographs. Reception: *Thu., Dec. 4, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31.* Texas French Bread, 1722 S. Congress. www.kristencase.com.

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT 102 Krebs. ohlikerpaintings@yahoo.com.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFE MUNDI New photographs by Kevin C. Foote. Dec. 5-31. 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634. www.birdhousegallery.com.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

FLIGHTPATH: WORD ON THE STREET Vija G. Mendelson presents an exhibit of her original photo collages celebrating the unique character of Austin's streets. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 6, 7-10pm.* Exhibition: *Through Jan. 2.* 5011 Duval St., 458-4472. www.wordonthestreetphotography.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.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

THE AUSTIN POLYMER CLAY GUILD meets on the first Saturday of each month. Visitors welcome. See website for details. *Sat., Nov. 1, 2-4:30pm.* Yarbrough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock. www.austinpolymerclay.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.

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. 19 issue is Monday, Dec. 8.** 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.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

JULIA MICKENBERG unwraps her *Tales for Little Rebels: A Collection of Radical Children's Literature*. *Wed., Dec. 10, 5pm. Follett's Intellectual Property, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007. www.intellectualpropertyaustin.com.*

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES Suzi Stern reads Dylan Thomas' classic tale of the holiday, with her original music and the music of Rich Harney (accompanied by Alex Coke and Buddy Mohmed) interwoven throughout the piece. It's live and simulcast via the Ransom Center website, too. *Wed., Dec. 10, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free. www.hrc.utexas.edu/webcast.*

RACHAEL RAY cooks up *Rachael Ray's Big Orange Book*. But you must purchase it from BookPeople, and she will only be signing the *Orange Book*. *Sun., Dec. 7, 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

KAY MCCONAUGHEY shares how she has learned to find surprise and wonder in this crazy world with her memoir *I Amaze Myself*. And, yes, teaching kindergarten may have helped. *Sun., Dec. 7, 1pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ACHEWOOD'S CHRIS ONSTAD AND THE GREAT OUTDOOR FIGHT You either don't care about this event or you're already contemplating camping out to see the man early. The young and affable fellow who brought the world Raymond Q. Smuckles and Cassandra "Roast Beef" Kazenzakis – and who caused one Leon Sumbitches (real name Brian Wheat, as I will prove later) to call that same R. Smuckles "a toilet seat that smokes a cigar" – will be signing copies of his first fierce hardcover this evening. B.Y.O.C.S. (See "Here Comes Mr. Achewood," p.46, for more.) *Sat., Dec. 6, 7-10pm. Austin Books, 5002 N. Lamar, 454-4197. www.austinbooks.com.*

THE TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR RELEASE features readers Carie Kinder, Katherine Durham Oldmixon, Margie Roe, Suzanne Geiger, Cindy Jensen, Catherine Capers, Robert Ayres, Marcelle Kasprovicz, Nancy Fierstien, and Charlotte Renck; editors Scott Wiggerman, Cindy Huyser, and David Meischen; and graphic designer Kristee Humphrey. Recommended. *Sat., Dec. 6, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

SPOKEN WORD: THE EXPERIENCE TOUR Faylita Hicks and Michelle Desiree – members of the Austin Neo Soul Poetry Slam team that represented Austin at the nationals in 2006, 2007, and 2008 – kick off their West Coast tour at Kick Butt Coffee tonight. *Sat., Dec. 6, 8:30pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 665-3932. \$5 after 9pm. www.faylitaicks.com.*

REWIND: SLAM MIXTAPE 2008 Hosted by Austin slam master Mike Henry and featuring Team Austin '08, plus Andy Buck, Da'Shade, Big Poppa E., Faylita Hicks, Tony Jackson, Korim, Christopher Lee, Krissi Reeves, Love Robinson, Lacey Roop, Minister Sin, Danny Strack, and Mike Whalen. *Fuckin' A* recommended. *Fri., Dec. 5, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. www.thelongcenter.org.*

ZZ PACKER reads from her works, including her upcoming novel. Her first collection, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner award and named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Definitely recommended. *Thu., Dec. 4, 7:30pm. Avaya Auditorium, ACES Bldg., 405 W. 25th.*

A YEAR OF CLARITY Clarity coach Ann Daly celebrates her new book, *A Year of Clarity: The Monthly Guide for Women*, with Allison Allen, founder of www.womenbloom.com. Join the conversation about women, clarity, and living life large. *Thu., Dec. 4, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free. www.ann Daly.com.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

DIANE FANNING meets with the Mystery Book Discussion Group to chew on *Bite the Moon* and her other mysteries. *Wed., Dec. 10, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

OPEN MICS

EXPRESSIONS FESTIVE SEASONS features Darrel Meyers, Herman Nelson, John Berry, Phillip Abbott, and more. Music by Chris Van Loan. Cans for Poets Pantry and potluck for the break of this all-ages show. *Sat., Dec. 6, 7-10pm. Austin Bahá'í Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.*

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.*

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom the World Poet. 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.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *a cat does not believe it is a cat or that a bird is anything more than some thing to catch maybe to eat or maybe just to pat around but a human is nothing without a belief in some thing that can not be seen that is not actual in a sense but is more real than even flesh starved for water reach or death. Namaste. vaya con dios.*

APL HOLIDAY BOOK SALES Hundreds of books, videos, CDs, DVDs, LPs, and computer software on

sale. *Sat., Dec. 6, 10am-2pm; Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst. Sun., Dec. 7, 2-6pm; Manchaca Branch, 5500 Manchaca Rd. 974-7400.*

RECIPE OF THE ISSUE

Create pie often so the art is not lost. Do not forget temperature. Cold is essential, then heat. You must have an oven, cannot make pie over an open fire or in a barbecue pit. Be firm with those who insist pie can be made in a crockpot or on the back window ledge of a Pontiac left out in August sunlight. Respect the rules of pie.

– Susan Bright, from "Pie"

Find the whole pie at www.earthfamilyalpha.blogspot.com/2008/11/pie-for-obama.html.

TOMORROW!

Friday,
December
5th

We'll have
thank-you gifts
for everyone
who donates!

Join 107.1 KGSR for our ANNUAL Christmas Bureau Star-A-Thon!

Friday, December 5th KGSR will be broadcasting live all day long with the Christmas Bureau on hand to assist you in sponsoring a family in need. We'll also be taking cash, check or credit card donations to help support the cause.

Broadcast times and locations

- * 6-10am: KGSR Studios at 8309 N. I-35 with Bryan Beck
- * 10am - 3pm: Central Market at 38th & Lamar with Susan Castle
- * 3- 7pm: Saxon Pub and South Austin Music on S. Lamar with Jody Denberg

The Christmas Bureau is an umbrella organization that provides assistance for needy families and individuals throughout the holiday season. Call 453-3950 or visit KGSR.com for more details.

film listings

new reviews



CADILLAC RECORDS D: Darnell Martin; with Adrien Brody, Jeffrey Wright, Gabrielle Union, Columbus Short, Cedric the Entertainer, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Eamonn Walker, Mos Def, Beyoncé Knowles. (R, 108 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Curiously, no advance screenings of this highly anticipated music biopic were held in the “live music capital of the world” – nor much of anywhere else. Writer/director Martin’s film tells the story of Leonard Chess (Brody), Muddy Waters (Wright), and the birth of the Chicago blues. Other performers include Mos Def as Chuck Berry, Cedric the Entertainer as Willie Dixon, and Beyoncé as Etta James. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

LAKE CITY D: Hunter Hill, Perry Moore; with Sissy Spacek, Troy Garity, Rebecca Romijn, Dave Matthews, Drea de Matteo, Colin Ford, Keith Carradine, Barry Corbin. (R, 92 min.)

You’re probably already familiar with Murphy’s Law, the one that says, “Everything that can go wrong will go wrong.” What you may not be quite as familiar with, however, is Murphy’s Law of Melodrama, which states that everything that can go wrong will go wrong to the sound of sweeping minor-key violins. Such is the curse of Billy (Garity), the brooding antihero of *Lake City*, a movie that approaches drama with a heavy-handedness bordering on absurdity. Billy is a classic movie fuckup, the bad boy you can see coming a mile away. His hair is mussed, and his sideburns are long; he chain-smokes cigarettes and forgets to shave; he wears tight, black T-shirts and drives a 1968 Ford Thunderbird with the engine sticking out of the hood: simple shorthand to let audiences know he’s no good without actually having to say anything. Well, not that he’s no good but rather that he has terrible luck, that life can and will drop on his head at any moment, and that he’s developed a thousand and one post-Stella Adler affectations as a way of protecting himself from the inevitable crash. The list of Billy’s problems reads like an ancient Greek litany: He’s a drunk, he’s on the run from a violent drug dealer (an oddly cast Matthews, leader of the good-natured fusion/jam-rock band that bears his name), he’s recently had to move back in with his mother in small-town Virginia, his junkie girlfriend (de Matteo) uses their son as a drug mule, and he’s stuck emotionally in a single dark moment from his childhood, forced to relive its trauma over and over again in moody flashbacks. All in all, he’s the perfect overblown protagonist for the perfect overcooked soap opera, one in which writer/directors Hill and Moore have mixed so many unnecessary gangster subplots and so much half-baked psychobabble that it feels more like something you’d see late night on Showtime than in a movie theatre. The only thing saving *Lake City* from total ridiculousness is Spacek, who plays Billy’s emotionally paralyzed mother, Maggie,

D: Gus Van Sant; with Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco, Alison Pill, Victor Garber, Denis O’Hare. (R, 127 min.)

Milk

“My name is Harvey Milk, and I want to recruit you.” Milk liked to open stump speeches and rallies with that call to action, and it perfectly captured both his large-heartedness and single-mindedness about the fight that defined the last decade of his life – advancing gay rights in

San Francisco, the state of California, and the whole of America. Gus Van Sant’s very fine biopic restricts itself to that last decade, when Milk, a semiclosed insurance man living in New York, moved to San Francisco’s Castro district and embarked upon a historic campaign (four, in fact) to become the first openly gay man elected to public office. The tragic coda, of course, is that Milk was assassinated in 1978 (not long after taking office), alongside the city’s mayor, by fellow City Supervisor Dan White. The film’s merits aside – of which there are many – it’s worth nothing that *Milk* is the second biopic released this fall to suffer from a case of curious timing. In the instance of Oliver’s Stone’s rush job, *W.* – made too soon to have anything truly substantive to say about Bush – it raised the question: Why now? And with *Milk*, one wonders – with something of a moan for the missed opportunity – why not two months ago? Besides the fact that Van Sant and Penn’s endearing, indelible portrayal of Milk might personalize a gay man for Middle America in much the same way *Brokeback Mountain* did three years ago, there is also the obvious correlation between the recent Proposition 8 vote in California and a similar struggle, as told in *Milk*, over California’s Proposition 6 initiative, which sought to remove gay and lesbian teachers from public schools. Both are instances of civil rights being stripped from a large swath of a state’s population, and the Prop. 6 portion of *Milk* leaves a bitter aftertaste – for the sad fact of how far we still have to go and for the blown chance of a film to act as agent of change during a crucial election. Certainly *Milk* will have a place in the post-Prop. 8 groundswell of public awakening to the cause, and it’ll have a place in the Oscar race,

too. Technically, *Milk* is a knockout: It was shot by Harris Savides on 35mm, but the stock has the era-appropriate feel of grainy 16mm, and the set and costume design – browns and ochers, high waists and wide ties – feel authentically lived-in, without a whiff of kitsch or prop department wankery. Top to bottom, the thing is terrifically acted, from Penn’s titanic, open-faced performance to staggering turns from two young, chameleonic actors – Hirsch, as the bushy-haired Cleve Jones, who matures under Milk’s tutelage from kid trick to sharp-shooting activist, and Franco, as Milk’s put-upon lover, Scott. The early scenes establishing Milk and Scott’s relationship will catch your breath, with their intimate lens into the everyday ways every couple must negotiate its domesticity, as in a teasing chase around their apartment that ends with Milk leapfrogging onto the bed, crying out, “Sanctuary!” Still, when the focus of the script (by first-timer Dustin Lance Black) turns almost exclusively to the Prop. 6 fight and Milk’s last days, the film loses much of its loose-limbedness – a mirror, perhaps, of Milk’s own tamping-down as politics swallowed his personal life whole, but a disappointment nonetheless. *Milk* is a more conventionally satisfying picture than Van Sant’s previous Aughties output – *Gerry*, *Elephant*, and *Last Days* – which were almost aggressively experimental films that didn’t always work but got under the skin something fierce. The deeply heartfelt *Milk* is more of a surface skim: a fairly standard biopic – if a very fine one, indeed – but never the transcendent work one would have hoped from the filmmaker or his subject. (See “*History Circles Its Tail*,” p.59, for an interview with the director.)

– Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor

a woman who's suffered a double dose of tragedy in her life: first the accidental death of one of her two sons and then the development of the other into a second-rate James Dean with a taste for the maudlin. You might assume it's the first catastrophe that causes Maggie to sit for hours staring blankly at the horizon, but I wouldn't underestimate the damage having a cliché for a son can wreak on the soul of a mother. — Josh Rosenblatt

★♦ Dobie

NOBEL SON D: Randall Miller; with Alan Rickman, Bryan Greenberg, Shawn Hatosy, Mary Steenburgen, Bill Pullman, Eliza Dushku, Danny DeVito, Ted Danson, Ernie Hudson. (R, 102 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this new film by the director of *Bottle Shock*. Like that film, *Nobel Son* accentuates the conflicts between fathers and sons who choose divergent career paths. Rickman plays an egocentric chemist, who makes life even more miserable for his family once he wins the Nobel Prize. His son, who studies cannibalism, is kidnapped, and events spiral from there in this dark comedy. — Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE

D: Lexi Alexander; with Ray Stevenson, Dominic West, Doug Hutchison, Wayne Knight, Julie Benz, Dash Mihok, Colin Salmon, Stephanie Janusauskas. (R, 101 min.)

Frank Castle is the Punisher, Marvel Comics' one-man vengeance machine, who appears here in his third screen iteration and is played by Stevenson (HBO's *Rome*), the third film actor to personify the comic-book hero. The character was last seen in 2004, played by Thomas Jane in a fairly campy version of Castle's origin story. An ex-Marine, Castle becomes a homicidal maniac after mobsters murder his wife and daughter, and he slaughters the mobsters in return. Frank Castle was also played by Dolph Lundgren in a 1989 direct-to-video release, which is often overlooked by commentators. Despite being human, Castle is virtually indestructible: Sure, he can dish out the

violence, but he can also withstand anything that comes at him — without even mussing a single strand of his perfectly slicked-back hair. The blood and gore quotients of *Punisher: War Zone* are extremely high and are sure to sop the appetites of the series' fans and virtual bloodlusters — perhaps a trade-off for the muting of this most recent Punisher's signature garb and biting comebacks. Director Alexander handles the action with relentless fervor and occasional wit. (Alexander, a former karate champion, won acclaim for her 2005 soccer movie, *Hooligans*, which premiered at South by Southwest, where it received Jury and Audience awards for Best Narrative Feature.) An image of the Punisher shooting double-fisted while twirling upside down from a chandelier at a mob dinner party is priceless, as is the impaling of a bad guy's noggin on an iron fence, which is then used as a stepping-stone to cross the tall metal barrier. Frank Castle is a cartoon version of *Death Wish*'s Paul Kersey (played by Charles Bronson), a remorseless vigilante whose only raison d'être is vengeance, even once the character's own personal beefs are settled. *War Zone* has him battling it out with the series' recurring character, Jigsaw (a bold move on distributor Lionsgate's part, since its cash-cow franchise *Saw* also features a baddie by that moniker). West brings a lot of verve to Jigsaw, whose face was horribly sliced and diced by a glass-recycling machine, but perhaps not as much as his mayhem-mad brother, Loony Bin Jim (Hutchison). The film is shot in striking neon pastels and filtered light, which is maybe meant to indicate some of the human conflict Stevenson's Punisher experiences when he mistakenly kills an undercover fed who's been embedded with the mob. Castle is dismayed by his error, and that guilt drives this film's plot. But I won't dwell on that here. Like the Punisher says to one of his victims: "Let me put you out of my misery." — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

openings & ratings

Cadillac Records (R)

Lake City (R)

Milk (R)

Nobel Son (R)

Punisher: War Zone (R)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- ☹ La bomba

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PETER TRAVERS *Rolling Stone*

"A ROUSING CROWD-PLEASER!"

STEPHEN REBELLO *PLAYBOY*

SEAN PENN
MILK

EMILE HIRSCH JOSH BROLIN DIEGO LUNA AND JAMES FRANCO
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Master Pancake: Christmas Show, Fri, 8:40pm; Sat, 6:00, 8:40
Big Screen Classics: Cool Hand Luke: Sun, 1:00pm; Mon, 8:00pm; Wed, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: Dirty Pictures: Wed, 12mid
Tell Thrusday: From Beyond: Thu (12/11), 12mid
Music Monday: Ladies and Gentleman, the Fabulous Stains: Mon, 10:45pm
Milk: Fri, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:45, 4:00, 5:40, 7:00, 9:55pm; Sat, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:45, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 4:00, 5:45, 7:00, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 9:55; Tue, 4:00, 5:45, 7:00, 9:55; Wed-Thu (12/11), 4:00, 5:45, 8:45, 9:55

The Sing-Along! Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Fri-Sat, 11:20pm
Hey Homo!: Mix of Alpha of Virginia Woolf?! Tue, 8:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.
***Australia:** 11:40am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:30, 10:30pm
Bolt: 12:15, 3:05, 7:15, 9:45
Movies and Music: A Clockwork Orange: Sat, 7:00pm
***Four Christmases:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55pm; Mon-Wed, 12:00, 3:00, 7:10, 9:55pm; Thu (12/11), 12:00, 3:00, 9:55

Greenliss: Sat, 3:30pm; Sun, 3:30, 7:30
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:25, 3:15, 7:25; Sat, 12:25, 3:15; Sun, 12:25, 3:15, 7:25; Mon, 12:25, 3:15; Tue-Thu (12/11), 12:25, 3:15, 7:25
Role Models: Fri, 12:10, 3:10, 7:20, 10:30; Sat, 12:10, 7:20, 10:30; Sun, 12:10, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:10, 3:10, 7:20, 10:30
***Transporter 3:** 12:20, 3:20, 7:30, 10:10
Twilight: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 10:15
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Fri-Wed, 10:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

Australia: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 3:00, 6:40, 9:50pm; Mon, 3:00, 6:40, 9:50; Tue, 11:15am, 3:00, 6:40, 9:50pm; Wed-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 6:40, 9:50
Big Night Feast: Mon, 7:00pm
Bolt: Fri, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10pm; Sat, 11:00am, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:05, 7:20, 10:10; Tue, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 10:10pm; Wed, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10; Thu (12/11), 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10
Let the Right One In: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30pm; Mon, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30; Tue, 11:15am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30pm; Wed, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30; Thu (12/11), 2:05, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:05, 7:10, 9:45pm; Wed, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45; Thu (12/11), 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30
Role Models: Fri, 11:55am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10pm; Sat, 1:30, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10; Sun, 11:55am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10; Tue, 11:55am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 9:30pm; Wed, 4:50, 10:10; Thu (12/11), 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10

Role Models (open captioned): Wed, 7:20pm
AFS: Sisters: Tue, 7:00pm
Twilight: Fri, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35; Sat, 7:35, 10:35; Sun, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35pm; Mon, 4:35, 10:35; Tue, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 10:35pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35; Thu (12/11), 1:50, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35
Twilight (open captioned): Sat, 4:35pm

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:** Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45; Tue, 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/11), 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
TV at the Alamo: Gossip Girl: Mon, 7:15pm
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 9:30pm
JCMD: Fri, 11:00am, 8:10, 11:55pm; Sat, 8:10pm; Sun, 11:00am, 8:10pm; Tue-Wed, 8:10pm
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Sun, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00; Mon, 3:40pm; Tue, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00; Wed, 3:40, 6:00; Thu (12/11), 3:40pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm; Sun, 11:50am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; Tue, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/11), 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Twilight: Fri, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 3:45, 7:00; Tue, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00; Wed, 3:45, 7:00; Thu (12/11), 3:45, 10:00
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: 10:30pm

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Let the Right One In: 12:40, 3:20, 6:40, 9:35
Milk: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:50, 7:20, 9:45, 10:15; Tue, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:50, 7:20, 10:00, 10:15; Wed, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:50, 7:20, 9:45, 10:15; Thu (12/11), 11:20, 1:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:50, 7:20, 9:45, 10:15, 10:15
Rachel Getting Married: 12:30, 3:10, 7:10, 10:05
The Secret Life of Bees: 11:50am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10pm
Synecdoche, New York: 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

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Bolt: Fri, 10:00am, 11:10, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 10:30, 10:50pm; Sat, 10:00am, 11:10, 1:00, 1:30, 3:20, 3:50, 5:40, 6:10, 7:55, 8:30, 10:30, 10:50pm; Sun, 10:00am, 11:10, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Tue, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40; Wed, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30; Thu (12/11), 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:00, 6:10, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40
Boj (sensory friendly): Sat, 10:00am
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (12/11), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Four Christmases: Fri, 10:10am, 11:20, 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:15, 8:20, 9:15, 10:25pm; Sat, 11:55, 12:25, 12:55, 3:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:35pm; Sun, 10:10am, 11:20, 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:30; Wed, 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:30; Thu (12/11), 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:30
Nick & Nora's Infinite Playlist: 1:50, 7:50
Pride and Prejudice: Fri, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 7:00, 10:00
***Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys:** 7:30, 10:10
WALL-E: Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:10, 10:15

3:45, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 9:25; Thu (12/11), 12:25, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6:05, 7:10, 8:20, 9:25, 10:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:15, 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
Nobel Son: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:25
Punisher: War Zone: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/11), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Role Models: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 11:00pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
Transporter 3: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 11:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/11), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30
Twilight: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/11), 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

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***Australia:** Fri, 3:00, 6:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 3:00, 6:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 6:50, 10:20
Bolt: Fri, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20
***Four Christmases:** Fri, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 9:00
***Punisher: War Zone:** Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:15, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:40, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:15, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:40
Role Models: 7:30, 10:30
***Transporter 3:** Fri, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
Twilight: Fri, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:30, 10:50; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:30, 10:50pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.

***Australia:** Fri, 2:20, 4:10, 6:05, 8:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:05, 8:00, 9:45; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:20, 4:10, 6:05, 8:00, 9:45
Bolt: Fri, 2:35, 3:25, 4:15, 5:05, 5:55, 6:45, 7:35, 8:25, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 12:55, 1:45, 2:35, 3:25, 4:15, 5:05, 5:55, 6:45, 7:35, 8:25, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:35, 3:25, 4:15, 5:05, 5:55, 6:45, 7:35, 8:25, 10:05
***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas:** Fri, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
***Four Christmases:** Fri, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:45, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 1:20, 2:40, 3:45, 4:55, 9:10, 10:25; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:45, 9:10, 10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
***Punisher: War Zone:** Fri, 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 9:15, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 9:15, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 9:15, 10:30
***Transporter 3:** Fri, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
Twilight: Fri, 3:00, 4:20, 6:10, 7:25, 9:20, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 1:15, 3:00, 4:20, 6:10, 7:25, 9:20, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 4:20, 6:10, 7:25, 9:20, 10:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.

Discounts daily before 5pm.
***Burn After Reading:** Fri, 4:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 4:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 4:40, 10:15
***City of Ember:** Fri, 2:40, 5:10; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:40, 5:10
The Dark Knight: Fri, 2:50, 6:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:50, 6:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:50, 6:30, 9:50
***Fireproof:** Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:45, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25
***Igor:** Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30
Lakeview Terrace: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30
***Nick & Nora's Infinite Playlist:** 1:50, 7:50
Pride and Prejudice: Fri, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 7:00, 10:00
***Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys:** 7:30, 10:10
WALL-E: Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:10, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

***Australia:** Fri, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
Bolt: Fri, 1:20, 2:20, 3:25, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 10:40, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:20, 3:25, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:20, 2:20, 3:25, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:30
***Four Christmases:** Fri, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:50, 9:00, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 1:00, 12:10, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:50, 9:00, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:50, 9:00, 10:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:40, 2:10, 3:40, 5:05, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:20, 12:40, 2:10, 3:40, 5:05, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:40, 2:10, 3:40, 5:05, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 9:45
***Punisher: War Zone:** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:25, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 11:50, 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:25, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:25, 10:40
Role Models: 7:55, 10:20
***Transporter 3:** Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20
Twilight: Fri, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 12:20, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:45, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

***Australia:** Fri, 2:55, 6:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:55, 6:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/11), 2:55, 6:30, 10:00
***Bolt:** Fri, 12:20, 1:10, 2:20, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30; 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, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30
***Four Christmases:** Fri, 12:25, 1:40, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:40, 7:55, 9:20, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 12:25, 1:40, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:40, 7:55, 9:20, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:25, 1:40, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:40, 7:55, 9:20, 10:25
High School Musical 3: Senior Year: Sat-Sun, 10:30am
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:55, 5:35, 6:50, 8:10; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:55, 5:35, 6:50, 8:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:55, 5:35, 6:50, 8:10
***Punisher: War Zone:** 1:00, 3:50, 6:55, 9:55
Quantum of Solace: 12:30, 1:30, 3:15, 4:25, 6:20, 7:10, 9:15, 10:05
Role Models: 9:40pm
***Transporter 3:** Fri, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50
Twilight: Fri, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/11), 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15

BOLT D: Byron Howard, Chris Williams; with John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)

Bolt, an animated German shepherd (voiced by Travolta), has been born and raised on a 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," 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. The writing team of Dan Fogelman and co-director Williams has 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, and the end result is, to quote Rhino, *awwwwsome.* (11/21/2008) - Marc Savlov ★★★ Alamo Draughtouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draughtouse 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.)

Farmiga plays the wife of a German officer (Thewlis) during World War II 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. However, 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. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* is safe filmmaking all the way, hinting at enough

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Ken Lombardo, CBSNews.com

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Scott Hoffman, MoviePictureFilm.com

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Michael Musto, The Village Voice

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ALAMO DRAUGHTHOUSE CINEMA
DINNER - DRINKS - MOVIES - EVENTS



MILK
Gus Van Sant directs and Sean Penn and James Franco star in this story of Harvey Milk's election to public office as an openly gay man.
Opens Fri, Dec 5 at the Ritz



MIX TAPE SING-ALONG
The Mix Tape Sing-Alongs return with new music and lots of dancing! It will be pop-tastic to the max!
Fri, Dec 5 & Sat, Dec 6 - Ritz



The LABYRINTH SING & QUOTE-ALONG
You remind me of the babe! (What babe?) The babe with the power! (What power?)
Thurs, Dec 4 at the Ritz



BIG SCREEN CLASSICS COOL HAND LUKE
"What we have here is a failure to communicate!" - Paul Newman may be gone, but our love for him sure isn't!
Dec 7, 8 & 10 at the Ritz



HEY HOMO! presents WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?
What better way to ring in the holidays than with extreme alcoholism, disastrous verbal sparring and Elizabeth Taylor?
Tues, Dec 9 at the Ritz

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| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|---------------------|
| THU, DEC 4 | JCVD LABYRINTH SING-ALONG JIGGY CRUNK: 90s POP-RAP SING-ALONG TERROR THUR: FUNERAL HOME | 530 | 800 | 1020 |
| FRI, DEC 5 | MILK MASTER PANCAKE: XMAS SHOW! MIX TAPE SING-ALONG | 1145 | 100 | 245 400 540 700 955 |
| SAT, DEC 6 | MILK MASTER PANCAKE: XMAS SHOW! MIX TAPE SING-ALONG | 1145 | 100 | 245 400 540 700 955 |
| SUN, DEC 7 | MILK COOL HAND LUKE | 1145 | 100 | 245 400 540 700 955 |
| MON, DEC 8 | MILK COOL HAND LUKE \$2 MUSIC MON: THE FABULOUS STAINS | 400 | 515 | 700 955 800 930 |
| TUES, DEC 9 | MILK HEY HOMO! AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF | 400 | 545 | 700 955 845 |
| WEDS, DEC 10 | MILK COOL HAND LUKE WEIRD WEDNESDAY: DIRTY PICTURES | 400 | 545 | 845 955 700 |
| THU, DEC 11 | MILK TERROR THUR: FROM BEYOND | 400 | 545 | 845 955 |

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| QUANTUM OF SOLACE | 1100* | 125* | 405 | 700 | 945 |
| BOLT | 1110* | 130* | 405 | 705 | 1010 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1115* | 300 | 640 | 950 | |
| TWILIGHT | 1105* | 150* | 405* | 735 | 1035 |
| LET THE RIGHT ONE IN | 1115* | 205* | 450 | 745 | 1030 |
| ROLE MODELS | 1155* | 220* | 450 | 740* | 1010 |
| OPEN CAPTION: TWILIGHT | | | | | (Sat) |
| BIG NIGHT FEAST | | | | | (Mon) |
| AFS Essential: HERMAMAS | | | | | (Tue) |
| OPEN CAPTION: ROLE MODELS | | | | | (Wed) |

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------|-----|------|----------------|
| FOUR CHRISTMASSES | 1125* | 155* | 425 | 710 | 945 |
| QUANTUM OF SOLACE | 1105* | 145* | 430 | 720 | 1010 |
| TWILIGHT | 1230* | | 345 | 700* | 1000 |
| JCVD | 1100* | | | | MID* |
| MADAGASCAR 2 | 120* | | 340 | 600 | |
| ZACK & MIRI | | | | | 1030 |
| ROCKY HORROR | | | | | MIDNIGHT (Sat) |
| TV PARTY: GOSSIP GIRL | | | | | 715 (Mon) |
| TV PARTY: HEROES | | | | | 930 (Mon) |
| THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL | | | | | MIDNIGHT (Thu) |

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LAKECREEK SHOWTIMES (183 & LAKECREEK PARKWAY)

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUSTRALIA (11:40 3:25) 7:00 10:35 | FOUR CHRISTMASSES (11:30 2:10 4:35) 7:10 9:55 <small>ANTIWER SHOWTIMES WILL CHANGE 12/8</small> |
| TRANSPORTER 3 (12:20 3:20) 7:30 10:10 | BOLT (12:15 3:05) 7:15 9:45 |
| twilight (12:30 3:30) 6:45 10:15 | MADAGASCAR 2 (12:25 3:15) 7:25 Zack and Miri make a porno 10:00 |

SHOWTIMES ARE FOR 12/5 - 12/11 ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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CLOCKWORK ORANGE
MUSIC AND MOVIE
December 6th
7:00 pm \$14

NATIONAL LAMPOONS CHRISTMAS VACATION
December 20th
3:30 and 7:30 pm
December 21st
3:30 pm
Sunday, Dec 21st
7:30 pm
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PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) Fri. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40 11:50
Sat. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40 11:50
Sun. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) Fri. 12:25 12:40 2:35 2:50 4:45 5:00 7:15 7:30 9:45 10:00
7:15 7:30 9:45 10:00 11:45
Sat. 10:15 10:30 12:25 12:40 2:35 2:50 4:45 5:00 7:15 7:30 9:45 10:00 11:45
Sun. 10:15 10:30 12:25 12:40 2:35 2:50 4:45 5:00 7:15 7:30 9:45 10:00 11:45
Mon. - Thu. 12:25 12:40 2:35 2:50 4:45 5:00 7:15 7:30 9:45 10:00

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) Fri. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:59
Sat. 10:10 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:59
Sun. 10:10 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25

AUSTRALIA (PG-13) Fri. 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30 11:55
TWILIGHT (PG-13) Fri. 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sat. 11:00 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sun. 11:00 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30

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
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
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
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. 1:40 4:15 7:05 9:30 11:55
Sat. 11:00 1:40 4:15 7:05 9:30 11:55
Sun. 11:00 1:40 4:15 7:05 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 1:40 4:15 7:05 9:30

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) Fri. 12:15 2:35 4:45 7:05 9:20 11:45
Sat. 10:00 12:15 2:35 4:45 7:05 9:20 11:45
Sun. 10:00 12:15 2:35 4:45 7:05 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:35 4:45 7:05 9:20
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Kung Fu Panda

Kung Fu Panda (2008) D: Mark Osborne and John Stevenson; with the voices of Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Ian McShane, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, David Cross. (PG, 91 min.) **Family Movie Night.** Black's animated Po may be a panda bear, but deep down, he's really just a nerd with a pop-culture obsession. (*) @Pleasant Hill Branch Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.



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. (11/21/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt
 ★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown South

BURN AFTER READING D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt, John Malkovich, Tilda Swinton, Richard Jenkins, David Rasche, J.K. Simmons. (R, 95 min.)

Burn After Reading is a convoluted yet light-as-air farce about the dangers of misguided ambition and the contagiousness of paranoia. When a newly fired CIA analyst (Malkovich) decides to write a memoir about his time with the agency, he ends up instead on the wrong end of a blackmail scheme orchestrated by a bumbling duo, Linda Litzke (McDormand) and Chad Feldheimer (Pitt), two likable, middle-aged losers who think they've stumbled upon classified government documents. They're a classic ditzzy comedy pair, and their pathological dopiness allows the Coens to mock the conventions of spy movies. But they're also the movie's Achilles' heel: heroes whose bulging-eyed broadness descends quickly into burlesque. Say what you will about the cinematic joys of extortion, infidelity, espionage, paranoia, and random acts of graphic violence; if they're performed by cartoons and not people, it's going to be hard to get the people sitting in the theatre to care. The Coen brothers may be masters of black comedy, but there are times when there's no point in taking them seriously. (09/12/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Movies 8

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 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

★★★ 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

Cool Hand Luke

Cool Hand Luke (1967) D: Stuart Rosenberg; with Paul Newman, George Kennedy, Strother Martin. (NR, 126 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** This is one of the sharpest prison dramas ever, although it's graced with some very humorous portions as well. It can also be seen as a quintessentially Sixties parable about nonconformity. New 35mm print. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 1pm; Monday, 8pm; Wednesday, 7pm.



THE DARK KNIGHT D: Christopher Nolan; with Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Aaron Eckhart, Gary Oldman, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Cillian Murphy, Eric Roberts, Monique Curnen, Chin Han. (PG-13, 152 min.)

Sacrifices must be made, because that's what heroes do. Or so goes the nihilistic logic behind *The Dark Knight*, a grim little parable on the wages of sin and the high cost of redemption. It's impossible to view Nolan's extravagantly dour film through anything but the prism of Ledger's death. His Joker is the sort of convoluted, densely layered characterization that gets nominated for awards come Oscar time. It's a pity, then, that when taken as a whole, this 2½-hour film is such a stuffy downer. It's jam-packed with flawlessly designed set-pieces and skulduggery, sure, but it's also shrouded in grim portent, overlaid with a filigree of despair, and, for good measure, covered in a patina of dire consequence. In short, it's a *Batman* for the new age of anxiety. There's something intangible missing from this *Dark Knight*. For all its thrum and thunder, Nolan's film feels chilly and ill at ease. (07/18/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8

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

★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South

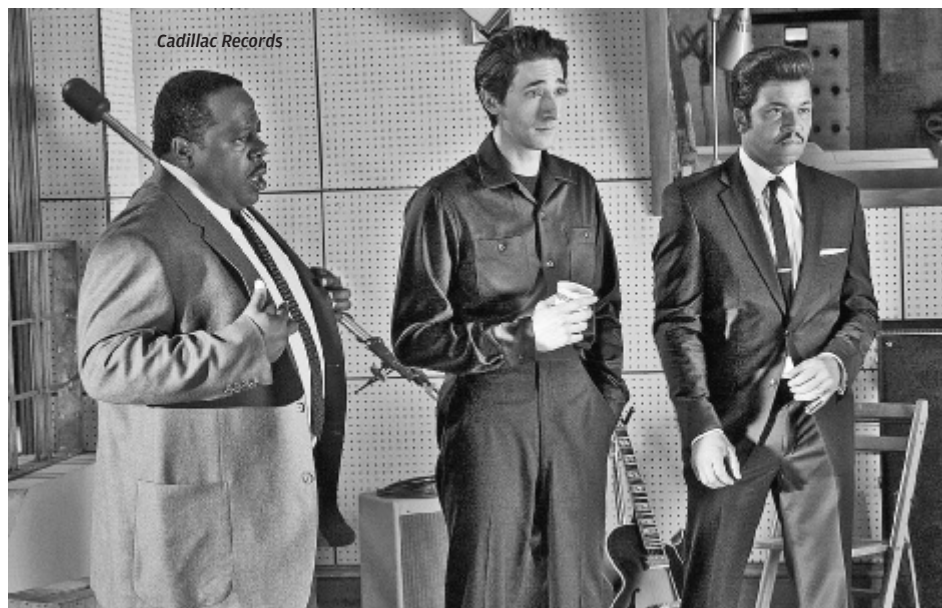
FOUR CHRISTMASSES D: Seth Gordon; with Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Jon Favreau, Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Jon Voight, Kristin Chenoweth, Dwight Yoakam, Tim McGraw, Katy Mixon. (PG-13, 82 min.)

No yuletide season would be complete without the crappy Christmas movie. This year's entry in this lowly subgenre is *Four Christmases*, a D-list comedy with A-list actors. (No doubt, the five Oscar winners in the cast were motivated by an easy paycheck and the audience exposure found in a critic-proof movie starring Vaughn.) Generously speaking, *Four Christmases* plays like a series of skits randomly connected to one another. So, when the script turns a serious corner to impart a warm and fuzzy message about the importance of a traditional holiday with the family, the sentimentality starts to smell. Vaughn and Witherspoon make for a cute couple - the height difference between the two alone is worth a good laugh - but their different approaches to comic acting clash onscreen. Maybe moviegoers are still keen on Vaughn, but his incessant prattling is quickly becoming stale. (11/28/2008) - Steve Davis

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 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

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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

★★ Metropolitan

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

★★★ Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown South

IGOR D: Anthony Leondis; with the voices of John Cusack, Steve Buscemi, Eddie Izzard, John Cleese, Sean Hayes, Molly Shannon, Jennifer Coolidge, Arsenio Hall. (PG, 87 min.)

Like most acts of cruel mediocrity committed in the name of entertaining children, *Igor* presumably seemed like a good idea at the time. (Children on their own are rarely if ever mediocre in their cruelty, a subtle but key distinction that has not gone unnoticed by Tim Burton.) Based extremely loosely on the now-generic title character, this PG-rated (for "thematic elements, scary images, action, and mild language") comedy is nowhere near as visually, vocally, or narratively inspired - or likely to inspire - as Burton and Henry Selick's similarly themed animated outings. *Igor* (voiced, ingratiatingly, by Cusack) is an ambitious dreamer in the Disneyfied, follow-your-dreams-you-crazy-misfit-you mold, who seeks only to (nobly and rightly) prove his worth as a creator rather than a mere assistant. Buscemi's turn as *Igor*'s suicidal bunny buddy is a canny lesson in futility, and Cleese is criminally underused. Pixar this isn't, but neither is it *Mary Shelley's VeggieTales*. (09/26/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★ Movies 8

JCVD 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. Director and co-screenwriter El Mechri uses non-linear strategies to tell the backstory of how Van Damme has arrived at this particular moment in time, starting with a stunning, several-minute shot of nonstop action. The film becomes 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). One standout passage - a Van Damme soliloquy - is hotly disputed as either the film's pièce de résistance or primary foible. (11/21/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

LAKEVIEW TERRACE D: Neil LaBute; with Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson, Kerry Washington, Ron Glass, Justin Chambers, Jay Hernandez, Regine Nehy, Jaishon Fisher. (PG-13, 110 min.)

Jackson playing a violent cop in a LaBute film should be a no-brainer: two hours of delicious psychosexual terror and verbal brutality posing as a movie. Unfortunately, LaBute the brilliant writer doesn't make an appearance in *Lakeview Terrace*, only LaBute the average director. The writing was left to David Loughery and Howard Korder; the result is a by-the-book domestic thriller about the consequences of moving into a neighborhood lorded over by a rules-happy sociopath with a gun and a badge. From the moment Chris and Lisa Mattson (Wilson and Washington) arrive at their new upper-middle-class Los Angeles neighborhood, it's clear the guy next door, Abel Turner (Jackson), hates them with a passion bordering on mania. He antagonizes the Mattsons with veiled threats and subtle acts of intimidation before turning to all-out psychological warfare, eventually forcing the formerly agreeable Chris to fight back. Jackson was born to play characters like Turner, but aside from that, *Lakeview Terrace* is boilerplate through and through. (09/19/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Movies 8

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN D: Tomas Alfredson; with Kåre Hedebrant, Lina Leandersson. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

Knives, fangs, and budding desire; corpses in copses 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, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST D: Peter Sollett; with Michael Cera, Kat Dennings, Ari Graynor, Alexis Dziena, Aaron Yoo, Rafi Gavron, Zachary Booth, Jay Baruchel. (PG-13, 90 min.)

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist wants to be loved at least as much as the soulful and ingrown indie hipsters of its title. But all I can seem to muster, post-screening, is a modicum of fondness. Director Sollett (*Raising Victor Vargas*) keeps things real almost to the point of emotional withdrawal, which was surely his intent: Emo kids are, if anything, emotionally constipated, which makes for terrifically engaging bands but precious little

Soundtrack available at all digital retailers.

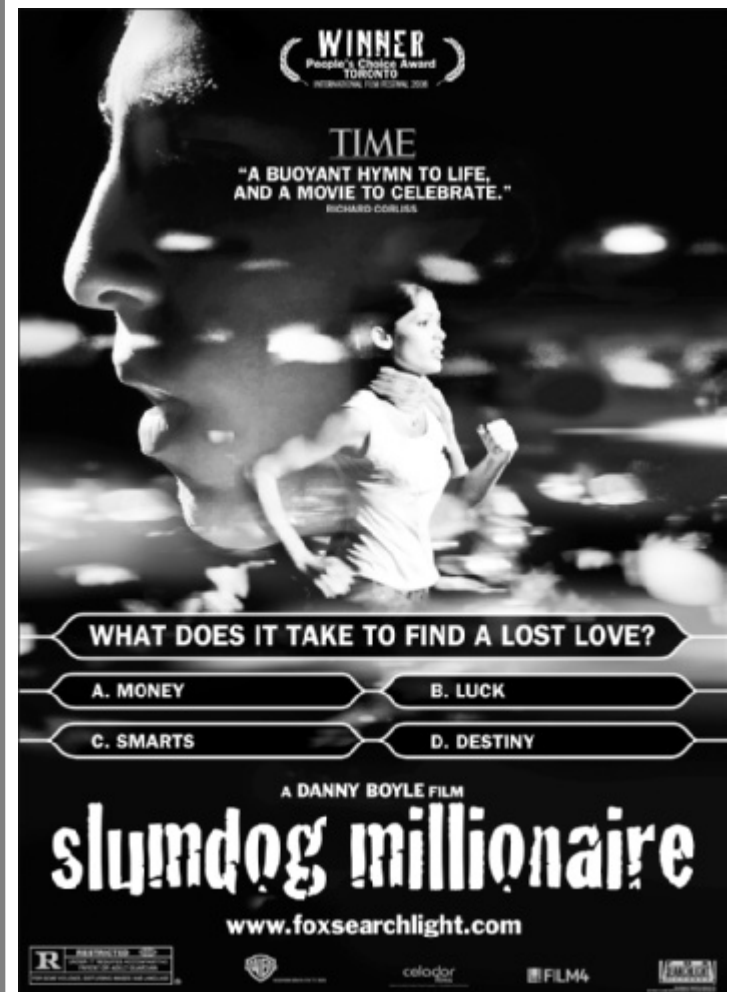
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Sisters

Sisters (2005) D: Julia Solomonoff; with Valeria Bertuccelli, Ingrid Rubio, Adrián Navarro, Nicolás Pauls. (NR, 100 min.) **Austin Film Society: More Than Buenos Aires – Film Renaissance in Argentina.** Eight years after their exile from Argentina, two sisters reunite in Texas and come to grips with the wounds and family guilt that arose under the military dictatorship of the Seventies. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free.



dialogue. Nick (Cera) and Norah (Dennings) are a pair of bridge-and-tunnel teens who meet cute while out on the town searching the East Village and Brooklyn for a supersecret show. Cera builds slightly on his *Superbad* template of sensitive geek, Dennings is darkly luminous as Norah, and the film certainly captures the magic of that perfect night out. But it never quite reaches the heartfelt heartache heights of, say, the many, many indie darlings (*Vampire Weekend*, *Devendra Banhart*, *We Are Scientists*) that litter the soundtrack. (10/03/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★ Movies 8

PRIDE AND GLORY D: Gavin O'Connor; with Edward Norton, Colin Farrell, Jon Voight, Noah Emmerich, Jennifer Ehle, John Ortiz. (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 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

★★ Movies 8

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 thuggish 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

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebiwe, 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 (Adebiwe, 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

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 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, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, 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



Punisher:
War Zone

A Clockwork Orange

A Clockwork Orange (1971) D: Stanley Kubrick; with Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates, Adrienne Corri, Aubrey Morris. (R, 137 min.) **Movies and Music.** P Kellach Waddle and the musicians of PKWproductions present their most requested "new" production – *A Clockwork Orange* – in honor of Beethoven's birthday. Music by Ludwig Van Beethoven will be performed, along with pieces by Waddle based on Beethoven themes. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Saturday, 7pm; \$14.



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

★★ Tinseltown South

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES D: Gina Prince-Bythewood; with Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo, Paul Bettany, Tristan Wilds, Nate Parker. (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, Metropolitan

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. Cotard 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, Cotard 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

TRANSPORTER 3 D: Olivier Megaton; with Jason Statham, Natalya Rudakova, François Berléand, Robert Knepper, Jeroen Krabbé, Timo Dierkes, David Atkachi. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Statham has become something of a poor man's James Bond via this international action smorgasbord franchise, and frankly, I'm all for it. Statham's Frank Martin, a stoically unflappable transporter of illicit goods (who sports abs that rival freshly minted 007 Daniel Craig) is neither stirred nor shaken; he simply is. No messy romantic backstory here. Just automotive and martial-arts mayhem plain and simple, with the occasional and always welcome appearance of Martin's comic foil, Marseilles detective Tarconi (Berléand). All three films are the brainchildren of Luc Besson, who seems to have nothing much else to do these days but pen testosterone-fueled action comedies (such as the endearingly daft *Taxi* series) and testosterone-fueled action comedies (the exhilarating *District B13* and the vicious *Danny the Dog*). *Transporter 3* is terrifically stupid fun, in the very best (or worst, depending on your tolerance for this sort of thing) sense. Like everything Besson has a hand in, it smacks of post-globalization Euro-cool. (11/28/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

TWILIGHT D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Cam Gigandet, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 120 min.)

I've had mosquito bites that were more passionate than this undead, unrequited, and altogether unfun pseudo-romantic riff on *Romeo and Juliet*. Based on the hideously readable (or so my dark beloved tells me) series of "Don't Call Them Young Adult" novels by Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* is the first in what promises to be a lengthy cinematic franchise featuring sexy vampire boys who just say, "No, I don't drink ... you." When broody-but-cool teen Bella Swan (Stewart) moves to the permanently overcast town of Forks, Wash., she becomes romantically involved with the pallid school hunk Edward Cullen (Pattinson), who is one-sixth of a local vampire "family" which has sworn off the human populace in favor of other sources of the crimson. Bella and Edward's courtship is played out with plenty of dreamy, slo-mo nuance but Pattinson's cheekbones keep getting in the way of the story, and the third-act arrival of a trio of "bad" vampires appears out of nowhere and goes nowhere, too. (11/28/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

TYLER PERRY'S THE FAMILY THAT PREYS

D: Tyler Perry; with Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan, Rockmond Dunbar, KaDee Strickland, Cole Hauser, Taraji P. Henson, Kathy Bates. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Contradictions abound in this messy and unfocused drama that purports to believe that family is everything, when all else fails. It's as if director/screenwriter Perry created a cast of characters with split personalities. One minute, the nicest guy in the world is clueless about his self-centered wife's infidelities and the fact that she treats him like dirt; the next thing you know, he's hitting her in the jaw. It's drama for the sake of drama, which only underscores the fakery of it all. Perry may think he's given his film's characters dimension and complexity by investing them with multiple characteristics, but all he's really done is demonstrate that he's not spending enough time meshing character development and plot together in a way that it all makes sense. Old pros Bates and Woodard do their best in their performances as the two female leads, but it's not enough to save this movie from itself. (09/19/2008) - Steve Davis

★★ Movies 8

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 'droids 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 PORNO

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 Village, Metropolitan

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Kim and Alex in the Morning

special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 04

Funeral Home (1980) *D: William Fruet; with Kay Hawtrey, Lesleh Donaldson, Barry Morse, Dean Garbett. (R, 93 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** An old funeral home is turned into a bed and breakfast. Woe to the guests. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Jiggy Crunk: The 90s 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.

FRIDAY 05

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. After a two-year absence, it's the return of the seasonal show that features Master Pancake and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. Owen Egerton and regulars John Erler and Joe Parsons orchestrate the fun. @Alamo Ritz, 8:40pm.

The Sing-Along Mix Tape @Alamo Ritz, 11:20pm.

SATURDAY 06

Bolt (sensory friendly) (2008) *D: Byron Howard and Chris Williams; with the voices of John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)* **Sensory Friendly Movie.** At these screenings, families affected by autism have a special opportunity to enjoy films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. The auditorium will have its lights brought up and the sound turned

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. 19 issue is Monday, Dec. 8.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings):

specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Gremlins (1984) *D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton, Frances Lee McCain, Polly Holiday, Dick Miller, Judge Reinhold, Corey Feldman; with the voices of Howie Mandel. (PG, 106 min.)* A teenager's furry little pet of mysterious origins spawns a whole town full of snaggle-toothed killer gremlins. It's suburban splatter mixed with humor and in-jokes. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:30pm; \$8.50.

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 Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Sing-Along Mix Tape @Alamo Ritz, 11:20pm. (See Fri., 12/5.)

SUNDAY 07

Cool Hand Luke (1967) See p.92.

Gremlins (1984) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:30, 7:30pm; \$8.50. (See Sat., 12/6.)

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) *D: Frank Capra; with James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers, Gloria Grahame. (NR, 129 min.)* This sentimental perennial is a holiday chestnut. (*) @Paramount, 4:30pm; \$7.

White Christmas (1954) *D: Michael Curtiz; with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Dean Jagger, Mary Wickes. (NR, 120 min.)* Some people I know won't dare let the holidays go by without an encore viewing of this classic Irving Berlin musical. (*) @Paramount, 7pm.

MONDAY 08

Big Night Feast (1996) *D: Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott; with Tucci, Scott, Tony Shalhoub, Ian Holm, Minnie Driver, Isabella Rossellini. (R, 107 min.)* **Eat Local Week Benefest.** This several-course Italian meal is inspired by the movie; proceeds benefit Urban Roots youth development program. See www.originalalamo.com for menu details. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

offscreen

down. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and move about during the screening and to bring along special-diet snacks. For more details see www.austinautismsociety.org. @Barton Creek Square, 10am; \$5.

Christmas Show @Alamo Ritz, 6, 8:40pm. (See Fri., 12/5.)

A Clockwork Orange (1971) See p.94.

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen.

Career-Building Classes From Austin School of Film An excellent slate of adult classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film. Also, you can become an **Apple Pro Certified Final Cut Pro** user. Tech up, cineastes. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

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 (\$20 fee): *Jan. 30*. Deadline (\$40 fee): *Feb. 12*. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Network Austin Mixer invites film and entertainment-biz people to schmooze, network, and do what they do best: entertain one another in a movie-happy crowd. This week's featured speakers are **Joaquin Avellan, Ludek Drizal, and Arnie Reyes** from the *Sno Cone Inc.* team. *Wed., Dec. 10, 6:30pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. Free.* www.networkaustinnixer.com.

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, 7-9:30pm, \$250*; and Private Instruction & Story Consultation Packages, *7½ hours of instruction, \$390*. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Cool Hand Luke (1967) @Alamo Ritz, 8pm. See p.92.

Gossip Girl TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

Heroes TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm; @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm.

Ladies and Gentleman, the Fabulous Stains (1981) *D: Lou Adler; with Diane Lane, Ray Winstone, Peter Donat. (R, 87 min.)* **Music Monday.** Back before anyone knew what a riot grrrl was, Lane starred as one in this notorious flop turned cherished relic, which also features members of the Clash and Sex Pistols. For more on the film, see "Indelible," p.59. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10:45pm; \$2.

SPACES

Gremlins (1984) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm. (See Sat., 12/6.)

The Human Animal (1994) *D: Mark Johnston.* **Documentary Night.** Screening includes two episodes of the six-part documentary based on Desmond Morris' work: "The Human Zoo" and "The Biology of Love." @MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm; free.

Wings of Desire (1987) *D: Wim Wenders; with Peter Falk, Bruno Ganz. (PG-13, 127 min.)* **Spirituality in Movies Film Series.** Angels wander across Berlin while struggling with the desire to become human. Pastor Michael Coffey hosts the film and discussion series. @First English Lutheran Church, 6:30pm; free.

TUESDAY 09

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) @Paramount, 7pm; \$7. (See Sun., 12/7.)

Sisters (2005) See p.94.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966) *D: Mike Nichols; with Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, George Segal, Sandy Dennis. (NR, 129 min.)* **Hey Homo! Presents.** In this screen adaptation of Edward Albee's searing play, Taylor and Burton write the original book on marital disharmony. @Alamo Ritz, 8:45pm.

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. (12/4)-Thu. (12/11), 2pm.*

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. (12/4)-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/11), 10am.*

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. (12/4)-Sat., 11am; Mon.-Thu. (12/11), 11am.*

The Light Before Christmas (2008) *D: Nathan Smith and Christopher Robin Miller; with the voices of Miller, Brock Holman, Ruby Chase O'Neil, Ken Sansom. (NR, 34 min.)* In this animated film, two children are rescued by an old sage who imparts wisdom, hot chocolate, and stories. *Thu. (12/4)-Thu. (12/11), 1, 3, 5, 6, 8pm.*

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. (12/4)-Sat., noon, 4, 7pm; Sun., 4, 7pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/11), noon, 4, 7pm.*

WEDNESDAY **10**

Cool Hand Luke (1967) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. See p.92.

Dirty Pictures (1971) D: Umberto Lenzi; with Irene Papas, Ray Lovelock, Ornella Muti, Michel Bardinet. (R, 90 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Two young pornographers meet up with an older woman who, eventually, turns the tables. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

Kung Fu Panda (2008) See p.92.

THURSDAY **11**

From Beyond (1986) D: Stuart Gordon; with Jeffrey Combs, Barbara Crampton, Ken Foree, Ted Sorel. (R, 86 min.) **Terror Thursday.** This loose and grisly adaptation of the H.P. Lovecraft story is Gordon's follow-up to *Re-Animator*. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

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EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings

Ground Zero Texas II

Beerland,
Friday 5-
Sunday 7



| Terrible Twos

Beerland's second Ground Zero Texas throwdown is really just a reason to wrangle three nights of punk in a row, and this year it's become an

international affair. Friday's headliners, **A.H. Kraken**, come all the way from France, their ominous music recalling Wire and the Ex. Detroit's **Terrible Twos** (not the children's band with the guy from the Get Up Kids) and Jackson, Miss., natives **Overnight Lows** (not the alterna-rock band from California) support with old-school, L.A.-style punk, preceded by noisy sets from the **Unholy Two**, **Girls of the Gravitron**, and **Silver Shampoo**. Saturday, the party heads out of the

club, but Sunday cleans up with two Goner Records artists: Memphis fivepiece the **Barbaras**, doing lo-fi, Kinks-esque pop, and **King Louie One Man Band**, in which prolific garage journeyman Louie Bankston indulges his inner bluesman. Fun, gritty locals the **Teeners** support, along with **Teledildonics 5000**, featuring members of Viva L'American Death Ray Music and the Harlan T. Bobo band. Arrive early for locals the **Man Stamps**. www.beerlandtexas.com. — Daniel Mee

ANTHONY HAMILTON Austin Music Hall, Friday 5

Anthony Hamilton was a breath of fresh air with 2003's *Comin' From Where I'm From*, proving contemporary R&B didn't have to stand for rap and bullshit. His scruffy beard and trucker hat make him the anti-Usher, his earthy tenor hypnotizing on the bumping title track. The North Carolina native searches for *The Point of It All*, his latest dish of gritty Southern soul due out this month. — Thomas Fawcett

HOLLY GOLIGHTY & THE BROKEOFFS Emo's, Saturday 6

With her garage rock pedigree as a base, former Headcoatee Holly Golightly springboards further into modern-day gutbucket country blues on *Dirt Don't Hurt* (Transdreamer). Texas-based bassist Lawyer Dave is the sole member of the Brokeoffs, but the duo's ragged stagger along the line between love and hate stays plenty warm even without a full band. Get there early for hometown indie-folk trio the Pons and New Zealand-bred roadside warbler Delany Davidson. — Greg Beets

LARRY LANGE & THE CHICANO SOUL REVUE Continental Club, Saturday 6

If it seems these Chicano Soul Revue shows are increasingly common, they are. Don't take them for granted: The recent death of the Royal Jesters' Dimas Garza left this all-star regional act with a broken heart. Austin's Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights — their sound reminiscent of Doug Sahm with San Antonio's West Side Horns in the 1970s — blend with San Antonio's legendary Mexican voices for mighty Texas mojo. — Margaret Moser

DAVID BANNER, BUN B Austin Music Hall, Tuesday 9

Two pillars of the Southern rap game anchor a showcase of local talent, featuring Houston's Z-Ro and the ATX underground's COD and Brooks City. Mississippi maniac David Banner's most recent, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, finds the esteemed rapper/producer balancing that dirty drawl with congressional intuition, but there ain't nothing like Bun B rocking a Texas town. May's *II Trill* reaffirmed the UGK rumbler's reign over the Houston scene. — Chase Hoffberger

101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE X-MAS SHOW Emo's, Thursday 11

Local frequency 101X gift wraps two solid bills to fire the yule logs. UK duo Ting Tings skitters its electro-dance pop outside with the Black Kids' Cure-meets-CSS. Caroling with rock riffs, the Eagles of Death Metal fly into the swelling buzz of Airborne Toxic Event and locals the Black & White Years, while inside unloads hometown holiday cheer from Ringo Deathstarr, Low Line Caller, and Shapes Have Fangs. — Doug Freeman

Taking toll
of *Chinese
Democracy* at
austinchronicle.com/earache

VENETIAN SNARES Elysium, Thursday 11

Winnipeg isn't the most likely breeding ground for punishing, vaguely sexual electronic music, but then Venetian Snares isn't your typical electronic artist. The moniker of musician Aaron Funk, Venetian Snares' sounds range from breakneck break beat to static noise, and a trail of releases has followed, under one name or another, since the late 1990s. Latest *Detrimentalist* finds Funk laying down more drum 'n' bass and hip-hop influences. Miami's grime-scenester Otto Von Schirach opens, along with L.A.'s Cyrus Rex and Seattle's Naha. — Audra Schroeder

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

RED LEAVES, ELVIS

Emo's, Friday 5

House party like it's almost 2009, with fellow local agitators Coma in Algiers and the Gospel Truth. Freeeeeeee!

ARC ANGELS

Antone's, Friday 5 & Saturday 6

Annual two-night stand of angelic blues. Gary Clark Jr. opens.

ACKNOWLEDGE ME

Mohawk, Saturday 6

Pataphysics, the Golden Boys, and more creatives come together to help Austin's homeless. \$5 with the donation of winter clothing or toiletries.

BRUJERIA

Red 7, Saturday 6

Mexican death metal shrinks heads. Mushroomhead and more open.

MANFEST 2008

Birds Barbershop South Lamar, Sunday 7

Arm wrestling, axe-throwing, a Huey Lewis cover band, and more activities to make you question your sexuality. 2pm.

BROWNOUT Parish, Monday 8

The local Latin big band headlines with Eagle Claw and the Steps.

FISHBONE Emo's, Tuesday 9

Slap bass never dies.

EUGENE CHADBOURNE

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tuesday 9

Two sets of alien improvisation, the second with Ernie Durawa.

KELLY WILLIS & BRUCE ROBISON'S HOLIDAY SHOW

Parmount Theatre, Thursday 11

Country cheer goes down smooth as nog.

live music venues p.100 ● roadshows + club listings p.102



| L - R: ANTHONY HAMILTON (FRI., 12/5) | HOLLY GOLIGHTLY (SAT., 12/6) | DAVID BANNER (TUE., 12/9) | SHAPES HAVE FANGS (THU., 12/11)



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Saturday 13

12:30-3 PM...The Resentments
3:30-6 PM.....Terri Hendrix
8-11 PM.....Eliza Gilkyson

Sunday 14

12:30-3 PM...Austin Lounge Lizards
3:30-6 PM.....Toni Price
8-11 PM.....Cienfuegos

Monday 15

12:30-3 PM...Suzanna Choffel
8-11 PM.....W.C. Clark

Tuesday 16

12:30-3 PM...Matt The Electrician
8-11 PM.....Marcia Ball's Pianorama

Wednesday 17

12:30-3 PM...Band of Heathens
8-11 PM.....The Gourds

Thursday 18

12:30-3 PM...Paula Nelson Band
8-11 PM.....Ray Wylie Hubbard

Friday 19

12:30-3 PM...Dan Dyer
8-11 PM.....Jimmy LaFave

Saturday 20

12:30-3 PM...Shelley King
3:30-6 PM.....Carolyn Wonderland
8-11 PM.....Van Wilks

Sunday 21

12:30-3 PM ..Rick Trevino
3:30-6 PMAsleep at the Wheel Quartet
8-11 PM.....Butch Hancock

Monday 22

12:30-3 PM ..The Biscuit Brothers
3:30-6 PMSara Hickman
6-6:30 PMMary Hattersley's Blazing Bows
8-11 PM.....The Eggmen

Tuesday 23

12:30-3 PM ..Sarah Elizabeth Campbell
3:30-6 PMPonty Bone
8-11 PM.....Albert & Gage

Wednesday 24

12:30-3 PM ..Slim Richey and Friends
3:30-6 PMWarren Hood & The Hoodlems
8-11 PM.....Texana Dames

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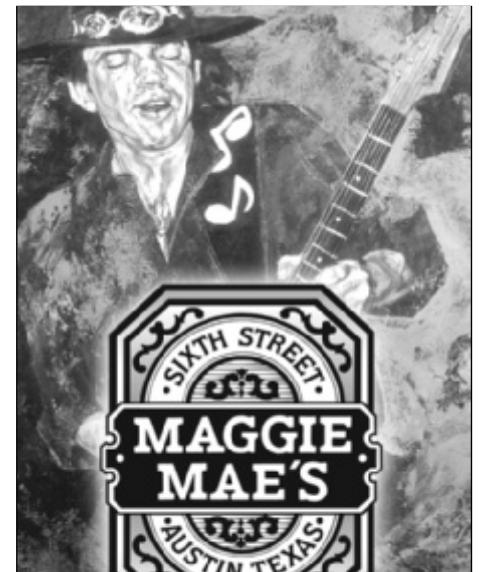


SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS



- 1) LUCINDA WILLIAMS
Little Honey
- 2) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
Live Animal ep
- 3) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
Real Animal
- 4) TODD SNIDER
Peace Queer
- 5) CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
She Ain't Me
- 6) CAROLYN WONDERLAND
Miss Understood
- 7) RODNEY CROWELL
Sex & Gasoline
- 8) BOB SCHNEIDER
When the Sun Breaks
Down on the Moon
- 9) OKKERVIL RIVER
Stand Ins
- 10) DERRICK DAVIS
And Everything
In Between

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10PM-2AM

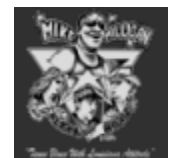
SATURDAY 12/6

MT SKRILLA
10PM-2AM
BEN BURGESS
10PM-2AM

SUNDAY 12/7

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Ribbon of Highway Endless Skyway



IN THE SPIRIT OF WOODY GUTHRIE

Friday,
December 12
8:00 PM
TEXAS UNION
BALLROOM
24th & Guadalupe

Adv tix@HEBs, Erwin Center Box Office
512.477.6060 or texasboxoffice.com



☆☆☆☆ **JIMMY
LAFAVE**



☆☆☆☆ **ELIZA
GILKYSOON**



☆☆☆☆ **KEVIN
WELCH**



☆☆☆☆ **SLAID
CLEAVES**



☆☆☆☆☆☆ **RAY
BONNEVILLE**

☆☆☆☆ **JOEL
RAFAEL**

☆☆☆☆ **MICHAEL
FRACASSO**

"A performance
of Woody's songs,
poetry and collected
writings by an all-star
cast of folkies; less a
concert than a master
class of Guthrie's
American folk, his
live-in song"

Michael D. Clark
Houston Chronicle

CD Release Celebration!

live music venues

- 290 WEST BAR & GRILL, 12013 Hwy. 290 W., 288-0808
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ADAMS HEMPHILL PARK, 201 W. 30th, 974-6700
AMSTERDAM CAFE, 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA, Cesar Chavez between Guadalupe and Lavaca, 974-2000
AUSTIN CITY HALL, 301 W. Second, 974-2220
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BB ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625)
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
BIRDS BARBERSHOP, 2110 S. Lamar, 442-8800
BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445
CHEAPO DISCS, 914 N. Lamar, 477-4499
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CLEMANTINE COFFEE BAR, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900
CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519
CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900
THE COCKPIT, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
DARWIN'S PUB, 223 E. Sixth, 474-7399
DELL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, 7300 Hart, 735-8000
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FIDDLER'S HEARTH, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 535-5008
THE FIFTH GALLERY, 305 E. Fifth, 669-6558
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GALLERY LOMBARDI, 910 W. Third, 481-1088
GARRISON PARK HARBOR, 730 W. Stassney #120, 462-2664
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN MUSE CAFE, 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HARRY RANSOM CENTER, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
HYDE PARK THEATRE, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY (7529)
IGUANA GRILL, 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439
JO'S COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JO'S HOT COFFEE, 242 W. Second, 469-9003
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
KEY BAR, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389
LA FUENTES, 6507 Circle S. Rd., 442-9925
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LATITUDE 30, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335
THE LOADING DOCK, 708 S. Austin St., Georgetown, 512/864-2100
LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800
LOUIE'S 106, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MARIA MARIA, 415 Colorado, 687-6800
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL, 14106 N. I-35, 674-0404
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MUGSHOTS, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
MUSIC GYM, 815 E. Sixth, 939-2524
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NEW MINT ROOM ROOFTOP, 408 Congress, 473-8544
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S NORTH, 12408 MoPac N., 837-6866
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
ONE WORLD THEATRE, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500
PARAMOUNT THEATRE, 713 Congress, 472-5470
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAIN ON 4TH, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150
RANCH 616, 616 Nueces, 479-7616
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813
ROADHOUSE RAGS, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SÃO PAULO'S, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT, 7010 Hwy. 71 W. #180, 579-0726
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHINER'S SALOON, 422 Congress, Ste. D, 448-4600
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SIX LOUNGE, 117 W. Fourth, 472-6662
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
THE STUDIO, 5804 S. I-35, 467-7900
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College Ave., 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TRIUMPH CAFE, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., 343-1875
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
VINO VINO, 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil Dr., 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE, 9600 S. I-35 Ste. D-100 (Southpark Meadows), 292-7900
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE, 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007
THE WINE CELLAR, 2700 Barton Creek Blvd. #130, 330-9119
YARD DOG, 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

ON SALE
NOW!

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Winter Tour 2008

2 SHOWS
3PM & 7:30PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
FRANK ERWIN CENTER
3 PM & 7:30 PM

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515 E. SIXTH ST. 512.494.9336
BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO AUSTIN FOR 17 YEARS

THURSDAY DEC 04 *ROCK* DOORS 9:00
SQUINT DENTED TURNCOATS

FRIDAY DEC 05 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
**GRAHAM WILKINSON & THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP
THE REDDIES
KAHLU JAMES & PROPER VILLAIN**

SATURDAY DEC 06 *HIP HOP* DOORS 9:00
AKASHA/SONY RECORDS PRESENTS
DOPE E
(of HOUSTON'S SOUTH PARK COALITION)
HATCH, MC OVERLORD & NECKB.

UPCOMING SHOWS

12.10: MARSHALL INFLUENCE, THE CONTRABANDITS
12.11: ZENITH FLUZZBOMB, SABOTAGE MANUAL, SNAKESKIN PRISON, WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVERS
12.12: CONGRATULATIONS, TAVANA & CONDIMENT SANDWICH
12.13: GUIDANCE, TRIBAL NATION, TROPICAL PROD. POLYNESIAN REVIEW
12.17: CARTER ABBINGTON
12.18: KO HEFU, T. FOWLER, SERAFIA JANE, RAY, SR., DJ BELOW
12.19: MR. BROWN & DJBKIDS, GRAHAM WILKINSON & THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP
12.20: SUBROSA UNION

WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

Buffalo Billiards

SUNDAY
WE'VE GOT THE
NFL SUNDAY TICKET
WITH \$1.50 COORS LIGHT BOTTLES
UNTIL 11PM

FOOTBALL MADNESS

201 E. SIXTH 479-POOL
BUFFALOBILLIARDS.COM/AUSTIN

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF **LOVE**

with a turn on to Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's online dating community for Chronicle readers just like you. On Lovers Lane you can read profiles, look at pictures, and listen to voice greetings - absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, video, and record a voice greeting for free.

Opal Divine's
AUSTIN GRILL
Freehouse • Penn Field • Marina

Place a profile with a photo by 5pm, Monday, January 5, and you'll be entered to win \$100 worth of GIFT CARDS from OPAL DIVINE'S!

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com

austinchronicle.com/loverslane

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

13 SAT 
JOB FOR A COWBOY
w/ Hate Eternal, All Shall Perish, Animosity, Annotations of an Autopsy
5PM @ RED 7

611 E. 7TH 
FRI 12/5 @ 9PM
FULTON READ w/ Old Coyote, The Eastern Sea (in) // **THE ENDS** w/ Scrabble Robot + TBA (out)
SAT 12/6 @ 9PM
BRUJERIA w/ Mushroomhead, Indigust, Disfigured, Pinhed and more! (doors @ 6PM)
SUN 12/7 @ 9PM
DEVIL DOLL w/ Goddamn Gallows, Johnny Hootrock, Capital City Outlaws (in) // **MILITIA** w/ Texas Metal Alliance, Clenched Fist (out)
TUE 12/9 @ 9PM
HANSON BROTHERS (Nomeansno) w/ The No No No Hopes, Megazilla, The Extravaganza
WED 12/10 @ 9PM
DUB TRIO w/ Betaplayer, Baron Grod, Heart and Soul Sound System
FRI 12/12
TWO FREE SHOWS! **PRIDE LIKE LIONS** w/ 30 Yard Stare, Madex 13 (out) // **KRUMBUMS** w/ Sober Daze, Sore Losers (in)
SAT 12/13
TRAIL OF DEAD w/ Those Peabodys, Glorium (out) // **DIAGONALS** w/ The Black, UME (in)
MON 12/15
RED 7 CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BLANKET DRIVE, \$5 or free with a blanket.
CAMP X-RAY w/ Stabba and more

900 RED RIVER 
FRI 12/5 @ 9PM
BUILT BY SNOW w/ Hollywood Gossip (EP Release), Dead Black Hearts, DJ Gmau // Danny Malone (CD Release)
WED 12/10 @ 9PM
PSYCHOTROPIC w/ DJs Scorpio & Whiplash
THU 12/11 @ 10PM
DJ ORION
SUN 12/14 @ 10:30PM
NICOLAS GINBEY
THU 12/18 @ 10PM
DJ ORION
WEDNESDAYS: 5-9PM
GEARS FOR BEERS - Ride your bike and get \$3 wells, \$3 imperial pints

401 WEST 2ND 
THU 12/4
Jitterbug Vipers @ 7PM
LOW CASH THURSDAYS w/ DJ Prince Klassen @ 10:30PM
SAT 12/6
TOPAZ & MUDPHONIC @ 10:30PM
SUN 12/7
JAZZ NIGHT w/ Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, & Red Young @ 7PM
TUE 12/9
Glover Tango @ 7PM
LEMURS w/ Gentlemen Auction House, Booher and the Turkeyz @ 10:30PM
THU 12/11
LOW CASH THURSDAYS w/ DJ Fuckin' A @ 10:30PM
FRI 12/12
NOISE REVIVAL @ 10:30PM
SAT 12/20
REBECCA HAVEMEYER @ 10:30PM
FRI 1/2
BRAZOS @ 10:30PM

912 RED RIVER 
THU 12/4 @ 10PM
THE VANBUREN BOYS w/ The Bubbles, Shitty Carwash, ZigZags
FRI 12/5 @ 9:30PM
WHITMAN w/ A Sideshow Tragedy, Bankrupt and Borrowers, Couch
SAT 12/6 @ 9PM
ilovemikelitt & Good Looking Booking Presents:
AckMe
TUE 12/9 @ 10PM
TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY w/ The Uglysuit (Teddy's birthday!)
WED 12/10 @ 10PM
DJ RAY PRIDE (Crackpipes) & Friends
THU 12/11 @ 10PM
THE SOUR NOTES w/ One Hundred Flowers, Great Nostalgic, Bear Claw
FRI 12/12 @ 10PM
MIDGETMEN w/ Calm Blue Sea, Follow that Bird!!!, The Bubbles
SUN 12/14 @ 8PM
ICE CUBE
THU 12/18 @ 10PM
RAVEN TREE w/ Crash Gallery, Goodnight Goddess
FRI 12/19 @ 10PM
GOLDEN ARM TRIO & INVINCIBLE CZARS CHRISTMAS SHOW

upcoming shows
12/13 - Job for a Cowboy (Red 7), 12/18 - Raven Tree (Mohawk), 12/19 - Golden Arm Trio & The Invincible Czars (Mohawk), 12/20 - Loxsly (Mohawk), 12/30 - Jack Rose (Mohawk), 1/2 - 1/10 - Free Week (Mohawk, Club DeVille, Red 7), 1/13 - Donkeys (Mohawk), 1/15 - Yo Majesty & Floetry (Mohawk), 1/16 - Coldtowne Theater Afterparty (Club DeVille), 1/24 - Ume (Mohawk), 1/29 - Cattle Decapitation (Red 7), 1/31 - TSOL (Red 7), 2/1 - MV & EE (Mohawk), 2/3 - Thank You (Mohawk), 2/5 - Will Johnson (Centro-Matic) (Mohawk), 2/6 - AU (Mohawk), 2/7 - Applesseed Cast (Mohawk), 2/24 - Mr. Lif (Mohawk), 3/5 - Kool Keith (Mohawk)

www.transmissionentertainment.com



Cactus 23RD & GUADALUPE
475-6515
THURS • DEC 4 • 8:30PM

AN EVENING WITH **ED MILLER & SEAMUS KENNEDY**

FRI • DEC 5 • 8:30PM
IN CONCERT • 1ST TOUR IN 24 YEARS!
JD SOUTHER
SPECIAL GUEST • APRIL SMITH
ADV TIX @ HEB'S AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

SAT • DEC 6 • 7 & 10PM
WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA
LIVE @ THE CACTUS
ASYLUM ST. SPANKERS & GUY FORSYTH BAND
TWO SHOWS • 7PM & 10PM
ADV TIX @ HEB'S AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

MON • DEC 8 • 7PM SIGN-UP • 7:30PM SHOW
OPEN STAGE HOSTED BY DAN GRISOM & GRAHAM WEBER

TUE • DEC 9 • 8:30PM
TWIN BILL @ THE CACTUS
PETER CASE & GURF MORLIX

WED • DEC 10 • 8:30PM
AN EVENING WITH **MIKE MCCLURE & SCOTT MILLER**

THUR • DEC 11 • 8PM
GREEZY WHEELS
HOLIDAY SHOW
WITH SPECIAL GUEST • BLAZIN' BOWS

FRI • DEC 12 • 8PM
IN THE SPIRIT OF WOODY GUTHRIE
RIBBONS OF HIGHWAY ENDLESS SKYWAY
**JIMMY LAFAVE • ELIZA GILKYSON
SLAID CLEAVES • KEVIN WELCH**
WITH MICHAEL FRACASSO
RAY BONNEVILLE & JOE RAFAEL
TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
TIX @ HEB'S AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

SUN • DEC 14 • 7:30PM
JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

TUE • DEC 16 • 8:30PM
SARA HICKMAN
cactus.union.utexas.edu
Coming Soon

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1.9 | JAMES McMURTRY | 1.26 | WHEATFIELD |
| 1.10 | JAMES McMURTRY | 1.28 | STEVE POLTZ |
| 1.15 | DANNY BARNES | 1.29 | GREG BROWN |
| 1.17 | TROUT FISHIN' | 1.30 | GREG BROWN |
| 1.22 | ADRIAN LEGG | 1.31 | ELIZA GILKYSON |

23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515.

 THE TEXAS UNION

Live Music Early ...  Late Night Loungin'
LUCKY lounge
NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

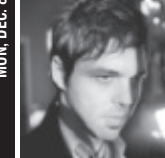
THU, DEC. 4, 6PM
 THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING 'THE LEGENDARY' **IAN MCLAGAN**
AND THE **BUMP BAND**

THU, DEC. 4, 8PM
 ★ **THROWDOWN** ★
★ **THURSDAYS** ★
★ FEATURING ★
THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRY BAND and
MC OVERLORD

FRI, DEC. 5, 9PM
 **UNCLE BRUNO**
DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SAT, DEC. 6, 9PM
 **ANGEL FERRER**
DJ PROTEGE SPINS 'TIL 2AM

MON, DEC. 8, 10PM
 **MODELO MONDAY**
BEER SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG

MON, DEC. 8, 10PM
 **THE SPOILED**
OPENS FOR THE **BEAUX LOY BAND**

THU, DEC. 11, 10PM
AUSTIN'S HOTTEST TUESDAY NIGHT FEATURING:
DJ **RAPID RIC** OPENING FOR
"THE INCOMPARABLE"
BOOMBOX

WED, DEC. 10, 10PM
LUCKY JAM SESSIONS
HOSTED BY LANCE & TYLER OF LOVE & WAR
FEATURING **THE VEHICLE REASON,**
HAYDN VITERA

THU, DEC. 11, 6PM
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING 'THE LEGENDARY' **IAN MCLAGAN**
& THE **BUMP BAND**

THU, DEC. 11, 10PM
★ **THROWDOWN** ★
★ **THURSDAYS** ★
★ FEATURING ★
THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRY BAND &
MC OVERLORD

209A West 5th St. 479-7700
Call us to book your private party!
www.theluckylounge.com
www.myspace.com/theluckylounge

club listings

THU 04

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Paul Logan (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Frank Gomez (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Alyse Black (1:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kari K., Killa Dilla, Purple Room (9:00)

ANTONE'S Latin at Heart, No Show Ponies, Eric Tessmer (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star Swing (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Ultimate Jukebox, Literature, Context Clues

BEERLAND Lauren Smith

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Leeann Atherton (8:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Ed Miller, Seamas Kennedy, Rich Brotherton (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Nixies, Robbie & the Robots, the Anchovies (7:00)

CEDAR STREET LC Rocks (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Ruby Jane Smith (6:30)

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Austin Handbell Ensemble (noon)

CHEAPO DISCS Wilson & His Blue City Knights (5:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Micky & the Motorcars

roadshows

december

THU 4

Lauren Smith, Beerland
Mellow Owl, Creekside Lounge
Wilderness, San Serac, Emo's

Buster Jiggs, Saxon Pub
Jon Langford, Matt Mason, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
Black Tie Dynasty, Stubb's

FRI 5

Matt Wilson, Amsterdam Cafe
Anthony Hamilton, Austin Music Hall

A.H. Kraken, Terrible Twos, Overnight Lows, the Unholy Two, the Girls of Gravitron, Beerland

J.D. Souther, April Smith, Cactus Cafe

Big Sam's Funky Nation, Continental Club

The Paper Chase, Astronautalis, Bring Back the Guns, Whiteside the Poet, Elysium

Hatch, Flamingo Cantina
Dim Lit Daylight, Hanover's Gwar, Kingdom of Sorrow, Toxic Holocaust, La Zona Rosa

Fulton Read, Red 7
DJ Sue, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

The Wood Bros., Joe Pug, Stubb's

SAT 6

Jackie Bristow, Amsterdam Cafe

El Ten Eleven, Beauty Bar
Dove Hunter, Creekside Lounge

Holly Golightly & the Brokeoffs, Delany Davidson, Emo's
Joe Buckyourself, Whiskey Dick, Headhunters
The Harlequins, Hole in the Wall

The Persimmons, Mohawk
Gigolo Bullet, One 2 One Bar

Harry Bodine, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
Brujeria, Mushroomhead, Red 7

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

SUN 7

The Barbaras, King Louies One-Man Band, Teledildonics 5000, Beerland

Listener Project, Birds Barbershop

Kristeen Young, Emo's
Marshall Influence, Contrabandits, Flamingo Cantina

Jose Feliciano, One World Theatre

Doodlin' Hogwallops, Roadhouse Rags

MON 8

Go Crash Audio, Floral Terrace, The Ready Set, Emo's

Contrabandits, Headhunters

Eagle Claw, the Parish
Colin Herring, Freedy Johnston, Saxon Pub

TUE 9

Bun B, Z-Ro, David Banner, Austin Music Hall

Carley Wolf, Botticelli's
Peter Case, Cactus Cafe

Fishbone, Natives of the New Dawn, Heavy Mojo, Emo's

Rodney Hayden, Gruene Hall
Combat Shock, Headhunters
Joy Davis, Momo's
Michael Martin Murphey, One World Theatre
Eugene Chadbourne, Salvage Vanguard Theater

WED 10

Scott Miller, Cactus Cafe

We Are the Union, Emo's

Zenith Fuzzbomb, Headhunters

Matt Wilson, Key Bar

Dub Trio, Red 7

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

THU 11

Claire Small, ABIA: Lefty's Bar & Grille on Sixth Street

Attractive & Popular, Antique Curtains, Ginsu Wives, Beerland

Emory Quinn, Cheatham Street Warehouse

Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, Continental Club

Venetian Snares, Otto Von Schirach, Cyrus Rex, Naha, Elysium

The Ting Tings, Eagles of Death Metal, the Black Kids, Airborne Toxic Event, Emo's

Zenith Fuzzbomb, Sabotage Manual, White Knuckle Drivers, Flamingo Cantina

Walt Wilkins, Gruene Hall

Modern Day Drifters, Hill's Cafe

The 71's, Momo's

Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, One World Theatre

Stars Go Dim, the Parlor
True Widow, Stubb's

for your benefit

SAT 06

Holiday Swing, Project Transitions Benefit w/ the Sentimental Journey Orchestra, Dell Jewish Community Center

Alliance for Fair Food Benefit w/ the Diving Captain, the Bubbles, Gio Mo Cua, Woodyhelmet, Music Gym

House the Homeless, ARCH Benefit w/ the Golden Boys, Pataphysics, When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, the Persimmons, Literature, Mohawk

SUN 07

Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Jeremy Steding, Big John Mills, Mike Ethan Messick, Cheatham Street Warehouse

THU 11

Habitat for Humanity Benefit, Workforce Christmas Show w/ the Black & White Years, Airborne Toxic Event, the Black Kids, Eagles of Death Metal, the Ting Tings, Emo's

Girls Rock Camp Benefit w/ Fabi Reyna, Follow That Bird!, Jo's Coffee

Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Waxploitation!, the Gourds, Mohawk

See austinchronicle.com
for complete listings.

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

Emo's

alternative lounging

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603 RED RIVER
BUY ADVANCE TIX. SHOWS SELLING OUT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

INSIDE: **WILDERNESS • SAN SERAC**
FOLLOWED BY STATIC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

HOUSE PARTY AT EMOS!
FREE SHOW

INSIDE: **RED LEAVES • ELVIS**
COMA IN ALGIERS • THE GOSPEL TRUTH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

INSIDE: **HOLLY GOLIGHTLY
AND THE BROKE-OFFS**
THE PONS • DELANY DAVIDSON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

INSIDE: **KRISTEEN YOUNG**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

INSIDE: **GO CRASH AUDIO**
FLORAL TERRACE • THE READY SET

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

INSIDE: **FISHBONE**
NATIVES OF THE NEW DAWN
HEAVY MOJO • WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

OUTSIDE: 101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE XMAS SHOW

THE TING TINGS THE BLACK KIDS

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL • AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT
BLACK & WHITE YEARS

TIX ON SALE NOW
AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

INSIDE: 101X HOMEGROWN LIVE PRESENTS

RINGO DEATHSTAR

LOW LINE CALLER • SHAPES HAVE FANGS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

INSIDE: **THE BOXING LESSON**
DEAF EARS (EX-TAMMANY HALL MACHINES)
NAKED EMPIRE • TINA RODRIGUEZ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

INSIDE: **DARKER MY LOVE**
THE STRANGE BOYS BACK FROM TOUR
FRANK SMITH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

INSIDE: **COLOUR WHEEL • TBA**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

INSIDE: **OLIN & THE MOON**
ZOOKEEPER • CORY BRANAN

JANUARY 2-10 FREE WEEK AT Emo's

COMING SOON: 2/06 SHAPES HAVE FANGS/ CAVEDWELLER (SPLIT 7" RELEASE PARTY)/ DIAGONALS/ PILLOW QUEENS • 2/07 DEVIN THE DUDE
• 2/12 REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND (INSIDE) • 2/15 MILLIONAIRES WITH CASH CASH / I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE / WATCH OUT! THERE'S GHOSTS
(INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/28 DELTA SPIRIT W/ OTHER LIVES / DAWES (INSIDE, ON SALE 12/6)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT emosaustrin.com, Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

INSIDE: **HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
PEEL • WINE & REVOLUTION • THE FEVER DREAMS**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE: **THE CHUMPS • HOODRATS
THE EXTRAVAGANZA**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

INSIDE: **AZIZ ANSARI • NICK KROLL**
FROM MTV'S HUMAN GIANT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

OUTSIDE: **POWDERBURN**
ONE EYED DOLL • LONESTAR PORNSTAR
DEEJAR

INSIDE: **MY EDUCATION**
YOUR KISSES CAUSE CRASHES
THE SEAS • ABBY BIRDS • HALF HEAVY • THE DRY SEASON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

INSIDE: **FINALLY PUNK** TOUR
KICK OFF!
CRY BLOOD APACHE • TOTAL ABUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

INSIDE: **WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH**
THE DIAGONALS • EAGLE CLAW • BLACK COCK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

INSIDE: **ATTACK FORMATION**
THIS HORN OF AFRICA (EX-BIBLE OF THE DEVIL)
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND • SERIOUS TRACERS

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

INSIDE: **BLACK LIGHT BURNS**
RADIOLAND MURDERS • TBA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

QUIET COMPANY • MAGNOLIA SONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

INSIDE: **THE HELL ON HEELS TOUR**
VON IVA • SEMI PRECIOUS WEAPONS • TBA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

INSIDE: **REVEREND DEADEYE**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

INSIDE: **AMEBIX • SEVERED HEAD OF STATE**
SUB OSLO • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS:
**BADFISH • SCOTTY DON'T
FULL SERVICE • GRIMY STYLES**

INSIDE: **KILLOLA • THE ACTION DESIGN**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

MAIN STAGE:
CORE DISORDER III METAL FEST
SAD WINGS • BANGLADESH
COURSE OF RUIN • DEBRIS • STIR THE
SILENCE • REND • CRITICAL ASSEMBLY

INSIDE: **WITHIN CHAOS • SHRAPNEL**
DEAD EARTH POLITICS • BLOOD RED
DISCIPLE • LUG • KILLING IN APATHY

WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

SAT FEB 14

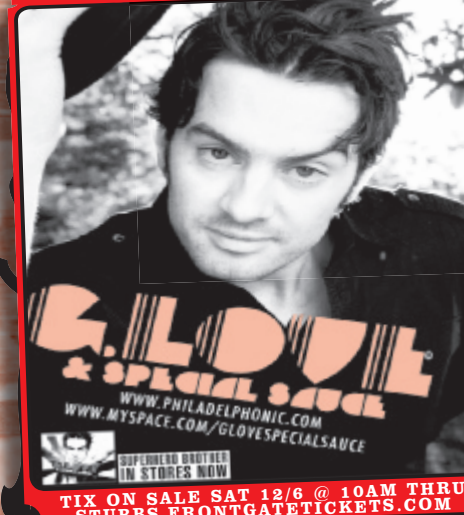


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FRI FEB 27



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SUN MAR 1



PRETENDERS
BREAK UP - CONCRETE

TIX ON SALE SAT 12/6 @ 10AM THRU
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IN THE CLUB

THU DEC 4

ELECTRICTOUCH
WITH BLACKTIEDYNASTY AND A.U.X.

FRI DEC 5 10:30PM
THE WOODBROTHERS
FEATURING CHRIS WOOD
OF MEDESKI MARTIN AND WOOD
WITH JOE PUG

SUN DEC 7



GOSPEL BRUNCH - HOLY -
WITH **THE BELLS OF JOY**

WED DEC 10

MTV PRESENTS
BRENDAN JAMES
WITH JONATHAN CLAY

THU DEC 11

THE LAUGHING
WITH DAN SLALUNE
VIA AUDIO AND TRUE WIDOW

SAT DEC 13

WHITEGHOST SHIVERS
WITH MICE AND RIFLES
AND THE GEORGIAN COMPANY

SUN DEC 14 - DOORS 5PM

PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK PRESENTS
ROCK AGAINST HUNGER
BENEFITING THE CAPITOL AREA FOOD BANK
FREE WITH 2 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

SUN DEC 14 - DOORS 9PM

101X PRESENTS
OURS
WITH PLAIN JANE AUTOMOBILE
AND SOUNDS UNDER RADIO

WED DEC 17

ELEANOR WITH MORE
WITH CHRIS MASTERSON OF SON VOLT
WITH CHRIS BRECHT

THU DEC 18

THE BLUE HIT
WITH SHOTGUN PARTY

FRI DEC 19

101X/CHILLVILLE PRESENTS
SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
WITH LANGUAGE ROOM
AND NOTHING MORE

WED DEC 31 - 9PM

101X/NEXT BIG THING PRESENTS
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH



**BLACK JOE LEWIS
& THE HONEYBEARS**
WITH HACIENDA
TICKET INCLUDES A BUFFET
AND CHAMPAGNE TOAST

Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

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4th Annual
BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR
OPEN DAILY DEC 3 - 24
OVER 100 ARTISTS • FREE ADMISSION • FREE CONCERT FEATURING
KJ HINES DEC 5

7PM
BIG BAND BLUE MONDAY
DEC 15 JAMES POLK ORCHESTRA

TOWN LAKE ANIMAL SHELTER & PET FOOD BANK OF AUSTIN

please donate new or used towels, fleece material, bath mats, small blankets tennis balls, dog & cat toys, rawhide chews, dog and cat treats, canned dog and cat food, gently used or new pet collars, shampoo, dog and cat beds, dog houses, igloos, kitty condos & scratching posts

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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FR **THE KINGS OF HARD LUCK**
SA **MONTE MONTGOMERY**
SN **TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT**
MO **BRANDON RHYDER**
WE **TEXAS RENEGADE OPENS**
KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

COMING SOON
12/11 EMORY QUINN BAND
12/12 SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
12/13 JAMES MCMURTRY

119 CHEATHAM ST., SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), Leatherbag, Black Joe Lewis (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Tub

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Gorilla Man, School Police, Reverse X-Rays, Bill Baird, Mellow Owl

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM The Just Desserts, Chris Maresh & Sidestreet (6:00)

EMO'S Followed by Static, San Serac, Wilderness

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis

FLAMINGO CANTINA Turncoat, Dented, Squint

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lee Simmons (10:00)

GALLERY LOMBARDI Xmas Expo Opening w/ Lelia Bela, Chris Vestre Group (7:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Weldon Henson (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robbie & the Rogues (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Charlie Shafter

GUERO'S TACO BAR Ernie Gaibay, Ruben Ramos w/ Los Flames (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Meshach Jackson, the Echo Vine, Adakin, Condiment Sandwich

HILL'S CAFE Green Whiskey Band

HOLE IN THE WALL Brooks Alan Brannon, Time Out (8:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Jonas Alvarez (7:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00), Prince Klassen (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Eagle Pritchard Murray Band, MC Overlord (6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Adeline (5:30), Zigzags, Shitty Carwash, the Bubbles, the Van Buren Boys (10:00)

MOMO'S Girl Guitar w/ Terri Hendrix, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Kalu James (7:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NEW MINT ROOM ROOFTOP Reggae Night w/ Nazarite Soundsystem

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Rick Hornyak (6:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Jon Napier & Colin McDonald, Meagan Tubb (8:00)

THE PARISH Indian Queen Melody, Silent Land Time Machine, Balmorhea

THE PARLOR Chartreuse

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Trena & the 3-Fingered Jack

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED EYED FLY Soundfield

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Wine & Alchemy, Vanessa Lively (8:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Band of Heathens, Randy Weeks, Buster Jiggs (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Matt Mason, JWW & the Prospectors, Doug Warriner & His Only Band, Jon Langford (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock & the Immigrants (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Mike Maven & the Good Life

SPEAKEASY James Kinney, Tin Can Phone

STUBB'S AUX, Black Tie Dynasty, Electric Touch

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Ricky Stein, the Murdocks, Falcon Buddies

TROPHY'S Solstice, Two Hoots & a Holler, Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers

VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Shut Up & Sing

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER Lane Aly Tadros

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.

YARD DOG The Victor Mourning (7:30)

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

FRI 05

290 WEST BAR & GRILL Brent Allen (9:00)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR The Lonesome Heroes (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Alfonso Ramos (3:30)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Ted Hall (1:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Matt Wilson (9:00)

ANTONE'S Gary Clark Jr., Arc Angels

ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé (7:30)

AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA Chicken Strut (noon)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Masquerade

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Anthony Hamilton (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Venson & Lee

BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen

BEERLAND Silver Shampoo, the Girls of Gravitron, the Unholy Two, Overnight Lows, Terrible Twos, A.H. Kraken

BOTTICELLI'S Condiment Sandwich

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE James Hand

CACTUS CAFE April Smith, J.D. Souther (8:30)

THE Parish

BALMORHEA SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE
INDIAN QUEEN MEDLEY
THU 04 DEC

RING THE ALARM "THE CARRIBEAN BASHMENT"
JAH MIGHTY, DJ BABY G, & JR. VIBES ON THE MIC
SAT 06 DEC

NAYDO'S BIRTHDAY SUIT BASH!
FEATURING: **BROWNOUT EAGLE CLAW THE STEPS DJ GMAU**
MON 08 DEC

THU 11 DEC FLOETRY

SAT 20 DEC SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY w/DJ MEL

12&13 DEC JOHN LENNON/PAUL MCCARTNEY TRIBUTE NIGHTS

SAT 27 DEC THE ILLUSIONIST ELECTRIC ORCHESTRA

SUN 14 DEC SECOND SUNDAY SOCK HOP!

TUE 16 DEC DAVID RICE
LINK AUSTIN EVENT - LINKAUSTIN.NET

ANNOUNCING... A SPECIAL NYE PARTY WITH: GRUPO FANTASMA!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
GOTO: THEPARISHROOM.COM
WED 31 DEC

THU 18 DEC LEILA BELA DOUGLAS FERGUSON & THE TETRAHEDONS

SAT 03 DEC RING THE ALARM DJ BABY G, JAH JAN MIGHTY, JR. VIBES

UPCOMING SHOWS:
1/11: Second Sunday Sock Hop 1/15: WILD LIFE w/ Richard Gear, Joshua Distance, King Louie, & Glasnost 1/16: Dremnt the End w/ Murder, My Sweet, & Language Room 1/18: Public Offenders w/ Blacklisted Individuals, DJ Notion, & DJ Aspect 1/19: Jon McLaughlin 1/24: Saturday Night Dance Party w/ DJ MEL 1/29: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Tapes 'N Tapes w/ Wild Light 1/30: 101X Presents: Los Campesinos! w/ Titus Andronicus 2/6: Deejer w/ Ember 2/13: Annuals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield, & What Laura Says

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

Dirty Dog Bar myspace.com/dirtydogbar 505 E. 6th St

Thursday 12/04
drink specials

Friday 12/05
That's Mister To You

Saturday 12/06
Soulkitchen

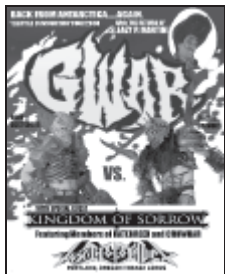
Monday 12/08
drink specials

Sunday 12/07
Shut Up & Sing!

Tuesday 12/09
drink specials

Wednesday 12/10
drink specials

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GWAR

with
Kingdom of Sorrow & Toxic Holocaust

DEC
05



OLD 97'S
with THE DRAMS
12.27



New Year's Eve Show
REVEREND
HORTON HEAT
12.31



DEVOTCHKA
with Crooked Fingers
FEB
08

On sale Saturday at 10 am

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The Sounds



FRIDAY
12.12.08

Tickets \$15

Limited Tickets Available In Advance Only



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ON SALE SATURDAY AT 10AM



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THE NEW ALBUM AND TOUR
WITH ERIC HUTCHINSON

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL • FEBRUARY 5



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The Continental Club

THUR DEC 4
HAPPY HOUR
WOODSBOSS

MONDAY DEC 8
HAPPY HOUR
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND

TUES DEC 9
HAPPY HOUR 6:30
PLANET CASPER WITH WARREN HOOD AND DAVID GRISSOM

WEDNESDAY DEC 10
HAPPY HOUR
SHOTGUN PARTY

THUR DEC 11
HAPPY HOUR
WOODSBOSS

FRIDAY DEC 12
HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

SATURDAY DEC 13
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

SUNDAY DEC 14
W/ REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
10PM

Black Joe Lewis
12AM

LEATHERBAG
10PM

BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION
10PM

JON DEE GRAHAM
10:30PM

ADAM BORK
12AM

JONATHAN TYLER AND THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
12AM

DREW SMITH'S LONELY CHOIR
10PM

LARRY LANGE & THE CHICANO SOUL REVIEW
10PM

SUNNY OZUNA OF SUNNY & THE SUNLINERS
10PM

RED LIGHT BURLESQUE
10PM

JAKE ANDREWS
SATURDAY DEC 13 MATINEE 3-7PM

GUITAR SHORTY
10PM

THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
12/19

BARFIELD PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS
12/20

1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.-FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (7:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Greg Garing (6:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Kings of Hard Luck
- CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** David Nathan (7:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30), Big Sam's Funky Nation (10:00)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** Lipservice
- COTTON CLUB** Dave Jorgenson (8:30)
- CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Gorilla Man, Colour Wheel, Ezra Reynolds, Lost Soul Revue
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Abra Moore (8:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Mark Rubin's Ridgetop Syncopators, Kat Edmonson (6:00)
- ELYSIUM** Whiteside the Poet, Bring Back the Guns, Woozy Helmet, Astronautalis, the Paper Chase
- EMO'S** The Gospel Truth, Coma in Algiers, Elvis, Red Leaves
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Larry Lange
- FADÓ** Mysterious Ways (10:00)
- THE FIFTH GALLERY** John Gomi (9:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** MC Overlord, Neckbone, Hatch (9:00)
- GARRISON PARK HARBOR** Atomic Strawberry
- GIDDY UPS** Will Knaak
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Miss Lauren Marie (9:00)
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoi Brothers (6:30)
- HANOVER'S** Dim Lit Daylight (11:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** Lies a Bloom, Johnny Gobbs, HammerDog, Thunderosa, Killa Dilla
- HILL'S CAFE** Zach Huckabee
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Guy Town, Total Faggots, Baby Got Bacteria, Brass Ovaries Pole Dancers (10:00)
- IGUANA GRILL** Geron Hoy
- JOVITA'S** Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)
- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
- LA ZONA ROSA** Toxic Holocaust, Kingdom of Sorrow, Gwar (8:00)

- LATITUDE 30** Mulholland Drive (8:30)
- LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Uncle Bruno, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)
- MARIA MARIA** Cienfuegos (7:00)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)
- MOHAWK** The Couch, Bankrupt & the Borrowers, Sideshow Tragedy, Whitman (10:00)
- MOMO'S UT** World Music Ensembles Benefit (8:00)
- MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)
- NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Paul Renna, Alan Haynes (8:00)
- PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Texana Dames
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Texas Soul, David John & the Wild Cards
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- RED 7** The Eastern Sea, Fulton Read, Scrabble Robot, the Ends
- RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)
- ROADHOUSE RAGS** Soulphonics, Burl Wilkerson (8:00)
- RUTA MAYA** The Adventures Of CD Release (6:00), Contra Coup, McPullish (9:30)
- SÃO PAULO'S** Three Jazz Collective (7:30)
- SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Try Lefty, Jon Dee Graham & the Fighting Cocks, Seth Walker (7:45)
- SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Fuzz Club w/ DJ Super K, DJ Sue, the Ugly Beats (10:00)

- SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Phillip's Songwriter Series (7:00)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** LC Rocks
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Dewayne Davis (9:00)
- SPEAKEASY** Les & the Funk Mob
- STUBB'S** Joe Pug, the Wood Bros.
- THE STUDIO** All U Need (9:00)
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Jul & the Chrome Wheels
- TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa Hawgs, Perfect Pants, Bloodshot Pyramid
- TROPHY'S** Black Squeeze, Living Better Electrically, the Last Gasp
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE** Bobby Kennedy

SAT 06

- ADAMS HEMPHILL PARK** Wheatville Arts Fair w/ the Telephone Company, the Studebakers, Ted Roddy & Backwoods Hipsters, Imbibe (10:00am)
- AMSTERDAM CAFE** Kent Mayhew, Kim Deschamps, Jackie Bristow (9:00)
- ANTONE'S** Gary Clark Jr., Arc Angels
- AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN** Havilah Tower, the Seekers (10:00am)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Alan Haynes
- BEAUTY BAR** My Education, Woodgrain, El Ten Eleven
- BEERLAND** Ghoultown, Flametrack Subs
- THE BELMONT** DJ Boss Ross (10:00)
- BOTTICELLI'S** About: Blank
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons (8:00), Alvin Crow (9:00)
- THE BROWN BAR** DJ Gmau
- CACTUS CAFE** Winter Extravaganza w/ Guy Forsyth, Asylum Street Spankers (7:00, 10:00)
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Rich & the Obits
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Warren Hood (6:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Monte Montgomery (9:00)

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FRIDAY, DEC 5
RED EYED FLY
w/ THE BANNER YEAR
BUILT FOR SPEED
THE MURDOCKS & COURRIER

NOMAD
BAR LOUNGE PATIO

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KARAOKE UNDERGROUND!
SING ALONG WITH PUNK & INDIE FAVORITES

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THU DECEMBER 04

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with
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LATIN AT HEART

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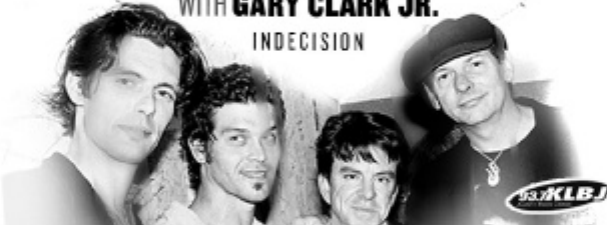
SUNDAY DECEMBER 07
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

BRUCE SMITH
SLOWTRAIN
RICKY STEIN

FRI/SAT DECEMBER 5 & 6 2 NIGHTS ONLY!

THE ARC ANGELS

WITH **GARY CLARK JR.**
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DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 09

DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

Blue Tuesday
WITH
DEREK & MALFORD
MIKE FLANIGIN B-3 TRIO-8PM



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WED DECEMBER 10

ERIC TESSMER BAND
THE EXPLO-SHUNS
w/ THE MOELLER BROS. & MIKE KELLEN
ERIN JAIMES BAND

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

nelo Much Love
Goldcure

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

Christmas Party
ALPHA REV
the Soldier Thread
JOHNNY GOUDIE
& THE LITTLE CHAMPIONS



BENEFITING **BLUE SANTA**
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

THE
GOURDS
WITH NO SHOW PONIES



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MONDAY DECEMBER 15

KB TALENT & AMBIANCE ARTISTS
HOLIDAY HO-HO-HO-DOWN
FEATURING
JOSH ABBOTT & RICH O'TOOLE
CHARLA CORN & BRETT CRENSHAW

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

a tribute to
RAY HENIG
featuring
Carolyn Wonderland
Paula Nelson w/ special guests

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17
BLUES SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18
8PM
girl X-MAS
guitar PARTY

WILL SEXTON'S
Holiday Soiree
w/ **RANDY WEEKS**
CHARLIE FAYE
IDGY VAUGHN
ABRA MOORE 10:30P

DECEMBER 19 & 20



2 NIGHTS
RAUL MALO'S
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS SHOW
VIP TABLES • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

PINETOP PERKINS
EARLY SHOW

LATER
DEL CASTILLO
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

GARY CLARK JR.
&
BAVUBLAKES
& THE EXTRA PLAIRS

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SUN DECEMBER 28

HAYES CARLL
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NEW YEARS EVE

BOB SCHNEIDER!
THE BLACK & WHITE YEARS
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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

KEVIN COSTNER
& MODERN WEST
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

STATE RADIO
w/ REBELUTION
ON SALE SAT. 12/6 • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30

THE SCABS
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SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST

APPEARING LIVE!
JJ GREY & MOFRO
ORANGE BLOSSOMS TOUR
WITH
JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
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THURSDAY FEB 19

LYKKE LI
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THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES
THURSDAY, DEC. 4 8PM

DOUG WARRINER
& HIS ONLY BAND

JWW & THE PROSPECTORS

MATT MASON

JON LANGFORD & THE FAR FORLORN

FRIDAY, DEC. 5 10PM
THE FUZZ CLUB RETURNS!

THE UGLY BEATS
DJ SUE & DJ SUPER K

SATURDAY, DEC. 6 9PM
QUIET COMPANY

POMPEII
& JETS UNDER FIRE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10 8PM
AUSTIN POETRY SLAM

THURSDAY, DEC. 11 9PM
LONESOME HEROES

JWW & THE PROSPECTORS

EDDIE BEBEL

FRIDAY, DEC. 12 9PM
THE BLOODY TEARS

THE BLITZENS
THE TRANSGRESSORS

SATURDAY, DEC. 13 8PM
BROWNOUT

DJ CHICKEN GEORGE
SYSTEMADDICT

ZEQUE
DJ BOOZWA

COMING SOON - PRINCE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31
WITH FOOT PATROL!

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6TH & LAMAR

EVERY WEDNESDAY 6-9PM

BERNARD ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS:

"UNSIGNED GIANTS"

EVERY THURSDAY, 6:30-9:30PM

THE HUDSONS

38TH & MEDICAL

THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 7PM: **SARAH PIERCE**

FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 7PM: **POOR YORICK**

SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 7PM: **SLACKY FAMILY BAND**

SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 11AM: **SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH JEFF LOFTON QUARTET**

7PM: **JIM'S COUNTRY JAM**

TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 7PM: **WILL DUNLAP**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10, 7PM: **PTARMIGAN**

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, DEC. 4: **ALY TADROS**

FRIDAY, DEC. 5: **BOBBY KENNEDY**

THURSDAY, DEC. 11: **SLACKY FAMILY BAND**

FRIDAY, DEC. 12: **STONE CASTLE FAMILY**

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

THURSDAY, DEC. 4: **SHUT UP AND SING** 9PM-1AM

FRIDAY, DEC. 5: **WYNN TAYLOR LIVE** 10PM-1AM

FREE TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS
@ 9 & 11:30PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 6:
BOBBY KENNEDY LIVE 10PM-1AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 7: SOUTHPARK SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS
WITH **THE JUKEBOX HEROES LIVE!** 10PM-1AM

WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

CLUB 1808 Caliban Goodbrain, Broke Beads, Hotel Hotel, Followed by Static

CLUB DE VILLE Hollywood Gossip CD Release (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), Larry Lange & the Chicano Soul Review (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Fatal Attractions

COTTON CLUB Johnny Rodriguez

CREEKSIDELOUNGE The Archibalds, Jeremy Nail & the Incidents, Dove Hunter

DELL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER Holiday Swing, Project Transitions Benefit w/ the Sentimental Journey Orchestra (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Austin Homegrown

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Red Young (9:30)

EMO'S Delany Davidson, the Pons, Holly Golightly & the Brokeoffs

EVANGELINE CAFE Sunset Valley Boys

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Pine Beetles CD Release (9:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Roger Len Smith, Lindsay Wells (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Glenn Collins

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Hot Club of Cowtown (12:30), Jason Boland & the Stragglers (9:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Whiskey Dick, Black-Eyed Vermillion, Joe Buckyourself

HILL'S CAFE Jeremy Steding

HOLE IN THE WALL The Harlequins, White White Lights, Masonic (10:00)

IGUANA GRILL The Gems

JOVITA'S Mrandmrsays Student Showcase (noon), Six Sons of a Gun, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (7:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Topaz & Mudphonic (10:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, DJ Protege (9:00)

MOHAWK House the Homeless, ARCH Benefit w/ the Golden Boys, Pataphysics, When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, the Persimmons, Literature

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

MUSIC GYM Alliance for Fair Food Benefit w/ the Diving Captain, the Bubbles, Gio Mo Cua, Woozyhelmet (2:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter (6:30)

NUNO'S NORTH Leeann Atherton (9:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Blake Tynes Band

ONE 2 ONE BAR Gigolo Bullet (10:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Harry Bodine (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Travis Linville

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues (8:00)

RED 7 Mushroomhead, Brujeria

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Melancholy Ramblers, Jo Carol Pierce, Hanging House (6:00)

RUTA MAYA The 512, Pt. 14 (9:30)

SAXON PUB Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers, Waylon Payne, the Belleville Outfit (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Jets Under Fire, Pompeii, Quiet Company (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Chase Holbrook & the Porch Cats (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Drive

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Dooomsday Device, Grant Ewing, the Word Association

TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod (7:00)

TROPHY'S Scorpion Child, A Few Nice Things, Tia Carrera

VICTORY GRILL Dance Party w/ the Swingsters (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bobby Kennedy

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bobby Kennedy

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bobby Kennedy

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WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bobby Kennedy

BIRDS BARBERSHOP Manfest 2008 w/ the New Drugs, Listener Project (2:00)

'BOU TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Girl Guitar John Lennon Tribute

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Porterdavis (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Señor Gato (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Jeremy Steding, Big John Mills, Mike Ethan Messick (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

CREEKSIDELOUNGE Shy One, Slow Down Lady, Matches for Memories, Pocket Fox

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Kevin Lovejoy (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Kristeen Young

FLAMINGO CANTINA Contrabandits, Marshall Influence (9:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Open Blues Jam w/ Jimi Lee

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Gary Claxton (4:00)

GREEN MUSE CAFE Austin GoGirls Open Mic w/ Gfire

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Ruby Jane Smith (1:00), Redd Volkaert (4:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Tex Thomas & the Dangling Wranglers (3:00)

HEADHUNTERS Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob

HOLE IN THE WALL Mike & the Moonpies, Fat Man & Little Boy (10:00)

JOVITA'S The Brew (7:00)

LA FUENTES Open Mic (6:00)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)

MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ryan (9:00)

NEWUO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S NORTH Singer-Songwriter Jam (7:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

SUN 07

ADAMS HEMPHILL PARK Wheatsville Arts Fair w/ the Telephone Company, Jana Pochop, the Vermeers, Diana Cantu, Tomas Ramirez (10:00am)

ANTONE'S Soultrain, Ricky Stein, Bruce Smith (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

BEERLAND The Man Stamps, Teledildonics 5000, Teeners, King Louies One-Man Band, the Barbaras

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 • 7PM
LIZ MORPHIS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 10PM • \$5
LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 3PM
SUNSET VALLEY BOYS



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 7PM
SARAH PIERCE

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* * * * *

FRIDAY 9:30

MYSTERIOUS WAYS

SATURDAY 9:30

STICKS & STONES

11:30

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| THU 4 | BRYAN ANDREW LEE | suede |
| FRI 5 | CHERYL MURDOCK | buzzfuel |
| SAT 6 | 9:30 MYSTERIOUS WAYS | 11:30 STICKS & STONES |
| SUN 7 | CLOSED | |
| MON 8 | IN THESE SHOES | TIN CAN PHONE |
| TUE 9 | LIZ MORPHUS | THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION |
| WED 10 | GRAND HOTEL | SPAZMATICS |

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COURTYARD

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

ONE WORLD THEATRE Jose Feliciano (6:00, 8:30)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (6:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kuru (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Doodlin' Hogwallops, Travis Linville, Shawn Nelson, La Tampiquena (5:00)

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

STUBB'S The Bells of Joy (11:00am)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Brunch w/ the Rockin' Gospel Project (11:00am)

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 Jim's Country Jam (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Service Industry Night w/ Jukebox Heroes (10:00)

MON 08

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Bill Carter (3:30)

ANTONE'S Flyjack (8:00), Smash Riley, Josh Allen & the Whiskey Brothers (10:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke

BOTTICELLI'S Bobby LaRoche, David Perales

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Open Stage w/ Graham Weber & Dan Grissom (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Texas Renegade, Brandon Rhyder (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Marc Devine (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)



THURS 12/4 VANESSA WINE AND LIVELY BAND ALCHEMY WORLD MUSIC & BELLY DANCING!!! 8PM-1AM

FRI 12/5 THE ADVENTURES OF!! CD RELEASE PARTY!! 8PM-9PM FREE SHOW
BAD ASS W/CONTRA COUP MCPULLISH REGGAE SHOW AND JUDGE 9-30PM-2AM PLUS DJ'S

NICK D & JUMBO PRESENT:
SAT 12/6 THE 512 PART 14 ALWAYS THE BEST HIP HOP SHOWZ!!! 9:30PM-2AM

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FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY
Big Band Hits of 30's, 40's & 50's
Monster Big Band
Get Your Swing on at 7 PM

MON 12/8 7 PM DJ Relic SoundSystem
Chill Night Pint Night
FREE! No Cover!!

TUE 12/9 TUESDAY OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music
Happy Hour All Night Long!

WED 12/10 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

Hanovers

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

THURSDAY 8pm-12am
KARAOKE NEW CONTEST LEAGUE
WILL BEGIN 1/08/09

FRIDAY Live Music (12/5) \$5 Cover
RELENTLESS JONES
CD RELEASE
DIMLIT DAYLIGHT

SATURDAY Live Music (12/6) \$5 Cover
DELTA LUX
ERIC TESSMER BAND

SUNDAY
Poker League 5:30-8:30pm
Cash Prizes for 1ST and 2ND

FRIDAY Live Music (12/12) \$5 Cover
DAVID JIMINEZ
DERTY BIRD

SATURDAY Live Music (12/13) \$5 Cover
MALFORD MILLIGAN
PFLUGERVILLE HOLIDAY STROLL & PARADE 10am-8pm

★ ★ ★ **NEW YEAR'S BASH** ★ ★ ★
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THU, DEC 4 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
JESSE DAYTON 9PM

FRI, DEC 5 **JAMES HAND**

SAT, DEC 6 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
ALVIN CROW 9PM

TUE, DEC 9 **BILLY GARZA NO COVER**

WED, DEC 10 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**
TONY HARRISON 6-8PM
DALE WATSON 9PM

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MONDAY, DEC 8 **S.I.N. ON T59**
JONATHAN TERREL

TUES, DEC 9 **ELR BAND**

WEDNESDAY, DEC 10 **LATIN WEDNESDAY**
THE BREW 9:30PM & SALSA LESSONS 9PM

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\$2 COVER: **BABY GOT BACTERIA,**
GUYTOWN,
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH...
\$2 COVER: **MASONIC,**
THE WHITE WHITE LIGHTS & **THE HARLEQUINS** 10PM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH.
FAT MAN & LITTLE BOY: THE ATOMIC DUO,
MIKE & THE MOON PIES 10PM

MONDAY DECEMBER 8TH...
COVER BAND NIGHT: **THE CRETIN HOPS,**
CONVOI!, TEX PISTOLS, & BIG MESS 10PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH...
CLYDE & CLEMS WHISKEY BUSINESS 10PM
ROGER WALLACE 9PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH.
LEO RONDEAU, CAYCE ROSE & THE
MIND GAMES, JOANNA BARBERA 10PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11TH...
PRAYER FOR ANIMALS, CARTRIGHT, & MAN STAMPS 10PM

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FRIDAY, 12/5 \$8 COVER
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SATURDAY, 12/6
STUDENTS OF MRANDMRSMAYS SHOWCASE *8:30pm*
SIX SONS OF A GUN *7pm*
CHAPARRAL *9:30pm* \$5 COVER 

SUNDAY, 12/7 \$5 COVER!
THE BREW *7pm* 

TUESDAY, 12/9 NO COVER!
HORSE OPERA *8pm*

WEDNESDAY, 12/10 NO COVER!
AJ TORRANCE *6pm*
THE BANTERS *8pm*

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

EMO'S The Ready Set, Floral Terrace, Go Crash Audio

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Rick Broussard (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Contrabandits

HOLE IN THE WALL Big Mess, Tex Pistols, Convoi!, Cretin Hops (9:00)

HYDE PARK THEATRE Eddy Hobizal (7:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Carson Alexander (9:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Christmas at the Carillon w/ Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson, Eliza Gilkyson (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Spoiled, Beaux Loy (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MOMO'S Geron Hoy, Kelly Raven, Dan Dyer, Josh Halverson (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)

THE PARISH The Steps, Eagle Claw, Brownout

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)

SAXON PUB Liz & Lincoln, Freedy Johnston, Ruthless Gondoliers, Colin Herring (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood

SIX LOUNGE Austin Homegrown

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids, Doomsday Device

VINO VINO Kevin Lovejoy, Ephraim Owens

BOTTICELLI'S Carley Wolf

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Billy Garza

CACTUS CAFE Peter Case, Gurf Morlix (8:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor & the Bottom Dollar Band (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Planet Casper (6:30), David Garza (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), Jon Blondell (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S World's Most Dangerous, Heavy Mojo, Natives of the New Dawn, Fishbone

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)

GRUENE HALL Rodney Hayden (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis, Capital City Outlaws, Criminal Mischief, Combat Shock, Los Bones

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

TUE 09

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Jon Emery (3:30)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Andrea Marie (7:30)

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (10:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Brooks City, COD, David Banner, Z-Ro, Bun B

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)

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WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
GREG GARING americana

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
WARREN HOOD americana

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
PORTERDAVIS low down blues

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
DALE WATSON a classic country christmas show

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
RUBY JANE americana

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
SEÑOR GATO latin

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
TOO BLUE soulful blues

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
THE LOST PINES bluegrass, americana

upcoming at central park:
SATURDAY, DEC 6, 4 PM
THIRD COAST SCHOOL OF MUSIC TOGETHER presents
THE PURPLE PALACE PUPPETS
with Laura Freeman & Heather Jarry; along with Michael Shay.
"Iris Saves the Land of Black & White," a puppet show with live music for kids of all ages.
Plus interactive kids' music before and after the puppet show!
SUNDAY, DEC 14, 12 - 4PM
The Jewish Community Association of Austin presents **CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD.**
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10PM **Mellow Owl**
Bill Baird & Friends, Reverse X-Rays
School Police, HH Gorilla Man

FRI DEC 12/5
10PM **The Lost Soul Revue**
Ezra Reynolds
ColourWheel, HH Gorilla Man

SAT DEC 12/6
10PM **Dove Hunter**
Jeremy Nail & the Incidents, The Archibalds

SUN DEC 12/7
10PM **Pocket Fox**
Matches for Memories, Slow Down Lady, Shy One

UPCOMING SHOWS
12/11 Monuments, 12/12 LickLick, Transmography
12/13 Henry & The Invisibles
12/31 Taddy Porter, DirtyBird, the SideShow Tragedies

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12/8 BB CHRISTMAS PARTY
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AND HER MELODIC CAT
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12/12 MOCKTICERS
W/ "DARK WAVE" *PRINCE
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12/4(T):CONDIMENT SANDWICH, ADAKIN, THE ECHO VINE, MESHACH JACKSON
12/5(F):KILLA DILLA (BILLY ELVIS ON SPEED), THUNDEROSA, HAMMERDAWG, (P)JOHNNY GOBBS,
(HH) LIES IN BLOOM, JAMIE THOMAS
12/6(S):JOE BUCKYOURSELF, BLACK EYED MERMILLION, NCM, (P) WHISKEY DICK, THE G.O.A.T.
12/7(S):ATOMIC HONKY TONK: THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA, NFL FOOTBALL GAMES ALL-DAY(P)
12/8(M):SIN NIGHT-Mellow Mondays: Featuring: THE KONTRABANDITS With Various Special Guests!
12/9(T):LOS BONES, COMBAT SHOCK, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, CAPITAL CITY OUTLAWS,
BILL DAVIS SINGERS-SONGWRITERS(P)
12/10(W):STUDFARM, ZENNITH FUZZBOMB, DEVOUR THE WORLD, MATTS OPEN MIC(P)

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Snoopy's 40th Birthday Bash

UNICORN MAGIC

INSECT SEX ACT

JAZZUS LIZARD

SEIZURES

Sat 12.6

THE DICKEY BROTHERS
with Open Mike

Sun 12.7

HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Mon 12.8

THE EARTHTONE PLAYERS
9pm: Insect Sex Act

Tue 12.9

THE BALLROOM JACKS
THE HUMILIATORS
UNRAVEL MARS
RED LINE RIOT

Wed 12.10

UPCOMING SHOWS
12.11 High Watt Crucifers, Hoodrats, Extravaganza 12.12 A Giant Dog, Combe Rize 12.13 Roadside Nipalm Division, Blunt Force Trauma

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sa 6 Flametricks Subs, Ghoultown

su 7 Ground Zero Texas II
The Barbaras, King Louie OMB, The Teeners, John Barrett's Bass Drum of Death, Teledildonics 5000, The Man Stamps

mo 7 Rock and Roll Karaoke

tu 8 A Giant Dog, Western Ghost House, Monarchs

we 10

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TORONADO

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 5
THE BANNER YEAR
SHE CRAVES
BUILT FOR SPEED
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SATURDAY-DECEMBER 6
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THE SILLY GOOSE DOCUMENTS
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WEIRDO

MONDAY-DECEMBER 8
HONKAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
PITCH BLACK SOULS
CLUBBER

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 9
\$500 CAR
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VENSON'S FIXINS

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 10
101 & HOMEOWN
ST NO CONTROL NIGHT
BRINK OF DISASTER
LUG
TOMBSTONE UNION
MATTHEW'S IPOD NIGHT IN THE LOUNGE

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 11
MOONHAMMER
FAR BEYOND PLUTO
SHAITAN
ISLAND NATION
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FRIDAY-DECEMBER 12
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MIKE TRUTH & THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS
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DISTANT LIGHTS
LITTLE TRIGGERS
MANSFIELD

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 13
WET ZENN
PETALS
RED COLOURS
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PHOENIX JACKSON

UPCOMING SHOWS
12-11 - TRIPLE CD RELEASE FEATURING DR.ZOOM, SUPERHOUSE
MARY ANN & THE SHARKY HANDS, WITH KIDS CALLING
12/10 - RUDE RACHEL, SIXES & EIGHTS, BASE, TANDORIFINGER
12/20 - MANIFESTO, SNAKESKIN PRISON, VELVET BRICK
12/31 - NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE STUMMIES, BORN TO LOSE
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Neuroma 11:00 PM
www.myspace.com/neuromacore

Emzy Emzy 10:00 PM
www.myspace.com/emzyenzy

Friday • Dec 5 **LIVE MUSIC!**

www.devival.com presents
STORYTIME DEVIVAL STUDY
The Paper Chase 12 AM Astronautalis 11 PM
www.myspace.com/thepaperchasesite www.myspace.com/astronautalis

Woozyhelmet 10 PM Whiteside the Poet 9 PM
www.myspace.com/woozyhelmet www.myspace.com/whitesidethepoet

The Devival Players 8 PM **DOORS @ 7 PM**

Saturday • Dec 6 **LIVE MUSIC!**

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Dec 7 **REGRESSION**

RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday • Dec 9 **90'S NIGHT**

So LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJs BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday • Dec 10 **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

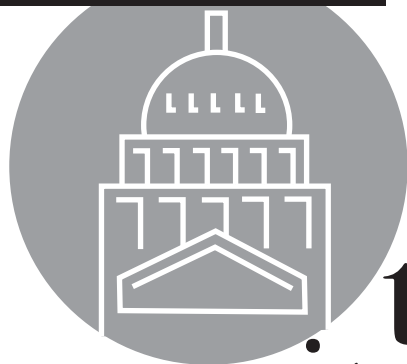
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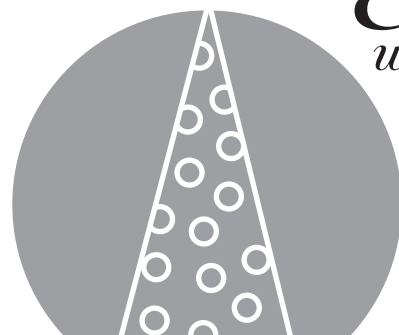
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008

6:00–7:00 PM

SING-ALONG & TREE LIGHTING

7:00–9:00 PM

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This event is free & open to the public.*

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

HOLE IN THE WALL Melissa Bryan, Ezra Reynolds (9:00)

JOVITA'S Horse Opera (8:00)

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)

MOHAWK The Uglysuit, Til We're Blue or Destroy

MOMO'S The Reliques, Patrice Pike & Joy Davis, Robin Smith (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan (10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Michael Martin Murphey (7:00, 9:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Eugene Chadbourne w/ Ernie Durawa

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues (5:00), Austin Collins, Bruce Hughes, Jeremy Steding (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Five Ways From Sunday

SPEAKEASY ELR Band

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Paul

TRIPLE CROWN R.G. Stark, Scotty & the Metaphysics

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

ANTONE'S Erin Jaimes, Eric Tessmer

ARTZ RIB HOUSE 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 P.J. Herrington

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison (6:00), Dance Lessons (8:00), Dale Watson (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Mike McClure, Scott Miller (8:30)

CAFE MUNDI Chris Parreira (7:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Kelly Kavin (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, the Spazmatics (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Too Blue (6:30)

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 Shotgun Party (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, Adam Bork CD Release (10:30)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Baker's Dozen (9:30)

EMO'S We Are the Union

EVANGELINE CAFE Sarah Pierce (7:00)

GIDDY UPS Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)

HARRY RANSOM CENTER A Child's Christmas in Wales w/ Suzi Stern, Alex Coke, Rich Harney, Buddy Mohmed (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Devour the World, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Studfarm

HILL'S CAFE Ronnie Caywood

HOLE IN THE WALL Rob Jewett Trio (8:00), Joanna Barbera, Cayce Rose & the Mind Games, Leo Rondeau (10:00)

JOVITA'S M.J. Torrance, the BanTERS (6:00)

KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)

LA FUENTES Talent Contest (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lucky Jam Sessions w/ Tyler & Lance (10:00)

LUCKY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (8:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Texaco (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Suede (8:00)

MOHAWK DJ Ray Pride (10:00)

MOMO'S Fingerpistol, Colin Gilmore, Matt the Electrician, South Austin Jug Band, Bankrupt & the Borrowers (5:00)

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)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Ru Coleman (8:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Dub Trio

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00), Paula Nelson, Waylon Payne, Meagan Tubb (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL LC Rocks

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (10:30)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Trio Del Rio, Thrillbillies

TROPHY'S Solstice

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

THE WINE CELLAR Tucker Bradley (7:30)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

WED 10

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Mike Clifford (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Red Young, Silvie Rider (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Latin at Heart (1:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic (6:00)

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 Falcon Buddies, The Murdocks 10pm

Fr 5 Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 6pm
 Bloodshot Pyramid, Perfect Pants 10pm

Sa 6 Word Association, Grant Ewing Band,
 Doomsday Device 10pm

Su 7 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 8 Gerry's Kids 6pm
 Doomsday Device 9pm

Tu 9 RG Stark 6pm
 Scotty & the Metaphysics 9pm

We 10 Trio Del Rio 6pm
 The Thrillbillies 9pm

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

PRIVATE PARTY

MONDAY DECEMBER 8

DAN DYER 9-4:5

MARMALAKES 11:30
KELLY RAVIN 8
JACK VALEN 7
 NO COVER HAPPY HR **GERON HOY** 5:15

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9

PATRICE PIKE

& JOY DAVIS 8
FATBACK CIRCUS 12:15
ROBIN SMITH 11
THE RELIQUES 7:15

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

**SOUTH AUSTIN
 JUG BAND** 10



BANKRUPT & THE BORROWERS 12:30
MATT THE ELECTICIAN 8:45
COLIN GILMORE 7
 NO COVER HAPPY HR **FINGERPISTOL** 5:15

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DEC 19 **WILL TAYLOR**
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DEC 12 **SKYROCKET**

DEC 27 **JON DEE GRAHAM**

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RANDY WEEKS 10:30 \$8
BUSTER JIGGS 12:30 \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

SETH WALKER
 11:30 SHOW \$10 COVER

JON DEE GRAHAM
 & the FIGHTING COCKS 9:00 SHOW \$10
TRY LEFTY 7:45
 No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

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**THE BELLEVILLE
 OUTFIT** 11:30 \$10

WAYLON PAYNE 9:30 \$10
SHAWN NELSON & THE RAMBLERS 8:00 \$10

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

**BOBBY WHITLOCK
 & COCO CARMEL** 10:15 \$10

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COLIN HERRING 12:30 \$5

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9

BRUCE HUGHES 10:00 \$5

AUSTIN COLLINS 8:00 \$5
JEREMY STEDING 12:00 \$5
 5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

PAULA NELSON 8:00 \$10

MEAGAN TUBB
 & SHADY PEOPLE 12:00 \$5
WAYLON PAYNE 10:00 \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 **BO PORTER**

DEC 11 - **GEORGE DEVORE**
 DEC 12 - **OMAR & THE HOWLERS**
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DEC 13 - **CAROLYN WONDERLAND**
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311 CLUB Joe Valentine
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Bob Rose (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Kalu
James (3:30)

**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH
STREET** Claire Small (1:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Mayhew
(9:00)

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ARTZ RIB HOUSE Dave Hooper (7:30)

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(9:00)

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BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

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(8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Paint (7:00)

CEDAR STREET LC Rocks (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Emory Quinn (9:00)

CLUB DE VILLE 90's Dance Party w/
DJ Orion (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss
(6:30), Drew Smith's Lonely
Choir, Jonathan Tyler & the
Northern Lights (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons
w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDe LOUNGE Monuments

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark
Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM In These Shoes,
Ron Westray (6:00)

ELYSIUM Naha, Cyrus Rex, Otto
Von Schirach, Venetian Snare

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Tings; Inside: Shapes Have
Fangs, Low Line Caller, Ringo
Deathstarr (8:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate
(7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA White Knuckle
Drivers, Snakeskin Prison,
Sabotage Manual, Zenith
Fuzzbomb (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the
Electrician, Southpaw Jones
(8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Trish Bales
Group (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30),
Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon
(8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Robbie & the Rogues (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR The Fabs (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Modern Day Drifters
HOLE IN THE WALL The Man Stamps,
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(10:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JO'S HOT COFFEE Girls Rock Camp
Benefit w/ Fabi Reyna, Follow
That Bird! (6:30)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band
(8:00)

LAMBERTS DJ Fuckin' A (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/
Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the
Bump Band, Eagle Pritchard
Murray Band, MC Overlord
(6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan
Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Gunhands
(8:00)

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Gourds (5:00); Inside: Bear
Claw, the Great Nostalgic, 100
Flowers, the Sour Notes (10:00)

MOMO'S Low Expectations, the
71's, Nakia & His Southern
Cousins, Black Bone Child,
Wisebird (7:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas
"Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

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McDonald, Alan Haynes (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Ricky Skaggs
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9:30)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Bruce Robison
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(7:00)

THE PARLOR Stars Go Dim (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Goldcure, Doug Cannon

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the
First Cousins (8:00)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven
& the Good Life (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge:
Rich Demarco (6:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00),
Future Clouds & Radar, George
Devore, Carson Alexander
(8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Eddie
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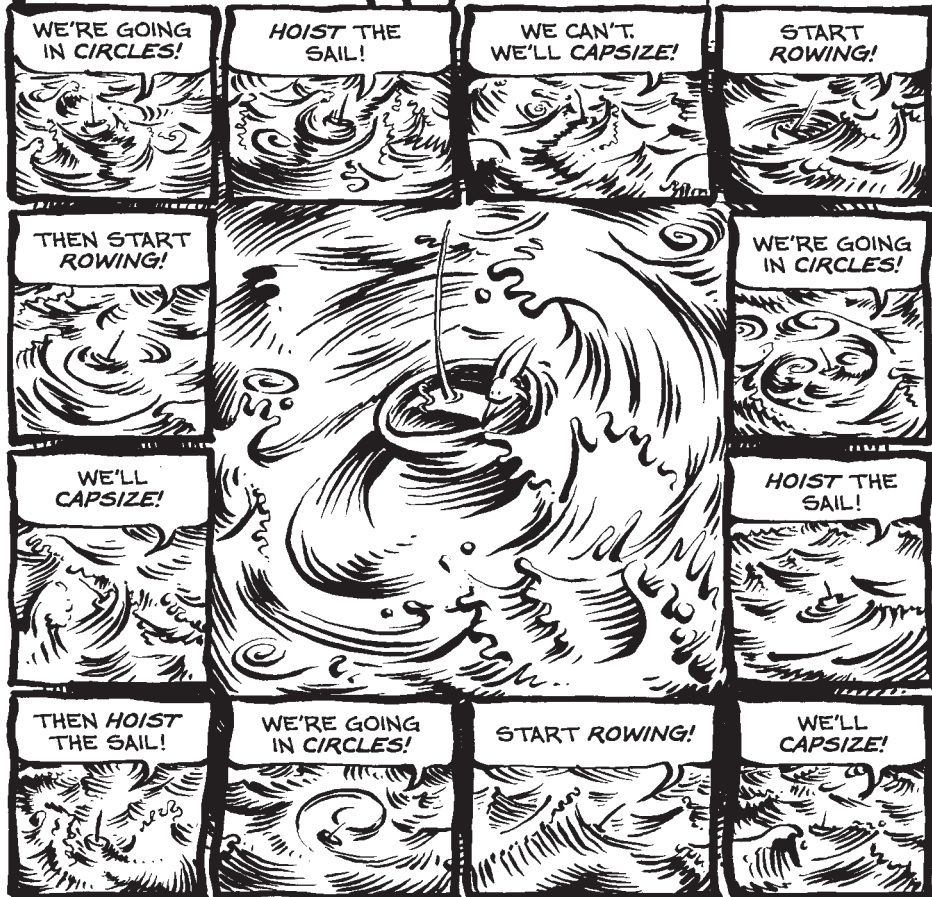
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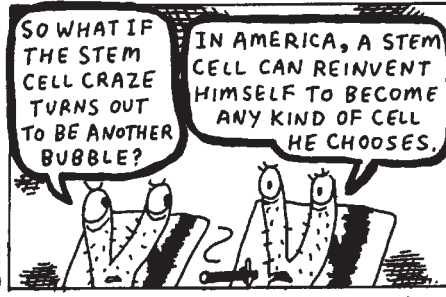
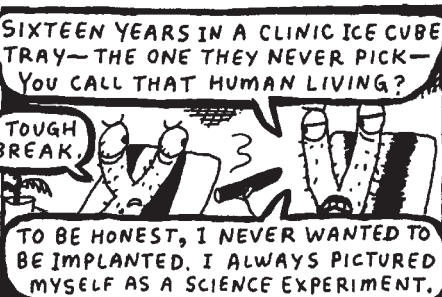
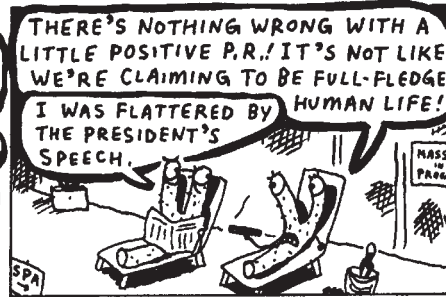
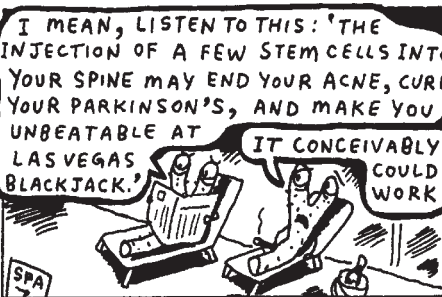
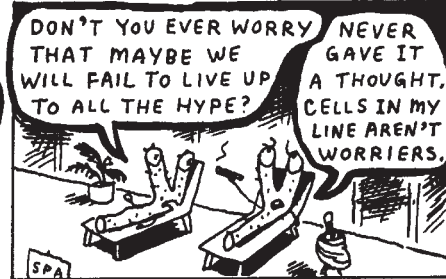


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There's a town in New York called Texas with about 200 people. There's a town in Texas called New York with about 15 people.

Some people in Japan love to eat at Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas.

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
- 715 Music Instruction
- 720 Musicians Available
- 725 Musicians Wanted
- 730 Recording Studios
- 735 Rentals/Services
- 740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS

- Lovers Lane
- Easy Street
- Shot in the Dark
- Messages

JOBS

115

BEAUTY SALON/SPA

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease \$130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

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120

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Email resume to jobs@ecologenics.com or call 512-791-7973.

130 HEALTHCARE

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General dental office located in Lakeway is seeking a highly motivated individual with excellent patient care and outstanding communication skills. Mon-Thurs. Please fax resumes to 512-263-9095.

DIRECT CARE STAFF

NEEDED! \$400 Sign on bonus after 6 months! We need staff to work at least 20 hrs/wk working with clients with cognitive challenges in north Austin. Flexible hours. Call Dana @ 1-800-867-0047. Apply in person at 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 250W. Fax resume to 512-338-1555 or email to dmcbride@empowermentooptions.com

135 HOSPITALITY

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WAITSTAFF Rick's Cabaret Steakhouse is now hiring for waitstaff for AM shifts 11-7. No experience needed. Call 512-929-3939.

145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

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150

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(after 6 months employment)

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Call 1-800-867-0047 for Dana.

Apply in person at 1106 Clayton Lane, Sre 250W, Austin, TX 78723; fax resume to 512-338-1555; email resume to dmcbride@empowermentooptions.com.

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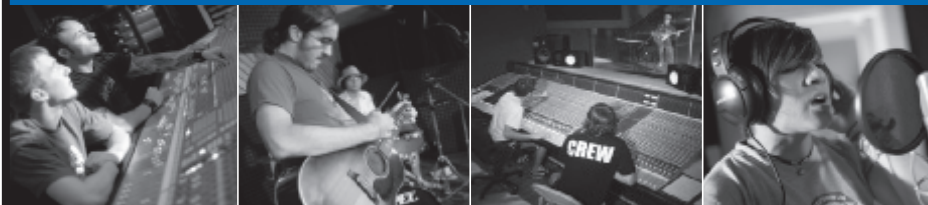
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The market for our product is anyone that uses electricity. It is an easy sale! Outside sales experience a plus but unbridled entrepreneurial spirit is paramount. Join us to make a great living and feel good about what you are doing.

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MIGRAINES

MIGRAINES

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Covance is looking for healthy men and women with migraines to take part in a clinical research study for an investigational medication.

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- Age 18+ • Healthy
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Call 512-454-5765 for more information.

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All calls are confidential.



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170 SALES MARKETING

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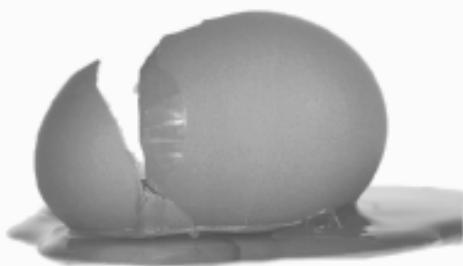
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220
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LAKESOUTH 3-2 seeks male housemate. 512-266-0963 keleston@hotmail

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240
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404 Hammack 2/1, Brick house with fruit trees & native plants, near Lamar & 2222. \$185,000

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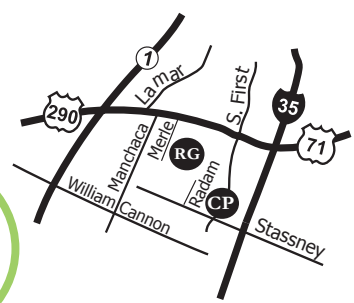
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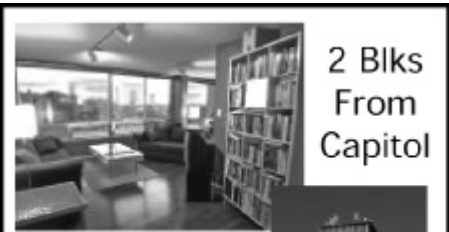
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530 GENERAL

ADOPTION

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ADOPTION A devoted childless couple with puppy wish to adopt a newborn. Love, laughter & a secure future await. Confidential. Elyse & Alan. 1-800-257-7553.

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ADOPTION Pregnant? A childless, professional, financially secure, woman seeks to adopt. Loving home. Large immediate family. Expenses paid. Call Becky (ask for michelle/adam). 1-800-790-5260. (AAN CAN)

THANK YOU St. Therese for favors received Novena. JS

535 LOST & FOUND

HIGHSCHOOL RING 1958 L.C. Anderson High School Class Ring found in grandmother's old jewelry box. Engraved initials "LJ". In 1958 L.C. Anderson was still segregated. All black school at the time. Grandmother was hispanic and never stepped a foot outside California. What's the story of the ring? Granddaughter trying to find answers and true owner of ring. eli@tmtlabs.com

LOST DOG Lost Best Friend!! She's a red nose female pit, golden tan with white chest. Lost on the east side (Airport Blvd). Last seen wearing green collar w/ tags. \$\$\$\$ REWARD for returning her to her family. For found, please call Mark at 512-947-0018

of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP of GAUTHAM AND ZELDA KAMATH Petitioner(s), filed in said court on SEPTEMBER 24, 2008, against UNKNOWN FATHER Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-08-004930 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF EMALÉE NEVAEH RODRIGUEZ, A CHILD", the nature of said suit is a request ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 21, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA Travis County District Clerk Travis County Courthouse 1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Jon Sanders, Deputy REQUESTED BY: REBECCA MENDUNI 2705 BEE CAVES RD., STE 240

AUSTIN, TX 78746 BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 481-0330 FAX: (512) 478-1906

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 ten 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 261ST 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

ITLE ON PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BLOCK 34 IN THE LIMERICK SUBDIVISION OF OUT 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/ COURTNEY MOREAU, Deputy REQUESTED BY: CHANDRA K WASHINGTON 173 OAK RIVER CEDAR CREEK, TEXAS 78612

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-08-004930 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.

P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, Texas 78701 By /s/ BRIAN HILL, Deputy REQUESTED BY: J. GORDON MCHANEY 301 CONGRESS AVENUE, 21ST FLOOR P.O. BOX 684158 AUSTIN, TX 78768-4158 BUSINESS PHONE: (512)474-9124 FAX: (512)474-8582 EMAIL: GMCHANEY@CHMC-LAW.COM

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF EARL F. CARLS, Deceased, No. 89684 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

SUSAN DODD-CARLS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 25th day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application for Determination of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said EARL F. CARLS, 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 25th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ Marie Shanklin

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PHILLIP WAYNE KLIKKMAN, Deceased, No. 89469 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

LISA KLIKKMAN alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 13TH day of OCTOBER, 2008, an Application for Determination of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PHILLIP WAYNE KLIKKMAN, 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.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this 13th day of October, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ Marie Shanklin

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GERALD DENNIS SLAVENS, Deceased, No. 89633 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

SANDRA OWEN and all alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 17th day of November, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship and Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GERALD DENNIS SLAVENS, 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 25th day of November, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF DIKE ANOTHONY DUCHARME, Deceased, No. 89642 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

HAYWARD C DUCHARME alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 19TH day of NOVEMBER, 2008, an Application for Letters of Independent Administration and 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 DIKE ANOTHONY DUCHARME, 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 20th 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

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-08-

006007 To: JUAN ALEJANDRO GALLARDO DEANDA 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, 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE AND TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER filed in said court on NOVEMBER 26, 2008, and said suit being number D-1-FM-08-006007 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF EMILIA MARGARITA ROJAS RAMOS and JUAN ALEJANDRO GALLARDO DEANDA ET AL, and In the Interest of URIEL ALEJANDRO GALLARDO ROJAS, JAIR ALEJANDRO GALLARDO ROJAS AND DAFNE MAIRETH GALLARDO ROJAS, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 26, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA Travis County District Clerk Travis County Courthouse 1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, Texas 78701 By /s/ DANIELLE LITTLETON, Deputy REQUESTED BY: RAUL T SEPULVEDA P O BOX 28160 AUSTIN, TX 78755 BUSINESS PHONE: (512)751-7256

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.

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 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 AGENT

NO. 88,970 ESTATE OF ROBERT CARNAHAN, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERT CARNAHAN Pursuant to Texas Probate Code 294, notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT CARNAHAN were issued on the 25th day of November, 2008, in Cause No. 88,970 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: RACHEL SHERWIN CARNAHAN

Claims to be presented should be addressed to Independent Executor, Estate

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.

CHILD SUPPORT - TROUBLE GETTING PAID?

The father of my child has stopped making child-support payments and refuses to pay. How can the government help me start receiving payments again?

You should contact the Child Support Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. The AG's office can help in situations like yours when one parent refuses to pay child support.

The Child Support Division uses several methods to help Texas parents collect on unpaid child support. For example, the most common way to enforce payment is to require the employer of the deadbeat parent to withhold wages from each paycheck and use the withheld money to pay for child support. The Child Support Division can also try to intercept money that may be due the parent from state and federal sources - like federal income tax refund checks.

Another way the Child Support Division can help you put pressure on the other parent to pay child support is by suspending state-issued licenses. Any state licensing authority can suspend the license of a deadbeat parent. The parent may be more likely to start paying child support if he or she can't drive (suspended driver's license), work (suspended professional license), or have fun on the weekends (suspended hunting or fishing license). The AG's Child Support Division can also file a lien against the nonpaying parent's property or a lawsuit that essentially asks the court to enforce the court order requiring child support.

Will the Attorney General's Office represent me in getting child support? How long will it take for me to start receiving child-support payments?

The attorneys in the Texas Attorney General's Office's Child Support Division do not represent either parent in a child-support matter. The AG's Child Support Division does, however, encourage parental responsibility by providing services for the benefit of Texas children. The fundamental services provided by the Child Support Division include locating absent parents; establishing paternity; establishing, enforcing, and modifying child and medical support orders; and collecting and distributing child-support monies.

You can submit an application to receive these services with Child Support Division field offices throughout the state. You can also get the application by calling the AG's office at 800/252-8014.

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.

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TIMING BELT IS CRUCIAL FOR CAR TO RUN

Dear Tom and Ray,

You guys always make me laugh! And now I'm desperate for some car advice I can trust. I have a '98 Volvo V70 with 112,000 miles. A mechanic just told me I'm on borrowed time, as I have not changed the timing belt. He said it should have been done at 105,000 miles and could break and screw up the engine at any time. Also, he said I should replace the water pump, as it would save the labor cost later on. I am afraid to drive the car at all. The quote was \$600, which I just can't do right now. I am a widow, so I don't have a "hubby's car" to drive instead. Thank you for your time, and keep up the laughs!

- Vicky

TOM: Unfortunately, Vicky, your mechanic is absolutely right.

RAY: Your timing belt should have been changed by now, and if it breaks, your valves are going to be crushed like the ice cubes in one of my brother's pineapple-salami breakfast smoothies.

TOM: He's also right that you should change the water pump. That pump is run by the timing belt. So if the pump seizes, that can also break the belt. And you'd hate for that to happen after you went through the trouble and expense of installing a new timing belt. So, we always replace them both at the same time.

RAY: The same goes for the timing-belt tensioner. That's a cheap little device that keeps the belt tight enough. If that fails, your engine's a goner, too. So, be sure your mechanic replaces the tensioner, as well.

TOM: Unfortunately, this is one of those times when you have to get creative and come up with some cash somehow. This might be the time to pull out the old credit card. Or a new credit card.

RAY: Or if you've been a longtime customer of this garage, maybe they can put you on some sort of payment plan, where you can pay for the parts upfront and then pay off the labor over a few months.

TOM: Right. With fresh-baked chocolate-chip cookies as interest.

RAY: Or maybe you have a kid who can help you out in exchange for keeping the lid on some embarrassing naked baby or high school pictures.

TOM: But you're right not to drive the car until you fix it. If you think \$600 is a lot to come up with, imagine having to come up with \$3,000 to rebuild the engine. Good luck, Vicky!

* * *

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

cut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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CONTINUED 545 LEGAL NOTICES

of ROBERT CARNAHAN, 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.

RACHEL SHERWIN CARNAHAN

By: /s/ Elizabeth Owen, Attorney
State Bar # 00794411
OWEN, BOGART, ROGERS AND NISMIBLAT
105 East 2nd Street
P.O. Box 690
Elgin, Texas 78621
Phone: (512) 281-3326

NO. D-FM-07-0004188
IN THE INTEREST OF S.L.S. IN THE DISTRICT COURT 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS
TO Ira Lea Sultemeier, Respondent, and to all whom

it may concern: 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 after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition for Termination and Adoption of Stepchild filed by Heather M. Nixon, Individually and Vladimir Rakhoy, as individually filed against Sydney L. Sultemeier, Respondent, on November 18, 2008, in the 200th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, and is numbered D-FM-07-0004188, and entitled IN THE INTEREST OF S.L.S. This lawsuit is for termination and adoption of stepchild. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Plaintiffs' interest, which will be binding upon you.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, Texas this November 19, 2008.

/s/ Courtney Moreau
Deputy District Clerk of Travis County, Texas

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: Pemberton Heights Water Improvements Phase II CIP Project #3920-2207-7626, bidding January 8, 2009 at

10:30 AM. Areas of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Concrete, Photography, Fencing & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

NOTICE LaPaz County Superior Court, Parker, AZ, Court of Honorable Michael J. Burke, Case #CV200800140, name change of=minor, Zachary Morris Edmonds, to Zachary Morris Behrendt. Sheri Newman, Clerk, LaPaz County Superior Court, Parker, AZ, Case Number CV200800140 hearing Dec. 23, 2008, at 2:00 P.M. If you dispute, contact: Sheri Newman, Clerk of Arizona Superior Court, 1316 Kofa Ave., Parker, AZ 85344, (928)669-6134 prior to court date. Filed by Hope Behrendt

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at a public sale unless charges are satisfied within ten (10) days. AustTex Towing, 2013 N. Mays, Round Rock, TX 78664. Blue Motorcycle, NO VIN OR LP towed from 700 McNeil near St. Williams in Round Rock 10/07/08

'87 Suzuki scooter, no plates, JS1FZ11A5D3101191, towed from McNeil Rd just E. of Austin White Lime in Round Rock 10/15/08.

NOTICE OF LIEN 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 hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's 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 dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar Austin, TX 78753

(512) 833-0855
Tuesday, December 16, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

338 Nathan Kinney: household goods, tv or stereo equip, office equip, music equip

519 George Mabry III: household goods

700 Omar Flores: tools, appliances

724 Azzam Baytie: boxes, tools, appliances

905 Charell Lemuel: household goods, furn., equip. furniture

909 Rolando Garcia: boxes, tools, landscaping equip.

7732 Arletty Pelaez: household goods

1619 Jerry Owens: tools, office equip., office machines, account records

1617 Bennie Kittles: household goods

959 Deborah Galvan: household goods, furn., boxes

956 Dustin Hyde: household goods, furn., boxes, appliances, music equip

944 Rhema Wambua: household goods, furn., boxes, tv or stereo equip., tools, appliances, account records

931 Ramon Reyes: boxes

1208 Charelle Lemuel: household goods, appliances

1206 Tyrone Conner: furn., boxes, office equip

1021 Eva-Miranda Ximinez: household goods, furn., boxes, appliances, tv or stereo equip.

919 Michael Fouts: household goods, furn., boxes

Uncle Bob's #276
2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd Round Rock, TX 78664

(512)310-0279

Tuesday, December 16, 2008 @ 11:00 AM

114 Marcus Cardinali: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, tv's or stereo equip, office machines

208 Mark Nickerson: furniture, boxes, tools

2401 Sandra Simmons: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2410 Debra Harvey: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office furniture, office machines/equip., landscaping equip., account records

2418 Shamaine Richardson: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

3113 Barry Kemper: household goods, furniture, sporting goods

3207 Lynda Kemper: household goods

4219 Kerry M. Torres: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

4229 Tammie Williams: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

4309 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

5111 Robert Cleaver: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

5206 Paulina Park: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, TV's or stereo equip.

5321 Duane Bond: household goods

5401 Victor Truan: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., other

6124 Stonehaven at Round Rock: household goods, furniture, boxes

6303 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

6309 Linna M. Schuler: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

6325 Euyette Jones: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office machines, account records

6434 Laura Abadiano: household goods, furniture, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equipment, account records/files, other: clothes

7122 Jayme McDaniel: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

8121 Jacob Coronado: household goods, furniture, boxes

8130 Teresa Olivarez: boxes, office furniture, other: teacher supplies

9116 Kelli DAgostino: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances

9317 James Guthrie: furniture

9501 Nichole Millett: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, other

9510 Allen Leatherwood: furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

9519 Paige Hearn: household goods, boxes, sporting goods

Uncle Bob's #197
5547 McNeil Dr. Austin, TX 78729

(512)336-8390
Tuesday, December 16, 2008 @ 12 noon

430 Isiah Tisdale: hshld. goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, TV's or stereo equip.

1113 Jonathan Pacheco: hshld. goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

1208 Jason Burt: hshld. goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., acct. records/files

1302 Teresa Pleasant: hshld. goods, furn., boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #198
10307 FM 2222 Austin, TX 78730

(512)372-9046
Tuesday, December 16, 2008 @ 1:00 PM

232 Thomas Trimm: furniture

642 William D. Hammett: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office furniture

Uncle Bob's #287
6509 South First Street Austin, TX 78745

(512)326-9696
Tuesday, December 16, 2008 @ 1:30 PM

230 Elizabeth Nance: household goods, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

255 Jamie Pageau: household goods, furniture, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

307 Allen Gaines: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., construction equip., account records

310 Mike Guajardo: household goods, furniture

329 Hernandez Cynthia: furniture, appliances

360 Paul Gonzalez: furniture, tools, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

2232 Alice DeLaCruz: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

3329 Felicia Rhines: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

3409 Kathy Benavidez: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, account records, computers

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GEORGE L. SAPP, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of George L. Sapp, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89,577 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Charles Greg Weathered, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Charles Greg Weathered, Independent Executor, Estate of George L. Sapp, 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 25th 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 NELL HOVENGA Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY NELL HOVENGA were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89,578, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: CAROL HOVENGA FANCHER AND JOHN MICHAEL HOVENGA

The addresses of such Independent Co-Executors are 3217 Clearview Drive, Austin, Texas 78703 and 3202 Bonnie Road, Austin, Texas 78703, respectively.

The Independent Co-Executors direct that all claims against this Estate be addressed to:

CAROL HOVENGA FANCHER AND JOHN MICHAEL HOVENGA
Representatives of the Estate of MARY NELL HOVENGA
c/o Nancy N. Scherer
Scherer & Scherer
602 West 13th Street Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 5th day of December, 2008.

Carolyn Collins Ostrom
Collins Ostrom
Attorneys and Counselors
816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 5th day of December, 2008.

Carolyn Collins Ostrom
Collins Ostrom
Rosemary Sullivan
State Bar No.: 19490600
816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701
Telephone: (512) 617-1560
Facsimile: (512) 382-5323
Attorneys for Jeffrey Krogh Holst and Jane Dalene Holst,

manner prescribed by law. DATED this 25th day of November, 2008.

NANCY N. SCHERER
SCHERER & SCHERER
602 WEST 13TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

ATTORNEYS FOR THE INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruby Joy Britton Scott, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2008, in Cause No. 89415, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Edgar Lynn Claim.

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.

Jeffrey J. Barnett
Barnett & Associates, P.C.
5750 Balcones Drive, Suite 207
Austin, Texas 78731

DATED the 24th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Jeffrey J. Barnett
(SBN: 00792346)
5750 Balcones Drive, Suite 207
Austin, Texas 78731

Telephone: (512) 336-1529
Facsimile: (512) 336-1550
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Allison M. Nichols, Deceased, were issued on November 6, 2008, in Cause No. 89223, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Dinah Burgin.

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: Dinah Burgin
600 Shade Road
Wimberley, Texas 78676

DATED the 26th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Ramon A. Molinar
Attorney for Dinah Burgin
State Bar No.: 50511884
700 Lavaca, Suite 405
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 477-2600
Facsimile: (512) 477-2610

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that on November 19, 2008, Letters of Administration for the Estate of Colin Krogh Holst, Deceased, were issued to Jeffrey Krogh Holst and Jane Dalene Holst, as Independent Co-Administrators of said Estate, in Cause No. 89504, pending in the Probate Court No.1 of Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Jeffrey Krogh Holst and Jane Dalene Holst, as Independent Co-Administrators of said Estate, in care of their attorney Carolyn Collins Ostrom within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Carolyn Collins Ostrom
Collins Ostrom
Attorneys and Counselors
816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 5th day of December, 2008.

Carolyn Collins Ostrom
Collins Ostrom
Rosemary Sullivan
State Bar No.: 19490600
816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701
Telephone: (512) 617-1560
Facsimile: (512) 382-5323
Attorneys for Jeffrey Krogh Holst and Jane Dalene Holst,

Independent Co-Administrators of the Estate of Colin Krogh Holst

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARYLEE KILLMER NORRIS, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2008, Cause No. 89552, Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: MARY COLE NORRIS THOMAS.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

Vivian Mahlab

1911 McCall Rd.

Austin, TX 78703

DATED the 2nd day of December, 2008

/s/ Vivian Mahlab

Attorney for MARY COLE NORRIS THOMAS

State Bar No.: 12836650

1911 McCall Rd

Austin, Texas 78703

Telephone: (512) 477-9400

Facsimile: (512) 477-9422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Terence James Loughery aka Terence James Loughery, Deceased, were issued on October 28, 2008, in Cause No. 89381, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Estate of Terence James Loughery.

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: Estate of Terence James Loughery

7631 Highway 290 W #925

Austin, Texas 78736

DATED the 5th day of December, 2008.

Green & Green

Leonard F. Green

Attorney for Estate of Terence James Loughery

State Bar No.: 08365400
4408 Spicewood Springs Rd.
Austin, TX 78759

Telephone: (512)338-1745
Facsimile: (512)233-2907

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hilda Marie Martin, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, under Docket No. 89592, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Laura M. Urias.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows: Laura M. Urias

Estate of Hilda Marie Martin, Deceased

c/o Lawrence J. Morgan

500 West 16th St., Suite 120

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 25, 2008.

LAWRENCE J. MORGAN

Attorney for Estate of Hilda Marie Martin, Deceased

State Bar No.: 12836650

1911 McCall Rd

Austin, Texas 78703

Telephone: (512) 477-9400

Facsimile: (512) 477-9422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marcus Cohen, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89555, pending in the Probate Court, No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Janet Elise Kautz.

The residence of the Administrator is Travis County, Texas. She can be reached:

c/o Jonna Howden, Esq.

Attorney at Law

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

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.

DATED the 2nd day of December, 2008.

Cirkiel & Associates, P.C.

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

(512)244-6658 Telephone

(512)244-6014 Facsimile

By: /s/ Jonna Howden

Attorney for Janet Elise Kautz

State Bar No.: 24062790

State Bar No.: 24062790

State Bar No.: 24062790

State Bar No.: 24062790

State Bar No.: 24062790

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2901 Bee Caves Road,
Box D
Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 2nd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Ellen Stewart

Attorney for Independent Executor

Attorney for Independent Executor

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Attorney for Independent Executor

Erik Bergh and Kristine Ounan, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Jasna K. Bolerjack

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Flossie Sweat, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2008, in Cause No. 89517, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Zora Mae Hise.

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.

c/o: Kristine Warren

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 144

Round Rock, TX 78680

DATED the 2nd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Kristine Warren

Attorney for Zora Mae Hise

State Bar No.: 24028033

P.O. Box 144

Round Rock, TX 78680

Telephone: (512) 769-3595

Facsimile: (512) 388-4200

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eulene A. West, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89,522, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Orlene Schriever Spear

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

2901 Bee Caves Road,

Box D

Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 2nd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram

ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship of the Estate of William Stewart-Sotelo, A Minor, were issued on November 13, 2008, in Cause No. 89256, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: William R. Stewart of Austin, Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time prescribed by law. All claims should be addressed in care of William R. Stewart, Guardian of the Estate of William Stewart-Sotelo, A Minor, at 4613 Arapahoe Trail, Austin, Texas 78745.

Respectfully submitted,

HOPPER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: /s/ Craig Hopper

State Bar No. 00794947

400 W. 15th Street, Suite 408

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 615-6195 Telephone

(512) 615-6194 Fax

Telephone: (512) 346-7484

Facsimile: (512) 346-1108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Franklin Mack Spear, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2008, in Cause No. 89,522, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Orlene Schriever Spear

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

2901 Bee Caves Road,

Box D

Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 2nd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Ellen Stewart

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Gerald Ludwig, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89,590, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Marisa Furman.

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: Gayle Cipriano

Attorney at Law

7903 Bracken Court

Austin, TX 78731

DATED the 25th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Gayle Cipriano

Attorney for Marisa Furman

State Bar No.: 03783500

7903 Bracken Court

Austin, TX 78731

Telephone: (512) 346-7484

Facsimile: (512) 346-1108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of E.K. Blewett, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89,585, pending in Travis County, Texas, to: Virginia S. Blewett.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Glenn M. Karisch

The Karisch Law Firm, PLLC

P.O. Box 160457

Austin, Texas 78716-0457

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 26th day of November, 2008.

/s/ Glenn M. Karisch

Attorney for Independent Executor

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO ENGINEERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that qualification statements will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Consulting Services for Travis County Central Campus Study for a Strategic Needs Analysis and Facilities Master Plan,
RFQ Q09041-RV

Opens: **DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JANUARY 5, 2009 @ 3:00 PM.**

Qualifications statements 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

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. Courtroom Pews for Precinct 2, B090068-OJ
Opens: December 15, 2008 @ 10:00 a.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.

THE AUTO DEPOT

CV AXLES • CLUTCHES • A/C • BRAKES
AND EVERYTHING ELSE

VOTED BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP IN AUSTIN 2004 TO 2007 BY THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE



909 PRAIRIE TRAIL

ONE STREET SOUTH OF KRAMER,
WEST OF NORTH LAMAR

MON- FRI 8AM-6PM

SAT 10-1PM OR BY APPT.

PHONE UNTIL 9PM @ **294.2885** OR

970. 1003 7 DAYS/WEEK FOR ANY

OF THESE CARS OR FOR REPAIRS. WE CAN

PROBABLY FIND WHAT YOU WANT.

ESPAÑOL @ 228-1802

www.autodepotaustin.com

**DON'T FORGET - WE BUY CARS
(RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)**

NEW VEHICLES FOR SALE THIS WEEK: ALL WITH OUR FAMOUS WARRANTY

NEW!! 1988 CIVIC \$1650, four door 5 speed. Just went thru it and did our 65 point check. Wow! New clutch, brakes, CV axles, and much more. A warranty on a 20 year old car? You bet.

NEW!! 1994 NISSAN X-TRA CAB PICKUP \$2,650, 135k., runs, drives excellent. AC. Couple dents.

NEW!! 1995 MERCEDES SL-320 \$13,950, two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a '10,' and we can take your car in trade.

NEW!! 1997 FORD RANGER \$4,250, Only 75,000 miles. Runs great.

NEW!! 1998 CIVIC FOUR DOOR \$4,450, auto, 150k., in process of 65 point check. Auto.

NEW!! 1998 HONDA ACCORD LX \$5,950, clean, just going thru. Full warranty. Only 77,000 miles.

NEW!! 2000 NISSAN FRONTIER \$5,650, Xtra cab, auto, 4 wheel drive. 79,000 miles.

NEW!! 2002 SOLARA CONVERTIBLE \$8,950, with only 65,000 miles. Red with gray leather. Just a hot, hot car for only with a warranty.

NEW!! 2003 TOYOTA MATRIX XR \$9500, four door, auto, Only 59,000 miles. Full warranty, super clean.

MOTOR

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

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. \$650 OBO. 512-680-7905.

1988 CIVIC FOUR door 5 speed. Just went thru it and did our 65 point check. Wow! New clutch, brakes, CV axles, and much more. A warranty on a 20 year old car? You bet. \$1650

1994 NISSAN X-TRA cab pickup, 135k., runs, drives excellent. AC. Couple dents. \$2,650. Auto Depot. 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepot-austin.com

1995 MERCEDES SL-320, two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a '10,' and we can take your car in trade. \$13,950. Auto Depot. 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepot-austin.com

1997 FORD RANGER. Only 75,000 miles. Runs great. \$4,250. Auto Depot. 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepot-austin.com

1998 CIVIC FOUR door, auto, 150k., in process of 65 point check. Auto., \$4,450. Auto Depot. 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepot-austin.com

1998 HONDA ACCORD LX, clean, just going thru. Full warranty. Only 77,000 miles. \$5,950. Auto Depot. 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepot-austin.com

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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

WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS

Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. **pleime**, 42, #122521

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. **austinparrtygurl1985**, 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

HOT CPL4LADY

Depending on the chemistry we are open to anything from friends with benefits to serious relationship. In special instances would we be open to one-time casual encounters. **jezabella83**, 25, #128442

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! My 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, lustfull 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

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

TRANNY CHAS'N COUPLE

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

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

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... **foxyloxyngrizzlybear**, 22, #127025

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

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 experiencing 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

COUPLE INTO FUN!

We're happy couple that is into new encounters with others. He straight, She bi, open minded and ready! **Up4fun**, 45, #120283

READY FOR FUN!

Just looking for fun...can you deliver? **freak69ntxxx**, 40, #119240

COUPLE LOVERS

we are professional descreet couple that enjoy couples or single men and women to play with and join us for threesomes and group play. **jlauss963**, 47, #116497

THREE'S NOTTA CROWD

We are a very happily married 30-year-old couple that thoroughly enjoys sex. We are looking for a female (or couple) that is height fiveweight proportionate (few extra pounds is good). **damonhunkins**, 33, #116307

BEAUTIFUL DOMINATE REDHEAD

Dominant 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

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER

You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustinclp**, 32, #121712

GIRL PLAYMATES

Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 31, #119900

GOOD KARMA GIRL

I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art from. **vron**, 42, #128575

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

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

DANA4U

I'm sexy, small, slutty, sweet, need a man to appreciate me. wont kiss and tell, always discreet, bring lingere and a kiss on the cheek, I'm your new girlfriend, whenever you please. **dana4u**, 45, #128527

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 won on the same necklace as key to my CB Cage? **Yours**, 40, #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. **lparish7**, 46, #125068

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger. 46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 44, #118402

LOOKING FOR GUY?

Are you an older bi or gay guy, 45+, looking for a discreet guy? Attractive professional, WM, 54, wants to meet one funloving guy. Safe sex, nonsmoking. **115704**, 54, #115704

SOMETIMES A SISSY

5'10", long blonde, babyblues, love lingerie, makeup and heels. Looking to explore my feminine feelings and desires with one caring woman, must respect limits. Help me be me, pretty, please. **billypilgrim4montana**, 43, #127369

HOT, CLOSET CD

looking for a good looking, 30 to 40's y.o. woman who would like to dominate me sexually, be (snuggle after sex!) friends. i'm reasonably intelligent, sensitive, artistic person. **shelley**, 55, #124543

HOT AND HORNY

Toned hard body cross dresser and exhibitionist. Do you have somewhere I can perform for you? xoxo, Call Me Jackie. **jackie69**, 44, #101254

78704LIBRA

GREAT GUY FOR FUN

Clean cut, young professional white guy just looking to explore. I'm eager to please. I'm discreet and respectful of limits.

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THE LUV DOC

A Night of Music From Around the World • Fri., Dec. 5
8pm • Momo's • 618 W. Sixth • **www.momosclub.com**

Living atop the monolith of American superiority, sometimes it's hard to remember that there are nearly 200 other sovereign states living in our prodigious shadow. Some are tiny places like Monaco, Lichtenstein, and San Marino, countries you could literally pee across on a full bladder, but there are also sprawling giants like China, Russia, India, and Canada. Yes, that's right. Canada. It's sobering to think that there are countries out there with fully developed governments, economies, and cultures that are fundamentally different than ours. Better? Hard to say. You can't really put a chili dog and tater tots head to head with *moo goo gai pan* on any rational qualitative scale. Nor can you definitively say that China's brand of communism is any worse than American capitalism, especially considering China, like McDonald's, has more than a billion people served. Granted, cheeseburgers are somewhat complicated – especially when you're using reconstituted onions and frozen meat patties, but providing basic social services for more than a billion people has to involve some impressive, Byzantine, Rain Man-style calculus. As far as religion goes, that's a wash as well. Sadly, not even Don King himself could get Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, and the ghost of Nietzsche (a serious rhetorical stretch anyway) to throw down against each other in some sort of chain-link death match for moral superiority. As sexy as it sounds, a cage full of blisssed out pacifist deities and the ghost of a deranged, syphilitic, coke-abusing German philosopher would probably only muddy the issue even further. Besides, if Nietzsche were to win (assuming he could score some ghost coke before the bout), the fact that he is a spiritual being blows his whole moral construct completely out of the water. In fact, the whole idea is pointless – sort of like following the path of a Möbius strip. Does it lead to infinity or futility? Is there a difference? Fortunately, Americans generally leave the mental thumb-twiddling of philosophy to foreigners anyway. If we can't kill it, cook it, snort it, smoke it, drive it, buy it, or fuck it, we're not really all that interested. This mindset has surely slowed our cultural development over the past few hundred years, but it has kept us mean and greedy and on top of the heap – geopolitically speaking at least. Badass as we are however, occasionally Americans pop our heads out of the sand and concede that other countries have something useful to bring to the table. For the Saudis, it's oil. For the Argentineans, it's breast augmentation techniques. For Canadians, it's maddeningly inexplicable perkiness. Whatever the case, the dark, ugly truth of American culture is that ours would be pretty shitty if we didn't steal so much of it from other places. American culture is a stone soup, and we contributed the stone. If you want to get a taste of some of the ingredients before they hit the pot, head down to Momo's this Friday at 8pm for A Night of Music From Around the World, a live performance of music from diverse cultures by the University of Texas world music ensembles. Hear music from the Middle East, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, and other Caribbean countries. Proceeds from the performance help the ensembles acquire new instruments, as well as guest artists and teachers. Might as well pony-up for this deal because that chain-link death match just isn't going to happen.

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women SEEKING men

MY THREE WORDS.

I'm Kay. I'm a hairdresser, pretty into music, and like to play too (guitar). Looking for someone who can just fuck off and still have a good time.

kaykaliah, 20, #127829

BAWDY BOOKREADING BABE

Seeking simple, single, soulful, sinful, scintillating, spiritual, serene specimen for active simbiosis. Grab a dictionary and apply if you dare...

Bahira, 44, #128583

GET AT ME...

I'm just a chill, laid back chick thats lookin for a nice guy to kick it with. Im a smart, independent girl with a strong will and a warm spirit.

Bad-fish, 22, #128564

INTELLIGENT, CURIOUS, FUN

Let's play! Optimistic, kid-at-heart looking for someone to go places, hike, cook with. Life is an adventure - suit up, show up and try something new!

yellowrose, 55, #128551

LUXURIANT NOT LAZY

Semi-retired, resources to enjoy myself more than not. Frequent traveler, interests range from opera to welding. I like sleeping in but once up I'm off and running!

presentimperfect, 50, #128516

TRUTH SEEKER

yea, i like life. its nice and fleeting. i like the moments, presence and loving dancing is good too!!!

firebelly, 33, #128508

SUP?

I can whistle. I enjoy listening to Christmas music year round. If you don't put your cart away in the cart thingy in parking lots, don't talk to me.

Ninaseek, 21, #128496

HOLIDAY ROMANCE

Sweet but sassy young looking 49 SWF HWP searching for her true companion. Passions: nature, yoga, adventure, and maybe you.

Travelbabe, 49, #128102

A WOMAN WORTH

It is highly important for each of us to have our own lives but mesh them together in one awesome relationship. My belief is strong relationships are built from friendships first.

sweetlumi, 38, #128476

FUN FOR FUN

I'm hard working and want to find some fun with a guy what likes to have fun.

gulfoastsex, 31, #128475

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

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.

galwaygirl, 29, #128381

men SEEKING women

QUIXOTIC, IMPETUOUS

Im prone to fits of bad dancing and singing out of tune. Im a shameless music whore, i love old school nintendo, bad zombie movies, and eating strange places...

know_name, 21, #128589

SAIL FASTLIVE SLOW

Working is not my gig, but income is a must.

LiveLife, 47, #128484

ISN'T ATTRACTION INCREDIBLE?

Imagine relaxing into strong arms holding you, feeling safe and appreciated and intimate, knowing it's totally right.

austinttu, 35, #128577

TABULA RASA

I am a very open minded person. I seek friends and partners in crime. Uninhibited and fun. I work allot and play allot. I just got out of a ten year relationship.

Omegas, 32, #128576

THREE WORDS, REALLY?

I just moved here from Wyoming. Trying to find someone to go to concerts and Alamo Drafthouse events with.

crispy, 16, #128567

SEXY LIBRARIAN

I enjoy learning Spanish curse words, drinking the third glass of wine after I promised to drink just two, and dancing to music at 11:30pm on a Tuesday night.

filfre, 36, #128436

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!

I'm 35 and i'm trying to find something in this world that is often denied from me. I've been close to achieving my dreams but often parents stop me.

TummyBeard, 34, #128553

FUN CREATIVE MUSICALLYINSANE

New in Austin...I have played music my whole life..looking for great personalities to have a good time with.

daymoneit, 27, #128544

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

I like creative women. Ladies who proudly wear a skirt on occasion, I am your slave. intelligent women are sexy, but selfish and opportunistic women are not.

Constantine, 29, #128535

FUN EASYGOING OPENMINDED

currently attending gradschool. I like to have some fun, meeting new people, getting together for a coffee or drinks. i would like to meet someone fun and smart.

julio1010, 24, #128524

ANYBODY OUT THERE

looking for a cool chick to do whatever with.i like to party on weekends and basically have a good time.you can also go to mys. under tim;age 41.

ironworker, 41, #128523

NICE, SHY, STONED

I enjoy getting high and discussing politics. I like industrial/hard music. I want to learn a new language, and volunteer, would you care to join me?

Goatamus, 23, #128481

PLAYING, COOKING. PLAYING.

I really enjoy teaching and playing. Food is my second passion. Never trying anything for fear of failure is a sure way to live an unfulfilled life.

thebadhatley, 26, #128480

austinchronicle.com/loverslane

CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

women SEEKING men

PROVE ME WRONG

show me the end to my means. silly sassy 30-something seeks sultry wine-swilling willfully wanton wench. surprisingly smart-arsed sarcastic sinners are sexier than not. spelling counts. grading on a curve.

goodgrrl, 32, #123425

ADORABLE, DREADLOCKED, SEXINESS

i'm all about meeting new people and having fun.i like to dance, jog, bike rides, watch movies, travel, go to concerts, and check out new restaurants.let's hang out!

E137071, 27, #128500

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-judgmental. 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."

shygirl, 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

women SEEKING men

NOT HIBERNATING YET

People accuse me of having a huge heart, 50s bearish male seeks younger bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff, kissing and making out.

ronintex, 57, #115402

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

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

AusAbogado, 42, #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

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.

NIIU, 37, #124639

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
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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.

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

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

GLORYSTARS LOVE STARS

I am seeking for a honest person more a family man likes to spend time in the park, with me and grand children. playing basketball,etc great cook love the outdoors.

GLORYSTARS, 50, #128269

KINDRED SOUL SEEKS

I'm a very upbeat, energetic dancer & counselor. You are my very-awake, self-reliant conscious, well-read/intellectually stimulating, renaissance man who acts to leave this world a better place.

kindredsoul, 41, #124827

NICHE SPORT PLAYER

I'm looking for a sassy, quirky, sporty gal that enjoys obscure sports. Bonus points for hockey or soccer interest. Not looking for an uber-athlete; just be active in some regard.

foodieguy, 40, #128586

NEEDING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

Active Austinite with a wide range of interests. Intelligence and wit are as important as looks to me, compatibility and chemistry are one and the same. Don't you agree?

Someonediffernt, 35, #128585

CATSDOGSPARENTS LOVE ME

I love Music/Film/Art/Books/Herbal Tea/Wine/ Cooking/Walking/Meditation/Hiking and Biking. I've been a Vegetarian for 20 years and I am more spiritual than religious, leaning towards Eastern Philosophies and Native American ideas.

Jo_Jo, 44, #121688

INTELLIGENT ATTRACTIVE CHARISMATIC

i can be described as intelligent, charismatic & attractive. i am open to meeting people of varied backgrounds & making some friends and then letting fate take its course...

vcom267, 37, #128580

AUSTIN'S HOME GROWN

I am an active, easy going, down-to-earth guy with a big heart. I'm looking for that girl next door that likes to laugh, enjoys movies and music.

wendigo, 37, #128578

GOOD WOMAN WHERE

Tired of not having someone to talk to, share things with. Not a pushover, but for people I care about, I'll go a long way.

joed, 58, #128437

Sebcubed

NEED A GOOD LAUGH!

...interested in a guy with a great smile and a sense of humor. I stay active and love to be outdoors - running, biking, swimming, hiking, camping, fishing, soaking up the sun, diving, and traveling.

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OLD FASHIONED ROMANTIC
Old fashioned romantic (with old-fashion values) who believes in happily ever after. I'm looking for a romantic and emotionally available guy to date and hopefully find that "special someone". **tkaustin**, 50, **ICM**, #119526

JUST friends

HAPPY FACED AWESOMENESS
I'm pretty awesome. Not interested in sore feelings or sour pusses because life's too short to frown. If you want to hang out that's cool. I love anime! Don't you? **CrunkJuice**, 25, **ICM**, #128571

NEED GOOD LAUGH!
I'm a hardworking, down-to-earth, active, girl that loves to laugh. Most interested in someone with a great smile and sense of humor. I am mostly looking for friendship and/or casual dating. **sebcubed**, 28, **ICM**, #128565

KICKING AROUND
Looking for friends who have healthy and active lifestyles. Interests: biking, swimming, frisbee, TownLake, movies, dining out, cooking great vegetarian meals. Love laughing and am almost always in a great mood. **bec22**, 55, **ICM**, #122698

WHY GOD WHY
Just got a feeling that life might not matter without friends, anyone feeling wretched like me? Well lets be pals and play games or do sports or cause trouble together. **sludgebrain**, 28, **ICM**, #128493

ANALYTICAL, CURIOUS, OPPORTUNISTIC
I'd rather not have this posted in the print edition, honestly. **giantitp**, 24, **ICM**, #128433

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, **ICM**, #128417

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, **ICM**, #128322

UNBOUND
More fun than monkeys on a motorcycle! **JakeAustin**, 35, **T**, **ICM**, #119674

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, **ICM**, #127872

messages

YOU ARE THE heat in my sun, the shine in my moon, the whole to my parts. I love you Erika. Leslie

VALERIE - PHOTOGRAPHER
Goddess. You are the rose. I am the rain. Love, Kenny Forever? True True.

MARK STANK CALL amy

a Shot in the Dark

IRONCACTUS SUNDAY
three girls, you with black rolling stone tee, awesome laff, and drinking mamosa's with a straw, next sunday 11:00 **When: Sunday, November 30. Where: iron cactus brunch. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903634**

KISMET-CAFE DEC 1ST
Kismet Mediterranean Food on 24th You were wearing plaid pants, hot, sitting in the corner. I was ordering a P3 to-go, navy shirt, beard, CVS bag, computer bag. Find me! **When: Monday, December 1. Where: Kismet Cafe on 24th. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903633**

"FRIEND" (PUNCH ARM)
You: preserved clothes, tousled hair. me: dark hair, ps lips. I run into you lately (planned?) but recently on sara drive across from convenience store. Lets see a movie tonight! **When: Sunday, November 30. Where: sara drive. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903632**

IRON CACTUS-ARBOR-SUNDAY
you had a black rolling stones tee shirt blonde hair and brown eyes, drinking mamosa with a straw **When: Sunday, November 30. Where: brunch @ iron cactus arbor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903631**

ASTI HOTTIE 12/1
Beautiful woman waiting on the large birthday party Monday night. Everything about you sparkles. You are like a glass made of diamond, filled with Prosecco. Would you please!please!please! marry me? **When: Monday, December 1. Where: Asti Trattoria. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903630**

LONGDREADS CHECK CASHING
You: Long dreads with a beautiful face. Cashing your paycheck. Looked dirty. Construction worker maybe? Me: In line behind you. Couldnt take my eyes off you. Wanna meet for drinks? **When: Thursday, October 16. Where: Ace Check Cashing N Burnet Rd.. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903627**

BELLE/SEBASTIAN, CEDAR STREET!
Saw you @ Cedar Street, played "music game" w/ you. Am happily married (aka Janeane Garofolo), but felt like I should tell you that you are extremely attractive! **When: Saturday, November 29. Where: Cedar Street. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903626**

NAHICE...
You: bombshell brunette that works at SpaoftheLake, showed mermaid tattoo at Creekside on b-day, I made family-guy mer-man joke but didn't ask for your#. Make my Christmas a merry one...? **When: Friday, February 29. Where: Creek Side Bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903628**

EMT THANKSGIVING NIGHT
I was thanksgiving, you were one of the EMTs who responded to our 911 call...you were so kind to my grandmother and my entire family, i wanted to thank you. **When: Thursday, November 27. Where: seton ER. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903625**

YOU ARE DREAMY
...drunk, yes. forward, yes. fun, YES. and YES i weired out, BUT...i was hypnotized by those lips and...um...everything else. i have a crush on you, Dr. Dreamy. that's all. **When: Tuesday, November 25. Where: Mother Egan's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903624**

COURT AND SPARK
You know all the lyrics to Joni Mitchell's songs, from vinyl. You are an artist. You believe Laughter heals. You are a romantic, and still believe in Love. Who RU? **When: Wednesday, November 26. Where: Town Lake. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903623**

"LAMEET FOR SOUP?"
You: Tall, dark, handsome...to go. Me: Asian accomplice to Soup Nazi on her quest for the soup with the longest shelf life. It expires in April...let's not wait that long. **When: Wednesday, November 26. Where: La Madeleine - Westlake (Las Cimas). You: Man. Me: Woman. #903621**

THREE DOGS CIRCLEC
When-Thursday, Nov. 20, 4pm. Where-Checkout line at Circle C HEB. You have 2 Chihuahuas and a Pug. I a Treeing Walker Coonhound. You wore a pink sweater. Conversation? Say yes. **When: Thursday, November 20. Where: Circle C HEB. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903620**

EASTSIDE CAFE DINER
Brunette with ponytail, cute freckles, 1 p.m. on 11/25, East Side Cafe, second room on left by window, with an older woman. I was with two women colleagues. Lunch? **When: Tuesday, November 25. Where: East Side Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903619**

BLONDE CAFFEINATED BOMBSHELL
you: sci-fi enthusiast outside of Quacks. me: ranting and raving about failed relationships and inner city poverty. wanna watch Mulder and Scully discover little GREY men and their sexual tension? **When: Thursday, November 20. Where: 51deuce / The hottest block. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903618**

TECH RIDGE HEB
7:30pm You were blonde, glasses, blazer, jeans, pretty smile; CM pizzas, berries, juices, milk; worked for HP I had OJ, herbs. Said I liked your jacket. Meant you in it! **When: Monday, November 24. Where: HEB on I-35 @ Parmer. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903616**

RED DRESS...
...Grey Leggings...you: CVS Pharmacy on Lake Austin...almost ran into you and said, "I promise I don't drive like this!"...you laughed...later said, "I like your style"...would like to know more... **When: Sunday, November 23. Where: CVS Pharmacy on Lake Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903615**

SISTER NANCY CONCERT
sister nancy concert...up front, exchanging glances, smiles, caress of shoulders. me: dreadlocks, brown shirt, you: stood to my left, great smile. we stood next to each other but never spoke. **When: Saturday, November 22. Where: sister nancy concert. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903614**

PIPES PLUS- GAUDALUPE
you: beanie, white t, brown pants, amazing beard & plugs. me: straw/ blonde, green pants, converse, gray shirt, & septum. you were with your friends, or i might have said hi. **When: Sunday, November 23. Where: pipes plus on guadalupe. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903613**

MANHART! I'M ENAMORED
uyay areyay osay uckingfay RAD! and utecay as a uttonbay, i might have to arrymay you omesay ayday. there. i said it. **When: Friday, November 21. Where: around. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903611**

NANCY DREW...
You gorgeous Latina in black angel costume at Halloween part, me unkissable in speedy Gonzalez sombrero, help me solve the mystery of how to get a date with Nancy? **When: Saturday, November 1. Where: Halloween Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903610**

TOYOTA SERVICE GIRL
Edie?, Talked to you about ReTooling while waiting for our vehicles at Toyota Dealership S. IH-35 last week PM. Want to continue the conversation. Joseph **When: Wednesday, November 12. Where: Toyota Dealership South Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903609**

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**

FAEBIE 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**

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 Breznys for Dec. 5-11

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I got an invitation through MySpace to audition for an upcoming production of *The Vagina Monologues*. While I was honored to be asked, I wasn't sure that the kind of audience members who would come to see *The Vagina Monologues* would want to hear me, a man, expound on the central topic. Upon reading the fine print, however, I found out that the producers were indeed seeking some male actors. The metaphorical moral of the story, Sagittarius, is to be open to invitations, opportunities, and requests that may at first seem odd, misdirected, or irrelevant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): From 1987 to 2006, Alan Greenspan was chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve and a major force in shaping the world's most powerful economy. When the recent troubles hit, Congress called on him to testify. With shocking humility, he confessed that there had been a flaw in his model of reality. All those years he'd believed that "free, competitive markets are by far the unrivaled way to organize economies." Now he saw he was wrong. While I'm sorry for the collective pain his mistaken ideas have unleashed, I'm elated for him personally: How many 82-year-old men are open to the possibility that their philosophy of life needs adjustment? For that matter, how many people of any age are receptive to changing their ideas about how the world works? I invite you to take your inspiration from Greenspan, Capricorn. Be curious about how your own major theories might need revision. Doing this heroic deed will energize you with good karma and fresh mojo.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What's the healthiest, holiest rebellion you could launch, Aquarius? What would be the most constructive way to channel your longing to live in a more perfect world? How might you overthrow the status quo in ways that would so thoroughly enhance the greater good that even the people bent on preserving the status quo would benefit? Given the fact that you are in a phase when your trouble-making skills are dovetailing very nicely with your ability to bestow blessings, these are excellent questions for you to consider.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A column in *The Washington Post* titled "The Style Invitational" has identified the "Top 10 New Religions." I'm calling your attention to two that might be attractive to you in the coming months, a time when you'll probably have urges to transform and expand upon your spiritual practices. First, there are the Oxymormons, who engage in polygamous monogamy. The second group is the Salvationists: They speak in tongues like some other sects, but they also speak in drool. A third option, of course, is for you to whip up your own brand-new, totally unique religion using just the parts you really like from all of the other traditions. However you do it, Pisces, I encourage you to be playfully creative as you get more disciplined about your relationship with the Divine Wow.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The European Union has had rules banning the sale of ugly carrots with knobby protrusions, cucumbers that are grossly curved, and equally unaesthetic specimens of 24 other fruits and vegetables. Recently that changed, however. The stiff standards were relaxed. "It makes no sense to throw perfectly good products away, just because they are the 'wrong' shape," said the EU's commissioner for agriculture. I suggest you make a metaphorically similar shift, Aries. It's time for you to expand your capacity to welcome some fine, useful things that happen to look a bit imperfect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the Broadway play *Passing Strange*, the narrator praises the healing power of mysterious songs, saying, "You know when the music goes right over your head, bypasses your mind, and strengthens the part of you that's most beautiful?" That's the kind of nourishment I encourage you to seek out in the coming week, Taurus. You need soul-toning experiences that elude your rational understanding - encounters with wise animals, waking dreams, unpredictable love, exotic music, and twilight whispers that blissfully boggle your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): According to the imaginative reporters at the *Weekly World News*, the devil doesn't sit passively as people beseech God for help and consolation. Using his own version of stealth technology, the evil one "intercepts or jams" up to one-third of all prayers on their way heavenward. Timid and fuzzy prayers are the easiest for him to block. Just in case there's a grain of truth in this claim, Gemini, take special measures when you send out appeals for assistance in the coming days. You need and deserve attention from higher powers, both the earthbound and divine kind. To ensure that the devil (or one of his surrogates) can't interfere, formulate your messages concisely and communicate them with crisp confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lame-duck U.S. President George Bush is mostly dreaming of his retirement these days, although he takes time out now and then to create executive orders that undo environmental protections. Barack Obama is planning hard for the monumental recovery he hopes to lead when he assumes the presidency, but his time won't come until Jan. 20. Meanwhile, all the things that have been falling apart under Bush's watch are continuing to fall apart, only bigger and badder. Writes Josh Marshall in *TalkingPointsMemo.com*, "We're paying mightily for having no captain at the helm at one of the most perilous points in our recent national history." In regard to your own personal life, Cancerian, please avoid acting like America. Don't wait for some formal deadline before you make your moves. Expedite the transition from the old order to the new with the force of a thousand ecstatic activists.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "It's better to be clumsy than clever," says an ancient Chinese book called *Poets' Jade Splinters*, "better plain than affected, better crude than weak, better eccentric than vulgar." That's a good prescription for you to use in the way you live your life in the coming days, Leo. Here's another observation from the same text that should also be helpful: "Inspiration enters at the border between hard work and laziness." That suggests you've got to work hard and discipline yourself in order to earn the right to inspiration, but often the inspiration flows in when you're goofing off or giving yourself some slack. (Source: www.tinyurl.com/5qu7fv.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1952, renowned modern composer John Cage created the infamous "4'33." It's a "song" that consists of four minutes and 33 seconds of pure silence. Recently a San Francisco performance artist, Jonathon Keats, did a remix of that tune and made it available as a ringtone. I'd love for you to be inspired by those two geniuses in the coming week, Virgo. It'll be an excellent time for you to come to a perfect stop, fill yourself with stillness, and bask in the healing power of undiluted nothingness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I urge you not to Google the word "duh," Libra. If you do, you'll mark yourself as a conformist trend-slave, joining over 33 million people who have already done it before you. Furthermore, you will be in danger of wasting the potential the cosmos is offering you, which is to reap rich rewards by exploring brave new frontiers on the edges of your awareness. So please be insanely curious about stuff you've never heard of and people you've never met. Research subjects that tantalize your imagination, and stick your nose in where it supposedly doesn't belong. But don't Google "duh."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Researchers have determined that you've got longer than you imagine to salvage food that has dropped on the floor. Bacteria don't get a foothold and start growing on your pizza or muffin for at least 30 seconds. Keep that in mind as an all-purpose metaphor in the coming days, Scorpio. Anything that you fear has already been spoiled or tainted may actually be possible to restore and redeem. You probably have more time than you thought.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznys' 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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