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VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 15 DECEMBER 12, 2008

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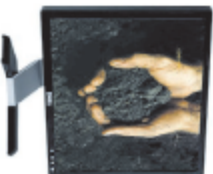
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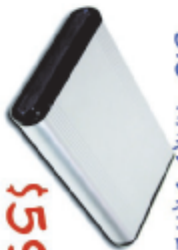
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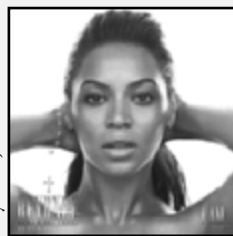
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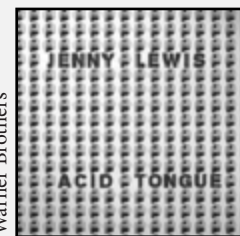
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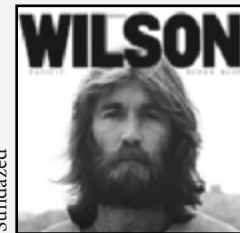
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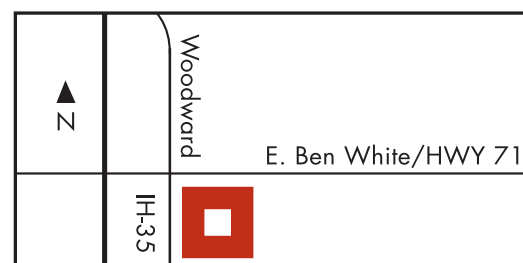
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TUE 12/16 - 4-5pm Angelic Strings, 5:30-6:30pm Bob Cheevers, 7-8pm Bruce Balmer, 8:30-10:30pm Moonhowlers
WED 12/17 - 4:30-6pm Nevada Newman, 6:30-8pm Harry Bodine

THU 12/18 - 4-5pm Uncle Fungus, 5:30-6:30pm Melody Murder, 7:00-8:00 Unkfunk with Melvin Wilburn, 8:30-10:30pm Big Chief Kevin
FRI 12/19 - 5-6 Tyler Jordan, 6:30-8 Dear Henry 8:30-10 Austin Dance India
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Madness in General

A film review and recommendation for this blur of a year

BY LOUIS BLACK

Introduction: The Good

There are only two issues of the *Chronicle* left (after this one) before the new year begins. There are always many things to talk about, politics to be debated, photos to share, drawings to offer up for criticism, and points to be made, but when I look at the very few days remaining in 2008, I would love to resort to prayer. Just prayer. But I don't. Instead, in most ways, it's business as usual: dealing with the good, the bad, and the ugly – although seemingly in ways lacking rhyme and in much too random an order.

There is, however, a plan here. These are malformed and disjointed pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that will only come together at the end. Seeming to be anything but what it is, this is an abstract film review and recommendation that is intended to evoke without exactly attaining any coherence or symmetry.

I: The Bad

Politically, though there is now some sense of hope because of the new administration that will come into office in January, it is dampened somewhat when we look at the damage done by the current one. Among the many monumental, nonachievement achievements of the Bush administration is that despite its capricious, drunkenly excessive spending, it ended up getting very little in return for all that money (and all that accrued debt). Busy loosening environmental regulations while simultane-

ously not enforcing any kind of regulations, that group mostly leveled and dismantled.

There are few concrete accomplishments from the Bush administration's years in power. There has been no substantive work done on the country's deteriorating infrastructure. Much of the social safety net was disassembled – not because it was too expensive but for petty ideological reasons. There are those who believe the invasion of Iraq was worth it (worth something of value, of seminal importance). I think they are very wrong. But even if they're not, it still cost way too much.

Remember when the Bush gang had just been elected, and there were all those armies of compliant fans of the administration, many of whom enjoyed strutting with a renewed and redeemed sense of power and inevitability? Now, since they are ideological conservatives, it does seem bizarre that rather than protesting when the Republicans abandoned all their principles to go fiscally berserk, they embraced the lunacy as putting the Democratic left in its place.

A lot of the money – too much of the money, way too much of the money – went toward military spending, including outdated projects. A lot of the rest went to those who were already rich. If correct, proof of the ever- and relentlessly expressed theory that by taxing the rich less, we will leave them money that will then be reinvested in the economy, to the benefit of all Americans, should be in full flower right about now – especially considering the unique and unlimited generosity shown them by this administration. Instead, of course, there is economic collapse. Still, never missing a beat, the same pundits inform us that the only way out is to cut the taxes of the rich even more.

Astonishingly, it would seem that the Bush administration has glaringly demonstrated the impracticality of many of its most uto-

pian beliefs by legislating them into existence. Consequently, one might expect at least a few of its members to be properly humbled – especially given that almost all other major problems and overwhelming issues that they swore they would deal with when in power (including Social Security, Medicare, education, the economy, abortion, immigration, the trade imbalance, the loss of jobs, and so on) are left still unaddressed. Evidently, however, many of us who regard this record as proof of the devastating and comprehensive failures of the Bush administration are missing the point.

It turns out that trying to actually test the core beliefs of many in the Bush administration is evidence of one's corrupt, anti-American, anti-Christian bias, as needing such proof is the hobgoblin of small minds.

Paraphrasing Marshall McLuhan, clearly here, *the core belief is the message*: Faith trumps practicality, with what is theologically accepted being more sacred and consequential than any reality.

In testing a belief, therefore, this administration acknowledges pre-existing ideological confidence and firm conviction as the only standards by which to judge. Any other results are tainted by the atheism of secular nonbelievers; the overwhelming bias of radical, left-wing, mainstream media; and/or the vapid, meaningless opinions of the traitorous, atheist, pro-Marxist, pro-fascist liberal left – who don't just embrace indecency and immorality but champion them.

II: The Ugly

"There is hope.
There is hope everywhere.
I bite it.

Someone once said:
Don't bite till you know

if it's bread or stone.

What I bite is all bread,
Rising, yeasty as a cloud."

– From "Snow," by Anne Sexton, from her collection *The Awful Rowing Toward God* (1975)

It is the evening of the day; it is the ending of the year. It is only the middle of the month. My arms are so tired; everyone's arms seem tired, as 2008 stumbles into 2009. Even though this past year passed by much more quickly than many other years, it provided no relief or rest. The passage of time was too disruptive and almost never fluid, but instead graceless and erratic: all sporadic starts and abrupt stops, long hesitations and short bursts.

Irony triumphed over all else, as it became apparent that achievements that took years to accomplish, often at great cost, turned out to also be the carriers of a condition that would largely negate any success by creating new and disappointing situations. What was once challenging is now routine, the perilous is safe, and the mysterious long ago neutered into the known and overly familiar.

In many ways, this past year reminded me of living in Boston when I was in my 20s. Sleep was a hindrance, quiet a disease, and contemplation neither desired nor understood. Disinterested in contemplation, we were obsessed with movement: talking, walking, driving, racing around, eating, protesting, loving, writing, drinking, arguing, listening, and watching. It was all about endless adventures, all without perspective, a time of rash romance and bad writing, of too little love and too much poetry.

It all went by so quickly that the highway was my only girlfriend. There is not one unshattered memory from that time; everything is fragmented into brief bits that are so negligible that the fullest still run shorter than my famously short attention span. Instead,

continued on p.10

page
two

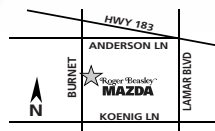
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everything is crushed together into one unending, blurred explosion of motion, blood, color, loathing, and rain that is so lacking in detail as to deny poetry, thus depriving it of any meaning. As was that time, so has been this past year: too much, and yet not nearly enough.

III: Duck, You Sucker

Now, all of what is talked about above can be viscerally experienced and understood emotionally by watching *The Witch Who Came From the Sea*, which is being shown at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz next Wednesday, Dec. 17. Intuitively and irrationally, the film evokes chaos, confusion, and confrontation.

This column has frequently acknowledged a passion for the work of Yale graduate and award-winning poet Robert Thom, who was responsible for the screenplays for some of the greatest exploitation films/drive-in movies: *Wild in the Streets* (D: Barry Shear), *Bloody Mama* (D: Roger Corman), *Crazy Mama* (D: Jonathan Demme), and *Death Race 2000* (D: Paul Bartel). Earlier in his career, he won an Emmy as co-writer on some of *The Defenders* episodes, as well as writing the original teleplay for *The Legend of Lylah Clare* and the screenplays for *All the Fine Young Cannibals* and *The Subterraneans* (the first film adaptation of a Kerouac novel).

Last time I wrote about Thom, it was mostly to begin to try to explain and celebrate that masterpiece of nails-on-chalkboard cinema *Angel, Angel, Down We Go*, the only film he directed (which he also wrote). A sprawling, bizarre narrative assault on modern life, culture, morality, music, family, and whatever

else was lying around, and as strange a work as it is, *Angel* is also remarkably personal.

One reader wrote in to say that I really needed to see the Thom-authored *The Witch Who Came From the Sea* (1976), starring Millie Perkins, who was Thom's wife and had been Hollywood's Anne Frank. Not as poetic or coherent as *Angel, Angel, Down We Go* (keeping in mind that even associating the word "coherent" with that film is a stretch), *The Witch* is, if anything, more shocking and disorienting than most of the other films with which Thom was involved.

Directed by famed auteur Matt Cimber, *Witch* is truly perverse, exploring favorite Thom themes like incest, the madness of families, the madness of romantic love, and just madness in general. Using the flotsam and jetsam of current events and modern culture as spice to its twisted recipe, it deals with the disassociation of reality and fantasy, as well as the realities of dreams and dreaming.

Cimber was Jayne Mansfield's last husband and directed her in *Single Room Furnished* (1968), a film even I wouldn't recommend. He also helmed *Butterfly* (1982), based on James Cain's idiosyncratic novel and starring the culturally iconic Pia Zadora, as well as the blaxploitation efforts *Lady Cocoa* (1975) and *The Black Six* (1974) – essentially a side-show filmography with little to recommend it. Cimber's weaknesses, lack of talent, and tone-deaf cinematic style really come together to make *Witch* a unique, disturbing, and disorienting film. If the last few years have seemed too overloaded, if nothing else, in comparison – though quite unintentionally – *The Witch* should bestow a certain air of calm upon them. ■

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ATTENTION SPANS AND PLAYS

Dear Editor,

Having been involved in Austin theatre for nearly 10 years, I've been surprised lately to discover two of your newest reviewers continue to assert that plays more than 90 minutes long in Austin are atypical and that Austin audiences are incapable of sitting through them ["The Positively Serene Death of Sir Ritter Hans Von Wittenstein Zu Wittenstein," Arts Listings, Aug. 29; "Getting Married," Arts Listings, Nov. 28]. My experience has been exactly the opposite: Running times on most productions reviewed over the last several months have been between two and 2½ hours, and I've never had an experience where audiences complained about the production being too long. Indeed, with modern cinema's current trend of the "epic" two-hours-plus movies, it seems ludicrous to suggest that our talented local actors can't hold audience attention for as long, particularly with the inclusion of intermission.

I've noticed that veteran *Chronicle* reviewers only mention it when pacing is the real issue. Is it that your new reviewers are younger with shorter attention spans or that they just aren't familiar with Austin theatre?

Kate Meehan

[Arts Editor Robert Faires replies: Neither. While it's true that most of the theatre productions reviewed by the *Chronicle* of late clocked in above the two-hour mark, the entire year of 2008 reveals

that shows that ran under two hours outnumbered those that ran over. And when you talk specifically about new plays, as Hannah Kenah did in the review you cite, many more time under 120 minutes. (Of the 22 reviewed, two out of three ran 90 minutes or less.) So her remark, "There is a trend with new plays that goes something like this: 90 minutes, no intermission. There is room for longer works, but you better need every second," isn't without justification. As for the comment made by Elizabeth Cobbe in her Nov. 28 review, it's better examined in the context of contemporary taste for the sometimes windy rhetorical wrangling of G.B. Shaw. ("Modern audiences, especially in Austin, where many shows are considered long at 90 minutes, aren't geared up to examine a single idea for 2½ hours.") Quite a few local companies regularly make theatre that runs well under two hours (Hyde Park, Rude Mechs, Salvage Vanguard, Tongue and Groove, to name a few), and while their audiences might indeed be willing to sit through 2½ hours of a cinematic epic, full of thrilling action or lush romance, they might find 150 minutes of nothing but the didactic debates of "Major Barbara" or "Misalliance" will get them feeling a bit restless. The issue isn't local actors' abilities to hold our attention (though that can be a factor); it's our tolerance for extended oratory – and an old-fashioned kind of oratory at that – focused on one topic. It seems fair to say that in a city where a third of the theatre runs under 90 minutes, we're just not trained for that brand of mental marathon.]

CONTINUED ON P.12



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THE REAL 'SOUP NAZI' IS ...

Dear Editor:

Kate Thornberry's review of *Eat Me: The Food and Philosophy of Kenny Shopsin* ["Everything but the Elves," Food, Dec. 5] notes that Kenny was Jerry Seinfeld's inspiration for the character of the "Soup Nazi." This is incorrect. While Shopsin is a well known NYC eccentric, Seinfeld based his character on Al Yeganeh, also known locally as "the Soup Man" though never by the offensive "Soup Nazi" tag.

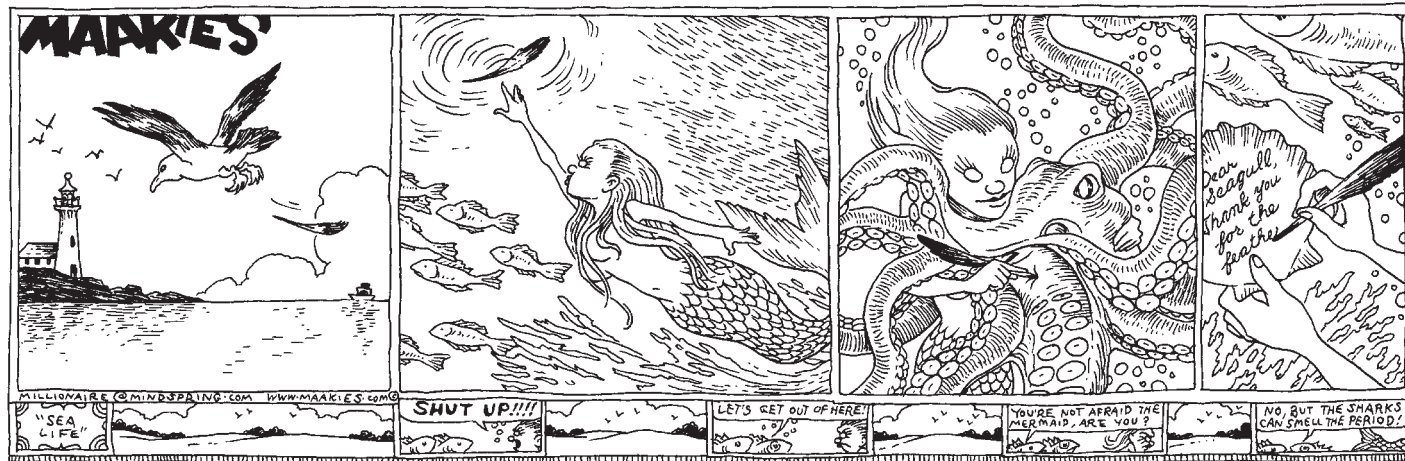
Merriman Smith

[Kate Thornberry responds: Without being able to ask Jerry Seinfeld personally who was his inspiration for the "Soup Nazi," I have to concede that it is possible that Yeganeh, not Shopsin, was his inspiration. Shopsin's publisher only goes as far as "many people have accused Shopsin of being the 'Soup Nazi'" (in other words, intimidating). Due to Shopsin's posted "Rules of Ordering," his penchant for "banning" customers for rule infraction (including "lifetime bans") and his three hundred varieties of soup, I think it is probable that Shopsin inspired Seinfeld, at least regarding the "Nazi" part! Ultimately, only Jerry Seinfeld himself could say for sure.]

SHE KNOWS NOT WHAT SHE HAS DONE

Dear Editor,

Re: "Campfire Horror Story" [News, Nov. 21]: I was executive director of an adolescent drug treatment center for many years. I had referrals from Child Protective Services. Many of the children placed in care are good kids. But those were not sent to my facility. There are some very, very difficult cases out there. Bebe Gaines was



someone I knew, and she was so helpful to me in many situations. I finally only took individuals who were on probation so they could be sent back to lockup when they did not appreciate what Texas taxpayers were providing. Woodside Trails was an ideal situation for the kids that would have torn up the furniture, stabbed the personnel, run off, etc. I personally witnessed many of her kids making remarkable turnarounds. All I can say about Strayhorn is forgive her, for she didn't have any idea what she was doing.

Mary Luker

DAYS WHICH LIVE IN INFAMY

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 7, 1941, I was 16 years old and lived in Düsseldorf, Germany. I was probably doing homework if it was evening or heading for school

if it was morning or hoping that there wouldn't be an air raid during the coming night. I had never heard of Pearl Harbor.

In fact, I probably didn't hear much of Pearl Harbor until the fifth anniversary of that infamous day, after I had lived in the United States for a few months.

There may have been an article in the Düsseldorf newspapers, the release of which would have had to be cleared with the Ministry of Propaganda, a government department headed by Joseph Goebbels. We rarely listened to the radio. It was safer that way: If we were suspected of doing so, we would risk being accused of listening to the news originating in foreign countries. Doing this was a federal crime.

But I can well imagine how the event might have been presented in the papers and on the radio, too:

"Today our allies, the brave and patriotic Japanese, finally made it clear to the war-mongering American capitalists and their Jewish leaders, that they will defend their rights to free trade and unencumbered traffic on the open seas by winning a great victory over their oppressors and sinking a number of their heavily armed war ships, thereby preventing the sneak attack which the Americans were planning," etc., etc.

So I knew nothing about Pearl Harbor except possibly for these and other releases from a carefully controlled press.

But I do remember ever so clearly an occasion just three weeks earlier: It was the day when our closest family friend was deported to a concentration camp. I recall how we spent the afternoon with her, how we brought her things we thought she might be able to use, how we comforted her

CONTINUED ON P.16

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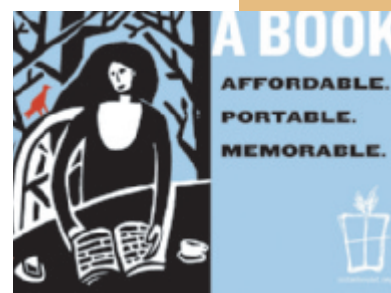


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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

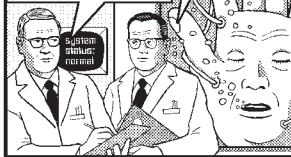
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AND THEN--SUDDENLY-- SOMETHING IS HAPPENING! THE INVISIBLE HAND OF THE FREE MARKET IS HAVING AN ADVERSE REACTION TO ITS STEADY DIET OF SUBPRIME LOANS!

NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN THIS! ONLY SEVEN HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS CAN SAVE US NOW!

BUT THE DESPERATE INFUSION OF TAXPAYER FUNDS ISN'T ENOUGH! THE HAND HAS BROKEN FREE! IT'S ON A RAMPAGE--DESTROYING EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS IN ITS PATH!

THIS IS NOT RATIONAL BEHAVIOR AT ALL!

AND AS THE HAND BREAKS HAVOC, CITIZENS HAVE ONLY ONE PLACE TO TURN FOR HELP.

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TRUST US! WE'RE ECONOMISTS! AND REMEMBER--NO ONE COULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING!

STAY TUNED FOR THE THRILLING CONCLUSION (AS IF YOU HAVE A CHOICE)!

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

General e-mail address: mail@austinchronicle.com Postmarks forum: austinchronicle.com/forums/postmarks Mailing address: *The Austin Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765

and her parents, while she, in turn, was comforting us. Soon thereafter, her father, a World War I veteran, and her kindhearted mother were arrested, too, as were my own relatives, and none of them lived to enjoy freedom and peace.

I guess, without realizing it, I was experiencing my own bit of Pearl Harbor, a day which lived in infamy for me, as well.

Margret Hofmann

TOO MANY VALET-ONLY PARKING SPACES DOWNTOWN

Dear Editor,

I was Downtown last weekend and took note of all the parking spots taken over by valet companies. I understand that the company pays the city for the use of these metered parking spots, but I'm wondering if anyone could do this? Can a citizen just buy an after-hours parking spot? I think they charge the valet companies \$250 a year ... hell that's less than a dollar a day! I could get a vinyl hood made up that says "Reserved Parking for Steven." Or even better, one that says, "This space for rent on a daily basis, please call 555-5555."

Then again, I suppose our taxes provide for the upkeep of the street and parking spots ... so maybe we should just get rid of all the reserved valet spots.

Steven McCloud

DO NOT REMOVE TONY MILLIONAIRE

Dear Editor,

I heart Tony Millionaire. Do not remove this strip [Maakies, Dec. 5] or I will be forced to shoot my dog! Drinky Crow rules! The surreal, violent strips make my toes curl with pleasure. A "Mexican Seeing-Eye Jumping Bean"! Now that shit is gold!

Frank Anderson

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Save **15% OFF ANY 6**

or

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Or More Bottles of Wine

Sale ends January 3rd, 2009. No further discounts on sale items.

~This Week's~

TASTINGS & EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
All Week, 12/9 - 12/13	Sparkling Martini Week —Taste a Different One Daily	Twin Liquors Marketplace At Hancock Center
Thursday, 12/11	Flor de Cana Rum Tasting with Samuel Fitch	Twin Liquors Marketplace At Hancock Center
Friday, 12/12	Solena Pinot Noir Tasting	Twin Liquors Marketplace At Hancock Center
Friday, 12/12	City-Wide In-Store Wine Tastings	Various Stores—More Info at twinliquors.com
Saturday, 12/13	Grand Tasting Tour " Big Reds "	Twin Liquors Marketplace At Hancock Center
Friday, 12/19	Johnnie Walker Bottle Engraving	Twin Liquors Marketplace At Hancock Center

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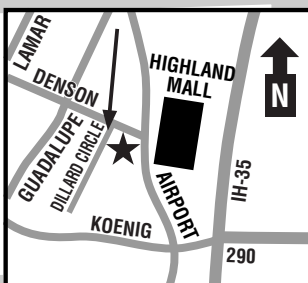
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Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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Anchor, KVUE

Dec 13, 7:30pm // E.D. Hill
Reporter, Fox News

Dec 14, 2pm // Kim Brackin
Swim Coach, UT Austin

Dec 18, 7:30pm // Nav Sooch
Founder, Silicon Labs

Dec 19, 7:30pm // Stephen Moser
Fashion Editor, Austin Chronicle

Dec 20, 2pm // Paul Carrozza
Founder, RunTex

Dec 20, 7:30pm // William Powers, Jr.
President, UT Austin

Dec 21, 2pm // Joe Long
Philanthropist

Dec 22, 7:30pm // Stephen Michael Kerr
Daytime DJ, Majic 95.5

Dec 23, 7:30pm // Michael Barnes
Writer, Austin American-Statesman

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news

Headlines

- › California-based chip-maker **Spansion** announced a temporary, three-week closure of its Austin facility, leaving some 1,100 workers in the lurch.
- › The first volleys in the 2009 battle for mayor are fired, with Mayor Pro Tem **Brewster McCracken** announcing his candidacy and a political action committee created to “draft” Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** into the race. See “City Hall Hustle,” at right.
- › **City Council** considers some controversial measures at its meeting today, including extending development site plans’ validity to five years, offering earlier development notification to neighbors, and hiring an outside law firm to investigate how city staff approved a landfill expansion that council opposed.
- › Rumors flew that **Barack Obama** is considering **Juan Garcia**, former state rep for Corpus Christi and naval pilot, as secretary of the Navy.
- › Federal investigators arrested Illinois Gov. **Rod Blagojevich** Tuesday, on corruption charges of comic proportions (attempting to sell Obama’s vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder, extorting a Chicago children’s hospital, and more). Obama called on Blagojevich to resign.

Naked City

- › **APD READY TO CITE AND RELEASE** Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo says his department is putting the finishing touches on a new citation form that will be integral to the January implementation of the state’s cite-and-release law, which allows officers to issue citations for some **low-level nonviolent misdemeanors** – including simple possession of up to 4 ounces of marijuana – instead of taking offenders in for a night at the Travis County Jail. Passed by state lawmakers last year, the citation law does not change the potential criminal penalties associated with the offenses it covers but should save money and ease jail crowding. Although Acevedo initially didn’t seem enthusiastic about implementing the law, he’s now fully on board and has tried to bring Hays and Williamson counties into the fold as well, to make a uniform policy for all of the city of Austin. Williamson and Hays are interested, Acevedo said, but aren’t yet ready to move forward. So the Austin Police Department will strike out first, implementing the policy next month. They join the Travis County Sheriff’s Office in utilizing the citation option, which the TCSO has been using since it became law in September 2007.

– Jordan Smith

- › **FINDING DOUGH FOR RELO** Relocating freight rail lines around the state – primarily to free up urban corridors for passenger rail – promises to be a hot topic in the next legislative session. In preparation, the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Association, a new coalition of transportation advocates, kicked off its **Rail Relo Now!** campaign on Dec. 4. “Our state cannot simply build more and more roads without rail being incorporated into transportation plans across the state,” said co-chair and Bexar Co. Judge Nelson Wolff. Texas voters passed a constitutional amendment establishing the state Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund in 2005 – but legislators never put any money into it. The association seeks a project-funding approach that could leverage billions of dollars in bonding authority. That could allow the relocation of freight service from Austin to San Antonio – improving highway congestion and lowering emissions from trucking. According to the association, “Federal studies show freight rail is five times more fuel-efficient and pollutes one-third less than comparable goods moving by truck.” The association also cited a 2004 study that found, in Texas, every \$1 million spent on a passenger

CONTINUED ON P.20



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken on Monday announced his bid for mayor, the first candidate to jump into a race that is expected to draw at least three other serious contenders. See “City Hall Hustle,” below, for more mayoral campaign news.

FIRST ONE IN

McCracken gets running start in mayor’s race

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Housed in a nondescript facade of late-20th century office-park architecture, on an anonymous stretch of South Austin street, the clean-room white walls of solar-cell concern **HelioVolt** come as a surprise. It was here, flanked by supporters – not to mention all manner of esoteric, high-voltage machinery – that we saw the first official announcement of a major candidate for mayor: unmistakable political theatre. “With great humility and strong confidence in Austin’s future, I am here to announce my candidacy for mayor,” said two-term council member and Mayor Pro Tem **Brewster McCracken**.

Befitting the sci-fi environs, McCracken unveiled a multipoint platform for his candidacy, front-loaded with forward-looking endeavors: jump-starting a “21st century economy” powered by growth in green-collar jobs, digital entertainment, biotechnology, and health care; leading the advancement of clean, renewable energy through McCracken’s smart-grid enterprise, the **Pecan Street Project**; and broadening Austin’s standard of living through a 21st Century Careers job-training program and the creation of an Austin Endowment for Opportunity tailored for social-service investments. Compared to the previous points, the fourth plank – promises of neighborhood investments and improvements, a seemingly de rigueur requirement in the homeowner-empowered age of Austin politics – sounded comparatively dusty. But as a whole, the announcement was classic McCracken:

heady and ambitious, an inspirational clarion call to supporters, and a load of hot air to nonbelievers. But even if McCracken earned no converts, the 100-person-plus crowd testified to the backing McCracken already has, if not the excitement and anticipation of Austin’s political class for the mayoral and City Council elections in May. For some crowds, the Hustle among them, November is just a warm-up.

Then, in a rather inspired bit of timing, an e-mail appeared in politicos’ in-boxes all over town, just as McCracken was wrapping up his presser. Its subject? The formation of a new political action committee, Draft **Lee Leffingwell** for Mayor. Unwilling to let McCracken’s announcement carry the day, Leffingwell supporter **Ted Siff** trumpeted his new PAC, created to support McCracken’s current rival on the dais – and future rival at the polls. “Lee Leffingwell is the candidate that progressive Austinites can trust to take the helm at City Hall,” said Siff, promising a website, rally, and official kickoff next week.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Leffingwell himself, it’s widely known, can’t officially wade into the mayoral race just yet. While McCracken’s Place 5 City Council term expires in May (term limits and higher ambition preventing him from running for the same seat again), Leffingwell was re-elected to Place 1 only earlier this year. So if

CONTINUED ON P.20

QUOTE of the WEEK



“Lee Leffingwell is the candidate that progressive Austinites can trust to take the helm at City Hall.”

– Ted Siff, in an e-mail announcing the formation of the Draft Lee Leffingwell for Mayor political action committee, sent moments after Brewster McCracken kicked off his mayoral bid

city
hall
hustle

rail system resulted in an estimated \$2 million in regional economic impact. For more info, visit www.railrelo.org.
— Katherine Gregor

► **AISD GETS BETTER AND WORSE** Talk about mixed results: Austin Independent School District has more troubled campuses than last year – but its best schools are excelling at a faster rate than those troubled campuses are failing. In its newly published report, “The Urban Advantage,” AISD confirms it has been classified as Academically Acceptable by the **Texas Education Agency** – 15 AISD campuses were rated exemplary, and 19 were “recognized,” while 68 were classified as acceptable and 11 unacceptable. In 2007, only seven schools made exemplary status, and 18 were recognized, but only nine were unacceptable. Also, 85% of AISD campuses met the Adequate Yearly Progress standards laid out under the federal **No Child Left Behind** rules: not perfect, but better than the 75% statewide average. See the full report at www.austinisd.org/inside/initiatives/annual_report_2008. — Richard Whittaker

► **PAY UP, HOMEOWNERS** It's tax time again: Travis County has sent out 258,543 **property-tax bills** for the year. Homeowners in escrow should have had their bills sent directly to their mortgage lenders, but everyone else should watch for the dreaded annual envelope to arrive. “Some taxpayers believe that if they do not receive a bill, they are not liable for tax payment,” said Tax Assessor Collector Nelda Wells Spears. “Taxpayers are responsible for requesting a tax bill if they do not receive one.” Spears reminds taxpayers that payments must be postmarked by Dec. 31 to be deductible for this year. She also encourages seniors and people with disabilities to ask about the county's new installment plan. Visit www.traviscounty.org or call 854-9473 for further info. — R.W.

► **PENALTIES FOR PYROS** No rain means no rocket's red glare. As the Texas Forest Service has declared that Travis Co. is in a drought, on Dec. 9 county commissioners passed an ordinance **banning bottle rockets** in areas outside of city limits because of fears of wildfires (the city of Austin already has a permanent ban on fireworks within 5,000 feet of city limits). The new rule restricts the sale or use of “sky-rockets with sticks” and “missiles with fins.” Offense is a class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500, and the ban stays in place until the drought order is lifted. — R.W.

► **DUST OFF YOUR FIREARMS, NATURE LOVERS** On Dec. 5, the Department of the Interior confirmed it's overturning a 25-year-old ban on **concealed firearms in national parks**. When proposed in April, the new rules would only have allowed guns in national parks if they were also allowed in that state's parks. As finally introduced, Interior spokesman Chris Paolina said, “If you can carry [a gun] on Main Street, you are allowed to carry in a national park.” The change is opposed by ecological and gun-control groups but also by park rangers and managers who fear it makes their jobs harder and more dangerous and expect more wild animals will die in “opportunity” shootings. Unsurprisingly, **National Rifle Association** chief lobbyist Chris W. Cox said he was “pleased” with the changes. — R.W.

he officially declared now, the city would have to call a special election to fill the council seat under state “resign to run” laws – an expensive proposition in the midst of tight financial times and one Leffingwell declared he wouldn't foist on the city.

That hasn't stopped Leffingwell from hinting – none too subtly – at his ambitions. He told the *Chronicle's* Katherine Gregor back in the summer of 2007 that he was “definitely interested and very strongly considering it,” and the whisper campaign has only grown louder ever since. Now there's more question as to whether, in his attempt to inch right up to the line, he may have crossed it. Monday evening, during its coverage of the McCracken announcement, KVUE news briefly featured Leffingwell, who said, “I feel a duty to make this attempt, so that's what I'm going to do.” He's since tried to walk it back, telling local tip sheet *In Fact Daily* that it was a “slip of the tongue” and that he emphasized to KVUE's Steve Alberts he was doing nothing other than “seriously considering” the opportunity. Still, with his detractors trying to draw a foul, Leffingwell doesn't need to offer any unforced ones.

It may get stranger still: The latest chatter is that, behind the scenes, forces unsympathetic to Leffingwell's campaign are arguing that Jan. 10 – falling some 120 days out from the election, the date it's thought Leffingwell can formally declare and begin fundraising and campaigning without triggering a special election – is too early, the actual date falling in February or even later. The Hustle suspects even if this is being introduced only to confuse the issue and damage Leffingwell – as seems likely – it isn't the last time we'll hear about it.

If things seem like they're gearing up especially early – or are fraught with the potential to get especially ugly – well, welcome to the reality of Austin politics, where, in contrast to the official myth of “terminal democracy,” only the big boys can afford to play.

MONEY MATTERS

To drive the point home, all you have to do is look to the star mayoral candidates of Austin's neighborhood crowd-cum-self-proclaimed progressives: former Council Members **Jackie Goodman** and **Bill Spelman**. Goodman dropped out before she even turned on, telling the Hustle she didn't have the resources “necessary to achieve the high-dollar campaign

and organization that an Austin mayoral bid has come to mandate.” Spelman demurred for similar reasons, saying he feared the divisiveness that would erupt from the run, electing instead to vie for McCracken's to-be-vacated Place 5.

Yet the problems Spelman would have faced running for mayor – candidates with more money and name recognition – are now his opponents' problems. While no one aside from incumbents and fringe candidates has officially declared for a council seat, conventional wisdom has the slate of serious contenders (such as former and present Planning commissioners **Chris Riley** and **Perla Cavazos**, respectively, and neighborhood activist **Kathie Tovo**) likely to run for Leffingwell's Place 1 seat, once it opens up.

When you consider the increasing cost of previous elections, factoring in an inflationary increase in political contribution limits (raising individual contributions to \$350), you're looking at what will most certainly be the city's most expensive election. As evidenced by the contributions bowl at McCracken's kickoff, money matters – but is that the only real way to participate politically?

BESIDE THE POINT

Closer to home, the current council convenes today (Thursday, Dec. 11) for its second-to-last meeting of the year. And falling in the midst of holiday crunch time, this agenda is longer than Old St. Nick's shit list (or your credit-card statement, whichever's bigger). Interestingly enough, there are some actual items of intrigue in there: Quizzically, McCracken brings two items, one automatically extending **development site plan approvals** by two years to a total of five (Item 68) and another asking the city manager to consider it (Item 69). The Hustle hears 68 is dead. Good – like White Lodging really needs any more of our help. Other highlights include hiring an outside legal team to examine whether city legal and staff overstepped their boundaries when they acquiesced to the controversial expansion of the **BFI land-fill** in Northeast Austin, against expressed council policy (Item 71); the motion even takes the unusual step of naming the legal firm to hire, instead of leaving it to the city attorney's discretion. Think it's cold outside? It's could get positively frosty on the dais. ■



will return Dec. 26.

res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.74.**

THURSDAY 11

AUSTIN GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY PARTY LGBT-friendly businesses are welcome to join in the fun. 7pm. Sheraton Hotel, 701 E. 11th. \$50 (\$45, members). www.aglcc.org.

CAPITAL METRO HOP 'N SHOP EXTRAVAGANZA Check out the MetroRail at the new Downtown station, do some holiday shopping, and learn about 'Dillo discounts at Katz's Deli, RunTex, Alamo Draffhouse, and other businesses. 11:30am-1:30pm. Brush Square, Fifth & Trinity. www.capmetro.org.

EAT LOCAL WEEK CONTINUES There are three days left of *Edible Austin's* week of events celebrating local foods; proceeds go to the **Urban Roots** program, which teaches teens to plant, cultivate, and share their own food. Through Dec. 13. See www.edibleaustin.com for details.

FREE RAIN BARRELS The city has accumulated 127 damaged but repairable rain barrels and will give them away for free today – one per Austin Water Utility customer. 8-10am. 6014 Techni Center Dr., Bldg. 2. www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/rbdamaged.htm.

FRIDAY 12

JEFFREY BADGER discusses his book, *Finding Granddad's War*, a chronicle of his search for his grandfather's experiences in World War II. 6pm. Frugal Media, 5400 N. Lamar. www.frugalmedia.com.

LAURENCE PARENT The famed Lone Star State photographer discusses his *Portrait of Austin*. 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

SATURDAY 13

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE 10am. Round Rock High School, 300 Lake Creek Dr. Free. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

HUMANITIES TEXAS BOOK FAIR The Texas arm of the National Endowment for the Humanities hosts, to help repair libraries damaged by **Hurricane Ike**. Featured readers include Stephen Harrigan, Lawrence Wright, Naomi Shihab Nye, Sarah Bird, and many others. 10am-1pm. Byrne-Reed House, 1410 Rio Grande. www.humanitiestexas.org.



Lawrence Wright

NEXT ECONOMY POTLUCK LUNCH & WORKSHOP Discuss sustainable economic models that can get Austin through this downturn and beyond. 10:30am-2:30pm. Ruiz Branch Library, 1600 Grove Blvd. www.nexteconomy.eventbrite.com.

SUSAN MEREDITH reads from her *Beyond Light Bulbs: Lighting the Way to Smarter Energy Management*. Noon. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie.

TRANSGENERATION EDUCATION NETWORK OF TEXAS MEETING 2:30pm. Call for location, 448-6354. www.tentex.org.

SUNDAY 14

BE A CHRISTMAS STOCKING-STUFFER Volunteer to help fill stockings for abandoned, neglected, or abused children; stocking stuff will be supplied. 2-5pm. Elgin Public Library, 404 N. Main, Elgin. www.elginsangels.org.

PHILANTHROPY & VOLUNTEERISM FORUM

David Porter, executive director of A Glimmer of Hope Austin, discusses the art of giving and the spirit of volunteerism. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover. Free.

STOP DOMAIN SUBSIDIES PARTY The *Chronicle* may not have endorsed Prop. 2, but we'll always endorse a party. Help SDS celebrate the launch of www.changeaustin.org. 4-6pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress.

UPLIFT GETDOWN DANCE PARTY Shake off holiday stress with salsa from Ritmo Tres and the Brazilian funk of Seu Jacinto. Proceeds go to **UpLift Austin's** efforts to get students involved in making their schools more sustainable. 8pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. \$5.

MONDAY 15

GEOGRAPHY LUNCHTIME LECTURE The Center for Environmental Research presents Kevin Anderson discussing one “Austin urban creek and the complexity of nature and culture that it conceals and reveals.” Noon-1pm. Waller Center, 625 E. 10th, Rm. 105.

WEDNESDAY 17

GREEN HOLIDAY PARTY Hobnob with local environmental organizations at the first certified organic events facility in the country. E-mail to RSVP 5:30-9:30pm. Barr Mansion, 10463 Sprinkle Rd., 371-8770. \$20 (\$16, advance). rspv@texasgreennetwork.org, www.texasgreennetwork.org.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB

Sigmund Cornelius, CFO of **ConocoPhillips**, discusses future energy needs. 7am. Memorial Stadium, UT Club, sixth floor. \$15. www.mbcAustin.org.

ONGOING

CITY COUNCIL ON DEMAND Can't get enough of that wacky City Council? See www.cityofaustin.org, which features archived videos of past meetings.

HILL COUNTRY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT & SILENT AUCTION features the stunning work of the photographers who won the 2008 Hill Country Photography Contest, on display at the lovely Westcave Preserve. The photos are featured in a calendar that raises money to help preserve the area's natural beauty (see “Holiday Gift Guide,” p.28), and auto-graphed originals are included in a monthlong silent auction. Through Dec. 31. Warren Skaaren Environmental Learning Center, Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd., Round Mountain, 830/825-3442. www.hillcountryalliance.org, www.westcave.org.

OPERATION SANDY CLAUS Help emergency responders in hurricane-torn Galveston this holiday season with donations of toys, games, candy, cookies, and gift cards for the families of EMS and fire units. Drive-Thru Postal, 1712 E. Riverside, 443-5848. www.rehabsector.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR IKE VICTIMS AISD is looking for clothing and school supplies for students who were affected by Hurricane Ike. Drop them off at Baker Administration Center, 3908 Ave. B, Rm. 204, weekdays, 8am-4pm. Deadline: Jan. 30.

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2009 LEGE: LOCAL DELEGATES LAY OUT AGENDAS

With the 81st legislative session a month away, Travis County legislators have started pre-filing bills and finalizing their policy agendas. So what are local lawmakers trying to get on the books in 2009?

— Richard Whittaker



Dawanna Dukes

JOHN ANDERSON

Dawanna Dukes (House District 46) wants to live up to her campaign word of looking out for her eastern Travis Co. district. Top priority is “a very aggressive bill to make more children and uninsured eligible for medical insurance.” She thinks she can bring fiscal conservatives around to the proposal’s \$340 million price tag with the cost-saving results of moving the uninsured into preventative treatment, reducing costly trips to the emergency room. In the aftermath of the repurposing of Johnston High, she wants reform of the school repurposing system and a meet-and-confer bill for city employee negotiations. After the mixed results of her 2007 film-incentive bill, Dukes said, “We’re looking at the nuts and bolts” of how studios location-hunt.

Major prefiled bills:

House Bill 201: State would pay 50% of Social Security costs for school districts.

HB 202: Extra protections for educators claiming benefits.

Valinda Bolton (HD 47) has yet to prefile any bills, but in her sophomore session, she plans to fine-tune some of her freshman successes, such as counseling for kids in Texas Youth Commission facilities. She intends to make sure the counseling programs have been implemented properly. She’s also looking at “small changes on land and water use,” such as redefining the powers of developing counties when it comes to water rights.



Valinda Bolton

JOHN ANDERSON

Donna Howard (HD 48) hasn’t pre-filed any bills and didn’t get a major interim committee appointment, so she describes herself as taking “a supporting role” on the major legislation discussed over the summer. That said, she’s still keenly interested in rebuilding public- and higher-education funding, especially reaching the state’s target of doubling the number of registered nurses by 2012, and giving local government more power over the construction of big polluters like coal-fired power plants. She also wants better accountability for the Lower Colorado River Authority, giving the 10 counties along the river representation on the board and placing the agency under Sunset Advisory Commission review.



Donna Howard

Elliott Naishtat (HD 49) has a few bills that he always brings back, such as medical marijuana, but he’s realistic about their passage. Like his death sentence moratorium bill: “As long as Rick Perry’s there, it probably won’t get very far, and even if it did pass, he would probably veto it.” He’s much more upbeat about what he calls “a package of health and human services bills” that is currently with the Legislative Budget Board.

Major prefiled bills:

HB 163: Forcing legislators to reveal fair market value of all gifts.

House Joint Resolution 23: A constitutional amendment requiring record votes on second reading of bills, amendments, and committee substitutes.

Mark Strama (HD 50) pledges, “I’ll continue to be doing a lot on renewable energy and education.” With the 2010 redistricting bearing down fast, Strama is also bringing back some unsuccessful bills filed in previous sessions that call for fixing the way district boundaries are redrawn.

Major prefiled bills:

HJR 19/HB 104: Replacing the controversial Legislative Redistricting Board (responsible for the last gerrymandering) with a more accountable Texas Redistricting Commission.

HB 105: Sweeping campaign finance reform, with tougher penalties.



Mark Strama

JOHN ANDERSON

Eddie Rodriguez (HD 51) leads the local pre-filing field with eight bills, centering mainly on disability services, recycling, and renewable energy. With solar energy innovator HeliVolt in his district and plans for a Texas Clean Energy Park on the horizon, Rodriguez said, “I want to make Texas a renewable-energy center and to make Austin and more specifically Southeast Austin a center.” He also hopes to grasp the transportation nettle. “You just can’t get around,” he said of the difficulty getting to destination points, “and it’s not good for the economic future of Central Texas.”

Major prefiled bills:

HB 239: A “25 by 25” proposal, ordering a study into switching the state to a minimum of 25% electricity produced from renewable technologies by 2025.



Eddie Rodriguez

JOHN ANDERSON

Kirk Watson

(Senate District 14) says the three bills he has pre-filed are representative of his biggest concern: getting the state to accept its responsibilities. He explained, “My son is

part of the first generation of Texans who won’t inherit an excess of infrastructure” — and by infrastructure, he doesn’t just mean roads and broadband provisions but medical insurance and public education, as well. Not that roads aren’t on his agenda: He wants to increase the planning and development toolbox available to regional communities if the Texas Department of Transportation won’t step up. He’s also determined to boost green-collar jobs and add more top-tier public universities. This, he argues, means shifting the state from the “getting while the getting’s good” fiscal mindset back to real strategic investment. “Texas is great and prosperous today because those who came before us were prepared to think long-term,” he said. “I’m a strong advocate for getting us back in the game.”

Major prefiled bills:

Senate Bill 184: Commissioning a “no regrets” environmental study: All recommendations should cut greenhouse-gas emissions and costs.

SB 185: Establishing a 20-member long-term higher-education planning commission.

SB 186: Comprehensive anti-school-voucher legislation.

Texas Dems Sue Over Vote-Counting Method

A month after Election Day, the last seat in the Texas House of Representatives has finally been settled. After a recount was completed Dec. 5, incumbent Republican **Linda Harper-Brown** held House District 105 in Dallas County by 19 votes over Democratic challenger **Bob Romano** — one vote down from her margin after the original count. This leaves the Republicans with a 76-74 House majority. So why are the Democrats still suing **Dallas Co. Elections Division**?

Chad Dunn, attorney for the Texas Democratic Party, says the federal suit isn’t just about HD 105. Instead, the party wants to resolve how electronic voting machines handle so-called “emphasis” votes, which occur when voters vote straight ticket and then press a candidate name to add emphasis, which actually deselects the name. Defenders of the system argue that voters are choosing not to vote in those races. The problem, says Dunn, is that the way Dallas Co. configures its machines doesn’t give voters a proper chance to review their votes and doesn’t leave enough of a paper (or data) trail. While accepting that even if all contested emphasis votes were included, Romano would probably still lose by nine votes, Dunn says that’s not the point. He explained, “The best case scenario is that [these machines] record a voter’s selection in such an ambiguous manner that voting officials can’t determine voter intent.”

Dunn challenges the idea that voters should just read the instructions better. He warns that would be “effectively a literacy test for voters” and therefore unconstitutional. Changing the process, he argues, can be done as part of the regular maintenance cycle, using established and proven best practices as a model. “What’s great,” he said, “is that it doesn’t require the state and counties throwing out expensive equipment. It’s just a software fix.”

What frustrates Dunn is that these best practices still haven’t been implemented. Texas Democrats are waiting to hear if the **U.S. Supreme Court** will accept an almost identical case dating back to the 2006 elections. Dunn finds unacceptable the fact that emphasis votes are still a legal headache two years later. “Had the secretary of state taken those complaints seriously in 2006,” he added, “we wouldn’t be here now.”

— R.W.

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Comptroller Touts Her Open-Book Policy

"Transparency leads to efficiency."

That's how state Comptroller **Susan Combs** said she hopes she can cut down on accidental government waste and relieve some pressure on the state budget. With Gov. **Rick Perry** warning the Legislature against higher spending, on Dec. 3 Combs laid out the tools that she hopes will cut some costs, all under the banner of **Open Book Texas**. Combs said last year her agency identified \$8.7 million in potential savings. "Four million eight hundred thousand dollars have already been realized," she said, "with an additional \$3.8 million expected in the coming year." Her big plan is to extend her cost-saving initiatives to all local government, including independent school districts. Combs' office also plans to launch a report card, grading state agencies and local governments on their transparency.

The big announcement was the Dec. 1 launch of the **Texas Transparency Check-Up**, an online advisory giving local agencies guidance on how to become more transparent. This is helped by the Single Set of Books initiative: Intended to put everyone on the same accounting system, using standardized purchasing codes and account layout, it should allow better public oversight. Combs also announced the imminent launch of **TxSmartBuy**, a one-stop procurement shop run by her office (the 2007 Legislature transferred state procurement from the Texas Building and Procurement Commission to her office). Open to all state and local agencies, plus public universities, it's planned to allow side-by-side price comparison and bring bulk-buying discounts.

Combs' announcements were warmly received by **Talmadge Heflin**, director of the Center for Fiscal Policy, a division of arch free-marketers the **Texas Public Policy Foundation**. The former state rep (famous in his time on the House Appropriations Committee for never seeing a budget cut he didn't like) backed expanding these measures and said, "Taxpayers deserve to know how all levels of government are spending their money." But the question remains: Will this all help agencies or become a line-by-line anti-government cudgel for pressure groups to wield? More importantly, where will the saved money go? More services or property-tax cuts?

— Richard Whittaker

Sharp Announces for U.S. Senate

Texas Democrats hungry for former state Comptroller **John Sharp** (pictured) to re-enter politics will finally get their wish. Sharp announced he's running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held (but likely to be vacated) by **Kay Bailey Hutchison**. Hutchison is widely expected to resign her seat so she can try to unseat fellow Republican **Rick Perry** from the Governor's Mansion in 2010. Even if she doesn't, Sharp, 58, says he isn't messing with the usual "exploratory committee" rigmorale: "I will be a candidate whether the election is 2012 or any time before then," he said in a press release. Sharp is a former state representative, state senator, railroad commissioner, and comptroller. In 1998, he came up short (48.19%) in his run against Perry (50.04%) for lieutenant governor, in the year the Dems were completely swept out of the upper echelon of Texas government. In 2002, he again tried for lite gov but lost to **David Dewhurst**. Since then, his name has always come up for statewide contests, but he has consistently declined entreaties to run in favor of staying with the Dallas-based financial management firm Ryan Inc. Sharp said he will file the required papers Jan. 1 and immediately begin raising money.

— L.N.



JOHN ANDERSON

Riders board a Capital Metro bus on a route operated by the agency's main contractor, StarTran; next year, two other contractors will carry some of the load for less money.

Cap Metro Farms Out Four Bus Routes

During a three-day strike by many of its drivers last month, **Capital Metro** faced numerous accusations from **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091** that it was engaging in union-busting. As it turns out, Cap Metro was putting fuel on that fire even while the strike was ongoing.

In a letter dated Nov. 7, two days into the strike, Cap Metro CEO **Fred Gilliam** informed **StarTran Inc.** — the contractor through which most Cap Metro drivers and mechanics are employed and technically the actual target of the strike — that the transit agency would be moving some routes to cheaper contractors. "As a result of the instability of StarTran's workforce, Capital Metro must take steps to ensure that our services will be provided in a consistent and reliable manner for our community," Gilliam wrote to StarTran General Manager **Terry Garcia Crews**. "Effective with the January service change, if not sooner, Capital Metro will be moving [four] routes currently operated by StarTran to other contractors."

Route 174 (North Burnet Limited) will now be operated by **First Transit**; routes 100 (Airport Flyer), 320 (St. Johns), and 338 (Lamar/45th) go to **Veolia Transportation**.

"Capital Metro is making these adjustments for good economic reasons," said Cap

Metro spokesman Adam Shaivitz. "We are facing the same financial realities that every other government organization is facing. For the first two months of the fiscal year, revenues are more than \$2 million below budget. We are working diligently to try to avoid cutting services or laying off employees.

"These route assignments will save about \$1.5 million annually in wages, benefits, fuel, and nonrevenue/deadhead time [buses traveling from or to the garage at the beginning or end of a route]," Shaivitz said.

The "good economic reason" is pretty simple, says ATU President **Jay Wyatt**: Veolia's and First Transit's workers get paid less. Although their work forces are also represented by ATU, they have separate and less lucrative contracts than StarTran workers.

Cap Metro contracts out its work force because state law forbids it from engaging in collective bargaining, but federal law requires it in order to receive federal funds. Thus, Cap Metro created StarTran to hire most of the drivers. (Veolia and First Transit are based in Illinois — via France — and Ohio, respectively.)

This twisted little shell game creates a situation where different employees get different wages and benefits, despite essentially all running out of the same Cap Metro headquarters, Wyatt says. "Capital Metro provides everything to those subcontractors," he says. "All they have to do is walk in the door with a pad and a [pen]. [Capital Metro] has all the equipment: They have the office equipment, buses; they pay for the gas; they pay for insurance, everything. So what happens is, these companies like Veolia and First Transit, they make a profit. They don't come over here to do this work for free. So the profit that they make takes away from the wages and benefits of the employees that work for them. So that's how they save money."

ATU has filed a grievance with Capital Metro claiming that the route shifts violate a 2005 arbitration agreement with StarTran and the workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

— Lee Nichols

VA BRAIN RESEARCH LAB COULD CLOSE

In an ironic twist of fate, the Austin-based **Veteran Affairs' Brain Imaging and Recovery Laboratory** may be getting shut down. The lab was created in 2006 to study and develop treatments for combat-related traumatic brain injury. Earlier this year, its director, neurologist Dr. **Robert Van Boven**, publicly accused his bosses at the **Central Texas Veterans Health Care System** of fraud, mismanagement, and wasting taxpayer money. Van Boven charged that more than \$1 million in BIRL funds had been spent on a research project that had nothing to do with traumatic brain injury, had little scientific merit, and was being conducted by unqualified researchers. When Van Boven's bosses at the Central Texas system ignored his gripes, he filed a complaint with the VA Office of Inspector General. A report released by the inspector general in July largely confirmed Van Boven's allegations.

That very report may lead to the BIRL's shuttering. The report prompted an internal probe by a committee of VA health-care officials compiled by Timothy Shea, the director of the **VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network** (or VISN 17), the organization that oversees the Central Texas system. "The panel has met, and there could be a possible recommendation to close the BIRL," says VISN 17 public affairs officer Diana Struski. The decision, she says, is expected by the end of the month. Should the BIRL close, Struski says, its funding would likely be transferred to a unit in Waco studying combat-induced post-traumatic stress disorder.

Van Boven is hopping mad over the possibility of the BIRL closing. "Closing this sorely needed TBI program is throwing the baby out and keeping the dirty bathwater — managers who engage in misconduct, suppression, and inaction to disclosures of fraud, waste, and mismanagement," he says. "The root problem is not the lab or its mission. The problem is [managers] who know nothing about science. Now they want to decapitate the center because its leader was speaking out against their shenanigans."

The move could once and for all seal the fate of Van Boven, whom the VA has been trying to fire for months. Beginning last spring, Van Boven's bosses began formal proceedings in an attempt to terminate him over a laundry list of trumped-up charges.

Last month, the VA notified Van Boven that he would indeed lose his job within two weeks. However, the federal Office of Special Council stepped in, and the VA agreed to a 60-day stay while the OSC conducts an investigation into possible whistle-blower reprisals against Van Boven. He remains on paid, nonduty status.

— Laurel Chesky



JANA BIRCHUM

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WHITMIRE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM IS DOING FINE

"Sadism is not a must in therapy." – Kerry Wolf, *Hackberry Unit*, 2001-2002

In September, Austin attorney **Derek Howard** received another batch of narratives written by female inmates alleging they were severely and shamelessly mistreated while incarcerated at one of several of the state's **Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities** (aka "SAFPF"), which are charged with the statutory responsibility of rehabilitating drug and alcohol offenders. Writing from the Hackberry Unit in Gatesville, one inmate had posed a question: What would state senators do about SAFPF if they found out what it was really like?

During Nov. 13 interim charge hearings conducted by the Senate **Criminal Justice Committee**, chaired by Houston Sen. **John Whitmire**, the inmate's question was answered – but not as she might have hoped. Despite a growing pile of inmate reports accumulating over the last year – personal narratives that graphically recount "mind-crushing" torment, even torture, suffered by SAFPF inmates – the committee blithely looked the other way, praising SAFPF personnel and exchanging drunk jokes with them during the hearing. Whitmire declared of SAFPF, "We'd be in a hell of a mess without it."

That many inmates describe SAFPF as a state-funded hell on earth was of little consequence to the committee. As reported in the *Chronicle* ("Rehabilitation or Torture?" May 23), inmates claim that staff members force them to sit in chairs for long hours and days, for weeks and months on end, in a global punishment known as "tighthouse"; compel SAFPF "sisters" to verbally berate each other during "family" time; routinely call inmates "whores," "bitches," and bad mothers; and mockingly dispense "miracle water" rather than medicine for serious conditions. Numerous inmates contend that SAFPF is worse than prison and a far cry from healthy rehabilitation.

Earlier this year, following the initial reports of inmate charges, Whitmire's committee announced that this interim hearing would focus on SAFPF procedures. But by August, specific mention of SAFPF had dropped off

the hearing agenda. Asked why, a committee aide said: "There's not enough evidence. ... We're not going to hold hearings based on your article" – or based on the growing pile of inmate testimonials, apparently.

At last month's Senate hearings to review, among other things, the state's privately run prisons and related programs, Whitmire was caught off guard by the testimony of Kerry Wolf, former inmate of the Hackberry "special needs" SAFPF unit in Gatesville. "Obviously, you've come to support SAFPF," the senator began. "Did it work?" Wolf answered, "I was appalled by the human rights abuses and torture that went on in the name of treatment." She'd sat through tighthouse herself. "I saw inmates who were already mentally fragile losing their minds, running around, tearing out their hair, falling out of chairs onto the floor, having seizures, fainting, or hallucinating," Wolf said. As for "peer-driven" therapy, she told the committee, it was "*Lord of the Flies* run amok."

But Wolf was the lone SAFPF critic that day. A dismissive Whitmire implied that she'd been out of SAFPF too long for her testimony to matter, sighing in relief, "Ohhhhh ... there's been a lot of changes since then" (Wolf was in SAFPF from

2001 to 2002). Whitmire quickly lost interest, and during most of her testimony, he fidgeted and whispered to an aide. **Michael Giniger** took the mic and promptly discredited Wolf. "I am vice president of **Gateway Foundation**, the organization that this woman claims tortures people in our SAFPF facilities, which we don't. I ... tell you as I told you before, the SAFPF programs that are offered here in Texas ... are by far the best offered in the country." He pointed to 2003 "outcome studies," conducted by the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council, which showed "astonishingly good outcomes." Unsurprisingly, Whitmire didn't point out that those studies also covered the years when Wolf was at SAFPF. Wolf left the hearings in tears. "I can't

stand to listen to this," she said.

Witness **Shirley Otto**, a counselor at Hackberry for three years, denied any abuses and defended tighthouse as "an adult time-out." She herself had actually gone through the program, as have other SAFPF counselors. Speaking of her stay, she said, "I needed some intensive 'behavior modification,'" a phrase other inmates describe as ominous. "We're supportive of SAFP and love to hear from people like you," Whitmire responded, probing no further. "Let's celebrate your sobriety."

Counselor **Becky Green** (who left SAFPF in 1997) defended SAFPF's methods, saying, "There are reasons we do what we do," and,

"There's no other program better than this." Her comments echoed the Gateway official's disclaimer that some of the methods Gateway uses as "treatment" are "not comfortable." His talk might have been part sales pitch, too – the state again is seeking a contractor

to provide 63 million dollars' worth of new SAFPF beds. Outside the hearing room, a woman (who asked that her name be withheld) spoke to the *Chronicle* on her own behalf and corroborated key inmate claims of abuse, based on her 2005 experience at Hackberry. She recalled being confined to "chairs" from about 4am to 8pm for a week. Inmates were given peanut-butter sandwiches three times a day, save for an occasional burrito. She heard inmates called "bitches" and "whores," and confirmed they were shamed for "sucking glass dick" (i.e., smoking crack). She said she complained about SAFPF "all the time" during her stay but explained, "My complaints weren't valid." Asked whether abuses aided her recovery, she said, "somewhat."

Sen. John Whitmire

JANA BIRCHUM

Wx web extra

A selection of transcribed and slightly edited narratives written by women in SAFPF can be found with this story online at austinchronicle.com.

Public Safety Likely to Avoid Big Budget Cuts

Assistant City Manager **Mike McDonald** told members of Austin's Public Safety Task Force – and members of the city's three public-safety agencies who were attending the group's Monday meeting – that it's uncertain whether their departments will have to cut 2% from their next year's budget. Rather, he said, the chiefs of Austin's **EMS, Police Department, and Fire Department** have been asked by City Hall to ask themselves, "If you had to cut 2 percent, what would that look like?" McDonald said. He said the city doesn't plan to make across-the-board cuts and that proportional cuts are not necessarily on the agenda. McDonald says he's meeting with the three chiefs this week to see what cuts they think they could make and will then review those possible cost cuts next week with the city's finance honchos. "At that point, a lot of things come off the table," McDonald said, because it becomes obvious that certain things just can't be cut.

Council Members **Lee Leffingwell** and **Mike Martinez**, who is chair of the task force, agreed that they would not endorse across-the-board cuts to public safety. "I would not support that," said Leffingwell, who noted that he didn't think that "furloughing" city employees and freezing positions, which the city did during the last downturn, was very prudent (it was a "draconian" way to ease the budget, he said, and has left the city woefully short of manpower in certain departments – such as Code Enforcement). Additionally, Martinez said he doesn't necessarily think every department should be subject to the cuts – for example, EMS already canceled one cadet class to save money, and the question remains: "What additional cuts [could we] make without affecting services?" he asked. "I think that's going to be very thin."

– Jordan Smith

Following the hearing, Whitmire was asked whether being called "bitches" and "whores" should be part of the state's rehabilitative regimen. "None of us thinks it should," he told the *Chronicle*. "If they're doing that, they should stop." John Moriarty, state inspector general over the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, refused to answer that question. Moriarty did say that his office has completed a review of SAFPFs and that no civil rights laws or state policies have been violated.

Although Whitmire believes SAFPFs have changed for the better, inmates remain skeptical that cosmetic changes – such as renaming the still-enforced tighthouse "reflection house" – will have a beneficial effect. "When or if public officials come [for inspection], they will change [SAFPF] to look presentable, but as soon as they leave, we'll be treated like garbage," one inmate from the Halbert Unit wrote on Sept. 3.

Inmates still report being called "dope fiends" and being assigned childish tasks such as coloring and singing nursery rhymes. One inmate described watching pus drip from her untreated staph infection as she was forced to clean showers. Another said she witnessed the jovial Otto yelling at an inmate who had smiled at her, "Don't smile!"; this inmate also recounted urinating in her underwear after being denied a bathroom trip. Another inmate said that during tighthouse, a clinical supervisor taunted, "Y'all don't want to go out there and continue to be crack whores, do you?"

The stream of letters to attorney Howard abruptly stopped in September. Was it the systemwide lockdown resulting from a recent death row threat on Whitmire's life? Was it because inmates learned there would be no lawsuit, due to the expense? Another letter may provide another possible answer: Inmates were being threatened with solitary confinement if they tried to get the word out about alleged SAFPF abuses.

According to another narrative, in October inmates were supposed to "model" sitting "appropriately" in chairs for "observers" during a "media event." (The *Chronicle* was not invited.) If they were among the official observers, legislators might ask themselves: Just how can SAFPF be improved, if lawmakers remain indifferent to inmates' pleas for help?

– Patricia J. Ruland



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*Belinda Allison passed away in Atlanta, GA on November 11, 2008.
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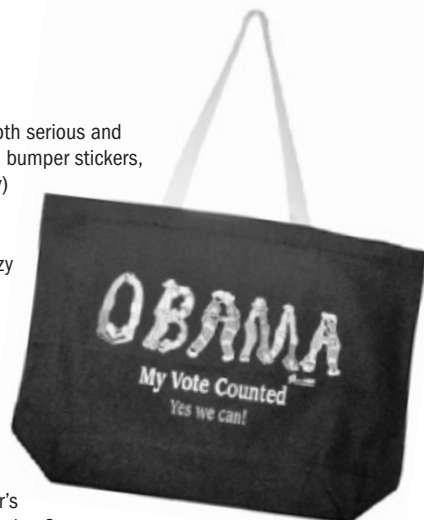
Bring Austin's back yard inside, and stay up to date with a lovely calendar of Hill Country photos shot by local shutterbugs. Purchases of this page turner – a steal at \$13.99 – benefit the nonprofit Hill Country Alliance, which works hard to preserve what's left of our shrinking natural resources. Throughout this month, you can also bid on the calendar's original, autographed photos at the "Hill Country Photography Exhibit." For more, see "Res Publica," p.20.

– Amy Smith

THE OBAMA STORE

1111 E. 11th, www.theobamastoreonline.com

Obamanos! to the Obama Store for celebratory gifts both serious and lighthearted. In addition to a plethora of T-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, and buttons, proprietor Glen Maxey (yes, that Glen Maxey) stocks many unique locally produced boutique items. We loved the \$35 one-of-a-kind T-shirts by Austin graffiti stencil artist Kibo Robinson, age 12. The kiddos went crazy for the colorful \$5 swirly straws spelling Obama. Sparkly Guatemalan bracelets made by the Mayan Women's Beading Association are \$10. A locally made "I Bark for Barack" Chihuahua jacket runs \$15; the doggy bandana is \$12. And who could resist sending their Republican relatives a holiday card with a photo of Obama that says, "Happy New Year: Just get used to it"? Your more-to-love friends will appreciate the hard-to-find 2XL to 4XL T-shirts. Open every day (but Christmas and New Year's Day) from 11am to 7pm through the inauguration. – Katherine Gregor



THE OFFICIAL HIGH TIMES POT SMOKER'S HANDBOOK

by David Bienenstock

Chronicle Books, 208 pp., \$19.95 (paper)

DYING TO GET HIGH: MARIJUANA AS MEDICINE

by Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb

New York University Press, 257 pp., \$22

Finding legal gifts for the pot smokers on your holiday list can be challenging, but this year two new pot-inspired books make shopping for your favorite tokers easy. From the folks at *High Times* magazine comes *The Official High Times Pot Smoker's Handbook*, which is filled with fun marijuana facts – including a list of pot-friendly travel destinations, quotes from famous folks taken from *High Times* interviews, and information for getting involved in the fight to change pot laws. Informative and fun for the whole tokin' clan. On the more serious side, from sociologist Wendy Chapkis and communications studies lecturer Richard Webb comes *Dying to Get High: Marijuana as Medicine*, which offers a fascinating look at medi-pot, medi-pot patients, and the state of the nation's drug laws, a must-read for every pot-law reformer.

– Jordan Smith



CONTRIBUTION TO CPPP

www.cppp.org

Got a policy wonk on your list? Someone who'd be pleased to know they had a hand in helping the working poor, struggling families, and children in foster care? Delight your favorite wonk with a gift in his or her name to the Center for Public Policy Priorities. The nonpartisan nonprofit works to improve the lives of Texans in need through research and advocacy, and contributions this holiday season will fuel its efforts at the state legislative session that starts in January. Gift contributions can be made online; CPPP sends a gift-announcement letter to the lucky recipient. (Make the gift ASAP to ensure a letter by Christmas.)

– K.G.

2008 CAPITOL ORNAMENT

\$18, www.texascapitolgiftshop.com

What's hanging from all the best trees on Wisteria Lane this season? The 2008 Texas Capitol ornament (as endorsed by Texas' own Desperate Housewife, Eva Longoria Parker). The 13th release in the series, it replicates the design on the floor of the Capitol Rotunda, showing the state seal and the famous six flags. Best of all, proceeds go to state House restoration projects.


– Richard Whittaker



ETSY.COM

Crafter hub Etsy.com is a treasure trove of topical, one-of-a-kind gifts made by do-it-yourselfers near and far. From New York's Theme Fragrance shop comes one of the most practical pieces of Obamaganda we've seen: the Obalm Ah! lip balm (\$7.50), the perfect stocking stuffer for the chapped-lip liberal on your list this dry winter season. Meanwhile, one of the strangest (and strangely lovable) Obama trinkets we've seen is the Obama angel ornament complete with fuzzy wings (\$13.50) from Full Frog Moon in Wyoming. Other Etsy favorites come from the prolific printmakers at Isotope, which features more than 1,000 T-shirts with unusual graphic designs. We like the oddly intricate theory of evolution shirt (\$16), depicting everything from primitive protoplasm to the evolution of legs to the beginnings of human speech. We also like the "Congratulations! It's a recession!" shirt (\$16), an upbeat twist on these gloomy economic times based on what Isotopes' designers describe as a "hilariously cool and retro piece of 80's clipart." Last but not least, don't forget to support your local economy: Shop for Austin-made goodies at www.etsy.com/shop_local.php. – Nora Ankrum





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BUSH PARDONS HIP-HOP ARTIST

Forté was dealt harsh sentence under draconian drug law

BY JORDAN SMITH

President **George W. Bush** on Nov. 24 granted pardons to 14 prisoners and commutations for two offenders – including hip-hop artist **John Forté**, convicted of cocaine possession in federal court in Houston in 2001 and handed a 14-year prison term under mandatory-minimum sentencing. The decision to release Forté was applauded by drug-law reformers who have long argued that man-min sentences are bad policy and do nothing to curb drug use and trafficking. “We certainly are thrilled to see him get out, because his sentence was too long,” Families Against Mandatory Minimums staff attorney Molly Gill told ABC News. Indeed, roughly half of the federal prison population is doing time for drug offenses.

Forté studied violin at New Hampshire’s Phillips Exeter Academy before meeting up with Lauryn Hill in the early 1990s and becoming a part of the Refugee Camp. Forté wrote two songs for the Fugees’ 1996 album, *The Score*, and later toured with Wyclef Jean. Sales of his first solo effort, *Poly Sci*,

were dismal, and Columbia, who’d given him the solo deal, dropped him. Forté was financially stressed and depressed and ended up living for a time at the Martha’s Vineyard compound of Carly Simon, whose son, Ben Taylor, was a friend. Forté tried to make ends meet, in part by taking a gig spinning records at a Manhattan club, he told *Rolling Stone* in 2002. It was there that he met 35-year-old alleged drug dealer Chris Thompson, who told Forté he needed female couriers to transport some “stuff,” Forté told the magazine.

In 2000, Drug Enforcement Administration agents in Houston (tipped by Harlingen Police) stopped at the airport a pair of women Forté presumably recruited for Thompson. Inside their bags narco agents found 30 8-by-10 freezer packages of liquid cocaine. The women rolled and reportedly phoned Forté, who told them to fly to Newark. Forté was busted the next day as he loaded the bags into a taxicab and charged under federal law with conspiracy and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Forté maintains that he had no idea there were drugs in the bags, which he thought contained cash. Thompson was never charged and instead took the stand against Forté. In the end, Forté was found not guilty of conspiracy but was nonetheless handed a 14-year man-min for possession. He had no criminal record. Had he not received clemency from Bush, Forté would not be released until 2013.

Simon put up a substantial portion of Forté’s original \$650,000 bond and has continued to help with his legal bills. She told *Rolling Stone* that the federal man-min sentencing scheme had taken power from judges to make individualized sentencing determinations. “I think the judge in John’s case was extremely frustrated by having to go by them and likely would have given John a much lesser sentence if it wasn’t for the mandatory minimums,” she said. Simon has lobbied for Forté’s release, as has Utah Republican Sen.

Orrin Hatch – a fairly prolific singer-songwriter who in 2006 used his political clout to help Atlanta music producer Dallas Austin avoid a prison term in Dubai after he was convicted of drug possession – who wrote to Bush in January 2007 urging Forté’s release. “Now is the perfect opportunity for John to be given the chance to provide positive benefits to society through his considerable musical talents,” he wrote.

Until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the federal sentencing guidelines should be considered advisory (a position they reiterated in a pair of cases in 2007), returning a measure of discretion to sentencing judges, the man-min scheme did effectively strip from federal judges any ability to take into consideration an individual defendant’s situation

reefer
madness



APD Chief Art Acevedo

JANA BIRCHUM

NAACP Honors Local Officials

Five local officials were presented with leadership awards by the NAACP at the 43rd **DeWitty/Overton Freedom Fund Awards** ceremony on Dec. 6. Austin Police Monitor Cliff Brown received the DeWitty/Overton award, the night’s top honor. Austin Police Lt. Monroe Yarbrough received the Capt. Louis White award; APD Chief Art Acevedo, Solid Waste Services Director Willie Rhodes, and City Council Member Sheryl Cole were also honored.

– Jordan Smith

when making sentencing decisions. The man-min has been particularly devastating for low-level, nonviolent drug offenders – a problem seen particularly in the much reviled 100-to-1 sentencing disparity in crack-to-powder cocaine offenses. (Possession of just 5 grams of crack nets a five-year sentence, but it would take possession of 500 grams of powder cocaine to secure that same five years, even though the two drugs are, essentially, identical. The disparity, codified at the height of public concern about the scourge of crack, has been particularly devastating for minority defendants. The U.S. Sentencing Commission last year finally did away with the crack-to-powder disparity.) While the man-min drug sentences were envisioned as a tool to punish high-level dealers and traffickers, the so-called “kingpins” of the trade, the effect has been quite different, with the majority of those caught up in the system and sentenced under the scheme lower-level dealers and users, who have no leverage to avoid the hammer of the system – as did, apparently, Thompson, the alleged dealer in Forté’s case.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums applauded Bush’s decision to release Forté, who is a Famm member. Bush’s actions “highlight an underlying problem with sentencing policy – the systemic injustice caused by mandatory minimum sentences,” said Julie Stewart, Famm president and founder, in a press statement. “One-size-fits-all mandatory sentencing laws undermine the fundamental principle that punishment should fit the crime and the individual offender, and they are costly to administer and ineffective at reducing drug usage. We hope that the incoming administration and Congress will make federal sentencing reform a high priority.” Forté is scheduled to be released Dec. 22.



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the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Economists, myopically poring over reams of data, have finally noticed that our economy is in a recession. If only they'd looked around, they could have seen less abstract indicators showing that the economy has long been in a heap of hurt. For example: abandoned boats.

Along rivers, in coves, and on other waterfronts around the country, there are reports that thousands of vessels are being ditched by their owners. These are not junkers but everything from pleasure boats to commercial fishing rigs that have simply become too expensive for the hard-hit owners to maintain. With no one in the market for buying used craft, which also have very little in scrap value, the owners slip them into a marina or onto a beach, remove the ID numbers, and walk away.

Another sign of the times can be seen at the very top of America's financial pyramid, where the party seems to be over. At least it is for Marc Jacobs, the high-society designer in New York City, who throws an annual holiday bash for a few hundred of his closest friends. Last year, for example, some 800 swells came to Jacobs' gala dressed in *Arabian Nights* costumes. They were bedazzled by bare-chested women draped with golden necklaces, lavish food and drink, and, at a climactic moment in the evening, a shower of golden glitter falling over them.

Those were the days, huh? This year, however, instead of an invitation, guests received a terse e-mail saying: "Due to the financial climate, I had to make the decision to cancel the 2008 holiday party." The glitter is gone from the Gilded Age.

Folks at the bottom are used to hearing hard times knock on their doors, but when the gates of opulence also get a knock, you know that something different is taking place in this downturn. As one marketer of luxury goods recently observed: "We're just seeing the very beginning of this."

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.

BUSH OKAYS ENVIRONMENTAL GROTESQUERIE

Let's say you are the CEO of a coal corporation, and you want to get at the black gold deep inside the beautiful, verdant mountains of Appalachia. You have a choice.

You could use industrial ingenuity and environmental finesse to extract the coal. But, hey, why not just demolish the entire top third of those mountains with explosives, bulldoze the resulting rubble down the mountainsides into the streams below, then simply scoop out the coal? Yes, it's brutish and nasty, but, wow, so much more profitable for your corporation! What's a CEO to do?

Of course, the coal barons have chosen what's euphemistically known as "mountaintop removal." This is why America has regulatory agencies - to restrain such greed-headed destruction. So ... where are the restrainers? Rushing to legalize the sledgehammering of Appalachia.

The Bush administration, at the behest of coal corporations that were generous financial backers of George W., has delivered a new rule to "clarify" a 25-year-old ban on dumping mountaintop rubble into valley streams. This clarification is a shameful semantic sham, declaring that the coal giants "must not" dump their spoil into Appalachia's pristine waters unless the corporations say they must - and even then the profiteers should try to minimize the destruction "to the extent practicable."

This regulatory cave-in was announced by the head of Bush's Council on Environmental Quality. Guess who he is? Bingo, if you said he's a former lobbyist for the coal barons! Why are we not surprised? The new rule will take effect only three weeks before Bush & Co. leave office - a priceless departing gift to brutish decapitators of Appalachia.

You have to see this environmental grotesquerie to comprehend it. To see photos - and to help overturn Bush's giveaway - go to Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition's website at www.ohvec.org.

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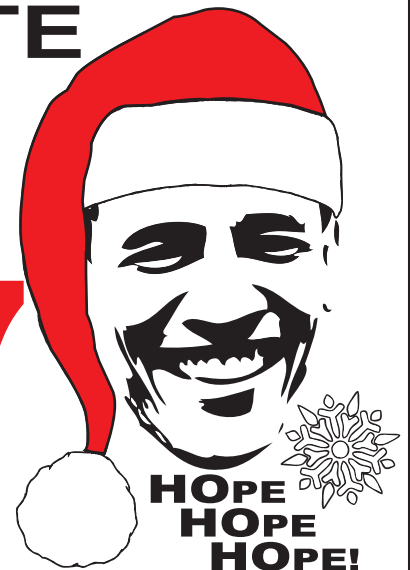
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Translating the War

From Hebron to Camp Mabry:
A Palestinian's path to U.S. citizenship

**PHOTOS AND TEXT
BY KATIE HAYES**

"I followed the war and followed the politics," explains Turk. "I was seeing Americans not familiar with the Eastern culture, Iraqi culture and Palestinian culture. If we knew more about the people and the culture and religion, things would have been easier."



Sgt. Michael Turk arrived in Austin from Hebron, on the West Bank, in 1996, shortly after marrying a U.S. citizen, the daughter of a Palestinian father and American mother. The same year, Turk (his given name is Muhammed Abu Snaineh) obtained a green card, and in 2001, three months before September 11, he applied for citizenship. He was interviewed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in 2002, and again in 2004, but never received a response.

Though Turk says American citizenship was important in his decision to join the U.S. military, another motivation was the large cultural divide he saw concerning the U.S. presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2005, Turk entered the O9L (in military lingo, "Zero Nine Lima") Interpreter/Translator program with the Texas Army National Guard. The program is designed to help bridge the communication gap between U.S. military forces and communities in the Middle East. Since the program's inception in 2003, the U.S. Army has graduated 675 soldiers who are native or heritage speakers fluent in Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Dari, and Pashto and mobilized them in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In late 2007, Turk returned to Austin from a one-year deployment in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, where he drove a Humvee for the U.S. Marines and worked closely with Iraqi police. Currently, Turk's main focus at Camp Mabry is on the recruitment and retention of Arabic-speaking soldiers. Through community outreach, advertisements in Arabic newspapers, and one-on-one contact within the community, he spreads the message about the benefits of joining the U.S. military, which include an expedited path to citizenship. Turk acquired his citizenship Sept. 18 – just in time to register to vote and cast his ballot in the Nov. 4 election.



New graduates of the Advanced Individual Training for the O9L program in Fort Jackson, S.C., march to the barracks after their graduation ceremony in November. After boot camp, soldiers attend the AIT program for six weeks to learn specific communication/interpreter/translator skills.

Turk addresses recent graduates of the AIT in Fort Jackson, answering questions about the program's signing bonus, citizenship applications, and mobilization orders.



"We have an atypical relationship," explains Capt. Malcolm Warbrick (left), the O9L language and program manager for Camp Mabry, about his working relationship with Turk. "I like to think that I take his feedback to heart because of the importance of his role here. ... He is the grassroots of the program." Warbrick joined the O9L Army National Guard in April 2008 after serving as a Farsi linguist in the Army.



During a community outreach program for the O9L unit, Turk invited fourth- and fifth-graders from the Austin Peace Academy, a private school founded on the Islamic principles, to tour the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry.



In a visit in October to the Arab-American Cultural & Community Center in Houston, Turk speaks with Dr. Hanna Francis (center) during a voter-registration drive. While advertisement for the O9L program is important for recruitment, Turk believes visiting community events is essential in creating awareness of the program. As a requirement to join the military, recruits must be legal permanent residents or U.S. citizens. In times of war, a soldier may apply for citizenship after only one day of service in active duty.



Turk awoke early on the first day of early voting in Texas and was one of the first Austinites to cast his ballot at one of the new mega voting sites, on Airport Boulevard. "It was a very unique and special feeling that I was able to vote in this critical election," he said. "It was not only critical for American history but in world history."

Roger Beasley

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Dear Austin,

Time to give it up, people. Economy, schmonomy. If you have coin for beer, you have coin for cheer – specifically the helping kind for your sister-brotherman. The end of the year equals natural giving season. Not only is it a natural time for reflection, what with the calendar page-turn and all, but it's also the last gasp before tax time, the last chance to unload and sneak in a li'l tax break come April 15.

And face it. Even in ample Austin, land of condo canyons and high livin', we have friends who are simply doing what they can to get by, who hurt, especially during commerce-happy holidays. Let's remember our neighbors and take a moment to check out these annual wish lists from local public-service groups.

Each year, *The Austin Chronicle* invites local nonprofits to submit lists of all the things they need to serve our community. Lists are still coming in as we go to press. We edit these lists as space dictates and encourage you to research the details on what specific kinds/brands/sizes of things are needed (especially regarding tech specs). Here's a big hint: They always need your cash and love (i.e., volunteer hours).

So go to it, dear Austin. Go share thine booty, thine plentiful excess, and show these folks how much we appreciate their places in our community and the good they do all year long.

– Kate X Messer; list compiled by X and Meghan Ruth Speakerman

Part 2 runs next week in print, and the overflow and any last-minuteers will appear online. (There is still time to submit your list at wishlist@austinchronicle.com.)

Also see "Donate for the Holidays," *Food*, p.48, for more giving opportunities.

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Ellen Berman, Studio Rocking Chair, 2007, Oil on board, 7 x 5 inches, Courtesy of Damian and Paula Priour

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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 believed that a great nation deserves great art.

ESTHER'S FOLLIES

Back as Barack

Sure, the housing market is glutted, the stock market is in free fall, and every corporation in America is looking for a handout – to paraphrase Prince, the economy is tanking like it's 1929. Still, it's a good time to be a light-skinned black man in America. Just ask Derek Reid. Shortly after graduating from Bowie High in 1992, Reid started working open mics at the Velveeta Room. "I'd always wanted to be a comedian, but I wasn't sure how to go about doing that," says Reid. "So I'd go down to Sixth Street, you know, and I would notice these people in these windows performing from the street, and I was like, 'What is this?'"

What it was, was Esther's Follies, and after a scant year, Reid found himself performing there, playing Colin Powell and Michael Irvin and writing a lot of film parodies. "I can't tell you how cool it was being 21 years old and making a living as a sketch comedian," enthuses Reid. "I was taking theatre classes at UT and ACC, and they were telling us, 'You probably won't work much as a professional, and if you do, you probably won't get your first job until you're 30,' and I was already working."

After just four years with the Follies, Reid got snatched up to host a Los Angeles-based show called *The Basement* on Fox Family Channel.

Although it lasted only one season and the channel tanked shortly thereafter, it was a blessing for Reid, who landed commercial work and gigs with the Groundlings and Upright Citizens Brigade.

Which brings us back to the light-skinned black man thing. "I first premiered my Obama at the Groundlings. I was hoping to get *Saturday Night Live's* attention. Right now they have Fred Armisen doing Obama, and he does a great job, but he's white, so there's certain jokes I can make that he can't." When the Follies' Obama, Espie Randolph, got the gig as the Macy's Elf in Zach Theatre's *The Santaland Diaries*, Esther's called on Reid. "I'm not replacing Espie. It just worked out perfectly that about the same time I was coming home for the holidays, Espie was leaving. And I'll be departing right about the time he's coming back. Plus, I am the light-skinned black man, and he is the darker-skinned black man, so Obama is actually my territory."

So what, exactly, makes Obama funny? "It's his cool. He's a lot like Henry Winkler in *Happy Days*. I can see



COURTESY OF HENRY FRIEDMAN

Derek Reid as the president-elect

him walking into a bar and pounding a jukebox and it instantly coming on. When they introduce me, they have the *Shaft* music playing in the background. I mean, he's just cool. And that's funny, you know? That we finally have a cool president again." – Barry Pineo

Esther's Follies performs Thursdays, 8pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8 & 10pm, at Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth. For more information, call 320-0553 or visit www.estersfollies.com.



ARTHOUSE

A timely cash infusion for that home makeover

The good news from Arthouse just keeps coming. Following the announcement that curator Elizabeth Dunbar gave birth to a son the day after opening her latest exhibition, the statewide contemporary art association has announced a new push in the renovation of its headquarters at the corner of Congress and Seventh streets: Patrons Mickey and Jeanne Klein, Julie and John Thornton, and an anonymous donor have joined forces to add \$500,000 to the Arthouse capital campaign in the form of a 2-to-1 challenge grant. For every \$2 in new three-year pledges that the campaign receives, this team will kick another buck into the pot, which could mean a cool million for the makeover of the Jones Center for Contemporary Art. Celebrated New York firm Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis will take the vacant upstairs of the historic onetime movie theatre and department store and make a new main gallery, a 90-seat multipurpose room for film and video screenings, and two artists' studios for artists in residence at Arthouse. And on the roof will be a new 5,500-square-foot space with a 17-foot-by-33-foot movie screen for special events and screenings. Arthouse has currently raised \$4.2 million toward the campaign's \$6.6 million goal. Once the Klein Thornton Arthouse Challenge is met, the organization will be 80% of the way home. Look for construction to begin in 2009 and be completed in 2010, in advance of Arthouse's 2011 centennial. For more information, visit www.arthousetexas.org. – Robert Faires



I-r: Whitney Eads, Bonnie Cullum, and Edna Parra

THE VORTEX

Parting is such sweet sorrow

For six years, one of the key people keeping that pioneering Eastside theatre the Vortex spinning has been Edna Parra, who has "done everything from publicity to sweeping up leaves to grant writing to costume construction to book-keeping to event planning to staff management," according to Artistic Director Bonnie Cullum. Parra was a freshman at the University of Texas when Cullum hired her as an administrative assistant, and she was Cullum's good right arm through four years of college, after which she joined the board of directors. Last

year Parra was named Vortex's managing director. Cullum describes her as "a tough businesswoman, a reliable friend, and a bright, good-natured spirit with a sense of humor" who "has seen me through some of the most challenging times at the Vortex. It has been her willingness to do whatever it takes,

to take on whatever job I needed her to do, and to take the pressure off me that has made her an immeasurable treasure to the Vortex." Parra is leaving the theatre to move to New Zealand for a while, but Cullum is counting on her eventual return; she's keeping Parra on the Vortex board in an advisory capacity.

Succeeding Parra as managing director will be Whitney Thomas Eads, a graduate of Hope College in Michigan and recent arrival to Austin who heard about the Vortex from her husband, lighting designer Clay Eads. She approached Cullum about possible employment and was invited to help run the show. For more information, visit www.vortexrep.org.

– R.F.

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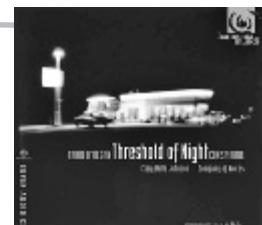
Sweet repeat at the Grammys

Two cheers for Conspirare! The astounding vocal ensemble led by Craig Hella Johnson is now two for two for two with the Grammys: two CDs two years apart and two nominations for each. Conspirare's recording *Requiem* was up for Best Choral Performance and Best Engineered Album, Classical for the 49th annual Grammys in 2007. The latest honors, announced Dec. 3, come for *Tarik O'Regan: Threshold of Night*, a disc featuring compositions by the masterful young British composer whose work so impressed Johnson that he devoted an entire concert to it (see "Threshold of Night: Music of Tarik O'Regan," Oct. 5, 2007) and recorded the concert selections in the acoustically stunning Troy Savings Bank Music Hall in Troy, N.Y. The resulting CD, Conspirare's first for premier classical label Harmonia Mundi, was released in September to impressive sales and rapturous reviews. (See "Conspirare," Sept. 5.) The Grammy nominations in the categories of Best Choral Performance and Best Classical Album are exquisite icing on an exceptional cake.

O'Regan was in the UK working late when he heard a BBC announcer make reference to the

nominations, which he hadn't realized were being announced. Going to the Grammy website, he writes, "I clicked on 'Field 30, Classical' and there, staring me right in the face was 'Best Classical Album: O'Regan, Tarik: Threshold of Night (Conspirare/Craig Hella Johnson).'" Not quite trusting his eyes – it was 3am – he went to bed. By the time he got up, a press release from Harmonia Mundi was in his in-box confirming the great news. "I sent a very simple e-mail to Craig, [Conspirare Executive Director] Erich Vollmer, [marketing and communications manager] Chuck Lutke, Harmonia Mundi, and the recording engineers that simply said, 'Congratulations everyone, how wonderfully exciting!' We then all took turns e-patting ourselves on the back over the course of the day. You know, it feels like some classic TV show from the Seventies, where a whole family gets to win a holiday somewhere! That's how I feel. Very much a team effort. I've been thinking all day, 'Ah, that's how they feel at the Olympics!'"

For more information, visit www.conspirare.org. – R.F.



Early to Rise

Daniel Johnson loves early music's purity of sound and intimacy, and he's not alone

BY ROBERT FAIRES

Daniel Johnson doesn't look like a rebel. And he certainly doesn't sound like a rebel. But don't be fooled by the middle-age placidity, the casual air in his manner and dress, the voice that rarely rises above pianissimo. This man bucks the system, the party line, and he's been doing so for more than 30 years.

See, he plays early music. Early, as in before the Classical Era, before the days when Mozart, Beethoven, and the other gods of symphonic composition began their reign over the concert hall. Early, as in baroque music and its predecessor, Renaissance music, and its predecessor, medieval music. It's not the stuff that's in heavy rotation on your KMFA's of the world, not the bread and butter of your symphony orchestras, not the core curriculum of your schools of music studied by your aspiring "serious" composers, not the sanctioned "great" music of the Western world used to measure our cultural literacy. There's a reason we call it *classical* music. And the thing about early music is, well, it's. Just. Not. Classical.

Time was, all the hardcore music community pretty much had to do was ignore early music, treat it as a curiosity for specialists, for students of prehistory in the Western musical tradition. But in the 1950s, a few people began to discover some of this prehistoric music and made an effort to haul it out of the margins of the music textbooks. As with folk music around the same time, there were musicians that managed to popularize this forgotten, or at least underappreciated, music and commit it to vinyl, and the LPs they made were spun on dorm-room turntables across the land, catching the ear of who knows how many music students and scholars and luring them away from the well-traveled territory of the classical canon to this largely unexplored frontier.

Daniel Johnson was one of those students, a kid from Big Spring, Texas, who took to the wind-scoured plains of Lubbock to study musicology at Texas Tech, and he remembers with great fondness the liberation that came from listening to records by the early early-music ensemble New York Pro Musica. "They were trailblazers in the States," he says. "They turned so many people on [to early music], and I was one of them." The group's recordings may sound a little crude today in light of the 50 years of early-music scholarship and refinements in historical performance that have taken place since, but to the people like Johnson who discovered early music through the recordings of the Fifties and Sixties, they still enchant. "They look back on that as a really magical period because it was just so fresh to all of us. They were just so in love with it," he says.

Early music was, well, revolutionary, as unlikely as that may sound, at least in the way so many things were in the Sixties and

Seventies. Johnson recalls a concert he played in as a sophomore or junior that cemented his sense of that: "I was a young little hippie, and this guy came up, and he was so excited to see hippie-freaks doing early music. For some people, it was the new thing. It was a rejection of the old and something new. For me, it was mostly the sound of it and the possibilities that it awakened in music."

That alluring, addictive, elusive early-music sound ... it was something on a more human scale than the symphonic, choral, and operatic masterpieces of the 18th and 19th centuries. "There's a thing about doing a Bach *B Minor Mass* with a choir of 300 that has its own power," explains Johnson. "It's just astounding. But being in a group of maybe 10 people and doing something of equal musical weight and seeing the effect that that has not only on you but on the audience, it's pretty magical. It's just so personal and intimate. Individual feelings can come out in the voice, in the vocal expression."

"Early music really is about expression. It's about telling a story. In a big opera, you really don't. You have six lines of text, mostly on an 'ah' vowel, and it's just for pure, luscious, huge, beautiful sound. Huge emotions are embedded in that. Puccini operas, [Rossini's] *Cinderella* – it's great. It's wonderful. But it is a different kind of communication. Going back to chant and the troubadours, that was a way of conveying news, gossip, maybe politics, definitely a lot of love stuff. In order to communicate those words, you can't make those huge sounds, and you can't do the things that a modern singer has to do."

Early music employs a different architecture than that *B Minor Mass*. Bach was building a palace, while those troubadours or a Josquin or a Monteverdi (to name a couple of early music's superstar composers) were constructing something closer to cathedrals, houses of worship. "Think of the Basilica di San Marco in Venice, how ornate that is," Johnson offers. "That is that kind of architecture that seems like it's huge, but it's really pretty simple and very classical. It's built with the idea of promoting purity of spirit and acoustically promotes purity of sound." The architects of that era, he adds, "spent so much time creating spaces for purity of sound," and the makers of music were doing the same.

"To get purity of sound and intonation, you really do have to govern the way that you create sound, and that goes back to being much more simple, much more intimate," says Johnson.

So he was drawn to the music's personal quality, its directness and openness, and so were a lot of other people. But not everyone. The defenders of the Classical temple – big "C" – stood by the canon, and since this newfound popularity meant they couldn't merely ignore early music anymore, they actively sought to



BRET BROOKSHIRE

discourage performers from pursuing it, as if it were disreputable or even unsanitary. Johnson took the rebel stance to that, and once he did, it was pretty much inevitable that he would wind up in the poster city for rebellion in Texas: Austin. All he needed was an excuse to come here, and he got that in the form of – what else? – a band, the once-renowned, now largely forgotten early-music purveyors Clearlight Waites.

"A friend of mine in Lubbock, Mike Robertson, who played bass for Joe Ely, his sister lived in Austin, and she was a member of Clearlight Waites," Johnson remembers. "And he knew that I liked their music, and he said, 'You know, you should go check out the stuff that's happening in Austin.' So I went to the Renaissance Faire and heard Clearlight Waites and then auditioned for them, just because I was interested in moving to Austin in the first place. So then I started performing with them, and that kind of settled it. It really seemed like where I needed to go."

So in 1979, Johnson landed in Austin, and he stayed busy with Clearlight Waites for eight years. It gave him the opportunity to broaden his experience with early-music instruments, playing krummhorns and shawms and recorders and citterns, though some of it, he freely admits, "badly, really badly."

"One of the rules in Clearlight Waites was you had to play everything, so people who couldn't sing had to sing, and people who couldn't really play instruments had to play instruments, because it was supposed to be a little bit highbrow and lowbrow at the same time. It was pretty fun."

Clearlight seemed to have run its course by the mid-Eighties as more and more members started getting married or moving away, but by then, the band had helped Johnson make connections in his new hometown, connections that determined his future in ways he didn't anticipate. "I started being adjunct in the music department [at the University of Texas] in 1984, when Doug Kirk was directing the UT Early Music Ensemble," he says. "Then he moved to Montreal in '86. He got married, and he was going to go up and be with his wife for a year, then they were going to move back to Texas. I was supposed to direct the Early Music Ensemble for one year, and I don't know, Montreal has a certain draw, so he never came back. So the first year went okay, and they asked me to stay, and that lasted 17 years."

The Early Music Ensemble had the support of the UT School of Music chair, so Johnson was inheriting something that was "if not a bastard brother then at least someone you couldn't completely ignore," he says. "It was really popular," although people who came to check it out sometimes arrived with misconceptions planted by the old guard of classical music. "Students heard about this thing called Early Music Ensemble and said: 'What is it? Some people say it's not good for you.' So we tried to dispel those rumors. This is a great way to sing, promotes longevity, promotes healthy singing, promotes long hair ..."

Students to the EME came from every corner of the university – the English department, the classics department, foreign lan-

guages departments – and musicians from beyond the 40 Acres showed up, too. “It was town and gown,” says Johnson, and at times, the Early Music Ensemble included more than 80 people. The size of the group offered him a wonderful opportunity to experiment, to use instruments that he hadn’t yet learned much about and to explore the full range of early music with a medieval ensemble, a Renaissance ensemble, and a baroque orchestra. “Lots of early-music ensembles tend to be – and quite logically, I must say – pretty narrow and mostly baroque. And that’s probably wise. But there was this entire period of 300 to 400 years of medieval music that people didn’t really get to study in music history classes unless they’d go to grad school and could specialize, and it’s stupid to ignore this stuff ’cause it’s great.”

During Johnson’s 17 years with EME, he conducted 98 concerts, and his work earned him Early Music America’s Thomas Binkley Award honoring university ensemble directors. His contract as an early-music specialist was discontinued in 2003 – a casualty of budgetary bloodshed in the College of Fine Arts at the time – but by then, Johnson had established himself as an early-music specialist of international renown, performing everywhere from San Francisco to Hong Kong to Europe and maintaining a longtime position on the faculty of the Amherst Early Music Festival, plus he had another local outlet for his musical calling, the Texas Early Music Project.

TEMP, as it’s commonly known, was something Johnson created in 1987 as a town version of the Early Music Ensemble. “Sometimes there were

gigs that weren’t really for Early Music Ensemble, but there was the TEMP contingent that could take it,” he says. The organization didn’t really ramp up until the conception of the Mid-Winter Festival of Music in 1998. Now that he had met so many prominent early-music practitioners, he wanted to bring them to Austin. And he wanted to encourage local musicians to form their own ensembles outside of EME and TEMP and La Follia, Austin’s baroque music specialists. So he and his TEMP family just created a six-week festival from scratch.

“We didn’t know what the hell we were doing,” Johnson admits. “We had beginners’ karma all the first year, and the second year a little bit less great, but it was good.” It gave Johnson and friends the room for even more experimentation, to perform works they couldn’t have in a regular concert season. “That was very instructive, pointing out repertoire that we needed to look back at when we had more time and pointing out repertoire that was unexpectedly great. It opened creative doors that just aren’t there when you’re just doing a regular season, and you’re much more cautious, ‘What are the

audiences really going to like?’ as opposed to just to see what the heck this is.”

But the effort required to produce the festival took a tremendous toll, and after four years, it was abandoned. “Energywise, we felt it would be destructive to continue,” Johnson says. “I really miss it, partly for the experimentation and partly for the camaraderie. For six weeks, we’d see a lot of each other. We made a lot of mistakes, but we made gains in how we performed with one another and how we related to the audience.”

The people he performs with have become a key part of what Johnson treasures about his early-music work in Austin. “They really are my family,” he says. That extends back to people he’s performed with since the mid-Eighties, vocalists such as KUT host John Aielli and Stephanie Prewitt (“No matter what Stephanie Prewitt sings, you want more of it”) and violinist Laurie Young Stevens (“You don’t think about what she can’t do, because there’s not much she can’t do”). Every few years, he’s seen a new influx of musicians who join the group, “so it’s like generations of this family,” which affects the music that TEMP performs. “I know people’s strengths, so when I’m thinking of a program, I know not only how to use them efficiently but [how to give them] something they’ll enjoy and will knock off the socks of the socks-wearers in the audience. Also – and don’t tell anybody this – I try to find something that they can’t do or haven’t really been able to master so far; they still have to think about it a little bit.”

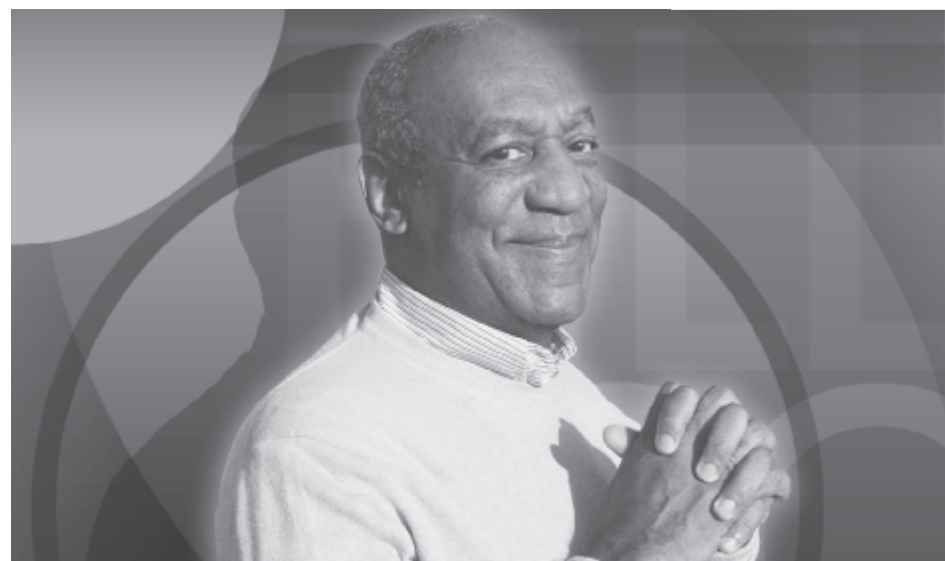
“It’s just so personal and intimate. Early music really is about expression. It’s about telling a story.”

– Daniel Johnson

He’s bringing some of these members of his family together this weekend for a holiday program called An Early Christmas. Yes, everyone does a yuletide concert, but few cover the ground that Johnson and company do. After all, their repertoire predates “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “White Christmas” and even “Silent Night.” And I daresay you won’t hear Dutch and Portuguese and Catalan carols at most of the other December concerts in town.

Johnson will certainly enjoy having the older “generations” of his TEMP brood around him for the concert, but he may take the most pleasure in seeing the newest generation getting its first fix of early music and getting that same high he did in Lubbock all those years ago. “The really brilliant thing is watching these kids get hooked on this drug. That’s one thing I miss about not being at UT anymore. But we have a lot of new performers that are getting into TEMP right now. They have some of that same look of bewilderment when they say: ‘How come I’ve never heard this stuff before? How come my teachers didn’t want me to do this?’” ■

An Early Christmas will be performed Saturday, Dec. 13, 8pm, at First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whittis. For more information, call 371-0099 or visit www.early-music.org.



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THE BEST OF SEXOLOGY, THE ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE OF SEX SCIENCE: KINKY AND KOOKY EXCERPTS FROM AMERICA'S FIRST SEX MAGAZINE

edited by
Craig Yoe
Running Press,
480 pp., \$14.95

The first time I heard the term “rainbow party” – not that long ago – I imagined a group of boisterous teens cavorting

after a high school GLBT-club meeting. It figures, I suppose, because the first time I heard the term “oral sex” – considerably longer ago – I thought it meant “talking dirty.” These days, you’d be hard-pressed to find a ninth-grader ignorant of now-common sexual terminology, from the most vanilla to the most vile, but it wasn’t always this way.

In the summer of 1933, Luxembourger Hugo Gernsback opened America’s doors to a wealth of carnal knowledge with the nation’s first sex magazine, *Sexology*, the *Illustrated Magazine of Sex Science*. Back then, America’s white-gloved were unprepared for what Gernsback and his team of scientists, doctors, and science-fiction artists had to say about sex, or the fact that they were talking about it in the first place. From that first scandalizing issue through the Seventies, *Sexology*’s licensed professionals educated the public on the possibilities of animals crossbreeding with humans (quite scientifically impossible), pregnant men (men with dermoid cysts; for instance, an unborn twin located in a man’s buttocks), unsanitary “self-relief” (how did that pencil find its way into that woman’s bladder?), Adolf Hitler’s secret sex life (he was impotent and loved *King Kong*), why wives should make sex advances (women like sex, too?), and multiple breasts (the extra tit most commonly found in the armpit), to name a few conversational icebreakers. Gernsback – an inventor, avid fan of science and electrical engineering, father of modern science fiction, and namesake of the prestigious Hugo Award – published more than 50 magazines in his lifetime, but it was *Sexology* that was arguably the most ahead of its time, not simply because of its taboo nature but because it actually educated the public about sex, with facts and honest writing.

By today’s standards, the recently published *The Best of Sexology*, a col-



lection of various articles spanning the magazine’s four decades, is a throwback to earlier, sweeter times, before “sex magazine” meant “porn.” (And a time before “fashion magazine” or “sports magazine” meant “softcore porn.”) The vintage presentation, complete with enlightening black-and-white photos and illustrations, will make a great holiday gift for the sexually curious who might know a thing or two about rainbow parties but nothing about breast-feeding fathers. However, if you’re shopping for a pervert, you’d better go with *The Best of Maxim*. – Sofia Resnick

Additional Reading: Best Sex Writing 2008 by Rachel Kramer Bussel (Cleis Press, 224 pp., \$14.95, paper); **More Sex Is Safer Sex: The Unconventional Wisdom of Economics** by Steven E. Landsburg (Free Press, 288 pp., \$14, paper); **America’s War on Sex: The Attack on Law, Lust, and Liberty** by Marty Klein (Praeger Paperback, 232 pp., \$19.95, paper)

U.S. Geography

STATE BY STATE: A PANORAMIC PORTRAIT OF AMERICA

edited by Matt Weiland and Sean Wilsey
Ecco Press,
608 pp., \$29.95

Having returned from a long berth abroad, *State by State* co-editor Matt Weiland found himself road-tripping the U.S., newly in love with what he calls “the essential looseness of American lives, the vitality and variety of American vistas, the cut and jib of American talk.” After powwowing with fellow editor Sean Wilsey, the two decided they wanted to produce an anthology that reflected the vast diversity of the 50 states (the project was in large part inspired by the New Deal-era Works Projects Administration *American Guide Series* of the Federal Writers’ Project). To that end, they drafted 50 writers, musicians, culture commentators, and even a celebrity chef (Anthony Bourdain) to write about a state each. Some of the contributors write eloquently and sometimes emotionally about a home state; others take a more journalistic approach (David Rakoff, for one, uses *Around the World in 80 Days* as a touchstone for his outsider-looking-in chapter on Utah). Texas, it must be said, is a disappointment; having passed a mere three years once upon



a time in Dallas and taken a couple of weekend trips around the state, Cristina Henríquez seems not terribly qualified for the task at hand (although she does have very nice things to say about the Texas Book Festival). The state entries that sing are the most subjective ones, the ones that chuck any “Welcome to ...!” aspirations for a more personal rendering. Joshua Ferris’ sentimental but never saccharine ode to Florida’s Cudjoe Key is a lovely memory piece on landscape and adolescence, and gentle bear Barry Hannah’s unflinching musings on Mississippi relit in me a long-buried desire to see Oxford. Which is the last thing Hannah wants: “I hesitate writing this because our town is growing too fast and slick for us geezers, who puke at almost everything new and at the robotic developments whacking down much of our greenscape.” And that, perhaps, is the biggest lesson to be learned from this admirable, illuminating book: You better get to wherever you want to go soon, because whatever made it mythic is going fast, if not gone already. Ain’t that America? – Kimberley Jones

Additional Reading: Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future by Greg Melville (Algonquin Books, 257 pp., \$15.95, paper); **Zane Grey: Western Legends** by Zane Grey (Forge Books, 784 pp., \$19.95); **Roads to Quoz: An American Mosey** by William Least Heat-Moon (Little, Brown and Co., 592 pp., \$27.99)

Portraits of an Artist

ME AND KAMINSKI: A NOVEL
by Daniel Kehlmann
(translated from German by Carol Brown Janeway)
Pantheon Books,
208 pp., \$21.95

What happens when a self-important, largely incompetent journalist working on a biography ineptly attempts to track down and interview his subject, a somewhat famous, eccentric painter now living in obscurity in a remote mountain village whose privacy is fiercely guarded by his protective daughter? That’s



CONTINUED ON P.42

Japanese-American Exchange Program

BAT-MANGA!: THE SECRET HISTORY OF BATMAN IN JAPAN

by Chip Kidd
Pantheon,
384 pp., \$60

You just thought the world went mad for Batman this year. Well, not to discount a billion-dollar global gross, but the fervor for *The Dark Knight* pales beside the mania that attended Batman’s TV debut in 1966. The campy series prompted blockbuster ratings, a Top 40 hit theme song, Hollywood’s elite clamoring for cameos, and all manner of bat merchandise cluttering store shelves everywhere. Chip Kidd never recovered from that bout of Bat Scratch Fever. The superpowered graphic designer – was he bitten by a radioactive logo as a teen? – has accumulated tons of Batman memorabilia, and his book *Batman Collected* catalogues

hundreds of products pumped out during the Caped Crusader craze of the Sixties. His new follow-up, *Bat-Manga!*, should remove any lingering doubts that Kidd is as compulsive about collecting bat shit as the Riddler is about leaving clues to his crimes, and it also proves that ours wasn’t the only country flooded with cheap goods bearing the Cowled Crimefighter’s likeness in ‘66. Here, from the collection of Saul Ferris, are dozens of toys, models, and other goods cranked out in Japan to cash in on the character’s sudden popularity.

These obscure objects of bat desire are beautifully presented – Geoff Spear photographs even the shoddiest knockoffs with a fetishistic adoration that makes them look like museum treasures – but the

true beauty of the book is its reproduction of five serialized Batman stories created specifically for the weekly manga anthology *Shonen King* by star artist Jiro Kuwata. The results owe more to *Batman* comics of the day than the TV series – less camp, more action – and yet they don’t feel quite like the American comics, either. Except for Batman himself, the artwork is distinctively manga, the stories are paced more slowly (Really? Three panels just to show Batman running from the Batmobile to a lab?), and their sci-fi elements (weird experiments, mutants) radiate an Atomic Age anxiety that seems peculiarly Japanese. Still, they’re compelling and exquisitely crafted works of cartooning, and since only a year’s worth of stories were created and they were never reprinted or translated until Kidd sought them out, they constitute a genuine rarity, the Batfan equivalent of an unknown Shakespeare play. Lost adventures of the Gotham Guardian? Holy Apocrypha, Batman! That’s a must-have! – Robert Faires

Additional Reading: Don’t Stop Believin’: How Karaoke Conquered the World and Changed My Life by Brian Raftery (Da Capo Press, 232 pp., \$16, paper); **Salmonella Men on Planet Porno: Stories** by Yasutaka Tsutsui (Pantheon, 272 pp., \$21.95)



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THE WORLD IS WHAT IT IS: THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF V.S. NAIPAUL by Patrick French Knopf, 576 pp., \$30

It's not news, exactly, but the literary world of the 20th century has been rife with antagonism. Hemingway brutalized Fitzgerald; Norman Mailer brutalized nearly everybody else. Still, from the stories told of V.S. Naipaul, his venomous misogyny and distinctly unsympathetic views on postcolonial nations already established, only a madman would want to tangle with the Nobel-winning novelist, essayist, and provocateur. You'd have a better chance winning a wrestling match with a giant squid. However, British journalist and biographer Patrick French works some serious juju of his own in his new warts-and-all biography of Naipaul.

Born in 1932 in Trinidad as a member of colonial India's diaspora (India gained independence in 1947), Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul longed to escape the island nation early on. He

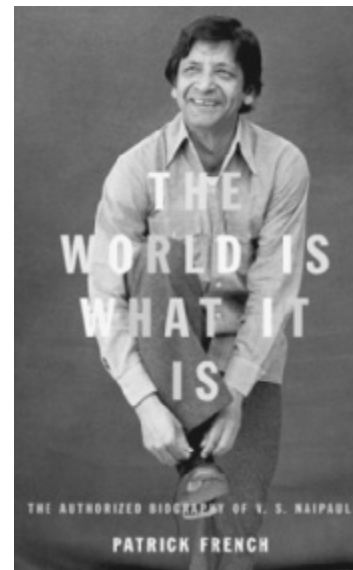
soon won a prestigious scholarship to Oxford University in England, where he met his first wife, Patricia Hale, and struggled with bouts of self-doubt and depression. Another decade passed before Naipaul's most famous novel, *A House for Mr. Biswas*, brought him international acclaim. In 1971, Naipaul was the first author of Indian descent to win the Booker Prize (for *In a Free State*). With his polyglot Indo-Trinidadian heritage, his controversial accounts of visits to India and Africa also made history.

French comes to this assignment well-prepared. A powerful writer in his own right, he has published a nonfiction account of the life and times of the Victorian explorer Sir Francis Younghusband and a pair of outstanding, perceptive books on Indian history and Tibet's struggle for independence. Turning his attention

to a living, contemporary subject may have been daunting, but French never shows his nerves. He is gracious, funny, and honest. In a remarkable coup, considering that Naipaul himself contacted French to write this "authorized" biography, French highlights Naipaul's cruelty to his first wife and his 24-year, often brutal affair with Margaret Murray. French also offers an account of Naipaul's famously sour relationship with Paul Theroux.

"The best a biographer can hope for is to illuminate the aspects of a life and seek to give glimpses of the subject, and that way tell a story," writes French. To his credit, this sprawling, fascinating biography does that and more; no matter what Naipaul might say. — Dan Oko

Additional Reading: *Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt* by H.W. Brands (Doubleday, 896 pp., \$35); ***Casanova: Actor Lover Priest Spy*** by Ian Kelly (Tarcher, 416 pp., \$28.95)



only the beginning of this sharp-witted, often hilarious comedy of manners from award-winning, Vienna-based author Daniel Kehlmann, whose 2006 novel, *Measuring the World*, was an international bestseller. When unpleasant biographer Sebastian Zollner finally connives his way into gaining some private time with the nearly blind artist Manuel Kaminski, what ensues is an impulsive road trip intended to revisit portions of the painter's past personal life in the hopes of stoking a sensationalist angle for his book. The pair meets up with an untrustworthy hitchhiker; spends time in a sleazy hotel; crashes a stuffy art opening; retreats to the biographer's apartment from which he has just been evicted by his former girlfriend; pays a visit to the artist's long-ago, beloved paramour; and unexpectedly runs into Kaminski's tenacious daughter. Along the way, both gentlemen are forced to re-evaluate their perceptions of the truth. The escapade ultimately leads them to unexpected psychologically personal destinations. One could easily see this tale being the basis for a big-screen screwball comedy with splendid character actors having a field day playing the principals. Skewering snobbish and pretentious denizens of the art world would be half the fun. But underneath the biting humor of this slim novel are some intriguing subtexts dealing with the nature of art and celebrity. How does Kaminski's checkered career affect the attitudes of the art world toward the importance of his work? Will Zollner's biography change the perceptions of the nonbelievers and make the artist's work more appreciated and therefore more valuable? What constitutes a legitimate journalistic endeavor as opposed to a celebrity exposé? While these are some of the questions that come to mind, it is foremost Kehlmann's ear for humor and crisp dialogue that makes this tale such a delightfully comic read.

— Jay Trachtenberg

Additional Reading: *Chagall: A Biography* by Jackie Wullschlager (Knopf, 608 pp., \$40)

Comics

WATCHING THE WATCHMEN

by Dave Gibbons, Chip Kidd, and Mike Essl
Titan Books, 256 pp., \$39.95

Being Rorschach is a drag. One day you're a faceless, ex-superhero vigilante trapped in a preapocalyptic, post-superhero, alternate-reality America, and the next? Well, the next day you're getting real-world master's theses written about your subtextual, neo-noir deconstruction of the traditional, long-underwear-and-cowl-wearing superdupermen. Even the Dark Knight himself generates less fanatical devotion than *Watchmen* (not counting last week's intriguing "Batman's gonna die" rumors). Seriously ... why so serious? Partly because *Watchmen* remains one of the medium's deepest reads, and we don't mean deep like the crimson shadow coagulating around the Comedian's corpse. Those flimsy, pulp-printed 12 issues made up the first (or second) thematically adult and morally complex graphic novel — ever! — when they were bound up trade-paperback style at the end of their run. We're not busting your chops, peewee, 'cause we've got a Manhattan Project of our own going on when it comes to Silk Spectre, but let's not forget how this manic-depressive, smiley-faced dystopia got Mylared into your permanent collection in the first place. Better yet, let's let *Watchmen* artist Gibbons remind us: "I have to say that for all that *Watchmen* has been seen to be a dark and gritty deconstruction of super heroes, it was actually an act of love by Alan [Moore] and me. We may have taken the genre places it hadn't been before, but our intention was always honorable." Nowhere can that love be seen to better effect than in this, the sumptuous and splendid telling of how the greatest graphic novel in the world came to be. Not only did Gibbons



and author Moore's alienated antiheroics prove to be something of a genre Rosetta stone, pre-dating everything from *Heroes* to *Hellboy*, but they also read like they were written and inked last Monday. In a world gone mad, *Watchmen* holds its own. Gibbons, who admits to having long ago sold off nearly all of his original series artwork, spins an insanely informative and exhaustively detailed tale here, replete with all manner of nascent character pencil sketches, photos of Moore's handwritten script addenda, visual eye-line schematics, and very nearly everything else. All told, it's just about as spectacular as the comic book itself. *Ego ipse custodes custudio? Vos operor.* — Marc Savlov

Additional Reading: *Marvel Chronicle* by Tom DeFalco, Peter Sanderson, and Tom Brevoort (DK Adult, 352 pp., \$50)

Humor

GET YOUR WAR ON: THE DEFINITIVE ACCOUNT OF THE WAR ON TERROR, 2001-2008

by David Rees
Soft Skull Press,
256 pp., \$15.95
(paper)

With the reign of President George W. Bush coming to a not-a-minute-too-soon end and with the promise of a "new" day on the horizon with President-elect Barack Obama set to take the helm next month, things look slightly more rosy than they did in the final months of 2001. But not too rosy. The economy is in the shitter, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (and whatever the ultimate fallout they will bring is) are far from over. The world is a strange place, and we are a strange people. Case in point: In the days just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, poking fun at President Shrub or questioning the wisdom of his administration's response to the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., were dan-



gerous business, enough to get you branded a freedom-hater. Flash-forward to today, and even 43's conservative flag-pin-wearing and Bible-clutching base wants nothing to do with him. My, how times have changed.

How history will treat Bush and his administration and their monumentally retarded war on terror remains to be seen — or maybe not. Indeed, the history is already written in part, cataloged with razor-edge barbs, snarky lines, and copious profanity and delivered by a clip-art crew of office workers that are the creation of 36-year-old New York-based cartoonist David Rees, whose strip *Get Your War On* is one of the best and most biting looks at modern America and its dangerous conceits. Just in time for the holidays and on the precipice of what still could eventually become a new chapter in American life, Rees has published his third collection of GYWO strips, chronicling the seven years of anger, depression, and irony that were the Bush Years of Terror.

Rees, who donated the royalties from his first two GYWO books to a nonprofit group that removes land mines from a province in northwest Afghanistan, began his strip on the Internet shortly after 9/11 as a way to cope with and understand what was happening in the world around him, he has said, and also as a response to the reactionary attitude that demanded deference to Bush and all things red, white, and blue. In other words, the strip was a way to push back. The chest-pumping, with-us-or-against-us reaction was nothing but a "disservice to the spirit of American dissent," he told a radio interviewer in 2007. And so GYWO was born. Thankfully.

Rees' strips are provocative and wise and delivered with a punch to the gut — concise, angry, and seriously funny. Rees' book is a great gift for anyone who loves true freedom and praises the power of the written word. — Jordan Smith

Additional Reading: *Karlology: What I've Learnt So Far ...* by Karl Pilkington (DK Adult, 224 pp., \$20); ***Free-Range Chickens*** by Simon Rich (Random House, 144 pp., \$17); ***Wishful Drinking*** by Carrie Fisher (Simon & Schuster, 176 pp., \$21)

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

BEST-DRESSED BUNNIES Well, everyone seems to be wearing their snow-bunny outfits as we slalom through the **Social Olympics** in the **Swish Alps**. It's been a ridiculously busy week. The **Equality Texas Silver Box** benefit last Thursday at the **Monarch** epitomized, in the nicest way, how a crowded cocktail party can be fun. One of my favorite categories in the Social Olympics is the **Cocktail Rescue**. I saw many excellent examples of how to gracefully and discreetly hold the cocktail off to the side to keep some overheated cretin from spilling martinis. Frankly, martini glasses at a crowded cocktail party are just plain stupid. Yes, they look stylish, but by the end of the evening, everyone is wearing their cocktails down the front of their evening clothes. My suggestion? **Sippy cups** for the party revelers. No mess, no fuss. At the Equality Texas benefit, amid all the heavenly food (from 16 fabulous restaurants), I was struck again by the restaurant **Taste**, and I can tell you that Taste is absolutely divine. Among the delicacies it served was a little turnover affair stuffed with rabbit. Okay, I'd never eaten rabbit before, nor squirrel nor opossum. Now, as much as I adore Taste, I have to say that the idea of eating a rabbit turnover when indeed I was wearing a full-length rabbit coat was a bit unsettling (not that it wasn't delicious), and it *did* upset my coat. I call her **Phoebe**. And why not? It was sort of a mother-and-child reunion. The Monarch

was decked to death with glorious decorations, fab food, cocktails, and gaggles of handsome men and women. Who could ask for more? But as the dedicated cigarette-smoker that I am, I found myself banished to an area with an ashtray that was not under the terrace covering but placed so that we dedicated smokers have to brave the wind, rain, and elements just because we choose to ruin our own health. But let me tell you, boys and girls, after shivering out in the cold, despite Phoebe's best efforts, I looked longingly at all the cocktail tables with warm candles and glittering Christmas decorations that were under the patio cover, and I thought to myself: "No, ma'am. I am *not* going to ride at the back of the bus." So like the **Rosa Parks** of the Equality Texas benefit, I defiantly sat myself at the well-covered and decorated cocktail table in the center of the forbidden zone, saying: "No. I will not sit at the back of the bus. I will not stand in the wind and rain just because I'm a smoker." It was a small gesture, but I felt empowered and wanted to go out and protest something. *Anything*. There was a handsome guy wearing a full kilt ensemble at the party; he was pretty damn cute, but when he walked up to me in my requisite fur and jewels, he said, "Well, it's nice to meet the *second* best-dressed person here." "I agree," I said. "I, too, considered wearing a blouse and skirt but didn't feel it was dressy enough." So goes life in the fishbowl.



FRANCISCO CORTES

(L-r) Mary Morrison, Alice Parrish, Bettie Naylor, and Libby Sykora spread holiday cheer at the glamorous Silver Box Event, benefiting Equality Texas.

TA Living with my nephew **Tyler**, I have become aware of a tragic malady striking our children and young adults: **text messaging**. First off, why would *anyone* want to spend hours typing with their thumbs, saying things that could have been handled in a two-minute telephone call? Second of all, I've glanced at my nephew's phone and seen the critically important text messages he sends: "Hey." "What's up?" "Nothing, just chillin. You?" "Just chilling too. What are you doing later?" "Chilling." A profound conversation, yes? But it's out of control. I haven't been

able to make eye contact with Tyler for two weeks. Whenever I want to speak to him, I have to threaten to throw his cell phone in the lake to get his attention. That's why I've made my mission in life to help those who are powerless over texting. **Texters Anonymous**. First you have to admit that texting has made your life unmanageable ...

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BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

food

Cookin' Good for the Holidays with the Cola Sisters

Ah, Christmastime. For some, it brings back fine memories of feasting on oyster stuffing, mincemeat pie, roast goose, sausage, and plum pudding. Merriment, singing, presents, stockings by the mantel, and everyone is in the best of spirits sitting by the fire.

For some, however, it's a painful reminder of what could or should have been. For the Cola Sisters, it's a bit of a hot topic. In fact, most Jewish children probably grew up with better meals on Dec. 25 than **Arcie and Shasta Cola**, stars of the popular Austin cable-access TV show **Cookin' Good**.

"We didn't have traditional Christmases," says Shasta. "We had traditional Christmas fights, the traditional 'somebody is not going to get their present' or 'someone is going to steal someone's money.' Somebody's going to do too many pills. Someone is going to drop the baby. And somebody is going to drop the baby again."

Arcie says there were times when money for gifts was gambled away. "Then the bookie comes right away to get the money. Growing up, we usually got a charity box from one of the local churches. There was always turkey and some kind of Stove Top Stuffing. There was always the basics, but it was all processed. There wasn't a lot of fresh vegetables. I liked the candy," she says. Arcie remembers the occasional **corn pudding**. "It's like a casserole with creamed corn and eggs, and it's gets all puffy from cooking in the oven. I should make it on the show." The sisters also like traditional Christmas ham.

This holiday season, the Cola Sisters are going with the flow. "I try to not plan holidays," says Arcie. "I just try to let them wash upon me, because if I try to make plans, it ends up being a disaster."

"That's pretty true," says Shasta. "I think the idea is to survive through the new year.



R. U. STEINBERG

You just have to squeeze through, because it's going to be family, lots of parties. But that being said, there is a lot of good eating."

In fact, Shasta recalls the holiday season is sometimes a time for just staying alive. "This

That shit they put on TV and in the movies about Christmas – nobody lives those lives."

The Cola Sisters recalled a favorite Austin story about the **Servant Girl Annihilator**, which coincidentally coincides with the holiday season. The serial killer (or killers) terrorized Austin in 1884 and 1885 by killing mainly servant girls. His first victim was Mollie Smith, who was killed on New Year's Eve 1884, which predated Jack the Ripper by three years. "He would take an axe from the premises and would go in and slaughter them, basically, cut them apart and mutilate them," says Shasta. "That is absolutely why the Austin moon towers came in to existence, because people were afraid to go out without electric lights. Nobody wants to talk about it, because it was unsolved."

Despite their negative experiences during the holiday season, the Cola Sisters had a couple of recipes they wanted to share.

Although they usually make them around the holidays, fortunately, they're the kind of recipes you can use year-round. – R.U. Steinberg

Cola Sisters' Corn Pudding

Four eggs	1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 cup heavy cream	20-30 ounces fresh, canned (drained), or frozen (thawed and drained) corn
¼ cup melted butter	salt and pepper to taste
3 tablespoons sugar	
4 tablespoons flour	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs and cream well, then gradually beat in melted butter, sugar, flour, salt, and pepper. Fold in corn and cheese, then pour into a greased casserole dish. Bake 45-60 minutes until center is set and top is golden brown. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

one is a Memaw special: Almond extract hides the taste of cyanide in your dish. And it is best when used in fudge. Holiday food is designed so you can poison your relatives, clog up their arteries, and get their inheritance. Sometimes you can get multiple family members. It's good to do it all in one dose in one meal."

Shasta adds that she doesn't see their Christmases as being so bad. "I think it's pretty typical of what most people experience.

Web extra More recipes online:

Cola Sisters' Basic Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Cola Sisters' Sugar Cookies
Cola Sisters' Sausage Stuffing

Event Menu Dec. 13-17

- The **Texas Culinary Academy** (11400 Burnet Rd., 837-2665, www.tca.edu) hosts its annual **Gingerbread House Competition and Open House** this weekend. The competition is open to everyone from kids to seasoned professional cake artisans. Prizes will be awarded, and the winning houses will stay on display for a week; to enter the contest, contact chef **Aimee Olson** at 837-2665 x179 or aolson@tca.edu. The open house features caroling, cookie-decorating demonstrations, and a life-sized gingerbread house where kids can get their photos taken with Chef Santa. Saturday, Dec. 13, noon-3pm.
- Take part in the **Green Shoppers Gala** to benefit the **Capital Area Food Bank** at the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market** (Toney Burger Activity Center parking lot on Highway 290 West, www.svfm.org), and find the perfect local food or green-inspired holiday gift for everyone on your list. Saturday, Dec. 13, 9am-1pm.

- **Edible Austin's Eat Local Week** culminates with a **Local Food Cook-Off** between celebrity contestants John Kelso and Olga Campos at the **Downtown Farmers' Market** (Fourth & Guadalupe). The challenge is for the contestants to shop the market and then prepare a dish based on local ingredients with culinary student assistants. A panel of local cooks and food writers (including myself) will choose the winner. Saturday, Dec. 13, 10am-noon.
- Members of the "Best of Austin" award-winning **Les Dames d'Escoffier** will be signing copies of the cookbook collection recently released by members of the international culinary service organization at the **Triangle Farmers' Market** (47th & Guadalupe). The book sells for \$35; a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Les Dames' local scholarship fund and **Urban Roots**. (Look for a review on my blog, **Virginia's On the Range**, at austinchronicle.com/ontherange.) Wednesday, Dec. 17, 3-7pm.

A friend joined me at the new wine bar at **Cissi's Market** (1400 S. Congress, 225-0521, www.cissismarket.com) early one evening last week, and we were very favorably impressed. Everything we sampled from Executive Chef **Deegan McClung's** savory menu was tasty and inventive (try the excellent Breakfast All Day Salad, a cheese plate, or a Bat City Club Sandwich), and pastry chef **Faith Chan's** Belgian Ale Doughnuts are simply divine! While I expect the good food served in the new seating area with free Wi-Fi will increase the daytime traffic at Cissi's, this place really strikes me as the perfect spot for noshing and drinking wine either before or after an event at the nearby **Long Center**. Try that during the holidays, and see if you don't agree... Speaking of new things in the vicinity of the Long Center, a family-owned outfit from South Bend, Ind., has opened a branch of its **Fiddler's Hearth Public House** (301 Barton Springs Rd., 535-5008, www.fiddlers-hearth.com) in the former Bannigan's location.

The Austin branch of the **Meehan** family hopes to develop a following by offering a family-friendly atmosphere, a space dedicated to community meetings, and traditional pub fare with a Celtic influence. The Guinness is on tap; the soccer, Wi-Fi, and live music are free; and the business model is green. What's not to like?... Popcorn lovers with a taste for exotic flavors will want to check out the new **Reel Popcorn** outlet (9600 S. I-35, 280-7335) overlooking the bucolic Grove at **Southpark Meadows**, right next to **Amy's Ice Creams**. The popcorn makes a great snack to nibble while shopping or listening to music in the Grove, and the shop also offers festive seasonal tins to fill for gifts... In response to customer requests, the folks at **Changos Taqueria** (3023 Guadalupe, 3005 S. Lamar) have added some popular items from the menu of their upscale sibling restaurants, **Manuel's**. Check out the corn soup, the scallop ceviche, the distinctive grilled flautas, or a savory *tinga de pollo* *chipotle* paired with Changos' fresh, homemade tortillas and a refreshing *agua fresca*... If good tamales are an important component to holiday celebrations but you've run out of time to make them yourself, chef **Julio Dominguez** at **Santa Rita Tex Mex Cantina** (1206 W. 38th, 419-7482) is ready to lend a hand. His delectable, custom-made pork tamales with adobo sauce and chicken tamales with tomatillo-serrano salsa are \$18 a dozen and available from the restaurant on 24-hour notice from now through Dec. 24... Unrepentant beer snobs looking for info on new beers released for the holiday season will want to check the popular blog www.i-love-beer.blogspot.com, where my *Chronicle* colleague **Lee Nichols** has the scoop about what you'll want to be quaffing just now... Austin pastry chef couple **Phillip** and **Callie Speer** got an early Christmas present when daughter **Lucia Rose Speer** arrived on Dec. 3. The petite confection weighed in at 5 pounds, 6 ounces and was 18 inches long. Happy holidays to them all!

Donate for the Holidays

Be Santa's helper

Tough economic times tend to mean lean holiday offerings, especially for nonprofit and community organizations that depend on public funding and donations in order to provide services. Although this is the week when we traditionally encourage readers to share Austin artisan-food products for holiday gifts, this year we've decided to spotlight nonprofits and community programs that could use financial support during this season of giving. Major nonprofits that deal directly with hunger issues, such as the Capital Area Food Bank, the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels and More, and Caritas of Austin, welcome donations of food and money all year round, and they would be at the top of any list. Whether you're considering fourth-quarter tax deductions or beginning a new tradition of family holiday philanthropy, any of these other organizations would appreciate an investment of time and/or money, as well. Santa will appreciate the help – and be very proud. – Virginia B. Wood



While direct donations of cash or any of the items listed above would be greatly appreciated, there's another way to support Project Transitions without spending any money at all. This idea comes courtesy of PT supporters Forrest Preece and Linda Ball, who donated a huge cookbook collection to Top Drawer (4902 Burnet Rd., 454-5161) a few months back rather than making space for it in their new condo Downtown. Instead of going to the trouble to have a garage, estate, or moving sale, take a spin through the

house and gather up gently used clothes, shoes, household items, furniture, electronics, books, CDs, and DVDs for a tax-deductible and greatly appreciated donation. The public spends money at Top Drawer, and the store also provides shopping vouchers for Project Transitions clients. Ho, ho, ho – everybody wins! – V.B.W.

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SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

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www.sustainablefoodcenter.org

Because I've been a home gardener for many years, a nonprofit dear to my heart is the Sustainable Food Center. Through its various programs, the SFC strives to increase access to locally grown food and to improve both the environment and long-term health of all Central Texans. The programs include Grow Local, which provides adults and children with resources and education in organic food gardening in community and school gardens; Farm Direct, which oversees the Austin Farmers' Market and fosters relationships with area farmers who provide urban residents with freshly harvested produce; and the Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre, a nationally recognized bilingual program that offers interactive cooking classes and nutrition education, emphasizing the selection and preparation of fresh, seasonal foods that are safe, nutritious, economical, and delicious.

Like every nonprofit, SFC always needs volunteers and cash donations. It also offers a variety of cool products that could make wonderful foodie gifts and are available on its website or at the Austin Farmers' Markets. But SFC also has a list of specific items that it needs; with hard times ahead for many folks, we suggest that you search around and see if you have access to any of these. Rather than selling them for pennies on the dollar, think about donating them to the SFC. – Claudia Alarcón

SFC NEEDS

A lightly used pop-up tent, 10 feet by 10 feet

100-foot medium-grade extension cords

Eight functioning power strips

Large metal mixing bowls, colanders, Igloo water containers, and tabletop butane burners

Commercial-grade free-flow water containers with lid for hand-washing

A propane grill on wheels for cooking demos

Folding tables, 8-foot or 6-foot, in good condition

Storage shed on skids, 10 feet by 8 feet or 8 by 8

Any new irrigation T-tape or row cover

30-quart storage boxes



Weight scales

Sand bags

25-foot-by-30-foot-by-8-foot deer fence for Gus Garcia Middle School vegetable garden

Chipper/shredder for tool-lending library

50-pound metal scales for 31 school gardens to weigh their vegetable harvests

Use of pickup trucks to bring compost and mulch to new community, school, and home gardens

Harvest baskets for school & community gardens

Tool bench for garden tools for Sanchez Elementary School

Garden gloves for volunteers to use on workdays

The benefits are compound: The family gets better nutrition from milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, or eggs, as well as having a surplus to sell at market, which means critical extra income for medical care and education. The manure is used to improve the soil for crop production.

Poultry provides nutritious eggs, fertile droppings, and feathers for crafts while eating insects

and weeds. The birds require no extra feed and reproduce prodigiously. Hives of honey-

bees greatly improve pollination and crop production, while providing honey, wax, and pollen for consumption and sales. A water buffalo not only yields rich milk and fertile manure but can quadruple the labor output of a typical farmer. A single pig can live on scraps and garden byproducts, produce lots of manure for compost, and yield 16 piglets

a year. Three rabbits can produce 300 baby rabbits in one year, which can triple a Chinese family's income.

Sheep, alpacas, llamas, and some breeds of goats produce not only milk but lots of wool, which can be repeatedly shorn and woven for clothing to be sold for profit. Camels are provided for transport in Tanzania, oxen for plowing and carts in Uganda, donkeys for draft power in Kenya, and guinea pigs for food and income in Ecuador. Heifer even offers tree

seedlings, used for fruit production, animal fodder, and firewood.

Another beauty of giving to Heifer International is that you can contribute as little as \$10 by buying a share in an animal. There are very few ways that the average American can have as profound an impact in poor villages around the world as one can by donating to Heifer; the feeling of satisfaction you get is worth millions. – Mick Vann

GARZA'S GARDENS PROGRAM, GONZALO GARZA INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

1600 Chicon, 414-8667

www.austinschools.org/campus/garza

Students/vegetables. Herbs/business. School/gardens. Responsibility/community. What do these terms have in common? A great deal, at Austin Independent School District's alternative Garza High School in Central East Austin. Guided by teacher Martha Cason, Garza's Gardens is a thriving multi-credit study program helping students learn success and responsibility alongside economics, business, ecology, nutrition, and horticulture.

Begun nine years ago as a school-ground landscaping effort, Garza's Gardens currently includes 22 vegetable plots and 16 herb beds where students grow organic vegetables and culinary herbs. Each student in the program is in charge of at least two plots; every semester the students

CONTINUED ON P.50



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COURTESY OF URBAN ROOTS

research, select, plant, tend, and harvest their own crops.

The original idea was for garden produce to go to the school's cafeteria, but due to AISD consolidation, Garza no longer has an autonomous kitchen; now vegetables are sent home with students or used for class cooking lessons donated by Austin's Les Dames d'Escoffier. One of Cason's goals is creating a viable campus lunch program using garden bounty, not only to feed students and staff but to serve as a community example for making tasty meals from local and nutritious ingredients.

The herb plots constitute the market garden; students apply basic economics to real-world business. Volunteers from Students in Free Enterprise at Texas State University mentor classes in accounting practices and marketing plans. Students grow, pick, and sell fresh herbs at the Triangle Farmers' Market each Wednesday; money earned defrays business expenses, and the class "company" invests profit back into the program. Garza-grown herbs also go to St. Edward's University food service and Farm to Table, a local, organic wholesaler that supplies Jeffrey's and Aquarelle, among other Austin food venues.

Cason has big ideas for expanding Garza's Gardens education and community opportunities. In addition to the garden/cafeteria enterprise, she's planning to plant additional herb and veggie beds and fruit trees, rework the compost system, finish the greenhouse, develop a rainwater-harvesting system, and ultimately, build an atrium-greenhouse classroom. With expanded capacity, she envisions students providing produce, plant starts, and compost to community groups such as the Sustainable Food Center. "The donation of materials, money, or expertise would be gratefully appreciated," Cason says. "I need a rainwater expert, for example. Complete materials for a raised garden bed cost around \$250." But, she says, "community support is the most valuable gift we could be given." To make a donation to Garza's Gardens, contact Martha Cason (414-8667, martha.cason@austin.isd.org). — MM Pack

GREEN CORN PROJECT

1210 Rosewood, 249-3171
www.greencornproject.org

During this holiday season of dire economic forecasts, what could be more hopeful than giving a vegetable garden to someone in need? For 10 years now, Green Corn Project has been planting small organic gardens for low-income families, communities, and schools around Austin to provide better access to fresh seasonal produce for little to no cost. Green Corn Project was started by a group of people who were excited about the idea of making organic produce accessible to communities that typically cannot afford to buy it. The project's goal is to improve the health of Central Texas families and promote self-reliance through sustainable food-growing practices. Green Corn Project offers programs that demonstrate how easy and economical it is to grow fruits and vegetables in small gardening plots using a bio-intensive method. The method's main aspect involves double-dug raised beds (deep beds where the soil is completely loosened to a depth of between 18 and 24 inches and enriched with compost), which are relatively labor intensive to start but, once they are in, require very little additional maintenance.

Green Corn Project sponsors several programs. The organic food gardening program is its largest and most widely known, providing instruction, materials, and labor to install high-yield organic food gardens for low-income individuals and families. Green Corn partners with Habitat for Humanity in this program, and many of the recipients of Green Corn gardens are also Habitat homeowners. GCP also offers gardening workshops and classes to educate people about bio-intensive gardening and how to implement a bio-intensive garden of one's own. Another project involves developing a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills-appropriate curriculum



URBAN ROOTS

7756 Northcross #203, 342-0424

www.youthlaunch.org

Urban Roots is a local nonprofit developed by YouthLaunch that combines sustainable agriculture with youth development, and it works, not just for the teenagers involved but for the entire Austin community. This afterschool program addresses real problems of food insecurity and parity and deftly forges new solutions. In a nutshell, local teens from all over Austin work an acre of land as an afterschool job, acquiring life-changing skills in cooperation, commitment, entrepreneurship, public speaking, self-confidence, and nutrition. A full 40% of what they grow is donated to local relief organizations, such as Meals on Wheels and Caritas, providing high-quality, vitamin-rich food to populations that desperately need it, as well as introducing the young people to the rewards of community service. The remaining 60% of what they grow is sold by the teens at area farmers' markets, providing local, affordable, organic produce to the city at large. The money made on sales goes to pay the teenagers a fair hourly wage for their hard work, and in the process, the kids learn about handling money, customer service, and entrepreneurship. Most important of all, these kids get to make a dramatic and positive impact on problems of access and nutrition that more than a few adults have given up on as "unsolvable" and "just the way it is." To feel that you have the power to address big problems in meaningful ways, especially at that age, is transformative.

Because such a large percentage of the crops are donated to the needy, donations are always needed to offset the program's infrastructural expenses, such as insurance, equipment, and compost. This is a nonprofit that improves lives right here in Austin in a direct and meaningful way; clicking the "Donate" button on the YouthLaunch website will pay dividends in our community for years to come. Other wish list items: a market scale, harvesting scissors, a wheelbarrow, a garden cart, hoes, drip-irrigation supplies, a weed eater, a toolshed, and all your old green plastic cherry tomato baskets.

— Kate Thornberry

centering on nutrition and health for teachers to use with gardening programs.

Donations to GCP typically help the organization support an organic garden for an individual or family for two years. An organic spring garden costs GCP about \$250 to install and maintain, but the project will accept donations in any amount, and \$40 tickets to its annual fall benefit tasting on the grounds of Boggy Creek Farm would make welcome stocking stuffers. For those who are feeling cash-strapped but who wish to donate nonetheless, there are volunteer opportunities during the GCP's annual Spring Dig-In, when the gardens are installed; see the website for details and schedules. Donate online or by mail, on behalf of yourself or anyone.

— Rachel Feit

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

5524 Bee Caves Rd., Bldg. M, 328-7299
www.mlfnow.org

According to the gospel, Jesus fed 5,000 hungry people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

And there was plenty for everyone, plus 12 baskets filled with leftovers after all ate their fill. With this gospel story as their inspiration, six parishioners of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin launched Mobile Loaves & Fishes, a ministry that uses catering trucks to distribute food to homeless and working poor people, in the summer of 1998. In the 10 years since its inception, more than a million meals have been served with the help of more than 11,500 volunteers in Austin, San Antonio, New Orleans, Nashville, and Providence, R.I. In addition to food, the nonprofit distributes clothing and other necessities and has even expanded to provide Habitat on Wheels, which places homeless people in gently used, fully furnished recreational vehicles.

As you might expect, there's an extensive holiday wish list that ranges from the simple and obvious (grocery-store gift cards, prepaid bus passes, toiletries, household linens) to the grand (got a RV or catering truck taking up room in your driveway?). The complete wish list can be found on the website. Don't be restricted by the suggestions on the list, though; any items that could be of use to brothers and sisters on the streets are welcome.

It's not just treasure that is needed to fulfill the group's mission; time and talent are required, too. Volunteering with Mobile Loaves & Fishes is simple and requires a minimum of training. Recently named Sweetest Santas on the Scene in the 2008 "Best of Austin," Alan Graham and his elves have volunteer opportunities for people with a lot of or a little time to give. Volunteers do everything from picking up food from the food bank to boiling eggs, distributing food, washing and maintaining the trucks, and even doing the paperwork required to keep the organization supported.

Maybe it's the simplicity of the idea or the immediacy of the relief the group provides that has led to its exponential growth in such a short period. Or perhaps it's that Mobile Loaves has remained true to its gospel inspiration and, in doing so, is living out Margaret Mead's observation: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Barbara Chisholm

NUBIAN QUEEN LOLA'S CAJUN KITCHEN

1815 Rosewood, 474-5652
www.nubianqueenlolas.com

In the tradition of Southern worship, food and fellowship go hand in hand. Nobody knows this better than Lola Stephens of Nubian Queen Lola's Cajun Kitchen. Stephens moved to Austin from Lake Charles, La., in 1980; she was sidetracked on her way to California when the money ran out and decided to stay. In the late 1980s, times got tough, and Lola lost her job. Homeless for two years, she never lost her faith or her cooking skills.

Having been there herself, Lola knows how important it is to offer the occasional hand-up to those in need. Her generosity and compassion have resulted in her family growing from only her and her daughter to including three needy children adopted from a friend who was in desperate straits, as well. Her community culinary outreach takes the form of delicious, nutritious meals for those who might otherwise go hungry, cooked in the restaurant's kitchen and served in the cafe's back yard every Sunday when the restaurant is closed.

Lola has taken it a step further now by providing solid fare to the needy during the week, as well. "Whoever comes along to the back door and needs some food, I give them whatever I can get my hands on. Sometimes it's just a hot dog, but it's more than they had," she says. "I'm poverty helping the poor,

and if we can just get some middle class helping poverty and some rich helping some middle class, then we can get a chain thing going." Stephens operates as a clearinghouse for just about anything that her less fortunate neighbors need, whether it's food, money, clothes, furniture, or a clothes washer. "I find out what they need," she says. "I just want poor folks to have some dignity." Her church, the Well Bible Church, helps when it can, and she has especially good things to say for the congregation of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church.

Blessed with a new, much larger location on 12th Street, she is looking for some angels to help her get a commercial kitchen built there so that she can expand the restaurant and use it to serve as a community center. Until that happens, Stephens will keep on keeping on, producing her famous incredible Cajun food, great burgers and po-boys, and the best fried catfish in town. You can help by dining frequently at the restaurant (Monday-Saturday, 9am-9pm) or donating cash or food that Stephens can cook for the needy.

- M.V.

LIFELONG FRIENDS PET ADOPTIONS

20803 FM 1431, Lago Vista, 512/267-6876
www.lvpaws.org

Lifelong Friends is an independently owned, no-kill shelter dedicated to saving the lives of dogs and cats that have been betrayed by mankind. While other shelters usually put down any animals that are ill, injured, or frightened of humans, Lifelong Friends has a contract with the city of Austin to take in whatever animals the city brings them: strays, abandoned pets, newborn puppies and kittens who need round-the-clock bottle-feeding, the abused, the neglected, and the terrified. The staff and volunteers at Lifelong Friends work with every animal, treating their injuries, neutering and spaying them, socializing them, training them, and only adopting them to families that are a good match for each pet's needs. The shelter keeps faith with these traumatized animals, providing them with a truly safe haven at last, caring for them until the right "forever home" comes along. A glance at the "Success Stories" link on the website is enough to prove that the Lifelong Friends approach really works. "We get to know every animal individually,

and we provide support both before and after adoption," says Director Andrea Phillips. "Because we take the time to find homes that are truly a good fit, our rate of return is practically nonexistent."

All the workers at Lifelong Friends are volunteers, because every penny raised goes directly to the care and feeding of the animals. Trainers from Triple Crown Dog Academy volunteer their time to socialize and train the dogs, with an entire program just for the shy ones. Because animals are treated for their illnesses and injuries, the shelter has a yearly vet bill that runs around \$65,000 (and that's with discounts from area vets). They turn no animal away, and with the economy tanking, they're seeing more abandoned pets than ever. Currently they're caring for more than 300 dogs and cats that are waiting to be adopted. "Our first wish is to find loving homes for all of them," says Assistant Director Janet Cain, "but a tax-deductible donation can help us keep our doors open until those homes are found." Other wish list items: canned dog and cat food, dog biscuits, Nylabones, large dog crates, 6-quart water pails, pooper scoopers, Kennel Decks (www.kenneldeck.com), Tidy Cats clay litter, cat toys, pet taxis, KMR Milk Replacer (not step 2), trash bags, paper towels, laundry detergent, bleach, latex gloves, peroxide, and copier paper. Additional volunteers and veterinary assistance are welcome, as well.

- K.T.

DISHOLA

www.dishola.com

Our foodie colleagues at Dishola.com are busy with their second annual Dish-for-Dish challenge to benefit Meals on Wheels and More. Last year, Dishola donated 600 hot meals to the agency that delivers food to members of Austin's homebound elderly and disabled population. This year, with the sponsorship of Whole Foods Market, the goal is to donate 1,000 meals. Here's how it will work: Starting on Thursday, Dec. 11, for every dish review that readers post to the website, Dishola will donate a meal to Meals on Wheels. The challenge is set to run through Jan. 11, so get busy. Post reviews sharing what you know about the best dishes to be enjoyed around Austin, and the clients of Meals on Wheels will benefit from your knowledge and generosity. It'll be the easiest Christmas gift you can give.

- V.B.W.

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BARBECUE: IRON WORKS BBQ The Works retains its neighborly charm with modest prices and self-serve beer offered from tin coolers. **100 Red River, 478-4855. www.ironworksbbq.com. \$\$\$**

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

FINE DINING: PACIFIC RIM: KENICHI Offering freshly ground wasabi root, more than 20 different types of sake, and Kobe beef carpaccio, Kenichi has a clientele as trendy as its decor. **419 Colorado, 320-8883. www.kenichiaustin.com. \$\$\$**

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

INTERNATIONAL: AMSTERDAM CAFE This European-style cafe has a relaxed and convivial ambience and offers a basic menu of sandwiches, soup, pizza, and salads. Full bar and espresso service and excellent draft and bottled beers. **121 W. Eighth, 236-1606. www.theamscafe.com. \$\$**

JUICE BAR, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: LIVING FOODS BAR AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET This uber-healthy living-foods bar and "deli" case offers Austin's largest selection of all-raw entrées, juices, smoothies, desserts, and salads. **525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. www.wholefoodsmarket.com. \$\$\$**

PUB GRUB: LOGAN'S ON SIXTH Find gourmet pub grub and 10 large-screen TVs. The beers are big, and the bartenders work it to get your drinks in a hurry. **200 E. Sixth, 236-0300. \$\$\$**

SEAFOOD, TEX-MEX: MARISCO GRILL This place features a full Mexican menu in addition to its delicious seafood with a Mexican twist. **211 E. Sixth, 474-7372. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: JAIME'S SPANISH VILLAGE This unassuming stone shack has kept 'em coming back for more than 60 years. Traditional Tex-Mex is complemented by the famous Margarita Jaime, a frozen margarita with fresh sangria on top. **802 Red River, 476-5149. www.jaimes-austin.com. \$\$**

THAI: THAI PASSION The sunlit atrium is the perfect setting to enjoy the light, fresh rendering of the cuisine of Northeastern Thailand. **620 Congress #105, 472-1244. www.thaipassion.com. \$\$\$**

EAST

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

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

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

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

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CHILE CAFE CANTINA The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several Interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. **1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900. www.elchilecafe.com. \$\$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL POLLO REGIO The pollo asado is served with borracho beans, tortillas, grilled onions, tomato salsa, lime wedges, and a scrumptious green avocado salsa. **6615 Berkman, 933-9557. www.elpolloregio.net. \$**

SOUTH AMERICAN: CASA COLOMBIA Travel a mile east of I-35, and you'll find authentic Colombian flavors in freshly prepared beef, chicken, and tilapia dishes. **1614 E. Seventh, 495-9425. www.casa-colombia.com. \$\$**

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

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

LAKE

CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE Open 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, this Mandarin restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials. **2300 Lohmans Spur #134, 263-8869. \$\$**

SOUTHWESTERN: THE OASIS Live music and great food continue on the terrace at the "sun-set capital of Texas." Still the perfect ending for a day on the lake. **6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442. www.oasis-austin.com. \$\$**

THAI: THAI SPICE CAFE This menu offers fresh, fast, reliable versions of traditional Thai fare. **1310 RR 620 S., 263-2221. www.thaispiceaustin.com. \$\$\$**

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MANNY HATTAN'S NEW YORK DELICATESSEN When you have to nosh, this is the place to do it. You'll find a good nova platter, kreplach right in the soup where it belongs, and nice chub. **9503 Research #650, 794-0088. www.mannyhattans.com. \$**

CHINESE: GOLDEN WOK The freshly cooked dim sum is served all the time, as well as from carts at lunch and on weekends. Otherwise, find American Chinese standards, however a tea menu, desserts, and a full bar will bring you back. **500 Canyon Ridge, 228-3688. www.golden-wok.com. \$\$\$**

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

FINE DINING: EUROPEAN BISTRO A graciously unpretentious ambience of intimate dining alcoves and Eastern European classical music – the perfect atmosphere for the traditional Austro-Hungarian empire dishes that are served. **111 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/835-1919. www.hungarianbistro.com. \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: BELUGA JAPANESE RESTAURANT offers a wide variety of fresh, affordable sushi and tempura. Try the Ahi Tower. **661 Louis Henna Blvd. # 300, 255-6454. www.belugasushi.net. \$\$\$**

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

PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. **12001 Burnet Rd., 832-5550. www.mangiapizza.com. \$**

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA ARANDAS NO. 4 Mexican breakfasts, sweet horchata, and the sunny red-and-white interior could whisk the fog out of anyone's morning brain. **834 Rundberg, 835-4369. \$**

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

NORTH CENTRAL

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

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: KIM PHUNG CHINESE & VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT Most folks go for the bowls of pho or for the bun, but you should give the dinners a try. The hot and sour soup rocks, and the lunch specials are delicious, big, and cheap. **7601 N. Lamar Ste. 1, 451-2464. www.kplamar.com. \$**

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

CONTINUED ON P.54

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FOOD RESTAURANT ROULETTE CONTINUED FROM P.52

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

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

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

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

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

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

Great freakin' pizza! - Tibetan Monks

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DIGGING FOR CHANGE

Cash-strapped but ever hopeful, aGLIFF looks to next year

BY CLAY SMITH

In an economy that continues to dramatically shrink, raising money for a small nonprofit must be a particularly sobering prospect. For David Sweeney, the executive director of the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, fundraising for a small nonprofit like aGLIFF has actually been “terrifying.” Although aGLIFF expects a \$24,000 grant from the city to materialize soon, “we have less than a month of operating expenses” in the bank, Sweeney says. He joined the festival in April, relatively late in the organization’s fiscal year. “I didn’t have any time to shore up any corporate sponsorships” before the festival took place in September, he says. “Most decisions are made early on in the fiscal year, and the hard part about it this year is that no one has any money.”

aGLIFF may be in need of money, but its staff and board are already making significant changes to next year’s festival (which will take place Sept. 8-13). 2008 was the first year aGLIFF was held at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz; this year’s festival was also half as long as its traditional 10-day run. Now, after combing through the feedback from this year’s festival, aGLIFF’s staff and board have decided to move next year’s festival to the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, an indication that it needs a larger venue than the Ritz. The festival will also stop holding screenings during the daytime on weekdays, limiting screenings to nighttime hours. “There was a lot of criticism about having [aGLIFF] at the Ritz Downtown,”

Sweeney says, namely complaints about the lack of parking in the area. “The habit of having films shown during the day, during the week – having these beautiful docs screen on Tuesday afternoon and only a few people show up – it’s very cost-prohibitive.” Sweeney says that aGLIFF members have already started giving money to the festival because of the organization’s responsiveness to its members’ opinions. “One thing I’ve been very heartened by is that I’ve been getting \$500 checks from people who are happy that aGLIFF is moving back into a theatre that has parking,” he says.

Contracts haven’t been signed yet, but both aGLIFF and the Drafthouse expect the changes to take place next year. “We’re happy to work with them and hope to continue our relationship, regardless of programming time and location choice,” Mike Sherrill, the Drafthouse’s chief operating officer, says.

aGLIFF plans on featuring approximately the same of number of films at next year’s festival (96 were screened this year). That number ultimately depends “on the quality of the films we get in,” says aGLIFF’s program director, Grace Gonzales, who has replaced Lisa Kaselak, who left the organization at the end of October to pursue her own filmmaking career. This year’s aGLIFF was notable for the improved and vibrant quality of its programming from previous festivals. Gonzales says that only one film, the dark French comedy *Before I Forget*, got resoundingly negative responses.

“We have less than a month of operating expenses,” reports aGLIFF Executive Director David Sweeney.



CELESTA DANGER

aGLIFF will mark its 22nd anniversary in 2009. “When [aGLIFF] started, from what I can tell, it was really geared toward the gay male community of Austin,” Gonzales says. “Since then, there’s been an explosion of diversity; we can’t program to one aspect of the community. We have to make it diverse, and I think we did a good job of that this past year, in the selection of the films.” Two of the three most popular movies at this year’s festival were about transgender people – the documentary *Trinidad* by Austin filmmakers Jay Hodges and PJ Raval and the Korean feature *Like a Virgin*, about an overweight teenage boy who unexpectedly wins a wrestling match to raise money for his transformation into a woman. Another audience favorite, Tom Gustafson’s *Were the World Mine* – “a loud, fabulous musical,” as Gonzales puts it – reveals that “there’s still a place for those movies that worked 22 years ago,” but the popularity of the other two indicates that “there’s also this hunger for movies that are new.” ■

EUROPA

Criterion Collection, \$39.95

Before 1995 came along and caught him in a deeply formalized act of pretension, Dogme co-founder Lars von Trier was already something of an ass. At least that’s the impression one gets after watching clips of a press conference that accompanied the premiere of his *Europa* at Cannes in 1991. There, served the standard whys and what-fors by the gathered media, von Trier deftly batted away any question that might lead to a better understanding of the film that he was there to promote. His standard method of response? A near-Rovian act of simplification that had him declaring his equivalent of, “Gawrsh, I don’t know; I just set up that camera and rolled, buddy.”

This, of course, is about as untrue as it is understandable: As a very purple Howard Hampton notes in the essay that he’s penned for this new Criterion release, “Europa’s catchall web of illusions, artistic cannibalism, and widespread déjà vu can induce a certain motion sickness.” (I’d have added for viewers, critics, and Cannes reporters alike, but, hey,



dvd watch

I didn’t write something called *Born in Flames: Termite Dreams, Dialectical Fairy Tales, and Pop Apocalypses.*)

To be fair, *Europa* – which was previously released in the U.S. as *Zentropa* – is

something of a collage. But even as central figure Leopold Kessler (Jean-Marc Barr) winds his way through a noir Germany – sometimes on board a Hitchcockian train, sometimes alongside *Alphaville* star

Eddie Constantine, and frequently in front of obviously anachronistic back-projection – the film manages not to be mere homage. Instead, von Trier and co-scripter Niels Vørsel give the period piece (set, supposedly, in the immediate aftermath of World War II) a flavor of political commentary, which, still-fresh in even post-postcommunist Europe, gets their film over that particular hump.

The bonus? While they’re at it, von Trier and Vørsel also manage to make the thing almost

comprehensible – you know, with the ol’ guy-with-German-roots-returns-to-the-vaterland-and-falls-for-a-chilly-maybe-ex-Nazi bit – in a way that von Trier himself seemed to think was singular (at least relative to his body of work at the time).

Still, all of the extra goodies included on the Criterion release remain near-necessities. Indeed, the set features multiple documentaries (both long and short) and stand-alone interviews that do much to help the viewer unravel von Trier’s still-heady postapocalypse – whether the director, whose very entertaining Cannes presser is included in one of those add-on docs, would have wanted it that way or not.

– Mike Kanin

ALSO OUT NOW ...

Casablanca (Ultimate Collector’s Edition) (Warner Home Video, \$64.98): The Blu-ray edition of this Nazi noir comes complete with commentary by Roger Ebert and, uh, luggage tags.

Sin City (101 Distribution, \$39.49): Robert Rodriguez’s take on Frank Miller’s stylized comic comes out on Blu-ray, just in time for Miller’s new feature, *The Spirit*.

film news

BY JOE O’CONNELL

WILDFIRE HOPES TO REIGNITE THE AUSTIN FILM SCENE

There’s something strange about the word “synergy” coming out of **Leon Rodriguez**’s mouth, but it’s perhaps the only proper description for **Wildfire Films**, a joining of four film companies, two from Austin and two from Los Angeles, that just might give a drowsy Austin film scene a needed shot of adrenaline by bringing a slew of new productions to town. First up locally for the group is a biopic tentatively titled *16 Minutes* about Latino civil rights advocate Gus Garcia (no relation to the former Austin mayor), who argued the landmark *Hernandez v. Texas* case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 and cemented Latino rights under the 14th Amendment, only to die 10 years later penniless in San Antonio. The script is being co-written by Rodriguez and Austin actress/playwright **Amparo Garcia-Crow**, who has been obsessed with bringing Garcia’s story to light since 1990, with help from **Isidro Aguirre**, who has been fascinated by it even longer. Look for preproduction in the spring with Rodriguez directing. “This isn’t people coming in from the outside to do this,” Rodriguez said of the new film company. “This is home-grown.” At Wildfire’s official launch, Rodriguez – who started playing guitar at age 3, came to Austin specifically to work at the Armadillo World Headquarters, and went on to direct videos for Stevie Ray Vaughan – was most excited to see Armadillo founder **Eddie Wilson** on hand. One potential upcoming Wildfire project involves compiling footage taken during the Armadillo’s reign, Wilson confirmed. Also part of the Wildfire team are screenwriter **Anton Diether**, story editor and script consultant **Mark Hacker**, and set designer **Jesus “Chuy” Carrera**. “Isn’t it nice to have a positive message in these times?” **Rebecca Campbell** of the Austin Film Society opined. Indeed it is.

WE GOT SPIRIT NOMS, YES WE DO

The Austin connection to Film Independent’s Spirit Awards continues with **Margaret Brown’s** *The Order of Myths* up for best doc and the Lacoste Truer Than Fiction Award and ex-Austinite **Alex Holdridge’s** *In Search of a Midnight Kiss* up for the John Cassavetes Award for the best feature made for less than \$500,000. **Towelhead**, based on the book by **Alicia Erian**, former member of Austin’s **Blue Plate Poets**, claimed a nom for lead actress **Summer Bishil**.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.



LittleBigPlanet

Peep Your Yuletide Games

LITTLEBIGPLANET

Sony, \$59.99
PlayStation3

Who would have guessed that the season's most groundbreaking and absurdly playable game would be an update of the *Super Mario Bros.* two-dimensional, left-to-right scrolling model from Nintendo's halcyon days? This time, instead of a plumber, you're a Hacky Sack with arms and legs.

More than just earning an "E for Everyone" rating, *LittleBigPlanet's* simple controls and user-friendly interfaces allow young kids and uninitiated adults alike quickly to grasp the basics. Before you know it, you're running from a jilted skeleton bride's skull-dozer and delivering highly volatile explosives through craggy tunnels like a pro with the help of a jet pack. From the catchy score to the laughably deadpan narrator, *LittleBigPlanet* is all smiles. Completing levels earns you more ways to customize your gaming experience with clothes for your sack person and stickers to put anywhere you like. The look and feel of the game are jaw-dropping (which is why you won't find this on the less-powerful Wii); the worlds appear crafted together, with every grassy hill complete with seam stitching and every star hung from the sky with twine. The surfaces are so tactile you want to touch them, and when sack people do so, the uncanny physics make them move and react like they should.

LittleBigPlanet's level creator sets it above the rest with its intuitive controls and wildly varied palette of tools at your disposal. Before long (and after a fair number of tutorials), you'll be posting your creations online for others to play. That way, even when you finish the game's story mode, you can download the products of other players' creativity from the PlayStation Network. *LBP* is exclusive to the prohibitively expensive PlayStation3, which will likely scare some cash-strapped holiday shoppers away. Pity, because the graphics and online functions taking Mario into the future offer as much playtime as your imagination can handle.

— James Renovitch

XBOX 360 LIVE



BLITZ: THE LEAGUE II

Midway, \$39.99
PlayStation3, Xbox 360

In *Blitz: The League II*, not only are dirty hits and juicing (oops, I mean supplements) encouraged, but they are an integral

part of success. Former coke-snortin' NFL bad boy Lawrence Taylor returns as the cover boy and spokesman for the sophomore installment of *BTL* and continues his role as Quentin Sands, the New York Nightmares' captain. While the ultrarealism of the Madden franchise certainly has its place (in every sports lover's gaming library), it's nice to break the tedious chains of reality and embrace the forbidden thrill of illicit behavior (virtually, of course). A little simulated anarchy never hurt anyone.

The heart of *Blitz II* lies in campaign mode, where you play the role of talented megapropect Franchise, who is just entering the league. You walk him through his first press conference, where you assign him his positions

(he's a two-way player), player

attributes, and personality. He'll only play for his home team, so I assigned him to the Austin Weirdos and chose appropriately Austintatious team colors. Then it's on to mastering the finer aspects of the game such as precision-aim tackles (for maximum injury-inflicting blows), late hits, and injecting hurt players with supplements on the sidelines. The backstory is a bit goofy yet still entertaining, and if you can get past Frank Caliendo's insipid John Madden impression, the surprisingly inspired gameplay and superviolent fun of *Blitz: The League II* is a great way to pass another holiday season spent with family and makes for an excellent stocking stuffer for kids old enough to handle the game's adult themes.

— Mark Fagan

MIRROR'S EDGE

Electronic Arts, \$59.99
PlayStation3, Xbox 360, PC

With a main character named Faith, a pacifist idealism, and gameplay based on the French street sport of parkour, in which running is tantamount to flight, *Mirror's Edge* is a game for the new era of hope (thank you, Obama). That's not to say that anxiety-inducing, death-defying acts don't proliferate — *Mirror's Edge* was developed by EA's Swedish arm, DICE, which was responsible for the über-violent *Battlefield* franchise. However, what sets Faith and her rooftop world apart from the rest is *Mirror's Edge's* attempt to divert violence with disarmament and escape. Shooting is optional.

Set in a future of New World Order, this is the definitive first-person game: Seeing little but Faith's hands and feet and hearing only breath, distant warnings, and an electronic soundtrack à la *Run Lola Run*, the player speeds full-force over electric fences, AC ducts, water lines, and scaffolding, catapulting up and across walls to reach the final destination, while constant gunfire rains down from the blues. The graphics are awesome, and despite a few bouts of vertigo, lots of repetition, and a weak storyline involving Faith's twin sister who's been framed for murder, the game is addictive. Because of the breadth of options (there are a million ways to get from point A to point B), frustration is imminent (best to have a walkthrough nearby), but somehow falling to one's death 20 times in a row is no cause for ceasing.

— Darcie Stevens



LEFT 4 DEAD

Valve, \$59.99
Xbox 360, PC

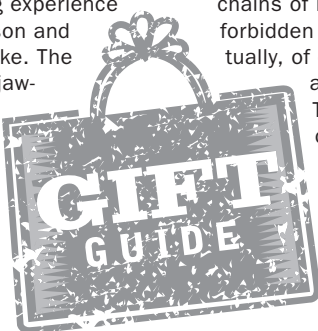
Lest anyone believe that vampires are the new zombies, *Left 4 Dead* makes a compelling argument that the latter are still just as fun and exciting to evade and slaughter.

The makers of *Half-Life* reanimate the genre with a first-person shooter that rarely offers a moment's respite. Worries about your health, your teammate's health, your ammo, or whether or not that damn zombie can leap from that distance plague every step.

The plot is simple: Survive long enough to be rescued. Play as one of four survivors in the single-player mode, and the computer will control the remaining three and follow your lead. *Left 4 Dead's* lasting appeal, however, is in its cooperative mode. Have your friends join you as the other survivors, and ensure that you have one another's backs. Especially since these aren't the "Thriller" zombies; these are sprinting, vomiting, slashing, leaping harbingers of doom. Each campaign plays like a zombie movie with a poster at the opening and credits rolling at the end showing you player stats such as number of kills.

If you tire of helping your friends, then perhaps the versus mode will appeal to you. Play as a survivor or as one of four superzombies. Either way, feel the pent-up anger disappear as you wrap your zombie tongue around your opponent's neck or obliterate the gray matter of a zombieified ally. Don't give this to a fan of single-player gaming. *Left 4 Dead's* real strengths are in the addictive and pulse-pounding cooperative modes. Keep your friends close.

— James Renovitch



Gears of War 2

Season of Sequels

Sequels are the safety net of the gaming business. Obscene amounts of money are pumped into their creation safe in the knowledge that the return will be worth it. This usually makes for technically impressive games with little in the way of originality. These will be the big sellers this year whether they deserve it or not.

— James Renovitch

Fallout 3 (Bethesda Softworks, \$59.99; PS3, Xbox 360, PC) The best of the sequel bunch and strangely unlike its universally praised predecessors. Somewhere between a role-playing game and an action title but all postapocalyptic mayhem.

Gears of War 2 (Microsoft Game Studios, \$59.99; Xbox 360) A very slight improvement on the original. Chain-saw bayonets still included for that loved one who demands a certain amount of gore.

Resistance 2 (Sony Computer Entertainment, \$59.99; PS3) Buy it for the monsters and machine guns; keep it for the online and cooperative gameplay.

Need for Speed: Undercover (Electronic Arts, \$39.99-59.99; PS3, Xbox 360, Wii, PC) Four-wheel thrills never seemed so unimpressive. Keep the racing game you already have.

Table II (Microsoft Game Studios, \$59.99; Xbox 360) Not worthy of its hype but the best role-player of the season, regardless.

Banjo-Kazooie: Nuts & Bolts (Microsoft, \$39.99; Xbox 360) A solid sequel for the younger set with an inspired vehicle creator.

Guitar Hero World Tour (Activision, \$59.99-189.99; PS3, Xbox 360, Wii) This series continues to ride the holiday hype from last year. Get the game or the entire band kit. The main gripe lies with a lack of downloadable tracks that are glaringly available with its competition, *Rock Band*.

Saints Row 2 (THQ, \$59.99; PS3, Xbox, PC) Stick with *Grand Theft Auto IV*, unless you think *GTA* is too serious. Then perhaps the zany, free-for-all action will be right up your alley.

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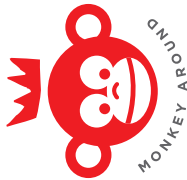
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Fractured Family Tales

AFS Documentary Tour presents 'In a Dream'

BY ANNE S. LEWIS

When Jeremiah Zagar was a film student at Emerson College in 1999, his mom, Julia, suggested he make a film about his dad, Isaiah Zagar, the legendary Philadelphia mosaic artist who, since the late Sixties, has been chronicling the twists, turns, and quirks of his interior life on more than 50,000 feet of that city's South Street walls. This seemed an excellent idea to Zagar, who at the time thought he knew the trajectory of a film about the artistically driven dad that he, Mom, and brother Ezekiel (biblical prophet namesakes all) loved and revered. Wrong. Dad's story, it turns out, bore more a resemblance to his labyrinthine, Keith Haring-esque murals than his son had any reason to suspect.

A few months into the initial shoot, Jeremiah felt that he'd been able to capture only the superficial story, the one that Isaiah proffered and offered up to the camera. So, he asked Dad to go off with him to their summer home where he could "tell me all his secrets." Those "secrets" of a past, which included being molested as a child and bouts of commitment for mental illness, made Jeremiah realize that a film about Dad and his labor-intensive murals would necessarily be more far-ranging and emotionally complicated than he'd originally assumed. At that point, the filmmaker recalls thinking that the film would now be about three things: his dad's "art, his memories, and his love for my mother." Commuting from college over the next four years, Jeremiah filmed his intense, artsy/unconventional, but closely knit family at random family junctures. Then the bombshell that Jeremiah could not have

anticipated. With Jeremiah's camera running at a restaurant as his parents prepared to retrieve Ezekiel from drug rehab, Isaiah reveals to his wife of 43 years that he'd been having an affair with his assistant for the past three years. The Zagars separated that night, and at that point, a film about a driven mural artist's art, memories, and love for his wife morphed into one about the implosion of the Zagar marriage.

Much like Alan Berliner (*Nobody's Business*) and Doug Block (*51 Birch Street*), to name just two filmmakers of recent vintage who could not avert their eyes upon learning painful truths about their parents' marriages, Jeremiah (who cites the influence of films such as *Crumb*, *Tarnation*, and *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.*) was similarly unable to turn his camera off. He recalls shooting for 16 hours the day of the marital revelation. In a testament to the power of fly-on-the-wall filmmaking and subjects who are able to ignore the camera, we experience the unvarnished rage that Isaiah's revelation triggers in his wife, both in the car on the way to pick up Ezekiel (they've initially decided not to rock the boat of their son's newly acquired equilibrium with the news) and later, in a calmer moment, when she candidly admits to her sons that they had "a nutty father." She says she doesn't know how she picked him, but sadly, she did, mourning that it was not merely "a marriage that had been crushed

but an entire belief system formed over 43 years." The film then follows Isaiah's ensuing physical and mental deterioration, as he's cast from the family and realizes what he's brought upon himself.

At the time, Jeremiah recalls being behind the camera and excited to be capturing this kind of human drama on film, followed immediately with "the horrible realization that it's your family. Somehow, I found it easier to keep going than to stop. The camera buys you some protection from what you're filming. If you film it, you can deal with it," he says, adding that it took him three more years to finish the film. "Probably this is the way war and crime-scene photographers feel: If you have the camera in front of your face, you're doing a job and can handle the situation." But he also believes, upon further reflection, that the camera served a salutary purpose for his parents: "It provided a forum for my father to be honest with me and later to be honest with my mother."

The Zagars later reconcile, and the beginning of this process is shown in the film.



Julia and Isaiah Zagar
in son Jeremiah's
In a Dream

Jeremiah credits his co-editor, Keiko Deguchi, with adding dimensionality to and softening the way Isaiah comes across in the film. Before Deguchi came on board, Jeremiah admits that the film "was a little bit mean to my dad," reflecting only his anger at him. Deguchi, married and with children, was able to cut in scenes that fleshed out some of the issues that Jeremiah had never experienced and which also effectively visually narrated his parents' denouement.

The first feature film for the now-27-year-old filmmaker – he has made several award-winning shorts, including 2002's "Delhi House" – has been remarkably successful. It premiered at South by Southwest 08, where it snagged the Emerging Visions Audience Award and, among other festival kudos, will be seen on HBO.

AFS Documentary Tour presents *In a Dream* on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7pm, at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. Director Jeremiah Zagar and producer Jeremy Yaches will be in attendance. Tickets are \$4 for AFS members and \$6 for the general public. For more information, visit www.austinfilm.org.



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BY BELINDA ACOSTA



*Wonders Are Many:
The Making of Doctor Atomic*

Yes, this is the time of year to be jolly, eat too many cookies, and count your blessings. So it may seem strange to recommend a film about the creation of an opera that's about the creation of the atomic bomb. However, *Wonders Are Many: The Making of Doctor Atomic* is not to be missed. This enthralling fugue of history, science, and art, with the human face behind genius, is the next feature of the *Independent Lens* series on PBS.

After several screenings, I'm still stunned by what director **Jon Else** has accomplished. Not only has he made a superior, behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the grand opera *Doctor Atomic* (which premiered in 2005 at the San Francisco Opera), but the event itself provides him with the perfect vehicle to examine his fascination with opera and nuclear weaponry, while showing two of the most compelling artists of their generation at work – minimalist composer **John Adams** and the legendary director **Peter Sellars**.

"The problem is the subject is so clichéd," Sellars says early in the film when speaking of the opera's subject – the creation and first deployment of the atomic bomb. "We've heard it all before. In art, one of our jobs is to take something you look at every day but never see and say, 'Look again.'" The same could be said of Else's *Wonders Are Many*. Using archival footage and well-selected interviews, Else manages to open a new window through which to look at the advent of the Nuclear Age while still celebrating the creation of a new theatrical work.

Doctor Atomic received mixed reviews when it opened yet is still produced around the world. Else offers no appraisal of the production. Instead, he focuses on making Adams and Sellars accessible – a smart approach, given the somewhat arcane nature of their previous opera collaborations (*Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*). He does the same with the opera's subject, J. Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb (and the subject of Else's first documentary, *The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer & the Atomic Bomb*). Like Adams and Sellars, Else is fascinated with Oppenheimer, the brilliant scientist who delivered to man the ability to annihilate himself. (In the film's voiceover, it's stated that Oppenheimer believed the atomic bomb would deaden

the impulse for war, not turn it into the trump card that survives today.) However, as in *Doctor Atomic*, *Wonders Are Many* is not entirely fixated on the omnipresent doom the Nuclear Age begot. It spends as much time examining the pinpoint on which the human imagination dances in the act of creation – the place where madness and genius coexist, where one small choice can make the difference between arriving at something sublime, at something pedestrian, or worse.

"Nothing you can put onstage or in a painting can match the suffering of those people," Sellars says of the atomic bomb victims and survivors at Hiroshima and elsewhere. "Therefore, the art, if sincere, is strangely inadequate ... if insincere, really obscene. [As playwright Samuel] Beckett said, 'Some things must remain unspeakable.'"

Wonders Are Many played at last year's Sundance and Austin film festivals. Because of the *Independent Lens* series, what was available to a limited few is now available to a wider audience, right in your living room. Don't be put off by the subject matter. If there was ever a reason to be thankful for public television, the ability to see this extraordinary film is one of them.

Wonders Are Many: The Making of Doctor Atomic airs Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 9pm on PBS. Check local listings for additional airdates.

Also on 'Independent Lens'

Grey Gardens: From East Hampton to Broadway: Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles revisits his groundbreaking *Grey Gardens* (1975), about two highly eccentric women, Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale and her daughter Edie, who were aunt and cousin to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The film became a cult classic, making the Beales offbeat celebrities and later the inspiration for an award-winning Broadway musical. Aired Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 9pm.

Operation Filmmaker: An Iraqi film student whose school is destroyed in the early days of the Iraq war is invited by actor **Liev Schreiber** to join the crew of *Everything Is Illuminated*, Schreiber's directorial debut. However, good intentions get lost in the midst of cultural clashes, a high-stress movie set, and mixed signals. Directed by Nina Davenport. Aired Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 9pm.

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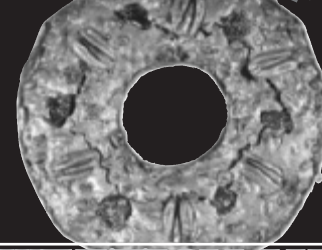
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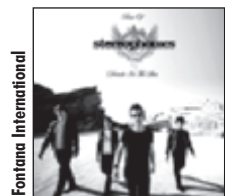
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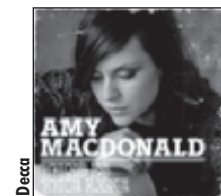
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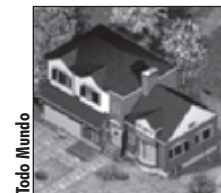
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music

Sonidos Gold

The **Recording Academy** made a legitimate bid for street cred this year with its nominations for the 51st annual **Grammys**, taking place Feb. 8 at Los Angeles' Staples Center. Rapper **Lil Wayne** leads the way with eight nods, including Album of the Year (*Tha Carter III*), while **M.I.A.**'s *Pineapple Express* blockbuster "Paper Planes" is up for Record of the Year. Even noise duo **No Age** got noticed, albeit for Best Recording Package. Most surprising is **Grupo Fantasma's** nomination for its 2008 LP *Sonidos Gold*, in the Best Latin Rock or Alternative Album category. "We feel like the Cinderella story," admits guitarist **Adrian Quesada**, who rings in the new year at the **Parish** with Grupo and waxes the **Scout Inn** this Saturday in his psych-funk side project, **Brownout**. "Most [nominees] have a big machine behind them, whereas we've done everything with grassroots, from the ground up. We're definitely the underdogs." All together, 26 Texas-born or -based artists wrangled a total of 30 nominations. **Continental Club** mainstay **Redd Volkaert** is among the performers nominated for Best Country Instrumental Performance as part of **Brad Paisley's** six-string shoot-out "Cluster Pluck." Local pianist **Marcia Ball** – appearing next at the **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar** on Tuesday, Dec. 16 – received her fourth nomination to date for Best Contemporary Blues Album (*Peace, Love & BBQ*), and 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Pinetop Perkins**, who gets his mojo cookin' at **Antone's** on Friday, Dec. 26, chalks up another bid for Best Traditional Blues Album with his latest, *Pinetop Perkins and Friends*. See www.grammy.com for the complete list of nominations.



Grupo Fantasma,
METV, May 2008

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

SANDY CARSON



Cupcakes: Griff Luneberg
(l) and David Garza

TODD V. WOLFE

For the Sake of the Song

Griff Luneberg can no longer be considered the unsung hero of the **Cactus Cafe**. On Monday night, more than 25 local singer-songwriters, including **Bruce Robison** and **Jon Dee Graham**, paid tribute to the longtime club booker and manager at a surprise open-mic alumni gathering, offering personal reflections nearly as memorable as the songs performed. "Griff's gone so far out of his way to open doors and help people with their careers," reflected co-emcee and organizer **Matt the Electrician**. "He's constantly working to better the folk and acoustic community and always remains focused on the new generation, making sure that it continues to thrive." The four-hour engagement proved a soundtrack to Luneberg's legacy at the venue, which celebrates its 30-year anniversary in February, with appearances from elder statesmen **Slaid Cleaves** ("Broke Down") and **Beaver Nelson** ("Pyramids") and a stark round-robin from **Ray Bonneville**, **Gurf Morlix**, and **Sam Baker**, alongside a fresh crop of emerging songwriters such as **Leatherbag** ("It's Over") and current open-mic-night host **Graham Weber**. The generational divide was bridged through a few notable collaborations, including **Jimmy LaFave** and **Warren Hold** combining for **Bob Dylan's** "Just Like a Woman," while **Jimmie Dale Gilmore** and son **Colin** offered a masterful rendition of **Townes Van Zandt's** "White Freight Liner Blues" that was nearly matched by **David Garza** and **Abra Moore's** duet on TVZ's "Marie." Luneberg appeared characteristically laid-back throughout the evening, at one point joking, "We should've charged a cover."

The Bright Shiniest

Those that only know multi-instrumentalist **Toto Miranda** from his work with local electronic wizards the **Octopus Project** (see "Silver Lining," Oct. 5, 2007) might not be ready for the absurdist onslaught of **Wozyhelmet**. Formed in 1997 and rounded out by bassist **Brandi DiPietro** of the **Sour Notes** and guitarist **Jay Blazek Crossley**, all of whom share instruments and vocal duties, the trio cranks out sweaty basement jams with neurotic tendencies, teetering between contagious twee pop and the abrasive guitar noise of **Trance Syndicate Records**. "Fast and loud seems to be our stock and trade," says Miranda, who's in the process of booking a series of local shows while the Octopus Project finishes a new EP and begins writing a full-length follow-up to last year's *Hello, Avalanche*. "Wozyhelmet tends to be a bit looser, where a missed note or forgotten lyric is less of a screwup and more of a charm." Following an unsteady stream of self-recorded CD-Rs, Wozyhelmet recently released its hand-crafted and individually numbered sophomore album, *Get Down*, featuring such slanted and enchanted lullabies as "We Support the Italian Stewardesses" and "What Was Dad Talking to Daniel About?" Getting down won't be a problem, but good luck picking yourself back up.



SANDY CARSON

Wozyhelmet

Who's Next

● Founder and Director **Mike Murphy** nearly closed her **Natural Ear Music Camp** in light of exceedingly high overhead costs. "The parents wouldn't let me," she laughs. Instead, the long-running local institution is temporarily moving its operations to **Music Lab's St. Elmo location** beginning in January and is hosting an end-of-semester showcase at **Jovita's** on Sunday.

● Mayor **Will Wynn** is officially proclaiming today (Thursday) to be **Girls Rock Camp Day** at 5:30pm. The local nonprofit celebrates at **City Hall** with a free performance by the **Velvet Pretzels**, succeeded by **Follow That Bird!** and camp graduate **Fabi Reyna** at **Jo's Coffee**. A benefit follows next Friday, Dec. 19, at **Red 7**, with **Cruiserweight** and **Adrian & the Sickness**.

● Meanwhile, the **Paul Green School of Rock Music** Austin hosts **Rock Against Hunger** at **Stubb's** on Sunday, with tributes to **Hendrix**, progressive rock, and something called Freedom Rock, for the benefit of the **Capital Area Food Bank**. Admission is two nonperishable food items or \$5.

Random Play

● Local bluesman **Jake Andrews** recently wrapped up recording sessions with former **Manfred Mann** vocalist **Paul Jones**, contributing lead guitar and his own single "Lover to Cry" for *Paul Jones 2009*, due in February on Collectors' Choice. The comeback was co-produced by former Austinite **Carla Olson** and also features contributions from Jones' **Powerhouse** cohort **Eric Clapton**. "He kind of copped one of my guitar parts," confides Andrews, who returns to the Continental Club on Saturday with **Guitar Shorty**. "I had to go back and record around Clapton, which was quite an honor really."

● After less than four years of operation, the **Oaks** near Manor closed its doors on Nov. 30, due primarily to financial difficulties. Say it ain't so.

● Attn. Postal Service: The **Recording Conservatory of Austin** is hosting a free, advanced seminar on **Pro Tools**-based digital collaborations on Monday. For reservations and directions, RSVP to admin@trcoa.com.



Eugene Chadbourne and Austin

BY DOUG FREEMAN

May 2004: Eugene Chadbourne and local harmonica wizard Walter Daniels sit outside of San Antonio's punk emporium, Taco Land. As they wait to begin their set, Chadbourne pries a crumpled piece of paper from between the planks of a picnic table. Scrawled across its finely ruled lines is a plea from a young man to the mother of his daughter.

"I'm leaving to Austin today on the bus," it reads, honest, confused, and brutal with resignation. "I came by to say goodbye. I've got a few dollars to give you or to get you a bus ticket out of here."

The next day, as Daniels sets up equipment with piano man Earl Poole Ball at Million Dollar Sound's former studio in South Austin, Chadbourne produces the letter from his pocket with chords scribbled above the words. The resulting song, which leads off his upcoming album, *This Is Our Gordito*, is a haunting missive, Chadbourne breathing desperate life back into the discarded note while accompanied by Daniels' quivering harmonica and Ball's sparse piano.

Chadbourne's work thrives on happy accidents, the moment of found inspiration jolting songs from their roots into an alternate realm of sound. His music is a revel of improvisation, playfully outpacing generic conventions and skirting stylistic thresholds with an eccentric exuberance, a collision of folk delivered with a free-jazz aesthetic and punk rock ethos, a sound perhaps best represented by the title of his 1987 album, *LSD C&W*.

"There's a local sculptor and painter here, and he's got all this junk," opines Chadbourne from his home in Raleigh, N.C. "He spends the whole day sorting through it and making different piles, making a painting with one thing and maybe a sculpture with something else. I'm like that too, to real extremes. I keep different things and just start connecting them, and all of the sudden, once you put these two things together, they look like they were meant to be."

His music is a revel of improvisation, playfully outpacing generic conventions and skirting stylistic thresholds with an eccentric exuberance.

With a wild nest of gray hair wreathing his head, Chadbourne, like his performances, whether on banjo, guitar, or his infamously fashioned household instruments such as electric rake and plunger fiddle, is unpredictable, weaving his experiences into hilarious ballads and biting political screeds through a constantly contorting musical virtuosity. Over the course of three decades, he's collaborated with everyone from John Zorn to Camper Van Beethoven and Ramblin' Jack Elliott to the Violent Femmes and fronted the raucously eclectic trio Shockabilly.

This Is Our Gordito, which was finally finished in a 2007 follow-up session with Austin axe-slinger Redd Volkaert, marks the fifth album of an extensive catalog that Chadbourne has recorded in Austin. It's a connection extending back to 1987 and his teaming with onetime local Evan Johns on *Vermin of the Blues* and 1993 re-pairing *Terror Has Some Strange Kinfolk*.

"One thing about Austin: There is a very open listening audience," offers Chadbourne. "Going back to even the first time I came down there to play with Shockabilly, it was one of those places that had a lure for me."

In 2000, Chadbourne paid tribute to Austin's country music legacy with *Texas Sessions*, a diverse interpretation of compositions by Doug Sahm, Willie Nelson, and Ernest Tubbs, among others, that featured Daniels, pedal steel maven Susan Alcorn, and trombonist David Dove. At the invitation of Sir Douglas Quintet and Texas Tornados drummer Ernie Durawa, he returned two years later to record *Texas Sessions: Chapter Two*, revamping Sahm's already wild style with his own explorations, while Durawa and Speedy Sparks rocked Chadbourne's lo-fi unravellings with a hefty Texas rhythm section.

"I think he's a musical genius," offers Durawa on Chadbourne. "He just has his own bizarre way of doing things, and playing with him is great. It's totally off the top of your head. When we went in the studio, there were no rehearsals; just go in, roll the tape, and go for it. Most of the time, when you're in the studio with an artist, they're trying to tell you what to do, and what ends up happening is that it kills your groove. And once they kill your groove, you're just kind of going through the motions. With Eugene, you just want to stay in there."

Interestingly, Chadbourne's most enduring connection to the River City is his long friendship and collaboration with former Austinite and Mothers of Invention drummer Jimmy Carl Black, who passed away last month. Given the opportunity to invite 11 musicians to Germany for an improvisational project at the Moers Festival in 1991, Chadbourne recruited Black to join him. After Black moved to Europe, the two formed freewheeling drum-and-banjo duo the Jack & Jim Show.

"We played a tour of Holland and Switzerland and Germany, and because of the schedule and everything, we barely even had a sound check. We just got up and started playing songs," laughs Chadbourne. "Right away, [Black] says, 'This is some of the freest music I've ever played in my life!' I said, 'What about Zappa?' and he goes, 'Well, none of that was improvised; everything was completely controlled!'"

Over the past 15 years, Chadbourne and Black toured the world extensively and released more than 17 albums together. Even as late as last summer, the two traveled to Japan for four dates and Black's first opportunity to visit the island nation.

"He was my hero as a kid," says Chadbourne. "I thought that one thing I could do now was help him at this point in his career and get him some good work playing really interesting music and get him out in front of a really interested audience all over the world, get him doing something really creative, and then bring out a lot of things about his humor and his wonderful kind of outlook about things. I put a lot of energy into that, and it worked out really great for both of us." ■

The second of Eugene Chadbourne's shows at Salvage Vanguard Theater is Tuesday, Dec. 16, 8:30pm. The first set is in duet with Walter Daniels, and the second features Chadbourne with a local percussion ensemble. \$10

texas sessions

BY DOUG FREEMAN

EUGENE CHADBOURNE WITH EVAN JOHNS AND THE H-BOMBS

Vermin of the Blues (Fundamental, 1987)

Chadbourne's Austin debut with Johns' H-Bombs backing opens upending rockabilly on "We Tried to Make a Record but We Couldn't Get It Together" but quickly veers toward the bizarre with the noise assault of "Rakeman". The H-Bombs keep pace through "Johnny Cash in the Philippines," the off-kilter title track, and fuzzed freak-out of "Psychotic Reaction." ★★★

EUGENE CHADBOURNE AND EVAN JOHNS

Terror Has Some Strange Kinfolk (Alternative Tentacles, 1993)

"Achey Rakey Heart" famously disembodies Billy Ray Cyrus' hit, but Johns' rough howl on exemplary guitar stomp "Redneck Jazz," the bluesy "Mister Jones," and delicate closer "Living in the Country" balance Chadbourne's eccentric nasal whine. Political riffs such as "George Bush's Bones Jig" and "Desert Storm Chewing Gum" cut with both spite and levity, and "Killbillies" unloads backwoods madness. ★★★

THE JACK & JIM SHOW

Pachuco Cadaver (Fire Ant, 1995)

THE JACK & JIM SHOW

Uncle Jimmy's Master Plan (House of Chadula, 1996)

The best output from Chadbourne's and Jimmy Carl Black's extensive collaborations, these albums meld the pull of their predecessors with their own unique avant visions. *Pachuco* pays homage to Captain Beefheart in raucous, warped blues, Black's vocals bruising into Chadbourne's banjo and guitar on "Willie the Pimp" and "Drop-Out Boogie." *Master Plan* captures the duo's natural chemistry live and dishes three Zappa tunes. (*Pachuco*) ★★★ (*Uncle Jimmy*) ★★★

TEXAS SESSIONS

(House of Chadula, 2000)

Former Houstonian Susan Alcorn proves pedal steel as versatile as Chadbourne's guitar, but trombonist David Dove adds the odd twist to Walter Daniels' harp. Willie Nelson's "Things to Remember" and "Slow Down Old World" are faithful by Chadbournian standards, but Doug Sahm's "Everybody Gets Lonely Sometimes" and the 11-minute "Revolutionary Ways" and "I Don't Want" medley rock radically. ★★★

TEXAS SESSIONS: CHAPTER TWO

(Boxholder, 2002)

More straightforward but no less playful than its predecessor, Chadbourne's tribute to Sahm with Speedy Sparks and Ernie Durawa on rhythm grooves affectionately through "Old Habits Die Hard" and "Cowboy Peyton Place/Can't Go Back to Austin," while "She's About a Mover/Ta Bueno Compadre" and "You Can't Hide a Redneck" roll. Chadbourne's originals also get touched with Tex-Mex flavor. ★★★

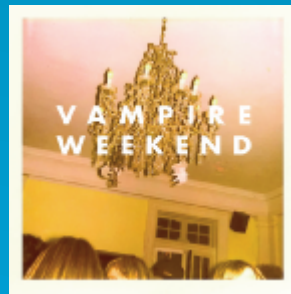


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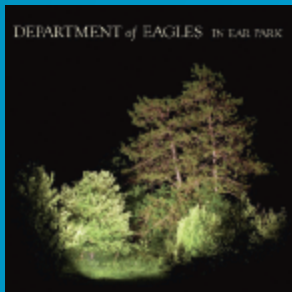


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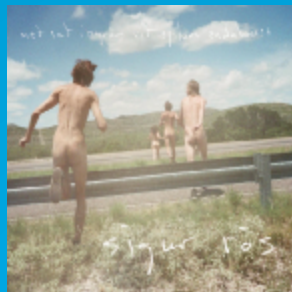
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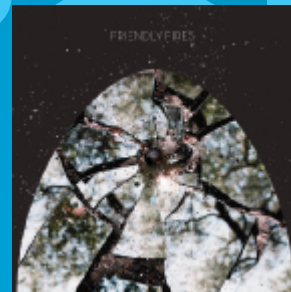
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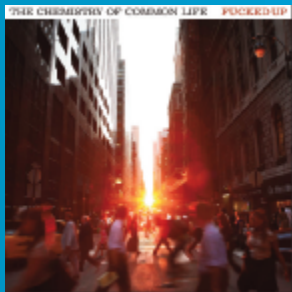
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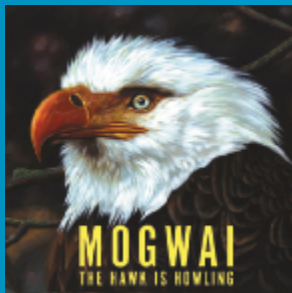
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ROY ORBISON
The Soul of Rock and Roll (Sony/Legacy)

"I've spent my lifetime trying to figure love out," offered Roy Orbison in his final interview, and no other artist more fully embodied both love's mysteriously swelling swag-ger and savagely lonesome desperation than Vernon, Texas' Big O. His haunting voice, sweeping through octaves with a grace unprecedented and inimitable in rock & roll, shook the genre's emotional possibilities even as it was being defined. Marking the 20th anniversary of his death, this 4-CD set spans the Texan's entire career, from his first recording with the Wink Westerners in 1955 to the soaring, dramatic close of his last live performance in 1988 with "It's Over." While the expected hits are all given prominent representation (including three manifestations of "Oh, Pretty Woman"), a wealth of previously unreleased demos and live recordings expands and reinforces the scope of Orbison's influence. Most remarkable is the evolution of Orbison's voice on disc one. Though traces of his powerful and assured croon are present in Teen Kings ballads "A True Love Goodbye" and "An Empty Cup and a Broken Date" and even the floor-shaking rock boogies of his Sun Recordings such as "Ooby Dooby," explorations with his groundbreaking range are evident in acoustic demos "I Give Up" and "Love Storm" and finally flourish with 1959's "Pretty One." Disc two is dominated by Orbison's exceptional output with producer Fred Foster in the early 1960s, hits such as "Only the Lonely," "In Dreams," and "Crying" balanced with the fuzzed bass bounce of "Lana" and seaside rhythm of "Leah." Though the third disc offers few revelations from his sparse 1970s output following the tragic loss of his wife and two sons, the unreleased demo of "Precious" is debilitatingly wrought, and the live 1972 recording of "Land of 1,000 Dances" bursts with horn-blaring energy. The final CD opens on Orbison's 1985 reunion with Class of '55 alumni Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash with the subtle "Coming Home" and rocking "Waymore's Blues," as well as the Traveling Wilburys' "Not Alone Any More" and Bono collaboration "She's a Mystery to Me." This *Soul* is worthy of Orbison's foundational stamp on rock & roll.

★★★★

— Doug Freeman



HANK WILLIAMS
The Unreleased Recordings (Time Life)

You bought 1998's 10-CD *The Complete Hank Williams* and thought that was all the Hank you'd ever need. Sorry, buckaroo; you're in for a big surprise. On the 3-CD *Unreleased Recordings* are 54 of 143 songs that Williams performed on Nashville's WSM during his daily 7:15am radio show in 1951. Recorded on acetates, which could only be played a few times before wearing out, the complete shows were 15 minutes long and sponsored by Mother's Best Flour. Prerecording allowed the audience to think Williams was in the studio when he was actually out on the road, and the seemingly temporary nature of the endeavor gave the singer unusual freedom. This first sampling – the complete treasure trove is promised for the future – is a mix of popular and obscure, original songs commingling with covers you might not expect. Material ranges from tunes of the day ("Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," "Cherokee Boogie," "Cool Water") to deep gospel standards and surprising versions of songs he's remembered for, including the first known recording of "I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love With You)." One of the most surprising facets about these recordings is their clarity; Williams' smooth, troubled voice has never been captured with this much warmth and presence. In 1951, he was at the top of his popularity, and this is a glorious glimpse into why that was, given that he's simply singing about what was on his mind that day. Numerous photos and an enlightening essay by Williams biographer Colin Escott make the set an even better treat. Anyone familiar with the *Health and Happiness Shows*, radio transcriptions from 1949 that were



released in their entirety on a two-disc set in 1993, will have an idea of what to expect from *The Unreleased Recordings*. One can only speculate why the Mother's Best find wouldn't be released in the same fashion, but that's a minor quibble with what's an extraordinary trip back to 1951 with country music's first superstar.

★★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

JOHNNY CASH
Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison (Columbia/Legacy)

According to Cash biographer Michael Streissguth in the liner notes to this 2-CD/1-DVD set, "few of Cash's associates and musicians remember that he recorded two concerts [at Folsom] that day." Listening to the full shows, it's easy to see why. The performances are noticeably sluggish in the later set, and the timing of the stage banter – nearly all of which was canned, right down to Cash's request for water – is off. Cash was no doubt tired, but it's tempting to imagine that only a single great take of these powerful songs was possible, an idea given credence by "Give My Love to Rose" and the blazing "I Got Stripes," which appear only in the second set and are its strongest performances. Because the two set lists are nearly identical, with almost all of the first takes represented on the existing *At Folsom Prison* CD, the second set is a curiosity. Carl Perkins' opening songs are more interesting, though they're laughably outmatched by four wonderful tracks from the Statler Brothers. In the end, the purpose of the box is less to provide new listening material than to reaffirm the 1968 concert as the pivotal event of Cash's career and the distillation of a quest to humanize the condemned. This job is partly accomplished through Hugh Cherry's introduction, which treats the prisoners with an uncommon degree of respect and equity. *Folsom Prison* finishes with a DVD documen-



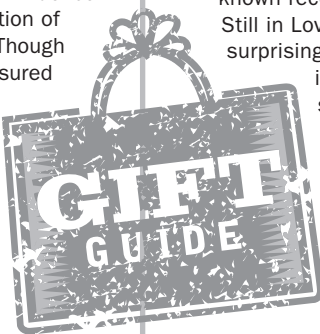
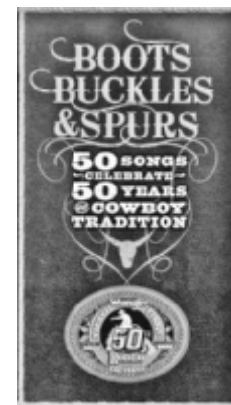
tary, which interweaves a thumbnail biography, musings on the prison system, animated (and pretty odd) interpretations of four songs, and sketches of the parallel stories of Glen Sherley, an imprisoned songwriter Cash tried unsuccessfully to rescue following the concert, and Millard Dedmon, another inmate deeply affected by the show who found his own path to redemption.

★★★

— Daniel Mee

BOOTS, BUCKLES, & SPURS: 50 SONGS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF COWBOY TRADITION (Sony/BMG)

Though boxed up against superstars Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, and George Strait, there's still nothing that compares to the immaculate yodel of Austin's late Don Walser, even if his "Cowpoke" is awkwardly sandwiched between the twanged country polish of Trent Willmon and Doug Supernaw. There's little unifying sense or flow to this 3-CD collection of rodeo odes and bronco ballads, its broad theme making the selection of songs somewhat arbitrary and the accompanying booklet more interested in the history of the National Finals Rodeo than music. The first disc provides the most interest, wrangling cowboy classics from Gene Autry ("Back in the Saddle Again"), Patsy Montana ("I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart"), and Eddy Arnold ("The Cattle Call"). Bob Wills' fantastic "Dusty Skies" pairs well with whooping Johnny Cash rarity "Rodeo Hand," but Michael Murphey's smooth "Wildfire" is an awkward segue from outlaw David Allan Coe's "Ride Em' Cowboy" to Waylon Jennings' "Let's All Help the Cowboys (Sing the Blues)." Billy Joe Shaver opens the gate on disc two with "(We Are) the Cowboys," while rockers "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" (the Outlaws) and "Hooked on an 8 Second



HUNTER S. THOMPSON
The Gonzo Tapes: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson (Shout! Factory)

Sometimes it's best to enjoy a classic work of art without knowing how it was wrought. Rather than offering new insight into Hunter S. Thompson's work, *The Gonzo Tapes* spool forth like a souvenir from the sausage factory. Somewhat averse to pad-and-pen reporting, Thompson kept a tape recorder handy to capture conversations, phone calls, ambient noise, and ephemeral observations. This 5-CD collection chronicles the audio evidence of the Good Doctor's glory years, 1965-1975. Besides the sonic degradation inherent in old cassettes, a trained ear is often required to decipher Thompson's trademark mumble, especially when delivered in states of chemical impairment through a mouth anchored by a cigarette holder. Beginning in California with Thompson trying to collect his thoughts at a 1965 Hell's Angels rally as drunken bikers whoop in the background, the tapes

also feature *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* taking up two entire discs. The wild braying portrayed in the seminal book often comes off as comparatively mellow, but even so, it's fun to hear Thompson and attorney/activist Oscar Acosta careen around 1971 Vegas in a white Cadillac convertible to the tune of the Carpenters' "For All We Know." Later, Thompson records a cocaine binge replete with observations such as, "I'm fucking tired of having my mouth feel like muskrats have gnawed the inside out of it." Next is Kinshasa, Zaire, with artist Ralph Steadman and blown coverage of 1974's Ali-Foreman fight. Finally, Thompson lands in Saigon right before the North Vietnamese army marches in. The non-Gonzo caution in Thompson's voice as veteran *New York Times* war correspondent Gloria Emerson persuades him to take the assignment is most revealing. *The Gonzo Tapes* are unlikely to appeal to anyone other than die-hard HST enthusiasts, but if you have a cool uncle who fits that bill, this just might be his whiff of ether.

★★★

— Greg Beets



Ride" (Chris LeDoux) buck James Galway & Sylvia's saccharine "The Wayward Wind." The final CD ropes contemporary cuts from Tracy Byrd ("No Ordinary Man"), Lonestar ("When Cowboys Didn't Dance"), and Montgomery Gentry's unimaginative remake of Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive." While packing some big names, *Boots, Buckles, & Spurs* plays like an National Finals Rodeo promotion.

★ ★ — Doug Freeman

THE POGUES
Just Look Them
Straight in the
Eye and Say ...
Poguemahone!!
(Rhino)



On one hand — the one holding a dram of Jameson — the Pogues were fueled as much by Gaelic myth as rock & roll. On the other hand, who would have guessed that Irish folk music could produce such a genius aberration? The rollicking boys from Dublin had more in common with Paddy Moloney than U2, or at least Pogues frontman Shane MacGowan did since the Chieftains were more likely to warble about whiskey than what they were looking for. This 5-CD UK import throws down a righteous and satisfying combination of music, text, and photos, but it's more musical mitzvah than greatest hits. *Poguemahone!!* jigs through the group's volatile history with live material, alternate takes, demos, and other rarities. It also includes a host of delightful covers ("Eve of Destruction," "Maggie May"), a blistering 12-inch remix of "If I Should Fall From Grace With God," and a dreamy descent into unreleased soundtracking (*Sid and Nancy*, *Garbo*, *Straight to Hell*). Despite the dominant presence of MacGowan, the Pogues were a revol-

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FINS UP!

LAGER

ing door of personalities, shaped by those within at any given time. Bassist Cait O'Riordan gets vocal time, as does Pogues co-founder Spider Stacy, on Steve Earle's "Johnny Come Lately" and even Joe Strummer, who briefly replaced MacGowan in 1991. These Strummer tracks are more notable than effective, with the Pogues employed more as backup than the brash rowdies we know and love. The band imploded shortly after back-to-back milestones, 1988's *If I Should Fall From Grace With God* and the following year's *Peace and Love*, the best Christmas song of modern times gracing the former with "Fairytale of New York." *Poguemahone!!*'s fatal flaw lies in that beloved MacGowan-Kirsty MacColl duet as a work-in-progress, presented here in three distinct periods – MacGowan with Elvis Costello on piano, MacGowan with accordion, MacGowan with full band. It's alluring, but you crave the full version with darling Kirsty so you can sing along and call your beloved a slut and cheap lousy faggot. Not even a live version is offered, though the hidden track "Good Night, Irene" is a sweet consolation. By the way, "pogue mahone" is phonetic. The phrase is "póg mo thóin," but the boys correctly guessed we Yanks don't have enough Jameson in our blood to deal with Gaelic spelling.

★★★★ – Margaret Moser



NINA SIMONE

To Be Free: The Nina Simone Story (RCA/Legacy)

"When I get onstage, you keep your eyes on me." Nina Simone directed that cue to drummer Buck Clarke in rehearsal for a 1970 New York City concert excerpted on the 23-minute DVD that accompanies this 3-CD summation of the North Carolina songstress' 36-year career. Take that suggestion as gospel. *To Be Free* is chockablock with treasure from this dynamic personality, a high priestess of soul evoking both heartbreak (the live "Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair") and sexuality (1968 studio tour de force "Ain't Got No – I Got Life"). As her 1960 Newport Jazz Fest cover of "Trouble in Mind" demonstrates, Simone (1933-2003) was a melt-your-heart singer who, as *Chronicle* contributor Ed Ward details in his brief biographical liner notes, went to Juilliard for piano ("Mood Indigo"). Her comet shines brightest on contributions to the civil rights movement – "Backlash Blues," co-written by friend Langston Hughes and closing out disc one's 1957-1968 run, playing perfectly into its successor's stirring "Mississippi Goddam," performed three days after the assassination of friend and mentor Martin Luther King Jr. The second disc is the most condensed, as 17 tracks target 1968-1969 and are carried in the middle by diverse arrangements of Bob Dylan's "Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues" and "The Times They Are A-Changin'" and folk fixture "Turn! Turn! Turn! (to Everything There Is a Season)." A 1971 live duet with her brother Sam on "Let It Be Me" and the 18-minute "My Sweet Lord/Today Is a Killer" medley from 1972's live *Emergency Ward* hit the pulse on the final disc's 24-year run. Don't worry, Nina, we can hardly take our eyes off you.

★★★★ – Chase Hoffberger

THE COMPLETE MOTOWN SINGLES

Vol. 11A: 1971

(Hip-O Select)

In the music business, two plus two seldom equals four. Marvin Gaye's greatest single achievement, "What's Going On," as the cover-sheaved vinyl 7-inch and an "A" appended into Vol. 11 of *The Complete Motown Singles* belie the end-times of Motor City's dream vehicle. By the end of 1972, when the label relocated to L.A. – and this series ends – most of Motown's immortals exist in the rearview mirror. Bad omen, then, that here the Jackson 5 opener "Mama's Pearl" was blocked from the top *Billboard* slot by the Osmonds. Of course, five discs as one-half of 1971, as with this endeavor as a whole, are as much about the nonhits as chart champions. When Brit rockers Brass Monkey do their best Stillwater (*Almost Famous*) impression on "Sweet Water," it sets up Eddie Kendricks' last single with the Temptations, the buttery "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)." Sammy Davis Jr. schlocking it up on "In My Own Lifetime" (liner notes reveal that Marvin Gaye made demos for a Davis LP) contrasts Michael Jackson's unbelievably grownup reading of "Never Can Say Goodbye." Disc three pits Bobby Darin white-washing the Supremes' "Someday We'll Be Together" against Gladys Knight & the Pips nailing the CD shut, yet it's a pair of *Hair* vets and their Motown debut, "What You See Is What You Get," setting up the career of Dallas-born Marvin Lee Aday (Meatloaf). CD four is anchored by a triptych of tunes by Ivy Jo (Hunter), not to be confused with Texas' Ivory Joe Hunter; this Motown troublemaker's deep, dramatic voice approaches the gritty R&B of the Tempts' David Ruffin or the Four Tops' Levi Stubbs (1936-2008). "Mercy Mercy Me (the Ecology)" book-ends the set with Gaye's other grand achievement of 1971-A, though one of the crank-it moments of the entire series, the barreling gospel rock of "Jesus Is the Key" from Motown hit-and-runs Ken Christie & the Sunday People, nestles between it and Tempts' B-side "I'm the Exception to the Rule," yet another Norman Whitfield (1943-2008) gemstone.

★★★

– Raoul Hernandez

LOVE TRAIN: THE SOUND OF PHILADELPHIA

(Sony/Legacy)

When Barack Obama's victory broke last month, McFadden & Whitehead's "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" cued up coast to coast. The 1979 anthem acts as logical culmination of the aspirational sound developed at Philadelphia's Sigma Sound Studios by songwriter/producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. This 4-CD retrospective begins with Gamble & Huff's first big hit, "Expressway (to Your Heart)," but the 1967 Soul Survivors indelible offers little hint of things to come. The pattern starts emerging on the Delfonics' "La-La – Means I Love You." Combining vestiges of doo-wop with a slightly more mature take on Motown's ornate production, early entries in the Gamble & Huff play-book foreshadowed the quiet storm perfected in 1972 through the fiery growl of Teddy Pendergrass

CONTINUED ON P.72



GENESIS

1970-1975 (Atlantic/Rhino)

In the beginning, Peter Gabriel was the singer, and Phil Collins wasn't even in the band. While most fans know Genesis as a stadium-filling top of the pops trio, this is the definitive document of its beginnings. Completing an upgrade of the group's catalog that began last year with two boxes (1976-1982, 1983-1998), the first comes last. A massive 7-CD/6-DVD undertaking, 1970-1975 contains five albums newly and, perhaps, controversially remixed, plus a collection of rarities. An accompanying audio DVD of each offers 5.1 DTS or Dolby Digital surround sound, as well as new interviews with band members and rare performance footage. Inexplicably, debut LP *From Genesis to Revelation* is left out. Otherwise, the set represents Gabriel's tenure with Genesis, a period when the band was at its most daring – undeniably British, arguably more folk-influenced than other progressive acts, and sporting one of the most provocative frontmen of all time. The music, for the most part, is still imposing. Sprawling, haunted "The Musical Box" and bounding "The Return of the Giant Hogweed" from 1971's *Nursery Cryme* demonstrate fresh imagination; it's no surprise to hear Gabriel claim heralded folkies Fairport Convention as an influence in an interview. In 1972, *Foxtrot* expanded the band's reach with the breathtaking "Watcher of the Skies" and cinematic "Supper's Ready." The whimsical "I Know What I Like (in Your Wardrobe)" from '73's *Selling England by the Pound* points the way to Gabriel's early solo work, but as daunting as it all can be, what's missing is equally puzzling. Not until *Foxtrot* do the video extras include anything besides interviews. *Selling England*, for example, features more than 90 minutes in concert, including a full show from Italy, 1973, where Gabriel, in full costume, combines the fantastic and frightening. One wishes for more like it, especially from Genesis' crowning achievement, '74's double-disc, *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*, which is given surprisingly meager video support, although the discussion of Gabriel's decision to leave the group proves fascinating. With a list price of \$140, this box might be out of reach for many, and the meager liner notes dock it half a point further. Still, the music of early Genesis retains a distinctive charm that's never been duplicated.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri



DAVID GILMOUR

Live in Gdańsk (Columbia)

In the Cold War of Pink Floyd, guitarist David Gilmour cracking *The Division Bell*'s "A Great Day for Freedom" in the Gdańsk shipyards to mark the 26th anniversary of Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement in Poland pales in comparison to Roger Waters' crumbling of *The Wall* in Berlin in 1990. Backed by the Baltic Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Zbigniew Preisner, and in support of his pensive 2006 solo album, *On an Island* (included as a bonus DVD feature), this spectacularly shot concert from the same year still packs plenty of historical significance as it prominently features original Floyd keyboardist Richard Wright, who died earlier this year, while a 35-minute behind-the-scenes documentary captures the international scope of the occasion. Gilmour's melowered with age, blurring the distinction between space-rock futurism and New Age meditations, especially during the twilight romanticism of "Castellorizon" and smooth jazz instrumental "Red Sky at Night," without dimming the celestial beauty of his near constant guitar auroras. As a special edition 3-CD/2-DVD set, the audio discs divide the live set between Gilmour's solo material and Pink Floyd selections. The latter opens with the gorgeous Syd Barrett tribute "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," while the opening chime in "Echoes" rings like a "fasten seat belt" warning on a 25-minute voyage to the heart of the sun – propelled in part by Roxxy Music guitarist Phil Manzanera. The real draw is the bonus CD, a well-sequenced 12-song tour sampler highlighted by an unexpected cover of the Madcap's whimsical "Dominoes." The second DVD, meanwhile, is a much more intimate affair, opening with a three-song set at London's Mermaid Theatre that spotlights Wright on the somber, melancholic ballad "Wearing the Inside Out" and on "Comfortably Numb," before closing with a series of "Barn Jams" that find Gilmour improvising in orbital bliss with Wright. Fond farewell to another fallen star.

★★★

– Austin Powell





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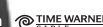
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on Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes' "If You Don't Know Me by Now." Then the duo borrowed a page from Curtis Mayfield by introducing social justice motifs on the O'Jays' "Back Stabbers" and "Love Train." Girded by a deep-seated groove and infused with gravitas by elaborate string and horn arrangements, the messages couldn't miss. William DeVaughn's 1974 one-off, "Be Thankful for What You've Got," typified the ice-cold gangsta aesthetic that hip-hop promulgated, while the O'Jays' "For the Love of Money" boasted one of the all-time great opening bass riffs, courtesy of 19-year-old Anthony Jackson. Philadelphia also birthed classic disco beat via drummer Earl Young's metronomic hi-hat on tracks such as MFSB's wickedly gorgeous "T.S.O.P. (the Sound of Philadelphia)." The 1980s-era songs that close *Love Train* suffer from smooth R&B turgidity, but the set's most egregious misstep is the omission of key Spinners tracks meticulously produced and arranged by fellow Gamble & Huff traveler Thom Bell. "I'll Be Around," "Mighty Love," and "The Rubberband Man" are a solid start, but skipping "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love" stops *Love Train* just shy of definitive.

★★★★ — Greg Beets

MILES DAVIS
Kind of Blue 50th Anniversary Collector's Edition
(Columbia/Legacy)



The jazz album recommended above all other remains *Kind of Blue*, but it comes with a caveat: If the music isn't to your liking, you shouldn't waste time pursuing jazz at all. In so many ways, trumpeter Miles Davis' conceptual tour de force epitomizes the entire jazz aesthetic – elegant, passionate, intimate, expansive, soulful. Remarkably, every track on the album is a first take, and this spontaneity helps capture a certain transcendent mood that only jazz at its best can induce. In celebrating the 50th anni-

versary of *Kind of Blue*, recorded March-April 1959 and released the following August, this handsome collector's edition goes far beyond the album's previous mundane reissues with two CDs and a DVD. The original LP with nonessential bonus tracks appears on the first disc, while the second features a lovely 1958 session, the only other studio date with the same *Kind of Blue* personnel (John Coltrane, Cannonball Adderley, Bill Evans, Paul Chambers, and Jimmy Cobb), plus a rare live performance. The DVD spotlights a fascinating documentary that celebrates the LP with commentary from, among others, Herbie Hancock and drummer Jimmy Cobb, the only surviving group member. It also includes a 1959 CBS TV special, *The Sound of Miles Davis*, which contains a segment of Davis and arranger/conductor Gil Evans and an orchestra performing tunes that appeared on their 1957 collaboration, *Miles Ahead*. Additionally, there's a blue vinyl record encased in original cover art, a 60-page bound book of essays, several 8-by-10 photos, and a large poster. As the bestselling jazz album of all time, *Kind of Blue* transcends categorization as a modal masterpiece whose influence has permeated popular music and beyond.

★★★★ — Jay Trachtenberg

THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN
The Power of Negative Thinking: B-Sides & Rarities (Rhino)

The Jesus & Mary Chain taps into an unequivocal force, an acerbic marring of antagonistic distortion and pristine pop clarity. *The Power of Negative Thinking*, an essential 4-CD, 81-song collection of JAMC's odds and ends, mirrors the Scottish misfits' evolution from the visceral, sweet 'n' sour beauty of 1985's landmark *Psychocandy* and the grim guitar bop of '87's *Darklands* to the drum-machine pulse of *Automatic* (1989), *Honey's Dead* (1992), and final breaking point, *Munki* (1998). As evidenced by abrasive readings of Leonard Cohen ("Tower of Song"), Prince ("Alphabet Street"), the Temptations ("My Girl"), and Elvis Presley ("Guitarman"), core components William and



Jim Reid are rabid deconstructionists, exposing the underbelly of popular music. Of particular interest are the Suicide notes in Syd Barret's withering "Vegetable Man," Willie Dixon's lo-fi blues ("Little Red Rooster"), and the 13th Floor Elevators' acid-fissure aviation in "Reverberation

(Doubt)." Two versions of "Surfin' USA" sound like Brian Wilson night terrors from 1967, along with the No Wave vibrations rippling through "Kill Surf City." "Bo Diddley Is Jesus" summons Chess Records' big beat, though the industrial grind of "Who Do You Love" morphs from a sexual inquiry to a sadistic demand. Yet beneath the grating layers of white noise reside bona fide pop songs bleeding to be heard, and the stark, stripped-down demo versions of singles such as "Just Like Honey," "Taste of Cindy," and "Happy When It Rains" revel in the band's gorgeous and gothic melancholy. That spirit becomes even more apparent in the acoustic ruminations from the *Stoned & Dethroned*-era ("The Perfect Crime," "Taking It Away," "Ghost of a Smile"). What's most surprising is the strength of the original B-sides, such as the shoe-gazed summer dream "Happy Place," girl group siphon "Suck," and bassist Ben Lurie's "Rocket," which could easily reside on any of JAMC's studio LPs and absolutely trump anything by the band's innumerable acolytes. Cross over to the dark side.

★★★★ — Austin Powell

CHEAP TRICK
Budokan! (Epic/Legacy)

Thirty years ago, 14,000 Japanese schoolgirls went crazy. And with good reason. "The Budokan made us famous, and we made the

Budokan famous," explains Cheap Trick songsmith and lead guitarist Rick Nielsen of the concert that turned his late-blooming Illinois proto-punks into household names worldwide. Polished again after a 20th anniversary repackaging of the show as *The Complete Concert*, the newly mixed and remastered 3-CD/1-DVD 30th anniversary edition still has plenty to recommend it. Highlights include a never-before-available DVD taken from Japanese television showing how singer Robin Zander played Daltrey to Nielsen's pick-flicking Townshend. It helps to remember how many dinosaurs still walked (and ruled) the earth back in 1978. Into this generation gap stomped Cheap Trick, singing of the strangeness of suburban American life, reckless youth, and wild romance. Model-



handsome Zander, dressed for success in a sharp white leisure suit, his blond tresses flowing, is backed by cutie-pie Tom Petersson, a virtuoso on the 12-string bass, and chunky, chain-smoking drummer Bun E. Carlos, while Nielsen plays the foolish American schoolboy, spazzing out onstage. The original live LP introduced now-classic cuts "Surrender," "I Want You to Want Me," and a heavy cover of Fats Domino's "Ain't That a Shame." Long lost tracks such as the faux-British anthem "Elo Kiddies," a soaring cover of Terry Reid's "Speak Now (or Forever Hold Your Peace)," and the battering beats of "Lookout" sound great, too. The four discs include an audio-only version of the television broadcasts, the DVD, and the virtual gatefold of *The Complete Concert* spread across discs three and four. A 40-page booklet and looking-back interview footage provide context for the uninitiated.

★★★★ — Dan Oko

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



In a recent report of DUI excuses in the Swedish newspaper *Nerikes Allehanda*, a 56-year-old woman had asserted that, though she had been drinking, her driving was not affected because she had remembered to keep one eye closed so as not to be seeing double.

LEAD STORY

Change Oregonians Believe In: The voters of Sodaville (pop. 290) elected Thomas Brady Harrington, 33, mayor in November, notwithstanding his criminal rap sheet showing robbery, eluding a police officer, felon in possession of a gun, and other crimes (with his electoral success perhaps due to voters' confusing him with his father, a respected town elder). And the voters of Silverton (pop. 7,400) elected Stu Rasmussen, 60, an openly transgendered, longtime resident who previously served as mayor while a man but who now sports breasts and dresses exclusively as a woman (especially miniskirts and cleavage-enhancing tops), as mayor. Actually, Rasmussen still describes himself as a man and lives with his longtime girlfriend but explained his switch as just his particular "midlife crisis."

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

"I'm really sorry. I thought he was just tired," said Lynne Stewart, who was arrested in West Melbourne, Fla., in October and charged with stealing items from a 56-year-old, unconscious man who in fact had just suffered a fatal heart attack during sex with Stewart. She blamed her larceny on a cocaine binge that impaired her judgment such that (according to a police commander) she had sex with 20 men that weekend. (However, she was not charged with prostitution. Said the commander, "No, she just likes sex.")

Lame: A woman being interviewed for jury duty on a murder case in Bronx (N.Y.) Supreme

Court in October asked to be excused for the reason that she was once murdered, herself, by her husband (but had somehow been revived by a doctor). (She was dismissed from the jury but on other grounds.)

IRONIES

Hummer H2 driver Yvonne Sinclair, 29, was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter in November in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., from a 2006 crash that killed two people and in which her intoxication was a major factor. Sinclair had bought the Hummer from proceeds of a lawsuit settlement over the 2003 death of her boyfriend who was killed by a drunk driver.

Strange Justice: 1) The Saudi Arabia delegation to the United Nations sponsored a conference on religious tolerance in November. (Not only does the kingdom employ a police force "on the prevention of vice and the promotion of virtue," but it is accused of widespread internal discrimination against disfavored Islamic sects.) 2) Janice Warder, a former Texas judge and now the incoming district attorney for Texas' Cooke County, was accused in March by a Dallas judge of having improperly withheld evidence in a 1986 case to secure a murder conviction. (The Dallas judge ordered a new trial.)

Patricia Howard filed a lawsuit against her USA Environmental Inc. employer in 2006 (just recently unsealed by a judge) for subjecting her to dangerous work during 2003-2005. The workplace was in Iraq and involved detonating surplus munitions to prevent their

falling into insurgents' hands, but that was not the danger she feared. Rather, the munitions were located in abandoned football-field-sized warehouses that had long been home to pigeons. Foot-high piles of feces had dried and turned to powder, and Howard charged that the company's respiration protection was nearly useless, subjecting workers to hantavirus and other diseases.

CHUTZPAH!

Veteran Massachusetts thief Robert Aldrich applied for compensation, because his latest arrest happened to have been illegal, and a state law permits recovery for lost income during wrongful incarceration. However, in November, a Suffolk County judge turned him down as she was unable to find any income that Aldrich might have earned during his six wrongful months in jail except from more burglaries or for home-improvement money that Aldrich admitted he earned off the books so as to evade taxes.

"I would like an apology," explained Michael Wax, who was ejected in July from the Borgata Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City because of customers' complaints about his body odor. "There's no question I stink. ... I do have an odor. I've been playing for 17 hours," said the 440-pound man. Nonetheless, Wax filed a complaint with the Casino Control Commission claiming that he should not have been so rudely treated in front of other patrons.

CRÈME DE LA WEIRD

Ms. Hang Mioku, 48, is winding down her 20-year obsession with cosmetic surgery, having been at one time bulked up with enough silicone in her face to earn the nickname "the standing fan," because her head was so large compared to her legs. Hang moved from South Korea to Japan for better access to surgery and said she had convinced herself that each procedure in her odyssey only made her more beautiful than the last. When finally no surgeon would treat her, she began injecting cooking oil. Finally, she was talked into face-reduction surgery (removal of 260 grams of foreign substance from her head and neck), but, according to a November report in London's *Daily Telegraph*, she remains grotesquely misshapen.

OOPS!

One of the items in a November seized-contraband auction by the Denver Police Department was a 1977 Oldsmobile Cutlass that was ultimately bought for \$350 by a 19-year-old woman but which is still evidence in an active murder investigation. Police eventually took back the car, which has bullet holes, a bloody interior, and contained blood-stained clothing. Furthermore, a second shooting victim who was in the car survived and was among the bidders at the auction. He dropped out but later sold the winning bidder his spare key to the car for \$40.

Read "News of the Weird" daily at www.weirduniverse.net.

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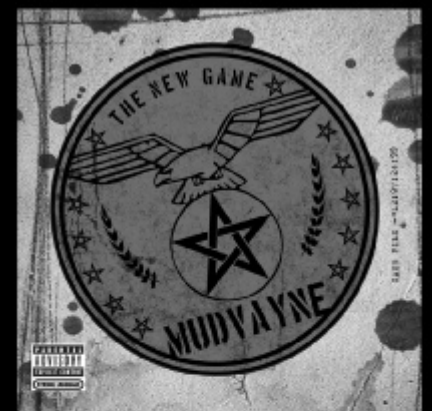
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THURSDAY **11**

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 Club Listings, p.102, for a complete lineup. 8pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-3667. \$25. www.101X.com.

AGLCC HOLIDAY PARTY Hugs, kisses, and figgy pudding all around for all rainbow and unicorn (or friendly) businesses who belong to Austin's LGBT chamber of commerce – or who wish to. 7pm. Sheraton Hotel, 701 E. 11th. \$50 (\$45, members). programs@aglcc.org.

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. And tonight, it starts early: 8pm, sharp. Come earlier to sign up. No lollygaggin'. This is your 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.

YOUR IDEAL RELATIONSHIP Robert McGarey helps define what you're looking for and get you started building lasting relationships. 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Venetian Snares Elysium
Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison's Holiday Show Paramount Theatre
101X Independent Workforce X-mas Show Emo's

FRIDAY **12**

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. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 327-7040. Free.

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! 10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. www.kingsnthings.org.

FAMILY CAVING ADVENTURE Parents and children older than 9 are invited to get geared up and learn how the aquifer works. Come prepared to get dirty, and get up close and personal with mud from the Pleistocene era. 6-9pm. Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8180. \$17.

GOD-DES & SHE Stand up, and lick it, while you let God-des & She love you better on the patio at the Spurs. Oh. Hell. Yes. 10pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. \$10.

THURSDAY, DEC 11 TO THURSDAY, DEC 18

calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

SATURDAY **13**

3 SINGING SIRENS ... two types of acution (silent, live) and a worthy cause for lez-zies (SafePlace), featuring Patrice Pike, Bettina Schelker, and Gfire. 9pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848.

ACORN PLANTING Put on sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and pants, and help plant red-oak acorns, thus creating habitats for future golden-cheeked warblers. Specific location and directions provided when you register online or call. 9am-12:30pm. 263-6443. www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland/online/registration/ecowebevents.cfm.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE Everyone's welcome (that includes women and girls) to this conference encouraging kids to keep their eyes on the prize of individual responsibility and education. Keynote speakers will be followed by workshops in small groups. 10am. Round Rock High School, 300 Lake Creek Dr., Round Rock. Free. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

ANGELS OVER AUSTIN This walking tour leaves every 15 minutes in search of the baby Jesus. You'll meet wise men, a talking star, Roman officials, a tax collector, storytellers, and even camels on your journey. Additionally, there will be snacks and a petting zoo for the kids. 2-5pm. First Baptist Church of Austin, 901 Trinity, 476-2625. Free.

ARTISAN STROLL is a monthly outdoor artists' market with strolling musicians and performers to entertain you as you shop in downtown Round Rock. Sat., Dec. 13, 11am-9pm; Sun., Dec. 14, 11am-5pm. Downtown Round Rock, 512/535-5761. Free. www.artisanstroll.com.

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

BRIGHT LEAF HIKES Bust out the sturdy shoes, and get ready for a two-hour guided hike. Second Saturdays and Sundays of the month, 9am. Bright Leaf Preserve, 2222 & Creek Mountain Road, 459-7269. Free. www.brightleaf.org.

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR Sixty jury-selected artists offer their wares for your Xmas purchasing pleasure. Live music from the likes of Colin Gilmore and the Boxcar Preachers makes supporting the local art scene and this neighborhood elementary school easy. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14. Maplewood Elementary School, 3808 Maplewood, 414-4402. Free. www.cherrywoodartfair.org.

JAZZ BALLET COMPANY presents highlights from *Coppelia* and *The Nutcracker*. 2pm. Akins High School Fine Arts Center, 10701 S. First, 442-2300. \$10 (\$5, children).

LABYRINTH CELEBRATION The children of the Austin Discovery School lead this daylong event culminating with candlelit song surrounded by the school's mazelike garden. A community potluck, book fair, and kids activities get the visitors involved, as well. Go online for a schedule of events. 12:30-7pm. Austin Discovery School, 8509 FM 969 #200, 674-0700. www.austindiscoveryschool.org.

MONKEY BITE RELEASE PARTY Live bands and a zine release help collect money for our radical community bookstore. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

PEOPLE UNITED features journalists John Pilger and Robert Jensen on their profession, mainstream news coverage, and U.S. foreign policy. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

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

SMOKING BANANA Take a peek at the Official Spam of the Austin Outpost of the Guerrilla Queer Bar to learn the location of – and more importantly, what to wear to – this month's invasion. Oh, yes, we have some bananas. 6pm. www.smokingbanana.com.

VIRGEN OF GUADALUPE ART FESTIVAL Latinas Unidas Por El Arte presents a *posada* (reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging through traditional songs) followed by an exhibition of art created by students in its Niños y Arte program. A traditional holiday meal will also be served. 6pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 241-9799. Free. www.lupearte.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
It's a Wonderful Life @ Paramount, 9:50pm
U2 3D @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm
White Christmas @ Paramount, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Almost There's Paul McCartney Tribute The Parish
Krum Bums Red 7
A Tribute to Woody Guthrie Texas Union Ballroom
T-Bird & the Breaks CD Release Victory Grill
The Diamond Smugglers Continental Club

★ **RECOMMENDED**
🐱 **KIDS**
👑 **GAY INTEREST**



| L - R: LUMINATIONS (SEE SATURDAY) | 'PLAYING THROUGH' (SPORTS, P.78) | 'I'LL BE SEEING YOU' (ARTS, P.80) | 'SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE' (FILM, P.86) | TRAIL OF DEAD (MUSIC, P.96)

LUMINATIONS: A WINTER CELEBRATION Bring two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank or a gift for Blue Santa and get rewarded with 3,000 luminarias, 5,000 twinkle lights, and hammered-copper torches. Live music from local orchestras and choirs keeps your light from going dim. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

MCKINNEY FALLS HIKE Join in this interpretive hike around the park, and get back in touch with nature. *10am. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy., 809-4138. Free with admission to park. www.mckinneyfalls.org.*

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEY Whatever kind of birder you are, amateur or pro, you'll enjoy this group exploration of local bird populations at Hornsby Bend. Two four-hour shifts are available for people ready to hike, search, and tally. *7-11am & 4pm-dark. Center for Environmental Research, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1950. www.hornsbybend.org.*

O HOLY NIGHT The Austin Chord Rangers and the Austin Harmony Chorus come together in the spirit of the holidays and giving with a concert benefiting local youth music programs. *4 & 7:30pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, 3701 Slaughter, 477-7664. www.chordrangers.org.*

PHOTOS WITH SANTA CLAUS How else is Santa going to know what you want? *Saturdays, 11am-6pm; Sundays, noon-5pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. Free. www.mitchie.com.*

POKÉMON CARD GAME CHAMPIONSHIPS This is the official tournament folks. Bring your deck, sign up in one of three age groups, and test your Pokémon prowess. Winners go home with prizes and points toward joining in the world championships. Just don't throw down your Swampert card when you meant to play Psyduck. *11am. Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, 6111 Burnet Rd., 454-2399. Free. www.go-pokemon.com/op/premierevents/championshipseries/city.*

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

SANTA'S WORKSHOP Bring the whole family to get a dose of the Xmas spirit. Music, games, the yule fire, arts & crafts, hot cocoa, and the man of the hour, Santa, supply the good cheer. *6-8pm. Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Pkwy., Cedar Park. Free.*

SING IN THE HOLIDAYS Get a picture with St. Nick, sing along with Miss Suzanne, craft some art, and hear a bit of *A Pirate's Night Before Christmas*. A holiday coma will no doubt follow. *10:30am-noon. Will Hampton Branch Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680. www.austinlibrary.com.*

SPEED SKILL SWAP Like speed dating but with a more useful exchange of ideas. *4-6pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.*

SPIRITUAL WISDOM ON HEALTH & HEALING *2pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. 206-B, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.*

TENT NEE TACTX Check out the monthly meeting of Austin's own Transgender Education Network of Texas (née Transgender Advocates of Central Texas), dedicated to furthering the cause of gender-diverse people in Central Texas. *Second Saturday each month, 2:30pm. Call for location, 448-6354, 877/532-6789. www.tentex.org, www.myspace.com/TACTX.*

gayplace

BY KATE GETTY AND KATE X MESSER

TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT Neil Diamond notwithstanding, it's time to turn on the lights. This past week we stayed home. Next week we take to the streets again and light up the night. Join the Impact is calling for another nationwide action. This one involves meeting at a local commercial district for a candlelight vigil: **Light Up the Night for Equality**, slated for Sat., Dec. 20, 5pm. The website-based action coalition uses the Web to allow area organizers to stay on the same

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

THAI MASSAGE FOR BEGINNERS *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14, 9am. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY CONCERT Barreling baritones, tender tenors, and booming basses bring it all home at this annual season tradition. *7pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 477-7464. ccmc.austin@io.com, www.ccmcaustin.org.*

WHAT'S SO FUNNY? presents the most beloved sketches from playwright/director Reppy's award-winning music & comedy show, *Romp!*, featuring her fabulous summer youth theatre kids and some brand-new material. Fun for the whole family. *The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. www.vortexrep.org.*

YARBOROUGH WINTER PARTY The Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band and Manchaca All Stars Bluegrass will be the soundtrack to this holiday craft bonanza. *Noon-2:30pm. Yarrowborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock, 454-7208. www.austinlibrary.com.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Holiday Classics @ Dottie Jordan Park, 5:30pm
Home Alone @ Baker School (39th and Avenue B), 6pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid
U2 3D @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Almost There's John Lennon Tribute *The Parish*
Baby Robots, Basic *The Parlor*
Trail of Dead, Glorium *Red 7*

SUNDAY 14

12 BITCHES OF CHRISTMAS It's a critical mass of queer as Mona littleMore and the Stone Girls, the United Court of Austin, and the Central Texas Boys of Leather come together for a night of holiday hijinx featuring raffles, brats, beer, and surprise guests, all to benefit Wright House. *4pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. \$6 donation suggested.*

BE A CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFER Volunteer to help fill stockings for abandoned, neglected, or abused children. Stocking stuff will be supplied, all they need are some holiday helping hands. *2-5pm. Elgin Public Library, 404 N. Main, Elgin. www.elginsangels.org.*

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

CANDLELIGHT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Light a candle in remembrance of a loved one, and enjoy the worship service. *7:30pm. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 472-8301.*

CHANUKAH COMMUNITY PARTIES The Jewish Community Association of Austin and Congregation Shir Ami present two events in one day, both featuring music, performances, holiday treats, and activities for the kids. Bring unwrapped gifts for kids in the Austin State Hospital and the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. *Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido Pkwy., Cedar Park (3:45-5:30pm); Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar (1-3pm), 735-8034. Free. www.shalomaustin.org/chanukah.*

page, to network within and across communities, and to encourage equal access for both regulars and newbies to the movement. The last big Austin action in November had an Austin coordinator. This month, our coordinator will be organizing in San Antonio, closer to home for the holidays. So Austin needs a leader. Will it be you? Check our city's page on the Join the Impact site: www.jointheimpact.net/paint.com/page/austin. Better yet, log in, and sign yourself up. Who will lead us?

A VERY PINK CHRISTMAS The Austin Babtist Women, those irrepressible divas of drag, bring their irreverent humor and bawdy entertainment to the holiday stage to benefit Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas. *7pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. www.babtistwomen.com.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS HOUR AT THE NEY Elizabeth Crook reads selections to children from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Letters From Father Christmas*, a collection of letters Tolkien wrote to his children at Christmastime. The reading will be in the European Room of the former 1907 studio of Elisabet Ney. *3-4pm. Elisabet Ney Museum, 304 E. 44th, 458-2255.*

CHRISTMAS CONCERT Join a variety of church choirs and the mysteriously named 6:24 Band for this uplifting evening of merry holiday tuneage. *6pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 8601 S. First, 291-8601. Free. www.mccaustin.com.*

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN An ethical dilemma will be presented. Talk it out. *10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.*

FAMILY FEUD AT RAIN Two shows, every Sunday night. To sign up, see the manager on duty, who may or may not tongue kiss your boyfriend like Richard Dawson. Slots are limited, and the prizes grand. *8:30 & 9pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.*

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

GROUP COUNSELING Come to one or both of these sessions focusing on getting through the holidays fettered with feelings of loss, uncertainty, and stress. With that criteria, expect every American to show up this year. *Sun., Dec. 7 & 14, 9:30am. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr., 251-0698. Free. www.staopen.com.*

HADASSAH'S BAZAAR & BLOOD DRIVE Local artists and businesses bring their wares to satisfy your Chanukah shopping needs. Raffles and a silent auction will also keep the festivities festive. But don't forget to bring a pint of blood to donate so you can temper all that buying with a little giving. *9am-3pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000.*

PAWLIDAY PARTY Enter your canine in the fashion show, and see who comes away with the best, weirdest, and duo (with owner) awards. Pet pampering, including snacks and pedicures, will be available. Proceeds go to Austin Dog Rescue. *1-3pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. \$10 per dog.*

PEACE SUNDAY This monthly gathering features quiet meditation followed by a friendly potluck brunch, all in the name of world peace. *1pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

PHILANTHROPY & VOLUNTEERISM FORUM David Porter, executive director of A Glimmer of Hope Austin, discusses the art of giving and the spirit of volunteerism this holiday season. *11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.*

STACI GRAY CD RELEASE *10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.*

STOP DOMAIN SUBSIDIES PARTY We didn't support Prop. 2 here at the *Chronicle*, but that doesn't mean we can't still be friends. Today, supporters celebrate the launch of their new Web venture: www.changeaustin.org. Live music and a cash bar help inspire the 48% of Austinites who voted for Prop. 2. *4-6pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237.*

UPLIFT GETDOWN DANCE PARTY Come, and shake off that unwanted holiday stress with salsa from Ritmo Tres and the Brazilian funk of Seu Jacinto. Proceeds go to UpLift Austin and its efforts to get students involved in making their schools more sustainable. *8pm-12mid. The Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. \$5. www.upliftaustin.org.*

WASSAIL 2008 This fundraiser for Kids for Kids, a charity helping children in Darfur, mixes a little paganism in with the Xmas festivities. Carols, mummies, morris dancers, magicians, poets, minstrels, and stories all mingle for a good cause. *6pm. Sri Atmananda, 4100 Red River, 380-0234. \$10 (children, free). www.mundiworl.com.*

ARTISAN STROLL (See Saturday.)

BRIGHT LEAF HIKES (See Saturday.)

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR (See Saturday.)

LUMINATIONS: A WINTER CELEBRATION (See Saturday.)

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

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

Factory outlet stores can offer great savings. These aren't outlet malls but retail shops operated by the manufacturers.

The **Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Co.** began in Bryan, Texas, in 1918 making bib overalls. The factory-outlet store sells the popular Dickies work pants, as well as scrubs, shirts, boots, and accessories. 509 W. Vickery, Fort Worth, 817/877-0387.

The **Igloo Products Corp.**, makers of the Playmate Ice Chest, began in 1947 making insulated metal water containers in Houston. They still make coolers in Texas, but it is the retail shop in a giant warehouse off I-10 in Katy that attracts bargain hunters. 777 Igloo Rd., Katy, 713/584-6570.

Tandy Brands Accessories, started by Charles Tandy, who also purchased RadioShack for \$300,000 in 1963, makes leather goods for national brand names. The outlet store in downtown Yoakum, Texas, stocks a variety of accessories of questionable fashion sense and has good deals on belts, handbags, and wallets. 211 W. Grand, Yoakum, 361/293-7651.

The **Nocona Athletic Goods Co.** has been making sporting goods since the 1930s and is one of the last ball-glove manufacturers in the U.S. They have a retail shop at the factory that sells gloves, clothing, and leather goods. It's worth stopping by just to see the exhibit on the evolution of baseball gloves. 901 Hwy. 82 E., Nocona, 940/825-3326.

Diamond Cut Jeans has been sharing warehouse facilities in the old Nocona Boot building since the ball-glove company's factory burned down a few years ago. The jeans are made in Mexico but shipped out of the warehouse in North Texas. You'll find denim jeans for \$15 each. 901 Hwy. 82 E., Nocona, 940/825-4128.

Marshall Pottery began in Northeast Texas in 1895. If it hadn't been for the demand for moonshine jugs, the company might have gone under in the 1920s. Besides the huge retail store that sells home decor and garden items, look for great deals on factory seconds. 4901 Elysian Fields, Marshall, 903/938-9201.

The **Kactus Korral** is one of the largest suppliers of succulents in the Southwest. The prices aren't discounted very much, but the selection of plants from its greenhouses is incredible. They also have garden supplies and a Western-wear shop. 7715 Hwy. 90, Harwood (about seven miles east of Luling), 830/540-4521.

The **Atkinson Candy Co.** has been operated by the same family since it began in 1932. Besides its signature Chick-o-Stick, Atkinson makes mints, peanut-butter patties, and other candies. Merchandise is priced to sell in the retail shop. 1608 W. Frank Ave., Lufkin, 936/639-2333.

Puremco is the last U.S. manufacturer of dominoes, and it's been doing it since 1954. Shop its outlet store for factory seconds and discontinued styles or to order a customized set. 5002 Loop 340 S., Waco, 800/725-7060.

Of course, your local artists and craftsmen also provide you a direct link to the factory.

910th 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.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

SECOND SATURDAY SALEBRATION brings a festive atmosphere to Main Street as merchants and vendors sell food, antiques, arts & crafts, jewelry, and handmade items. *Sat., Dec. 13, Downtown, Bastrop, 512/303-0558. www.bastropdba.org.*

GEMINIDS METEOR SHOWER is one of the strongest and most dependable of the annual meteor showers. The space debris will continue to enter the Earth's atmosphere as late as Dec. 18. *Peak performance on Dec. 13 & 14 after 9:30pm until the early morning hours. Eastern night sky. www.meteorshoweronline.com/geminids.html.*

CHRISTMAS AT FORT CROGHAN Enjoy cider and cookies as you stroll the grounds of the old cavalry

fort decorated for an 1800s Christmas with luminaries lighting the way. *Sat., Dec. 13, 5:30-8:30pm. Burnet, 512/756-8281. Free. www.fortcroghan.org.*

WINTER WONDERLAND Visitors help make animal-enrichment toys and enjoy watching the animals play with their toys as their keepers give talks about the different species and their natural habitats. *Sat., Dec. 13, 10am-2pm. Cameron Park Zoo, Waco, 254/750-8400. \$7 (\$5, children). www.cameronparkzoo.com.*

OLD-FASHIONED TEXAS CHRISTMAS includes molasses taffy, cookies, and wassail as carolers and storytellers entertain. *Sat., Dec. 13, 10am-8pm. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, 936/878-2213. www.birthplaceoftexas.com.*

PHOTOS WITH SANTA CLAUS (See Saturday.)
THAI MASSAGE FOR BEGINNERS (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Advanced Undergraduate Films @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am
MFA Pre-Thesis and Thesis Films @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 6pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Capital Area Food Bank Benefit *The Parlor*
Justin Townes Earle *Cactus Cafe*
Ice Cube *Mohawk*

MONDAY 15

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 Court, 2101 Davis, 712-4451. Donations appreciated.*

GEOGRAPHY LUNCHTIME LECTURE The Center for Environmental Research presents Kevin M. Anderson discussing one "Austin urban creek and the complexity of nature and culture that it conceals and reveals." *Noon-1pm. Waller Center, 625 E. 10th, Rm. 105.*

HAPPY HOUR YOGA Get your hatha flowing. *Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.*

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER This puppet rendering of the holiday classic features Tchaikovsky's rousing score. The show plays at most local libraries throughout the month of December. *3:30pm. Spicewood Springs Library, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

LIVE MUSIC: 'BOUT TIME Yup. You read right. Weekly live music at everybody's fave up-north gay bar. It's ... 'bout time. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. fusenote.com.*

PET PICS WITH SANTA Those whose children have four legs can get their pics taken with ol' St. Nick, too. *Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. www.thegivingspre.com.*

QI GONG Let Dr. Tom Gore give your life force a boost through this ancient Chinese art of small, slow movements. *Mondays, 9:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5 suggested donation. www.rutamaya.net.*

SEASON'S READINGS Mornings this week, Santa will be available. This time, however, Claus needs a break, so the kids will read to him for a change. *Mon.-Thu., Dec. 15-18, 10am-1pm. Cepeda Public Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 974-7372. Free. www.austnlibrary.com.*

TOY DRIVE Bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots, and get yourself entered in one of numerous raffles from the Natural Health Center. *Natural Health Center of Austin, 4701 West Gate Blvd. Ste. B-202, 892-3366.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Name of the Rose @ *Harry Ransom Center, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Camp X-Ray Red 7
James Polk Orchestra *Monarch Event Center*

TUESDAY 16

CAROLS FOR KIDS AND HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING The Austin Girls' Choir supplies the holiday cheer while you save some time by bringing your presents to be wrapped. Proceeds help give kids an educational afterschool option at Heart House Austin. *5:30-7:30pm. Bank of America, 515 Congress, 473-2512. Free. www.keepersclothing.com.*

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.

EXPERIENCE MUSIC TOGETHER Children younger than 5 years of age and their parents are invited to sample classes by Heartsong Music. Start nurturing your kid's inner musician early. *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 16-17, 10:15, 11:15am, 3:15, & 4:15pm. 2700 W. Anderson Ln. #320, 371-9506. Free. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.*

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA! Sing some songs from one of the best collections of Christmas carols, *The Osborne Book of Carols*. A singing story time, every one. *10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

GIG FOR GOD Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said, "anything." *Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197.*

HOLIDAY CHOIR CONCERT Westwood High School gathers its choirs (who knew high schools had more than one choir?) for a holiday blowout featuring 150 singers with brass, organ, and piano accompaniment. *7:30pm. Hope Presbyterian Church, 11512 Olson, 258-9117. Free.*

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER See Monday for more info. *7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

SEASON'S READINGS (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Austin Filmmakers Group @ *Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill, 8pm*
La Ciénaga @ *Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Eugene Chadbourne *Salvage Vanguard Theater*

WEDNESDAY 17

GREEN HOLIDAY PARTY Get together at the first certified organic events facility in the nation, and hobnob with local environmental organizations. Expect a holiday theme with an emphasis on green. E-mail to RSVP. *5:30-9:30pm. Barr Mansion, 10463 Sprinkle Rd., 371-8770. \$20 (\$16, advance). rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org, www.texasgreennetwork.org.*

HEDDA LETTUCE TOSSES SALAD Drag it up with *Project Runway* and *Wigstock* darling Hedda Lettuce for a night of outrageous fun. Advance ticket discounts available. *10:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

HOLIDAY POSADA Arts, crafts, and snacks are merely prelude to a performance of *A Christmas in Mexico* by the Latino Arts Preservation Program. *5:30pm. Southwest Key Community Center, 6002 Jain, 462-2181. Free. www.swkey.org.*

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER See Monday for more info. *3:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB Sigmund L. Cornelius, chief financial officer of ConocoPhillips, discusses what's needed to meet future energy needs. *7am. Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, UT Club, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15. www.mbaustin.org.*

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.*

MJ & FRIENDS Singer-songwriter MJ Torrance whips out the big guns with guests Suzie, Terri, and Johanna - three names in the Austin dyke lexicon that you should know. And there will be a test. *6pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825.*

TEX-ITALIA WINE CELEBRATION Every week, the proceeds from the evening's wine sales go to a charitable organization. Four wineries present their wares each night for you to purchase by the bottle or glass at reduced prices. Who knew you could be charitable and get buzzed at the same time? *Wednesdays & Thursdays, 6-9pm. Cannoli Joe's, 4715 Hwy. 290 W., 892-4444. www.cannolijoes.com.*

YOGAKIDS AT BOOKPEOPLE Read a story or two, and give the young ones a short and lively yoga lesson. 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS (See Monday.)

EXPERIENCE MUSIC TOGETHER (See Tuesday.)

SEASON'S READINGS (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

In a Dream @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

Santa vs. Satan @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7, 9:45pm

The Witch Who Came From the Sea @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Aaron Neville & His Quintet Paramount Theatre

THURSDAY 18

12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS 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 till 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.*

CELTIC CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL Local and international artists come together to do the holidays right. Everything from a world-class storyteller to choral arrangements should be expected, because no one does Christmas quite like Irish Catholics. *Thu.-Fri., Dec. 18-19, 8pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 431-6290. \$25. www.celticcenter.org.*

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

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

LITERATURE LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER See Monday for more info. 10:15am. Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

MISS JACKSON'S FOR REAL Gay Place hot pick: Hollywood Gossip, Miss Jackson (Ms. Darling New Neighbor, herself, with fabulous guests), Gary Newcomb Trio, and Blasé Faire, all at da Moose. *Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043. www.austinmooselodge.org.*

SEASON'S READINGS (See Monday.)

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.)

Twelve Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas *The Vortex*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Six Gun @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm

Teenage Catgirls in Heat @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Mammoth Grinder 7-inch Release *The Parlor*

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

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

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

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

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



ZILKER TRAIL OF LIGHTS

now ...

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.*

TRAIL OF LIGHTS Lights, lights, and, goodness gracious, more lights. All culminating with the Zilker Tree of Lights. Don't worry about the carbon footprint, because the illumination comes courtesy of wind power. Spin until the bulbs blur into one. That's when you know you've had enough. *Dec. 14-23. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/tol.*

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.*

KEEP AUSTIN BIZARRE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR More than 100 local artists and small businesses will be displaying their wares for your shopping enjoyment. To keep you entertained will be live music, dance performances, circus acts, food, and a full bar. *Dec. 12-23, 11am-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 524-1720. \$5 (free on Mondays). www.keeapaustinbizarre.com.*

YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES Military families across the nation can capitalize on a free membership to the YMCA of their choice courtesy of the Department of Defense. Go online for more on this armed services outreach initiative. *YMCAs around Austin. www.asymca.org, www.austinyymca.org.*

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (April 22), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them it's for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.*

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.



37TH STREET LIGHTS

OPERATION SANDY CLAUS 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.*

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.*

CITY COUNCIL ON DEMAND The city of Austin website (www.cityofaustin.org) now has the past year's meetings archived as online video streams. Go back and relive your favorite council moment with your family this holiday season. Jennifer Gale's greatest hits anyone?

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 ones 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.*

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA A traditional, European-style, four-course tea service awaits you. Call to make a reservation. *Through Dec. 16, 3-5pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 391-7121. \$48 (\$18, children).*

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.*

ADOPT A MANATEE FOR THE HOLIDAYS Or give one as a gift. Either way, you'll know you're helping save the beloved little chubs from extinction. \$25-35. www.savethemanatee.org.

SCIENCE CONTEST FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS Rochester Institute of Technology is looking for entries for its National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. See the rules and get an application online, and you might be on your way to majestic upstate New York. Submissions are due by Jan. 15. Free. www.rit.edu/NTID/ScienceFairNR.

PLASMA DONOR DONOR APPRECIATION WEEK It takes 12 donations of plasma to give life-sustaining treatment for one immune-deficient patient. All week long your plasma donations will be accompanied by prizes, theme nights, monetary bonuses, and more. Call or go online to find a schedule of events or to schedule an appointment. *Mon.-Sat., Dec. 15-20. BioLife Plasma Center, 14415 Owen Tech Blvd., 251-8855. www.biolifeplasmaservices.com.*

YBP CALL FOR DONATIONS Yellow Bike Project is seeking donations to help it realize its dream of a new headquarters. YBP is more than halfway to its goal of \$250,000 but needs your help down the homestretch. www.austinyellowbike.org.

... & later

BOOKWOMAN'S WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY Fair Trade, gifts for pets, one-of-a-kind locally made gifts for everyone, treats, extended shopping hours ... all with that special BW touch. Plus, special perf by Nancy Scott & Friends. *Sun., Dec. 21, 1pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785.*

BROADWAY CARES/EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS AT OCH Come raise the curtain and some funds for Wright House and ASA at this Broadway salute (and silent auction of Great White Way memorabilia and tix!). *Sat., Dec. 21, 6-11pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

ETERNAL CHRISTMAS Rebecca Havemeyer, Stanley Roy, Silky Shoemaker, Little Stolen Moments, Bruce Kirkland ... what more could you want under your tree? Dammit, now there's no room for presents. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 20-21, 9:30pm. Lamberts, 401 W. Second, 494-1500. \$10.*

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST This 1½-hour walking tour of Austin's most haunted haunts features the Driskill, the Old Land Office, and the Capitol building. Learn about our city's history and honest to goodness ghost stories while burning off some of those holiday pounds. Tours begin and end at the Capitol Christmas tree (11th & Congress). *Dec. 19-27, 7pm. 853-9826. \$20 (\$10, children). www.hauntedtexas.com.*

LA CAGE AU FEAST RSVP required for this pairing of divas and dish. Stay tuned. *Sat., Dec. 27, 8pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 696-2371. \$40. saffiretrinity@yahoo.com, www.myspace.com/lacageaustin.*

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

Tom Landry's hat was both ultracool and dated, a description which the late Dallas Cowboys coach would silently accept. Jerry Jones' smile is bombastic, pleading. His hand reaches around to pat you on the back, and you check your wallet – twice.

Now, 20 years after Jones gave Tom Landry's fedora the heave-ho, it's clear that for the Cowboys to return to the playoffs, to return to the glory days, it will take a combination of Landry's cold, well-groomed machine and Jones' gambler flash.

Who are these Cowboys circa 2008? Are they Tony Romo's all-American smile, which echoes choirboy Roger Staubach much more than the semirobotic Troy Aikman who was Jones' Landry stand-in during their last heyday in the Nineties. Or maybe aw-shucks Roy Williams, the former University of Texas receiver who's just a good ol' boy trying his best. Or is this the team of misfits and last-chancers? Adam "Pacman" Jones' one wrong move from a potential lifetime NFL ban. Tank Johnson and his penchant for guns. Terrell Owens with his mood swings (though my pal Keagy reminds us that T.O. has never broken the law, doesn't even party; he's just from another planet).

This past Sunday against Landry-era rivals the Pittsburgh Steelers on a frigid Heinz Field, the Cowboys were neither Landry's team nor Jones' yet both. With Marion Barber injured and the 'Boys' running game thus suspect, they revved up a machinelike, physical defense, stuffing the Steelers on fourth down at the goal line late in the game to preserve a 10-point lead. Meanwhile, Romo, finally without his pinkie-finger splint, fought valiantly against a Pittsburgh defense that is the best in the league, maybe the best in a decade. But four Cowboy first-half turnovers netted only three Steeler points. It was knotted at 3-3 at the half, and the third quarter was owned by Dallas. Romo was looking cocky. Rookie Tashard Choice created a ground game from scratch, eking out 88 yards on the ground and matching it with catches for 78 yards. Pacman was in on kick returns, trying his best to earn his return to the team. The old



ORLAND STAGES

BY JOE O'CONNELL *playingthrough*

Send your sporting tips to playingthrough@austinchronicle.com.

December curse seemed to have lifted from Dallas' shoulders.

But in the fourth quarter, it fell apart. Romo's third interception was the final knife thrust, turning an expected win into an aching 20-13 loss, and the 8-5 Cowboys are left trying to figure out their true identity with a scant three games remaining. T.O. whined to coaches on the sideline. Romo hung his head. Win the next three games, and a wild-card playoff spot is still very likely. Lose one, and it's a maybe. Lose more, and it's over. Again. Maybe recruit dog abuser Michael Vick as the latest talented madman savior?

The truth is victory will take the ghost of Landry: corporate precision and consistency. It will also take crazy luck and a touch of Jones' smirking win-at-all-costs attitude. Next up, at home with the New York Giants, stinging and angry after a bitch-slapping by Philadelphia, then Baltimore, then Philadelphia, to end a season of maybes.

Landry's autographed hat is on permanent display at the Old Red Museum in Dallas. Its surface is smooth, Buddha-like. Don't count it out.

THE SCORE *Your Base on Balls*
austinchronicle.com/sports

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **TRAIL OF LIGHTS 5K** An Austin tradition, in its 15th consecutive year, this 3.1 mile run will start near the Zilker Tree, wind through the south side of Zilker Park, through the Trail of Lights, and finish back near the Zilker Tree. Entry fee includes a T-shirt. You must register to be allowed access to the Trail. *Sat., Dec. 13, 6:30pm. Zilker Park, 445-6003. www.cityofaustin.org/tol/5k.htm.*

THE HOME TEAMS

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Houston Jaguars: *Sat., Dec. 13, 2pm. 300 E. Huntland Dr.*

HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL FINALS The state finals will be held this weekend and next with the 5A Division I and II championship games to be played *Sat., Dec. 20* at Reliant Stadium in Houston. See the UIL website for bracket info. *Thu-Sat., Dec. 11-13 and 18-20. www.uil.utexas.edu.*

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. New Orleans: *Mon., Dec. 15, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. txstatebobcats.cstv.com.*

AUSTIN TOROS Vs. Colorado: *Fri., Dec. 12, 7:30pm. Vs. Albuquerque: Sat., Dec. 13, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St., 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Marian: *Thu., Dec. 18, 7pm. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.*

★ **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Volleyball 2008 NCAA Volleyball Austin Regional:**
Semifinal 1: Oregon vs. Iowa State: *Fri., Dec. 12, 4:30pm.* Semifinal 2: Texas vs. UCLA: *Fri., Dec. 12, 6:30pm.*
Regional final: *Sat., Dec. 13, 5:30pm. Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. Men's Basketball* Vs. Texas State: *Sat., Dec. 13, noon.* Vs. Texas Southern: *Tue., Dec. 16, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Women's Basketball* Vs. Tennessee: *Sun., Dec. 14, 1pm.* Vs. Arizona State: *Thu., Dec. 18, 7pm. Erwin Center. www.texasports.com.*



RECREATION & FITNESS

WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOCIATION is holding registration for its Winter Soccer Skills Academy (deadline *Jan. 9*) and its Lacrosse Skills and Drills clinic. See www.waya.org for details and to register.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

MADD JINGLE BELL 5K will benefit **Mothers Against Drunk Driving** and has moved this year from Downtown to the Domain. There will be a Kids K, 5K, awards, and plenty of lovely shops and restaurants to visit. *Sun., Dec. 14, 9am. The Domain, 445-4976. www.maddjinglebell5k.com.*

JINGLE BELL 5K FOR ST. JUDE'S This run, in its 16th year, will help to raise awareness and support for **St. Jude's Ranch**, which provides shelter for young children. Stick around afterward for food, drinks, prizes, and more. *Sat., Dec. 13, 9am. Landa Park, New Braunfels, 830/708-2991. www.nbrunclun.com.*

BORN TO RUN XC FUN The RunTex Carrozza Foundation and the Austin Association for Physical Education & Recreation join to present this cross-country run where all school-age children (ages 5-14) are encouraged to run. *Sat., Dec. 13, 10am. Festival Beach, 2101 Bergman, 639-0978.*

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

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.

BY NICK BARBARO *soccer watch*

The **Austin Aztex** will play their inaugural USL-1 (pro) season at **Nelson Field** (next to Reagan High, off Highway 290); the long-awaited announcement came late last week. Also, the Aztex announced **Kieron Bernard** as their second signing to the pro squad. Dec. 15 is the early registration deadline for the Aztex's first-ever **youth soccer camps**, to be held Dec. 22-24 & 29-31. English soccer great and Aztex USL-1 head coach **Adrian Heath** will oversee the camps, which are designed for children ages 5-14. Cost is \$120 per camper; register online at www.austinaztex.com.

How influential is **Dallas youth soccer**? When the **NCAA Men's Final Four** is played this weekend in Frisco, north of Dallas, there's a definite Atlantic Coast Conference flavor to the field, but all four teams have important starters who came out of one of the big Dallas programs. **Ale Ivo** (St. John's) and **Omar Gonzalez** (Maryland) both played for the **Dallas Texans**, while **Corben Bone** (Wake Forest) and **Cameron Brown** (North Carolina) were teammates on **Solar**. Bone and Gonzales, in particular, are two of the very top prospects in the current college ranks. The semifinals are Friday, 4:30 & 7pm, with the final Sunday, Dec. 14, at noon; all three games are being shown live on ESPN2 and ESPNU.

NCAA Women: For the second time in three years, **North Carolina** ruined a perfect season for Notre Dame, winning the title game, 2-1, on an 88th-minute goal. The Tar Heels – who beat previously undefeated UCLA to get to the final – have their 19th title in the sport's 27 years; five of the last eight have come against the Irish in the final.

The **U.S.** won the **U-20 Women's World Cup**, beating Germany, 1-0, in the semifinal and then North Korea, 2-1, in the title game in Chile. UCLA's Sydney Leroux was MVP.

European Champions League group play concluded this Wednesday with no surprises and **Chelsea**, **Roma**, and Greek champion **Panathinaikos** taking the final spots in the final 16 – which includes all four English teams, all four Spanish, three Italians, two Portuguese, a German, a French, and a Greek. If you're looking for a tiebreaker, England had two group-winners; all four Spaniards were group runners-up.

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in *The Austin Chronicle*? Submit your sporty happening online at austinchronicle.com/commform.

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512.280.1976 SunsetValleyFarmersMarket.org



arts listings



I'll Be Seeing You: A 1940's Christmas Musical

Kam and James Morris Theatre, through Dec. 21 Running time: 2 hr, 10 min

I've lived in the Austin area for well over 20 years, but never have I seen a theatrical production company like TexARTS.

Functioning as a producing organization for a scant three years, TexARTS makes no bones about planning to have not just a theatre with hundreds of seats within five years' time but a ballet, a symphony, and an opera to serve the lake region, as well. Austin sets a high bar for the arts, but TexARTS' Executive Director Todd Dellinger and Artistic Director Robin Lewis take that bar and goose it even higher.

Dellinger wrote and directed, and Lewis choreographed, designed the costumes for, and performs in TexARTS' latest production, *I'll Be Seeing You: A 1940's Christmas Musical*. Certain aspects of the show clear their very high bar, but others don't quite make it off the tarp. The fact that it's a musical revue doesn't help. Revues are notorious for sewing together a lot of popular songs with the thinnest – and thus weakest – of narrative threads, and you'll find that familiar thread limply hanging here. Standards such as "At Last," "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," and the titular "I'll Be Seeing You" are stitched around actual letters written among husbands, wives, and children during World War II, and while the songs, for the most part, are entertaining as ever, the narrative letters don't carry the dramatic weight you might expect, possibly because the bulk of this narration falls to Joe Penrod and Wendy Zavaleta. Both sing well when called on to do so, but they push and strain at the text, either not trusting its innate power or not trusting themselves with it.

Fortunately, as is the case with almost every revue, the show is about the music, not the nar-

native, and in this, the production almost always excels. Leslie Hollingsworth, Kelly Khun, and Selena Rosanbalm take the roof off right at the beginning, performing multiple Andrews Sisters songs, and each contributes worthy solos later on. And Andrew Cannata sings "I'll Be Home for Christmas" as if it were written just for him. But as impressive as the music is, the single most impressive part of the show is when four couples dance to "In the Mood" on the tiny stage of the Kam and James Morris Theatre. Swooping and twirling and tossing each other with abandon, Lewis and Alison Spell create as thrilling and entertaining a dance as I've ever seen in a theatre. Add multiple rich, gorgeous gowns on the women, sharp and varied service uniforms on the men, and a charming Christmas card set for the finale, and you have a show that could almost scale any height.

Almost, but not quite. Some of the dancing wasn't quite together opening weekend, an ill-conceived or ill-executed slide show distracted, and a tentativeness on the part of the performers pervaded the production. In many instances, I would write these flaws off, but not for TexARTS. Put simply, they're better than this. Either they needed a more consistently experienced group of performers or more time to perfect what they had. In either case, they've sold themselves a bit short here. But I'm certain they'll learn from it, because they've set their bar so high. And I, for one, look forward to seeing them jump it for many years to come.

– Barry Pineo

theatre

OPENING

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.*

FLOW is an experiment in theater where the worlds of hip-hop, spoken word, and improv collide. Hosted by Zell Miller III and Ted Rutherford. Featuring Ebony Stewart, Graffiti Tongue, Black Listed Individuals, and many more. Music provided by DJ S.T.A.T.I.K. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 11-13, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

BASTROP CHRISTMAS, ANYONE? There's a pair of holiday shows at the Opera House out there to the east: 'Tis the Season, a traditional Christmas concert by community singers with short stories told under the tree. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 12-20, 7:30pm. Extra show: Sun., Dec. 14, 2:30pm. Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, by Michael Carleton, Jim Fitzgerald, and John Alvarez, with original music by Will Knapp. It's a "madcap romp through the holiday season." *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 12-20, 10pm. All shows: Bastrop Opera House, 711 Spring St., Bastrop, 512/321-6283. \$7-10.*

ABUELITA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL Here's the holiday-celebrating spectacle of a 70-year-old Mexican-American grandmother with her own cooking show and all the characters she comes into contact with, as written and performed by Alex Garza in this one-man show. *Dec. 13-21. Sat., 2pm; Sun., 8pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 619-5327. www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

THE DICK MONOLOGUES Spike Gillespie leads a group of Austin's best writers, performers, and musicians in a monthly exploration of dicks: the kinds you love and the kinds you love to hate. The pieces tend toward the humorous with the occasional attempts at thought and drama. And, yeah, we'd have to be a real dick to not recommend this show. *Sun., Dec. 14, 7:30pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$12. www.dickmonologues.com.*

AUSTIN SHAKESPEARE: CELEBRATE, A MUSICAL REVUE Our local Shakespearean powerhouse enlivens the holidays with bright songs from musicals such as *Peter Pan; Kiss Me, Kate; She Loves Me; The Light in the Piazza; and Sondheim's A Little Light Music*. Tunesful, timely. *Dec. 16-21. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Austin Ventures StudioTheater, Third & San Antonio. 474-TIXS. \$12-30. www.nowplayingaustin.com.*

TWELVE STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHRISTMAS "Set your watches back to 1993, and enjoy the New-Age Recovery Industrial Complex's favorite family, the Smiths!" That's three whole generations of Smiths, in fact, and all of them deftly embodied by the seemingly multiple-personalities **Rob Nash** (who wrote the show, too, of course). Funny as hell and as heartwarming as it is snarky, this one-man spectacle is an excellent alt-theatre treat for your happiest holidays. *Thu.-Sun., Dec. 18-Jan. 3, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.myspace.com/therobnash.*

CLOSING

I'LL BE SEEING YOU: A 1940'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL TexARTS presents this world-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. (See review, left.) *Through Dec. 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.

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. *Through Dec. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 389-0315. \$15-30. www.frontgategickets.com.*

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. 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15 (\$13, seniors, students, educators, military). www.sambasstheatre.org.**

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! *Through Dec. 13. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$10. www.rudemechs.com.*

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! *Through Dec. 17. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. www.datheatrecollective.org.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 26 issue is Monday, Dec. 15.** 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, TX, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

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Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor.
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CHRONIC

CHRONIQUE ON ARTISTS BOB
AND ROBERTA SMITH'S PEDAL-
POWERED CHRISTMAS TREE AT
LONDON'S TATE GALLERY:

"Who wants to
pitch this
to the
Trail of
Lights?"

- Andy Campbell

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THE CHRONICLE

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Gorilla Man

Creekside Lounge
through Dec. 20

Gorilla Man is a show about a creature who doesn't know exactly what he is: Human or gorilla? Boy or man? Innocent or villain? Similarly, it's a play that has an identity crisis of its own: Vaudeville or high art? Musical or live music show? Melodrama or comedy?

After viewing the show on its opening night, it's hard to answer any of those questions.

Fourteen-year-old Billy (Bobby Torres) wakes up one day to discover he's sprouted dark, tufty hair on his hands. Horrified, his mother (Jen Brown) reveals the truth: His father is a half-gorilla carnival freak. Billy runs off in search of his imprisoned father (Benjamin Wright), who enjoys the occasional murder spree. Billy winds up causing some mayhem and death, too. Together, they kill some more. Then they go back to Mom.

What we're left with at the end is hard to say. Nothing in Kyle Jarrow's script investigates what makes a man vs. a beast, à la *The Elephant Man*, or how society makes its own monsters, à la *Frankenstein*, with any depth. Instead, *Gorilla Man* is a freak show with vaudevillian touches and a script that might have made it to the B-circuit back in the day. Where the production might have played on the audience's thirst for sensationalism or on the corny conventions of vaudeville, all that ekes through is an emcee without much to do and a couple of cute girls in sexy costumes and feathers in their hair.

The Vestige Group, which produces *Gorilla Man*, makes a point of declaring itself a company "for audience members who don't normally go to the theatre." As a critic, by definition, I'm not part of that demographic. It's hard not to compare the show to other productions or to consider it in the broader context of theatre.



Vestige is perhaps seeking to avoid the intellectual obscurities that alienate some people from the theatre. It may hope to provide an alternative to the many mainstream plays that seem to focus year after year on the complexities facing older adults, rather than the younger generation who never buys theatre tickets. Yet what plays do people want to see performed onstage if they don't care about theatre?

That's a difficult question to answer. *Gorilla Man*, which Vestige is staging at Creekside Lounge, a live-music venue, may have its audience. After all, who doesn't enjoy watching antics from an actor in a gorilla suit? As staged by Susie Gidseg, the show is a disorganized romp, but there is a certain appeal to seeing the full-throttle enthusiasm of an energetic cast.

Yet in the end, what *Gorilla Man* lacks is that good old-fashioned stagecraft. Actors wander and shuffle about the stage without direction. Some of the action is flat-out impossible to see, staged on the floor at the feet of the front-row audience members. Most the cast members go off-pitch during the songs, unable to hear themselves over the live threepiece band.

If the Vestige Group wants to introduce to the theatre new audiences with new ideas and new interests, then by all means, bring them in. The theatre needs young companies like the Vestige Group to do exactly that. Yet in trying to establish its hybrid identity, *Gorilla Man* rejects what is useful in conventional theatre. This creature might have been so much more. — Elizabeth Cobbe

ONGOING

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 review, left.) Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm. Creekside Lounge, 606 E. Seventh. \$15-25 (pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.myspace.com/thevestigegroup.

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.

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. Through Dec. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$10, students). www.austinplayhouse.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. Through Dec. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$15-20 (\$12, students; pay what you can, Thursdays). www.citytheatreAustin.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. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 9pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 474-TIXS. \$18 (\$13, advance). www.shrewdproductions.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.

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.

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 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 — hurra! — 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.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY Zach's annual Motown-inflected hullabaloo, 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.

DINNER THEATRE

REALLY BAD SANTA is a holiday-themed interactive murder-mystery from Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players. Enjoy plenty of pasta and parmigiana and suchlike fare as you help the comedic cast figure out who whacked nasty old St. Nick. Fri., Dec. 12; Sun., Dec. 14; Tue., Dec. 16; all shows at 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.meatballs.com.

AUDITIONS

THE VORTEX NEEDS MUSICIANS for its upcoming musical, *The Secret Lives of the InBetweeners*. Seeking: violinist, cellist, classical guitarist, keyboardist, and percussionist (hand drums and more), to work under the direction of Chris Lavelly. Performers will be compensated. Send an e-mail with your resume, telling what you play, and why you'd like to do this show, and they'll set you up with an appointment. vortexrep.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 resume to alex@austinshakespeare.org. Sat., Dec. 13. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. www.austinshakespeare.org.

GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS This David Rambo play will be directed by Mary Ellen Butler for the Palace Theatre in Georgetown in February and March. Needed: Three men. E-mail for appointment. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. auditions@thegeorgetownpalace.org.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH Zach Theatre is casting this Steppenwolf Theatre adaptation of the Steinbeck classic, to be directed by Dave Steakley. Actors will be compensated. They need men and women, and if you play a musical instrument, so much the better. If Depression-era excellence is your cup of Joad, e-mail Will Zinser for an appointment. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. wzinsler@zachtheatre.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. 11-13. 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.

Chad Daniels He's been all comedy-festival and Tved up for a while now, and he's finally bringing his act to the slick stage of Cap City — with the very funny **Dave Huntsberger** opening. Dec. 16-60. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This Week: Parallelogramophonograph rearranges your mind's furniture with **Level 5**. Thu., 8pm. **TKO** is open-mic sketch comedy, so step right up. 10pm. Once again, it's that **Proctor** show, now with the **Faculty** and **Unfurled**. Fri., 8pm. **Punchline** The weekly

dance

showcase of stand-up goodness continues! *Fri., 10pm. Stool Pigeon* features a local celeb jump-starting the improv shenanigans that ensue. This week, it's Uncle Cranky himself, **John Rabon**. *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 **Murphy and Unfurled**. *Sat., 10pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esterfolies.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 (see "Esther's Follies," p.37, for more on Reid), 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 Starksy 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.thevelveetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **David James**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Ruby Collins Boy howdy, if'n it isn't the Ruby Hot of Oh My Shazam! Well, something like that, yes, as Ms. Collins brings her sharpest brand of funny after **Kerri Lendo** and **David James** open. *Fri., Dec. 12, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

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. 13, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free.* www.lastgascomedy.com.

HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTY Mix 94.7's JB & Sandy present this lineup of stand-up comedians at the Paramount for your holiday cheer (and to benefit Bikes for Kids): Pat Hazell, Henry Cho, Mike Rayburn, Cathy Ladman. *Sun., Dec. 14, 7pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$29.50-45.50.* www.austintheatre.org.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects nails the weekend to a late-night comedy wall with this excellent improv showcase. This week: Shannon McCormick & Shana Merlin of **Get Up** and the mad japey of the **Knuckleball Now**. *Sat., Dec. 13, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

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.*

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.*

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

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.*

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.*

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY ACADEMY: POLLY MOTLEY Guest choreographer Motley leads a pair of workshops: one for finding new movement and experimenting with your own personal style, the other for "mature art makers" of all disciplines that focus on performance. Check the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. www.tapestry.org.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES Unique, nontraditional twists on standard favorites including 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.*

ESQUINATANGO: EAST MEETS SOUTH This evening of Argentine tango and live Middle Eastern music and belly dancing features the 1001 Nights Orchestra, and Glover Gill & the Tosca String Quartet. Start

the evening off with miniclasses in belly dance and tango, and sample food from two groovin' continents. *Sat., Dec. 13, 7pm-1am. 209 Pedernales, 524-2772. \$20. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.*

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.*

DANCE INSTITUTE: OPEN HOUSE Here's a day of free classes including ballroom, Latin, and salsa dancing. Also, yoga, Pilates, Nia, and Zumba. See the website for details. *Sat., Dec. 13, 9am-3pm. 6612 Sitio Del Rio, 346-6612. www.danceinstitute.com.*

FLAMENCO CLASSES Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. *923-3270.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. Beginner: *Saturdays, noon-1pm.* Intermediate: *Saturdays, 1-2:30pm. 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.*

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.kickbutcoffee.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.austinswing syndicate.org.*

the vestige group presents
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Bastrop Opera House presents **'Tis the Season**
Fred Ratliff, music director & Chester Eitze, staging director
Christmas choral music & stories
Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 7:30PM * Dec. 14, @ 2:30PM
* * * * *
Every Christmas Story Ever Told
(and then some!) by Michael Carleton,
Jim Fitzgerald & John Alvarez.
Original music by Will Knapp. Jennifer
Warwick director. Susan Weems Wendel,
choreographer. Madcap romp through
the holiday season.
Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 10PM
Tickets: www.bastropoperahouse.com
711 Spring St. * 512/321-6283

Pushing Boundaries

Dougherty Arts Center Theatre
Dec. 7



SAUNDY CARSON

Finding a place to sit wasn't so easy at the final performance of *Pushing Boundaries*. Ballet East's fall production was such a big draw that extra chairs had to be brought in to seat everyone.

Not that that's at all bad. Seeing a show in a packed house is always a more satisfying experience. You really feel yourself as part of this group organism we call the audience, your individual response melding with the responses of individuals around you, the sound of your hands clapping both feeding and getting lost in the collective applause.

And between the thunderous bursts of appreciation unleashed on Ballet East that day, images of individuals in groups kept resurfacing. It began with Gina Patterson's "Voice": Dancers were positioned around the stage in small clusters, usually with one dancer lying down, seeming to sleep, while another dancer sat beside her, gently stroking her. But at center stage, a dancer stood alone, periodically breaking into movements that were jerky to the point of spasmodic — a startling contrast to the serenity surrounding her. While that image gave way to other different ones, here was an arresting portrait of a figure alone and unsettled in a settled society: one who doesn't fit in, the outsider.

And being different can be dangerous, as Assistant Artistic Director Melissa Villarreal reminded us in "The Accused," the show's final dance. Inspired by the Salem witch trials, Villarreal's work presented a quartet of dancers in long red skirts who were rounded up and abused by the other dancers (wearing the same long skirts but in muted plums and greens). Mob scenes are never pretty, even when they are danced, and this was no exception. Graceful movements escalated into wrenching gestures, angry tosses, brutal jolts — actions made more disturbing by the soundtrack of slashing string instruments. While you couldn't call it subtle, the piece stands as one of Villarreal's most sustained and powerful choreographic statements.

Other dance makers took a more upbeat approach. Eric Midgley opened "Hang" with eight dancers in a circle, each leaning back on the knees and thighs of the dancer behind her to form a novel and captivating model of mutual support. The pose communicated the need for a common commitment

from everyone for a group to "stand," and when the dancers broke the pose by easing slowly to the floor as one, it underscored the value of cooperation. You almost hated to see this unit dissolve into individuals, but the joy infused in the dance by Midgley and his performers more than compensated.

Sometimes the group was a gender, as in Toni Bravo's and Dixon Mena's playful considerations of womanhood, Bravo from an angle of romance, with women strutting their stuff and striking voguish poses to tango music and an Edith Piaf love song, and Mena from an angle of, well, partying, with each dancer appearing to be a party girl of a different era, from the Sixties Carnaby Street bird in mod skirt and cap to the Eighties Valley girl in pink tube top and flouncy tutu skirt.

Sometimes the group was only a couple, as in Ananda Mayi Moss' "Restless," where two dancers in front of an upended mattress created the illusion of us being over their bed. They tossed fitfully on the sheets before breaking into a dream ballet that literalized the push and pull between two lovers. In addition to some smooth partnering, Frankie Fuller and Jessica Gaby conveyed a convincing tension, the painful alternation of needing the other person and rejecting her.

Even Sharon Marroquin's "Garden," while a solo, seemed to speak to the individual-in-a-group theme I kept seeing. In it, a Chaplinesque/Keaton-ish Marroquin became infatuated with a small mound of dirt, and her deadpan delight in sinking her toes into the soil, touching it, watering it, and cultivating from it a flower communicated the place each of us has among earth's living things and what we can do to nurture life around us. Marroquin's movements — so simple, so precise — gave us the world and showed us how even as individuals we can make a difference in it. Seeing Ballet East founder and guiding light Rodolfo Mendez speak after this dance served to remind us of the difference this one company has made. It was a difference that packed house understood, and it roared its gratitude. — Robert Faïres

classical music

OPENING

ADVENT CONCERTS AT NOON This week: Kathleen Turner, oboe, piano, harpsichord, and organ. *Thu., Dec. 18, noon. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsaustrin.org.*

TEXAS CHORAL CONSORT: CAROLS & LULLABIES Brent Baldwin leads the consort on a musical journey around the world, from England to the Southwestern U.S., taking in Spain, Germany, Russia, and Nigeria in works medieval to modern. Harpist Elaine Barber, guitarist Steve Kostelnik, and percussionist Jeffrey Otto join the consort. *Dec. 12-14. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe, 476-6941. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students; free, ages 8 and younger). www.txconsort.org.*

TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: AN EARLY CHRISTMAS That's "early," not "easy," as TEMP trolls for beauty and creativity spanning 600 years' worth of carols and lullabies from the 13th through 17th centuries, encompassing sweet Dutch lullabies and joyous English carols, rousing Spanish villancicos and dulcet French noels, Celtic cradle-songs and Welsh folk-tunes. Along with the usual stellar TEMP talent, harpists Therese Honey and Becky Baxter perform on Medieval harps and Baroque triple harps. (See "Early to Rise," p.38, for more.) *Sat., Dec. 13, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whittis, 371-0099. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students). www.early-music.org.*

AUSTIN CIVIC ORCHESTRA A family-friendly concert of classics is on the holiday bill, including Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and Vince Guaraldi's "A Charlie Brown Christmas," among other familiar seasonal selections. *Sat., Dec. 13, 7:30pm. St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 12041 Bittern Hollow. \$10 (\$8, students; \$3, kids). www.austincivicorchestra.org.*

AMAH AND THE NIGHT VISITOR, A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CLASSIC This Christmas musical classic by Gian Carlo Menotti features children's and adults' voices with orchestra. *Sun., Dec. 14, 3 & 7pm. University Christian Church, 2007 University, 477-6104. Free.*

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION The Huston-Tillotson University Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Gloria Quinlan, presents works by Pachelbel, Handel, Carter, Hairston, and Whalum. Also playing: The H-T Jazz Combo under the direction of Dr. Martin McCain. *Sun., Dec. 14, 7:30pm. King-Seabrook Chapel, 900 Chicon, 505-3121. \$10. www.htu.edu.*

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: VIVALDI'S GLORIA Soloists, orchestra, and choir perform Vivaldi's breathtaking work as St. Matthew's choir director, Annie Lane Byrom, conducts. Also, Albinoni's oboe concerto, featuring soloist Kathleen Turner. *Sun., Dec. 14, 7pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsaustrin.org.*

VIOLA BY CHOICE: LISTENING TO PEOPLE OF NOTE Violist Aurelien Petillot is joined by Nikki Birdsong, piano; Jennifer Bourianoff, violin; Julia Cory, cello; Alexis Ebbets, violin; and Elizabeth Petillot, mezzo-soprano; with a special appearance by David Small, baritone, for a concert of works by Puccini, UT's own Dan Welcher, Philip Koplou, Ned Rorem, and Paquito d'River. *Sun., Dec. 14, 6pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin, 913-6554. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$8, students; \$5, children). www.violabychoice.org.*

A HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF BRASS Stefan Sanders leads the Austin City Brass Ensemble in a musical journey through some of the greatest holiday music ever written for brass instruments. *Sun., Dec. 14, 7:30pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 589-8495. \$10-15. www.austincitybrass.com.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG Carlton Dillard leads the symphony in this annual family-friendly event, where everyone's favorite tunes receive an airing. Among the special guests: The Grinch, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and that jolly old elf himself. *Tue., Dec. 16, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064. Free (tickets available on first-come, first-served basis at the ASO box office, 11th & Red River). www.austinsymphony.org.*

AUSTIN CIVIC WIND ENSEMBLE Traditional and contemporary holiday classics, suitable for concertgoers of all ages. *Thu., Dec. 18, 7:30pm; St.*

Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr. Sat., Dec. 20, 7:30pm; Carver Library, 1165 Angelina. Free. www.acwe.org.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: CAROLING AT NOON The soloists of St. David's sing Bach in this last noontime caroling concert of the season. Lunch is served after the performance. *Thu., Dec. 18, 12:05pm (lunch, 12:30pm; please send advance notice by e-mail to request a vegetarian entrée). St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Eighth, 415-5688. Free. www.stdave.org.*

CLOSING

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. 13, 2pm: Jovita's, 1617 S. First. \$7. www.invincibleczars.com.*

visual arts

EVENTS

LIBERTINE GALLERY: INTERIORSCAPES New works by Manny Chapa. Champagne reception: *Sat., Dec. 13, 1-3pm. 612 Brazos #100. www.libertinegallery.com.*

AUSTIN HANDMADE: GRAND OPENING Celebrate the inauguration of this gallery devoted exclusively to Austin creators, with live music, cartoons by Lance Myers, and more. *Sat., Dec. 13, 3-9pm. 507 W. Mary.*

WILDFLOWER CENTER: CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS The "Luminations" celebration sets beautiful native plants ablaze with 3,000 luminarias, 5,000 twinkle lights, and hammered copper torches. Not to be missed! *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14, 6-9pm. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

OPENING

ART SEEN ALLIANCE: SERGIO RODRIGUEZ Recent paintings. Reception (with music by DJ Chicken George): *Fri., Dec. 12, 6-9. IF+D, 208 Colorado. www.artseenalliance.com*

CLOSING

D BERMAN GALLERY: SYDNEY YEAGER Yeager's bright paintings continue to evolve, with new angular representations of movement and energy. *Through Dec. 13. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

CRL: PROSPECT This juried group exhibition showcases spatially inspired art by UT students, faculty, and alumni. *Through Dec. 13. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

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.*

AUSTIN ART SPACE: 12 X 12 Here's a show of work of restricted dimensions, with each piece 12 inches by 12 inches, showcased in what used to be the Artspoken Gallery but has now, phoenixlike, risen again with a fresh moniker. *Through Dec. 20. 7739 Northcross, 771-2868. www.austinartspace.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW Here's another fine group show offering work by some of the most exciting artists around: Stella Alesi, Laurel Daniel, Chris De Dier, Matthew Fuller, Joseph Hammer, Sandra Langston, David Leonard, Randall Reid, Christopher St. Leger, William Wahlgren. Be still, my heart; be generous, my wallet. *Through Jan. 10. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com*

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eycontactart.com.*

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.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

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.

1305 POSITION GALLERY: CONSEQUENCE This holographic installation by multimedia artist Sally Weber is the inaugural event for the new Eastside gallery. 305 E. Sixth, 495-9578. www.1305position.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 Agustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaboadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE: RAPTURE IN RUPTURE Curator Elizabeth Dunbar presents new works by Lauren Kelley, Shiri Mordechay, 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.artspoken.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. *Through March 8.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

BROCCA GALLERY Thirty new watercolors by Sara Jane Parsons. *Through Dec. 31.* 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.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.keeperpaustinweird.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.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Here's a big group show from some of the coolest artists in town. Highly recommended. *Through Dec. 20.* 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ARCHIVE This HRC 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 through the gardens. *Through Jan. 31.* 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

LOTUS GALLERY: KOOROSH ANGALI New works of surrealism by the Iranian artist. *Through Dec. 31.* 1201-B W. Sixth, 474-1700.

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.mexic-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.

SUPER ALRIGHT: WAY DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS This is the nationally touring exhibition for the third anniversary of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, featuring original artwork by artists from the Big Easy and beyond, here invigorated by fine pieces by five Austin locals. Recommended. *Through Jan. 10.* 301 Chicon, 524-1841. www.superalright.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. *Through Jan. 4.* 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: TWELVE The gallery's year-end show features work by 12 of its major artists, and it's a stunning collection indeed. Recommended viewing, for those with deep eyes; buying, for those with deep pockets. *Through Dec. 23.* 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

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. *Through Dec. 31.* 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

SPACES

TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Kristen Case's "Six by Sundown" series of figurative photographs. *Through Dec. 31.* 1722 S. Congress. www.kristencase.com.

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT 102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.

AMPLIFY CREDIT UNION hosts "Singing the Blues: Art in One Hue." 2608 Brockton.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

FLIGHTPATH: WORD ON THE STREET Vija G. Mendelson presents an exhibit of her original photo collages celebrating the unique character of Austin's streets. *Through Jan. 2.* 5011 Duval St., 458-4472. www.wordonthestreetphotography.com.

LITTLE CITY: ENTANGLEMENT Art by J. Lowry Doyle. 916 Congress, 476-2489. Free. www.jlowrydoyle.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL MAIL ART SHOW: CALL FOR ENTRIES The theme for this show is Spaceman: Dada: Robot. All pieces received will be exhibited in the Vortex Theatre lobby during the January run of the new David Jewell & Sergio Samayoa show that's also called Spaceman: Dada: Robot. Send your art to SDR, 8003-B Tisdale, Austin, TX 78757. Deadline: Jan. 5.

HELIOS KILN GLASS STUDIO: CLASSES AND DEMONSTRATIONS Learn while they burn at this professional studio. 10700 Anderson Mill, 996-0960. www.heliosglass.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

HUFFSTICKLER NIGHT Friends and fans of the late poet laureate of Hyde Park will read from his works. *Wed., Dec. 17, 7pm.* NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe #100.

FATTEN UP WITH BARBARA BEERY and her *University of Texas Longhorn Cookbook* and *Mermaid Cookbook*. Surf 'n' turf! *Sun., Dec. 14, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

PAUL WILLCOTT serves up *A Franklin Manor Christmas*, a hardback gift-book edition featuring 16 delightful illustrations by St. Edward's professor Walle Conoly. *Sun., Dec. 14, 3pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

MUNDI ARTS: WASSAIL features Thom the World Poet, Jacobs IV, Chris Humphrey, Jenifer Thyssen, Jim Carpetas, Aimee Zivin, Ben Johnston, Pratt's Bottom Mummies, and magicians, terpsichores, dancers, bucolics, and reverends. *Sun., Dec. 14, 6pm.* Sri Atmananda, 4100 Red River, 380-0234. \$10 (free, ages 12 and younger). www.mundiworld.com.

FEARLESS CRITICS Authors from the *Fearless Critic Austin Restaurant Guide*: Stuff 'em. *Sat., Dec. 13, 4pm;* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. *Sun., Dec. 14, 2pm;* Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

HUMANITIES TEXAS is the Texas arm of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It's hosting a book fair to help repair libraries damaged by Hurricane Ike. Featured readers: Steve Bickerstaff, Sarah Bird, H.W. Brands, Elizabeth Crook, James Galbraith, Miguel Gonzalez Gerth, Steve Harrigan, Gary Hartman, Richard Holland, Rolando Hinojosa, Jaclyn Jones, James Magnuson, Dave McNeely, Angela Shelf Medearis, Joe Nick Patowski, Karen Olsson, Max Sherman, Naomi Shihab Nye, John Wheat, Bill Wittliff, Paul Woodruff, and Lawrence Wright. *Wow! Sat., Dec. 13, 10am-1pm.* Byrne-Reed House, 1410 Rio Grande.

AUSTIN CITY WIDE UNDER 21 POETRY SLAM continues to astound. Support these brilliant young voices. Always enthusiastically recommended. *Sat., Dec. 13, 7-9pm.* 501 Studios Theater, 501 N. I-35, 485-3000. \$5 (free, slam participants, ages 5 and younger). www.501studios.com.

GEOFF KETCHUM hooks 'em with *The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Longhorn Football*. *Sat., Dec. 13, noon.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

SUSAN MEREDITH brightens things up with her *Beyond Light Bulbs: Lighting the Way to Smarter Energy Management*. *Sat., Dec. 13, noon.* Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

E. LAWRENCE HARDIN presents his book *Andre's Song*. *Sat., Dec. 13, 1-3pm.* Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. Free. www.mitchie.com.

LAURENCE PARENT shoots again! The famed photographer of the Lone Star State captures our fair burg with 121 photos in his sharp-eyed *Portrait of Austin*. *Fri., Dec. 12, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

JEFFREY BADGER discusses family research and shares his own experiences in his *Finding Granddad's War*, which chronicles his search for his grandfather's experiences in the Second World War as a member of the 978th Engineer Maintenance Company. *Fri., Dec. 12, 6pm.* Frugal Media, 5400 N. Lamar #103, 929-3800 x1008. www.frugalmedia.com.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

THE AUSTIN FICTIONISTS are looking for a few good writers. They meet every two weeks for workshops and reviews; they specialize in fiction but have critiqued essays and other writing; they're very selective about finding serious candidates who will commit to developing their own work and provide balanced critiques of others'. Interested? Send a sample of your writing (between 2,500 and 5,000 words) for consideration. justincgordon@gmail.com.

WOODY FALGOUX tells Sisters in Crime about the Book Marketing Pyramid: Product, Publicity, and Distribution. This is the Sisters' holiday meeting, so bring some food to share. *Sun., Dec. 14, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Free.

MYSTERY GROUP hears *Voices* by Arnaldu Indridason. *Tue., Dec. 16, 7:30pm.* Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE GROUP chills with *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris. *Wed., Dec. 17, 7:30pm.* Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

LUDICROUS SPEED CLUB chug-a-lugs some ice-nine in *Cat's Cradle* by the late, lamented Kurt Vonnegut Jr. *Mon., Dec. 15, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

THE UTTER READING SERIES features the best new prose and poetry writers in Central Texas (e.g., David Jewell will be there). Recommended. *Tue., Dec. 16, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

A WORLD LIT: THE FLAME OF LITERATURE CLUB travels *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain. *Mon., Dec. 15, 7-8pm.* Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680.

OPEN MICS

AUSTIN'S LONGEST-RUNNING CONTINUOUS POETRY venue is hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr and co-hosted by Herman Nelson. Featured is Carr performing her Christmas poetry, with Valerie Inman and Irene Mooneyhan. *Thu., Dec. 11, 7:30pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

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.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm.* Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamaspresso.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pmo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.

BORDERS-ON-THE-WORD is always hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr. Holiday season poetry is featured at this outing. *Wed., Dec. 17, 7pm.* Triumph Cafe, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., 343-1875. www.triumphcafe.com.

SPEAKING THE SPOKEN is hosted by Zell Miller III. *Mon., Dec. 15, 6-9pm.* The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. www.vortexrep.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *out there in the deep (inside) – she stands away – the smoke in the green – whose face – (outside) land builds horses (remember) whales taste what the sun wants to burn (how stubborn the surface refusing the judgment of shame) or will clouds let us dream of only what we cannot break again (this place cuts nothing away) cleft in the mouth of a child god (o sing of death's resurrection!) & dive.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

So I've made sure

civil rights apply to everyone:

Check!

Next on the list:

Get bread.

– Tom Lay, "Obama's to-do list"

film listings



Slumdog Millionaire

D: Danny Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

To my knowledge, nobody has ever accused Brit director Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *28 Days Later*) of having a deficit in the style department. Only rarely has he seemed to favor that trademark style over some substantive story and characterization – the less

said about *A Life Less Ordinary*, the better. Even *The Beach* had something wise to say about the brittle nature of society and personal idealism and what happens when the two begin to clash. *Slumdog Millionaire*, which seems to pick up a new raft of critics' awards just about every day (it snagged the Audience Out of Competition Feature Award at the Austin Film Festival), is a mad, thrilling, and perversely luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* Everyone in Mumbai wants to know how this lower-caste lad wangled his way into the million-rupee hot seat. Boyle and locations co-director Tandan,

working from Simon Beaufoy's unflinchingly sensual script, smartly use Jamal's millionaire queries as both a framing device and a springboard to all that has led up to his "final answer." It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. Still, for all its mind-boggling imagery and a magical score by A.R. Rahman (with additional soundtracking courtesy of M.I.A.), *Slumdog* has as its beating heart a trio of actors – Patel, the willowy Pinto (playing Jamal's lost love Latika), and the electric Mittal as Jamal's wayward brother, Salim – who go beyond their characters to bring to life the sprawling, strangely Dickensian city of Mumbai itself. It's all hopelessly lovestruck, awestruck, and full of epic-sized emotions and splendor, but *Slumdog Millionaire* is also very much a film of the moment. There's blood running in the Mumbai gutters, to be sure, but Boyle and his spot-on cast never let us forget that that same crimson ebb also flows straight to the heart. Like Mumbai, *Slumdog* pulses and throbs with raw, unadulterated life and the hope for a better Bombay, today. It's brilliant. – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

new reviews

ACCIDENT D: Ramesh Aravind; with Aravind, Rekha, Sanjana Gandhi, Dinesh Babu, Rajendra Karanth. (NR, 156 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. A radio deejay returns home to India from a foreign trip to discover that his activist wife has died in an accident. But was it really an accident? – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

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, Eric Bogosian. (R, 108 min.)

As the song goes, "the blues had a baby, and they named it rock & roll." But long before that famous birth came the courtship, conception, and gestation – processes that worked on timetables unconnected to human biology. *Cadillac Records* is a music portrait that looks at one of those primary musical wombs – postwar Chicago and musicians who gravitated there, such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Chuck Berry, and Etta James and the Chess Records label, which recorded and promoted so much of their work. Although writer/director Martin's movie plays loose with many of the historical facts, her aim is dead-on in terms of nailing the spirit of the thing. *Cadillac Records* bobs and weaves, strides and duckwalks, samples and smiles on the sounds that made urban Chicago such a blues melting pot. It's best to not get too hung up on the purity of every single ingredient that goes into the pot, because that will only get in the way of the dish's overall taste, and *Cadillac Records* has flavor galore. The film celebrates the music and the talent but provides only shorthand glimpses of the biographies and career highlights of the figures involved. At the center is Leonard Chess (Brody), a white club owner who trades in his club (under mysterious circumstances) for a recording studio on Chicago's South Side. There, with his brother (who is nowhere to be found in this movie), he recorded the musicians listed above, plus many, many more, throughout the Fifties and Sixties. The actors cast as the bluesmen and -women are spectacular – again, not so much for their physical mimicry but for their spiritual inhabitation of the historical figures. Wright looks little like Muddy Waters, but his performance captures a sense of the "mannish boy"; when he plugs his guitar into an electric amp while busking on the Chicago streets, the movie in a flash reveals the originality of his sound: Delta grooves magnified by the power of electricity. Little Walter's (Short) story is colored by his alcoholism and brawling, but the revolutionary sound of his harmonica playing is captured here, too. As Howlin' Wolf, Walker gives one of the standout performances of the year; Mos Def delivers a believable Chuck Berry impersonation; and Beyoncé as Etta James is a complete revelation. The film is held together by a some-

what scattershot narration by Willie Dixon (Cedric the Entertainer), who wrote so many of the songs produced by the Chess label. Some viewers are bound to quibble with details, but to my mind they're missing the forest for the trees. Martin's film captures a true sense of such nebulous things as the rivalry between Waters and Wolf, the complexity of the business relationships between Chess and his artists, and Chess' love for James, which almost undid his marriage. It may not be precisely true that Berry's duckwalk brought racial integration to the music, but as Martin films it, she gives concepts such as this resonance. Muddy sang that he "can't be satisfied"; I think this movie might have changed his tune. – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

DARK STREETS D: Rachel Samuels; with Gabriel Mann, Bijou Phillips, Izabella Miko, Elias Koteas, Jarrett J. Merz, Michael Fairman, Toledo Diamond. (R, 83 min.)

Let no one ever say that *Dark Streets* doesn't have the perfect title. It may not be much more than a stylized regurgitation of creaky film-noir clichés and crime-fiction conventions ... but its streets are undeniably dark. As are its bedrooms, boardrooms, hallways, and power plants. In fact, the whole movie looks like it was shot through a piece of cheesecloth, as if the search for the right visual complement to this tale of urban decay, melancholy, and murder caused director Samuels to overshoot symbolic murkiness and crash-land in a world of near-comic indecipherability. Watching it, I felt like Claudius at the opening-night performance of *The Mousetrap* – Give me some light! – and entertained a similar notion of stomping out of the theatre. But no one ever said being a film critic would be a bowl of chocolate ice cream, so I toughed it out (with help from the film's soundtrack, a collection of blues originals performed by legends like Etta James, Aaron Neville, and B.B. King, all of whom know a little something about spinning darkness into art) and managed, with considerable squinting, to tie together the various strands of the movie's muddled storyline. Mann plays Chaz Davenport, the despondent son of a rich but recently deceased father living in a crime-ridden Depression-era city where gangsters have hijacked the municipal power supply. He's in debt to loan sharks all over town, but the nightclub he owns doesn't make any money. So, facing the prospect of an unpleasant death, Chaz does what any red-blooded man living on borrowed time would do: He drinks to excess and sleeps with as many of the club's dancers as he can. This includes mysterious new girl Madelaine (Miko), a femme fatale with doe eyes, a seductive singing voice, and a creepy father (Koteas) who looks like Erich von Stroheim in *The Grand Illusion* ... if von Stroheim's character in *The Grand Illusion* were the synthesizer player in a goth band. It's not clear what Madelaine and her dad are up to, whether they're looking to protect Chaz or ruin him, or if Chaz realizes just how much trouble he's in, but what is clear is that Samuels and screenwriter Wallace King are huge Mickey Spillane fans. They happily chart their hero's descent into the criminal underworld with that familiar brand

of naked-city, private-detective, raincoats-and-fedoras, tough-guys-and-dangerous-dames, pop-existential street poetry Spillane raised to an art form but that has long since become a formula and a gag. *Dark Streets* may be rich in mood, but it's less an original movie than a copy of a copy of a copy of something Hollywood once dabbled in and then forgot about, a collection of 1950s B-movie mannerisms that would have made for a great parody if only it were capable of laughing at its own hard-boiled absurdity. — Josh Rosenblatt
★ Arbor

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

D: Scott Derrickson; with Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly, Kathy Bates, Jaden Smith, John Cleese, Jon Hamm, Kyle Chandler. (PG-13, 103 min.)

When word went out that this remake of Robert Wise's sci-fi classic was in the works, a hue and cry arose from those who have kept watching the skies since the golden age of the Cold War-era science-fiction film. Admittedly, I was among those whose first thought was, "Why?" and whose second thought was, "Keanu Reeves?!" Seriously, it didn't sound like a smart move in any direction when announced, and, unsurprisingly, this loud, hammy, and, above all, pointless do-over only serves to point out the genius of the original. Screenwriter David Scarpa sticks to the rudiments of Edmund H. North's 1951 script but garnishes the film's overriding and still-resonant message with wooden warnings from the equally wooden Reeves and then ladles on the CGI destruction to little effect. Wise's film had a stately elegance, with Michael Rennie's interplanetary message-bearer Klaatu eliciting genuine pathos while Patricia Neal and Hugh Marlowe acted exceedingly *human* throughout. (It also had one of Bernard Herrmann's eeriest and most memorable musical scores.) Reeves, cast here as Klaatu, displays precious few emotions and even less acting. He plays the character of Klaatu (who is, lest we forget, the potential destroyer and/or savior of all mankind) as though he were on robo-pilot, and the whole characterization comes off as a bad, possibly ironic riff on Hugo Weaving's vastly more entertaining Agent Smith of *The Matrix*. Keanu stalks, Keanu glowers, Keanu has a giant robot christened "Gort" by the U.S. armed forces, but he's no Michael Rennie. Connelly does her best as the sci-gal

openings & ratings

Accident (NR)

Dark Streets (R)

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13)

Delgo (PG)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

A Girl Cut in Two (NR)

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13)

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (NR)

Slumdog Millionaire (R)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

🔥 La bomba

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whose rocky relationship with her preteen stepson eventually leads to tears, hugs, and the redemption of all mankind (maybe). But even she – or a stern Bates or a decidedly unsilly cameo by Cleese – can't save this dull, unnecessary film from its total lack of "Gosh, wow!" sense of wonder. Wipe 'em out, Gort.

– Marc Savlov

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DELGO D: Marc F. Adler, Jason Maurer; with the voices of Freddie Prinze Jr., Val Kilmer, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Anne Bancroft, Chris Kattan, Louis Gossett Jr., Eric Idle, Kelly Ripa, Michael Clarke Duncan, Burt Reynolds, Malcolm McDowell, Sally Kellerman. (PG, 90 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this animated fantasy, a band of teens joins together to defend its land from alien winged creatures. — Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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Rafer Guzmán, Newsday

“BEYONCÉ BURNS A HOLE IN THE SCREEN.”

Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

“JEFFREY WRIGHT IS SUPERB”

Joe Morgenstern, The Wall Street Journal

“ROLICKING AND INSIGHTFUL”

A.O. Scott, The New York Times



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Christmas Pops! Sing-Along: Thu (12/18), 7:00, 9:30
Minster Pancakes Christmas Show: Fri, 6:10, 10:45
Music Monday: Glam Rock: Primary Sources: Mon, 10:25pm
AFC Doc Tour: In a Dream: Wed, 7:00pm
Girlie Night: Love Actually: Tue, 7:15pm
Milk: Fri, 12:45, 2:05, 3:45, 5:10, 7:00, 9:55; Sat, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:10, 7:00, 9:55; Sun, 12:45, 2:40, 4:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:55; Mon, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:55; Tue (12/18), 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Big Screen Sci-Fi: RoboCop: Sun, 4:05pm; Mon, 7:55pm; Tue, 10:25pm; Wed, 9:15pm
Terror Thursday: Vice Squad: Thu (12/18), 12mid
Weird Wednesday: The Witch Who Came From the Sea: Wed, 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.
Australia: 11:40am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:35pm
Bolt: 12:15, 3:05, 7:15, 9:55
Christmas Horror Remix: You Better Watch Out! Wed, 10:00pm
The Day the Earth Stood Still: Fri, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon, 3:15, 7:10, 10:00; Tue/Thu (12/18), 12:25, 3:15, 7:10, 10:05
Four Christmases: Fri, 6:45, 9:45; Sat/Thu (12/18), 12:00, 3:00, 6:45, 9:45
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
Role Models: 12:10, 3:10, 7:25, 10:25
AFF: Six Gun: Thu (12/18), 7:30pm
Tromatic Thursday: Teenage Catgirls in Heat: Thu (12/18), 10:00pm
Transporter 3: Fri, 12:20, 3:20, 10:10; Sat/Wed, 12:20, 3:20, 7:30, 10:10; Thu (12/18), 12:20, 3:20, 10:10
Twilight: 12:30, 3:30, 7:20, 10:15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

UT: Advanced Undergraduate Films: Sun, 11:00am
Australia: Fri, 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35, 10:05pm; Sat, 2:50, 10:05; Sun, 11:05am, 2:50, 10:05pm; Mon, 6:35, 10:05; Tue, 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35, 10:05pm; Wed, 2:50, 10:05; Thu (12/18), 2:50, 6:35, 10:05pm
Butt-Numb-n-Thon: Sat, 12:00pm
AFS: La Ciénega: Tue, 7:00pm
Let the Right One In: Fri-Mon, 1:00, 3:40, 7:00, 9:55; Tue, 3:40, 7:00, 9:55; Wed/Thu (12/18), 1:00, 3:40, 7:00, 9:55
MFA Pre-Theis and Thesis Films: Sun, 6:00pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45pm; Tue, 11:55am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45pm; Wed/Thu (12/18), 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45
Role Models: Fri, 2:25, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 2:25, 7:30; Sun, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; Mon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; Tue, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 10:00pm; Wed, 2:25, 4:50, 7:30; Thu (12/18), 2:25, 7:30, 10:00
Television: Santa vs. Satan: Wed, 7:00, 9:45
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:45, 3:55, 7:35, 10:30pm; Tue, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Wed, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Thu (12/18), 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
Twilight: Fri, 11:10am, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25pm; Sat, 4:40, 10:20; Sun, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25; Mon, 1:55, 4:40, 10:25; Tue, 1:55, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25; Wed, 1:25, 4:10, 10:25; Thu (12/18), 4:40, 7:40, 10:25
Twilight (open captioned): Mon, 7:40pm

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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.
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00, 11:55pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 7:15, 10:00, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
Four Christmases: Fri, 11:25am, 1:50, 7:00, 9:35pm; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
JCVD: Fri, 9:55pm; Sat-Sun, 1:40, 9:55am; Thu (12/18), 7:15pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:25, 10:15pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Zack and Miri Make a Porno: Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 4:10pm; Mon, 4:10pm; Tue, 4:10, 9:55; Wed/Thu (12/18), 9:55pm

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Dark Streets: 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:40, 9:55
Milk: 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 10:10
Rachel Getting Married: 12:30, 3:10, 6:40, 9:35
Slumdog Millionaire: 11:50am, 12:50, 2:50, 4:40, 7:00, 7:30, 9:45, 10:15pm
Synecdoche, New York: 12:40, 4:00, 7:10, 10:40

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Bolt: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50pm; Sun/Wed, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10; Thu (12/18), 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 2:55, 7:40pm; Sun/Wed, 1:00, 5:45, 10:30; Thu (12/18), 1:00, 5:45
The Day the Earth Stood Still: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 11:25, 12:45, 2:00, 3:20, 4:35, 5:55, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 12:45, 2:00, 3:20, 4:35, 5:55, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00
Delgo: Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 9:55pm; Sun, 10:20am, 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Four Christmases: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30pm; Mon, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; Tue, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:15, 10:30; Thu (12/18), 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:15
Four Christmases (closed captioned): Fri-Tue, 7:00, 9:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45pm; Mon-Tue, 12:20, 2:30, 4:45; Wed, 2:30, 4:45; Thu (12/18), 12:20, 2:30, 4:45
Milk: Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Nothing Like the Holidays: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10
Punisher: War Zone: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 10:30pm; Mon/Tue, 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40; Wed/Thu (12/18), 12:30, 3:00
Quantum of Solace: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm; Sun, 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30; Mon/Thu (12/18), 12:30, 3:00, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30
Role Models: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 11:00pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 11:00
Transporter 3: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 5:15, 10:00; Sun/Thu (12/18), 3:20, 8:05
Twilight: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
Twilight (closed captioned): Wed, 11:00am

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.

Australia: Fri, 2:50, 6:50, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:50, 6:50, 10:25pm; Sun/Thu (12/18), 2:50, 6:50, 10:25
Bolt: Fri, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 9:45
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: Wed/Thu (12/18), 7:00pm
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20
***Delgo:** Fri, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Tue, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Wed/Thu (12/18), 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Four Christmases: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 8:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 8:50pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 8:50
***Nothing Like the Holidays:** Fri, 4:20, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
***Punisher: War Zone:** 8:00, 10:30
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
Twilight: Fri, 1:10am, 12:45, 2:10, 3:50, 5:10, 6:40, 8:10, 9:40pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:10, 3:50, 5:10, 6:40, 8:10, 9:40pm
Twilight: Fri, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 1:25, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: Wed/Thu (12/18), 7:00pm
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:30, 1:25, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35
***Delgo:** Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Tue, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Wed/Thu (12/18), 2:10pm
Four Christmases: Fri, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 1:20, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 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 (12/18), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
***Punisher: War Zone:** 10:20pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
Transporter 3: Fri, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
Twilight: Fri, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Mon/Thu (12/18), 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 112812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.

Australia: Fri, 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45
Bolt: Fri, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 1:25, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: Wed/Thu (12/18), 7:00pm
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:30, 1:25, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35
***Delgo:** Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Tue, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Wed/Thu (12/18), 2:10pm
Four Christmases: Fri, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 1:20, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 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 (12/18), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
***Punisher: War Zone:** 10:20pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
Transporter 3: Fri, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
Twilight: Fri, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Mon/Thu (12/18), 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15
Twilight: Fri, 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45
Bolt: Fri, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 1:25, 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:45, 4:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: Wed/Thu (12/18), 7:00pm
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:30, 1:25, 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:20, 3:25, 4:20, 5:05, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:40, 10:35
***Delgo:** Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Tue, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25; Wed/Thu (12/18), 2:10pm
Four Christmases: Fri, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 1:20, 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:40, 3:55, 5:15, 6:35, 7:40, 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 (12/18), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
***Punisher: War Zone:** 10:20pm
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
Transporter 3: Fri, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
Twilight: Fri, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15; Mon/Thu (12/18), 3:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.
 Discounts daily before 5pm.
***Accident:** Fri, 8:30pm
***Changeling:** Fri, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon/Thu (12/18), 3:00, 7:00, 10:00
The Dark Knight: Fri, 2:50, 6:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:50, 6:30, 9:50pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:50, 6:30, 9:50
***Eagle Eye:** Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25
Fireproof: Sat/Thu (12/18), 7:30, 10:15
Igor: Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30
Lullabies: Fri-Sat, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30
***Max Payne:** Fri, 1:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
***Quarantine:** Fri, 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:10pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:10
WALL-E: Fri, 2:40, 5:10; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:40, 5:10

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 (12/18), 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
Bolt: Fri, 12:50, 2:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:20, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:20, 12:50, 2:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:20, 9:00
***The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri, 3:30, 2:25, 2:40, 4:15, 5:10, 6:05, 7:00, 7:55, 8:50, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 10:45, 11:40, 12:35, 1:30, 2:25, 3:20, 4:15, 5:10, 6:05, 7:00, 7:55, 8:50, 9:50, 10:40pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:30, 2:25, 3:20, 4:15, 5:10, 6:05, 7:00, 7:55, 8:50, 9:50, 10:40
***Delgo:** Fri, 2:15, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 2:15, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Four Christmases: Fri, 12:20, 2:45, 4:50, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 12:00, 1:20, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:10, 10:25pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:20, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:10, 10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 1:00, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:00, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30
***Nothing Like the Holidays:** Fri, 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
***Punisher: War Zone:** 7:40, 10:20
Quantum of Solace: Fri, 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon/Thu (12/18), 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 10:05
Twilight: Fri, 1:50, 3:10, 4:45, 6:10, 7:45, 9:20, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 12:15, 1

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS

D: Alfredo De Villa; with Luis Guzmán, Freddy Rodríguez, Debra Messing, Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, Jay Hernandez, Melonie Diaz, Mercedes Ruehl, Vanessa Ferlito. (PG-13, 99 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This week's Christmas-themed movie centers on a family gathering in Chicago's Humboldt Park, a predominantly Puerto Rican section of the city. Director De Villa (*Washington Heights*, *Adrift in Manhattan*) has assembled a top-notch cast. — Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

RAB NE BANA DI JODI

D: Aditya Chopra; with Shahrukh Khan, Anushka Sharma, Manisha Koirala. (NR, 167 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this new Bollywood romance, polar opposites find themselves drawn together by fate. — Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

AUSTRALIA

D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Brandon Walters, David Wenham, David Ngoombujarra, Bryan Brown, Ray Barrett. (R, 170 min.)

Luhrmann has never been afraid to go big, and with this, his long-awaited follow-up to 2001's *Moulin Rouge*, his canvas stretches as wide as the continent it chronicles. But the bigger the scope and the bigger the ambition, the less control Luhrmann seems to have on his epic productions. *Australia* is a fairly straightforward and occasionally quite involving love story between a man and a woman, a woman and an orphaned child, a people and the land. It's an overpacked film, to be sure, and Luhrmann front-loads the best stuff in the first of the film's three distinct sections, including a breakneck cliffside cattle stampede that ends in a gorgeous, three-person clutch. Luhrmann wants it all — comedy and tragedy, bombast and wet-eyed sentimentality. When it works, his kid-in-a-candy-store giddiness is infectious. When it doesn't — when he goes from silly to turgid in 60 seconds flat — he punctures *Australia*'s proportions down from epic to simply overwrought. (11/28/2008) — Kimberley Jones

Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

D: Raja Gosnell; with Piper Perabo, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Urie; with the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia, George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez, Plácido Domingo, Edward James Olmos, Loretta Devine. (PG, 85 min.)

If you are an adult going to see this film solo or with a peer, you deserve every tired cliché trotted out. But if you or your moviegoing companion are anywhere within whistling distance of adolescence, you'll howl at this lowbrow, family-friendly trifle. Aunt Viv (Curtis), an L.A. make-up maven, entrusts her spoiled, designer-clad Chihuahua, Chloe (voiced by Barrymore), to her niece Rachel (Perabo). The niece prefers dashing across the Mexican border for the weekend with her girlfriends to overseeing the dog's ritzy round of beauty treatments and spa appointments. Naturally, the prissy pooch gets lost, and naturally, a string of characters emerges

to assist in Chloe's return, including Aunt Viv's study landscaper, Sam (Manolo Cardona), and his Chihuahua, Papi (voiced by Lopez). The CG effects are fairly irresistible, as is the enormous canine cast. *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* is a silly, if guilty, pleasure. (10/10/2008) — Margaret Moser

Metropolitan

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," aka New York City, the stage is set not only for a classic Disney road trip but also for a series of alternately comic and wistful revelations regarding the true nature of heroism, friendship, and love. The writing team of Dan Fogelman (*Cars*) and co-director



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THU, DEC 11	MILK	400	545	845	955
	TERROR THUR: FROM BEYOND				MIDNIGHT
FRI, DEC 12	MILK	1245	205	345	510
	MASTER PANCAKE: XMAS SHOW!				810 1045
SAT, DEC 13	MILK	1245	210	345	510
	MASTER PANCAKE: XMAS SHOW!				810 1045
SUN, DEC 14	MILK	1245	230	540	700
	BIG SCREEN CLASSICS ROBOCOP				845 955 405
MON, DEC 15	MILK	400	600	700	955
	BIG SCREEN CLASSICS ROBOCOP				755
	\$2 MUSIC MON: GLAM ROCK: PRIMARY SOURCES				1025
TUES, DEC 16	MILK	400	700	955	715
	GIRLIE NIGHT: LOVE, ACTUALLY				
WEDS, DEC 17	MILK	400	700	955	700
	TX DOC TOUR: IN A DREAM				915
	MILK				915
	WEIRD WEDNESDAY: WITCH CAME FROM SEA				MIDNIGHT
THU, DEC 18	MILK	400	700	955	700
	CHRISTMAS POPS SING-ALONG!				955
	TERROR THUR: VICE SQUAD				MIDNIGHT

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE *	1100*	145	435	735	1030
QUANTUM OF SOLACE	1115*	140*	420	705	945
AUSTRALIA		1105*	250*	635*	1005
TWILIGHT		1110*	440	740*	1025
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN		100*	340	700	955
ROLE MODELS		225	450*	730	1000*
OPEN CAPTION: TWILIGHT					740 (Mon)
AFS Essential: LA CIENAGA					700 (Tue)
FOLEYVISION: SANTA VS SATAN					700 945 (Wed)

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

EARTH STOOD STILL *	1100*	135	415	710	1000	MID*
FOUR CHRISTMASSES		1125*	150	420*	700	935
QUANTUM OF SOLACE		1105*	145	425	725	1015
JCVD			140*		715*	955*
ZACK & MIRI			1110*	410*	955*	
ROCKY HORROR						MIDNIGHT (Sat)
TV PARTY: HEROES						930 (Mon)

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DINNER - DRINKS - MOVIES - EVENTS

LAKECREEK SHOWTIMES
(183 & LAKECREEK PARKWAY)

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL
(11:00 1:35 4:15) 7:10 10:00
MATINEE SHOWTIMES WILL CHANGE 12/15

FOUR CHRISTMASSES
(12:00 3:00) 6:45 9:45

TRANSPORTER 3
(12:20 3:20) 7:30 10:10

twilight
(12:30 3:30) 7:20 10:15

AUSTRALIA
(11:40 3:25) 7:00 10:35

BOLT
(12:15 3:05) 7:15 9:55

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Sat. 10:00 10:20 12:15 12:35 2:30 2:50 4:45 5:05 7:10 7:30 9:25 9:45
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 12:35 2:30 2:50 4:45 5:05 7:10 7:30 9:25 9:45

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) Fri. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50 11:40
Sat. 10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
Mon. - Thu. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

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
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) Fri. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:30 10:00 11:55
Sat. 10:30 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:30 10:00
Mon. - Thu. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:30 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
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25

TWILIGHT (PG-13) Fri. 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sat. 10:10 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30 11:55
Mon. - Thu. 1:35 4:10 7:00 9:30

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) Fri. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Sat. 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Mon. - Thu. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 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
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 11:30
Sat. 10:00 12:15 2:35 4:45 7:05 9:20
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Williams (*Mulan*) 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, *awwwesome*. (11/21/2008)– 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

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 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, Tinseltown South

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
★★★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South

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

Six Gun

Six Gun (2008) **D:** Scott Perry; with Tommy Hill, Bill Wise, Sue Rock, Robert Graham, Michael Hankin, Kerry Awn, Joe King Carrasco. (NR, 91 min.) **Austin Film Festival.** Set in the Hill Country of the 1870s, this Western is a Texas-sized horse opera about a man who's losing his ranch through no one's fault but his own. The Bad Livens' Mark Rubin was the musical director. Director Perry will be in attendance for a Q&A, and his *Teenage Catgirls in Heat* will screen at 10pm. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Thursday (12/18), 7:30pm.



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

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

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 laughingstock 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 nonlinear 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

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

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
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MAX PAYNE

D: John Moore; with Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Beau Bridges, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Chris O'Donnell, Donal Logue, Olga Kurylenko. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Based on the popular video game, *Max Payne* has been adapted for the screen by UT-Austin alum Beau Thorne. He does a fine job of fleshing out what is essentially a convoluted shoot-'em-up better suited to the joystick-and-POV combo. Trouble is, no matter how much craft Thorne poured into this particular script, the end result comes out of the mouth of Wahlberg. That's not good, because the actor bites down hard on the words before they barely have time to exit his mouth. He's so bleakly stoic in his characterization that he ends up trapping inside whatever emotional punch the original dialogue may have carried. But maybe that's the point. Payne is a NYPD cold-case cop whose wife and child were killed by cityscape scum. A loose cannon with no real target, Payne embodies equal parts Will Eisner's *The Spirit* and free-floating, postwar nihilism. Which war? Does it matter? Not really. With Payne, it's personal. (10/24/2008) – Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

MILK

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.)

Van Sant's very fine biopic restricts itself to the last decade of Harvey Milk's life, when the semi-closeted 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. Technically, *Milk* is a knockout, and the film is terrifically acted, top to bottom. 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. *Milk* is a more conventionally satisfying



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picture than Van Sant's previous *Aughties* output, which consisted of 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 we hoped for. (12/05/2008) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Westgate

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. 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 musing 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. Director Alexander handles the action with relentless fervor and occasional wit. (12/05/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 thugish 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)

Christmas Show

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, Friday-Saturday, 8:10, 10:45pm.



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, 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 Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eyed, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father, Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spotlight. (10/31/2008) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Arbor

ROLE MODELS D: David Wain; with Paul

Rudd, Seann William Scott, Christopher Mintz-Plassé, 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, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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 songstress-turned-actresses is much richer than might be expected. (10/17/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Dobie, 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

La Clénaga

La Clénaga (2001) D: Lucrecia Martel; with Graciela Borges, Martín Adjemian, Mercedes Moran, Leonora Balcarce, Sofia Bertolotto, Andrea Lopez, Juan Cruz Bordeu, Sebastián Montaña, Daniel Valenzuela. (NR, 96 min.) Austin Film Society: More Than Buenos Aires – Film Renaissance in Argentina. Martel's debut film is a family portrait of people falling down the class ladder. See www.austinfilm.org for more on the series. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free.

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 Atrakchi. (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 uncomedies (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, Hill Country Galleria, 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, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



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 Village, Metropolitan

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EAGLE EYE ★★★ Movies 8

IGOR ★★ Movies 8

LAKEVIEW TERRACE ★★ Movies 8

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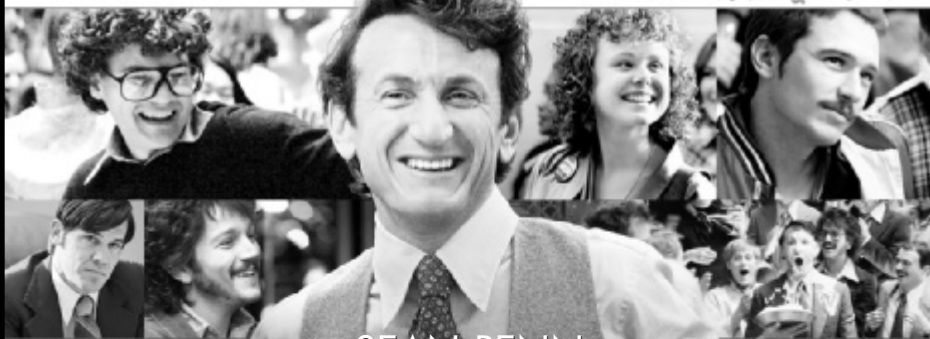
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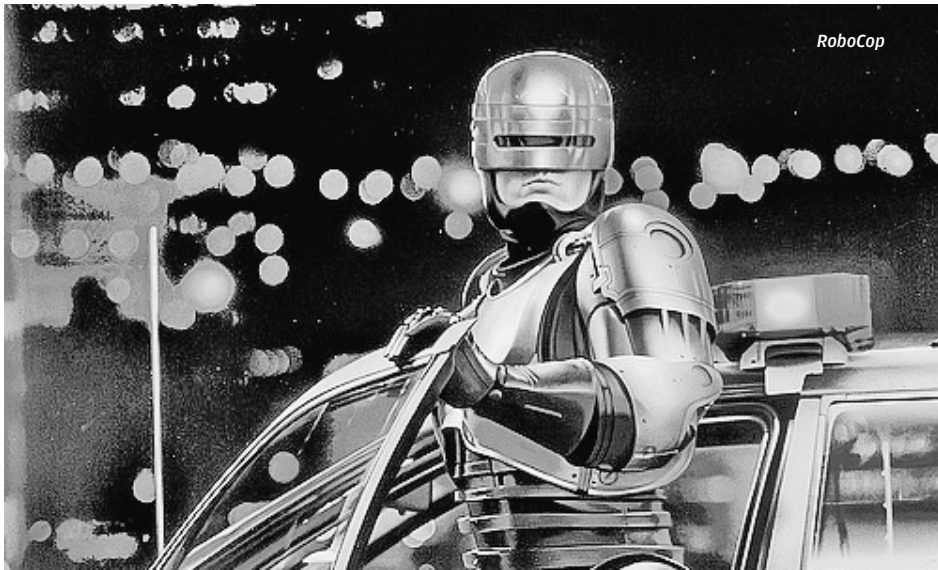
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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 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.

FRIDAY 12

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. See p.92.

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, 9:50pm; \$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, 7:30pm.

SATURDAY 13

Butt-Numb-a-Thon D: Various. (NR) As usual, Harry Knowles' birthday party o' film surprises is sold out. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse South, noon.

Christmas Show @Alamo Ritz, 8:10, 10:45pm. (See Fri., 12/12.)

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 Draffhouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Holiday Classics D: Various. **Holiday Classics.** Included in the program is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "The Year Without a Santa Claus." Outdoors. @Dottie Jordan Park, 5:30pm.

Home Alone (1990) D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.) **City Community Church.** Outdoors; bring a chair. (*) @Baker School (39th and Ave. B), 6pm; free.

MONDAY 15

Glam Rock: Primary Sources (NR, 80 min.) **Music Monday.** Includes David Bowie's 1969 TV special *Love You Till Tuesday*, which features mimes, psychedelia, and music, and an entire 1971 German TV concert by Roxy Music. @Alamo Ritz, 10:25pm; \$2.

Heroes TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 8pm; @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 9:30pm.

RoboCop (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 7:55pm. (See Sun., 12/14.)

SPACES

Home Alone (1990) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm. (See Sat., 12/13.)

The Human Animal (1994) D: Mark Johnston. **Documentary Night.** Screening includes two episodes of the six-part documentary based on Desmond Morris' work: "The Immortal Genes" and "Beyond Survival." @MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm; free.

The Name of the Rose (1986) D: Jean-Jacques Annaud; with Sean Connery, Christian Slater. (R, 130 min.) **Archives Film Series.** Adapted from Umberto Eco's novel, the film is set in a medieval abbey where two Franciscan monks race to uncover the truth about a series of mysterious deaths. @Harry Ransom Center, 7pm; free.

TUESDAY 16

La Ciénaga (2001) See p.92.

Love Actually (2003) D: Richard Curtis; with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Keira Knightley, Martine McCutcheon, Billy Bob Thornton, Joanna Page, Rowan Atkinson. (R, 135 min.) **Girlie Night.** This merry skein of loves lost and found in holiday-season London is written and directed by *Four Weddings and a Funeral* scribe. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:15pm.

RoboCop (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 10:25pm. (See Sun., 12/14.)

SPACES

Austin Filmmakers Group The collective is screening the first three films developed since its inception six months ago. The titles include "People That Do Something," written by Marlayna Glynn Brown and directed by Paul Galvan; "Mr. One Note" by Reagan Peterson; and "Great Roommate Manny" by Jaime Orta. Preshow party at 7pm. @ Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill, 8pm.

offscreen

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/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen.

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Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (with \$20 fee): Jan. 30. Deadline (\$40 fee): Feb. 12. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

SXSW 2009: Call for Entries Filmmakers are invited to submit their new works to the popular annual festival. SXSW considers any and all categories of filmmaking, from narrative to documentary, experimental to music video, short to feature. Complete submission rules and regulations are available on the website. Deadline: Dec. 12. www.sxsw.com/film.

The Screenplay Workshop All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

WEDNESDAY 17

Christmas Horror Remix: You Better Watch Out! The Remix features three lousy holiday slashers in two hours by slicing out the boring stuff and keeping the basic plot, gore, and cheese. This remix dices *Iced* (1988), *Christmas Evil* (1980), and *Silent Night Deadly Night: Part 2* (1987). @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 10pm.

The Christmas Sweater (2008) (NR, 120 min.) **NCM Fathom.** This new "Christmas Memory Play With Music" is based on Glenn Beck's novel. In addition to broadcaster Beck, the show features a 10-piece orchestra and a Broadway gospel singer and "tells the story of real people as they come to terms with tragedy, family, redemption, love, and the power of faith." The Wednesday show will be broadcast live; the Thursday show will be a prerecorded encore. @Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, 7pm.

In a Dream (2007) D: Jeremiah Zagar. (NR, 80 min.) **AFS Documentary Tour.** Mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar has spent decades covering Philadelphia's walls with precision murals. In this documentary portrait by his son, we learn not only of his work but also his tumultuous relationship with his wife, Julia, as their marriage implodes. *In a Dream* won the Emerging Visions Audience Award at the South by Southwest Film Festival. Filmmaker Jeremiah Zagar and producer Jeremy Yaches will be in attendance for a Q&A. See "Fractured Family Tales," p.60, for an interview with the director. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm; \$6, AFS members \$4.

RoboCop (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 9:15pm. (See Sun., 12/14.)

Santa vs. Satan (1959) D: René Cardona and K. Gordon Murray; with José Elías Moreno, Cesáreo Quezadas, José Luis Aguirre. (NR, 95 min.) **Foleyvision.** In Foleyvision, new sound effects, music, and dialogue are dubbed in over the original film – and performed live. The title of this live-action oddity pretty much says it all. @Alamo Draffhouse South, 7, 9:45pm.

The Witch Who Came From the Sea (1976) D: Matt Cimber; with Millie Perkins, Lonny Chapman, Vanessa Brown, Peggy Feury. (R, 83 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Penned by cult screenwriter Robert Thom, this rarity stars his wife, Perkins, as a waitress whose memories of childhood abuse prompt a murderous spree. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

THURSDAY 18

Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 9:30pm.

The Christmas Sweater (2008) Encore presentation. @Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, 7pm. (See Wed., 12/17.)

Six Gun (2008) See p.90.

Teenage Catgirls in Heat (1997) D: Scott Perry; with Esmerelda Huffhines, Dave Cox, Carrie Vanston, Helen Griffiths, Martha Morales, April Adams. (NR, 84 min.) **Tromatic Thursday.** Made right here in Austin, this Troma film tells the lurid story of cats that metamorphose into nubile women and "rub up against things" and cause havoc. Perry will be in attendance for a Q&A, following a 7:30pm screening of his 2008 feature, *Six Gun*. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Vice Squad (1982) D: Gary Sherman; with Season Hubley, Wings Hauser, Gary Swanson, Nina Blackwood, Cheryl "Rainbeaux" Smith. (R, 97 min.) **Terror Thursday.** Hubley (an actress who never had the career she deserved) plays an L.A. street-walker whose path collides with the psychotic prostitute-killer (Hauser, in an early, over-the-top performance) who has escaped from police custody. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

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. (12/11)-Fri., 2pm; Sat., noon, 4pm; Sun., 4pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/18), noon, 4pm.

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. (12/11)-Fri., 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. (12/11)-Fri., 11am; Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/18), 10am.

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. (12/11)-Fri., 1, 3, 5, 6, 8pm; Sat., 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8pm; Sun., 1, 3, 5, 7, 8pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/18), 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, 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. (12/11)-Fri., noon, 4, 7pm; Sat.-Thu. (12/18), 2, 6pm.

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. 26 issue is Monday, Dec. 15.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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Almost There's Lennon/McCartney Tributes

The Parish, Friday 12 & Saturday 13

Whether you're partial to instant karma or silly love songs, Almost There Records has you covered this weekend as the local label's latest tribute

show spotlights the solo work of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Label principals Ty Chandler and Lance Davis initially hatched the idea for a Lennon/McCartney show around the time of 2006's Neil Young tribute.

"It later morphed into the two-night show with 25 bands," Chandler explains. "The hardest part was to get a club to go along with this. I honestly thought we'd have trouble.

in-stores

But, as luck would have it, we got the best venue in town."

Friday's show makes the case for Macca with acts such as Gleeson, Mandible, Grand Champeen, the Service Industry, Paul Minor, Good Times Crisis Band, etc. Lennon gets the nod Saturday with a choir that includes Monahans, Pleasant Grove, Militant Babies, Moonlight Towers, One Mississippi, Ripe, and more.

— Greg Beets

Saturday: Trailer Space benefit with **Doom Siren, Crapulence**, the **Homicides, Combat Shock**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6pm

T-BIRD & THE BREAKS CD RELEASE

Victory Grill, Friday 12

In less than two years, Tim Crane has gone from "moving to Austin to get a band together" to having his songs pressed in wax. His fresh-faced 12-piece soul ensemble, T-Bird & the Breaks, previews new album *Learn About It* at the historic Victory Grill, and the lean set of throwback R&B will see a wider release and limited vinyl pressing in 2009. The slow organ burn of the Greyhounds sparks the fire.

— Thomas Fawcett

A TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE

Texas Union Ballroom, Friday 12

More a night of theatre than a concert, *Ribbon of Highway, Endless Skyway* is a celebration of the life of folk music godfather Woody Guthrie. Stories and songs, presented by an imposing cast including Jimmy Lafave, Eliza Gilkyson, Slaid Cleaves, Kevin Welch, and more, also form the core of a special 2-CD tribute of the same name. A great show for those who already know the story or anyone still searching for the spirit of America. 8pm.

— Jim Caligiuri

TRAIL OF DEAD, GLORIUM

Red 7, Saturday 13

If there's one thing Austinites love, it's an old-school party, so happy holidays from 1995. Trail of Dead headlines outside as its (almost) original threepiece, and Paul Streckfus' 1990s San Antonio avant-garders Glorium celebrate the 10th anniversary of rarely heard fourth LP *Close Your Eyes* by playing it in its entirety. Those Peabodys trash the outside stage first, and Diagonals, the Black, and Ume turn up the heat inside.

— Darcie Stevens

MONDO BAZAAR-O Friday 12-Thursday 18

It's that time of year when "bazaar" becomes a verb in Austin. In addition to great holiday finds, three annual bazaars unwrap great local talent, as well. The **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar** (www.armadillobazaar.com) at the Austin Convention Center offers Sahara Smith, Terri Hendrix, Suzanna Choffel, W.C. Clark, the Band of Heathens, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and more throughout the week. **Keep Austin Bizarre** (www.keeptaustinbizarre.com), which lands at the Palmer Events Center, touts Topaz, No Mas Bodas, Jade Day, the Moonhowlers, Big Chief Kevin & the Flaming Arrows, and many more. **Blue Genie Art Bazaar** (www.bluegenieart.com) at the Lincoln Village's Monarch Event Center features a full weekend of local teen bands for free, including Aviators, Taylor Yanez, and Chief Rival on Saturday (11am-6pm) and Fireants, Carson Brock Group, and more on Sunday (11am-7pm). Visit sites for full lineups and times.

— Audra Schroeder

ICE CUBE

Mohawk, Sunday 14

Funny that the people who banged N.W.A.'s *Straight Outta Compton* in 1988 were probably the same folks driving their kids to see Ice Cube playing daddy in *Are We There Yet?* 17 years later. The guy's run the gamut of entertainment options, but if Cube's searing South by Southwest 08 set at Auditorium Shores and August's *Raw Footage* proved anything, it's that this Los Angeles OG has a bite as hard as his bark. Trick Trick and Gerald G open.

— Chase Hoffberger

CAMP X-RAY

Red 7, Monday 15

Red 7 continues the month's theme of goodwill plus good bill. Bring a blanket, and get in free, or make a donation of \$5 – both go to the Salvation Army. Then stay for the breakneck sounds of local headliners Camp X-Ray, the sweet pop of Scott Reynolds & the Steaming Beast, and – fingers crossed – hardcore versions of ABBA songs from Stabba.

— Audra Schroeder

AARON NEVILLE & HIS QUINTET

Paramount Theatre, Wednesday 17

The voice that makes you want to hear the songs of Christmas is rare, but New Orleans legend Aaron Neville possesses one. His gorgeous high tenor is well-suited for the classical and pop sound of holiday and seasonal songs, and coupled with his quintet, it makes for a delightful evening of telling it like it is. 8pm.

— Margaret Moser

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS

Continental Club, Friday 12

Stop worrying, and love Neil Diamond for the holidays.

KRUM BUMS Red 7, Friday 12

A free Krum Bums show – the perfect way to drop some holiday pounds.

BABY ROBOTS, BASIC

The Parlor, Saturday 13

Local reverb plus rapper Z-Ron K.

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

Cactus Cafe, Sunday 14

Steve's kin shakes the family tree.

CAPITAL AREA FOOD

BANK BENEFIT

The Parlor & Hog Wild, Sunday 14

Two Hoots & a Holler, Shaun Young, Miss Lauren Marie, and more twang on North Loop. Donations of nonperishable food are welcome.

JAMES POLK ORCHESTRA

Monarch Event Center, Monday 15

Polk and his big band flash jazz hands.

EUGENE CHADBOURNE

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tuesday 16

See "LSD C&W," p.64.

MAMMOTH GRINDER 7-INCH

RELEASE The Parlor, Thursday 18

Face-melting hardcore gets No Results.

live music venues p.98

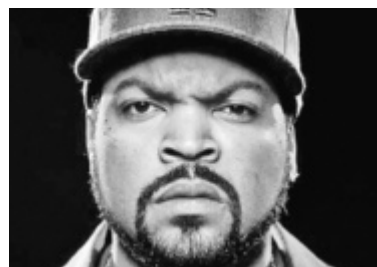
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club listings p.104



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9-11 PM.....Del Castillo

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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- 4) TODD SNIDER
Peace Queer
- 5) BOB SCHNEIDER
When the Sun...
- 6) GRUPO FANTASMA
Sonidos Gold
- 7) LOS LONELY BOYS
Christmas Spirit
- 8) HAYES CARLL
Trouble in Mind
- 9) JAMES McMURTRY
Just Us Kids
- 10) RODNEY CROWELL
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\$2 DRINK SPECIALS
EVERY THURSDAY ALL NIGHT LONG
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\$2 DOMESTICS FRI & SAT UNTIL 11 PM
\$2 DOMESTICS EVERY WEEKNIGHT

THURSDAY 12/11



DJ
DIAMOND
TIP

COLLEGE NIGHT, \$2 HOLLER
10PM-2AM
TIN CAN PHONE
10PM-2AM DOWNSTAIRS

FRIDAY 12/12

MIKE MAVEN
10PM-2AM DOWNSTAIRS
ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE
10PM-2AM

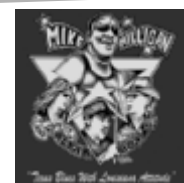
SATURDAY 12/13

PRIDE & JOY
10PM-2AM DOWNSTAIRS
DJ DOG
10PM-2AM

SUNDAY 12/14

SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT

MONDAY 12/15



MIKE MILLIGAN
& THE ALTAR
BOYZ
8PM-12MID

TUESDAY 12/16

JORDAN TANNER
8PM-12MID

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SIXTH STREET 478.8541

13
SAT**JOB FOR A COWBOY**w/ Hate Eternal, All Shall Perish,
Animosity, Annotations of an
Autopsy

5PM @ RED 7

611 E. 7TH
THU 12/11 @ 8PM**Skate or Die Thursdays! We'll have a ramp on the patio! A CORPSE VANISHES**w/ Slowly Truth Dies, Independent Progress,
Capital Scam, Blank Generation, Criminal Mischief,
Anti-Clim, The Flood, Reagan Era, The Dickens

FRI 12/12 @ 8PM

Big Time, 2 Free Late Shows! PRIDE**LIKE LIONS** (ex-Firekills) w/ Thirty Yard Stare,
Madex 13 (out) // **KRUMBUMS** w/ Sober
Daze, Sore Losers (in)

SAT 12/13

Early @ 5:30PM: **JOB FOR A COWBOY** w/

Hate Eternal, All Shall Perish, Animosity,

Annotations of an Autopsy // Later @ 9PM:

TRAIL OF DEAD w/ Those Peabodys, Glorium(out) // **DIAGONALS** w/ The Black, UME (in)

MON 12/15 @ 8PM

Red 7 Christmas Party & Blanket Drive\$5 or free w/ a blanket. **CAMP X-RAY** w/

Stabba, Scott Reynolds, and more

TUE 12/16 @ 8PM

FIRE FROM THE GODS w/ The Cabaret,

Tonight is Glory, BALS, The Requested

FRI 12/19 @ 7PM

Girls Rock Camp Austin Benefit w/ **CRUISERWEIGHT**,

Adrian & the Sickness, The Petals

1/2-1/10

FREE WEEK!

900 RED RIVER



THU 12/11 @ 10PM

DJ ORION

SUN 12/14 @ 10:30PM

NICHOLAS GINBEY

THU 12/18 @ 10PM

DJ ORION

FRI 12/19

MISPRINT XMAS PARTY @ 10PM

1/2-1/10

FREE WEEK!**WEDNESDAYS: 5-9PM****GEARS FOR BEERS** - Ride your

bike and get \$3 wells, \$3 imperial

pints

featured shows

14
SUN**ICE CUBE**

w/ Trick Trick,

Gerald G (afterparty inside w/ Notion)

8PM @ MOHAWK

912 RED RIVER



THU 12/11 @ 10PM

THE SOUR NOTES w/ One Hundred

Flowers, Great Nostalgic, Bear Claw

FRI 12/12 @ 10PM

THE MIDGETMEN w/ The Calm Blue Sea,

Follow that Bird!!!, The Bubbles

SAT 12/13 @ 9PM

GoGear mp3 player Secret Show

SUN 12/14 @ 8PM

Hot 93.3 presents **ICE CUBE** w/ Trick Trick,

Gerald G. (afterparty inside w/ Notion)

THU 12/18 @ 10PM

RAVEN TREE w/ Crash Gallery, Goodnight

Goddess

FRI 12/19 @ 10PM

GOLDEN ARM TRIO & INVINCIBLE CZARS**HOLIDAY SHOW**

SAT 12/20 @ 10PM

LOXSLEY w/ Corto Maltese, The Authors

SUN 12/21 @ 10PM

AustinSurreal.com Christmas Party

FRI 12/26 @ 10PM

THE DIVING CAPTAIN w/ Wiretree

THU 12/11

LOW CASH THURSDAYS w/

DJ Fuckin' A @ 10:30PM

SAT 12/13

FOCUS GROUP w/ The Harlequins @ 10:30PM

SUN 12/14

JAZZ NIGHT w/ Ephraim Owens, Brannen

Temple & Red Young @ 7PM

WED 12/17

MOONHANGERS @ 7PM

THU 12/18

LOW CASH THURSDAYS w/ DJ Mel @

10:30PM

SAT 12/20 & SUN 12/21

REBECCA HAVEMEYER @ 10:30PM

FRI 12/26

DJ RICHARD HENRY @ 10:30PM

FRI 1/2

BRAZOS w/ Harlem, Canopy @ 10:30PM

upcoming shows

12/20 - Prototype Christmas Disco Party (Red 7), 12/30 - Jack Rose (Mohawk), 12/31 - Austinist NYE (Mohawk), FREE WEEK: 1/2 - Low Line Caller (Mohawk), PartyEnds.com w/ Built by Snow (Mohawk), The Alice Rose (Club DeVille), Capital Scam (Red 7), Deadly Companions (Red 7), 1/3 - Riverboat Gamblers (Mohawk), Bankrupt and the Borrowers (Mohawk), Til We're Blue or Destroy (Club DeVille), Camp X-Ray (Red 7), The Ape Shits (Red 7), 1/4 - Serious Tracers (Mohawk), The Anchor (Red 7), The Kickback (Red 7), 1/5 - Bridge Farmers (Mohawk), 1/6 - Frantic Clam (Mohawk), Scorpion Child (Red 7), 1/7 - Tia Carrera (Mohawk), Model UN (Club DeVille), Pocketful of Deng (Red 7), 1/8 - Golden Boys (Mohawk), The Homopolice (Mohawk), Loxsly (Club DeVille), Amplified Heat (Red 7), Within Chaos (Red 7), 1/9 - The Laughing (Mohawk), The Ugly Beats (Mohawk), La Snacks (Club DeVille), Magic Jewels (Red 7), Lions of Tsavo (Red 7), 1/10 - Brazos (Mohawk), Transmography (Mohawk), Shapes Have Fangs (Club DeVille), Lower Class Brats (Red 7), Complete Control (Red 7), 1/13 - Donkeys (Mohawk), 1/15 - Yo Majesty & Floetry (Mohawk), 1/23 - This Will Destroy You (Mohawk), 1/24 - UME (Mohawk)

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live music venues

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)

ACES LOUNGE, 222 E. Sixth, 477-2237**AMSTERDAM CAFE**, 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN**, 10401 Anderson Mill, 293-5563**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

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AUSTIN CITY HALL, 301 W. Second, 974-2220**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER**, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN**, Fourth & Guadalupe,

236-0074

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043**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,

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Penn Field, 692-4191

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830/629-5077

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512/558-7399

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512/282-3600

MANUELS, 310 Congress, 472-7555**MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, 3808 Maplewood, 414-4402**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**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 8601 S. First, 291-8601**MOHAWK**, 912 Red River, 482-8404**MOMO'S**, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848**MONARCH EVENT CENTER**, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711**MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS**, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925**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**NASTY'S**, 606 Maiden, 453-4349**NEW MINT ROOM ROOFTOP**, 408 Congress, 473-8544**NOMAD BAR LOUNGE PATIO**, 1213 Corona, 628-4288**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY**,

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MON 15 DEC 5PM *Gibson* SPECIAL PROMO
DARK FIRE IS COMING!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

nelo

Much Love • Goldcure

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

ALPHA REV

Christmas Party

with **JOHNNY GOUDIE & THE LITTLE CHAMPIONS**
the **Soldier Thread**
BENEFITING **BLUE SANTA**
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
FREE COOKIES & EGGNOG TO 1ST 80 GUESTS!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

THE GOURDS

WITH NO SHOW PONIES

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MONDAY DECEMBER 15
KB TALENT & AMBIANCE ARTISTS

HOLIDAY HO-HO-HO-DOWN

JOSH ABBOTT & RICH O'TOOLE
CHARLA CORN & BRETT CRENSHAW

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 • 6PM DOORS
a tribute to **RAY HENNIG**
featuring
Carolyn Wonderland • Paula Nelson
Jimmie Vaughan • Derek O'Brien
Chris Layton • David Grissom
Malford Milligan • Ron Wilson
Bill Carter • Scott Nelson • Van Wilks
Riley Osbourn • George Devore
ADVANCE TICKETS \$10 • VIP TABLES AVAILABLE

WED 17 DEC *LUIS LUIS SOCIETY* **CHRISTMAS PARTY**
THE RECUPERATORS (DEREK, KAZ, FROSTY, & FLANAGAN)
3RD TRY LEFTY • JEFF & THE JUMP TONES
SPENCER THOMAS • ERIN JAIMES
MICHAEL HOLT & MORE!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

JOSH HALVERSON'S GOING AWAY SHOW

KALU JAMES • JACK VALEN • NOA LYNNE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

PINETOP PERKINS

EARLY SHOW

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18
8PM

girl X-MAS guitar PARTY

WILL SEXTON'S Holiday Soiree

WITH RANDY WEEKS
CHARLIE FAYE
IDGY VAUGHN
ABRA MOORE 10:30P

DECEMBER 19 & 20
2 NIGHTS

RAUL MALO'S

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW

FRI: with JOEL GUZMAN & SARAH FOX
SAT: with PATRICIA VONNE
VIP TABLES • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MONDAY DEC 22 • 7:30 DOORS

FLYJACK

SUPER SOUL CHRISTMAS!

9:15
JIMMY GEORGE BAND 8
HONEYBREAD 10:30
DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

LATER

DEL CASTILLO

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

GARY CLARK JR & BAVU BLAKES & THE EXTRA PLAIRS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

HAYES CARLL

WITH THE BAND OF HEATHENS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30

THE SCABS

DJ MEL • GOOD LUCK ACADEMY

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

NEW YEARS EVE!
Champagne Toast @ Midnight

BOB SCHNEIDER

PERFORMING LIVE
THE BLACK & WHITE YEARS
THE SOLDIER THREAD

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY JANUARY 02

BROWNOUT

FLYJACK • MINGO FISHTRAP

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT 03 JAN

MICKY & THE MOTORCARS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT 10 JAN

JUNIOR BROWN

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST

APPEARING LIVE:

JJ GREY & MOFRO

ORANGE BLOSSOMS TOUR
WITH JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI 09 JAN

VALLEJO

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

16 JAN 17

NORTH MISS. ALL STARS

W/ HILL COUNTRY REVUE • ON SALE NOW

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

KEVIN COSTNER & MODERN WEST

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

STATE RADIO & REBELUTION

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THURSDAY FEB 19

LYKKE LI

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

KELLER WILLIAMS

ON SALE SAT. 12/13 • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

Cactus 23RD & GUADALUPE

475-6515

THUR • DEC 11 • 8PM

A GREEZY WHEELS HOLIDAY SHOW
WITH THE BLAZIN' BOWS

FRI • DEC 12 • 8PM

CACTUS PRESENTS
RIBBONS OF HIGHWAY ENDLESS SKYWAY
IN THE SPIRIT OF WOODY GUTHRIE

CD RELEASE! FEATURING

JIMMY LAFAVE • ELIZA GILKYSON

SLAID CLEAVES • KEVIN WELCH

WITH MICHAEL FRACASSO
RAY BONNEVILLE & JOE RAFAEL

TEXAS UNION BALLROOM • 8PM

TIX @ HEB'S AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

SUN • DEC 14 • 7:30PM

CACTUS DEBUT
JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

SPECIAL GUEST • SAMANTHA CRAIN

TIX @ THE DOOR!

MON • DEC 8 • 7PM SIGN-UP • 7:30PM SHOW

OPEN STAGE XMAS SOIRÉE HOSTED BY DAN GRISOM

TUE • DEC 16 • 8:30PM

HOLIDAY SHOW

SARA HICKMAN

DEC 16 - JAN 8

GONE FISHIN' • HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

COMING TO THE CACTUS IN 2009

FRI & SAT • JAN 9 & 10 • 9PM

TWO GREAT NIGHTS
JAMES MCMURTRY

THUR • JAN 15 • 8:30PM

AN EVENING WITH

DANNY BARNES

SAT • JAN 17 • 6PM & 8:30PM

LIVE @ THE CACTUS • TWO SHOWS!

TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA

6PM KIDS SHOW • 8:30PM ADULT SHOW

THUR • JAN 22 • 8PM

THE RETURN OF

GREG BROWN

TIX ON SALE DEC 18TH

TIX @ HEB'S AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

cactus.union.utexas.edu

1.16	DARDEN SMITH	2.11	FRED EAGLESMITH
1.21	JOANNA BARBERA	2.12&13	ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
1.23	FLOUNDERS WITHOUT EYES	2.14	TERRI HENDRIX
	GREEN GRASS	2.20	CHRIS SMITHER
1.26	WHEATFIELD	2.21	AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
2.6	TOM RUSSELL	2.20	MARY GAUTHIER

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.

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME
Emo's
alternative lounging
 505-8541
 603 RED RIVER
 BUY ADVANCE TIX, SHOWS SELLING OUT

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
 INSIDE: 101X HOMEGROWN LIVE PRESENTS

TIX ON SALE NOW
 AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

INSIDE: **HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC**
PEEL • **WINE & REVOLUTION** • **THE FEVER DREAMS**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE: **THE CHUMPS** • **HOODRATS**
CANDI AND THE CAVITIES • **THE EXTRAVAGANZA**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

COMEDY NITE AT EMO'S WITH
 INSIDE: **AZIZ ANSARI** FROM MTV'S HUMAN GIANT
 • **NICK KROLL** • **BRENDON WALSH**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

OUTSIDE: **POWDERBURN** • **ONE EYED DOLL**
LONESTAR PORNSTAR • **DEEJER**
 SHOW STARTS EARLY AT 8:30PM

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** • **NO MAS BODAS**

JANUARY 2-10
FREE WEEK

COMING SOON: 12/21 (INSIDE) FINALLY PUNK (TOUR KICK OFF), CRY BLOOD APACHE, TOTAL ABUSE, NO MAS BODAS • 1/15 QUIET COMPANY (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 1/25 101X PRESENTS... BADFISH W/ SCOTTY DON'T, FULL SERVICE AND GRIMY STYLES (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 1/30 CORE DISORDER III METAL FEST • 2/11 STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO / AWS / THE SWELLERS / THE STITCH UP (OUTSIDE) • 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) • 2/16 MY CHILDREN MY BRIDE / THE GHOST INSIDE FOR TODAY BROADCAST THE NIGHTMARE TBA (INSIDE) DOORS 6PM • 2/20 GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM (INSIDE, ON SALE FRI 12/12) • 2/28 DELTA SPIRIT W/ OTHER LIVES / DAWES (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/7 TAKE ACTION TOUR W/ CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR, MEG & DIA, BREATHE CAROLINA AND EVERY AVENUE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE SAT 12/20) • 3/8 LUDO W/ SING IT LOUD, THIS PROVIDENCE, AND THE MORNING LIGHT (INSIDE, ON SALE SAT 12/13)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **PATAPHYSICS** • **SILVER PINES**
JC & CO. (MEMBERS OF BELAIRE)
SCHOOL POLICE
LEMURS • **RINGO**
 OUTSIDE: **DEATHSTARR** • **OVENBIRDS**
THE BOXING LESSON • **SOUTHERN DRAMA**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **THE UGLY BEATS**
THE JUNGLE ROCKERS
AMPLIFIED HEAT • **DANS LA LUNE**
 OUTSIDE:

WHAT MADE
MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
OH NO! OH MY! • **THE PONS**
THE MERCERS • **THE GEORGIAN COMPANY**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **THE ALWAYS ALREADY**
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
PRAYER FOR ANIMALS • **J.BE**
 OUTSIDE: **THE TUNNELS** • **CHRISTIAN**
BLAND (OF THE BLACK ANGELS)
ELVIS • **WOVEN BONES**

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **ZOOKEEPER**
BOOHER AND THE TURKEYS
FRANK SMITH • **MASONIC** • **SAD ACCORDIONS** – **FAMILY DRINKING NIGHT**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS**
BLACK EARTH • **FULL STRIDE** • **SHITTY CAR WASH**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH**
THE DIAGONALS • **EAGLE CLAW** • **BLACK COCK** • **SELENESE**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **ATTAK (IN)FORMATION**
THIS HORN OF AFRICA (EX-ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE)
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND • **SERIOUS TRACERS**
 OUTSIDE: **STRANGE BOYS** • **HACIENDA**
WHITE WHITE LIGHTS • **MAN STAMPS** • **THE TEENERS**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

FREE WEEK
 INSIDE: **THOSE PEABODYS** • **THE CRACK PIPES**
SHAPES HAVE FANGS • **RED LEAVES** • **WINE & REVOLUTION**
 OUTSIDE: **SPECIAL GUESTS PLUS: DJ REMY MAC**
 (RAMESH FROM VOXTROT) • **THE BLACK** • **INTERNATIONAL**
WATERS • **THE MINOTAURS** (EX-SOUND TEAM) • **CRY**
BLOOD APACHE • **BEAR CLAW**

crisis
friday 9:30

R A D I O S T A R

S A T U R D A Y 9:30

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU 11	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	suede
FRI 12		CRISIS
SAT 13		RADIOSTAR
SUN 14		JACK ROWE TRIO
MON 15	IN THESE SHOES	ROMAN HOLIDAY
TUE 16	LIZ MORPHIS	THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
WED 17	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS



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FRIDAY

12.12.08

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OLD 97'S



SATURDAY, 12.27
LA ZONA ROSA



MULHOLLAND DRIVE

BRETT DENNEN



JAN 23

Tickets available day of show only

DEC 19

Susan Tedeschi and James Hunter



FEB 07



directevents

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REVEREND HORTON HEAT



With White Ghost Shivers

DEC 31

NEW YEARS EVE! • LA ZONA ROSA

APPEARING IN PERSON!



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THE NEW ALBUM AND TOUR

WITH ERIC HUTCHINSON

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL • FEBRUARY 5

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INTRO RATE: 10 HR - \$300
Includes seasoned pro engineer, Berklee grad

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Pro Sound-Room | 4 Iso Booths | Digital Headphones
Indoor Lounge with CaTV | Outdoor Smoking Lounge
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THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES
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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17 8PM

AUSTIN POETRY SLAM

THURSDAY, DEC. 18 9PM

LEO RONDEAU
JWW & THE PROSPECTORS
DARREN HOFF & THE HARD TIMES

FRIDAY, DEC. 19 9PM

WHITE RHINO
VITAMINS
AND GUESTS

COMING SOON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
PRINCE NIGHT
WITH FOOT PATROL!

1308 EAST 4TH STREET AT NAVASOTA
www.eastinns.com

Live Music Early ...  Late Night Loungin'

LUCKY lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU, DEC. 11, 6PM

 THE RETURN OF **HAPPY HOUR**
FEATURING 'THE LEGENDARY' **IAN MCLAGAN**
AND THE **BUMP BAND**

THU, DEC. 11, 10PM

 **THROWDOWN THURSDAYS**
FEATURING **THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRAY BAND** and **MC OVERLORD**

FRI, DEC. 12, 9PM

 **JJ USHER**
DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS 'TIL 2AM


SAT, DEC. 13, 9PM

 **PRIMM**
DJ PROTEGE SPINS 'TIL 2AM

MON, DEC. 15, 10PM

 **MODELO MONDAY**
BEER SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG

MON, DEC. 15, 10PM

 **THE SPOILED BEAUX LOY BAND**
OPENS FOR THE

AUSTIN'S HOTTEST TUESDAY NIGHT FEATURING:

DJ RAPID RIC OPENING FOR "THE INCOMPRABLE"

BOOMBOX

TUE, DEC. 16, 10PM

 **BOOMBOX**

WED, DEC. 17, 10PM

LUCKY JAM SESSIONS
HOSTED BY LANCE & TYLER OF LOVE & WAR
FEATURING **GREG VENDETTI & ATOMIC LOVE**

THU, DEC. 18

6PM THE RETURN OF **HAPPY HOUR** FEATURING 'THE LEGENDARY' **IAN MCLAGAN** & THE **BUMP BAND**

10PM **THROWDOWN THURSDAYS** FEATURING **THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRAY BAND** & **MC OVERLORD**

209A West 5th St. 479-7700
Call us to book your private party!
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club listings

roadshows

december

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

Via Audio, **True Widow**, Stubb's

Friday 12
Nobunny, **Holy Shit!**, Beerland

Congratulations, **Tavana**, Flamingo Cantina

Radney Foster, Gibson Guitar Showroom

Victoria & Zeta Five, Giddy Ups

Jerry Jeff Walker, Gruene Hall

Bob Cheevers, Iguana Grill

The Sounds, La Zona Rosa

The Lovers, Palmer Events Center

Na Trillion & Garbage Man, Ruta Maya

Freedy Johnston, Stubb's

Kevin Welch, Texas Union Ballroom

SAT 13
The Twelves, the Compound

Guitar Shorty, Continental Club

Mostly Dead, Creekside Lounge

Darker My Love, Emo's

Guidance, Flamingo Cantina

Jerry Jeff Walker, **Justin Townes Earl**, **Samantha Crain & the Midnight Shivers**, Gruene Hall

The Harlequins, **Focus Group**, Lamberts

Monahans, **Pleasant Grove**, the Parish

Job for a Cowboy, Red 7

Combat Shock, Snake Eyes Vinyl

The BoDeans, **Tift Merritt**, Texas Union Ballroom

Local H, Trophy's

SUN 14
Toni Price, Austin Convention Center

Justin Townes Earle, **Samantha Crain & the Midnight Shivers**, Cactus Cafe

Barcelona, Emo's

Ice Cube, **Trick Trick**, Mohawk

Dimitri's Ascent, Palmer Events Center

Ours, **Plain Jane Automobile**, Stubb's

MON 15

Jackie Bristow, Botticelli's

Olin & the Moon, **Cory Branan**, Emo's

Jack Wilson & the Wife Stealers, Hole in the Wall

Jan Seides, Palmer Events Center

Relentless Jones, **Freedy Johnston**, Saxon Pub

Sleeping in the Aviary, Trophy's

TUE 16
Randy Rogers, **Wade Bowen**, **Cody Canada**, Cheatham Street Warehouse

Toni Price, Continental Club

Joy Davis, Momo's

Bob Cheevers, **Dimitri's Ascent**, Palmer Events Center

Eugene Chadbourne, Salvage Vanguard Theater

WED 17
Jackie Bristow, ABIA: Lefty's Bar & Grille on Sixth Street

Wheels on Fire, Beerland

Fluoxetine, Creekside Lounge

Chris Jamison, Flipnotics Coffeespace

Matt Wilson, Key Bar

Harry Bodine, Palmer Events Center

Aaron Neville & His Quintet, Paramount Theatre

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

Eleanor Whitmore, **Chris Masterson**, Stubb's

THU 18
Roak, Creekside Lounge

Serafia Jane, Flamingo Cantina

Modern Day Drifters, Momo's

Waylon Payne, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

for your benefit

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**

FRI 12

Austin Songwriters Group Benefit w/ Radney Foster, **Gibson Guitar Showroom**

MonkeyWrench Benefit, **Monkey Bite CD Release** w/ Nick Walker, Cone of Uncertainty, Night Viking, **MonkeyWrench Books**

SAT 13

Cherrywood Art Fair, **Maplewood Elementary Benefit** w/ Reid Watson, Kathy Murray & Bill Jones, Brent Adair, Brian Byrne & Borrowed Time, Condiment Sandwich, Coffee Sergeants, Ethan Azarian, **Maplewood Elementary School**

Three Singing Sirens SafePlace Benefit w/ Gfire, Bettina Schelker, Patrice Pike, **Momo's**

KOOP Benefit w/ Evildoers, Chinampa, Therapy Sisters, the Skeletons, **Ruta Maya**

Trailer Space Benefit w/ Combat Shock, the Homicides, Crapulence, Doom Siren, **Snake Eyes Vinyl**

SUN 14

12 Bitches of Christmas, **Wright House Benefit** w/ Mona Littlemore & the Stone Girls, United Court of Austin, Central Texas Boys of Leather, **Chain Drive**

Community Chanukah, **Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center Benefit** w/ Shir Ami Gen Yeladim Children's Choir, Dell Tones, **Live Oak Universalist Unitarian Church**

Cherrywood Art Fair, **Maplewood Elementary Benefit** w/ Troy Campbell, Joe McDermott, Boxcar Preachers, Colin Gilmore, Soulphonics, John Clayton, **Maplewood Elementary School**

Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ the Texreys, Miss Lauren Marie, Bear & the Essentials, Benny & the Fly by Niters, Horton Brothers, Shaun Young, Two Hoots & a Holler, **the Parlor and Hog Wild**

UpLift Austin Benefit, **GetDown Dance Party** w/ Ritmo Tres, Seu Jacinto, **the Rhizome Collective**

Rock Against Hunger, **Capital Area Food Bank Benefit** w/ the Paul Green School of Rock Music All-Stars, **Stubb's**

MON 15

Salvation Army Benefit w/ Camp X-Ray, Scott Reynolds & the Steaming Beast, **Stabba Red 7**

WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

SAT FEB 14



Citizen Cope

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VALENTINE'S DAY

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT FEB 28

5th Annual Countdown to St. Patrick's Day

FLOGGING MOLLY

GREEN 17 TOUR



TIX ON SALE SAT 12/13 @ 10AM THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT MAR 7

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IN THE CLUB

THU DEC 11
THE LAUGHING
WITH **DAN SLALUNE**
VIA AUDIO AND **TRUE WIDOW**

FRI DEC 12
FREEDY JOHNSTON
WITH **LEES SIMMONS**
AND **JON DEE GRAHAM**

SAT DEC 13
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
WITH **MICE AND RIFLES**
AND **THE GEORGIAN COMPANY**

SUN DEC 14

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH
THE DURDENS

SUN DEC 14 - DOORS 5PM
PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK PRESENTS
ROCK AGAINST HUNGER
BENEFITTING 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 - DOORS 10PM
THE BLUE HIT
WITH **SHOTGUN PARTY**

FRI DEC 19
101X/CHILLVILLE PRESENTS
SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
WITH **LANGUAGE ROOM**
AND **NOTHING MORE**

SAT DEC 20
CAROUSEL CABARET PRESENTS
UN-WRAPPED
A HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW

SAT DEC 27
MIKE DILLON'S GOGO JUNGLE
AND **SPOONFED TRIBE**

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

IT'S ALL AT... CONTINENTALCLUB.COM

The Continental Club

MONDAY DEC 15
HAPPY HOUR
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND

THUR DEC 11
HAPPY HOUR
WOODSBOSS

TUES DEC 16
HAPPY HOUR 6:30
TONI PRICE HIPPIE HOLIDAZE

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS

12AM
JONATHAN TYLER AND THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

10PM
DREW SMITH'S LONELY CHOIR

FRIDAY DEC 12
THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS
★ HOLIDAY SHOW ★

12AM
diamond smugglers

10PM
JAMES McMURTRY

10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM

THURS DEC 18
H. H. TEXAS SAPPHIRES

12AM
JUNGLE ROCKERS

10PM
DE DRINGERS

FRIDAY DEC 19
HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS

12AM
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

10PM
TWO TONS OF STEEL

SATURDAY DEC 20
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

12AM
JAKE ANDREWS

10PM
GUITAR SHORTY

SUN DEC 14
10PM
HEYBALE w/ REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL

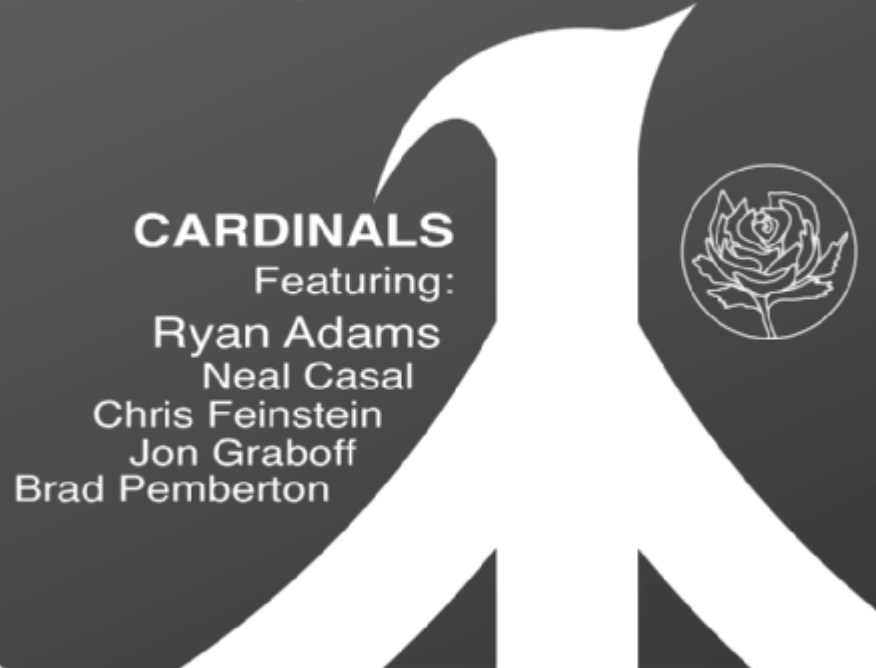
10PM
PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS

12AM
BARFIELD TIRANT OF THE FUNK

COMING SOON
12/25 XMAS NIGHT!
12/26 **DALE WATSON**
12/27 **THE SKUNKS**
12/27 **BILL CARTER w/ DENNY & CHARLIE**

Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

MARCH 4, 2009
SAN ANTONIO, TX THE MAJESTIC THEATRE



CARDINALS

Featuring:

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Neal Casal
Chris Feinstein
Jon Graboff
Brad Pemberton

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DOORS AT 7:30PM, SHOW AT 8:30PM. ALL AGES SHOW.

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THU 11

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR 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, Joey Lavallee (9:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Andrea Marie (7:30)

ANTONE'S Goldcure, Much Love, Nelo

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Dave Hooper (7:30)

AUSTIN CITY HALL Girls Rock Camp Day Proclamation w/ the Velvet Pretzels (5:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 FM Campers, Recess, Black Jesus, Philosopher Gun

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB George Guzman

BEERLAND The Man Stamps, Ginsu Wives, Antique Curtains, Attractive & Popular

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson

BOULDIN CREEK COFFEEHOUSE & CAFE Camp Camp (8:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Holiday Show w/ Blazing Bows, Greezy Wheels (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Paint, Michael Anthony Carrasco (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)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Gorilla Man, New Roman Times, Monuments, Chartreuse

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 Snares

EMO'S Outside: 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; Inside: Shapes Have Fangs, Low Line Caller, Ringo Deathstarr (8:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungeate (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)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR The Fabs (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Modern Day Drifters

HOLE IN THE WALL The Man Stamps, Cartwright, Prayer for Animals (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)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Smoke & Feathers, A Few Nice Things (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Gunhands (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Outside: Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Waxploitation!, the Gourds (5:00); Inside: Bear Claw, the Great Nostalgic, 100 Flowers, the Sour Notes (10:00)

MOMO'S Low Expectations, the 71's, Naki & His Southern Cousins, Black Bone Child, Wisebird (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, Alan Haynes (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder (7:00, 9:30)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis Holiday Show (7:00)

THE PARLOR Stars Go Dim (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Texas Soul, Doug Cannon, Space Heaters

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)

RUTA MAYA J.J. Baron (8:00)

club listings holiday deadlines:

Dec. 26 issue: Wed., Dec. 17

Jan. 2 issue: Mon., Dec. 22

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.

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Future Clouds & Radar, George Devore, Carson Alexander (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Eddie Bebel, JWW & the Prospectors, the Lonesome Heroes (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock & the Immigrants (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Afrofreque

SPEAKEASY I Need More Cowbell

STUBB'S True Widow, Via Audio, Dans la Lune, the Laughing

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band, Clubs, Three Leaf, the Couch

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Open Mic (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Erik Hanke

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Slackey Family Band

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Summer Erickson (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Kim Miller (3:30)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Amanda Cunningham (1:00)

ACES LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, MC Overlord, Vallejo (8:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Mayhew, Kacy Crowley (9:00)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Amanda Cunningham (1:00)

ACES LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, MC Overlord, Vallejo (8:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Mayhew, Kacy Crowley (9:00)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Amanda Cunningham (1:00)

ACES LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, MC Overlord, Vallejo (8:00)

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AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Mayhew, Kacy Crowley (9:00)

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NAKIA

& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10
WISEBIRD 1
BLACK BONE CHILD 11:45
THE 71's 8:30
LOW EXPECTATIONS 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR CHERYL MURDOCK 5:15

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

SKYROCKET 10

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

SINGING SIRENS SAFEPLACE BENEFIT

PATRICE PIKE 11:30

BETTINA SCHELKER 10:15

g fire 9

THE FIREANTS 8

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

SUZANNA CHOFFEL 10

HOT KARL TRIO 11:30

MILKDRIVE 8

LAURA SCARBOROUGH 9:15

MONDAY DECEMBER 15

DAN DYER 9:45

BEN MALLOTT 1

EVOLENO 11:30

PLANK 8:15

DAVE RANSOM 7

NO COVER HAPPY HR AMANDA PEARCY 5:15

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

PATRICE PIKE & JOY DAVIS 8

IZZY COX 12:15

ROBIN SMITH 11

CARRIE FUSSELL 7:15

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND 10

JAMIE THOMAS 12:15

MATT THE ELECTICIAN 8:45

NATHAN HAMILTON 7:30

NO COVER HAPPY HR CLEVE & SWEET MARY 5:30

UPCOMING SHOWS

DEC 19 **WILL TAYLOR**
& STRINGS ATTACHED

DEC 27 **JON DEE GRAHAM**

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Bitta Blue (10:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE GTO

ANTONE'S Christmas Party w/ Johnny Goudie, the Soldier Thread, Alpha Rev (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Therapy Sisters (6:30)

AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA Nakia & His Southern Cousins (noon)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sahara Smith, Son Dos, Del Castillo (12:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen

BEERLAND Modern Fuckers, Teeners, Holy Shit!, Nobunny

BOTTICELLI'S The Lost Pines

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE The Cornell Hurd Band

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Dale Watson (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE South Austin Jug Band

CHESTER'S ICE HOUSE Cosmic Dust Devils

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30), Red Light Burlesque & Diamond Smugglers Holiday Shows (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Lost in Austin

COTTON CLUB Kenny Orts

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Gorilla Man, Black Cock, Transmography, the Snake Trap, Lick Lick

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Denia Ridley

ELEPHANT ROOM Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites, Beto y los Fairlanes (6:00)

ELYSIUM Kings N Things Holiday Bash

EMO'S Tina Rodriguez, Naked Empire, Deaf Ears, the Boxing Lesson

EVANGELINE CAFE 3 Balls of Fire (10:00)

FADÓ Mysterious Ways (10:00)

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Bedlam Bards (9:00)

THE FIFTH GALLERY John Gomi (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Condiment Sandwich, Tavana, Congratulations (9:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR J&L Brothers (9:00)

GIBSON GUITAR SHOWROOM Austin Songwriters Group Benefit w/ Radney Foster (7:00)

GIDDY UPS Victoria & Zeta Five

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Weldon Henson (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jerry Jeff Walker (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair

HOLE IN THE WALL Falcon Buddies, Colour Wheel, Frantic Clam (10:00)

IGUANA GRILL Bob Cheevers

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Texas Blues Heelers, Austin Homegrown (6:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LA ZONA ROSA The Sounds

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE J.J. Usher, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Raven Tree (10:00)

MANCHACA FIREHALL KITCHEN Sunset Valley Boys

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK The Bubbles, Follow That Bird!, Calm Blue Sea, the Midgetmen (10:00)

MOMO'S Skyrocket! (10:00)

MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS MonkeyWrench Benefit, Monkey Bite CD Release w/ Nick Walker, Cone of Uncertainty, Night Viking (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Franklin's Blues (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke

ONE 2 ONE BAR Primm, Van Wilks

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin Bizarre w/ the Lovers, Marcus Graf, Topaz (3:30)

THE PARISH Paul McCartney Tribute w/ Good Times Crisis Band, Paul Minor, the Service Industry, Grand Champeen, Mandible, Gleeson

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Elliot Fikes

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 Krum Bums

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Li'l Bit & the Customatics (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Synai, Soul Kitchen, Na Trillion & Garbage Man, DJ One Note (9:30)

SÃO PAULO'S Three Jazz Collective (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Omar & the Howlers, Warren Hood (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN The Bloody Tears, Transgressors, Blitzn (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Phillip's Songwriter Series (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Max

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS The Fatal Attractions (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Dysfunkshun Junkshun

STARDUST CLUB Lost John Casner (9:00)

STUBB'S Lee Simmons, Freedy Johnston

THE STUDIO All U Need (9:00)

TEXAS UNION BALLROOM Woody Guthrie Tribute w/ Jimmy Lafave, Eliza Gilkyson, Slaid Cleaves, Kevin Welch, Michael Fracasso, Ray Bonneville (8:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Stegosaurus Lips, Front Porch Gypsies, Phlying Tigers

TROPHY'S Pete McPherson, Literature, Johnny Gobbs

VICTORY GRILL The Greyhounds, T-Bird & the Breaks CD Release (8:00)

VINO 100 Chrissy Flatt (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ruby Jane Smith (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Wynn Taylor

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Dog at Large (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Rick Steinburg & the Stonecastle Family Band (7:00)

SAT 13

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Maynew, Jodi Adair (9:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Alan Mayes & LaDonna (10:00)

ANTONE'S No Show Ponies, the Gourds (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Studebakers (6:30)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ the Resentments, Terri Hendrix, Eliza Gilkyson, (12:30)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Austin Banjo Club (10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson

BEAUTY BAR Milk 8

THE BELMONT DJ Boss Ross (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S About: Blank

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN NECK Monkey Town, PVC Street Gang, Elvis, I Kill Cars

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons (8:00), Dale Watson (9:00)

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE M.L. Frank (7:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Lost & Nameless Orchestra (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Deditrings, James McMurtry (9:00)

THE COMPOUND The Twelves (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), Guitar Shorty, Jake Andrews (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice

COTTON CLUB Cotton Barons' Christmas Ball w/ Ricky Calmbach (9:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Gorilla Man, Kids In Candy Shops, Mostly Dead, Henry & the Invisibles

DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes

ELEPHANT ROOM Just Released (9:30)

EMO'S Frank Smith, the Strange Boys, Darker My Love

EVANGELINE CAFE Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Michael Fracasso, Gene & Betty Elders (10:00)

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Bedlam Bards

FLAMINGO CANTINA Tribal Nation, Guidance (9:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Candiland

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Ted Roddy (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Samantha Crain & the Midnight Shivers, Justin Townes Earl (1:00), Jerry Jeff Walker

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Shelley King (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Bill Rice

HOLE IN THE WALL Muchos Backflips!, Lick Lick, Bee vs. Moth (10:00)

IGUANA GRILL Southern Drive (6:00)

JOVITA'S Invincible Czars (2:00), Jenny & the Corn Ponies, Li'l Mikey & the Soda Jerks (7:30)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Focus Group, the Harlequins (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Johnny Austin (9:00)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Primm (9:00)

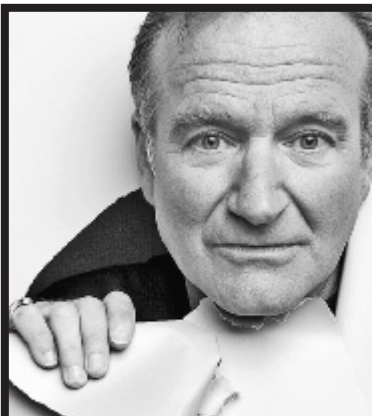
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Funk-o-Tron (11:00)

MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Cherrywood Art Fair, Maplewood Elementary Benefit w/ Reid Watson, Kathy Murray & Bill Jones, Brent Adair, Brian Byrne & Borrowed Time, Condiment Sandwich, Coffee Sergeants, Ethan Azarian (11:00am)

MOMO'S SafePlace Benefit w/ Gfire, Bettina Schelker, Patrice Pike (9:00)

MONARCH EVENT CENTER Blue Genie Art Bazaar w/ Chief Rival, Taylor Yanez, Aviators (11:00am)

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Saturday, December 13th	LC Rocks takes the stage at 9:30pm seating is limited	
Monday, December 15th	Jonathan Terrell	9:30pm
Tuesday, December 16th	Kalu James	9:30pm
Wednesday, December 17th	The Brew show starts at 9:30pm Free Salsa Lessons start at 9:00pm	
Thursday, December 18th	JJ Usher	9:30pm

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

NOMAD BAR LOUNGE PATIO Destination Delroy (10:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Bill Carter, Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Melody Mann

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne Sutton, Alan Haynes

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin Bizarre w/ Girls School of Austin Orchestra, Crossfit Austin Kids, Hawaiian Kona Isle Dancers, Raina Rose, Tribal Moon Dance, Toast (11:00am)

THE PARISH John Lennon Tribute w/ Ripe, One Mississippi, Moonlight Towers, Militant Babies, Pleasant Grove, Monahans

THE PARLOR Basic, Baby Robots

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Dog House, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums

RED 7 Job for a Cowboy, Aasim Holiday Party, Stage 1: Diagonals, the Black, Ume, Those Peabodys; Stage 2: Glorium, ...And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead (10:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

RUTA MAYA McCallum Knights of Steel, Pan Out, UT Steel Band (3:00), KOOP Benefit w/ Evildoers, Chinampa, Therapy Sisters, the Skeletons (8:00)

SAXON PUB Porter Davis, Fever Tree Rising, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN DJ Boozwa, Systemaddict & Zeque, DJ Chicken George, Brownout (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT South Austin Gypsy (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Buzz Fuel

SNAKE EYES VINYL Trailer Space Benefit w/ Combat Shock, the Homicides, Crapulence, Doom Siren (6:00)

SPEAKEASY LC Rocks

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Capital City Men's Chorus (7:30)

STUBB'S The Georgian Company, Mice & Rifles, White Ghost Shivers

TEXAS UNION BALLROOM Tift Merritt, the BoDeans, Alejandro Escovedo

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Moving Matter, Spank

TROPHY'S The Blind Pets, Lions, Local H

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Beth Lee

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Luke LeGrange & the Coveralls (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Oh My Brothers (7:00)

YARBOROUGH BRANCH LIBRARY Holiday Party w/ Capitol City Highlanders, Manchaca All-Stars (noon)

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PRAYER FOR ANIMALS,
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FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH...
\$2 COVER: FRANTIC CLAM,
COLOUR WHEEL, & FALCON BUDDIES 10PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH...
\$2 COVER: BEE VS. MOTH,
LICK LICK & MUCHOS BACKFLIPS! 10PM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH...
CHARLIE HURTIN, BEFORE THE BOMBS
& PAUL MINOR 9PM 10PM

MONDAY DECEMBER 15TH...
JACK WILSON & THE WIFE STEALERS (SEATTLE),
DARREN HOFF & THE HARD TIMES 10PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16TH...
THE BREAD 10PM, ROGER WALLACE 9PM
ON THE PATIO; THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK
"A-LIST SHOWCASE" 9PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17TH...
COUNTRY WILLIES WAR,
THE BEAUMONTS, & HORSE OPERA 10PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH...
CLAY NIGHTINGAL, & THE LONESOME HEROES 10PM

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6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music
Happy Hour All Night Long!

WED 12/17 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

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SAT 13 DEC

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SECOND
SUNDAY
HOLIDAY
* HOP *
DEC. 14TH



TUE 16 DEC DAVID RICE
LINK AUSTIN

FRI 19 DEC MOTHERS ANTHEM
EMBER

SAT 27 DEC ILLUSIONIST
ELECTRIC ORCHESTRA

THU 18 DEC LEILA BELA
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DANCE PARTY w/ DJ MEL

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UPCOMING SHOWS:

1/9: Soul Sessions w/ Eric Roberson 1/10: Ember w/ Atomic Alive & Project H 1/15: WILD LIFE w/ Richard Gear, Joshua Distance, King Louie, & Glasnost 1/16: Dremnt the End w/ Murder, My Sweet, & Language Room 1/17: Orchard Lounge w/ DJ Gobot 1/18: Public Offenders w/ Blacklisted Individuals, DJ Notion, & DJ Aspect 1/19: Jon McLaughlin 1/23: Vibesquad w/ Ana Sia & Nosaj Thing 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 2/7: Ring the Alarm w/ Jah Mighty, DJ Baby G, & Jr. Vibes 2/13: Annuals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield, & What Laura Says 2/14: D-Madness CD Release Party w/ Brannen Temple Quartet, & DJ Rapid Ric feat. Bavu Blakes

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THURSDAYS: HAPPY HOUR - THE BELLTOWER 4
LATE NIGHT: KARAOKE!
FRIDAYS: LADIES NIGHT w/ DJ JASON
SATURDAYS: HIP HOP

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THURSDAY 8pm-12am
KARAOKE NEW CONTEST LEAGUE
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SUNDAY
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DAVID JIMINEZ
DERTY BIRD

SATURDAY Live Music (12/13)
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PFLUGERVILLE HOLIDAY
STROLL & PARADE 10am-8pm

FRIDAY Live Music (12/19)
EYE LIKE ARSON
SPINNING CHAIN
SLICKFIST

SATURDAY Live Music (12/20)
FATTY MONK
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SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

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@ WESTGATE
4477 South Lamar
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WEDNESDAY
& THURSDAY
6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

DALE WATSON
a classic country christmas show

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
appalachian mountain music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 12-4PM

The Jewish Community Association of Austin's
CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD
Community sing-along and lighting of the Menorah with
Beth Shalom, Beth Israel, Kol HaLev. noon - **LOS KLEZMEROS**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

EL TULE latin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

THE LOST PINES
bluegrass, americana

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

FLOYD DOMINO
boogie woogie stride piano

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

THE HUDSONS
americana

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

ALYSE BLACK
soulful jazz grooves

upcoming at central park:

SATURDAY, DEC 20 12-9 PM

SWING INTO CHRISTMAS

CENTRAL MARKET & THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO AUSTIN RECORDING CO. PRESENT
THE 5TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK
COME HEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS!

12:00-1:30 pm Austin High Jazz Band, performing Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite
2:00-3:00 pm First Baptist Church Choir & Handbells
3:30-4:00 pm John Emery Band
4:15-4:45 pm George Ennsle
5:00-5:30 pm Shinyribs
6:00-6:30 pm Olivier Gerraud's Continental Graffiti
6:30-7:00 pm Donna Hightower, Olivier Gerraud & Johnny Gimble
7:30-8:00 pm Johnny Gimble with Marshall Ford Swing band
8:00-9:00 pm Marshall Ford Swing band



café open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations.

FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYScape

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

SUN 14

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Friends
of Traditional Music
Records Nite (2:00)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER
Armado Christmas Bazaar
w/ Austin Lounge Lizards,
Toni Price, Cienfuegos (12:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes
Session (8:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline
(8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Samantha Crain &
the Midnight Shivers,
Justin Townes Earle (7:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
Campbell, Joe McDermott,
Boxcar Preachers, Colin Gilmore,
Soulphonics, John Clayton (noon)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Hoodygoode (7:30)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Chanukah in
the Hood (noon)

CHAIN DRIVE 12 Bitches of Christmas,
Wright House Benefit w/ Mona
Littlemore & the Stone Girls,
United Court of Austin,
Central Texas Boys of Leather

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Ash Family (4:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz
(7:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Ultra Wolf,
Al Shire & the Henchmen, Hobbie

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris
Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties
w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Colour Wheel, the Distant
Seconds, the Murdocks, Barcelona

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Open Blues
Jam w/ Jimi Lee

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Dale Watson & His Lone Stars
(4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain
(11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Jon Emery (3:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Paul Minor, Before
the Bombs, Charlie Hurtin' (10:00)

JOVITA'S Natural Ear Showcase (3:30),
the Brew (7:00)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen
Temple, Red Young (7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)

"Are You Ready" For CHRISTMAS?
The Gospel Project
@ Maria's Taco Xpress this
Sunday 12/14 noon-2 2529 S. Lamar
"HOUSE THE
HOMELESS SHOW" - Jan 1st

LIVE OAK COFFEEHOUSE Community
Chanukah, Williamson County
Children's Advocacy Center
Benefit w/ Shir Ami Gen Yeladim
Children's Choir, Dell Tones (3:45)

MANUELS Cienfuegos (11:30am)

MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Cherrywood Art Fair, Maplewood
Elementary Benefit w/ Troy
Campbell, Joe McDermott,
Boxcar Preachers, Colin Gilmore,
Soulphonics, John Clayton (noon)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel
Project (noon)

MEAN-EYED CAT Spoiled Royals (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Karaoke
w/ Ryan (9:00)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Christmas Concert w/ 6:24 Band
(6:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Gerald G., Trick
Trick, Ice Cube (8:00); Inside: DJ
Notion Afterparty (11:30)

MOMO'S Milkdrive, Hot Karl Trio, Laura
Scarborough, Suzanna Choffel (8:00)

MONARCH EVENT CENTER Blue Genie
Art Bazaar w/ Carson Brock Group,
the Fireants (11:00am)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S NORTH Singer-Songwriter Jam
(7:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin
Bizarre w/ Irish Dance Company,
Girls School of Austin Honors
Orchestra, Capoiera Ecolucado,
Ecstatic Dance, La Tampiquena,
No Mas Bodas, Dimitri's Ascent
(noon)

THE PARLOR Capital Area Food
Bank Benefit w/ the Texreys,
Miss Lauren Marie, Bear & the
Essentials, Benny & the Fly by
Neters, Horton Brothers, Shaun
Young, Two Hoots & a Holler

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert
Wagner (10:00)

RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (6:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

THE RHIZOME COLLECTIVE UpLift Austin
Benefit, GetDown Dance Party
w/ Ritmo Tres, Seu Jacinto (8:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn
Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Haleyanna Finley
& Starboat, Weldon Henson, the
Doolins, Mike & the Moonpies (4:00)

RUTA MAYA Austin Guitar School
Christmas Showcase (5:00),
Soul Kitchen (10:30)

SAXON PUB The Resentments,
Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel,
the Salingers (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Durdens
(noon), Rock Against Hunger,
Capital Area Food Bank Benefit
w/ the Paul Green School of
Rock Music All-Stars (5:00),
Sounds Under Radio, Plain Jane
Automobile, Ours (9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke
w/ Michelle

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Austin
Friends of Traditional Music (2:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat
Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday
Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET
Jeff Lofton Quartet (11:00am)
Slackey Family Band (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE
Service Industry Night w/ Jukebox
Heroes (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Señor Gato

MON 15

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR
Stephanie Fix (3:30)

ANTONE'S KB Talent Christmas Party
w/ Josh Abbott & Rich O'Toole
(8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth
Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo
Christmas Bazaar w/ Suzanna
Choffel, W.C. Clark (12:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735
Plutonium Farmers (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard
Showcase

BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke

BOTTICELLI'S Jackie Bristow

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Open Stage w/ Graham
Weber & Dan Grissom (7:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Meshbanes,
Perfect Pants

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Battle of the bands w/ Mike & the
Moonpies, Midnight River

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 Austin Jazz Band
(6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz
Jam (9:30)

EMO'S Cory Branan, Zookeeper,
Olin & the Moon

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux
(6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE
T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Darren Hoff & the
Hard Times, Jack Wilson & the
Wife Stealers (10:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Carson Alexander (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Spoiled, Beaux
Loy (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open
Mic (9:00)

MOMO'S David Ransom, Plank, Dan
Dyer, Evoleno, Ben Mallot (7:00)

Riley's TAVERN SINCE 1933

THU 12/11 **JOSH LANGSTON**
FRI 12/12 **LIL BIT & THE CUSTOMATICS**
SAT 12/13 **AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**
SUN 12/14 **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**
MON 12/15 **TIM BRUTON & FOREST WAYNE ALLEN**
TUE 12/16 **JODY MILLS**
WED 12/17 **ERIC HISAW**

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Th 11 Joel Hofmann Band 6pm
The Couch, Three Leaf, Clubs 9pm

Fr 12 RC Banks 6pm
Elephant Orchestra, Front Porch Gypsies,
Stegosaurus Lips 9pm

Sa 13 Spank, Moving Matter 10pm

Su 14 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 15 Bruce Curtis Band 6pm
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Tu 16 JoBeth Henderson 6pm
Song Swap w/ Molly Hayes, Phil Stevens,
Mark Jungers, Holly Aiken, Paul Wilson 9pm

We 17 Shand Walton 6pm Ransom Jack 9pm

MONARCH EVENT CENTER

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR
 OVER 100 ARTISTS - FREE ADMISSION
OPEN DAILY DEC 3 - 24

FREE CONCERT SERIES

DEC 12 Daniel Moore 8 PM	DEC 13 NEXT UP 11 AM - 4 PM	DEC 13 KJ HINES 7 PM	DEC 14 NEXT UP 11 AM - 7 PM
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DEC 17 - 7 SEALS & THE WINGLESS ANGELS
 DEC 20 - 7 SEALS & THE WINGLESS ANGELS - KJ HINES
 DEC 21 - AMANDA PEARCY - DANIEL MOORE - PAUL JAMES - JANE BOND

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
 IN THE MONARCH EVENT CENTER LOBBY DAILY DEC 3 - 22

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

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Poodie's Hilltop Roadhouse *No Bad Days*

Thu., Dec. 11 **GOLD CURE** 6PM
DOUG CANNON 8PM
SPACE HEATERS 10PM

Fri., Dec. 12 **ELLIOT FIKES**

Sat., Dec. 13 **WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS**
DOG HOUSE OPENER

Tue., Dec. 16 **POODIE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**
 SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SANTA

Thu., Dec. 18 **CORY MORROW & WAYLON PAYNE**

Wed., Dec. 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE W/ RAY WYLIE HUBBARD**

Mon. **FOOTBALL ON BIG SCREENS**
RU COLEMAN & TEXAS BOOGIE

Tues. **THE TROUBADILLOS**

Wed. **WILLIE WEDNESDAY**

Thu. **LADIES' NIGHT - FREE POOL**
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THURSDAY, 12/11 NO COVER!
THE CORNELL HURD BAND
 8 - 10 pm

GIRL GUITAR **FRIDAY, 12/12**
 6 - 7 pm NO COVER ALL NIGHT!
TEXAS BLUES HEELERS 7 pm
AUSTIN HOME GROWN 9:30 - 11:30 pm

SATURDAY, 12/13 \$7 ADULTS \$4 KIDS AT THE DOOR
INVINCIBLE CZARS 2 pm NUTCRACKER SUITE
JEN & THE CORN PONIES 7:30 pm NO COVER!
LITTLE MIKEY & THE SODA JERKS NO COVER! 9:30 - 11 pm

\$10 COVER! **SUNDAY, 12/14**
NATURAL EAR MUSIC SHOW 3:30 - 6:30 pm
THE BREW \$5 COVER! 7-10 pm

DANIEL DAVID **TUESDAY, 12/16**
 6:30 pm NO COVER!
TEXICO 8 - 10 pm

WEDNESDAY, 12/17 NO COVER!
AJ TORRANCE 6 - 7:30 pm
LUCAS HUDGINS 8 - 10 pm

THE EGGMEN \$20
NEW YEAR'S EVE frontgateickets.com

MUSICIANS REGISTER

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Saturday 12/12 **drink specials**

Monday 12/14 **drink specials**

Tuesday 12/15 **drink specials**

800 lbs

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 Downtown Austin's Largest Independently Owned and Operated Live Music Venue

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 11
CAROLYN WONDERLAND 10:15 \$8
FUTURE CLOUDS & RADAR 8:00 \$8
CARSON ALEXANDER 12:30 \$8
 No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12
WARREN HOOD 11:30 SHOW \$10 COVER
OMAR & THE HOWLERS 9:00 \$10
 No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13
CAROLYN WONDERLAND 12:00 \$10
FEVER TREE RISING 10:00 \$10
porter davis 8:00 \$10
JARRET SCHAU 3-5 pm No Cover

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14
BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL 10:15 \$10
THE RESENTMENTS 7:30 \$7
THE SALINGERS 12:00 \$5

MONDAY DECEMBER 15
FREEDY JOHNSTON & HIS ALL-STAR BAND 8:30 \$10
RUTHLESS GONDOLIERS
 GEORGE DEVORE, DUSTIN WELCH
 MICKY & WILLY BRAUN & MORE 10:30 \$5
SAHARA SMITH 7:00 \$10
RELENTLESS JONES 1:00 \$5

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16
THE BAND OF HEATHENS 8:00 \$10
BRUCE HUGHES 10:00 \$5
BEN MALLOTT 12:00 \$5
 5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17
WAYLON PAYNE 8:00 \$5
MEAGAN TUBB & SHADY PEOPLE 12:00 \$5
JARRETT SCHAU 10:00 \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 **BO PORTER**

DEC 18 - SHINYRIBS W/ KEVIN RUSSELL FROM THE GOURDS
DEC 20 - W.C. CLARK
DEC 26 - JOE ELY

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Gospel Brunch with
 Sunday 12/14 **George Ensle**
 11:00am Indoors/Free

Order your *Holiday feast today!*

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 Old No. 1

Bluegrass Brunch with **The Sieker Band**
 Sunday 12/14 11:00am Indoors/Free

New Years Eve Dinner
 Wed 12/31 with **Jimmy LaFave**
 Limited Seating 7:00pm call 451.5440 for details!

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THURSDAY DEC 11 *ROCK* DOORS 9:00
ZENITH FUZZBOMB
SABOTAGE MANUAL
SNAKESKIN PRISON
WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVERS

FRIDAY DEC 12 *FUNK/JAM* DOORS 9:00
CONGRATULATIONS
 TAVANA & CONDIMENT SANDWICH

SATURDAY DEC 13 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
GUIDANCE
 (ON TOUR FROM HAWAII)

TRIBAL NATION
 TROPICAL PRODUCTIONS POLYNESIAN REVUE

UPCOMING SHOWS
 12-17: OPPOSITE DAY, CARTER ARRINGTON TRIO
 12-18: KID HEHU, T. FOWLER, SERAFIA JANE, RAY, SR., DU BELOW
 12-19: MR. BROWN & DUBKICKS, GRAHAM WILKINSON & THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP
 12-27: SUBROGA UNION

2009 New Years Eve Ball
Flamingo Cantina
 December 31st, 2008
GRIMY STYLES
 THE NEW NEW CHAPLINS
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WATERLOO

Ice House

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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. 11, 7PM: **ERIC HANKE**

FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 7PM: **THE RUBY JANE SHOW**

SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 7PM: **BETH LEE**

SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 11AM: **SUNDAY BRUNCH**
WITH **JEFF LOFTON QUARTET**

TUESDAY, DEC. 16, 7PM: **WILL DUNLAP**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 7PM: **PTARMIGAN**

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, DEC. 11: **SLACKY FAMILY BAND**

FRIDAY, DEC. 12: **STONE CASTLE FAMILY**

THURSDAY, DEC. 18: **BYRD AND STREET**

FRIDAY, DEC. 19: **SIX SONS OF A GUN**

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

FRIDAY, DEC. 12: **WYNN TAYLOR LIVE!** 10PM-1AM

FREE TX HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS
@ 9PM & 11:30PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 13: **LUKE LA GRANGE & THE**
COVERALLS LIVE! 10PM-1AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 14: **SOUTHPARK SERVICE**
INDUSTRY SUNDAYS WITH THE
JUKE BOX HEROES LIVE! 10PM-1AM

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

MONARCH EVENT CENTER Big Band
Blue Monday w/ the James Polk
Orchestra (8:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS
John Wilson & Joley Flowers

MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Acoustic
Odyssey (8:00)

NUNO'S NORTH Open Blues Jam (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Franklin's Blues (8:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin
Bizarre w/ Jade Day, Maximum
Bob, Jan Seides, Solstice (2:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED 7 Salvation Army Benefit
w/ Camp X-Ray, Scott Reynolds
& the Steaming Beast, Stabba

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 Sahara Smith, Freedy
Johnston, Ruthless Gondoliers,
Relentless Jones (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Curtis (6:00)

TROPHY'S Little Gentlemen, Watch Out
for Rockets, Sleeping in the Aviary,
the Murdocks

VINO VINO Kevin Lovejoy,
Ephraim Owens

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE

Cody Canada, Wade Bowen,
Randy Rogers (9:00), Jordan Minor
& the Bottom Dollar Band (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Toni Price's Hippie
Holiday, David Garza (6:30)

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), Brett Butler Trio (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett,
DJ Minimus

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh
(6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg
Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Jim Stringer (9:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night
w/ Bill Rice

HOLE IN THE WALL Roger Wallace, the
Bread

JOVITA'S Daniel David (6:30)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox
w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Six Sons of a Gun
(7:00)

MOMO'S Carrie Fussell, Patrice Pike,
Joy Davis, Robin Smith, Izzy Cox
(7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Noble Dog (9:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin
Bizarre w/ Dimitri's Ascent, Bob
Cheevers, Bruce Balmer, the
Moonhowlers (4:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Troubadillos

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First
Cousins (8:00)

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RIVERBEND CENTRE Austin Symphony
Orchestra Holiday Sing-Along (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic,
Music Open Mic (6:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Walter
Daniels, Eugene Chadbourne

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin
& Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues
(5:00), Band of Heathens, Bruce
Hughes, Ben Mallot (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL
Five Ways From Sunday

SPEAKEASY Kalu James

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Paul

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Night w/
Roger Wallace (9:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET
Will Dunlap (7:00)

WED 17

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S
SPORTS BAR George
Carver (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR
Sons of the Revolution (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH
STREET Jackie Bristow (1:00)

AMSTERDAM CAFE Austin Songwriters
Group Open Mic (6:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Open Mic
w/ Sandy Bradford (9:00)

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society
Christmas Party

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo
Christmas Bazaar w/ Band of
Heathens, the Gourds (12:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735
Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio
(8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea
Hargrove

BEERLAND Wheels on Fire

THE BELMONT The Motts (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison (6:00),
Dance Lessons (8:00),
Dale Watson (9:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Wolf Creek,
David Lazaroff, Sheboygan

CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, the
Spazmatics (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent
Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie
Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Shotgun Party
(6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James
McMurtry (10:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Muchos
Backflips!, M.T. Hellton, Tiny Tin
Hearts, Fluoxetine

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),
Monster Big Band (9:30)

EMO'S Fever Dreams, Wine &
Revolution, Peel, Haunting
Oboe Music

EVANGELINE CAFE T. Jarrod Bonta
(7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Carter Arrington
Trio, Opposite Day (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Chris Jamison (8:00)

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)

TUE 16

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR
Danny Santos (3:30)

ANTONE'S Ray Hennig's Birthday w/
Van Wilks, Riley Osbourne, Scott
Nelson, David Grissom, Malford
Milligan, Bill Carter, Chris Layton,
Derek O'Brien, Jimmie Vaughan,
Carolyn Wonderland (7:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time
Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo
Christmas Bazaar w/ Matt the
Electrician, Marcia Ball (12:30)

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)

BOTTICELLI'S Joe Faulhaber

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline
(9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country
w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White

CACTUS CAFE Holiday Show w/ Sara
Hickman (8:00)

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THU, DEC 11 DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM
JESSE DAYTON 9PM

FRI, DEC 12 DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM
CORNELL HURD 9PM

SAT, DEC 13 DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM
DALE WATSON 9PM

TUE, DEC 16 DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM
ALVIN CROW &
JAMES M. WHITE NO COVER

WED, DEC 17 DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM
TONY HARRISON 6-8PM
DALE WATSON 9PM

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CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

- GUERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)
HILL'S CAFE Mo Robison
HOLE IN THE WALL Rob Jewett Trio (8:00), Horse Opera, the Beaumonts, Country Willie's War (10:00)
JOVITA'S M.J. Torrance, Lucas Huddings & the First Cousins (6:00)
KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Lucky Jam Sessions w/ Tyler & Lance (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (8:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Deuce Coupe (8:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Suede (8:00)
MOMO'S Cleve & Sweet Mary, Nathan Hamilton, Matt the Electrician, South Austin Jug Band (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)
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin Bizarre w/ Nevada Newman, Harry Bodine (4:30)
PARAMOUNT THEATRE Aaron Neville & His Quintet (8:00)
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Ru Coleman (8:00)
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00), Waylon Payne, Lisa Hayes, 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)
STUBB'S Chris Brecht, Chris Masterson, Eleanor Whitmore
TRIPLE CROWN Shand Walton, Ransom Jack
TROPHY'S Solstice (6:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)
THE WINE CELLAR Tucker Bradley (7:30)
ZTEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 17

- 311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (9:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Cabo Bay (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Denim (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Liz Morphis (1:00)
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Andrea Marie (7:30)
ANTONE'S Girl Guitar's Christmas, Will Sexton's Christmas Soiree w/ Randy Weeks, Charlie Faye, Idgy Vaughn, Abra Moore (8:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Frank Myers (6:30)
AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sunny Sweeney, Ray Wylie Hubbard (12:30)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Blaise Faire, Gary Newcomb Trio, Miss Jackson, Hollywood Gossip (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove
BEAUTY BAR Christmas Sweater Champagne Jam w/ DJ Kon Karne, DJ Lee Roi (10:00)
BEERLAND Comedy Trainwreck: Santa Roast
THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Brent Adair
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Tyler Jordan (9:00)
CEDAR STREET LC Rocks (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Alyse Black (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir
CONTINENTAL CLUB Texas Sapphires (6:30), Dedringers, the Jungle Rockers (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Rook
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Airoldi's Gypsy Jazz, Sam Lipman Quintet (6:00)
EMO'S The Extravaganza, Candi & the Cavities, Hoodrats
EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA DJ Below, Ray Sr., Serafia Jane, T. Fowler, Kid Heru
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
GARRISON PARK HARBOR The Bravados
GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robbie & the Rogues (9:00, 9:00)
GRUENE HALL Mule Tide Celebration w/ Mark Jungers (7:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Johnny Gimble (6:30)
HILL'S CAFE Glen Collins
HOLE IN THE WALL The Lonesome Heroes, Clay Nightingale (10:00)
HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Patrick Green, Beth Lee, BettySoo
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Jonas Alvarez (7:00)
LAMBERTS DJ Mel (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 Goodnight Goddess, Crash Gallery, Raven Tree
MOMO'S Cheryl Murdock, Modern Day Drifters, No Show Ponies, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Otis Jones Project (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 Liz Morphis (6:30)
ONE 2 ONE BAR Jon Napier, Colin McDonald, Meagan Tubb
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Keep Austin Bizarre w/ Uncle Fungus, Melody Mann, Unfunk, Big Chief Kevin & the Flaming Arrows (4:00)
THE PARISH Douglas Ferguson & the Tetrahedons, Leila Bella (9:00)
THE PARLOR Mammoth Grinder 7-Inch Release
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Waylon Payne, Cory Morrow
RANCH 616 Lucas Huddings & 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)
RUTA MAYA The Batikum (8:00)
SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Shinyribs, Uncle Lucius, Matt Powell (8:00)
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Darren Hoff & the Hard Times, JWW & the Prospectors, Leo Rondeau (9:00)
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock & the Immigrants (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL 80H Project
SPEAKEASY J.J. Usher
STUBB'S Shotgun Party, the Blue Hit
T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Bill Jerram, King Slim Blues
TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler
VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Open Mic (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)
ZTEJAS Lucky Strikes

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
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FRI DEC 12/12
10PM **Lick Lick**
The Snake Trap, Transmography
BlackCock, HH Gorilla Man

SAT DEC 12/13
10PM **Henry & the Invisibles**
Mostly Dead, Kids in Candy Shops, HH Gorilla Man

SUN DEC 12/14
10PM **Hobble**
Al Shire & the Henchmen, UltraWolf

WED DEC 12/17
10PM **Fluoxetine**
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12/12(F): MEGANAUT, SNAKESKIN PRISON, PHOENIX DOWN, (P) UNDER THE GUN, (HH) JAMIE THOMAS, (HH) WOLFGOD

12/13(S): SABBATH CROW, BLOOD ROYALE, NOVICE, (P) BLOOD OF THE SUN

12/14(S): ATOMIC HONKY TONK SHOW FEATURING THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORESE OPERS, & ALI HARTER, NFL FOOTBALL ALL-GAMES-8" SCREEN

12/15(M): MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, THE KONTRABANDITS & SIN-LOUNGE SPECIALS

12/16(T): DRIDER, THE 12TH PLANET, HOLLIE HOLLOWAY, REDLINE RIOT, BILL DAVIS SINGERS/SONGWRITERS(P)

12/17(W): MUTANT PRESS, CURSE THE HEAVENS, MATTS OPEN MIC(P)

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Wed 12.17 THE PEOPLE vs DE LA ROSA
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12.18 Ripe, 'Riko-Ri Get High, Crushes 12.19 Broken Teeth, Dide Witch
12.20 Meestrom, HCD, Death Rites 666 12.21 Chartreuse, Clubs, Monuments

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mo 15 ROCK N ROLL KARAOKE!
tu 16 closed

we 17 Hoodrats, Wheels on Fire,
th 18 Austin Comedy Trainwreck presents: The Santa Roast

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Your Kisses Cause Crashes 11 PM, Epicene 10 PM
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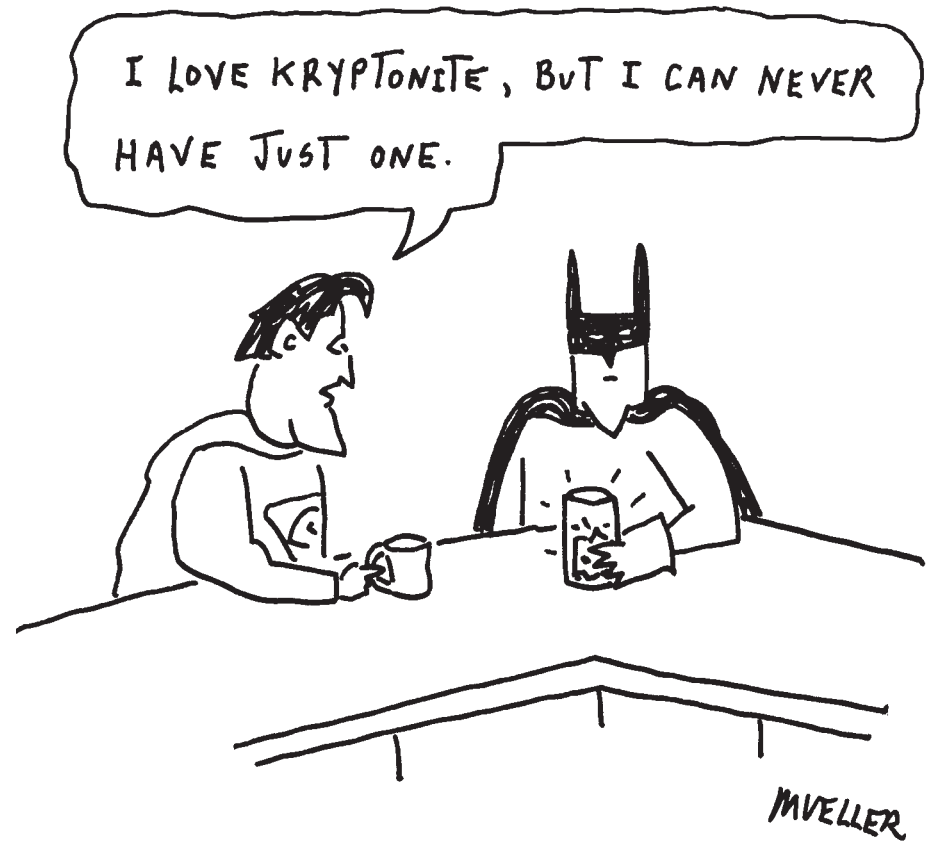
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How to Be Happy (CUTIE ISLAND) 15 OF 8 by Shannon Wheeler



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YOUNG MacDONALD

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Twenty-five percent of the world's cranes are in Dubai (population 2.3 million) - a total of 30,000 cranes, or one for every 77 people.

The Spanish syllable "guad," which begins so many place names, comes from Arabic "wadi," which means "valley."

Wonder why Americans handle eating utensils differently from Europeans, who (if right-handed) keep the knife in their right hand and eat with the fork in the left? Some say this was a secret signal colonists used to tell if they were sharing a meal with a royal sympathizer.

A few drops of Angostura Bitters mixed with club soda helps nausea.

How Cheeta, the sidekick to Johnny Weissmuller's Tarzan, made it to the U.S. is unknown. One story is he was smuggled here from Liberia under an overcoat aboard a Pan Am flight in 1932. The problem is that trans-Atlantic commercial airline service didn't start until 1939.

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
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- 370 Recreational
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400 SERVICES

- 410 Business
- 415 Computers
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- 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

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- Easy Street
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- Messages

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120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

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130 HEALTHCARE

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PEDIATRICIAN F/T at Dyess AFB, TX. Email CV/Resumes to: lh@rlmservices.net or fax to 305 438-1486 RLM Services, Inc. E.O.E.

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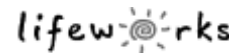
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CASE MANAGER

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YOUTH CARE WORKERS

FT and Relief positions available. Provide services to youth and their families living in shelter. Visit www.lifeworksweb.org for more information. Minority and bilingual candidates encouraged to apply. Resume/cover letter to LifeWorks, Attn: Carmine Consalvo, 3700 South 1st St, Austin, TX 78704. Email: camy.pierce@lifeworksweb.org EOE

160 RESEARCH STUDY

DONOR PROGRAM

SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at <http://www.123donate.com>.

FLU VACCINE IS THE WAY WE MAKE FLU VACCINES TODAY BROKEN?

Today's flu vaccines are made from eggs. Researchers need your help evaluating a vaccine made by a new process without eggs that may allow vaccines to be available more quickly. To pre-qualify for this research study, you must:

- Be 18-49 years of age
- Be considered healthy, AND
- Have not yet received a flu vaccine for the 2008-09 season.

Participants who complete screening and are determined eligible by the study doctor will receive vaccination at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may also be provided. To learn more, contact:

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Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com

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HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify. For more info, please call

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All calls are confidential.

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- Age 25 to 65
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- Willing to participate in a 30-week study - no overnight stays are required provided at no cost. Compensation is up to \$1025 for time and participation. Think you can help? Then call

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165

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We believe in Working Hard in a Fast Paced Environment. The environment demands excellent sales skills, computer & communication skills, interpersonal skills, high integrity, self-motivation and multi-tasking skill set. Analog to Digital Television, Contract Work, South Austin on Bus Line.

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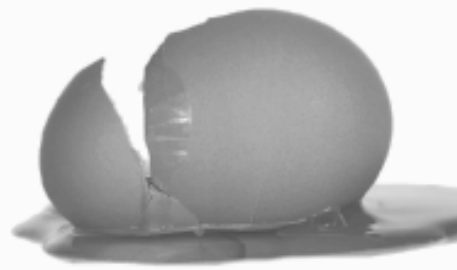
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- Be considered healthy, AND
- Have not yet received a flu vaccine for the 2008-09 season.

Participants who complete screening and are determined eligible by the study doctor will receive vaccination at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may also be provided.

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141 Turkey Ridge Cove - 3.38 acre lot, use any builder, clean lot with large oak trees. \$50,000

404 Hammack - 2/1, brick house with fruit trees and native plants, near Lamar & 2222. \$185,000

FOR LEASE - 8011 Logwood - 3/2/2 house, quiet street in Allandale, Recent Remodel, Fresh Paint, Tile, etc.

FOR LEASE - 13133 Briarcreek - 4/2.5/2 house, washer/dryer/fridge included.

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REDUCED TO \$130,500

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3.38 acre lot, use any builder, clean lot with large oak trees. \$50,000

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***** FOR LEASE *****

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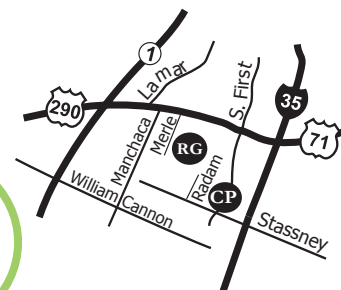
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WEST 1500 West Lynn #106: Great 2/2.5 W. Lynn condo. Wood floors, 2 car garage, end unit. \$299,900
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**530
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**535
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**545
LEGAL NOTICES**

95-07363
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261ST District Court of Travis County, on the 25th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered 95-07363, wherein Plaintiffs are Leander Independent School District and Intervenor are Austin Community College and Travis County, and David A. Sosby, Betty J.

Sims Sosby and Hill Country Bank (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and intervenors, for the sum of \$30,402.08 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenors, in the 261ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 24, 1998.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
Lot 7 and 8, Pecan Terrace Addition, Travis County, Texas, being that property more particularly described in Volume 5866, Page 1532 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$30,402.08 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs and intervenors, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol-ic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Permit, Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit, Beverage Cartage Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by Kahuna Parmer, LLC dba Kahuna Icehouse, 6301 W PARMER LANE, SUITE 601, Travis County, Texas 78729. Managers of said LLC are

**Clifton Mitchell,
Dennis Derr and
Anthone Ciola.**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol-ic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Tony C's 71 LR, General Partner Tony C' 71 GR, LLC dba Tony C's Pizzeria, 12800 Hill Country Blvd., Suite G-160, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78738. Officers of said LLC are Dan Ciola, President and John Inness, Vice President/ Secretary.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PHYLLIS GOLDFIN, Deceased, No. 89639, in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.
ELLIOT S. GOLDFIN alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 18th day of NOVEMBER, 2008 an Application for Letters of Independent Administration and for Determination of Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PHYLLIS GOLDFIN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.
Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse 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 the 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 18th 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 ELVIS JAY SHOAF, Deceased, No. 89700 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.
LISA HAMILTON and all alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 2nd day of December, 2008, an Application for Determination of Heirship, Appointment of Dependent Administrator in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ELVIS JAY SHOAF, 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 the 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 2nd day of December, 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 CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-08-003731 TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AMANDA AUGUSTA COLLIN AND ANDREW A. COLLIN
Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 22nd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 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 TITLE 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 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 the 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 18th day of November, 2008.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ Marie Shanklin

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ BRIAN HILL, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
J. GORDON MCHANEY
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21ST FLOOR
P.O. Box 684158
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4158
BUSINESS PHONE: (512)474-9124 FAX: (512)474-8582
EMAIL: GMCHANEY@CHMC-LAW.COM

**D-1-GV-06-001480
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261ST District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001480, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Del Valle Independent School District, Austin Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 11, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Don M. Farmer, Jessie S. Farmer, Austin 1825 Fortview, Inc. (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only), Texas Employment Commission n/k/a Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Billing Number 151389 = \$28,419.63 and Billing Number 599063 = \$48,864.63** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 6, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Billing Number 151389
117.28 acres out of the J.A. Navarro Grant (Abstract 18) Navaro County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

Billing Number: 599063
Lots 7, 8, 13 and 14, Town of (Oakmanville) Oak Hill, Plat No. X/242, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 151389 = \$28,419.63 and Billing Number 599063 = \$48,864.63** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-002177

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-002177, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Healthcare District and Water Control Improve-

ment District No. 15 are plaintiffs, and M.D. Shelton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of M.D. Shelton and State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Unit (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$11,466.87** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 28, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 10, Block P, Lago Vista, Section 3, Phase 4, Plat No. 32/7 as described in Volume 9214, Page 272 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$11,466.87** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-08-000027

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-08-000027, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District No. 1, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Shirley Bradford, Trustee and Individually, Ralph W. Wilson (In Rem Only), if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Ralph W. Wilson and Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Austin Community College, FM Road, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$24,213.39** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 28, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property,

levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 71, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 38/22 as described in Volume 10520, Page 99 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$24,213.39** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-001547

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-001547, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John W. Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of John W. Williams, Matrel Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Matrel Williams, City of Austin (In Rem Only), K A Slider d/b/a Treetops Apts. (In Rem Only) and Austin Sales, Inc. d/b/a Austin Sales and Scaffold (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Billing Number 108068 = \$16,088.86 and Billing Number 108069 = \$1,098.54** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 10, 2005.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 8, Block A, Hill & Dale Addition, Plat No. 19/11 as described in Volume 3296, Page 15 of Probate Cause No. 40,310, Probate Cause No. 66,889 and Volume 12882, Page 3097 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,369.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Billing Number: 108068

Lot 10, Block 23, St. Johns College Addition, Plat No. 4/71 as described in Volume 4247, Page 1492 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

Billing Number: 108069

Lot 9, Block 23, St. Johns College Addition, Plat No. 4/71 as described in Volume 3709, Page 1962 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 108068 = \$16,088.86 and Billing Number 108069 = \$1,098.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300347

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-300347, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Vincent Bernard Edmondson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,369.54** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 28, 2005.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 8, Block A, Hill & Dale Addition, Plat No. 19/11 as described in Volume 3296, Page 15 of Probate Cause No. 40,310, Probate Cause No. 66,889 and Volume 12882, Page 3097 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$3,369.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF RICHMOND File No. 18418 Docket No.: V-06537-08 Serafin Santiago, Jr., Petitioner NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO: Laura Good South A petition under Article 6 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this court, and annexed hereto YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before this court on DECEMBER 22, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

100 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301, Floor 2/ Room PT1 with Hon. Terrence J. McElrath presiding to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with the Family Court Act.

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 Lee 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 Rahkoy, 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 LaPaz County Superior Court, Parker, AZ, Clerk 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 PM. 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 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 512 215-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Customz Wrecker Services, 16400 Terrace Drive, Austin, TX 78728 unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

2006 Hyundai

VIN#5NPEU46F06H143927

1991 Chevy

VIN#1GCEC1429ME115554

1997 Chrysler

VIN#2C3HC56FXVH687286

1993 Jeep

VIN#1J4GZ78Y7PC615459

1995 Chevy

VIN#1GCEC14ZXS2115330

1992 Chevy

VIN#1GTCEC14KON6507652

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS , AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

Yellow sail boat with

CCME0801F585 On Dilly boat trailer with no vin #

1986 CHEVY VAN

1G5DM15Z4GB506942

2008 DODGE PK

3D7KS2Z4A58G177927

1986 OLDS

1G3AM19R3GD410181

1994 HONDA

JHMCD5553RC056642

1992 TOYOTA

4T1SK12E9NU077270

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas

Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1991 FORD

1FACP50U0MG103902

2004 MERCURY

1MEFM557A4604651

2000 DODGE

1B4HR28Y1YF145620

1999 FORD

1FAPP53U0XG295691

1996 DODGE

2B3HD46F5TH254718

Auction December 26, 2008 @ 6:00 A.M.

ADVANCED TOWING & RECOVERY

1810 BENCH MARK DR

AUSTIN, TX 78728

(512) 402-0024

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: AS-SURED TOWING INC., 4416 BRANDT RD , AUSTIN, TX. 78744.

1997 Dodge Neon

vin:1b3es27czvd173130

2. 1993 Mercury Villager

vin:4m2dv11w3pdj26829

3. grey Buick Lesabre

Lp:c822056 Illionies

4. Brown Ford Aerostar

LP:EVZ-10-55 Mexico

5. Toyota Celica white Lp:

449-HHW Vin:0090434

6. 1991 nissan maxima

vin:jn1hj01p4mt65726

7. jeep wrangler orange

vin:084232

8. race car blue white & red no markings

9. 1986 ford aerostar brown

mexico plates ezv1055

10. chevy mexico plates

evu7619

11. toyota celica lp:ca/

2uhh904

12. 1994 acura integra

lp:s01dsj vin:003731

13. 1990 chrysler new yorker

vin:1c3xy66r1ld908443

14. 1989 toyota camry

lp:f45jpl vin:081465

15. 1987 olds. delta 88 red

lp:45z3723(in vin: 848465

16. ford bronco II blue lp:

3777fs vin:a79773

17. ford ranger blk/red

lp:ep37151 no vin

18. 1992 chevy g20 white

vin:135458

19. chevy monte carlo blue

vin:511794

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON HUNTERS BEND ROAD AND BLUE BLUFF ROAD IN PRECINCT ONE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL LLOYD ARGALL, DECEASED is hereby

given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Michael Lloyd Argall, deceased, were issued on November 25, 2008, in Cause No. 89120 pending in the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas at Kristina Argall and Sydney Argall as Dependent Co-Administrators. The residence of the Dependent Co-Administrators is in Travis County, Texas. The Court address for filing claims is:

Travis County Clerk, Probate Division

P.O. Box 149325

Austin, TX 78714-9325

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: December 11, 2008.

Gilman & Clarke, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100

Austin, TX 78701-1537

Attorneys for the Co-Administrators

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES PATRICK BURT, DECEASED The administration of the estate of CHARLES PATRICK BURT, deceased has been commenced by the

issuance of original Letters Testamentary to CHRISTINE APRIL BURT PATTERSON, whose address is c/o George C. Lucky, 2400 Shelby Oak Lane, Austin, Texas 78748 on November 25, 2008 by the Williamson County Court at Law Number Four acting in Cause No. 08-0451-CP4 styled IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES PATRICK BURT, DECEASED, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law, addressed to the representative of the estate at the address shown above.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN F. CAMPBELL, P.C.

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 405

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 476-6036</

ald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. George Warren McDonald, Independent Executor of the Estate of Kenneth Merle Browning

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale will be held on December 13, 2008, 8:30am, Forest Creek Mini Storage, 2841 Red Bud Ln. (CR122), Round Rock, TX, 78664. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of the following tenants units: Entertainment ctr., TV, couch, bike, treadmill, computers, rug, refrig, kitchen table w/ chairs, kitchen appliances, tables, bikes, washer & dryer, desk, modular office furniture, vending machines, office equipment.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Janie C. Guerrero, Deceased, were issued on November 18, 2008, in Cause No. 89540, pending in Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Eli D. Guerrero. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law addressed in care of the representative's attorney at P.O. Box 203774, Austin, Texas 78720.

Dated the 9th day of December, 2008.
/s/ Vivian E. Ross-Bennett
Attorney for the Independent Executor
State Bar No. 24049665
Telephone: (512)330-4099
Facsimile: (512)331-0872

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jean Marie Calhoun, Deceased, were issued on November 12, 2008, in Cause No. 08-00090-CP4, pending in the County Court-At-Law, No. Four, Williamson County, Texas, to: Eddie Wayne Calhoun.

The Executor resides in Bell County and can be reached: c/o: Martin J. Cirkiel, Esq., Cirkiel & Associates, P.C., 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 8th 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/ Martin J. Cirkiel
Attorney for Executor
State Bar No.: 00783829

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship of the Person and Estate of Ryan Douglas Reitmeyer, An Incapacitated Person, were issued on February 4, 2008, in Cause No. 85413, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Douglas Reitmeyer 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 Hopper & Associates, P.C., attorneys for Guardian of the Person and Estate of Ryan Douglas Reitmeyer, An Incapacitated Person, at 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 408, Austin, Texas 78701.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Co-Administration for the Estate of Larry Don Burkett, Deceased, were issued on November 21, 2008, in Cause No. 08-0347-CP4, pending in the County Court-At-Law, No. Four, Williamson County, Texas, to: Joe Todd Burkett and Robin Burkett Skinner. The Administrators can be reached:

c/o: Martin J. Cirkiel, Esq., Cirkiel & Associates, P.C., 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 8th 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/ Martin J. Cirkiel
Attorney for Dependent Co-Administrators
State Bar No.: 00783829

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bessie Mae May, Deceased, were issued on October 30, 2008, in Docket No. 89,489, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Beverly Jan Smith and Barbara Ann Welder.

The address of the Independent Co-Executors are in Austin, Travis County, Texas, and Beeville, Bee County, Texas, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 30th day of October, 2008.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C. Attorneys for the Estate
By: /s/ Frank E. Scofield

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HENRY ADOLPHUS HODGES, Deceased, were issued on November 13, 2008 in Cause No. 89387, pending in the Probate Court, Travis County, Texas, to: JUDITH ANN KENNIS.

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: Terry L. Belt
Attorney at Law
3355 Bee Caves Road,
Suite 605
Austin, Texas 78746
DATED the 8th day of December, 2008.
/s/ Terry L. Belt, Attorney for Judith Ann Kennis
State Bar No.: 02109500

3355 Bee Cave Road,
Suite 605
Austin, Texas 78746
Telephone: (512) 327-7360
Facsimile: (512) 275-1089

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On December 2, 2008, Loretta L. Bennett qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Solon A. Bennett, Deceased, in Cause No. 89,558 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Independent Executor is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Workforce Development Services, RFS S090063-RE
Opens: December 23, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

Claims shall be addressed to: "Representative, Estate of Allan Morgan Murphy
c/o John W. Brodnax
John W. Brodnax, P.C.
1202 Lakeway Drive, Suite 1
Lakeway, Texas 78734"
(512) 261-0101
DATED the 2nd day of December, 2008

/s/ John W. Brodnax
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO PRESENT CLAIMS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CONSTANCE S. ROE Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2008, in Cause No. 89,821, in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to WAYNE PHILLIP ROE, as Independent Executor. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to the Executor c/o Rodney Sheppard, Attorney at Law, 1505 West 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Workforce Development Services, RFS S090063-RE
Opens: December 23, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

Claims shall be addressed to: "Representative, Estate of Allan Morgan Murphy
c/o John W. Brodnax
John W. Brodnax, P.C.
1202 Lakeway Drive, Suite 1
Lakeway, Texas 78734"
(512) 261-0101
DATED the 2nd day of December, 2008

/s/ John W. Brodnax
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

fees or your failure to do so shall be a waiver of all your rights, title, and interest and your consent to sell the vehicle at public sale:
95 TOYT 4D
4T1SK12E7SU534508
Garagekeeper: Rational
Automotive 12129 Roxie Dr
Austin

TRAVIS COUNTY PUBLIC AUCTION: SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & PROPERTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008; 10:00 AM

TRAVIS COUNTY WAREHOUSE

7811 BURLERSON-MANOR ROAD, MANOR, TEXAS
• A VARIETY OF LAWN EQUIPMENT, JEWELRY, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONICS AND OTHER VARIOUS ITEMS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDS.

• VIEWING OF ITEMS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008 AT 8:00 AM, UNTIL TIME OF AUCTION, ALL ITEMS SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS, BUYERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROPERTY AS SOON AS DEAL IS CONCLUDED. BUYERS MUST REMOVE PROPERTY BY 4:00 PM, ON THE DAY OF THE AUCTION, ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER PRIOR TO AUCTION, ALL PURCHASES MUST BE SETTLED AT END OF SALE, BUYER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF PROPERTY FROM AUCTION SIGHT. TRAVIS COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY ARE PERMITTED TO BID.

• FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DAN ROLLIE AT (512) 854-6459 OR RON DUBE AT (512) 854-6458.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: TAKE HWY 71 (BEN WHITE BLVD.) INTO DEL VALLE, TURN LEFT AT HWY 973, TURN RIGHT ON HWY 969, TRAVEL 5 MILES AND TURN

LEFT ON BURLERSON-MANOR ROAD. TRAVEL 1 MILE AND TURN RIGHT AT COUNTRY WAREHOUSE.

GASTON & SHEEHAN AUCTIONEERS, TXL #6497

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Gary Alan Primich, Deceased, were issued on November 18, 2008, under Docket No. 88971, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to John V. Primich, also known as Jack Primich.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Jack Primich, Independent Administrator and Representative of the Estate of Gary Alan Primich, Deceased c/o Kenneth W. Pajak, The Banner Law Firm, P.C., 114 Lost Creek Boulevard, Suite 420 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 December 8, 2008. The Banner Law Firm, P.C. By /s/ Kenneth W. Pajak Attorney(s) for Independent Administrator John V. Primich, also known as Jack Primich

TRAVIS COUNTY ONLINE AUCTION: SURPLUS PROPERTY
RENE BATES AUCTIONEER

(FOR TRAVIS COUNTY) WWW.RENEBATES.COM (TX LIC. 6644)

• EIGHTEEN (18) COPIERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDS. VISIT WWW.RENEBATES.COM FOR A LIST OF ALL ITEMS, LOCATIONS, AND TIMES FOR VIEWING.

• FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DAN ROLLIE AT (512) 854-6459 OR RON DUBE AT (512) 854-6458.

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CV AXLES • CLUTCHES • A/C • BRAKES AND EVERYTHING ELSE

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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.
will **228-1802** mark **902-9183**
ESPAÑOL @ 228-1802
www.autodepotaustin.com

DON'T FORGET - WE BUY CARS (RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)

We need an excellent mechanic, schooled in all aspects of car repair. Email Jannie@austin.rr.com

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 \$2,450, 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!! 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!! 2000 NISSAN FRONTIER \$5,650, Xtra cab, auto, 4 wheel drive. 79,000 miles.
- NEW!! 2007 NISSAN VERSA FOUR DOOR \$12,950, 25,000 miles. Very, very clean. Can trade. Factory warranty.
- NEW!! 2007 MAZDA \$9,950, automatic, like new. 22k.
- NEW!! 1995 HONDA ACCORD \$4,950, Brand new tires, warranty.

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car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

GROANING BRAKES NOT CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Dear Tom and Ray:

I had new brake pads installed about three weeks ago, and when I use the brake pedal to stop, the car makes a groaning noise. The mechanic told me that it takes about a month to "break the pads in" and that after that, the noise will go away. Is that correct? - Adrienne

RAY: It groans, huh? Well, groaning noises usually are associated with mating, Adrienne.

TOM: Just like with humans!

RAY: What's mating in your car are the new brake pads and the old disc rotors. I'm guessing that your mechanic didn't change your disc rotors, probably in an attempt to save you some money.

TOM: We don't do that anymore, because when new, perfectly flat pads press against old, grooved, and uneven disc rotors, they make noise. And then customers come back and complain. And then we have to get rid of them by making up some story about how it takes a month for the parts to get to know each other.

RAY: Unfortunately, this is not an entirely benign noise, Adrienne. Because your pads aren't making point-for-point contact with the surfaces of your discs, you're not getting as much braking power as you should be.

TOM: Normally, new pads will "seat" or "mate" with discs fairly quickly. In fact, we usually do it during a test drive right after we finish a brake job. And it's usually accomplished within 10 to 20 minutes of working the pads.

RAY: But if it's still groaning after three weeks, you probably need new discs. Or, if the discs still have plenty of life in them, they need to be resurfaced.

TOM: The reason your mechanic told you it would take a month is because he's leaving for vacation in a month. So when you go back next week, there will be a sign on the door that says, "See you in the spring."

RAY: So I'd go back in now. Explain to him that the noise hasn't gotten any better, and ask him to take another look. My guess is that the discussion will turn to the wonderful world of new disc rotors. Good luck.

It's never cheaper in the long run to buy a new car. Want proof? Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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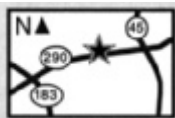
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I'm a laid-back bisexual female who prefers to be with a guy. I'm looking for a bisexual male who prefers women. Let's hang out. **Dreamin-Pisces**, 21, #127920

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

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. **austinpar-tygurl1985**, 23, #119045

DISCREET FUN

SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. **Hornies01**, 30, #117862

FUNNY 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

OUR FIRST THREESOME

We've never had a threesome before but dying to have one, any girls wanna show us the ropes? NO GUYS. **EndZoneDance304**, 23, #128614

THREE'S COMPANY...

I'm 28, bisexual, slender and sexy. He's 31, tall, good-looking and well-hung. Looking for a girl in our age range...maybe to go for drinks...hopefully more. **pink_n_blue**, 28, #128606

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. **jezebella83**, 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**, 34, #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**, 24, #128156

EXOTIC FANTASY SEXPOT

I want a hot sexy girl to please me. This is going to be my first time with a woman also you can't mind my boyfriend watching and videotaping.. **browneyedchic**, 27, #128093

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. **srca4fun**, 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

SWEETNESS!

Just looking to hook up with a female to get a little freaky! **Clas-sique369**, 29, #127957

LOOKING FOR SPICE

Couple in love looking to spice things up. I would like to know what its like to be with a woman while my boyfriend watches and maybe join. Couples also. **spicenitup**, 28, #127932

CPL FOR PLEASURE

We would like to meet couples or select men of any ages. Wife is 5'0" 130#. He is 5'9" 175#. Enjoy having good company for an evening of pleasure. **OLDIESCPL**, 59, #127868

DISCREET COUPLE SEEKING...

Couple of 7 yrs seeking female for the hubby to watch an experienced woman pleasure the wife. Wife is shy, but curious; so must be dominating/able to take control. **pandp**, 33, #127831

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TRANNY CHAS'N COUPLE

hot as hell biker couple seeks hot, slim, passable TS for awesome encounters... **seth_roxy**, 42, #127681

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

MARRIED MAN LOOKING

Looking for single female 21 ñ 45 for friendship and sexule fun . Must be willing to get to know us and be friends with both of us. **Tiger69**, 38, #127250

BEAUTIFUL DOMINATE REDHEAD

Dominate red head, who is bi, attractive and LOTS of fun. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, blue eyes, perky boobs, nice ass and VERY KINKY. I have male partner to join. **MistressDarlan**, 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. **Bifemaustincl**, 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

WILD CHILD

I am an eighteen-year-old health conscious bisexual female. I am looking for an emotionally-balanced professional couple who would welcome another female into their sexual life. **sweeteighteen**, 19, #128243

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

EXPERIMENTAL OLDER MAN

I am a 61 year old 6' 200 lb man work out regularly. Like to meet a man or woman for discrete sexual encounters/email. I think I am bi-sexual. **Old**, 61, #128430

AN INTELLIGENT STONER???

It's been a long while since my last relationship, so I'm just looking for a chill older (20-30ish) guy to chill and have fun with. Open for almost anything. **Word**. **interstate420**, 19, #127967

UP FOR ANYTHING

48,gwm,6',180#,blk/brn,moderately hairy,partnered but play. looking for men hairy or smooth, uncut preferably, for occasional playtime. seeking all types of experiences. **oscar**, 48, #127611

SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Day-time encounters might be necessary. **volcano**, 48, #127424

CHASTITY FUN?

Would you like attention, affection, adoration when and how YOU Want it? Can the key to your heart be worn on the same necklace as key to my CB Cage? **Yours**, 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

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

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

UNDER HER THUMB

Sub male w/prior training vulnerable to beginning or accomplished Femme Dommess. Easily house broken and domesticated to suit the whims and requirements of a unique Domina. Open to expanding limits. **cherrieboy**, 44, #127203

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

ENDZONEDANCE304

POP OUR THREWAY CHERRY

What's the kinkiest thing you've ever done or want to do? we wanna do it in a dressing room in every store in a mall. Not EVERY ROOM, that's crazy, but i mean like do it in every store with dressing rooms.

read the rest of ENDZONEDANCE304's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Cherrywood Art Fair • Saturday, Dec. 13, 10am-6pm
 Maplewood Elementary School • 3808 Maplewood
www.cherrywoodartfair.org

There's a decent chance your office holiday party is this weekend. Excellent. After 11 months of petty politics, gossip, bickering, and backstabbing, you and your annoying co-workers are going to put the cherry on top with a booze-fueled yuletide blowout. Merry indeed. Still, corny though they may be, office holiday parties are *exactly* the kind of team-building exercise that upper-management types spend thousands of dollars trying to recreate with overpaid consultancy firms. It really sucks being put in uncomfortable situations where you have to relate to and rely on your co-workers, but at least with the holiday party you get the reach-around of being inebriated. Of course, that is, as long as you do it *right*. Surely somewhere in a magazine, on a website, through a Sunday sermon, or perhaps even in your employee handbook, you have been warned about the dangers of overindulgence at the office holiday party. And now every time December rolls around, there's a little white angel on your shoulder whispering in your ear: "Don't get drunk and say something stupid or embarrassing in front of your co-workers or, gasp! Your boss!" Right? Bullshit. Swat that self-righteous little bitch off your shoulder, and order up an afterparty cab ride home right now, while you're still sober enough to remember the address. Here's the dirty little secret the man doesn't want you to know: The problem isn't getting wasted at the holiday party. The problem is not planning on getting wasted at the holiday party. Spontaneous alcoholism is cute and all. In fact, it has made for some really interesting *Girls Gone Wild* video footage, but real drinkers know that like any other potentially dangerous activity, it's best to observe some basic precautions. Remember: This is the office holiday party. You're not trying to pledge a frat. First things first, you're going to need a ride home. Cabs are great, but don't rule out that unctuous Baptist co-worker who listens to Joel Osteen tapes. On a team, everyone has a role. Hardcore stoners will work too, but be prepared for a long ride home – possibly with a three-taco pit stop at Jack in the Box. Whatever, just work it out in advance. You don't want to let your crotch arrange for your ride home. Sure, you're in control now, but a good holiday-party buzz can turn a chaste mistletoe peck into a slobbery game of tonsil hockey. Avoid PDA. You can't just assume that people will know you're only bi when you've been drinking – especially your boss. Especially when your tongue is down his throat. Really, when you think about it, team building is about learning to trust your co-workers, and nothing builds trust like sharing a really embarrassing secret that probably wouldn't have happened if you were sober – something the Human Resources Department would have to write you up for. You don't have to accidentally kill a prostitute or anything, but what happens in a hotel hot tub will probably stay in a hotel hot tub, which is why sober people avoid hotel hot tubs unless they're sure the hot tub has recently been sterilized. You don't have to go there. Leading a bunny-hop line with a lampshade on your head will do just fine. Some people might see that as attention whoring douche baggery, but others, mostly the ones in line behind you, will see it as leadership. Ideally, one of them will be someone who can give you a raise. Remember though: Team building isn't about personal recognition. It's about doing what it takes to get the job done. That's a good description of what's happening at Maplewood Elementary this weekend at the Cherrywood Art Fair, the annual fundraiser for the school's art and gardening programs, as well as public art projects in East Austin. Buy arts, crafts, and clothing from original Austin artists, plus hear live music from bands such as the Coffee Sergeants, Colin Gilmore, Joe McDermott, and Troy Campbell. Admission is free, but you'll want to bring a fat wallet to buy some nice gifts for the folks in Human Resources.

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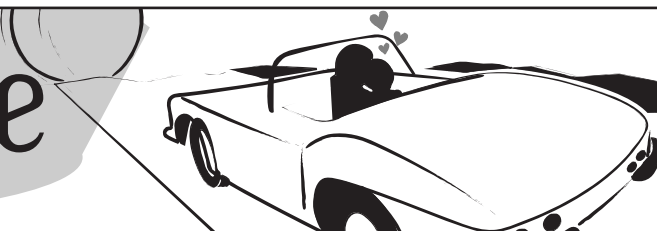
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women SEEKING men

LIFE AMONG BIRDS

This is my only line. JuniperTree-house, 35, #128623

SINCERE, ATTORNEY, CONTENT

Just hoping to find emotionally stable company of a good guy with similarities and common goals. low maintenance kind of girl with an eye towards staying fit and happy. legalangel, 53, #125192

HIPPIE-METAL MAMA

Live music, all kinds. The wilderness. Zombie flicks and dark humor. Other people in general. Dogs! Like all of these things. Give me a shout. HerDudeness, 26, #128609

KNOCK ME OVER!

Just because I'm growing doesn't mean I have to grow up. Yes I have a house full of toys and no kids. Plastic robots, tiki's, and oddities all over. nicnacs, 35, #128604

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 symbiosis. 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!!! firebilly, 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, #118102

FEELING THE BEAT

Could be music - could be my heart! I love all kinds of music & have a caring heart. Looking to share great & small adventures with a thoughtful man. frmr_yankee_gal, 59, #120550

men SEEKING women

COMPLEX SHY JOKER

Names John ima sweetheart but i do got a bad side im not really sure what im looking for but if u want to kno anything just ask me... jc021, 22, #128646

BAH BAH BAH

Nice, kind of shy guy looking to meet new people. jls, 29, #128607

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? Someoneedifferent, 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

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. Omegus, 32, #128576

THREE WORDS, REALLY?

I just moved here from Wyoming. Trying to find someone to go to concerts and Alamo Draffthouse events with. I'm not missing any limbs, so don't pass me up! crispy, 26, #128567

SINGLE AND LOOKING

Im a laid back kind of guy ,looking for my soul mate stay at home and watch football are good movies I like to meet someone ready to settle down. older5157, 51, #128562

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

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

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
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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

GALWAYGIRLTOBE

One more single girl in Austin... shocka!!! would love to meet some guys that are into movies, dogs, theatre, soccer, traveling, music, and lots of outdoor stuff!!! interested... email me. Take care! galwaygirl, 29, #128381

ENGAGING MOMENTS

We will have long, rambling, totally interrupted talks about everything and nothing, hang out on the patio listening to music and dance. I value personal connections, music, and intelligence. Do you? ASLbarbie, 41, #128073

EXCITED EASILY

Student at Texas State. Looking for something more than the usual hook up that I seem to keep finding. Lots of heart. Love UFC and MLB. kp1225, 19, #128348

MUST LOVE DOGS

Athletic, creative, dog lover looking for ambitious yet laid back man who wants to explore all that life has to offer. Looking to share laughs, adventure, and intimate conversation. AthleticSynergy, 32, #128337

TOTALLY WIRED

Skinny fellow with glasses who likes books, the NY Dolls, and strange movies from 1973 seeks a cute lady with taste to ride bikes with and be real not fakes. healthypunk, 22, #124273

SARCASTIC, COMPASSIONATE, PASSIONATE

I am compassionate and caring, but not necessarily sensitive. I like a good mental struggle and don't mind living with chaos 6 days/week, but even God rested on the 7th. NHBoy, 36, #128629

THE KEEPER

I am the one you can't believe isn't hitched yet. I'm overeducated, but still close to the ground. I am worth following your curiosity. ScholarAndaGentleman, 32, #120054

HEADLINE? FOR WHAT?

The first ad I typed was priceless. 30 words? Ahh, just send me a message and ask me why I do and don't wanna be here. txdrifter, 37, #127850

COOL, FUNNY, BIGHEART

If you like dancing, outdoor, or just go out for dinner, and have fun, send me a message!.... I am looking for new friends and may be relationship. Cheers! leoit, 38, #128598

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, 22, #128589

FUN CREATIVE MUSICAL-LYNSANE

New in Austin...I have played music my whole life..looking for great personalities to have a good time with. daymoneit, 27, #128544

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CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

women SEEKING men

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

SMARTASSCHICK

Laid-back, 33 year-old professional,soft-butth (whatever the hell that means?!!). I would like to meet an attractive, chill woman who has a brain and can have a stimulating convo, good kisser. cooshrockets, 33, #128395

SWEET, LAIDBACK, FUN

Traditional good girl looking for friends and/or lovers. Love the outdoors and country life although I can party with the best. Very open minded and non-judgemental. No gossip or drama. katieb, 34, #128206

"SECRETS IN SAUCE"

When I look at her I cant remember anyone before her and cant imagine not being with her for the rest of my life. She feels the same way. shewolfann, 49, #128103

NEWGIRL: INTOWN 2LOVENBELOVED

I date girls of all races! I'm outgoing; little shy at first. Love live music and dancing. I just want a girl to make me laugh and give me butterflies. SapphQt, 26, #128071

WHAT IT DO!!!

im an openminded person who really just wants to be loved and love in return weather is as lovers r friends.. i love to do things out of the blue. ilikeu, 25, #127959

'I'M SO BADASS!'

I'm a laid back goof with couch potato tendencies tho I love going out. Mexican food, coffee, and music have me grabbing my keys faster than you can say "mexican martini." shygirll, 26, #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

FUN FRIEND

I am looking for someone that is open to new things, loving, likes to cook and wants to stand out in the crowd!! Funfriend, 25, #128519

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 bottom 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 Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine. AusAbogado, 62, #124933

GUY IN BUDA

seeking nice and outgoing men for fun in and out of the bedroom. men who stay active or just quiet time at home, lets get busy or just relax. rudyinbuda, 42, #126941

BES1971

GBM 6'0 175lbs black/brown. Told I have a nice smile. Like to cook/bake,sing,dance,travel, read,theater/movies,hiking/camping,swimming, bowling. Looking for W/H/M to start out as friends That may lead to LTR. Serious reply. NIUU, 37, #124639

Candybits86

HELLO KITTY IS GOD

I love eating, laughing, shopping, and listening to music. If you want to know what I'm like watch the movie "Ghostworld" I'm a combination of Enid & Rebecca.

read the rest of **CANDYBITS86's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/loverslane

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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**

JUST friends

ROCK SHOWS ROLFBALL
I'm looking for friends to play rolfball with me, which is the best game ever, I'll teach you how. or someone to go to punk/rock shows with or free alamo movies. **teejinator, 25, ☑, #128642**

a Shot in the Dark

RUDY'S BEAUTY
you, workin at rudy's north 183, short, dark hair, big smile. me shaved head, glasses, sunbusters t-shirt. your smile made me melt. coffee or maybe dinner? **When: Friday, November 28. Where: rudy's 183 and duvall. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903657**

HORSESHOE THANKSGIVING
Emily - we picked out music and I was stupid to not pursue. **When: Thursday, November 27. Where: Horseshoe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903656**

I CU EVERYDAY
i saw you there, i saw you here. Now where do i go? iloveu. Meet me today at the first place it happened. Lady A, Happy Birthday to me. **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: east austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903655**

MARION AT FUZZ
You put your name on my and then took it back. Remember? I wanted to chat with you, but my shyness stopped me. Silly, Tom **When: Friday, December 5. Where: Scoot Inn. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903654**

AUSTIN AT SPIDERHOUSE
Austin, you're the icing to my Spiderhouse cake! Seeing you there is always an added bonus. That's why you always catch me looking at you...the icing's the best part, right? **When: Sunday, December 7. Where: Spiderhouse. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903653**

THE TWO GIRLS
Nice to see you too, sorry for being a bit of a grump, family can bring that out of me. **When: Saturday, December 6. Where: Magnolia's. You: Man. Me: Man. #903652**

LEFTHANDOF GOD. LOVER LOVES.
You: LeftHandofGod. Me: MSMA **When: 12/6/08 Where: Dietrich, Idaho: Population: Hungry. I liked meeting your friends but only wish I could forget the poor man & his sad little jar. When: Saturday, December 6. Where: On the Swell. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903651**

DOORGY APPLE BAR
You: Tall, very handsome, gorgeous smile Me: Tall, red pea coat, dark red hair. With my much shorter Asian friends. You caught my eye...should have talked to you...kicking myself now. **When: Saturday, December 6. Where: Apple Bar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903650**

ON THE LAKE
If boating, dinning, hunting, riding, talking about a good book, catching a movie and generally having a good time is important to you then we have something in common. **TGNP, 55, ☑, #128612**

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #128565**

LYNX-LOVER
Irreverent wisenheimer, likes to slog around in the swamp. Seeking kindred spirit to go to wild places. Must understand why my arm hairs stand up when near a fox kit. **poody-ley_doodle, 64, #128566**

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, ♀, ☑, #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, ☑, #128493**

ALLIGATOR LUNCH 12/11
I was solo, you had a friend. Want to compare notes on the etouffe? You: black plaid shirt and red tee, great smile. Me: blue plaid, wishing I said hello. **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: alligator grill. You: Man. Me: Man. #903649**

SNO DAY BEAUTY
You: wearing winter hat, beautiful eyes helped unload beer. Me: tall shaggy hair wearing black T-shirt. wanted to talk but lost my nerve. come to spec's for second chance? **When: Saturday, December 6. Where: Sno Day setup Pearl & 26th. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903648**

BRUNETTE AT FUZZCLUB
Scoot Inns The Fuzz Club. Fellow San Diegan with stunning smile. You said we had a common friend named Nicole. I remember now. **When: Friday, December 5. Where: The Scoot Inn. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903647**

MICHELLE AT CEDARST.
Said you were super cute and couldn't take my eyes off you. You went to UTSA/are a sub-teacher. I would have asked for your # but I got left **When: Friday, November 21. Where: Cedar Street. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903646**

FAR WEST HEB
Around 5:30pm. You: tall, nice smile, great jeans, buying cat food and wine. Me: tall, black hoodie, behind you in line buying Captain Crunch and beer. Exchanged glances? Drink? **When: Friday, December 5. Where: Far West HEB. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903645**

SORRY ABOUT THAT
Pascal: Maybe I just set aside the fact that you were broken heart'd in my own special selfish way... If I hadn't where would YOUR heart would be today? **When: Friday, December 5. Where: Everywhere I Look. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903644**

DARK-HAIRED HOTTIE
really had fun dancing/snogging w/ you @rain,near bar on back patio. should've given you my#. forgive me, you; dark hair, gorgeous smile, w/2girls. me; scruffy face, brownha ir, blackjacket, bluejeans. lets have another go! **When: Saturday, November 29. Where: rain. You: Man. Me: Man. #903638**

WHITEBOY AT BLACKMAIL
your name is aaron. i walked in to your store and floated out. we have a deal where if my christmas present isnt reciprocated, you get it. So... **When: Tuesday, November 25. Where: Blackmail on Congress. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903643**

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**

ALEX(IS)-STILL AROUND?
We went to ECHS together and kinda dated but were good friends. Drifted apart- then you disappeared! Remembering the long phone calls. Wondering if you're out there. p.s. shared geometry. **When: Wednesday, December 3. Where: ECHS. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903641**

BLACK SATURDAY SURPRISE
You: funky-intellectual type with blue beret driving a white Audi on Parmar over MOPAC Saturday after Thanksgiving. Me: gray-haired slacker type in VW. Did we have a moment? **When: Saturday, November 22. Where: Parmar crossover Mopac. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903640**

PETITE PLATINUM BLONDE
In line, you appeared behind me; I wasn't prepared. I've seen you before and find you adorable. Should have asked your name, you left before I got brave enough to. **When: Tuesday, December 2. Where: Epoch. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903639**

SETON ANGEL
Me wounded heart and soul. You angel of mercy and love. You treated me just like a member of your family. I can see you were born to play doctor. **When: Tuesday, December 2. Where: SMC ER. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903637**

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**

STOLE MY VESPA
it was tan and maroon. It was in front of my house on whitsun dr (off brodie and eskew) it would be real cool if you gave it back now...please. **When: Monday, September 1. Where: 7809 whitsun dr. You: Man. Me: Man. #903629**

ANALYTICAL, CURIOUS, OP-PORTUNISTIC
I'd rather not have this posted in the print edition, honestly. **giantitp, 24, ☑, #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, ☑, #128417**

messages

YOU ARE THE heat in my sun, the shine in my moon, the whole to my parts. I love you Erika. Leslie

CARIJANE: YOU ARE incredible. Happy birthday!

ICE CREAM PARK
Mr.Monochromatic your shades didn't disguise your sexy lips. I'm the blond with a starring problem. I'd like to share my vanilla bean with you at our playground sometime. Wanna swing? **When: Monday, December 1. Where: little Metric Park playscape. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903636**

ASIAN BEAUTY
Long black hair Asian female with bald white guy. You were in a green Miata with white racing stripes. If it doesn't work out, let me make you smile. **When: Tuesday, November 11. Where: Manchaca Road. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903635**

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**

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**

DEPARTMENT OF EAGLES
12-01-08 Guadalupe/34th. You were listening to Department of Eagles, really loudly. I... in silver civic wearing a black hoodie. We made eye contact. like your taste. catch a show sometime? **When: Tuesday, December 2. Where: 34th and guadalupe. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903642**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for Dec. 12-18

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There are 300,000 surveillance cameras set up all over the city of Beijing, spying constantly on its citizens. London, a supposed bastion of democracy, has 500,000 such cameras. I highly recommend you don't visit either place in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. It's crucial for you to avoid influences that make you feel self-conscious or guilty. You've got to hang out in spots where you're not being watched, scrutinized, and evaluated. While you're at it, you might also want to tell your inner critic to shut the hell up. You need wide-open, judgment-free spaces, both without and within.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In California's recent election, citizens voted to liberate poultry. Proposition 2 passed, mandating that from now on, farmers cannot confine chickens in cages where they're unable to spread their wings. Meanwhile, in the same election, voters decided to make it illegal for gay people to be married, a right that had previously been granted by the California Supreme Court. How odd is it that chickens got a measure of freedom while gays had one of their precious freedoms cut away? I'm warning you to be wary of a metaphorically similar scenario looming in your personal life, Capricorn, in which one liberty is upgraded while another is sacrificed. Fight to make sure there's no net loss.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Would you like to consistently be in the right place at the right time in the coming weeks? Personally, I'd love you to have that knack. It would make my job more enjoyable, since I could fall asleep each night with the comforting thought that you are meeting your dates with destiny while you're at the height of your powers. So what is the best way to ensure that you will have impeccable intuition and a great sense of timing? Here's what I say: Set aside all expectations about what the past implies and what the future may bring. Instead, cultivate a desire to recognize and respond to the raw truth of each new moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There's a new elective surgery that makes it impossible to ever blush again. It's an expensive procedure that involves boring a hole in your armpit and cutting the nerve endings that are responsible. I wouldn't recommend it for you, even though you're entering a phase when you'll be more prone than usual to blushing. Why? Because, according to my projections, your main reason for blushing in the coming days will be due to receiving sudden, unexpected, or long-withheld praise. I believe it'll be a time when you're acknowledged for the good things you do. Blush away!

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's an ideal time for you to throw a party for all the people you've ever been and all the different selves who live within you now. Invite the teenager who once seethed with frustrated potential and the 4-year-old who loved nothing more than to play. Include the hopeful complainer who stands in the shadows and dares you to ask for more, as well as the brave hero who comes out every now and then to attempt seemingly impossible feats of happiness. Don't forget any of the various personalities who have contributed to making you who you are. Celebrate your internal diversity. Marvel at how good you are at changing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Novelists and actors make a living by using their imaginations to create fictional stories. In recent years there has emerged a new group of workers whose pretending skills also earn them money. They make imaginary weapons, armor, potions, and other computer-generated gear to sell to people who play online role-playing games like *World of Warcraft*. I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because you're in a favorable place to put your imagination to work in practical ways that increase your prosperity and security. As soon as you're finished reading this horoscope, start brainstorming about specific things you could do to convert fantasies into real-world wealth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'm pleased to be able to offer you a Zen riddle that will prepare you well for the immediate future. Study it, meditate on it, and refer back to it often when dealing with upcoming challenges. Question: What did the big chimney say to the little chimney? Answer: Nothing. Chimneys can't talk. I don't want to explain all the nuances of this helpful conundrum, Gemini, because it'll serve you better if you come to your own conclusions. But I'll get you started with this hint: Be vigilant for trick questions, and don't let those trick questions frame the debates you engage in. Do you know what red herrings and straw men are? Don't get distracted by them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I've got three related questions for you, Cancerian. 1) Are there any roles you play in which your selfish and unselfish tendencies overlap? 2) What situations allow you to be most completely yourself as you provide a fine service to others? 3) Which of your skills generate the most blessings and gifts? The next 12 months will be a favorable time for you to identify these roles, situations, and skills and to cultivate them to the max. You'll have prime opportunities to express your special genius while doing good deeds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What country has more sand than any other? With its vast deserts, Saudi Arabia has got to be near the top of the list. Nevertheless, the Saudi government forbids the export of sand, worrying that it might eventually run out due to its construction industry's demands for the stuff. This irrational fear reminds me of you, Leo. You, too, have a certain bountiful resource that will never be depleted - and yet you're chronically worried that it will. Please adjust your thinking. It's an excellent time to get more realistic about the true nature of your abundance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): After meditating on how best to energize your love life, I decided to direct you to this passage from John Welwood's book *Perfect Love, Imperfect Relationships: Healing the Wound of the Heart*: "Everyone knows perfect love in their heart, for the human heart is a direct channel through which absolute love pours into this world. At the same time, human relationships are imperfect expressions of that love. This creates a painful gap between the perfect love we know in our hearts and the imperfect, incomplete ways it is expressed in our relationships. When we imagine that relative human love should be something it is not - absolutely unconditional - we suffer disappointment and wind up distrusting love itself. We also hold grievances against others for not loving us rightly or against ourselves for not having won that love. This gives rise to a universal human wound - the sense of not feeling loved for who we are."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I was walking down the street agonizing over what to do about a particularly troublesome person in my life," writes Tai Moses in her blog (www.aerophant.com), "when I saw a playing card laying facedown on the sidewalk. I turned it over." It was a joker. Her thoughts immediately turned to the words of the philosopher Alan Watts: "When you get the message, hang up the phone." I hope you'll be inspired by Moses' experience, Libra. For now, the best approach to take with your knotty dilemmas is to welcome them as wild cards and X-factors that will bring you interesting experiences and valuable lessons - and just stop worrying about them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In one episode of the TV show *Seinfeld*, Elaine couldn't get her favorite Chinese restaurant to deliver take-out food to her apartment. The manager said her neighborhood was just beyond the boundary of where his drivers were authorized to travel. But Elaine was determined. She went over to the apartment building across the street which was within the restaurant's delivery zone and set up an alternate home for herself in a janitor's closet. I suggest you adopt a similar strategy, Scorpio. If you can't get what you want in the place where you are, shift your location.

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