

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

VOLUME 29 ★ NUMBER 14 DECEMBER 4, 2009

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the City, and Change

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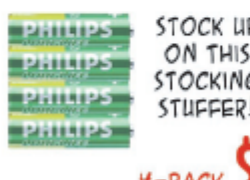
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Not Rocket Science

Public discourse has abandoned reasoned debate in favor of irrationality and insult

BY LOUIS BLACK

Regular readers might reasonably wonder why, over the last many months, this column has ignored certain political topics that once would have been its focus. Mostly this is because the vast majority of reasonable voices once engaged in serious public discussions have abandoned the field.

With the exception of a handful of politicians, thinkers, and pundits who are worth listening to (regardless of their differing points of view), the middle has been ceded to the fringes. The lunatics, destroying any hope of a reasonable center, have taken over. Their ranks include leftists, rightists, conservatives, liberals, Luddites, globalists, conspiracy theorists, capitalists, anti-capitalists, media pundits, reactionaries, radicals, anarchists, unacknowledged fascists, extreme environmentalists, and extreme anti-environmentalists, among so many others.

Ultimately, it's not just that the lunatics have taken over the asylum, but that they've gleefully moved it to the far side of Wackyland. The discourse there, divorced from civility, is guided by restrictive taboos forbidding such things as dependence on research, mutual respect, sincere inquiry, determined study, or any questioning of one's own beliefs. Instead, the local dialect celebrates accusations, condescending dismissals, statements offered with absolute certainty, and any opinion based on partisan bias.

This descent into the lower depths is evidenced in many ways, not the least of which is the extreme and absurd response to *any* action by President Obama.

Let's pause here to allow in the argument that President George W. Bush's administration suffered psychotic, dishonest, hateful, and pathological attacks so vicious as to be completely unprecedented in American politics. Get real! After the eight-year-long assault on President Clinton by the right, to claim that the left attacked Bush only because they harbored a pathological hatred for him demeans even the usual pathetic level of political discourse in Wackyland.

Immediately abandoned in the discussion are the Bush administration's policies. Ignored are Bush's tax cuts for the rich, disinterest in supporting the middle class, insane invasion of Iraq, fiscally irresponsible budgets, and anti-regulatory policies that left the economy in the worst shape it's been in for half a century. Clinton was hated for being Clinton — specifically for Hillary, his immorality, and his relations with an intern.

Which is not even to argue that the prevalence of uncontrolled partisan attacks on a standing administration began during the Clinton administration; throughout history, the level of antagonism on the federal level has risen and fallen. Recent attacks on presidents are in no way unprecedented.

Now, with Obama, too many of his detractors' ongoing "concerns" are so ridiculous as to be irrelevant. Questions about his birth certificate, religion, loyalties, intellectual orientation, and feelings on race are not just ludicrous but offensive. More disturbing, however, is that for an action by Obama to become controversial, it is no longer required to raise any political, ideological, strategic, partisan, or personal issues: Any and every action is fair game. Controversy has been generated by such formerly mundane presidential activities as using a teleprompter, flying to Europe in an effort to bring the Olympics to the United States, and being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The ancillary to "Oh George, Poor George, Someone's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad" is the absolutely brilliant strategy of claiming that two wrongs make a right. If there is a charge against any conservative, all one has to do is cite some equally grievous trespass by a Democrat. This apparently neutralizes the original claim, and it doesn't even really have to be valid.

Anything said about Obama, no matter how extreme, is immediately pasteurized to purity by citing injustices to Bush. A racist billboard demeaning Obama can be dismissed as "nothing compared to what was said about Bush." The

most venal accusations against the president are "compliments compared to what Bush had to endure." Signs featuring slurs against Obama are "soothing in contrast to the degradation of Bush."

Why would anyone attempt to participate in any kind of political discussion in this atmosphere?

In the same way most people don't get exactly how the law works, they also really don't get how science works. Science is about fact, but the very nature of the accuracy of "scientific fact" is more often than not open to principled, research-based disagreements. This is not to argue that any opinion on any scientific fact is of value. Crackpot theories, misread research results, unstated agendas, political pressures, intradisciplinary rivalries, and studies that are structured to confirm already-arrived-at results are among many of the factors that taint supposed "facts."

Any number of other factors can also skew the results of even the most strictly conducted scientific studies. Even with agreed-upon results, respected and learned scientists often disagree as to their meaning and implications. When a juried article is published in a respected scientific journal, it does not establish its conclusions as facts. Instead, it proves that it is a serious work offering a supportable thesis, backed by research studies conducted in accepted ways that can be duplicated.

The reason to bring that topic up here is because of some of the ongoing discussions in our "Postmarks" section and Internet forums on such topics as global warming and the fluoridation of water. When it comes to scientific studies, one can often find dozens — if not hundreds or more — of studies offering verifiable results that are used to support completely different and even contradictory theses on what the research means.

When writing on politics, history, anthropology, sociology, conspiracies, and the like, an advocate can find information in books and studies, on websites, and from leading authorities that reinforces his or her predetermined position, but no one regards that as serious research.

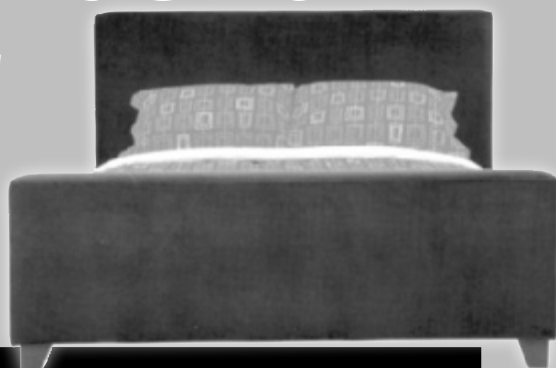
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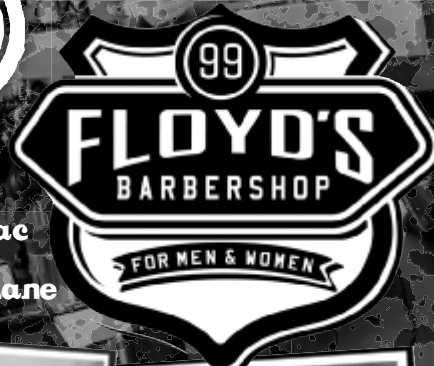
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I do know, however, that I'm sick to death of people arguing that their opinions are the unquestionable "truth" and that all those in disagreement are liars. I do know, as well, that it is only self-serving when someone posts a statement in the forums like: "Yes, fluoride is bad and the City of Austin knows it's bad, but what is worse is that the City uses hydro-fluorosilicic acid to fluoridate our water and there are strong studies done to show that using that agent causes an increased rate of absorption of lead by children, especially children who are raised in poverty environments." This argues that the city knows it is doing evil and that these "strong studies," which reinforce the writer's opinion, are to be accepted as scientific truth.

in global warming and those who don't are mostly quite sincere, with each being able to offer scientific information and studies to support his or her view?

The more complicated an issue is, usually the more research has been done on it, resulting in an extensive range of differing conclusions. When people simply quote or cite research materials that confirm their already-accepted points of view, they may be reassuring themselves, but rarely is such information going to change minds.

Given the difficulties described above, it is obvious that rather than doing the serious work required it is so much easier to deal with differing opinions by attacking those who hold them. Rather than addressing ideas, it is so much easier and more convenient to brand others with pejorative labels, calling them frauds, liars, con men, New World Order flunkies, capitalist apologists, the elites, politically motivated, hypocrites, delusional dupes, purposefully ignorant flunkies, and the like.

Now, such insults aren't science and are more juvenile than thoughtful. They aren't fair, scholarly, or logical, and they don't advance an argument. Actually, their sole purpose seems to be making the ones spewing them feel better about themselves – which must be the point, since that really is the only thing accomplished.

Next week: Back to the epic journey of “Me and Otto Binder.” ■

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Dear Editor,

Re: "Bill Narum (1947-2009)" ["Off the Record," Music, Nov. 27]: Bill was a friend and a fellow traveler since the late 1970s. We were not close but friends nonetheless and had dozens of mutual friends. La Bastille, Anderson Fair, Calico Print Company, KLOL, the Old Quarter, Fitzgerald's – during the late Seventies in Houston, Bill and his lovely artwork were everywhere all at once. I was a stringy punk kid just starting in the arts, yet Bill always had a kind word and a smile for me. I first met another young stringy kid by the name of Stevie Vaughan at one of Bill's openings at Anderson Fair. Nobody I know involved in the arts in the state of Texas ever had a single bad thing to say about Bill. Besides being a great artist, he was a fair and intelligent businessman. This is a rare combination anywhere – especially here. My return to Austin has not necessarily been easy. I've grown and so had the town while I was away. One of the highlights, however, was running into Bill at several openings. It was nice to see him again in a more settled and less mischievous environment. He seemed genuinely happy and very much at home and in love with Gloria. When the accounts are all settled, Bill will be remembered as a great American artist every bit the equal of Pollock, Rockwell, or Warhol. Together with his contemporaries – Franklin, Juke, Yeates, and Priest – he co-founded an entire school of art which continues to thrive today long after "the incense burned away." At one point in time, there was not a kid in Houston who didn't own a K101 runaway radio T-shirt. That station and its programmers helped to start Southern rock and started my lifelong love affair with radio. I still listen all night long. He influenced hundreds of thousands of Texas artists just by being himself and doing his own thing very well. My sincerest condolences to Gloria, Michelle, Nico, Billy, Dusty, Frank, and Bill. "When things go wrong, so wrong with you it hurts me too." – *Elmore James*

Vaya con dios, amigo,
Jeff J. Newman

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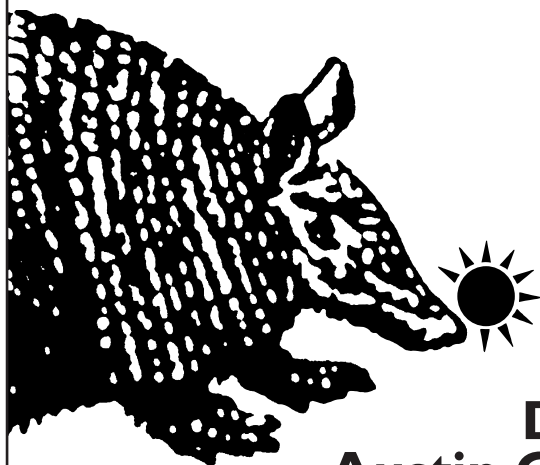
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GREAT ROLLER DERBY STORY

Dear Editor,

My compliments to the *Chronicle* and Richard Whittaker for the excellent article on the Roller Derby experience ["Electric Skaterland," Sports, Nov. 27]. As an avid fan, I was very impressed with the way the *Chronicle* covered this story.

It is a fascinating story of the revival of Roller Derby as a sport that has become a worldwide phenomenon in just a few short years, and it all started right here in Austin. Not since the book *Rollergirl: Totally True Tales From the Track* by Melissa "Melicious" Joulwan has this fascinating story been told as well. Congratulations for a job well done.

Eric Anderson
aka Honey Man

acquire. Unfortunately, fluoride is a cumulative toxin, never wholly excreted, building up in the body over years and decades to work its damage down the line.

The standard 1.0 part per million dilution used for municipal fluoridation is more than sufficient to negatively impact the body's systems – most notably the skeleton. In fact, when a team of crime busters converged on Death Valley last March to search for yet-undiscovered remains of Charles Manson Family victims on the 40th anniversary of the Family's arrest, they used a high tech diagnostic tool to distinguish human from animal bones – an instrument which detects fluoride buildup in the bones of people consuming fluoridated urban water. If that's not a scary thought, then nothing is.

Rae Nadler-Olenick

EVENHANDED FLUORIDATION

Dear Editor,

Wells Dunbar's thorough, well-researched, and evenhanded coverage of the difficult water fluoridation issue ["Unstable Element," News, Nov. 27] is to be commended. Just one point bears some clarification. To parse the statement "Fluoride overdoses do occur, although not necessarily associated with municipal fluoridation – it's more often a consequence of industrial production or else a rural anomaly." The first part is entirely correct. The second part, however, could be taken to mean that most overexposure today comes from industrial production or water wells high in natural fluoride. That's true of acute overdoses, but not the kind of gradual overload that people drinking artificially fluoridated water

NEGLECTING VOODOO GLOW SKULLS

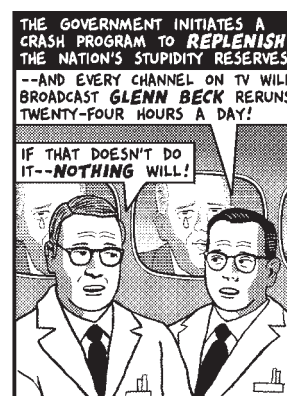
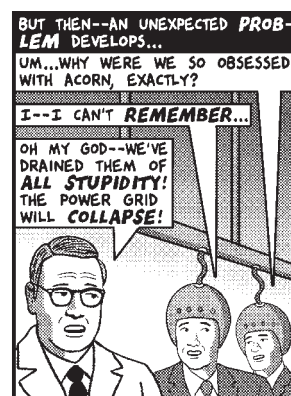
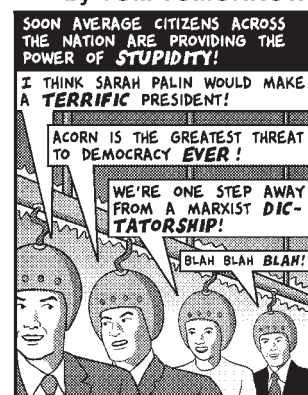
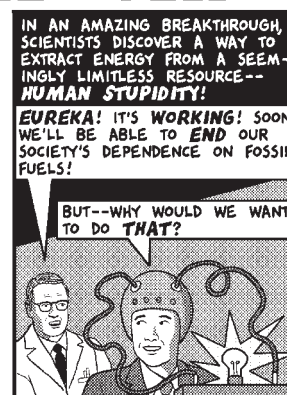
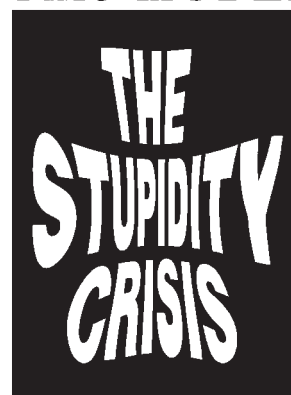
Dear Editor,

OK, so I don't know who does your "Recommended" section [Music, Nov. 27], but they need a serious kick in the ass! Voodoo Glow Skulls and the Toasters played Sunday, Nov. 29, and it's great the show got recommended, but all the idiot wrote was (and they only listed VGS ... no Toasters), "Hope they got here Saturday to see the Skatalites." Really? Not the fact that the Toasters have been around since 1981 and are one of the first American bands in the third wave of ska and may be the longest active ska band in the United States. Or the fact that Voodoo Glow Skulls have been actively tour-

CONTINUED ON P.10

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by TOM TOMORROW



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POSTMARKS CONTINUED FROM P.8

ing and putting out records since 1988. But facts like that don't matter, do they?

Al Shire

[Music Editor Raoul Hernandez replies: Audra Schroeder edits Music Listings (aka Recommended), but I wrote Soundcheck last week. Sorry I missed the Toasters, both information-wise and live. Bet they went to see the Skatalites if they hit town early enough!]

AGRIBUSINESS AT FAULT?

Dear Editor,

Re: "Crackdown" [Food, Nov. 27]: I can't help but wonder if at least some part of the burden on small egg farmers to provide expensive quality controls with dubious value can be traced back to the influence of large agricultural businesses. These large businesses are often significant campaign contributors to candidates, with the tacit understanding that laws will be supported to protect their businesses from regulations and competitors. Even an honorable legislator may rationalize throwing one small, wholesome segment of his constituents under the bus in order to get elected and "do so much good for so many others."

One remedy is to establish publicly funded campaigns that would help neutralize the

influence of these special interests and liberate many more representatives to support pragmatic and fair public policies. Such a bill is before Congress – House Resolution 1826, the Fair Elections Now Act – which already has 117 co-sponsors. Call your representative.

Paul Silver

Common Cause of Texas

MISSING ON 'THE ROAD'

Dear Editor,

While reading the review of *The Road* [Film Listings, Nov. 27], I couldn't help but think that the shallow reviewer was out of his or her depth. Anyone familiar with Cormac McCarthy's work knows *The Road* isn't going to be a lighthearted, happy-go-lucky kind of film. So why make such an idiotic comparison? Evidently, understanding themes of apocalypse and humanity's desperate efforts to deal with such a terrible force is beyond the reviewer's skill. I haven't even seen *The Road* yet, but I will not let the sophomoric ramblings of the reviewer deter me from checking out the work of veteran artists such as Viggo Mortensen, McCarthy, and Robert Duvall.

Michael Finney

CONTINUED ON P.12

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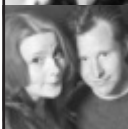
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12/03



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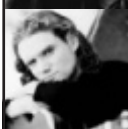
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IF HE CAN'T MAKE IT HERE ...

Dear Editor,

Re: *The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* [Film Listings, Nov. 27]: One theatre in Austin? Playing only three times a day? I thought Austin was a place where you could make it. I don't see Harvey Weinstein walking around this town. I guess he's one of the guys still calling the shots, even in Austin. Troy Duffy had some serious adjusting to do, but don't you think the guy can get a fair next shot at the business? Dude, talk about a guy who's blocked from getting the filmmaker's dream. I thought it was tough to break into this city, but this is the guy who created *The Boondock Saints*. If Troy Duffy can't do well here, how good of a chance do us without a cult hit have? I say little to none.

Troy Williams

FISHY FLUORIDATION

Dear Editor,

The *Chronicle* article on water fluoridation totally misses the point ["Unstable Element," News, Nov. 27]. To demonstrate, let me make an analogy to a group of folks who decided they wanted sardines in their cheesecake. To rationalize this, they found experts to say that sardines are good for you. On that basis, they put sardines in your cheesecake. Never mind that you don't want sardines in your dessert; you just can't have your dessert without sardines because all cheesecake now has sardines in it. You have no choice and no notice of the sardines either, so when you buy cheesecake, you find they slipped a few in on you. To make matters worse, these folks came and took some money out of your

wallet to pay for the sardines. The price has risen due to this practice.

Now this would be less of a problem in the real world, but in this world, you will die if you don't eat cheesecake. You also must bathe in fish-ridden cheesecake and you must feed and soak your children in that slop. You simply don't have any choice in the matter. Other folks have decided for you.

To make matters worse, in this world, sardines are a drug. You have no choice but to be drugged by those who claim to be experts but have no liability for their words nor the implementation of this forced drugging.

I would object to that practice and all other practices similar to it. In all instances, fluoridation of the public water supply is a mighty fishy practice.

Brian Jurek



READ TEXAS BILL OF RIGHTS

Dear Editor,

Re: "Paul Not a Fierce Defender of Liberty" ["Postmarks," Nov. 27]: Maybe Christian Wagner should read the Texas Constitution to learn that we don't need the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to protect our rights of speech, religion, press, and peaceful assembly. In particular, sections 6, 8, and 27 of Article 1 deal with these important matters.

Brian Parrett

FINANCIAL CRISIS MUST BE OVER

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see the Austin City Council vote unanimously to give the Texas Department

of Transportation \$16 million to build additional highway flyovers directly over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Since this construction will primarily benefit suburban commuters, this must mean the financial crisis is over. I can't imagine City Council giving TxDOT \$16 million of our money to facilitate even more sprawl in Travis and Hays counties unless every central city priority had already been met and they just couldn't think of anything else to spend it on. TxDOT plans to pay "80% of the money back over 10 to 15 years," during which time the city will pay \$2 million to \$3 million in interest. What a great deal for Austin taxpayers! Of course, given how broke TxDOT is, I wouldn't necessarily hold my breath waiting. One can only imagine what kind of secret backroom

CONTINUED ON P.14

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POSTMARKS CONTINUED FROM P.12

deals with roadway lobbyists led to this particular fleecing of Austin taxpayers. One can only imagine, because a few years ago Austin voters, with much encouragement from this very publication, wisely decided that ordinary citizens have no business whatsoever knowing what happens in meetings between City Council folk and lobbyists and soundly defeated an initiative requiring transparency in local government. An anonymous local pundit was kind enough to explain it to me: "Government simply can't function without secret meetings between elected officials and lobbyists, you naive dolt!" Silly me; I had no idea. But anyway, as I was saying, given that the financial crisis is over and all, I'm looking forward to a nice fat property-tax cut next year. Many thanks to City Council. Central Austin voters could really use a break next year, and thanks to your extraordinary fiscal prudence, it looks like we're finally going to get one. You guys rock!

Patrick Goetz

RELAY CLOSINGS WARRANTED

Dear Editor,

Five months until the Texas Relays, and we are hearing about racism already. The public urination and fights are real, the gunshots are real, the traffic snarls (due to lines of cars ignoring red lights on the southbound I-35 access road) are real, and the assaults on local club workers are real. Downtown businesses closed (or planned to) because regulars stay home, business is poor (usually just like Mardi Gras and Halloween), and their

employees are at risk. These establishments close not because the people are black; it's because the people are assholes.

Tim Pipe

OBAMA LETDOWN

Dear Editor,

Whereas during the campaign and election night and for a bit longer, I hung on every word during Obama's excellent speeches – he does do that so well – last night I was only half-listening to his Afghanistan speech. I couldn't help but think much of what he said, and his choice (or his speechwriters' choices) of words sounded so much like Bush. I suppose that any time presidents announce an increase in troop strength, they follow a similar rhetorical path in order to rationalize what is effectively an irrational and uncivilized act. So I shouldn't be surprised. But I do feel like a fool for letting my guard down and too easily being lured into one-phrase campaign promises like "hope" and "change." I really don't consider myself to be a Democrat, but for purposes of helping to get Obama elected, I became an Obama delegate to the Texas Democratic Party convention. Little by little, I've felt increasingly duped. There is an entire generation of new voters and people who newly engaged in the political process in order to get Obama elected who were just tools. People vote for presidents. But what makes a president is the insular cadre of insiders and advisers. Obama has become what we should have expected. The novelty of him being the first African-American president has certainly worn off.

Stefan Wray

ALIEN INVASION

Dear Editor,

Although Louis Black is averse to conspiracy theories, I have to report this one that is critical to life here on Earth. Aliens have invaded our planet! The TV show *V* premiered recently to act as subterfuge and confuse us about the reality of the situation. But the evidence is overwhelming. For example, for years our government has been operating with a growing deficit, yet it's only been a few short months that our country has been besieged by teabagging fanatics screaming about our future debt. Where were they before? I'll tell you: They were on another planet! They haven't quite got our system down, though. This explains simple mistakes such as disguising themselves as retired people who protest against socialized medicine – even though all Earthlings know that's Medicare. Here's more proof: Remember how during the previous administration people who opposed him were arrested for any anti-Bush behavior – even for wearing T-shirts (2004, West Virginia)? Now you can actually show up at Obama protest rallies with loaded weapons! Why? Because our police force has been compromised by aliens! Oh, these new cops are trying to fit in. They'll occasionally shoot or kill some random black person, but that's largely because they haven't perfected that skin tone in their disguises and also figure it's part of accepted cop behavior. Which points back to the first clue – no black teabaggers! So next time you see a teabagger ranting about the end of our society, you'll know it's true because the aliens have invaded.

Jay Williams

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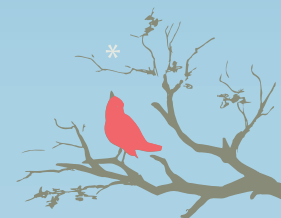
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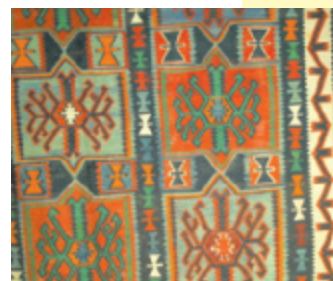
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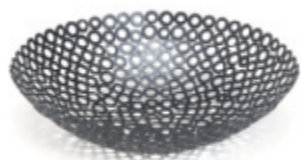
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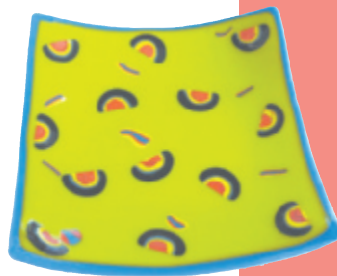
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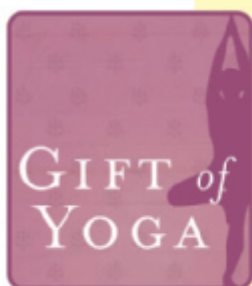
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Headlines



JANA BIRCHUM

- ▶ Austin state Sen. **Kirk Watson** announced Monday his decision to step down as chair of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**, the body of elected officials that drives transportation planning in Central Texas. Watson said he'll step aside in January to open up more seats for Bastrop and Caldwell counties, which just joined CAMPO. Is Watson positioning himself to run for a higher office? His office says no.
- ▶ **City Council** takes a break this week – returning next Thursday, Dec. 10 – but issues continue to circulate around City Hall. See “City Hall Hustle,” p.20.
- ▶ Austin and Travis County want to get out in front of the **2010 census**, which determines federal state funding and congressional representation. Monday, Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** and County Judge **Sam Biscoe** announced a citizen-powered “Complete Count Committee” encouraging and assisting everyone to answer.
- ▶ Elections again already? Filing opens Dec. 3 for a slot on the March 2, 2010, primary ballot. Speculation is still rampant about whether Democratic Houston Mayor **Bill White** will switch from the Senate primary to the governor's race.
- ▶ Another Travis County court seat opens up with District Judge **Charlie Baird**'s decision not to seek re-election next year to the 299th bench, clearing the way for Assistant District Attorney **Karen Sage** to switch her judicial bid from the 147th court (leaving Cliff Brown as the sole Dem contender) to Baird's seat. And in apparent noncampaign news, fired Travis County executive manager **Alicia Perez** says she's not running against County Judge **Sam Biscoe**, contrary to rumors.
- ▶ As the multiyear drought rolls on, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has established an **Office of Water**, consolidating the existing offices of Water Planning, Water Supply, and Water Quality, and named Water Quality Director **L'Oreal Stepney** as its inaugural deputy director. TCEQ Chair **Bryan Shaw** said, the move was an attempt to get serious about water resources. There's no time like the present.
- ▶ More questions about security at **Texas Youth Commission** facilities and more embarrassment for Gov. **Rick Perry**: One of his appointees, TYC ombudsman and ex-Judge **Catherine Evans**, resigned after being indicted for taking a knife into Crockett State School in East Texas.



JANA BIRCHUM

Shoppers eye a jewelry display at Tesoros Trading Co., which took part in Austin Unchained Day, Nov. 28, as part of the annual event drummed up by independent retailers to promote the merry sound of “ka-ching!” at local shops during the holidays.

Twilight of the Empire

Waist-deep in the big desert, the orders arrive to march on

BY MICHAEL KING

Whatever else we might think of it, President Barack Obama's decision to send 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan shouldn't come as a surprise. In contrast to his expressed opposition to the war on Iraq, Obama (like the other major candidates) campaigned on and has consistently described the Afghanistan conflict as a “war of necessity.” This was the war to wreak vengeance upon and destroy al Qaeda, the murderers of 9/11. So it's a bit puzzling to see, for prominent example, filmmaker-activist Michael Moore shocked that Obama is indeed going to do what he said he was going to do, thereby demonstrating that “all politicians are alike.” How – in that they keep their promises?

That's not to say the latest LBJ-like escalation is a good idea. Even the generals admit that scarcely 100 al Qaeda fighters remain in Afghanistan – we need 100,000 to capture or kill 100? Not even the Persians were so foolish at Thermopylae. On those numbers alone, we should declare victory and begin an orderly withdrawal – even the ragtag Afghan army is fully sufficient, and sufficiently motivated, to rid the country of a handful of foreign thugs. Instead, we are now told that we must dislodge, if not eliminate, “the Taliban” (a mysterious appellation that means

quite different things according to who's talking) – when every single day that the U.S. remains as an occupying army, we enlarge the ranks of the Taliban.

Obama's 2010 “surge” will bring the total to roughly 100,000 U.S. troops, or about the same as the very slowly “drawing-down” number in Iraq – with the now-explicit deadline of July 2011 for a similar withdrawal from Afghanistan. We'll see. It's not quite the 40,000 that Gen. Stanley McChrystal publicly (and dishonorably) demanded, but the bitter truth is that's about all Obama can currently deliver from actually available forces. The imperial well is frankly running dry.

By official military estimates, it would take at least 200,000 troops to maintain an effective counterinsurgency. Many of these soldiers will be redeploying for the second or third or fourth time – is there any reason to believe that the already extraordinary strains on these young people and their families will lessen in the coming years? In the absence of a real jobs program – that would just cost too much, is the utterly hypocritical refrain, while we prepare to waste another \$30 billion on conquest – is this all they can muster instead?

CONTINUED ON P.21

QUOTE of the WEEK



JANA BIRCHUM

“The path to peace and security will not be found through a wider war.”

– Austin Congressman Lloyd Doggett, responding to President Obama's announcement of a troop surge in Afghanistan

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Naked City

► **BLAST FROM THE PREHISTORIC PAST** An ancient species of plant, previously unknown, has been found in the Colorado River bottoms of Travis County and named ***Iva corbinii*** after its discoverer, Save Our Springs Alliance Treasurer **Robert “Crocodile” Corbin**. The discovery is featured in the December issue of *Lundellia*, the journal of the University of Texas at Austin’s Plant Resources Center. “When I saw [the plant],” said PRC Director Billie Turner, “I thought someone was pulling a trick.” Turner was initially reluctant to call it a new species because Corbin could not relocate the original sample, found at Montopolis Bridge. It turned out someone had dug it up, but Corbin and PRC researcher Bill Carr found a larger colony farther downstream, near Hornsby Bend. Roughly 6 feet tall and related to sunflowers and the small-flowered marsh elder, *Iva corbinii* spreads under the ground through rhizomes. DNA evidence indicates it could be an extremely primitive species, potentially going back millions of years. Turner called Corbin’s discovery “amazing, because [the area has] had so many botanists studying it for a hundred years, and he was the first one to find it.” — *Richard Whittaker*

► **UT RALLY CALLS FOR JUSTICE FOR BHOPAL** Protesters will gather on the UT campus Thursday, Dec. 3, to mark the 25th anniversary of a tragedy in Bhopal, India, that killed thousands of people — and to call for amends from the company they say is responsible. On Dec. 3, 1984, a toxic chemical leak from a pesticide factory owned by **Union Carbide** — now a subsidiary of **Dow Chemical** — killed 8,000 people and has caused exposure-related illnesses in 150,000 more since then, according to Vinay Pandey of **Association for India’s Development**, the group that organized the UT event. In conjunction with similar events around the world, participants in the rally will be calling on Dow to face criminal trial in India and to clean up Bhopal’s poisoned groundwater — from which 20,000 people still drink, says Pandey. In 2006, the UT Student Government and Graduate Student Council passed resolutions requesting that UT “only accept funds from Dow Chemical Company in an amount equal to the funds spent to clean up the Bhopal site.” A petition urging UT President William Powers to act on those resolutions is at austin.aidindia.org. The rally — a “die-in” in memory of those lost in the disaster — begins at 11am in the West Mall. — *Nora Ankrum*

► **FRAUGHT FINANCIAL FUTURE** More worrying signs for the Texas economy and the future of the state budget: According to the **2009 State of Texas Annual Cash Report**, issued by Comptroller Susan Combs, Texas only collected \$37.8 billion in taxes in the 2009 financial year — down \$3.6 billion from FY 2008 and \$1.1 billion below Combs’ January forecast. The **Center for Public Policy Priorities** followed the report with an analysis on Dec. 1 indicating that sales tax revenues for the first two months of FY 2010 are down 12.7% from the same period last year. This news came after the Nov. 20 announcement by the Texas Workforce Commission that, although the state added 41,700 nonagricultural jobs in October, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.3%. While commission Chair Tom Pauken was enthusiastic about the new jobs, he said it was “too soon to indicate a trend.” In total, Texas has lost 307,200 jobs in the 12 months ending in October. — *R.W.*

NEWS

FLUORIDE, FIREWALLS, AND FUSION

The paranoid style in Austin politics

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The city manager’s report was just the tip of the fluoridated iceberg. Austin’s **fluoridation policies**, defended in a city staff report commissioned by Marc Ott and sent to City Council Nov. 13, continue to come under fire. As we reported last week (“Unstable Element,” Nov. 27), due to continuing complaints from citizens opposed to municipal fluoridation, a report assembled by Assistant City Manager **Rudy Garza** came out swinging in support of the practice, saying it has “no harmful impact to human health or adverse effect on aquatic life and provides a public benefit in preventing dental decay.”

However, the staff report on the popular periodic table mainstay seems to have left members of the city’s **Environmental Board** out of their element. The controversy stems from a recommendation the board issued this summer, asking for a task force to examine fluoride policies. As board members serve in only an advisory role, their entreaty to the City Council went apparently unacted upon — until the board learned of the report’s existence. Some were dismayed, to say the least, about not being further consulted or even told of city staff taking the council directive into their own hands.

“I too am very disappointed at the lack of communication regarding this important health matter,” Environmental Board Secretary **Phil Moncada** wrote in an e-mail to Garza and others, calling the breakdown “another disappointment in regard to open communication and transparency.” For his part, Garza says the board’s city staff liaison had previously contacted the Water Utility for a briefing on the staff report, thereby implying some familiarity with its findings.

That briefing on the staff report was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 2, as we go to press. Several of the principals cited in the study, including Health and Human Resources Department Medical Director **Philip Huang** and Austin Water Utility Assistant Treatment Director **Jane Burazer**, will be on hand to defend their findings. Specifically, it sounds like Moncada is concerned about Austin’s fluoride additive — **hydro-fluorosilicic acid**, which is created by phosphate fertilizer manufacturers and is essentially leftovers from the refinement process. “No portion of the report mentions that they are taking a waste product and referring to it as fluoride that is being added to our drinking water,” Moncada writes.

Put that in your margarita and drink it.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

Elsewhere in the Hustle threat report: As a newspaperman, I’m acutely cognizant of the fact the Internet will one day eat us alive. But what of a Web shutdown? It clearly threatens govern-

ment functions, international commerce, and the latest pornography technology. But rest assured: Your City Council is on the case. Council Member **Laura Morrison** will take part in a “cyber security table top exercise” on Thursday, Dec. 3. The goals are “to encourage group discussion about vulnerabilities, policies and procedures, and mitigation strategies” and to “maximize cyber security awareness,” writes **Otis J. Latin**, director of Austin’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Oh, and lunch will be provided too.

Sure, the Hustle’s having some LOLs at the overheated security rhetoric, but our hat’s off to Morrison for taking part. We should also note her newest office hire, **Reagan Hackleman**. News 8 Austin’s former City Hall reporter, Hackleman is the latest in the long line of media professionals to switch from reporting on City Hall to working in it: previous *Chron* scribe **Rachel Proctor May**, first in Brewster McCracken’s former council office, now at Austin Energy; former National Public Radio reporter **Larry Schooler**, now a Community Engagement Coordinator at the city; and of course, former *Chronicle* Politics Editor **Daryl Slusher**, now tasked with the thankless gig of environmental affairs at Austin Water Utility after his City Council stint. The city is a popular destination — where else would you expect policy wonks to land?

COLD FUSION

Switching from security threats external to internal, the **ACLU of Texas** held a press conference Wednesday, asking what the hell is up with Austin’s “**fusion center**” — cross-referenced databases used to track and, in some cases, supposedly predict criminal activity. Austin’s fusion center proposal, creating the **Austin Regional Intelligence Center**, came before the City Council in August. Police Chief **Art Acevedo** said at the time that the ARIC would only assemble existing police records — arrest and incident reports — and none of the private-sector data that sets privacy advocates on edge. The ARIC was slated to be up and running by year’s end, and the ACLU was eager to provide input. But, they say, the response has been a deafening silence. An ACLU letter to the chief Nov. 6 reads, “two months have passed and we have not received a response to our recommendations regarding the draft privacy policy.” Now it’s been another month, and the ACLU hopes to force the issue with the press conference, featuring ACLU representatives and former City Council Member **Jackie Goodman**.

Fluoride, cyber-terror, fusion centers: It sure beats writing about zoning variances.

Encrypt your tweets to www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle.

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FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.72.**

THURSDAY 03

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: AISD BUDGET ISSUES A get-together with Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** to discuss school district dollars. 6pm. *Travis High School, 1211 E. Oltorf.*

LAINEY’S BALLOT BLOWOUT Celebrate **Lainey Melnick**’s bid for Congress representing Texas’ 21st District. The Asylum Street Spankers perform. 6:30pm. *Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 799-0626. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.laineyforcongress.com.*

WOMEN FOR CLIFF BROWN A ladies’ get-together to support 147th District Court candidate Cliff Brown. 6-7:30pm. See *website for location. \$25 suggested donation. www.cliffbrownforjudge.com.*

FRIDAY 04

EAT LOCAL A multimedia sustainable food night with special guests from the food, film, and book worlds, including **Ana Sofia Joanes**, director/pro-

ducer of *Fresh*, and **Pamela Walker**, author of *Growing Good Things to Eat in Texas*. Local food and beverages available. 6-8pm. *BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

FAIR FOOD AUSTIN BENEFIT CONCERT Join in the fight for fair wages and dignified working conditions in the U.S. agricultural industry. 10pm-2am. *Music Gym, 815 E. Sixth, 939-2524. \$5 suggested donation. www.fairfoodaustin.blogspot.com.*

SATURDAY 05

PODER HOUSE PARTY FUNDRAISER Yummy treats, dancing, and an open mic make it easy to join the effort to keep **People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources** afloat in these troubled economic times. 7pm-12mid. \$10. *For location details, see www.poder-texas.org.*

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR *Edible Austin* and the Bicycle Sport Shop invite families to take rider-friendly routes to farms and community gardens all over town. Stops include children’s hands-on gar-

dening activities, henhouse tours, farm tours, and samplings. Tours leave from three spots: *Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar; Sunset Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones; Austin Farmers’ Market, Fourth & Guadalupe*. Proceeds benefit **Urban Roots’** youth-development program. Buy tickets online. 10am. \$25 (\$40/family). www.bicyclesportshop.com.

BUS RIDERS UNION MEETING Get on the bus and bring a dish to share at this end-of-the-year potluck. 11am. *Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.busatx.org.*

SUNDAY 06

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN This week, **Bo McCarver** discusses the **Blackland Community Development Corp.** 10am. 5555 N. Lamar Ste. L-137, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

MAYOR BILL WHITE RALLY Sen. **Kirk Watson** hosts this show of support for the Houston mayor’s bid for governor. 5-7pm. *Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto. Free. www.billwhitefortexas.com.*

MONDAY 07

HISTORY OF HORNSBY BEND Learn about Texas’ first biosolids composting program (Dillo Dirt) and other green projects at Hornsby Bend. Noon. *Waller Center, 625 E. 10th, Rm. 105. www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm.*

LIVEABLE CITY HOLIDAY PARTY Eat, drink, schmooze, and find fabulous gifts at the silent auction, all in support of Liveable City’s work for policies that are good for Austin’s long-term social, environmental, and economic needs. 5:30-8pm, *El Sol y la Luna, Sixth & Red River. www.liveablecity.org.*

TUESDAY 08

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM Meet and talk with candidates for the criminal court races, County Court at Law 3, and the 147th District Court. 5:30pm. *Southwest Key Community Center, 6002 Jain. Free. vjoiner@swkey.org.*

Obama struck all the careful notes about limited goals and Afghan responsibility, and a reassurance that after *eight years* of an increasingly unpopular war, it should only be two or three more, and that there is in fact light at the end of the tunnel, etc. Salon's Glenn Greenwald had a useful column Tuesday showing how closely the Obama explanations of the "new" strategy echo the Bush explanations of the "old" strategy. He might as easily have cited Lord Auckland in 1838, declaring that the British were arriving to defend the Afghans against "foreign occupation and factious opposition." That worked out really well.

On the floor of the House Wednesday, Austin Congressman Lloyd Doggett put the likely situation succinctly: "2011 will not mark the end of the war, just the beginning of the next installment request for what is already a deteriorating eight-year war, whose elusive end is always just over the horizon."

Down These Mean Streets

Although a source is hard to come by, the story goes that Mohandas Gandhi was once asked by a reporter, "What do you think of Western civilization?" and the sage coyly replied, "I think it would be a very good idea." In fact the question gives the game away — who are we to ask such things of those for whom our "civilization" has historically meant, first and foremost, war, devastation, occupation, subjugation?

Apocryphal or not, it's a helpful text in contemplating our latest contribution to Eastern civilization — yet another expansion of the wars in the Middle East and South Asia, yet more death and devastation for U.S. soldiers, and much more suffering of Afghan men, women, and children, in our names. In the wake of Obama's speech, there will undoubtedly be a temporary spike in his approval ratings, with reflexive hawks in both parties welcoming his decision as "difficult but necessary" and applauding the manliness of facing our responsibilities head on. Speaking only politically, Obama undoubtedly believed he had no choice —

even to withdraw, he would first have to escalate — and it's unlikely that there is sufficient congressional opposition to create a serious roadblock.

Eventually, the Afghans will receive the latest U.S. message more directly, at gunpoint — how do you think those Afghan poll numbers would look?

There are all sorts of ancillary theories about why we are in Afghanistan — squelching "terrorism," contemplating future gas pipelines, staving off disaster in Pakistan, suppressing the opium trade, clumsily spreading pseudo-democracy — and each has some small merit. But all together they do not explain why the U.S. is in fact pursuing an irrational, counterproductive, exhausting, and self-destructive policy that bankrupts the homeland while not beginning to accomplish its explicit purposes.

More simply, the U.S. behaves in this way internationally because we have a virtual monopoly on military force, spending more on our specialty than the rest of the world combined. When confronting foreign difficulties, it has become almost the only thing we know how to do, well or badly. As the old saw goes, when your only tool is a hammer, every problem seems to demand plenty of nails. More distressingly, once proud of our civilian political traditions, over the past century we have steadily constructed a national culture (and corporate economy) that increasingly honors, promotes, and openly thrives on militarism and aggression and reflexively disdains and excoriates compromise and international collaboration.

In sum, we are making more war on Afghanistan because we have been making war on Afghanistan, and therefore it is necessary to keep making war on Afghanistan. The treadmill continues to move relentlessly, and no national politician dares step off — indeed cannot even conceive of such a course — because we no longer know how to live in the world in peace. Once that has happened, the tactical military decisions along the way no longer seem to make much difference. ■

WEDNESDAY 09

AUSTIN CARRIAGE BLUE SANTA TOY DRIVE
Bring an unwrapped toy in exchange for a free carriage ride, and help the **Austin Police Department** help local kids this holiday season. No reservations taken. 6:30-10pm. Downtown Central Fire Station, East Fifth & Trinity, 243-0044. www.austincarriage.com/transportation.html.

NUECES BICYCLE BOULEVARD OPEN HOUSE
Learn about the bikeway and share your two cents at this public discussion and design charrette. 6-8pm. Pease Elementary, 1106 Rio Grande.

THURSDAY 10

URBAN GEOGRAPHY LESSON Part 2 of geographer **Eliot Tretter's** series on Austin history and geography covers the battle between the local business community and environmental organizations and its effect on Downtown renewal. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.

HERITAGE HILLS/WINDSOR HILLS LAND-USE WORKSHOP 6:30-8:45pm.
Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg.
www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.

THE ROLE OF MICRO-LENDING IN THE U.S.
PeopleFund hosts this talk from **Lisa Servon**, dean of Milano the New School for Management and Urban Policy. Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 472-8087. \$20 (\$15, in advance). ayleen@peoplefund.org.

ONGOING

BROWN SANTA needs volunteers to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to families this holiday season. To participate, call 24-SANTA. Brown Santa also accepts donations of nonperishable food items, books, unwrapped toys (new or gently used), and cash; drop off at the warehouse or mail to: Brown Santa, PO Box 207, Austin, TX 78767-0207. (Or donate online: www.brownsanta.org.) Brown Santa Warehouse, 15400 Long Vista #101.



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Solid Waste Services Toward a greener future

For a city that regards itself as environmentally conscious, Austin's recycling policies often lack coherence. Now the City Council is poised to make three important decisions that would add direction, infrastructure, and leadership to the issue: selecting a new director for **Solid Waste Services**, renegotiating the existing recycling contract with **Greenstar North America**, and building the city's own **materials recovery facility**, or MRF.

First up is hiring a new Solid Waste Services boss. Six months ago, longtime department chief **Willie Rhodes** was moved to head up Code Compliance (see "Beside the Point," June 5) and Assistant Director **Tammie Williamson** became his interim replacement. On Nov. 5, the city released a short list of potential permanent replacements, all from outside of Austin and all with strong backgrounds in recycling policy and innovation (see "Austin's Next Garbage Czar?," right). Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** said he expected City Manager **Marc Ott** to confirm a final selection before the end of January and possibly before the end of the year. As for the city's decision to look outside of Austin for a replacement, Leffingwell said, "We need to get someone with a different viewpoint, someone from outside of Solid Waste Services."

On arrival, the new director faces the ongoing recycling debate. Since 2008, Austin has contracted with Greenstar to sort recyclables collected in the big blue single-stream bins and sell them: After deducting preagreed costs, the city and Greenstar split the revenue. When the international recycling market collapsed last year, wholesale prices dropped below processing costs, so Austin now owes Greenstar roughly \$2.3 million in fees. However, Leffingwell argued that the overall program still succeeded by increasing recycling by 50%, and, he said, "We didn't lose money overall because we saved so much money by shifting to single-stream." (The savings came primarily from reduced transport costs from running fewer collection trucks.)

With the Greenstar contract expiring in October 2010, the city opened discussions in August for an extension (see "The Greenstar Contract," below), with three options of varying lengths and fee cuts on the table. These new negotiations mark the return of a familiar face to City Hall: former mayor and former mayoral-candidate-turned-registered-lobbyist **Carole Keeton Strayhorn**. She's representing Greenstar, and, according to Solid Waste Advisory Commission Chair **Gerard Acuna**, the commissioners only

became aware of the progress of the negotiations when Strayhorn e-mailed them Nov. 15 to push for the longest possible extension. In her e-mail, she asked SWAC "to urge [council] to initiate discussion on the original Greenstar proposal [the longest option] if it is not offered for consideration by staff."

Acuna said he's concerned that this is a rerun of 2008, when, he said, "we weren't privy to the negotiations. We were just presented with a one-page document that said the city was going to make \$3 million." He argued that if council had allowed them due diligence, then SWAC could have critiqued the deal to verify those numbers. He explained, "If you're being assessed \$70 a ton for processing the fiber component and \$90 a ton for rigid beverage containers, the markets would have to be absolutely phenomenal" to turn a profit.

Under Greenstar's longest-running proposal, the company would continue to provide services through 2013, making the contract as long as its original bid, which the city rejected in 2008. Leffingwell said he had met with his SWAC appointee, Vice Chair **Rick Cofer**, and they are "in agreement that we don't want to go for a long-term extension" since the city only needs coverage "while we're building a MRF of our own."

That leaves the third big pending decision – building that local MRF. The city originally hired infrastructure consultants R.W. Beck Inc. to start working on designs and permitting for a local MRF in 2007, to come online with single-stream collection last year. That plan collapsed in confusion (see "Solid Waste: Who's Driving the Train?," Nov. 21, 2008), so Leffingwell said he's treating this new MRF as an overdue priority. On Nov. 16, the city issued an open-ended request for proposals for "dynamic, creative recycling solutions that contribute towards the City's climate protection plan and zero-waste initiative," including a MRF. There will

be a preproposal meeting in council chambers on Dec. 4 and a Jan. 5, 2010, submission deadline, with a final decision scheduled for June 2010 (see details at www.cityofaustin.org/sws/mrf.htm). Greenstar Chief Operating Officer **Dennis Soriano** confirmed that his firm will submit a proposal, as well as seek a contract extension. Considering all the delays, no one is holding their breath for a quick completion, and Greenstar is building a safety net into the proposed extensions. Soriano said, "If any of these options run out and the MRF is not ready, they would have the



Former Austin mayor and recent mayoral candidate Carole Keeton Strayhorn has recycled her career many times over the last several decades; now she's a registered influence peddler, lobbying on behalf of Greenstar.

option to extend for an additional six months on the same terms and conditions."

Acuna called this whole process "our opportunity to right the ship," but he remains concerned about signing a new contract with Greenstar and closing submissions on the MRF before the new director is fully in office. He said the short-listed candidates "all come from communities that have already initiated a public and/or private single-stream facility. So I think we should step back, hire them, then hire someone to work with Solid Waste Services to put out the most incredible RFP possible."

– Richard Whittaker

Austin's Next Garbage Czar?

The short-listed candidates vying to become the next director of Solid Waste Services:

- **Victoria Garland**, Solid Waste Services director, Charlotte, N.C.
- **Robert Gedert**, director of a non-profit advocacy group, California Resource Recovery Association
- **Michael Lopker**, deputy Public Works director, Solid Waste Field Services, Phoenix, Ariz.
- **Shirlene Sitton**, Recycling Division manager, Solid Waste Department, city of Denton
- **Ellen Smyth**, Environmental Services Department director, city of El Paso
- **Donna K. Turbyfill**, deputy director of Public Works, San Diego County, Calif.

The Greenstar Contract

On Oct. 1, 2008, the city of Austin shifted to single-stream recycling but did not have the specialized materials recovery facility required for the sorting operations. Anticipating this need, the city signed a revenue-sharing deal on June 4, 2008, with Vista Fibers (now Greenstar North America) to sort and sell Austin's recyclable trash. The contract expires Oct. 1, 2010, but as Austin is unlikely to have its own MRF in place by then, staff is evaluating a contract extension for a council decision as early as Dec. 17.

One reason Greenstar would like a longer-term contract is that the company recently completed construction of a new MRF in San Antonio, which its chief operations officer, Dennis Soriano, described as the sixth largest and most technically advanced recycling-sorting operation in the U.S. The additional infrastructure required to deal with Austin's recyclables cost Greenstar around \$2.75 million in all. Soriano explained, "We have to depreciate that additional capital expense over the life of the contract." The longer the

contract, the more Greenstar can spread out repaying that fixed cost, the lower the fees. The counterargument is that the contract is only supposed to be a stopgap until the city gets its own MRF.

Currently, the city pays Greenstar a processing fee of \$70 per ton for containers (cans, plastic, etc.); \$90 per ton for fiber (paper, cardboard), which is supposed to be more than covered by the wholesale market value; and \$90 per ton for glass and residual waste, which have no resale value.

The city has three options on the table:

A) Extend the contract to take 100% of the city's recyclables through the end of September 2011, with a drop in processing fees of \$5 per ton.

B) Extend the contract through September 2011, with Greenstar collecting 100% of the city's recyclables for the first six months and at least 50% for the rest of the contract if the city has its MRF onstream, with a fee cut of \$3.50 per ton.

C) Extend the contract through September 2013, with a fee cut of \$20 per ton.

– R.W.

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PECAN STREET PROJECT FEDS CHIP IN \$10.4 MILLION FOR MUELLER 'SMART GRID'

If the **Pecan Street Project** eventually fulfills its promise, we'll all be living large like the Jetsons.

At least that's the future portrayed in the project description for the PSP's latest funding achievement, a \$10.4 million grant announced last week by the **U.S. Department of Energy**, which will underwrite an "advanced smart grid project" in the Mueller neighborhood steadily taking shape on the 711-acre site of the former airport. The Pecan Street summary depicts fictional resident "Mattie Camacho" – imagine **Jane Jetson** as a brunette – monitoring her electricity and water usage from her mobile phone, while her rooftop solar panels feed juice to the "Energy Internet" and her "home energy gateway system" adjusts appliances, monitors and adjusts sprinkler performance, and even shuts off a leaking toilet. The DOE grant will help buy a "demonstration project" to "create, operate, and evaluate" an Internet-style smart grid, according to the summary, that will involve 200 in-home smart-grid water systems, 200 smart sprinkler systems, and 1,000 residential and 75 commercial meters, distributed to neighbor-



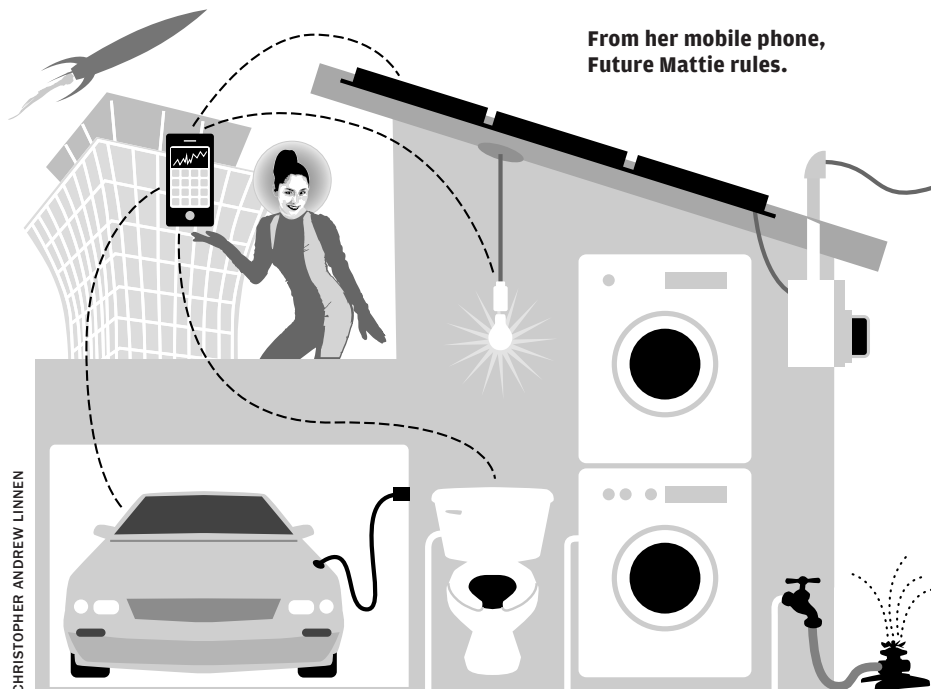
Council Member and PSP board member Randi Shade, flanked by U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett (r) and former Council Member Brewster McCracken (l).

hood volunteers. (The development currently accommodates about 2,000 residents of a projected 10,000.)

"We intend to make the Mueller neighborhood an example of what modern neighborhoods can accomplish, with smarter energy management, clean energy generation, and advanced system integration," said **Brewster McCracken** at last week's Mueller Center press conference announcing the award for the grant application submitted in August. Former City Council Member McCracken is now the federal grants manager for PSP, and a reasonably good bet to be named executive director by the board – winning the DOE award, at least, shouldn't hurt his prospects. He described the project's goal as establishing "the most self-sufficient and energy efficient neighborhood development in the country." PSP board member (and council member) Randi Shade

said the board is considering four candidates and may name a director as early as this week.

While \$10.4 million is not small change, it's only one of 32 awards announced Nov. 24 by Secretary of Energy **Steven Chu**, totaling



CHRISTOPHER ANDREW LINNEN

\$620 million in new federal economic stimulus funding to help develop projects that can serve as models for more widespread deployment. The projects include "large-scale energy storage, smart meters, distribution and transmission system monitoring devices, and a range of other smart technologies. ... This funding from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** will be leveraged with \$1 billion in funds from the private sector to support more than \$1.6 billion in total Smart Grid projects nationally," according to the DOE announcement. The **Smart Grid Regional Demonstrations** (16 projects awarded \$435 million total) range from \$720,000 for a wind-power transmission capacity project in New York State to an \$89 million, five-state grid management project in the Pacific Northwest. The other \$185 million is funding another 16 development projects in **energy storage**.

The DOE said the 32 projects were chosen from among 135 nationwide applications, and the Pecan Street effort is one of three

projects in Texas awarded a total of \$27.4 million; the Austin-based **Center for the Commercialization of Electric Technologies** (a consortium of companies that includes Austin Energy) will get \$13.5 million for work applying smart-grid technologies to the transmission grid in Houston. All of the grant awards are matched by local "cost-sharing" for the full project amounts, and the DOE cites the total cost of the Mueller project as \$24.7 million. According to Pecan Street spokesman **Colin Rowan**, the various partners have pledged to contribute both staffing and some direct funding to the effort, and "now that the dog has caught the car," the details of those resources will be confirmed over the next few weeks. McCracken provided a breakdown of the remaining \$14.3 million; much of it is already dedicated to Austin Energy infra-

structure and staffing, with additional contributions from the **University of Texas**, the **Austin Technology Incubator**, and the **Environmental Defense Fund**.

U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett** kicked off last Wednesday's press conference at the Mueller Center, the development's information and marketing office, with a coy reference to the old airport: "Now we have landed these federal funds to help our community take off on its energy future." Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** and Austin Energy General Manager **Roger Duncan** also addressed the gathering, which included representatives of the Pecan Street Project's various partners – UT (which will provide research teams), the Environmental Defense Fund, Mueller neighborhood residents and representatives, and several project board members, among them **Shade** and **Jose Beceiro** of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. As reported at the time by

Katherine Gregor ("Cool City: Getting Down With the Grid," Sept. 4), the grant was submitted Aug. 26, and the turnaround was quick enough

to take even those directly involved by surprise. McCracken said they had picked up hints of the decision on DOE-related websites only that morning, and then Doggett's office contacted Pecan Street directly, and the announcement event was hastily organized.

The grant term is five years, and it will help fund four UT research teams for designing, testing, and analyzing the system; four commercial rooftop solar arrays; four energy storage sites; installation of "smart appliances"; and 10 Austin Energy electric vehicles for use in the neighborhood. Asked when residents might begin seeing physical signs of the project, Austin Energy Vice President **Karl Rabago** said the grant has essentially speeded up implementation of work the utility already had in progress, and the neighborhood should "look for action in the first year."

– Michael King

METRORAIL WATCH

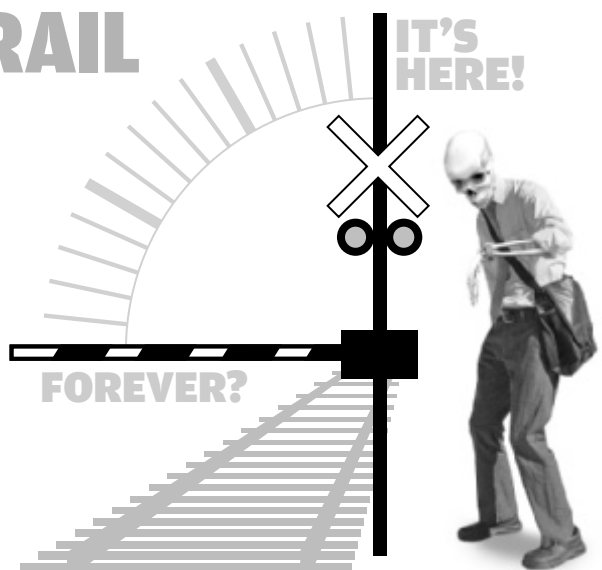
HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT FOR THE TRAIN?

Yeesh, more problems with Veolia! Are we sure this is the contractor we want running this train? The evening schedule testing of MetroRail, which we had taken as a sign of progress, has come to a halt. According to a

Capital Metro spokesman, a "question regarding some of the insurance coverage did come up during recent contract negotiations with Veolia." He couldn't elaborate, saying details of contract negotiations are confidential, but that "we felt it was prudent to hold off on running train tests until we have a better picture of the coverage."

Cap Metro insists that halting the tests won't affect the ultimate timeline, but we're not convinced. The arm drops all the way back down.

– Lee Nichols



Animal
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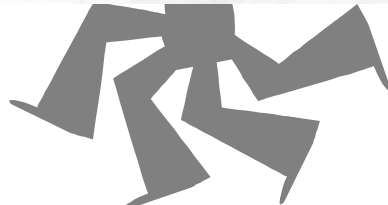
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Maxey Files Ethics Complaint Against Patterson

Democratic activist and former state Rep. **Glen Maxey** on Monday filed a complaint with the **State Commission on Judicial Conduct**, arguing that 3rd Court of Appeals Judge **Jan Patterson** violated judicial ethics when she told the *Chronicle* this fall that Gov. **Rick Perry** had approached her to apply for an appointment to the Travis County 353rd Civil District Court bench.

Citing our stories in his complaint, Maxey argues that Patterson violated Canons 2 and 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which concern avoiding impropriety and the “appearance of impropriety in all

of the judge’s activities” and refraining from “inappropriate political activity.” In part, Maxey argues that in violation of Canon 5, Patterson “knowingly or recklessly” misrepresented facts about herself when she told the *Chronicle* that Perry had pursued her to apply for the local civil bench made vacant by the untimely death of Judge **Scott Ozmun**.

Patterson initially told us that Perry’s office had approached her several times asking her to apply for the seat and that although she turned him down several times, she finally relented, seeing the appointment as a way to shortcut an election. Later, Perry’s office told us this was not true and that it was Patterson who came to them seeking the appointment. Patterson’s deception raises “important issues of judicial integrity that require a full investigation,” Maxey said in a press release. (Interestingly, Patterson is one of 13 members and vice chair of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which would hear Maxey’s complaint. If the complaint is deemed worthy of



Judge Jan
Patterson

investigation, Patterson will have to recuse herself from hearing the complaint.)

The 3rd Court is the state’s most powerful intermediate appellate bench, because it has jurisdiction over matters of statewide importance – including state ethics cases and all rulings concerning state agencies. The court has become increasingly partisan in recent years, and there is no doubt that giving Perry the chance to appoint a Republican to replace Patterson a year before her term would have ended would have helped ensure GOP control of the entire court, which

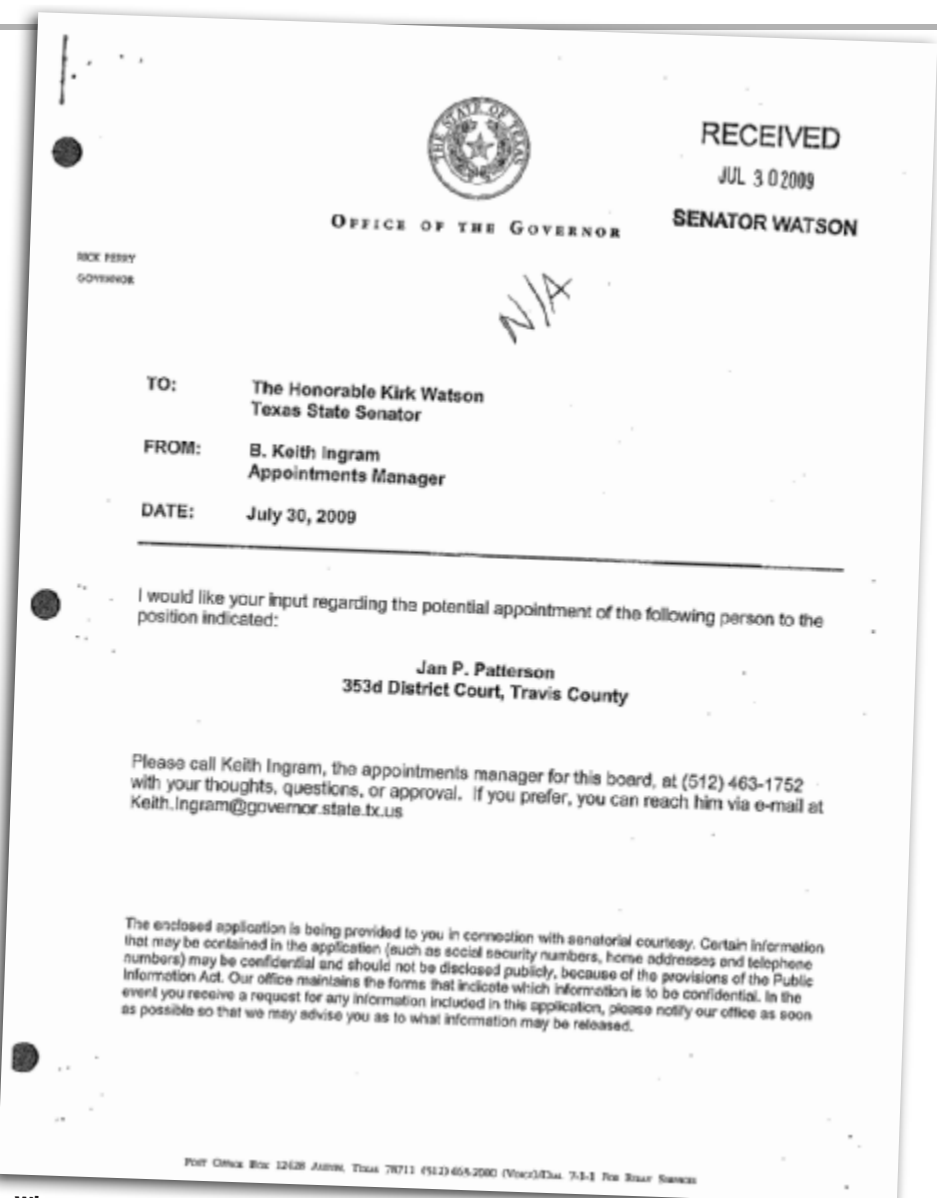
covers 24 Central Texas counties. Perhaps for that reason, Patterson’s nomination to the 353rd was not approved by Austin Sen. Kirk Watson, according to documents obtained through an open records request, and Perry ultimately appointed **Jeff Rose**, former deputy first assistant with the state Attorney General’s Office, to replace Ozmun.

Meanwhile, however, Patterson is stepping down from her seat on the appeals court next year to run for Travis County’s 201st Civil District bench. Maxey argues that Patterson’s conduct in seeking the appointment to the 353rd Court was so out of line that she should step aside in the 201st race and let someone else run. “Not only is this a violation of judicial ethics, this is a stab in the back of the Democrats who have supported her in the past. Jan Patterson should withdraw her candidacy for any judicial contest in 2010 and enable an uncompromised nominee,” Maxey wrote in a statement. “[F]or her own political gain, Jan Patterson was willing to just give this court to a Republican majori-

Let the Filing Begin

Mark your calendars: Filing for a slot on the **2010 primary ballot** begins Dec. 3 and runs through Jan. 4, 2010. While no Travis County Democratic state rep has drawn a primary opponent, there may still be a local House race on the March 2, 2010, ballot. Corporate attorney **Holly White Turner** has filed campaign finance paperwork with the secretary of state for a GOP primary fight with construction magnate **Paul Workman** in House District 47 – the southwest Travis County seat currently held by Rep. **Valinda Bolton**. In 2008, Turner served as campaign treasurer for her husband, Republican political consultant Chris Turner, in his unsuccessful Fort Worth City Council run. Meanwhile, Rep. **Elliott Naishtat** has drawn a GOP challenger in Bryan W. Law, an Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary master’s candidate who has pledged to only spend \$500 on the entire election.

Up in Williamson County, confusion reigned when outgoing Sen. **Steve Ogden**, R-Bryan, signaled that he may end up staying put instead of following through with retirement. The Senate Finance Committee chair announced Sept. 10 that he was stepping down after 12 years in the upper chamber, but that decision was cast into doubt when their apparent Rep. **Dan Gattis**, R-Georgetown, dropped out of the race and said Ogden should return to head up the budget-building process (that reversal may not be so well received by Capitol Democrats, who regularly complained that Ogden’s committee is where good bills go to die). Ogden has yet to make a statement, although his office said he will comment before the end of the week. However, it may be all over for Gattis’ political career: With several hopefuls already lining up to fill his House seat,



When Gov. Rick Perry’s office sought Austin Sen. Kirk Watson’s approval on appointing 3rd Court of Appeals Judge Jan Patterson to a local civil bench, Watson’s office responded with “N/A,” meaning “not approved.”

ty and this seat to another Rick Perry right-wing appointee. This is the ultimate betrayal of the Democrats who have given her this seat. It does not belong to her to trade for another judicial seat. It belongs to the vot-

ers.” (At press time, Patterson had not responded to a request for comment.)

So far, Patterson has not drawn an opponent – Democratic or Republican – in the race for the 201st.

– Jordan Smith

Baird’s Seat Up for Grabs

Travis County Judge **Charlie Baird** announced Dec. 2 that he will not run for reelection next year to the 299th Criminal District Court bench he has occupied since January 2007. Baird, a former judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas’ highest criminal court, said he will return to private practice and wants to spend more time with his young family. The announcement has already caused a ripple of judicial candidate activity: **Karen Sage**, the assistant district attorney who was running against city police monitor Cliff Brown for the 147th District Court, announced in an e-mail blast to supporters that she will leave that race for a shot at Baird’s seat. Also contemplating a possible run for Baird’s robe is **Mindy Montford**, who ran for district attorney last year.

– J.S.

– Richard Whittaker

NO INDICTMENT IN LUNT SHOOTING

On Nov. 24, members of a Travis County grand jury failed to indict two **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** agents who shot 25-year-old **Steven Lunt** in August. The agents fired their guns 19 times into a car Lunt was driving, striking Lunt three times in the head. Lunt died Sept. 2.

Lunt had been spotted driving erratically Downtown – including swerving into pedestrian traffic and nearly hitting someone. Austin Police pursued Lunt but later called the pursuit off and issued a “be on the lookout” for the white truck he was driving. Three TABC officers – **Michael Cronin**, **John Altum**, and **Greg Lewis** (in unmarked cars) – picked up where Austin Police Department left off, following Lunt until he reached the parking lot of the Longhorn Landing apartments in Southeast Austin. As Lunt parked and got out of the truck, Cronin and Altum approached; gun drawn, Cronin yelled, “Stop, police.” Lunt jumped back in the truck, according to a press statement from Travis County District Attorney **Rosemary Lehmborg**, and tried to drive off. When it looked like the truck would hit Cronin, Altum began to fire. In all, he fired at Lunt 16 times, and Cronin fired three times.

During the course of the grand jury’s investigation into the shooting, certain questions arose, Lehmborg said, including whether the TABC agents were actually pursuing “the primary mission of their agency” at the time of the shooting, whether they were acting in accordance with TABC policy by approaching the car without waiting for APD backup, and whether the agents – without “distinctly recognizable law enforcement uniforms” and while driving unmarked cars – were properly equipped to effect an arrest. TABC Chief of Field Operations **Joel Moreno** and agency administrator **Alan Steen** testified before the grand jury and are exploring “avenues of change” within the agency, Steen said in a statement.

– Jordan Smith

Brown Hits the Big Time

Austin police monitor **Cliff Brown** – currently a judicial candidate for the 147th District Court – has been elected president of the **National**

Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, which held its annual conference in Austin this fall. Established in 1995, NACOLE provides training to individuals working in police oversight and identifies best practices for civilian oversight of law enforcement. Brown, now president-elect, will officially take over as president during the group’s annual meeting in 2010.

– J.S.



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TALES OF THE REALLY WHITE VIGILANTE: VOLUME THREE

Schliefevision, \$15

The Really White Vigilante is back, and, judging from the mushrooming influx of chic scenesters peopling **East Austin**, not a moment too soon. The third installment of the comic series, written and drawn by local artist **Michael Schliefe**, sees the Vigilante drawn into a nefarious plot by the **Legion of Hipsters** (who meet at new Eastside haunt the Good Knight) and further into **City Council politics** (where Will Wynn is still mayor). While sussing out the local landmarks and personalities is a rush, it's the conflicted comic's take on **gentrification** in an ever-expanding Austin that makes this Vigilante's heart beat. Available at www.thewv.net, comic stores around town, and the Blue Genie Art Bazaar (www.bluegenieart.com).

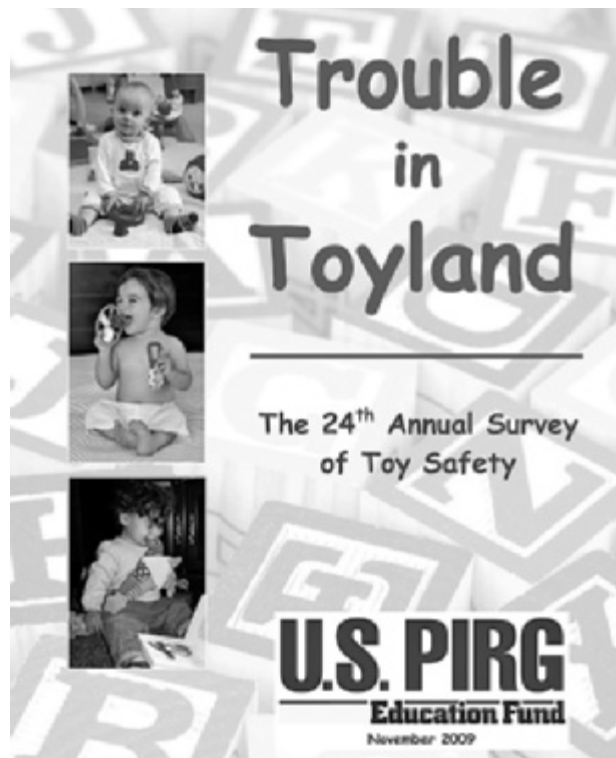


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A year and a half after an arsonist all but completely destroyed the **Governor's Mansion**, it has yet to be restored. Lawmakers went into shock when presented with a pricey plan to revive the 153-year-old beauty, but eventually coughed up some dough. Still, the state wouldn't mind some private help – you can donate online at www.texasgovernorsmansion.org. Depending on election results, completion may not be done until after our current governor has left office. Or not.

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REEFER READING

This Is Your Country on Drugs: The Secret History of Getting High in America, **John Wiley & Sons, \$24.95**
Dope Menace: The Sensational World of Drug Paperbacks 1900-1975, **Feral House, \$24.95**

For the hard-to-buy-for drug-policy reformer on your list, consider two new reads that trace the history of our nation's obsession with getting high. As we continue onward into the fourth decade of the nation's **war on drugs**, there's really no better time than now to look back on where we've been, and books from the Huffington Post's **Ryan Grim** and historian **Stephen Gertz** are a great place to start.

In his new book, *This Is Your Country on Drugs*, Grim charts the history of the U.S. drug culture and explores why almost everything you think you know about it – notions about who sells drugs and who uses what, for example – is likely wrong. It's a good, fast read – perfect for someone with, say, a limited attention span – and offers tons of facts to bring to the table during your next debate over the continued use of prohibition as a drug-control strategy.

In *Dope Menace*, Gertz details the history of the pot pulp from turn-of-the-20th-century noir about opium addicts (with catchy titles like 1906's *Chinatown Charlie the Opium Fiend*) to the lusty sensational tales of the 1950s and beyond (like the lurid *Marijuana Girl*: "She traded her body for drugs – and kicks!"). Complete with a history of the rise of drug pulp, plus pages and pages of reprints of saucy cover illustrations, this is a must-have for every reformer's bookshelf.



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The city's boards and commissions are currently debating an ordinance to strengthen protection of "heritage trees," the really big, iconic ones. But we need young trees, too – that's how you eventually end up with old, stately ones. Visit the Texas Forest Service's **Texas Tree Planting Guide** at texastreeplanting.tamu.edu to figure out which tree is best for your loved one's neighborhood. The city of Austin arborist can help, too: www.cityofaustin.org/trees. Not sure how to gift-wrap a tree? Put a bow on a TreeFolks' **Tree Growing Guide for Central Texas** poster (\$5) and give the gift of inspiration (www.treefolks.org).

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"Trouble in Toyland," free

We big people know we're not supposed to eat the small parts that come with our toys and gadgets, but the little ones, well, you know how they innocently put things in their mouths and – gosh, let's not even go there. So to help keep your safety on while you're out shopping for the tots, the consumer-friendly folks at the **Texas Public Interest Research Group** have released "Trouble in Toyland," a new report on dangerous toys you'll want to avoid. This year's findings, released last week, focus on three hazardous categories: toys that pose

choking dangers, toys that could bust an eardrum, and toys laden with toxic chemicals and phthalates – substances added to plastics. These TexPIRG people know their stuff, evidenced by remarks from Dr. **Pat Crocker**, emergency medicine chief at **Dell Children's Medical Center**, and others from U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, delivered at last week's media event. Give yourself the gift of learning about dangerous toys at www.texpirg.org, or access the report on your mobile at www.toysafety.mobi. Now let's go buy some toys.

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

COMMERCIALISM UNDERGROUND

Corporate ads and logos are everywhere – in taxicabs, movies, and parks, as well as on gas pumps, airplane fold-down trays, and school buses. So why not on Luke Ryan's guitar case?

For 30 years, Ryan has been a busker, singing tunes in New York City's subways. He keeps his old, beat-up guitar case – held together by duct tape – open in front of him in hopes that passers-by will drop in some coins or dollar bills. That decrepit case itself is a part of Ryan's money pitch, for he sticks a cardboard sign in it that pleads, "Pimp My Case."

And now someone has! Not a sympathetic commuter on the way to a train, but the Dutch-based multibillion-dollar conglomerate Unilever. The giant didn't add any flashy styling to Ryan's guitar case – it simply got him to put a printed sign in it that reads: "Axe Instinct." Axe is a deodorant-maker owned by Unilever, and Instinct is a new leather-scented product that it's marketing. So the veteran busker has been hired for four months to be a huckster, paid about \$1,000 to display the Axe sign, offer samples if anyone inquires, and sing a song a few times a day titled, "Look Good in Leather."

Interviewed by *The New York Times*, Ryan says he had sworn never to sell out. But today's economy is tough even on subway singers, so when Unilever asked him, he said, "Well, why not?" Besides, he says, commercial branding is plastered all over the subway, so no one seems to notice his subtle Axe ad. In addition, Ryan thinks more deodorant sales would be a social plus. "If there was more of that stuff going on in the subway," he notes, "it'd be a better place."

The vast clutter of corporate commercialism in our society doesn't do any good for anyone, while being intrusive to everyone. But at least this gimmick by Unilever is helping Luke Ryan – I'm all for that.

VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY LAWMAKERS

After the landmark health insurance reform bill passed in November, several Congress critters set forth their views about the legislation in statements inserted into the Congressional Record. For example, Rep. Michael Conaway of Texas made this comment: "I do believe the sections relating to the creation of a market for biosimilar products is one area of the bill that strikes the appropriate balance."

Rep. Lynn Jenkins of Kansas added her views: "I do believe the sections relating to the creation of a market for biosimilar products is one area of the bill that strikes the appropriate balance." Also, Rep. Lee Terry of Nebraska put in his two cents' worth, declaring: "I do believe the sections relating to the creation of a market for biosimilar products is one area of the bill that strikes the appropriate balance."

Hmmm. I don't know what "biosimilar products" are, but the comments by these three Republicans are not just similar; they are identical! Do all Republican lawmakers think exactly alike, or is something else going on here?

It's something else. All three were parroting words written and handed to them by lobbyists for Genentech, a huge, Swiss-owned biotech corporation. Genentech just happens to have a lot of money riding on restricting this biosimilar market, so it was eager to have the official record on this provision of the health bill reflect its special-interest viewpoint.

Genentech lobbyists did not stop with the three Republicans. At least 22 Republican House members and 20 Democrats were willing to be spoon-fed Genentech's views, all of them regurgitating language that the lobbyists wrote. Asked about the ethics of using lawmakers as ventriloquist dummies, one lobbyist said: "This happens all the time. There's nothing nefarious about it."

Wow, having it happen once is alarming. Having it happen "all the time" is appalling. And nefarious.

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.

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The Tire Mound of Mystery

Thousands of city tires lie moldering southeast of town – and the city is claiming ignorance

BY JORDAN SMITH

Stacked in long rows and towering piles in the middle of a field southeast of Downtown are thousands of tires – perhaps as many as 6,000, estimates Victor Almaguer, who leases this land just off Highway 183 South as part of the small business, Vic's Tire Service, he runs with his family. The piles and rows have been growing here for years, sprouting from the rough earth now seared brown by the summer's heat and drought. Almaguer would like nothing more than to dispose of the tire mound that has been rising on this property for more than five years. But he doesn't have the money to do so, and he doesn't know that he'll be able on his own to obtain the funds needed for their legal disposal, which he estimates could cost as much as \$50,000. It's a thorny environmental problem for sure – scrap tires provide an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes, are a magnet for potential disease, and if not disposed of properly, present a host of other dangers.

But it isn't a problem entirely of Almaguer's making.

Indeed, these tires aren't Almaguer's, dumped and abandoned here in the course of his daily business. Instead, the tires on this piece of land belong to the city of Austin. They are scrap tires pulled from every type of vehicle managed by the city's Fleet Services Division – including police cruisers, ambulances, garbage trucks, and fire trucks. How it came to pass that this mound of rubber ended up on Almaguer's property isn't entirely clear, but by looking at the work order numbers chalked onto the sides of the tires, it is evident that city-owned tires have been piling up here since at least 2003. The newest ones arrived as recently as this spring.

According to state law, this is not how scrap tires are supposed to be managed. In fact, the state has a fairly strict regulation and reporting scheme governing proper tire disposal – including a tracking manifest process that follows old tires from the time they're pulled from a vehicle to their ultimate disposal, a system not unlike the strict chain-of-custody documentation required for evidence in a criminal prosecution. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is tasked with overseeing scrap tire disposal and responding to complaints about entities that aren't disposing of tires properly. Under this regulation scheme, there are "generators," entities such as the city of Austin's Fleet Services that are putting tires into the system; there are "transporters," those individuals or companies who must be registered

It seems the city has no idea where its scrap tires go.

with TCEQ to move and manage large numbers of tires (anyone storing or moving more than 500 tires must be registered); and there are "processors" and disposal facilities, which also must be registered with the state. Additionally, the final disposition of all scrap tires – whether used for fuel, land reclamation, or road fill, for example – must also be for a purpose approved by the commission.

Almaguer readily acknowledges that he is not registered by TCEQ as a transporter – or for that matter, as either a processor or disposal facility – yet he says that for years he's been accepting scrap tires from the city's automotive service centers at the request of Fleet's Tire Program Manager Bill Janousek. For several of those six years, Almaguer said, he had been paid for hauling off the dead tires under the contract the city has with Tire Centers Inc. of Austin, which contracts with the city to provide new and recapped tires as well as to handle the city's scrap tires.

But since 2007, Almaguer says, he has not been paid for any of the tires he hauled from the city's scrap bin. And now, he said, he can't get anyone from the city to talk to him about how to handle the surplus scrap he's accumulated. "Nobody has talked to me," he said recently. "They've brushed me off."

In an effort to find out how it came to be that Almaguer ended up holding thousands of old city tires, the *Chronicle* made a series of open records requests for Fleet Services documents – including requests for three years of the manifest records that TCEQ requires the city to maintain. The records provided pursuant to those requests raise more questions than they answer. To begin with, it's unclear whether city officials have any idea where the



Victor Almaguer stands among the tons of scrapped city tires he's been accumulating since 2003.

"They really don't have a way to say which [tires] they've gotten rid of because they don't write it down. So they don't know which they've paid for [to be disposed of properly] and which they didn't – or if they've paid for any."
– Victor Almaguer, Vic's Tire Service



tires have been going, and therefore whether they have been complying with any of the state laws that govern the environmentally acceptable disposal of all that rubber and other components. Given his experience with the city's Fleet Services Division, Almaguer thinks it is unlikely that the city can answer those questions: "They really don't have a way to say which [tires] they've gotten rid of because they don't write it down," he said. "So they don't know which they've paid for [to be disposed of properly] and which they didn't – or if they've paid for any."

We initially asked city officials for an explanation of the scrap tire procedures in mid-November, and they responded in essence: We don't want to talk about it. When we pressed them with additional accumulated detail, the official response became: This is the first we've heard of it, and we'll get back to you. This week, the city said the subject is "part of an ongoing investigation," and there will be no further comment while the investigation is "pending."

Cradle to Grave

Nevertheless, it appears that since 2003, the city of Austin has been violating state environmental regulations regarding the proper disposal of scrap tires. Given the sheer number of city tires languishing on Almaguer's property, that seems undeniable. State law concerning the disposal of tires is strict and straightforward: Anyone disposing of large numbers of tires must follow a manifesting process that tracks tires from removal through disposal. "There is no exception to manifesting, cradle to grave," says Cynthia Hackathorn, TCEQ's scrap tire management registration coordinator. "The rules are very specific."

There are very good reasons for those rules. Abandoned tires attract rodents and snakes and provide an excellent breeding environment for mosquitoes, all of which pose very serious health and safety issues. (Almaguer says he recently restacked the entire field because it had become a mosquito-breeding wonderland and attracted a number of snakes.) Abandoned tires also have a nasty habit of catching fire – and when they do, the fire can be very difficult to extinguish. A 3-acre dump in southeast Houston caught fire in 2002, sending flames 300 feet into the air; it took nearly four days to quell the blaze. Last spring, a tire fire in the East Texas town of Hawkins caused officials to evacuate the entire town. Famously, a 1983 fire involving 7 million tires in Virginia burned for nearly nine months before it was extinguished. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, that blaze sent up a plume of smoke 3,000 feet high and 50 miles long and polluted the air in four states. The site was not removed from the EPA's Superfund list until 2005.

While the EPA does not consider intact scrap tires a hazardous waste, when the tires

CONTINUED ON P.32



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leon alesi, "untitled trees", 2009 color photograph, varnished and mounted on panel



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catch fire, they break down into toxic component products – gases, heavy metals, and oil – that can be very dangerous. Indeed, according to a 1997 study prepared for the EPA's National Risk Management Research Laboratory, in lab testing, open tire fire emissions were shown to produce 13,000 times more mutagenic compounds than produced in coal-fired utility emissions. And although scrap tires can be difficult to ignite, they can do so randomly – tires retain heat, and when stored in stockpiles they have the potential to ignite spontaneously from the stored energy, creating fires difficult to extinguish. With the record-breaking heat of this summer, it's quite lucky that the tires Almaguer has been storing didn't do just that.

So there is a strict process in place to help the state keep tabs on the roughly 24 million scrap tires generated in Texas each year, although the process of creating and maintaining the required manifest system is fairly simple. The manifest is a five-part form, originating from the tire generator – in this case, the city of Austin's Fleet Services. The generator is required to fill out the first part of the form, including the date and time the tires are picked up and a count of the number of passenger and truck tires being removed. The generator's representative must then certify the information on the form. The transporter picking up the tires must supply a TCEQ registration number and sign and certify that the tires described have been removed. A copy of the form with the signatures of both the generator and transporter is to be left with the generator. From

there the form moves, along with the tires, first to the processor and then on to the final disposal site. When the fourth section of the form has been signed and certified at the place of final disposal, a copy of the complete form, with four signatures, is required to be sent back to the generator that started the whole process, where it must be kept on file for three years. Under TCEQ rules, the completed manifest must be returned to the generator within 60 days after the scrap tires were picked up.

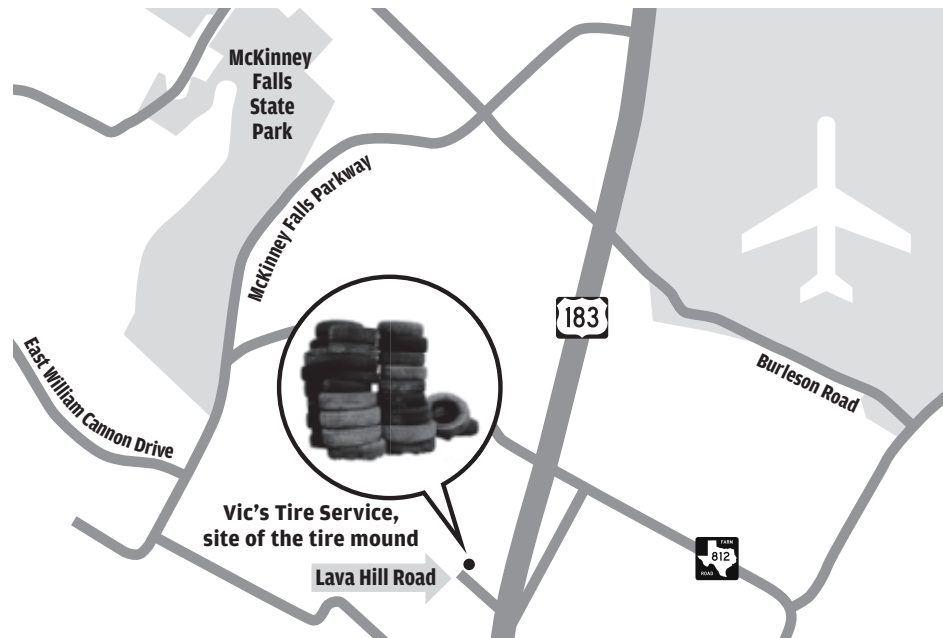
Importantly, it is also the generator's responsibility to report any lapse in reporting – including manifests that are missing, haven't been properly completed, or have been altered – within 90 days of the date that the tires were originally picked up. In other words, within 90 days, a tire generator – such as the city of Austin – should be able to account for the whereabouts of each and every tire it has relegated to the scrap heap.

In the case of the city of Austin's Fleet Services – based on records available – it appears that this particular generator of scrap tires is neither maintaining nor monitoring those legally required records.

Missing Records

In fact, it appears that the city's Fleet Services Division has not been maintaining manifest records with any consistency for at least three years. In response to requests for documents dating from 2006, the city provided a raft of documents, but not a single fully completed city-generated tire manifest

“It is important to note that we met with some difficulty when attempting to review Fleet Services inventory records, which may have impacted our ability to fully detect such patterns, if they existed.”
– Assistant City Auditor Susan Wynne, March 16, 2006



form – and for 2006, Fleet officials failed to provide any city-generated manifest forms at all. Instead, they provided two “service ticket” forms that appear to have been generated by Tire Centers Inc., which is actually the city's contracted transporter; these purport to show that a total of 257 “little tires” (that is, from passenger cars) and 86 “big tires” (taken from larger vehicles, such as solid waste or fire trucks) were scrapped by Austin in 2006. They also provided 18 TCI manifest forms, showing 1,074 truck tires and 330 passenger tires disposed of in 2006. But according to TCI manager Mark Hill, the TCI manifests the city provided to us are not only for tires the city has scrapped but include tires disposed of by TCI for any number of clients. “The tires on the manifests are all of the tires that we have disposed of,” Hill wrote in an e-mail. “They include the City and any other customers here at our Austin location. Basically all the tires are scrapped together. We are unable to separate the tires based on customer.”

Not only do the numbers on the manifests not match those on the service tickets provided by the city for 2006, the total number of tires supposedly disposed of by the city is a far cry from the roughly 10,000 tires that city of Austin mechanics placed on city vehicles that year. (In addition to new tires, the city uses recapped, or retread, tires when it can, but the number of recaps used each year is only between roughly 30% and 40% of the total number of tires used, sources tell us. For 2006, the city used roughly 3,000 recapped tires – so even if all those TCI manifests represented city tires, there would still be more than 5,500 scrapped tires for which the city has no records tracking their final disposition.)

The paperwork gets even more complicated in 2007 and 2008. For 2007, the city provided 28 service tickets but only one city-generated manifest form. And that form has only the first two portions signed, by the generator – certified by Tire Program Manager Bill Janousek – and by the transporter, interestingly, certified by a relative of Almaguer's who signed off with

the TCEQ registration number assigned to TCI. (Almaguer has said his brother filled in for him while he was sick in 2007, but it is unclear why his brother would have signed off with TCI's registration number. According to the city's purchasing office, the city has not authorized any subcontracting work under the TCI contract. TCI's Hill said that Vic's Tire Service would pick up scrap tires for TCI from time to time, an arrangement he says the city was aware of.)

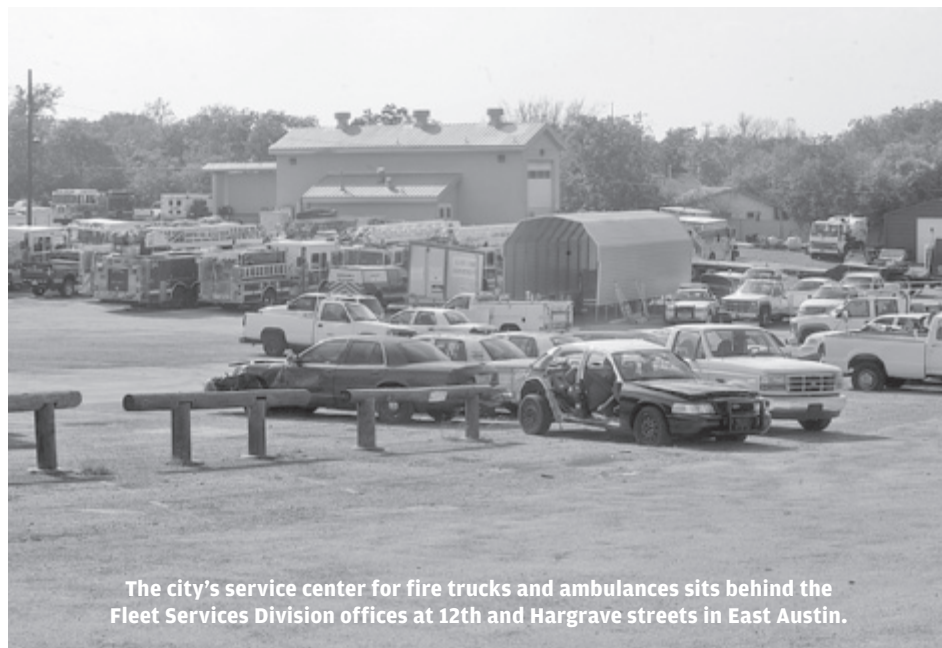
Again, there are no completed forms generated by the city following what the service tickets reflect would have been 6,241 tires scrapped in 2007. The city provided only a stack of manifests generated by TCI and not by the city, as required by state law. Those manifests, which Fleet officials have said are their “final disposal manifests,” record a total of 6,264 scrapped tires. As before, TCI says its manifests include all tires scrapped by TCI and not just city tires. And as before, the number of tires the city scrapped in 2007 does not match the number of tires replaced by the city in 2007, which, including recaps, totaled 12,400.

For 2008, the city did provide a stack of city-generated manifests – and not a single one is complete. The city provided another stack of TCI-generated manifests, and once again, there is no way to determine which of the tires recorded on those forms actually came from the city. For 2008, city-generated manifests record 8,894 tires scrapped, yet in total, the city replaced 14,500 tires that year.

Overall, the city failed to provide a single form recording the disposition of any scrap tire in the manner required by state law. And, interestingly, according to TCEQ, since 2006 the city has never once reported any break in the manifesting chain, which as a generator it is also required to do. Given the quality of the reporting documents provided by the city, it isn't so surprising to learn that thousands of tires have wound up sitting in a field.

It seems the city has no idea where its scrap tires go.

CONTINUED ON P.34



The city's service center for fire trucks and ambulances sits behind the Fleet Services Division offices at 12th and Hargrave streets in East Austin.

JANA BIRCHUM

Official Tire Manifest Forms Provided by the City of Austin

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provides a standard five-part form for tracking scrapped tires. Each section is required to be filled out by officials responsible for tire disposal.

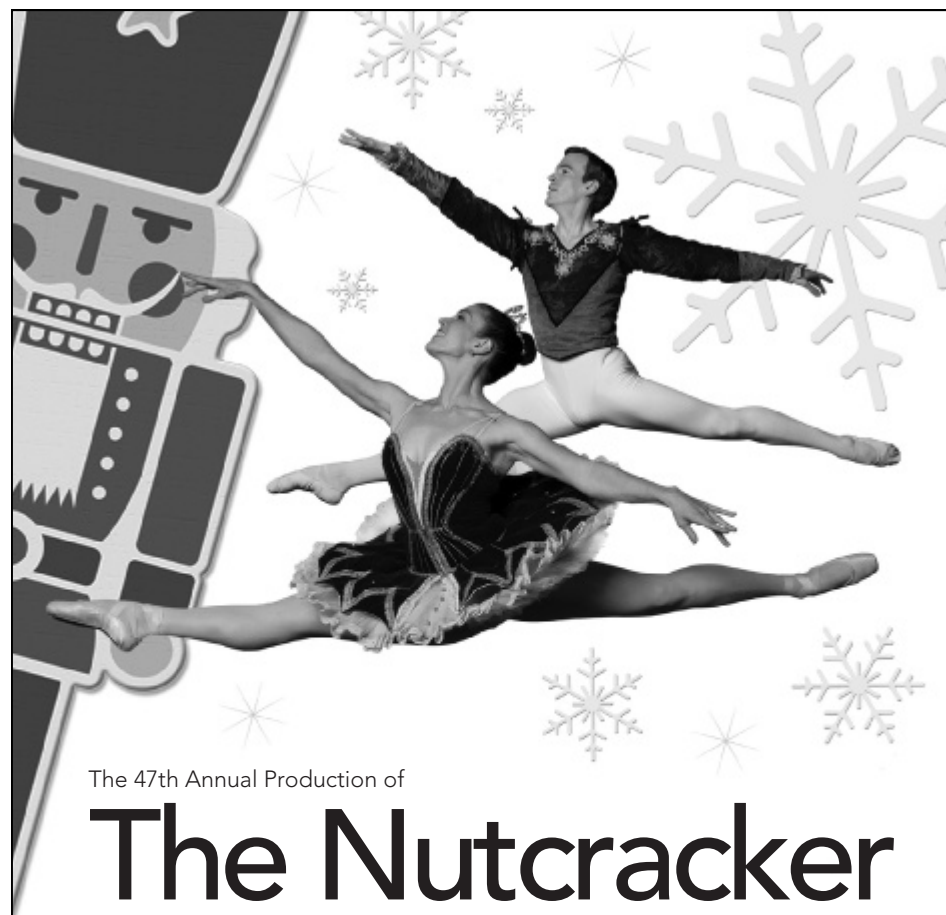
In this representative form, provided by the city of Austin's Fleet Services Division, only the first two sections are completed, certified by Fleet's Tire Program Manager Bill Janousek as the "generator" of the scrapped tires and by Tony Almaguer, Victor Almaguer's brother, as the person transporting the tires for disposal.

The city has failed to provide any completed forms tracking the disposal of any scrapped tires since 2006.

From there, a copy of the form is supposed to follow the tires, first to the processor and then on to the final disposal site. When the final section of the form has been signed and certified at the place of final disposal, the completed form is sent back to the generator, where it must be kept on file for three years.

The city is required under state law to alert TCEQ if it has not received a final manifest form, signed by everyone involved with the disposal of the scrap tires, within 60 days of the date the form was first signed. Although the city has failed to provide any completed forms tracking the disposal of any scrapped tires since 2006, TCEQ says it has not received any complaints from the city about manifest forms not being completed or returned.

- J.S.



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Marc Ott,
Austin City Manager



Dec 13, 2:00 pm
Gail Goestenokors,
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Mayor of Austin



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Sara Hickman,
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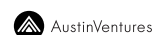
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JANA BIRCHUM

Nobody's Talking

One presumes that someone at Fleet Services understands the process – and the seriousness of the city's failure to comply with state environmental regulations. The *Chronicle* requested an interview with Janousek, Deputy Fleet Officer Jennifer Walls, and Fleet Officer Gerry Calk. Originally, we were told that it would be "preferable" for us to speak with a single representative, division head Calk. Later, we were told by city spokesman Reyne Telles that no one from the city would be providing any comment on the city's scrap tire program, nor would anyone be able to answer any questions about the documents the city provided in response to our open records requests.

According to Telles, the city's legal department has deemed such a discussion a bad idea while an apparently unrelated whistleblower lawsuit, filed by former Fleet Services official Hiram Kirkland, is pending in district court. Telles was unable to explain what relevance the Kirkland lawsuit has to the tire mound of mystery out on Highway 183 (except that both involve city "equipment"), but at least initially, that's what city legal was telling him. After additional inquiries, the official response has become that the matter is being investigated.

Whatever the eventual response might be, it's undeniable that trouble and noncompliance in the scrap tire program is not the only problem dogging the city's Fleet Services Division. The Kirkland lawsuit is definitely another.

According to his legal pleadings, former Fleet Operations Manager Kirkland alleges that he was fired for bringing to the city's attention numerous examples of "massive waste,

fraud and malfeasance that had been ongoing for years," including "theft; fraud; falsification of documents; drug abuse on the job [by various employees]; alcohol abuse on the job; unauthorized sale of city property; worker's compensation fraud and abuse; and other wrongful activities." Among Kirkland's specific allegations are that certain contracts were rigged to favor certain vendors, that \$250,000 in auto parts were tossed out into a Dumpster, and that employees working in at least one of the city's service centers were stealing auto parts and supplies (as well as selling city-owned car batteries and driving off with city-owned tires on personal vehicles) and manipulating inventory documents to try to hide the theft. (Only one of the scams Kirkland complained of – involving city employees removing inspection stickers from city vehicles and using them for their personal cars – actually ended with enforcement action. In that instance, Kirkland directed a colleague to report apparent fraud to the Texas Department of Public Safety. After the investigation, four employees were charged and pleaded guilty to tampering with a public record. Each received a nine-month probated sentence.)

When he reported the alleged violations to his supervisors – both inside Fleet and in the city's Human Resources Department – Kirkland alleges that instead of looking into the allegations and weeding out the bad actors within Fleet, the supervisors instead focused on him, using an anonymous complaint made five months earlier to the city's integrity office about possible unethical behavior on Kirkland's part as a means of eventually terminating him in the spring of 2009.

In its defense against the lawsuit, the city argued first that Kirkland didn't file his suit in time to take advantage of whistleblower protections, and then more recently (during a summary judgment hearing earlier this month) has argued that he isn't eligible for whistleblower protection because he didn't actually report any wrongdoing to an appropriate law enforcement authority (as is required by the statute). Finally, the city insists that there was no connection between Kirkland's dismissal and any alleged wrongdoing he says he might have thought was taking place.

On Tuesday, Judge Lora Livingston ruled in favor of the city's motion for summary judgment, without further explanation, and Kirkland and his attorneys are considering an appeal.

Kirkland's allegations are not the first concerning possible improprieties within Fleet Services. In 2006, the Office of the City Auditor closed an inquiry into an allegation that an "unnamed Fleet Services Tire Shop employee" was part of a "scam" involving Almaguer's business, Vic's Tire Service. At the time, Almaguer held a contract with the city to fix flats and other repairable tires removed from city vehicles.

The auditor's office was tasked with determining whether Vic's was marking as "non-repairable" all tires taken from city vehicles, regardless of whether they could in fact be repaired, and "subsequently fixing and selling any repairable tires, and remitting a portion of the proceeds as a kickback to the Tire Shop employee," according to a

March 16, 2006, memo by then-acting Assistant City Auditor Susan Wynne. The auditor's office reviewed tire repair data and interviewed several Fleet employees before deciding that there was nothing to the allegation – at least as far as the auditors could tell. "None of the information we gathered indicated any unusual or improper pattern of tire repairs or replacement. Thus, we did not find any information that supported the allegation," Wynne wrote. "However, it is important to note that we met with some difficulty when attempting to review Fleet Services inventory records, which may have impacted our ability to fully detect such patterns, if they existed."

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

In mid-November, we submitted a series of questions to city officials concerning Fleet Services' scrap tire procedures. After some delay, Telles responded that the questions "brought to light several issues which the senior management at Fleet Services had previously not been advised of. We ... intend to fully investigate the matter. Until we know all of the facts, it is not prudent for The City of Austin to prematurely comment."

After a few days, Telles issued yet another official statement: "The allegations are something we take seriously. After discussing the situation with the parties involved, it has been determined that the claims are part of an ongoing investigation. The investigation has not reached a point where we can share any sort of conclusion. As such, we cannot comment on the matter further while the investigation is pending."

It's Not Easy Being Green

There is no doubt that managing the city's fleet is a daunting task. The department employs 189 people, has a budget of just over \$40 million, and is tasked with maintaining the more than 5,000 vehicles needed to do the city's work – including keeping cops on patrol, ambulances and fire trucks at the ready, garbage and recycling picked up on schedule, and roads maintained. The department is also trying to green up its operations, working to convert the fleet to alternative fuel vehicles with the goal of making its operations carbon neutral by 2020. That ambitious and admirable goal, however, makes the spectacle of the thousands of city-owned tires abandoned in a field just 13 miles from City Hall that much more confounding.

It is nearly impossible to stand in this field of scrapped tires without being overwhelmed by mosquitoes, which attack quickly and continuously on any exposed skin. Standing amid the mess, Almaguer says he isn't sure what to do now. He says he's disposed of as many of the tires on his own as he can – at times by cutting them down with a razor so they lie flat, to be packed inside wrecked cars that are flattened and hauled off – sometimes, he says, to be burned. Now, he simply can't afford to clean up the mess that the city has made. So far, he says, no one with the city has been willing to help.

While city management is pursuing its investigation, perhaps the TCEQ, or even the City Council, can lend a hand. Almaguer says the Austin Police Department contacted him this week and said somebody will be dropping by to have a look at the tires. He finds the city's claim of ignorance of the situation unbelievable, especially since he's been trying to get a response from Fleet management for months. "They know – they're playing possum," he said. "Maybe they're fixing to wake up." ■

Almaguer simply can't afford to clean up the mess that the city has made.

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The Numbers This Time

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

It's the numbers this time, the eloquent numbers. All the times since I was a kid that I've read about World War II and watched documentaries and seen feature films, I never really heard the numbers. But watching Ken Burns' 2007 PBS documentary, *The War*, it was the numbers – more than voices and images – that leapt to tell a story I had somehow missed.

It is a story, in part, of the difference between that time and this.

Don't worry, this is not a "Greatest Generation" tale. In that generation, to be anything other than a white, Christian, heterosexual male was to be subject daily to humiliations that today we'd consider extraordinary. The numbers tell another, larger story.

In the six years of that war – September 1939 to September 1945 – 70 million people were killed. That's Wikipedia's number. *The War's* number is "between 50 and 60 million." No one knows for sure, but any source will tell you the majority of those millions were civilians.

Seventy million is almost 11 9/11s a day. The lowest figure, 50 million, is more than seven 9/11s a day. Sixty million, more than nine 9/11s a day. Every day, for six years.

Some days were worse than others, but those are the averages. They give us a way to understand the enormity of what sometimes can happen to humanity. What we sometimes do. And how we, as a country, have changed.

Focus on particular events and breathe in the numbers.

When Bataan fell to the Japanese in 1942, 78,000 American and Filipino troops surrendered. Many were marched to a camp. The march took six days and seven nights, during which "six to 11,000" Filipinos and Americans died. Another 16,000 died in the camp (*The War*, Episode 1).

In the first year of our participation – from Dec. 7, 1941 through Dec. 31, 1942 – American military dead numbered roughly 35,000 (*The War*, Episode 1).

1943 saw the Allied invasion of North Africa. "In two weeks of fighting, 6,000 Americans were lost." Total Allied losses in that six-month campaign: 76,000 (*The War*, Episode 2).

That year, it took 38 days for the Allies to capture Sicily. Allied losses were roughly 25,000 (*The War*, Episode 2). More or less 650 a day.

Americans attacked the Pacific atoll of Tarawa in November 1943. In four days, on a battleground slightly larger than Central Park, more than 3,300 Americans were killed and wounded (*The War*, Episode 3).

In 1944, during eight weeks on the beachhead at Anzio, Italy, 7,000 Allies were killed; 36,000 were wounded or listed as missing; 44,000 were so-called "noncombat casualties" – victims of frostbite, trench foot, "shell shock and madness" (*The War*, Episode 3).

Have you heard of the Italian village of Cisterna? I hadn't. In one day in May 1944, we lost 995 Americans in the fighting around Cisterna (*The War*, Episode 3). Not a month later, in less than a day – D-Day – Omaha Beach received 2,500 American dead. Even so, the initial invasion cost "far fewer than [the] commanders had expected." By the end of August, however, Allied invasion casualties numbered 256,000 killed, wounded, captured, or missing. (*The War*, Episode 4). Those three months of fighting cost more than our total casualties during 10 years in Vietnam.

From mid-June to mid-July 1944, on the Pacific island of Saipan, "in almost four weeks of fighting, 16,500 Americans were killed, wounded, or reported missing" (*The War*, Episode 4).



JASON STOUT

In 1944, we attacked a Pacific atoll called Peleliu. Ever hear of it? Me neither. After the attack was planned, it was concluded that Peleliu had no strategic value. But the high command estimated an attack would take only four days, so why not? It took more than two months, costing America 1,200 dead and 5,274 "maimed or missing" (*The War*, Episode 4).

On the border between Belgium and Germany, there is a place called Hürtgen Forest. Heard of it? I hadn't. "The commanders who planned the battle knew almost nothing about the terrain and never came to see it for themselves. ... The first two divisions to be ordered into the forest lost 4,500 men in three weeks and moved less than five miles." It's said to be the lon-

gest single battle the U.S. Army ever fought – September '44 to February '45 – but no one brags of it. Its objectives were not, it turns out, strategically necessary. By the time we conquered Hürtgen Forest, its cost to America was more than 33,000 lives (*The War*, Episode 4).

And that's where I stopped, as far as *The War* goes. Anyone who can get past Episode 4 has something I don't, be it youth or nerve.

Since 2001, our dead in Afghanistan total 928; since 2003, we've lost 4,367 in Iraq (www.icasualties.org). In six months in the Hürtgen Forest we lost more than six times that combined total.

This in no way is meant to glorify the troops of yesterday or denigrate the troops of today.



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Each war is its own hell, a hell not to be judged by we who have not been there. What the numbers tell us, beyond argument, is that our national model of war has drastically altered.

In World War II the phrase often employed was "total war." Every walk of life participated in combat. Every citizen sacrificed for the effort. We paid for that war with higher taxes and war bonds. The objective was clear: "unconditional victory."

Now we have two mutually supporting strategies or models of war – and this has been true since at least the onset of the Vietnam conflict.

The primary, announced model is medical, as in surgery or therapy: We'll go in, heal the patient's ailment, fix what needs fixing, and leave. When we leave, everything is supposed to be better. Whatever the rhetoric, in reality victory is defined therapeutically – not winning, but solving a problem.

The underlying model, however, is very different: addiction. No matter what, and no matter the cost, we'll keep on doing what hasn't worked until it does. That is the very definition of addiction, with addiction's financial rule: If we don't have the money (and we don't), we'll beg, borrow, and become debt slaves until what can't be done is done.

They say everything goes faster now, and that's largely true of everything but war. With these co-enabling models of therapeutic and addictive war, war continues in a kind of slow motion. The objective is vague. It's often hard to tell who the enemy really is. The front line is everywhere and nowhere. We suffer far fewer casualties (partly because medical attention is better and more immediate), but war goes on and on and on.

Addicts go on and on until the infrastructure of their lives falls apart. Their health, money, position, and ability to deal with daily problems slowly collapse into a heap of incoherent helplessness. Even so-called "high functioning" addicts, who present to the world a facade of ability, eventually hit that dead end where life can no longer be faked – at which point either they deal with their addiction or sink into oblivion.

Episode 3 of *The War* relates that 12,000 were drafted from the Connecticut town of Waterbury. "Each man received a prayer book and a carton of cigarettes, courtesy of the Shriners." They were everyone's sons. Now we encourage them not to smoke and they are the sons and daughters of a decimated working class.

We're broke. Our credit is running low. The therapeutic/addictive model of war will change not for moral or strategic reasons, but because of its expense. Then our sense of ourselves as a nation will alter deeply, and that will change each one of us before we realize we are changed. ■

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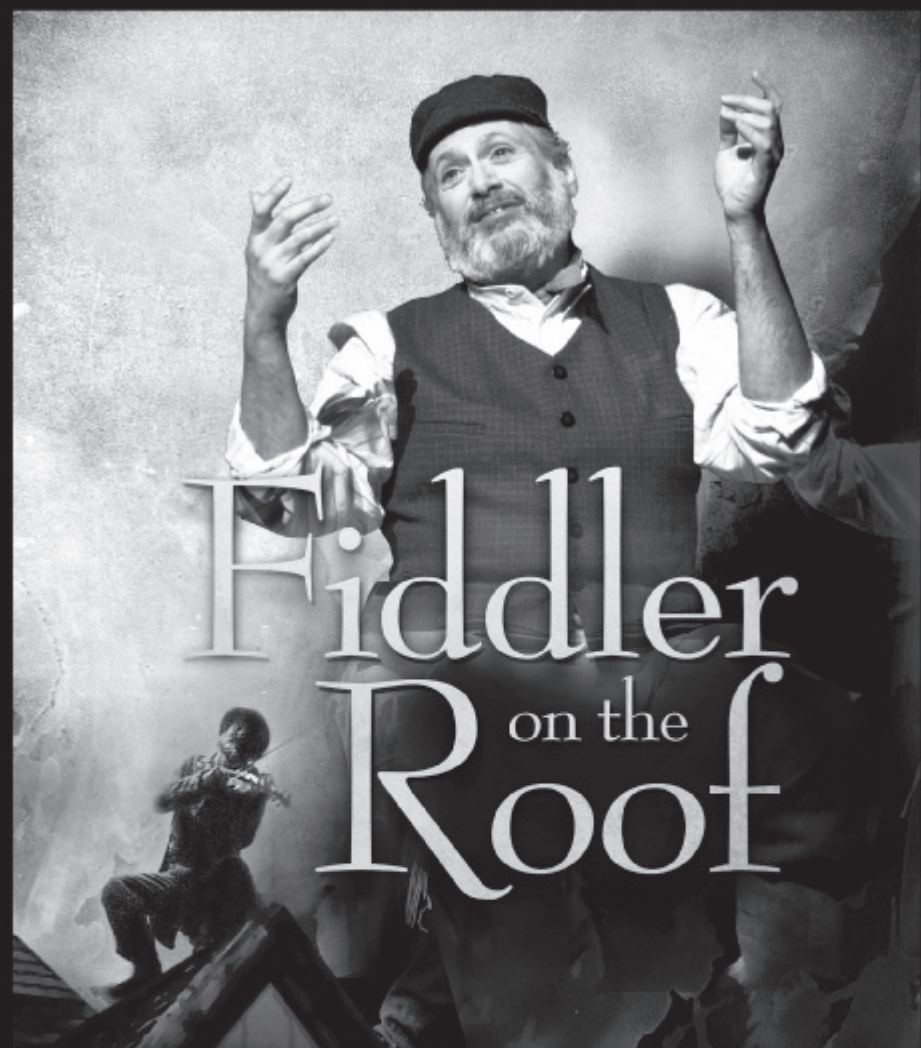


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THE arts

Eastside senior Maria Piedra (l) and freshmen Jorge Hernandez and Rochell Flores rehearse "El galan con dos amores."



COURTESY OF JOSE MEDINA

BALLET EAST Stepping up to high school

This week, Ballet East Dance Company once again provides a showcase for the talents of the current generation of dancers. Next week, for the first time, it will be doing the same for the coming generation.

Quick on the heels of *IN under & Through*, its new fall production at the Dougherty Arts Center, Ballet East will host the debut performance of the Eastside Dance Academy, a program for students at Eastside Memorial High School (formerly Johnston) that offers training in movement across the spectrum from the fine-art end (classical and contemporary) to folklorico to pop styles, including hip-hop and Broadway. While the company has been providing after-school dance instruction for elementary and middle school students in East Austin for 20 years, it hasn't had the resources to extend its program to older teens.

But when some former students told Artistic Director Rodolfo Mendez that they missed the "support and fellowship" of the Ballet East dance programs when they moved on to high school, Mendez set out to find a way to make it happen. He began with a pilot program funded through a number of smaller grants, but then a \$100,000 grant from the women's philanthropic organization Impact Austin gave Mendez the chance to establish a comprehensive program. In addition to classes taught by professional instructors, the academy sponsors master classes with choreographers such as Hope Boykin, principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and trips to see performances of professional companies and touring events such as *So You Think You Can Dance*.

The academy has been an instant success, with initial

enrollment of more than 90 students and participation in additional classes taking the total to 170. Come Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7pm, at Eastside Memorial High School, 1012 Arthur Stiles Rd., they will be showing the world what they've learned. And some of them may well be taking their first steps toward becoming company dancers with Ballet East.

Speaking of which, *IN under & Through*, featuring choreography by Boykin, Sheila Cruz, Sharon Marroquin, Dixon Mena, Eric Midgley, Gina Patterson, Ballet East Associate Director Melissa Villarreal, and company dancer Katie Feiock, will be performed Dec. 3-6; Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm; at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 474-8497 or visit www.balleteast.org.

— Robert Faires

ART PALACE Bye bye, for the Bayou City

In the Department of You Don't Know What You've Got Till It's Gone: This is the week that Art Palace packs up its Eastside digs and hustles to Houston. Sigh.

Arturo Palacios' gallery-in-a-house on East Cesar Chavez may have been in operation just four and a half years, but in that time it became a vital showplace for dynamic young artists on the local scene. Sterling Allen, Peat Duggins, Ali Fitzgerald, Heyd Fontenot, Nathan Green, Jonathan Marshall, Michael Sieben, Eric Zimmerman — all showed there, and their exhibitions were consistently acclaimed as among the most exciting and noteworthy in the city. The *Chronicle's* Visual Arts writers always included Art Palace shows on their end-of-year Top 10 lists, and three years in a row, Art Palace shows earned the Austin Critics Table Award for Outstanding Solo Gallery Exhibition, with a Gallery, Body of Work Award going to Art Palace itself in 2006. And it wasn't just locals paying attention:

The gallery was recognized in a 2007 *Art in America* article, "Report From Austin, Art by Southwest," and in a 2006 piece for *The New York Times* by fashion writer Cathy Horyn.

Palacios became a notable presence at major art fairs such as Art Basel Miami Beach and Volta NY, helping secure a place for those emerging local artists in the world outside Austin.

With that in mind, the Houston move can be seen as a natural step in Art Palace's evolution. As Palacios told *Chronicle* contributor Kate Watson in an interview for the online art magazine *Glasstire*: "I will be aided by being in a city that can act as more of a 'portal' to the outside world. I will be collaborating with Eleanor Williams [former director of Finesilver Gallery and Lawndale Art Center], who will

help export my artists' work into larger art markets. Also, I'll be planting myself next to two well-respected commercial galleries, Inman and CTRL Gallery." That would be in Isabella Court, a historic structure at 3913 Main St. This new venue will at last allow Art Palace to keep real gallery hours. Forget the "handful of hours on Wednesday and Saturday" business; now it's Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. You'll be able to check it out yourself after the new Art Palace goes live on Jan. 15, 2010, with an exhibition by Jonathan Marshall.

Palacios insists that he will continue to have a presence in Austin, setting up periodic exhibitions in independent venues. We hope so, considering how much he's done to develop the city's visual arts community over the past dozen years as gallery director for Galeria Sin Fronteras, curator of the Dougherty Arts Center's Butridge Gallery, and one of the founders of the Texas Biennial. For now, however, we'll

have to be content with his farewell exhibition in the house on Cesar Chavez. "One on One on One" includes work by a number of Art Palace regulars — Jules Buck Jones,

Sarah Frantz, Carlos Rosales-Silva, Matthew Rodriguez, Barry Stone, Sonya Berg, Sterling Allen, and collaborative work by Michael Sieben and Nathan Green — who were invited to present a new idea or recontextualize existing work. Fitting, since that's pretty much what Palacios will be doing with his gallery in the Bayou City. Check it out before it's gone, and offer Palacios a word of thanks for Art Palace's contributions to our scene. — R.F.

"One on One on One" is on view through Dec. 5, Saturday, noon-5pm, and by appointment, at Art Palace, 2109 E. Cesar Chavez. For more information, call 496-0687 or visit www.artpalacegallery.com.



Art Palace's new home in Isabella Court

THE AUSTIN VISUAL ARTS AWARDS Clear a place on your mantle for a 'Fearing'

In recent years, awards for cultural achievements may have been breeding like bunnies on the national scene, but on the home front here, they're still almost as scarce as double-digit afternoons in August. Let's see, we have the B. Iden Payne Awards for theatre, the Austin Improv Collective awards, the Austin Fashion Awards, the American Institute of Architects Austin Honor Awards, the Austin Critics Table Awards, this paper's Austin Music Awards, of course, and for local creative work, that's pretty much it.

Well, this week you can add one more set of honors to the list as the Austin Visual Arts Association inaugurates the Austin Visual Arts Awards. These new prizes recognize artists in specific categories (two-dimensional art, three-dimensional

art, photography, and new media) and at different stages of their careers (early career, lifetime achievement, and somewhere in between: The Collectors Circle Award honors a career artist who consistently creates outstanding series of works), along with awards for outstanding arts patronage and service to the arts. The awards themselves are bronzes designed by sculptor Bob Coffee and will be nicknamed "Fearings" in honor of longtime Texas artist Kelly Fearing, who will receive a Lifetime Achievement award along with memorial honors for the late Robert Dale Anderson and Michael Frary.

Nominations were solicited from a range of museums, galleries, studios, and professional associations throughout the area. Artists receiving multiple nominations had their names

forwarded to a selection committee made up of representatives from 12 organizations (including your humble correspondent from this paper), with committee members scoring each finalist independently. The artists with the highest scores will be recognized with awards at a ceremony to be held this Friday, Dec. 4, at the Austin Museum of Art — Downtown. AVAA President Bill Keese will emcee the event, and to make the evening artistically complete, a new work of art will be unveiled: a temporary, site-specific installation about wind that AMOA commissioned from Christina Venson. See you there! — R.F.

The Austin Visual Arts Awards will be held Friday, Dec. 4, 7pm, at the Austin Museum of Art — Downtown, 823 Congress. For more information, call 922-3104 or visit www.avaaonline.org.



(l-r) Stephen Mills, Craig Hella Johnson, and Dave Steakley

Gifts of the Magi

A conversation about community and creativity with three wise men of the arts

BY ROBERT FAIRES

As Dave Steakley works in theatre, Stephen Mills in dance, and Craig Hella Johnson in music, you might not think that the three would have much in common. But all have been in Austin for at least two decades, in which time they've been witness to great changes in the city, and as the longtime artistic directors of Zach Theatre, Ballet Austin, and Conspirare, respectively, they've been responsible for their share of great changes in the arts scene. Perhaps most interestingly, if you speak with them about the work they do, you'll hear the same ideas echo through the conversations: Compassion. Community. Dialogue. Connection. Transformation. The power of music. The impact of Austin.

Like the magi in the Christmas story, these three men come from different places but are making the same journey. What they seek is an Austin that's compassionate and just, and they follow a vision of community bonded through art, with their creative talents to offer as gifts. The *Chronicle* brought these artistic leaders together to discuss their shared goals and sense of Austin, culturally and as a community. They sat down one week after Ballet Austin opened its season with Act II of *Swan Lake* and *The Firebird*, two days after Conspirare sang Robert Kyr's environmental oratorio *A Time for Life*, and the day after Zach Theatre took part in the national performance of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, an epilogue to the play about the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Why Austin?

Austin Chronicle: Let's start by going back to when you first started working in Austin. What made the city at that time a good place to be involved in the performing arts?

Dave Steakley: I was initially here as a student at the University of Texas, and I came from such a small farming community that Austin not only felt like an oasis, but everything about it was completely different from my life on that farm. It felt like there were endless opportunities. That's when I really began to engage in performance. When I came back to Austin after being in New York, a few months before I had seen *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune* off-Broadway, and when I came to interview for Zach, that's what they were producing, and the production values and Mitch Pileggi's performance were completely commensurate with what I experienced off-Broadway. Before I left Austin, that was not the case. Zach was very spotty community theatre. When I was a student, I had to go there to write papers about shows, and sometimes it would be exceptional and sometimes not. It had the new building, and I guess what was there was

promise. The thinnest level of foundation and bedrock had been laid, on which I could imagine building a life, launching something. Launching the thing that I had envisioned in my head.

Craig Hella Johnson: I came also with a connection to the university. Just out of grad school, I got a job interview at the school. Like Dave said about this idea of promise, I saw tremendous opportunity. We had the idea of starting a music festival. We did a little market study with students in a marketing class to see if this would be a good place for this thing we were trying to create, the New Texas Festival, and all the studies came back that this would indeed be a fine place to do this. [Laughter] And they got an "A" on their project. [Laughter] Lots of green lights, it seemed like.

One thing that I really loved, too, was that it seemed like a place where there was a great deal of creative energy and enthusiasm for creative capital, but the market wasn't flooded. As a musician, I felt like there was space to begin to do my craft. I found that very exciting and do still. We're growing, which is great, but there's plenty of space for us to do our craft.

Stephen Mills: I came here from New York 23 years ago as a dancer, and I totally expected to be here for one year and move on, because that's generally what dancers do. When I came, [Ballet Austin] was a very small company, but the thing that was most impressive about Austin was that there were a lot of independent artists, a lot of freelance choreographers. It seemed like there were 20 or 30 little companies. Maybe there weren't, but it felt like it. There were choreographers making interesting work every day. Deborah Hay, and Yacov Sharir, used to perform at the space on the corner of Fourth and Lavaca

AC: Capitol City Playhouse.

Mills: There was experimental dance going on all over the place. And as I was from the very beginning of my career interested in making work, it was great to be 25 and absorbing all this different work that was being produced. The idea that you could come to a small town – which is what Austin was then, a small town – and be successful. You know, I'd left New York and thought that New York was the only place where valid work was being done, and I've long since left that idea behind, but it felt like for me for the first time that I was in a place where I could put down roots and develop something that was interesting, because so many people had made examples for me.

Community

AC: In conversations with each of you, I've been struck by the way you talk about community and how you pursue work that honors and connects with the community. Where did Austin as a community begin to affect your work? Stephen, *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project* was such a highlight in your career in part because it didn't stand on its own. It needed a community to make it work. And I would say the same thing, Dave, about *The Laramie Project*. You three don't create work in a vacuum. It's important that your work not just find an audience but that it finds the audience that makes up this community.

Mills: In terms of *Light*, I have to say that the project had to be that way to be respectful of the subject matter. If you're going to take someone else's story and co-opt it, you sure as hell better do something in a respectful way that honors what they went through, not for your own self-aggrandizement but as a teaching tool. The community aspect of it – yeah, clearly, we're in the community with the projects that we're doing, and [*Light* felt] like a community project, but we didn't fully appreciate it until the thing was done. And you know that thing when people come up to you after performances and say, "Thank you for doing this; I got 'X,' 'Y,' and 'Z' out of it." As artists – I'm sure you guys are the same way – you say: "Thank you. This is embarrassing. Thank you." [Laughter] But when you step away from it and really realize the effect you have – it's a very profound concept to think that someone would be affected by what I do. I make dances. So what? I don't affect politics. That might be something that I do privately, but that's not something I consciously think about when I'm making work. But people are affected by it.

Steakley: That shyness that Stephen describes is like Judy Shepard last night, when everybody stood up for her [because the Matthew Shepard Act] is coming up for a Senate vote. She said, "You act like I did this alone." When people say, "Thank you so much" and "I loved this," why is my inclination to deflect this? I think it's because the nature of the work is collaborative, and we get to be the person who's leading the charge with the vision, but we're not solely executing it or making it possible. This is a lot of people's work that is represented on stage, and you don't get to see all of the folks who make it happen. So I think about the collaboration and want to make sure people understand that.

CONTINUED ON P.42

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I keep thinking about voices. If I think about what it was for me coming from that farm, it's that there were all of these alternative points of view, these voices that I didn't know existed, right? There were these ideas I didn't know were in the realm of possibility. I was becoming transformed as a person, because I was beginning to understand [the point of view of] somebody who walks in different shoes, who's very different from me. It becomes more complex to invite more voices in, yet it's that part that becomes enriching.

With regard to *The Laramie Project*, we did talk-backs after every one of those performances, and you know, we can all pay lip service to that idea of transformation, that somebody can be changed, but in one of those talk-backs we had this woman who said: "I've just got to confess, I came into this performance reluctantly. I would label myself a homophobic person, and I've just got to say I'm wrong." And she burst into tears. That became very powerful. Not that I didn't realize it before, but it became, "Oh, this can also do that." And that's really important to me about the way we build community. I love to entertain and do things for fun, but I also like to open up a conversation that is going to create some connectivity that we didn't have before, right? We're going to have some understanding of each other's lives that then allows our community to be more expansive and the heart of our city gets larger, it's more welcoming to more people who call it home.

Mills: But don't you think that we as artists think about things in very compassionate ways to begin with? Human rights is a very important issue to me, as I'm sure it is to you. Gay rights is a very important issue to me. Reforming health care in this country is a very important issue to me personally.

Steakley: Because we all have artists who have none.

Mills: Yeah. And I think that there's no way to dissociate that aspect of ourselves from what it is we produce and the way we



JOHN ANDERSON

"Whenever my colleagues come from another city, they are always amazed at that audience energy between the crowd and performer."

produce it. And that's really an important aspect of it. I mean, sometimes even when you're doing those [lighter] performances, it comes from the point of view that is a vehicle for these ideas.

Johnson: Ours is a communal art by its nature. We have a company of voices at the center of our organization, but even at the highest professional level, there is something about choral music that remains an amateur art in the *best* sense of that word. We're about fellowship, and we often view that as a living representation of community in a sort of odd and won-

derful way, when people with very different energies, personalities, temperaments, training, come together for the discipline of this chamber music that we call choir.

Audience

Johnson: I think there's something about the audiences here. I often say – and I promised myself I would stop saying it – I experience our audiences to be deeply listening audiences. There's a deep interest in engagement. Part of it's I think what we do and part of it's coming from the city itself. This is an oasis for a lot of people; many people from many segments of society come here to find something, to experience something for themselves.

Steakley: That for me has a lot to do with the live music that is so much a part of Austin. Concert audiences in this community are different than in Dallas or Houston, in terms of the interaction between that performer onstage and that audience. Whenever my colleagues come from another city, they are always amazed at that audience energy between the crowd and performer. Because I think that people are open to that engagement, but I feel they got trained *there* [seeing live music]. I feel like that's what built that vibe. I'm surprised at how people will be so spontaneously vocal – and I know we provoke it in our theatre, but at the same time, I feel like people come crying for that sort of visceral, out-loud experience and response.

Johnson: I think that's really true. And one of the things I also love about live music is that any sense of artifice or falseness is just not possible to maintain. If there's ever something that's [false], people just read it right away, and I'm so grateful for that. It keeps it very fresh. We say that we want to take our work very, very seriously but never ourselves seriously.

Mills: I agree with that, but I also think that – when I moved here, I was really caught off guard by the familiarity of the com-

CONTINUED ON P.44

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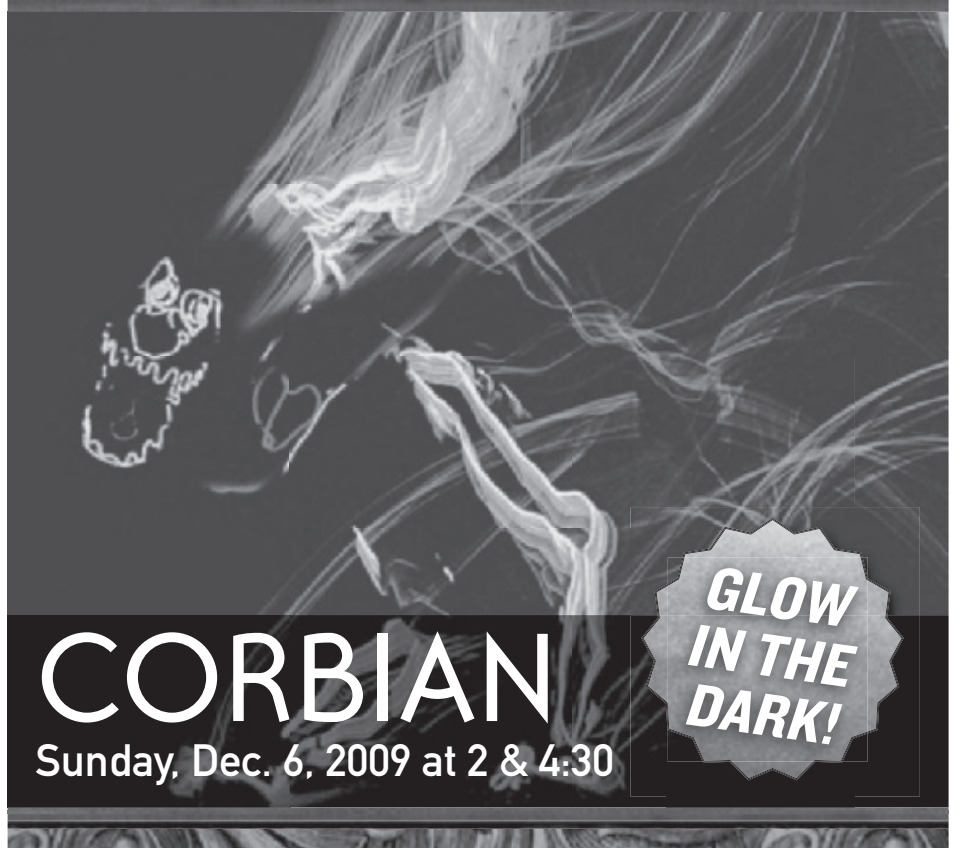
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munity itself; it's like it was a small town. Clearly everybody didn't know everybody else, but I come from a very, very small town, so I know what that feels like, and that's what it felt like to me. And even though the community has grown by leaps and bounds, and technology has changed everything about the city, it still has that attitude. Audiences say: "That's my ballet. That's my Conspirare or Zach Scott." They have a real pride in the organization.

Johnson: I think we want to keep taking the very, very best from that, the rich level of engagement. We have incredible opportunities here to deepen this city culturally. If we can just keep letting it not be about ourselves and our art and building it about the art.

Mills: And don't you find it more possible here in Austin?

Johnson: Truly. Yes, yes.

Mills: I just feel like I've been able to grow so much here – and been challenged and challenged myself – in ways that I perhaps would not have in a different environment. The audience here does not sit back and say: "I need *Swan Lake*. I need *Giselle* right now." They say: "Okay, that was clever. Now I need to see something new. What are you thinking about? What are you doing?" And they're genuinely interested in new work in ways that took me by surprise. And I was grateful for it certainly, because I was only interested in new work. I think the community is a great community, but it also challenges us to think about things in ways that many small cities might not.

Steakley: I do think there's a large component that embraces what's new. And then there are those who are wanting to preserve the Austin that was. I think about that line in *Keepin' It Weird* when Liz Carpenter said, "How do we hang onto our soul and still grow and mature as a city?" We're each finding that way to push a boundary with a work that's new, and part of what comes with that is failure occasionally. There has to be a willingness of the audience to take that risk and experience a failure. I look at some things I would point to as being really dismal box-office for us that, if we had not had those experiences artistically, [the audience] wouldn't have ever had that *Laramie Project* two years later that they loved and embraced. Because the artists learned in that artistically rigorous and challenging piece the tools to create that later experience.

Johnson: You're so right. That's a very important part of community, to take those risks that always pay us back eventually. And I think audiences are getting up to it, as we really continue to encourage dialogue with the community. You don't need to love it all, but be engaged with it. Let's be in conversation.

Time

AC: *You all seem to have been very conscious of time, sometimes working carefully toward special projects that require certain resources or that you want audiences to experience. I think of Emily in Our Town wanting to be aware of every minute that passes. Does time drive you?*

Steakley: When I think about my time initially as an artistic director versus now, there's much more time devoted to fundraising, because our organization is growing; the board is larger, so there are different demands on that time; and just like there are greater expectations of Austin and what our city's going to deliver, there are greater expectations of the professionalism [at Zach] and the experience [it will deliver]. And as a young artistic director who was single versus the person with a family, the change also happens in who we are and how we spend our time. What I find challenging is to make all those moments



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

"We have incredible opportunities here to deepen this city culturally. If we can just keep letting it not be about ourselves and our art and building it about the art."

have meaning: the moments with family, the moments with a patron, the moments in the rehearsal room. The thing you asked when I got here, "Were you able to enjoy *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*?" – that's a really important thing to me. Because if I can't be present and enjoy that work, I don't want to do it. If I can't also be an audience to the moment, then that's not how I want to spend my time.

Johnson: As an artist it's important to access that aliveness that is so much about being present. I was visiting about that with the composer who was here this weekend, Robert Kyr. We talked about how many artists [get trapped] because of, "That was a magical moment, well, let's re-create that the next night and the next night and the next." After that one night, it becomes a concept, and you sort of chase down the concept, and sometimes you reach a dead end. But if there's that sense of aliveness in the performance, you can be constantly bringing freshness to it. I find that very much in demand in the work we do.

"It's a very profound concept to think that someone would be affected by what I do. I make dances. So what? I don't affect politics. ... But people are affected by it."



Mills: Also, when you're working in staging a well-known piece, you're working with people who may not have touched this piece ever, so you're teaching, and you're mentoring, and you're coaching. The piece becomes alive in that way if you approach it from that direction. If you go into the studio to teach steps, that's teaching steps; that's not interesting.

And because we're all doing big seasons, every piece isn't going to be new. So the dancers have to revisit work, the artists have to revisit work, the audience has to revisit work sometimes as well, because there's so much to learn about them every time you revisit them. It's difficult, but we're artists. This is what we get up and do every day. And this is the contribution we make to our community.

I'm taking this philosophy class, and we're reading about Plato, and in *The Republic*, he's talking about the way you build a state is that everybody does what they do. A doctor is only a physician. People who make bread only make bread. People who

make theatre only make theatre. So we're contributing to the community because we're doing what we do. That's the way you make your contributions, and they are as valid as anybody else's.

AC: *I think back to your comment about making dances as opposed to being in politics. People are profoundly affected by your work because art creates a way in that we don't have in any other part of society. Like The Laramie Project. People may hear what's being said in that play in a way that, if they were watching a documentary film or reading a newspaper, wouldn't get through. There's that opening. And it's there in entertainment, too, as well as in the more*

socially relevant sorts of projects. Sometimes we need an opening into our lives that can only come through the arts.

Mills: Art allows you to hear difficult information about yourself that somebody telling you, you might think offensive of them.

Steakley: Something you can't realize in your own life or that society as a whole can't put forward can be presented onstage in a way that's safe by example, and you get to experience what that's like. What's it like if everybody's truly equal? You don't feel that in your day-to-day, but you have the opportunity to engage in the possibility of what that is.

Mills: Like with *Light*. Ultimately, it was about human rights and Holocaust survivors. And it was about the mistreatment of African-Americans through slavery, and it was about discrimination against gay people, and it was about unfair practices against women. You know what I mean? You can see those things based upon where you are. I hope, with a question. It begins a conversation. It doesn't end a conversation. ■

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The Nutcracker, choreographed by Stephen Mills, runs Dec. 5-23 in Dell Hall at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside. For more information, call 476-2163 or visit www.balletaustin.org.

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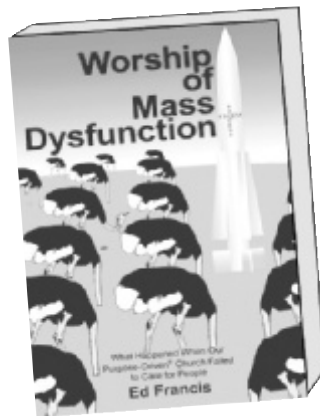
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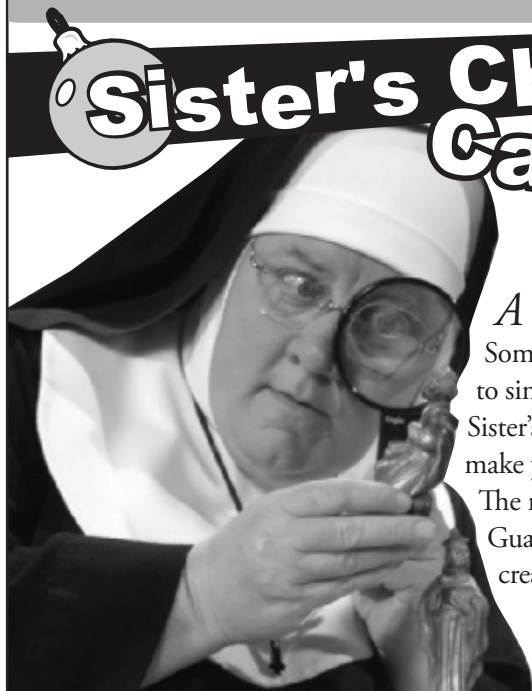
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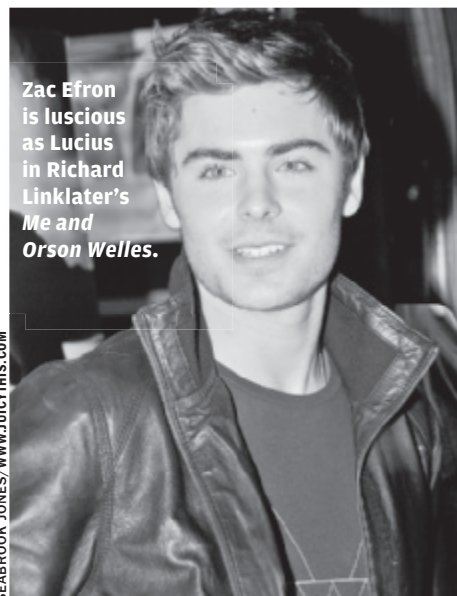
STARF*CKERS Just how difficult is it to crash a party? Ask **Tareq** and **Michael Salahi**, who crashed the **president's** first **State Dinner** at the **White House**. With no credentials whatsoever, they blithely passed through the **Secret Service** checkpoints and into the party. The secret? *Looking* like you belong. If they hadn't been groomed perfectly, dressed to the nines, and decked out with the right accoutrements, they wouldn't have made it past the **First Dog**. But as it is? They're the talk of the free world. One wonders *how* they got so friendly with the likes of **Joe Biden** and **Katie Couric**, both of whom the Salahis were photographed with. But I can tell you exactly how it happens: There you are at an event. Suddenly you see **Celebrity X**, **Y**, or **Z** standing near you. You grab her hand, introduce yourself (since you already *know* who she is), and smile big just as the camera flashes. Then the celeb is on to the next group of strangers and you are not even a distant memory. Or sometimes the photographer is responsible, when all of a sudden, you're arm-in-arm with someone you've never seen before and the celeb is smiling away like you've been friends since kindergarten. But do not be fooled. The celeb will never remember you (even if you *did* go to kindergarten together), and even though you have a pic with the celeb, the celeb has

done thousands of these shots before, and you mean nothing to her. I know, because I have hundreds of shots just like it – from *both* sides of the fence. Sometimes, like with **Morgan Fairchild** or **Rue McClanahan**, they barely bother to look at you while posing with you. Others, like **Linda Grey**, **Dennis Quaid**, or **Debra Winger**, actually take a moment to at least *feel* like they've gotten to know you a little bit. I've been starstruck since I was an infant and have dragged my ass to see people as irrelevant as **Mary Wilson** of the **Supremes** and **Lyle Waggoner** of the **Carol Burnett Show**. Conversely, I've been giddy while being photographed with the likes of **Billy Bob Thornton** or the late **Cyd Charisse**. I make it a point of trying to look like I belong among them. In my dreamy world of fashion as I was coming of age, I was riveted by the likes of **Jackie O.**, **Truman Capote**, and **Bianca Jagger** done up in their furs and big sunglasses. These were the people I wanted to be like, and *voila!* Now I can. In fact, I pass so well that people come up to me and want to be photographed. My favorite lines are: "I know you're *someone*; I can tell. Who are you?" and "Oh, I see you everywhere and just love you. Can we get a photo together?" Who could mind that? As long as I've gone to the trouble to look like a celebrity, how could

I mind being treated like it? But the worst thing? Asking celebrities (or me) if they remember you, when you met them for five seconds at such-and-such event while someone took your picture. Don't do that to them or yourself: One of you will wind up embarrassed, guaranteed.

OVERHEARD "I wouldn't *dream* of going to the gym without wearing **Spanx** under my workout clothes!"

EVENT-UALLY The follow-up to **Turk Pipkin's Nobility**, called **One Peace at a Time**, has two screenings for its opening Friday, Dec. 4, at the **Arbor Cinema**, and two receptions at **Manuel's Arboretum**, so there's absolutely no reason for you not to attend. This is a very special event – a fundraiser for **Mahiga Hope High School** in **Kenya**. Details at www.nobility.org. Organizers say bring lots of **Kleenex**... The new **Avant San Antonio** has opened to rave reviews with its edgy, warehouse feel and Avant's usual excellent services. The Avant in Austin at Fourth and Colorado has moved to Fifth Street, in the newly acclaimed **Market District**. **Monsieur Roy Frederick's** empire keeps spreading, and the fundraiser for the **Miracle Foundation**, supported by Avant, is Sunday, Dec. 6. See www.avantsalon.com... **Dancing With the Stars Austin** is also that Sunday, but you already knew that, didn't you? Should be pretty glam!... I spent part of my **Thanksgiving** with my family and then spent the rest of it with my "other" family, **Mark Erwin** and **Stephen Rice**. Mark and Stephen



Zac Efron is luscious as Lucius in Richard Linklater's *Me and Orson Welles*.

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threw their annual **Turkeypalooza** shindig and hosted all the strays and orphans who wanted to attend. Though there was a distinct Yankee contingent, I did have fun with **Tom Tinguely** (owner of the **Great Outdoors**) and his companion, **Danny Hatt**. Danny works with Tom in his other endeavor, **Hummingbird House** (www.hummingbirdhouse.info), an event venue in Manchaca that is an unbelievable tropical paradise. Of course, once you've seen the Great Outdoors, you can imagine the splendor of Hummingbird House.

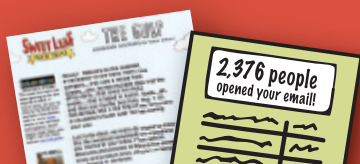
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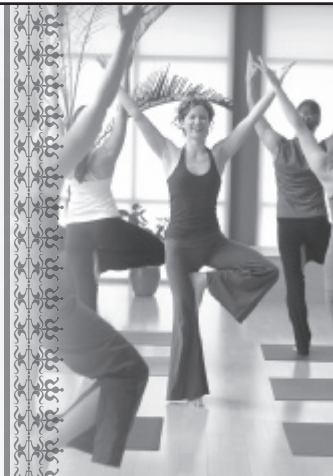
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food

52 Holiday Bookshelf 56 Restaurant Roulette

Eat Local Week 2009

This is the third amazing year for **Edible Austin Eat Local Week**, a spectacular series of events that celebrate the bounty of local sustainably farmed foods in Central Texas. All the money raised by Eat Local Week goes to **Urban Roots**, an Austin youth development program that uses sustainable agriculture as a means to transform the lives of young people and to increase access to healthy food for all Austinites. Unlike some other “restaurant week” events where only a fraction of the money raised goes to a selected nonprofit, 100% of the money raised by Eat Local Week goes to Urban Roots.

The first year, \$7,000 was raised; last year, the events brought in \$25,000. “In our first two years, when no one had heard of Urban Roots, the money raised by Edible Austin Eat Local Week enabled us to get off the ground!” says **Russell**

Smith, executive director of YouthLaunch, the parent organization of Urban Roots. “It was literally our seed capital, the money we used to buy seeds. It is still a huge part of getting the word out about our program, and bringing in the resources that give Urban Roots stability.”

For more info on all events, including prices, locations, and rules of competition, see: www.edibleaustin.com/content/events. For info on Urban Roots, see www.youthlaunch.org/programs/urbanroots.

– Kate Thornberry



The Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 5: Saturday at 10am is the **kickoff event** at the **Austin Farmers' Market Downtown** with a proclamation by the mayor and other special activities. Later in the day is one of the most popular events from previous years, the **Urban Farms Bicycle Tour**. This family-friendly tour visits Boggy Creek Farm, Zhi Tea, Rain Lily Farm, Hands of the Earth Farm, local school and community gardens, and more and offers a chance to win impressive prizes, including a fully outfitted cruiser bicycle. The **Edible Austin Tea Festival** at Zhi Tea (10am-2pm) is one of the stops. The first night of Eat Local Week features a 7pm screening at the **Paramount Theatre** of **Fresh**, a provocative and inspiring food film, followed by a Q&A session with the writer and director, Ana Sofia Joanes, along with **Joel Salatin**, writer, local foods spokesperson, and owner of Polyface farm. Tickets are \$15, \$25, and \$100; the \$100 tickets include a prescreening reception catered by top area chefs, featuring outstanding local products and spirits.

Sunday, Dec. 6: The **Drink Local Coffee Festival** at Owl Tree Roasting runs 11am-2pm, complete with a barista throwdown and the debut of Franklin BBQ. Sunday night is **Drink Local Night**, hosted by Topsy Texans David Alan and Joe Eifler at the **Palm Door** from 6 to 9pm and featuring the 2nd Annual **Drink Local Cocktail Contest**. Last year's winner, Bobby Heugel, returns to judge this year's entries in the battle of the mixologists.

Monday, Dec. 7: Finn & Porter and the Cupcake Bar host a **happy hour at the Hilton**, 5-7pm. At 7pm, the **Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar** will screen the popular movie **Julie & Julia**, and Alamo chefs Trish Eichelberger and John Bullington will prepare an exquisite dinner inspired by the film. Julie Powell (author of the memoir that inspired the movie) will give a Q&A session afterward in this sure-to-sell-out event.

Tuesday, Dec. 8: The **Austin Museum of Art** gets involved, offering a Gulf Coast Sampler from 6:30 to 8pm, featuring chef Jesse Griffiths and



Joel Salatin of Polyface farm

food historian Elizabeth Englehardt. And from 5 to 10pm, **Whole Foods Market** and **Go Texan** will offer 50-minute ice skating sessions for \$10, with all the proceeds benefiting Urban Roots.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Better Bites of Austin will host an **Edible Local Holiday Gift Fair** at City Hall from 4 to 8pm, where you can buy local food gifts, create your own holiday gift baskets, or bid on premade baskets.

Thursday, Dec. 10: **Fine Food Art Gallery Night** at the **Wally Workman Gallery** from 6 to 8pm.

Friday, Dec. 11: **Whip In** presents **Local Brewers Happy Hour** from 4 to 8pm, where \$20 buys you a pint glass to sample and compare a variety of excellent local brews.

Saturday Dec. 12: The **Media Celebrity Local Food Cook-off**, the finale event, is 10am-noon at the Austin Farmers' Market Downtown, with Kate Weidaw (KXAN) and Bryan Beck (KGSR) squaring off in the kitchen.

Event Menu Dec. 3-13

► Win free burgers for a year at **Elevation Burger** (9828 Great Hills Trail, 608-4054) by being the first person to finish a 10-patty Elevation Vertigo burger with a side of olive oil fries. To enter, e-mail your name, age, and contact info to eborboretum@gmail.com. Thursday, Dec. 3, 7pm.

► The **Sunset Valley Farmers Market** Christmas Faire (Toney Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones, www.svfm.org) runs for three weekends beginning this Saturday. Get photos of Santa with the kids during the weekly shopping spree. Saturday, Dec. 5, 9am-1pm.

► Begin the **Hill Country Holiday Wine Trail** at **Texas Hills Vineyard** (830/868-2321, www.texashillsvineyard.com) with wine tastings, food samples, and gift ideas. Saturdays, Dec. 5 & 12, 10am-5pm; Sundays, Dec. 6 & 13, noon-5pm.

► Enjoy a day of family fun, carnival booths, beer, pizza, and wacky contests such as Hands on an Eggplant Sub, Extreme Pizza Eating, and Pizza Dough Tossing at the fourth annual **Carnival-O-Pizza at Home Slice Pizza** (1415 S. Congress, 444-PIES, www.homeslicepizza.com). Proceeds benefit Austin Pets Alive. Saturday, Dec. 5, noon-7pm.

► **Reel Women** hosts a workshop and screening of Ellen Frankenstein's documentary about one woman's emerging connection to local food sources, entitled **Eating Alaska**, at the Independent at 501 Studios (501 N. I-35). For complete details, e-mail reelwomen@reelwomen.org. Sunday, Dec. 6: workshop, 1-3pm; screening, 3:30pm.

► Chef Virginia Morgan presents an **Un-Cooking Class** for savory seasonal dishes at **Casa de Luz** (Cielo room, 1701 Toomey). \$135 includes recipes, food samples, and vegan eating tips. Make necessary reservations at 828-7404. Sunday, Dec. 6, 1:30-5:30pm.

► **Dai Due** chef **Jesse Griffiths** will present a seasonal chicken and dumplings dinner with live music at the **HOPE Farmers Market** (414 Waller). \$40 per person, BYOB. Sunday, Dec. 6, 7pm.

► The monthly **Wine Me Dine Me** dinner at Cafe Josie (1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226, www.cafejosie.com) is a sparkling holiday celebration with a menu paired with sparkling wines from around the world. \$75 per person, reservations necessary. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6-9pm.

– V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Chef/restaurateur **Ruben Rodriguez** informed me last weekend that he and his family plan to close **Evitas Botanitas** (6400 S. First, 441-2424, www.evitasbotanitas.com) after dinner on Dec. 19. As readers of this column and longtime fans of the restaurant know, Ruben has been battling a brain tumor, and the restaurant has been for sale for more than a year. Though it looked as though he'd found a buyer this fall, that deal has fallen through. Rodriguez has been busy outfitting a catering trailer and plans to continue his popular catering operation, preparing food for weddings, parties, and festivals (look for them at the upcoming Zilker Tree Holiday Festival). During our conversation, both Ruben and Juanita expressed their appreciation for the support of loyal customers during their 21 years in business. They extend an invitation to all their friends to drop in to the restaurant during the next two weeks for some award-winning salsas and family hospitality... A multicity book tour brings bestselling author (*Julie & Julia*) and former Austinite **Julie Powell** back to town to sign copies of her new book, *Cleaving: A Story of Marriage, Meat, and Obsession* (Little, Brown; \$24.99), at **BookPeople** (603 N. Lamar) this Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5pm. Fans of Powell's first book and this summer's charming romantic comedy based on it will be in for a shock where the new work is concerned. “Cleaving” is one of a very few words in the English language with two opposite meanings, and both work as metaphors in Powell's story, as she learns to butcher meat as an apprentice in a family-owned butcher shop in the Catskills in New York while cleaving to a marriage seriously threatened by self-inflicted cuts. The twinkling lights, idealized movie version of the Powells' marriage is not a feature of this memoir – in fact, the bruised (and bruising) descriptions of Julie's obsessive adulterous relationship with a former college lover are guaranteed to make you squirm. Though Powell's ferocious self-revelation will make some readers uncomfortable, for me the book was saved by her depiction of the testosterone-infused camaraderie at Fleisher's market and her emergence as a mature woman who discovered how things fit together by taking them apart. In a phone interview from her new cottage in the Catskills, Powell talked about how her experience working in the butcher shop made her a real meat snob. “Now if I don't get meat from Fleisher's or the Greenmarket so I know where and how it was raised, I just won't eat it,” she says. Her arrival during Austin's annual **Eat Local Week** couldn't be better timed... So many invitations this week, what with the **Face-Lift Unveiling Party** at the Cedar Door (201 Brazos, 473-3712, www.cedardooraustin.com), the media party at the new **Red's Porch** (3508 S. Lamar, 440-7337, www.redsporch.com), and the soft opening of the much-anticipated **24 Diner** (Sixth & Lamar, www.24diner.com), all before the Eat Local Week whirlwind starts... The patriarch of one of Austin's legendary merchant families has died. Austin natives **Theodore Jabour** and his identical twin brother, **Arthur**, became namesakes of and inspiration for the large local **Twin Liquors** chain that grew out of their family's Downtown package stores and taverns. After a life defined by excellent customer and community service, Theodore Jabour passed away last week at the age of 88. We extend our sincere condolences to his entire extended family.

Building a Bookshelf

In my estimation, one of the best perks of this job has always been the review copies of cookbooks sent by publishers every spring and fall. In the early days of the job, I tried to keep them all, but as my bookshelves filled up and my house became overwhelmed with stacks of books, I realized the joy in sharing. Now I distribute some of the bounty to the contributing Food writers and other local food professionals. In general, it works something like this: Restaurant chef books and anything Asian to Mick Vann, culinary history and interesting personal memoirs to MM Pack, gardening and canning for Claudia Alarcón, wine and cocktail books to Wes Marshall, ethnic foods and anything that harkens back to America's past to Kate Thornberry, cooking with kids and food scholarship to Rachel Feit, and I still keep most of the baking and dessert books for myself. Here are some selections from the fall crop of cookbooks that we really liked – maybe they'll be appropriate for someone on your list.

– Virginia B. Wood

ON THE LINE THE STATIONS, THE HEAT, THE COOKS, THE COSTS, THE CHAOS, AND THE TRIUMPHS: INSIDE THE WORLD OF LE BERNARDIN

by Eric Ripert & Christine Muhlke
Artisan, 240 pp., \$35

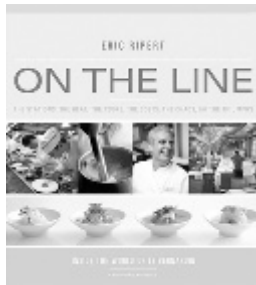
You can watch *Top Chef* and *Hell's Kitchen* till your eyes are crossed, but TV cooking shows don't really give you an accurate and complete view of how a restaurant kitchen really operates, and they reveal nothing of how the business end of the restaurant is run. *On the Line* does both, with amazing revelation and focus. Eric Ripert is chef and partner of Le Bernardin, a Michelin three-star seafood eatery in New York City.

The book opens with a history of Ripert's career and Le Bernardin and quickly provides the reader with the ultimate backstage pass into the inner workings of every stage of the restaurant kitchen and dining room. Each station is described in detail – illustrating the tools and equipment involved, the product dealt with, the personnel and their duties – all reinforcing how each stage contributes to a total team experience.

Especially fascinating are the details of how a dish is conceived and perfected before it gets served and a comprehensive look into the tightly synchronized mayhem of a night on the line. Ripert also explains the dining room and the lengths gone to in providing a polished dining experience. He also addresses the business side of the trade, a subject seldom covered in print beyond professional culinary manuals. The book finishes with 50 recipes, which are clearly written and well-organized but not intended for the amateur.

For anyone who aspires to be associated with the restaurant business in any way, this is required reading. For anyone who loves cooking or eating out, it provides riveting insight and a most enjoyable read.

– Mick Vann



THE SILK ROAD GOURMET, VOLUME ONE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN ASIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CUISINES OF GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, INDIA, AND SRI LANKA

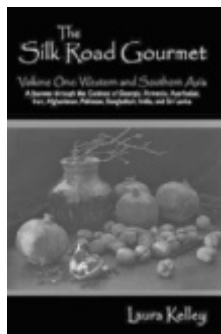
by Laura Kelley
iUniverse, 372 pp.,
\$24.95

Laura Kelley's experiences from extensive travels throughout Asia and her fascinating food and travel blog produced the basis for *The Silk Road Gourmet, Volume One*, the first of a three-volume set covering 30 different cuisines of Asia. In each locale, she researched and collected recipes from home and market cooks, to be tested in her home kitchen upon her return. *Volume One* covers Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka, some of which are grossly underrepresented in Western cookbooks.

Kelley provides a culinary collision of flavors that at first glance might seem disparate, but closer examination under her microscope reveals how spices and influences flow effortlessly between borders, developed over centuries of trade between the Black Sea and the Pacific. Each section opens with a brief overview of cooking methods, spices and flavors, and culinary history. The well-written recipes are logical and easy to follow, with few taking more than 30 minutes to prepare – ideal for cooks of any skill level. To Kelley's credit, the dishes offer authentically bold flavors, and the only concession has been to adopt modern utensils of the Western kitchen.

We tried chicken with apricots in lemon pepper sauce: simple to make and assertively delicious, aromatic, and satisfying. If every dish is as good as this Afghani gem, Kelley's book will prove priceless.

– M.V.



gift
guide
2009

PARKER'S WINE BARGAINS THE WORLD'S BEST WINE VALUES UNDER \$25 by Robert M. Parker Jr.

Simon & Schuster, 512 pp., \$17.99 (paper)

If you've ever used a 100-point ranking scale for wine, you can say a quiet word of thanks to its inventor, wine critic Robert Parker. While thousands of winemakers whose wines score 89 or lower curse his name, nearly all of those with wines scoring more than 90 bless him. For more than 30 years, he's operated with the type of self-assured zeal usually reserved for a religious zealot, except, ironically, he's been a crusader for wine and on the side of lusty sensuousness.

One sure way to sell your \$1,000-a-bottle wine is by having a rave review from Parker. For that reason, Parker has every expensive wine on earth slung his way, something reflected in the magazine *The Wine Advocate*, where the average price seems to be unobtainable.

That's why it's such a pleasure to see him slumming it with the rest of us with his new book on wines priced at less than \$25. Instead of wasting time going over Wine 101, Parker and a few of his *Advocate* contributors charge straight into telling us their favorite budget wines by country. Best of all are eight pages in the back of the book with a list of the best of the best, separated by color and density: Every wine on Parker's short list is worth trying at least once.

– Wes Marshall



THE CONCISE WORLD ATLAS OF WINE

by Hugh Johnson & Jancis Robinson
Mitchell Beazley, 352 pp., \$29.99 (paper)

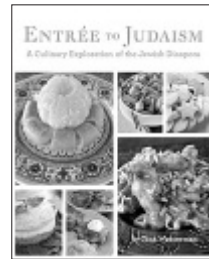
Most folks see wine as a simple beverage or a part of a meal. But for a few, it's much more – an amalgamation of flavors, aromas, memories of places visited, and ideas for places yet to come. Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson's *Concise World Atlas of Wine* is for the people who have fallen hard for the entire experience and who know that geography, weather patterns, and Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée, or AOC, regulations play an important role in understanding why a Napa chardonnay tastes different from one from Burgundy.

The authors also wrote *The World Atlas of Wine* (Mitchell Beazley, 2008, now in its sixth printing since 1971), a mammoth 12-inch-by-10-inch tome weighing in at 5 pounds, and thus a little tough to take on a trip. *The Concise World Atlas of Wine* is packable, and it sacrifices little in the way of information, though armchair travelers might miss the wealth of pictures in the original. The maps are definitive, the information is authoritative, and the authors have an unmatched ability to present solid information without ever sounding supercilious. Highly recommended for the oenophile on your list.

– W.M.

ENTRÉE TO JUDAISM A CULINARY EXPLORATION OF THE JEWISH DIASPORA

by Tina Wasserman
URJ Press, 472 pp.,
\$39.95



In my work as a private chef, I was once preparing the first dinner for a new client. The household's 5-year-old edged into the kitchen. "So," she said, skeptically, "are you Jewish?" "Uh, no," I replied, thinking fast. "But I can cook Jewish."

While a glib answer might satisfy a kindergarten, Jewish cooking is not so simple a proposition. It's a multifaceted culinary arena based on religious observance and food laws, family tradition, geographic location, available ingredients, and the creativity of individual cooks. Over the centuries, wherever Jews have settled across the globe, they've absorbed and adapted local flavors into the culinary customs and dietary regulations that traveled with them.

There are many terrific books about Jewish cooking, but Tina Wasserman, longtime Dallas cooking teacher, chef, and food writer, skillfully tackles this vast subject with fresh eyes. She provides interesting context for virtually every recipe, explaining when and why Jews settled in a region and how dishes evolved there. I learned much about the historic roles Jews played in international food trade – oranges in the Middle East, spice routes across Asia, vanilla and cacao in the Caribbean.

The book's 275 recipes range from the relatively familiar Jewish cuisines of Russia, Europe, and the Mediterranean to less well-known dishes developed by inhabitants of Southeast Asia, China, and Latin America. Wasserman includes some of her own Texas adaptations, which she says are "no different than what our ancestors did when they arrived in a new country; take what's locally available, add personal preference and experience to the mix, and make sure it conforms to kashrut."

This book is a cornucopia of tasty dishes

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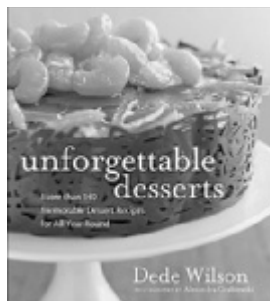
A Baker's Half Dozen

The Amish Cook's Baking Book, by Lovina Eicher & Kevin Williams (Andrews McMeel, 224 pp., \$29.99) In her follow-up to *The Amish*

Cook at Home, syndicated columnist Eicher presents more than 100 recipes for baked goods from the Amish kitchen along with fascinating sidebars about Amish culture and traditions. Simple recipes, good instructions, and evocative photos make for a worthwhile keepsake.

DamGoodSweet: Desserts to Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth New Orleans Style, by David Guas & Raquel Pelzel (Taunton Press, 172 pp., \$25)

Guas provides recipes for quintessential New Orleans sweets and desserts such as bananas Foster, king cake, Doberge cake, and Ponchatoula Strawberry Shortcakes. Those standards never looked or tasted so good. They had me at buttermilk beignets and cane-syrup ice cream.



Baking: 300 Recipes, 2000 Photographs, One Baking Education, by James Peterson (Ten Speed Press, 416 pp., \$40) Renowned culinary educator and award-winning cookbook author Peterson has created a comprehensive and accessible compendium of baking instruction featuring more than 350 recipes and techniques, clearly illustrated with 1,500 photographs. Useful for beginners or accomplished bakers, this book is a worthy addition to any culinary library.

200 Fast & Easy Artisan Breads: No-Knead, One Bowl, by Judith Fertig (Robert Rose, 344 pp., \$24.95 – paper) Fertig's new book is right in step with the recent trend toward easy, no-knead breads. She sets out the necessary basic equipment and ingredients, plus many helpful tips. The chapters are arranged around a group of master recipes for both savory and sweet doughs with a world of

ethnic variations. I'm currently partial to items made with the Shaker buttermilk dough. Making the brewhouse dough with a local craft beer next sounds like a very good idea.

Baking Kids Love, by Cindy Mushet (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 128 pp., \$20) Following up last year's award-winning *The Art & Soul of Baking*, California pastry chef Mushet's new work is a collection of recipes that are tested and approved by her 10-year-old daughter. The instructions are easy to follow, many techniques are illustrated with photos, and the spiral binding and easy-wipe cover make the book very (kid) user friendly. An inspiring gift for young bakers.

Unforgettable Desserts: More Than 140 Memorable Dessert Recipes for All Year Round, by Dede Wilson (John Wiley & Sons, 304 pp., \$29.95) I consider a cookbook a worthwhile investment if it contains at least one recipe I want to add to my culinary repertoire. So far, Wilson's new collection of dessert recipes has three – the simple and elegant sugar crunch cake, the Almond Mounds of Joy Cake that evokes a favorite candy, and the dramatic (and time-consuming) clementine chocolate almond torte. She offers great personal tips and chocolate suggestions, too.

– V.B.W.

easily managed in American kitchens, and it's a useful resource for anyone interested in historic Jewish foodways. Where else might you find eight different chicken soup recipes prepared by Jewish mothers, from Poland to India to Thailand?

– MM Pack

THE PLEASURES OF COOKING FOR ONE

by Judith Jones

Knopf, 273 pp., \$27.95

Legendary editor Judith Jones, in addition to editing a host of culinary superstars including Julia Child, Edna Lewis, and James Beard, also writes books of her own. In her wildly successful memoir, *The Tenth Muse: My Life in Food*, Jones wrote about cooking for oneself, warning that a subtle conspiracy among the food industry, anti-feminist sources, and a pleasure-hating diet industry had convinced women living alone that “it wasn't worth it” to cook for themselves.

In *The Pleasures of Cooking for One*, Jones takes on this cultural message and refutes it utterly. She enthusiastically illustrates exactly how to cook delicious, nourishing, and soul-satisfying meals for oneself, for a mere fraction of the money one would spend dining out.

She begins with the sorts of pots and pans that are most useful for one person and proceeds to what ingredients are good to have on hand in the pantry, freezer, and refrigerator. Then she illustrates how to use up every bit of food you buy, with recipes to transform a single chicken, steak, or other major ingredient into three or more entirely different meals. For instance, lamb chops can be grilled one day and the leftover chops made into lamb and lentils the next and finished as a lamb curry. She has worked out ingenious systems to keep time, effort, and cost truly minimal while turning out the most rewarding meals possible. The book also includes recipes for soups, egg dishes, vegetables, and desserts that are appropriate for the single cook.

Best of all, *The Pleasures of Cooking for One* is suitable for any single person of any gender, whether heading to college at 18 or widowed at 83.

– Kate Thornberry



COMPLETE BOOK OF INDIAN COOKING

350 RECIPES FROM THE REGIONS OF INDIA

by Suneeta Vaswani

Robert Rose, 480 pp., \$34.95

Texas author Suneeta Vaswani lives, writes, and teaches Indian cooking in Houston, with occasional forays into Austin for seminars and guest chef cameos. I was fortunate enough to sample her cooking at the Stonehouse Vineyard luncheon during the Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival this past spring. She prepared her chicken tandoori salad as the first course of the sold-out luncheon, and I wasn't the only person to collar her afterward and plop down the cash for this comprehensive and gorgeous cookbook, her latest, and most likely her magnum opus.

Vaswani grew up in India, living there until her children were in their teens, and has continued to travel to India frequently over the years, to visit family, to research her books, and most recently to conduct culinary tours. Because she regularly teaches Indian cooking to American beginners, her recipes are literally foolproof. Clear, concise, and simple to follow, they produce dishes so fresh and authentic that it just may ruin Indian restaurants for you, because you will be able to easily do better at home.

Each region of the vast Indian subcontinent is unique, with differing climates and folkways, which Vaswani illuminates with her vivid commentary that, like her recipes, is concise and never overwhelming. The recipes are also masterfully arranged; though grouped in sections such as “Appetizers” and “Seafood,” each of the 350 recipes is color-coded to designate which region produced it, deepening the cook's understanding while mastery of the cuisine is achieved. *The Complete Book of Indian Cooking* also contains more than 100 stunning photos of Indian dishes, produce, farms, and markets to inform the text.

This book makes a fabulous gift for anyone interested in Indian cuisine. Suitable for beginners as well as advanced cooks, it far surpasses most other Indian cookbooks in both scope and usability.

– K.T.



READY, STEADY, SPAGHETTI

COOKING FOR KIDS AND WITH KIDS

by Lucy Broadhurst

Andrews McMeel Publishing, 192 pp., \$19.99 (paper)

I've noticed that foods kids like can be divided into three main categories. The first involves some combination of starch, tomatoes, and cheese. Think pastas, pizzas, and nachos. The second includes foods that come in nifty little packages. Dumplings, spring rolls, pies, and frittatas fall into this category. Then, of course, there are sweets, such as cakes, cookies, brownies, and candies. *Ready, Steady, Spaghetti* is a new cookbook for kids that taps into these three categories in a big way.

This colorful, brightly photographed volume is a perfect cookbook for a budding young chef and his or her parents. Here are child-friendly recipes for stir-fried rice, spaghetti carbonara, spaghetti with tomato sauce, spring rolls, spinach and ricotta cannelloni, oven-baked chicken, guacamole, even recipes for risotto and potato gnocchi.

Not surprisingly, nearly half of the recipes in this book are for sweet treats. Some are quite clever: star-shaped cookies that sandwich chocolate filling and Popsicle sticks to form miniature fairy wands; Jell-O cups decorated with paper parasols, crumbs, and candies to resemble miniature beach scenes; or chocolate-dipped bananas on a stick. Just about all the desserts, from the pecan tartlets to the tiny éclairs, are meant to be miniaturized.

The recipes are basic; most have only five to 10 ingredients and can be prepared within an hour. Simple, half-page to one-page instructions cater to child-sized attention spans, so that theoretically, kids can prepare these recipes themselves. In reality, don't be surprised if yours comes running in asking what “finely diced” means or wondering what a bamboo steamer is. Most kids will need some parental guidance. But this cookbook allows children and their parents to discover the joys of cooking perennial favorites with few tears and a whole lot of fun.

– Rachel Feit



PETER REINHART'S ARTISAN BREADS EVERY DAY

FAST AND EASY RECIPES FOR WORLD-CLASS BREADS

by Peter Reinhart

Ten Speed Press, 224 pp., \$30

There's something so elemental about homemade bread. But bread baking requires patience and attention, two traits that are in short supply among many home cooks these days. In *Artisan Breads Every Day*, renowned baker Peter Reinhart has set out to make homemade bread more accessible for everyone.

The subtitle is a bit misleading, because let's face it, there are few kitchen tasks that necessitate more advance preparation than bread baking. But Reinhart manages to break down the steps so that with a little planning, making artisanal breads at home need not monopolize an entire weekend. He contends that baking bread is easy – “primarily a balancing act between time, temperature and ingredients.”

Reinhart's sensible, building-block approach demystifies the alchemy behind turning yeast, flour, and water into something that is more than the sum of its parts. Using a few basic recipes and techniques, which Reinhart outlines in the first chapters of the book, home bakers learn first the methods for successful baguettes, ciabattas, and sourdough loaves and then how to apply these methods to bagels, pretzels, and even *babkas*.

Reinhart supplies instructive photo-illustrated tips to go along with many of the recipes, such as the one for making what he contends are the world's best, flakiest biscuits. The secrets: freeze the butter, fold the dough, but otherwise handle it as minimally as possible. The result: I had to admit these were mighty tasty biscuits. Likewise, the book offers illustrated tips for kneading bread, carefully explains the difference between sticky dough and tacky dough, breaks down the steps for making a natural dough starter, and demonstrates how to braid challah. For the novice, Reinhart's book is an excellent introduction to the world of baking, but even experienced bakers will find it handy and informative.

– R.F.



GROWING GOOD THINGS TO EAT IN TEXAS PROFILES OF ORGANIC FARMERS AND RANCHERS ACROSS THE STATE

by Pamela Walker & Linda Walsh
Texas A&M University Press, 184 pp., \$23



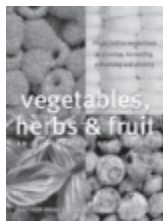
If you're reading this, chances are you've visited a farmers' market. Maybe you're a regular and depend on market vendors for weekly vegetables, fruit, meat, and cheese. Or perhaps you're a subscriber to a community-supported agriculture endeavor, paying a farm up front for a season's worth of fresh produce. You might have wondered about the folks on the other side of the vendors' tables – who they are, what their lives are like. What were their paths to living on small farms, following organic practices? Does farming support their families? Is it satisfying, difficult, discouraging? Does it make them happy?

Walker and Walsh's book of essays and photos answers many such questions. It consists of in-depth profiles of 11 successful farm families around Texas, several in the Austin area. Working in tandem, the writer and photographer spent three years visiting farms, documenting farmers' lives, and listening to their stories. From inland shrimp farmers in the Permian Basin to organic citrus growers in the Rio Grande Valley, the subjects are disarmingly candid about finances, frustrations, and challenges, as well as dreams, plans, and relationships with their customers, their animals, and the land.

While the farmers' profiles represent a spectrum of backgrounds, viewpoints, and motivations, various commonalities emerge throughout. Thoughtful stewardship of the land and commitment to organic and sustainable practices is universal, although the high cost of official organic certification is a hot topic, and several have opted not to pursue it. All talk about dealing with government policies and programs designed for large-scale conventional producers, not for small family farms. Many of the families can't afford health insurance, and they routinely make material sacrifices to support their farm lifestyle, but despite the challenges, all express fundamental satisfaction with their choice to farm for a living. — MM.P

VEGETABLES, HERBS & FRUIT AN ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA

by Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar, & Bob Flowerdew
Firefly Books, 640 pp., \$29.95



If you're looking for a gift for a gardener who has it all, look no further. This book is amazing. Written by three British experts with credentials out the roof, this book is the most complete compendium of fruits, vegetables, and herbs I've ever had. Each entry includes common and botanical Latin names and an

introduction discussing the plant's origins and history. In-depth information follows on recommended varieties; cultivation; hardiness; propagation; growing guidelines; pruning and training; companion planting; container growing; ornamental and wildlife value; weed, pest, and disease control; harvesting and storing; and medicinal and culinary uses. Color photos aid identification, and witty, funny comments pepper the serious writing. Every page has a bit of new information, previously unknown facts, and interesting discoveries. Who knew that ajuga flowers had medicinal properties? What on earth are greengages? Why did it never occur to me that my feijoa hasn't set fruit because it's not self-pollinating?

The book finishes with sections on garden design, pollination, soil preparation, crop rotation, greenhouse growing, seed sources, and more. Though some of the seasonal maintenance guidelines may not be 100% accurate for us Texans with extreme gardening conditions, the information is nonetheless interesting and helpful. My only complaint may be that, due to its size, it's not suitable for bedtime reading. However, it's an excellent read on the kitchen table, sipping coffee on a weekend morning while looking out the window imagining the promises in the garden. — Claudia Alarcón

THE COMPLETE CHILE PEPPER BOOK
A GARDENER'S GUIDE TO CHOOSING, GROWING, PRESERVING, AND COOKING
by Dave DeWitt & Paul W. Bosland
Timber Press, 336 pp., \$29.95



At first I thought, "Really, another book on chiles?" Then the subtitle "A Gardener's Guide" grabbed me. Wow, am I glad. To say that I am thrilled to have this book would be an understatement. In fact, I would advise that if one must only have one book on chiles, this should be it. DeWitt and Bosland have outdone themselves, providing chile enthusiasts with a wealth of information on one of the world's most beloved fruits.

Starting with a brief history and a botanical overview, the book moves to detailed profiles of the 100 most popular chile varieties – grouped by species and illustrated with photos that are not only eye-pleasing but infinitely helpful for clear chile identification. Each variety is described in detail, followed by information on how to grow it and its different uses, origin, flavor profile, and heat level. Next comes an incredibly comprehensive growing guide, including information on how to make chile bonsai and how to create your own hybrids (I'm so trying both next summer!), plus loads of information on diagnosis and treatment of diseases and pests. Bosland also tells the story of the discovery of the Indian "Bhut Jolokia," acknowledged by Guinness as the world's hottest, packing 1 million Scoville heat units (at least double that of habaneros!). Finally, the authors give processing and preserving techniques (I'm particularly excited about candying and juicing chiles) and recipes for everything from appetizers to dessert. This is the ultimate gift for any serious chile geek. — C.A.

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DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: MOONSHINE PATIO BAR & GRILL features an American regional menu and a busy bar. The macaroni and cheese will make you forget where you parked. **303 Red River, 236-9599. www.moonshinegrill.com. \$\$\$**

BURGER JOINT, PUB GRUB: CASINO EL CAMINO Famous for huge and juicy burgers with a variety of toppings, excellent hot dogs smothered in chili, and great hand-cut french fries. Fabulous jukebox, too. **517 E. Sixth, 469-9330. www.casinoelcamino.net. \$**

DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA specializes in the East Coast style of soft and gooey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner. **704 Congress, 480-8440. www.cozzolis.com. \$\$\$**

FINE DINING, FRENCH: BESS BISTRO ON PECAN This gem offers a varied menu of international comfort food served in a relaxed bistro atmosphere. A great selection of beer and spirits and a well-thought-out wine list complement the experience. **500 W. Sixth, 477-BESS. www.bessbistro.com. \$\$\$\$**

FINE DINING, FRENCH: CHEZ NOUS This grand-mère of Austin's French restaurants offers classic bistro fare. After all these years, we're still partial to the *salade lyonnaise* and the elegant *mousse au chocolat*. **510 Neches, 473-2413. www.cheznousaustin.com. \$\$\$**

FINE DINING: ANCHO'S RESTAURANT This pleasant dining room in the atrium of the Omni Hotel offers a Southwestern menu and a dynamite Sunday brunch with waffle and omelet stations. **700 San Jacinto, 476-3700. www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/AustinDowntown/Dining.aspx. \$\$\$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN: CANTINA LAREDO Everything here is prepared by hand. Find daily fish specials, as well as grilled chicken and steaks complemented by signature sauces, including chipotle wine with portobello mushroom. **201 W. Third, 542-9670. www.cantinarelaredo.com. \$\$\$**

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT serves some of the best homestyle thin-crust pizzas with a personal, gluten-free touch. **1209 Red River, 477-7006. www.brickovenrestaurant.com. \$\$\$**

STEAK HOUSE: AUSTIN LAND & CATTLE CO. Elegant ambience and service, with first-rate steaks at quite reasonable prices. Particular care is taken with the sides, making for a complete experience. Excellent wine list. **1205 N. Lamar, 472-1813. www.austinlandandcattlecompany.com. \$\$\$**

EAST

AFRICAN: KARIBU ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT & BAR Here you can find quality Ethiopian cuisine, served inside or on the patio. The service is gracious, and the food is as delicious as it is exotic. **1209 E. Seventh, 320-5454. www.ethiopianrestaurantaustin.com. \$\$\$**

AMERICAN CAFE, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING Dishing out huge portions of fresh, Southern-style home cooking including jerk pork ribs, the Bella Muffuletta, and heavenly pork chops, this place remains a popular standby. **2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006. www.hooverscooking.com. \$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: CHERRYWOOD

COFFEEHOUSE Tacos, sandwiches, burgers, draft beers, and a broad selection of juices and kombucha made on-site complement the neighborhood staples of coffee and live music. **1400 E. 38th, 538-1991. www.myspace.com/cherrywoodcoffeehouse. \$**

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

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LOS COMALES GRACIELA This expert purveyor of real Norteño-style grilled meats and side dishes offers reliable interior dishes such as *puerco en chile Colorado* and *pollo en mole poblano* to round out the menu. **2136 E. Seventh, 480-9358. \$\$\$**

SOUTH AMERICAN: CASA COLOMBIA Just half a mile east of I-35, 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: ARTURO'S TAQUERIA This brightly painted spot offers seafood specials on weekends. The soul of the sea is evident in the atmosphere and menu. **7210 Cameron, 451-5318. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: BEJUCO'S RESTAURANT *Cabrillo*, enchiladas, tamales, and chile rellenos. Not open 24 hours like the sign outside says, but at this place you can get three squares a day. **2711 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-7878. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: DE LAS CASAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT Try this kid-friendly, homey spot for large portions of freshly prepared favorites, as well as surprises that include eggplant and fried avocado. **1209 E. Seventh, 542-9294. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo; then step up to the pastry counter for *piedras*, *novias*, *cemitas*, and *capirotada*. The American choices draw raves as well. **2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017. \$**

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE: CAFE BLUE The best meal to have here is Sunday brunch. The steak and eggs are just that, a decent-sized rib eye and a couple of eggs, all cooked precisely to order. All seats are alfresco. **8714 Lime Creek Rd., Leander, 512/996-8188. www.cafeblueut.com. \$\$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DESSERTS: BROTHERS BAKERY & CAFE The pastry cases here are filled with cinnamon rolls, sausage kolaches, cookies, brownies, croissants, and Danish pastries. The lunch menu features hearty sandwiches, tasty soups, and a selection of inviting salads. **519 Hwy. 281 N., Marble Falls, 830/798-TART. www.brothersbakery.com. \$**

FINE DINING: HUDSON'S ON THE BEND A lakeside fine-dining fixture for two decades, specializing in game of all descriptions: rabbit to rattlesnake, pheasant to frogs' legs. The ambience is romantic, too. **3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369. www.hudsonsonthebend.com. \$\$\$\$**

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner and a favorite of the late-night set. **13435 Hwy. 183 N. #415, 258-7757. www.kerbeylanecafe.com. \$\$\$**

CHINESE, DELIVERY, VIETNAMESE: DRAGONFLY RESTAURANT A quick, post-mail stop with large portions. Delivery available. **11200 Lakeline Mall Dr. Ste. EU-1, Cedar Park, 512/996-9809. \$**

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

CHINESE: FOOD SHUI arranges the food to achieve harmony with the body. Try the Shakin' Steak Bowl. **1700 W. Parmer #610, 339-4545. www.foodshuionline.com. \$\$\$**

ITALIAN: ANDIAMO RISTORANTE Good, old-fashioned Italian. Try the Linguine Lucy Johnson. **2521 Rutland, 719-3377. www.andiamoitaliano.com. \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: MIDORI SUSHI Given its location, expect lots of lunch traffic, especially considering the bargain specials. A nice array of entrée choices are available for dinner and takeout. **13435 Hwy. 183 N. #301, 257-1411. www.midorisushiaustin.com. \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: MIKADO RYOTEI Not just for sushi, Mikado also serves Japanese *tapas*, or *robata* — a selection of grilled seafood, meats, and vegetables. A great date spot. **9033 Research, 833-8188. www.mikadoroyotei.com. \$\$\$**

PAN-ASIAN: TC NOODLE HOUSE A mind-boggling array of authentic Chinese- and Vietnamese-style dishes with an emphasis on variety. Grounds for kudos include a clean, friendly environment and hard-to-beat prices. **10901 N. Lamar Ste. B-203, 873-8235. www.tcnhouse.com. \$**

PIZZA: OASIS MEDITERRANEAN CAFE & PIZZA Start with crumbled feta, crisp radish slices, and parsley garnishing a basket of hot flatbread. Kebab plates are another option, with tender meats and lightly seared vegetables. **14735 Bratton #105, 251-5777. www.oasis-pizza.com. \$**

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good, dependable, and a fave of Viet families. **9616 N. Lamar #156, 821-0396. www.lesoleilrestaurant.us. \$\$\$**

NORTH CENTRAL

BARBECUE, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: STALLION GRILL You'll find the traditional country fare here solid, tasty, and affordable. Don't miss the homemade rolls and desserts. **5201 Airport, 866/435-1184. www.stalliongrill.com. \$**

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: KIM PHUNG CHINESE & VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT Most folks go for the bowls of pho or 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. I, 451-2464. www.kplamar.com. \$**

CHINESE: WANFU III Diner-style Chinese! Stop in after shopping at Highland Mall, and it will become a favorite. **6801 Airport, 459-5200. \$\$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NEWORLDEL This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than \$5. **4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. www.newworlddeli.com. \$**

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KOREAN: CHO SUN GAL BI Located near Highland Mall, this neighborhood favorite serves up Korean barbecue as well as noodles, soups, and a good selection of vegetarian options. Try the Gal Bi Jim. **713 E. Huntland, 419-1400. www.chosungalbiaustin.com. \$\$**

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

SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Friendly bartenders and two flat-screens for your viewing pleasure. It's where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Hit the oyster bar for lunch or an early dinner, and get there early for the Tuesday taco special. **5621 Airport, 454-5827. www.qualityseafoodmarket.com. \$**

TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate, and the margaritas flow freely. **7522 N. I-35, 419-7070. www.antoniostmex.com. \$\$**

TEX-MEX: FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO Fresh ingredients, a fun, casual atmosphere; and the patented Bad Ass BBQ Sauce make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when lines are out the door. **1000 E. 41st #260, 451-5514. www.freebirds.com. \$**

SOUTH

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: EVA B'S BAKERY & CAFE This cheerfully painted shop offers 16 varieties of pastries with sweet fillings made from scratch, as well as savory fillings like ham and cheese and Elgin sausage with jalapeño. **2407-A S. Congress, 383-9050. www.evabecafe.com. \$**

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

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: POLVOS We're addicted to the tacos, rolled by hand and packed with tasty fillings. Try the al pastor. **2004 S. First, 441-5446. \$**

ITALIAN: OLIVE GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT This chain eatery serves reliable, generic Italian food at reasonable prices. A popular family place and a safe choice for those who fear the food-unknown. **3940 S. Lamar, 440-0131. www.olivegarden.com. \$\$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HILL'S CAFE Hill's Cafe has been around (off and on) since 1947 and is well-known not just for its chicken-fried steak and barbecue but for some big music in a small space. **4700 S. Congress, 851-9300. www.hillscfe.com. \$\$**

TEX-MEX: AZUL TEQUILA MEXICAN RESTAURANT offers both Tex-Mex dishes and interior specialties such as *albondigas* en chipotle and enchiladas de *pipian*. Go with a crowd, listen to the music, and have some fun. **4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667. www.azultequila.com. \$\$**

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

TEX-MEX: GÜERO'S TACO BAR Located in the old Austin Seed & Feed building, Güero's has moved into the ranks of Austin institutions without compromising the food. The people-watching action has expanded to the oak garden, along with the live music. **1412 S. Congress, 447-7688. www.guerostacobar.com. \$\$**

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

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MR. NATURAL is both a health-food grocery and a 100% vegetarian restaurant. Don't miss the cucumber salad, a perfect cool accompaniment to dishes like nopallitos, enchiladas verdes, and soya guisada. **2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223. www.mrnatural-austin.com. \$**

WINE BAR: HOUSE WINE A simple menu does the affordable wine list justice. **408 Josephine, 322-5210. www.housewineaustin.com. \$\$**

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: DRUNGO ICE HOUSE This neighborhood haunt is still a relatively new kid, but plenty of flat-screen TVs, wi-fi, and groaning platters of seafood will quickly make it a stalwart. **2828 Rio Grande, 478-6666. www.drungoicehouse.com. \$**

BURGER JOINT: TERRA BURGER The No. 1 rule here is everything in the store has to be all-natural, and the core ingredients used are all USDA-certified organic. Chicken, turkey, and veggie burgers are options, as well as sets of sliders. **2522 Guadalupe, 436-8570. www.terraburgeraustin.com. \$**

CHINESE: MINGS CAFE Applying the concept of yin and yang in Chinese cooking, this casual spot offers simple, recognizable food that people like to eat. **2604 Guadalupe, 476-8888. www.myspace.com/mingsaustin. \$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MEDITERRANEAN: FLYING FALAFEL & PO-BOYS The Haddad family serves up some Mediterranean/Southern fusion that will make a regular out of you. Try the *mensesef*. **2001 Guadalupe Ste. A-1, 494-1400. www.flyingfalafelaustin.com. \$**

MEDITERRANEAN: EL GRECO Chef Jake Konstantinidis uses family recipes to create authentic Greek cuisine. Check out the vegan items. **3016 Guadalupe Ste. C-200, 47-GREEK. www.elgrecoaustin.com. \$\$**

MIDDLE EASTERN: GYRO KING They carve your spiced meat from one of those rotating triangles. A take on the sandwich beyond the ordinary. **2025 Guadalupe #224 (Dobie Mall, second floor), 479-6222. \$**

MIDDLE EASTERN: TOM'S TABOOLEY The kitchen offers tabbouleh, dolmas, baklava, gourmet coffee, and lots of surprising tidbits for lunch and dinner. Pick up some brined grape leaves to use at home. **2928 Guadalupe #102, 479-7337. www.tomstabooley.com. \$**

PAN-ASIAN: JADE LEAVES TEAHOUSE Not just for tea anymore! Popular Asian dishes are enhanced with vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and raw food options. **3110 Guadalupe, 687-0569. www.jadeleaves.net. \$\$**

THAI: THAI NOODLES ETC. HOUSE The menu includes Thai noodle soups, dry noodle bowls, and stir-fried noodles. You can sit out on the patio with your food. **2602 Guadalupe, 494-1011. \$**

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: VEGGIE HEAVEN The menu is laden with Asian dishes but also offers meat- and dairy-free pastas, sandwiches, and desserts. **1914-A Guadalupe, 457-1013. www.veggieheavenaustin.com. \$**

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BURGER JOINT: TOP NOTCH Top Notch smears Thousand Island dressing on both sides of a plain, untoasted roll. The large, hand-formed, charbroiled patty is enhanced by quality lettuce and tomatoes. The fried chicken is amazing. **7525 Burnet Rd., 452-2181. \$**

CHINESE: P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO NORTH Depend on this popular chain for Chinese favorites and enthusiastic service in a pleasant atmosphere. **10114 Jollyville, 231-0208. www.pfchangs.com. \$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: PHOENICIA BAKERY & DELI Family-run for 14 years, Phoenicia serves up the most scrumptious Mediterranean specialties and deli sandwiches around. This is one of Austin's treasures. **4701-A Burnet Rd., 323-6770. www.phoeniciabakery.com. \$**

INDIAN: STAR OF INDIA The house specialty is the Maharaja Dinner, a spread fit for royalty. Lesser mortals will be sated by one of the *biryanis* or a tangy vindaloo. **2900 W. Anderson Ste. 12-D, 452-8199. www.starofindiaaustin.com. \$\$**

ITALIAN: BELLAGIO ITALIAN BISTRO Don't plan on arriving late and having a leisurely dining experience; the bistro likes to close the kitchen as soon as the dinner rush starts to slow down. **6507 Jester, 346-8228. www.bellagioitalianbistro.com. \$\$\$**

STEAK HOUSE: SALTGRASS STEAK HOUSE The casual, noisy atmosphere makes this an appropriate family steak house. The Denny's-esque menu also offers foods other than steaks, most of which have been heavily breaded, fried, and smothered in cheese. **10614 Research, 340-0040. www.saltgrass.com. \$\$**

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THAI: SATAY A Thai-owned operation blending culinary influences from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines, it also offers a successful line of Thai condiments and sauces. **3202 W. Anderson #205, 467-6731. www.satayusa.com. \$\$**

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screens

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Spike & Mike sets aside its sick and twisted ways (for now) with New Generation Animation

BY MARC SAVLOV

If you've been wondering whatever happened to Spike & Mike, the touring three-ring-circus anthology of animation – sick, twisted, and otherwise – that used to regularly sell out the Alamo Drafthouse every year around this time, you're not alone. Thirty-two years after its conception as the Festival of Animation at Riverside, Calif.'s fabled countercultural haven "Mellow Manor," Craig "Spike" Decker and the late Mike Gribble's ongoing mission of animated outrage, splendor, and beauty finally fell victim to – you guessed it – YouTube and its online ilk. All those manic and magical snippets of 24-frames-per-second madness that were yearly revelations prior to the advent of LOL-monster YouTube in 2005 went, almost overnight, viral via the Web, changing the face of short-form animation forever and causing Decker to retreat and reconsider his iconic festivals.

"Definitely. I haven't really been focusing on the theatrical shows over the past couple of years, thanks to [the Internet]," admits Decker, speaking from his home in California. "We've been working on some deals with iTunes and other avenues, but you've just kind of got to go with the technology, you know?"

So what does this mean? No more wild nights at the Alamo with the perversely daft Dr. Tran; the squirrely, X-rated antics of the Happy Tree Friends; or – say it ain't so, G.I. Joe! – Don Hertzfeldt's heartache, hand-drawn, stick-figure genius in a voraciously ribald theatrical setting? That's harshing the holiday mellow for sure. But, dear viewer, all is not lost. Something's coming. Something less sick yet still twisted, something not yet, but almost certain to one day be, well, classic: Spike &



NOTHING BUT LOVE

Bryan Poyser's 'Lovers of Hate' to compete at Sundance

No matter how much success comes the way of an indie filmmaker – and Bryan Poyser has had quite a lot, as an award-winning writer/director (*Dear Pillow*), an Independent Spirit Award nominee, heck, even a 2009 *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" winner – chances are, he's still hungry to show his film at the Sundance Film Festival, still almost a mythic institution. As the Austin Film Society's director of artist services, Poyser has attended Sundance for years, but come January he'll be wearing the badge of a competition filmmaker.

The occasion will also mark something of a homecoming: Poyser shot the bulk of his feature film *Lovers of Hate* in Park City, Utah, last winter. A black comedy about two brothers and the woman caught between them, *Lovers of Hate* – which we think is pretty terrific, by the way – stars local actors Chris Doubek, Heather Kafka, and Alex Karpovsky. The latter, who day-jobs as a filmmaker, had some good news last week, too: His feature documentary *Trust Us, This Is All Made Up* was picked up for distribution by B-Side Entertainment.



Chris Doubek in *Lovers of Hate*

Sundance announces its short-film lineup on Dec. 7 (we hear tell Texas filmmakers found some love there, too). For more news on Sundance and all things Austin film-centric, visit our Screens blog at austinchronicle.com/pip.

– Kimberley Jones

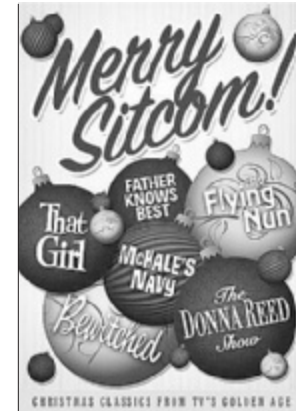


Mike's New Generation Animation. And take it from someone who's been grooving on the Cali animation icons' Austin runs since the days when the Dobie Theatre was a two-screener: Spike & Mike is back and better than it's been since the millennium dawned. This, my friends, is *the good shit*.

"For years now I've had films that didn't fit into the Sick & Twisted category, films that are more sophisticated and artistic but at the same time are very cool, humorous, and accessible," says Decker. "And that's the vein I'm tapping with the New Generation Animation."

And, for the first time in a long time, the new Spike & Mike is a revelation, a globe-spanning collection that runs the gamut from – we kid you not – the best Bill Plympton short ever made ("Santa: The Fascist Years," which tips its furry red hat to no less than Charles Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*) to one of the most heart-breaking and accurate depictions of thwarted romance since *Bambi Meets Godzilla* (the très French "11 Roses"). From the already classic stop-motion absurdist masterpiece *A Town Called Panic* to the swooping comic live-action/traditional cel animation combo "The Hidden Life of the Burrowing Owl" (courtesy of *Metallocypse*'s Mike Roush), this new collection includes pretty much every conceivable style of animation and storytelling in between. This is, finally, Spike & Mike's laugh-out-loud, shed-a-tear, and to-hell-with-YouTube return to form that also returns short-form animation to the silver screen, where, unfettered from your 13-inch MacBook monitor, it soars. Spike & Mike MIA? Not on your overanimated life, friend. As Mr. Porky Pig so eloquently puts it, "Th-th-th-that's not all folks!" ■

Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation screens Dec. 7 & 9, at Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, and Dec. 18-22, at the Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek. For more info, see Special Screenings, p.90.



Merry Sitcom! Christmas Classics From TV's Golden Age

Shout! Factory, \$12.99

There's nothing like the holidays to rev up ye olde nostalgic spirit, and there's no place like the couch, in front of the television, to do just that. For those raised on TV in the Fifties and Sixties – or grew up sucking the nectar of this era's reruns – *Merry Sitcom! Christmas Classics*

From TV's Golden Age provides just enough Americana trappings for your Yuletide trip down memory lane.

The DVD collection of comedy shows offers Christmas episodes from seven feel-good TV series: *Father Knows Best*, *The Donna Reed Show*, *McHale's Navy*, *Bewitched*, *That Girl*, *The Flying Nun*, and *Window on Main Street*. In the first (and earliest) selection, a 1954 episode of *Father Knows Best* called "The Christmas Story," actor Robert Young (aka Jim Anderson) pines for the days of noncommercial Christmases and shakes his

head in dismay over the self-involved conduct of his three children. So he gathers the family and whisks them off to the woods to – you've guessed it – chop down their own Christmas tree. When the car gets stuck in a snow drift, the family takes shelter in a cabin where they're forced to spend Christmas Eve, much to the children's chagrin. It's here, though, that the Anderson family learns the real meaning of Christmas. True,

it's ridiculously candy-coated and WASPy, but the episode hangs tight and does a fair job of stirring up memories of yesteryear. *The Donna Reed Show* lays out a similar scenario in "A Very Merry Christmas."

Most of the remaining episodes offer a refreshing break from the straight and narrow, starting with *McHale's Navy*, the classic sitcom based on the misadventures of a patrol torpedo boat crew during World War II. Cheerfully, three leading women of TV sitcom history are included on this compilation: Elizabeth Montgomery, in a positively awesome episode of *Bewitched* (1954's "A Vision of Sugar Plums"); Sally Field as the titular character in *The Flying Nun*; and Marlo Thomas, playing that girl in *That Girl* (in an episode that is the least entertaining of the bunch). The DVD closes out with an odd choice – a downright lugubrious episode of *Window on Main Street*, again with Young – but overall, the *Merry Sitcom!* collection is a must-have treat for baby boomers in need of some warm fuzzies this year. – Amy Smith

ALSO OUT NOW ...

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: A Very Sunny Christmas (20th Century Fox, \$26.98): We're betting it's lumps of coal all around for the deeply dysfunctional gang from Paddy's Pub.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (Ultimate Collector's Edition) (Warner Home Video, \$39.98): This 4-disc monument to the Griswold family Christmas comes with a commemorative Santa hat.

The Merry Yule Log (Synergy Entertainment, \$6.95): We're going to let the press release do the talking, mostly because words have failed us: "The Merry Yule Log contains over an hour of High Definition fireplace scene plus your choice of background audio: A crackling fire, Christmas music, or both!"

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The State We're In

Yep, it is broke, and Turk Pipkin wants us all to fix it

BY KIMBERLEY JONES



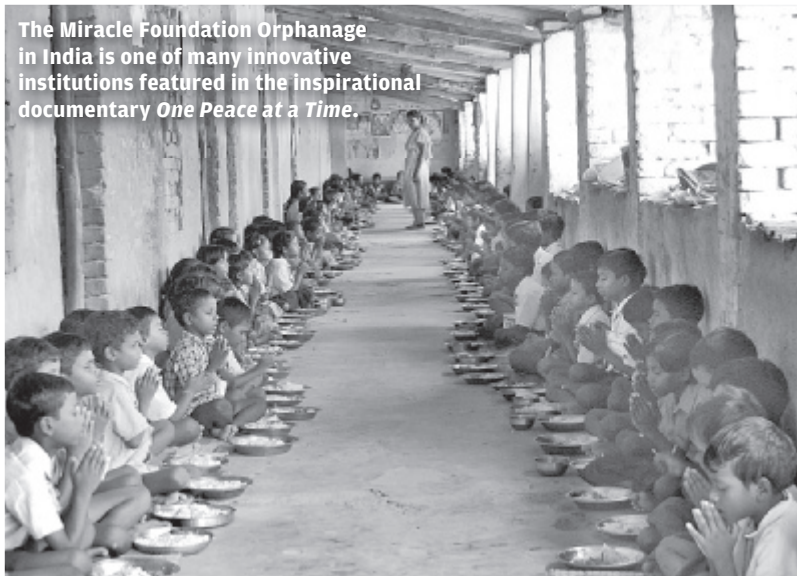
VANCE HOLMES

The new advocacy documentary *One Peace at a Time* opens with a track off of Bob Dylan's 1989 album, *Oh Mercy*, called "Everything Is Broken" – a title that 20 years later feels like a statement of fact, not opinion, about the current condition of our planet and its people. But for Austin filmmaker Turk Pipkin, it's more like a clarion call. In 2006, Pipkin – who also boasts stand-up comedian, author, and actor on his résumé – began screening *Nobility*, the documentary he made with his wife and collaborator, Christy, which asked nine Nobel laureates to say where they saw the planet headed. "The whole point of *Nobility* was to make a movie about smart people looking at global problems," says Pipkin. "And I realized, well, if you make one on global problems, you kinda have to make one on global solutions." Three years, many continents, and even a broken leg later, he's done just that, turning his camera on issues such as clean water, nutrition, and health care in *One Peace at a Time*, which opens in Austin on Friday.

Austin Chronicle: I was really struck by something said in the film by Jody Williams, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and anti-landmine activist, which was to "pick an issue and take the first step." I'm curious where your first step started – were you already involved in activism before these films?

Turk Pipkin: Christy and I have always been involved as political activists and also working with nonprofits. ... But from the point of view of "Okay, now I'm frustrated with where the world is going, and I really do want to pick an issue that's important to me," I think those words rang [true] pretty much just as you see in *One Peace at a Time* the first time I visited the Mahiga school in Kenya and saw these kids with no water. I'm from West Texas, where water is a big issue and is going to be a much bigger issue everywhere in Texas, and [after visiting Mahiga], that really became sort of my issue. I thought at the time it was water, but I'm realizing now it's also this community, because we built the water system and we got involved more deeply with the classroom, and now we're building a high school.

The Miracle Foundation Orphanage in India is one of many innovative institutions featured in the inspirational documentary *One Peace at a Time*.



TURK PIPKIN

AC: It's clear from the film that that community in Mahiga, Kenya, is especially dear to you.

TP: It's interesting, because there are a lot of other places where we've gotten involved – the Kallari project in the Amazon, and we did a bunch of wells in Ethiopia. But these kids – I don't know, I really love these kids, and their parents reminded me a lot of parents in the States, and the only difference was a lack of

opportunity, really, and a level of deep poverty that they're dealing with.

Now that we're building a high school there [with Nobility Project partner Joseph Mutongu], we've been a lot more deeply involved with education issues in general. When you're building a high school, you have to figure out what it is that a high school needs [laughs].

AC: It seems like this film is part of an emerging trend of advocacy documentaries, or social justice documentaries, like *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Flow: For Love of Water*, and the forthcoming *The End of Poverty*.

TP: Clearly there's a trend. We've been riding the wave at the front end on the filmmaking side; *Nobility* was released in theatres the same day as *An Inconvenient Truth*. ... I think that the switch to more specific issue advocacy and program advocacy in these films reflects a much larger movement, as documentaries often do, in that there are just a lot of really amazing things going on in the world. And they don't get covered on the news because most of them are actually [about] good news, and good news is only for Thanksgiving weekend, and only if Tiger Woods doesn't have an accident. The news cycle is this limited thing, and the chance that something that is about optimism, or about charting a better way ahead, get[s] in there is very slim. So documentaries are a way of reaching out.

AC: Something I found astonishing about your film is that there are awful statistics you expose your audience to, but you manage to maintain a sort of optimistic, can-do attitude throughout the film.

TP: The numbers are pretty staggering. If you look at the biggest concentration of hard-hitting numbers in the movie, it's probably the nutrition segment [which breaks down

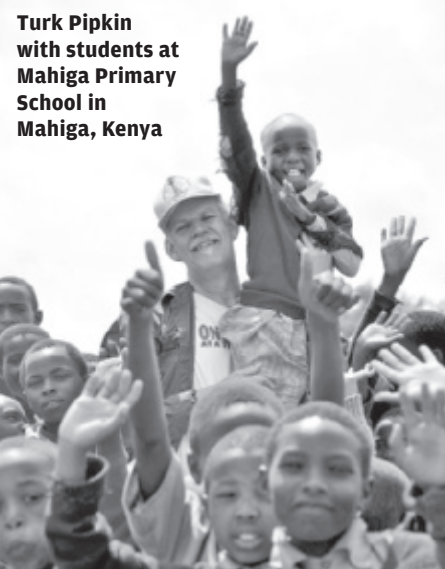
world to feed hungry people doesn't actually solve the problem. There's a spate of books and writing about that now, about how that kind of aid has contributed to the problem and made it worse. It's hard to see that on the surface – how could shipping food to Africa be a bad thing for Africa? – but the first thing it does is drive down the prices that local farmers make in Africa for their crops and drives a lot of them out of business, and then you have less people in Africa growing food. Obviously, that's a bad cycle to be in. There are solutions there – I mean, the bread basket of Africa is Africa: It's an unbelievably fertile continent, and they have massive numbers of people who are unemployed and need work. It's a matter of organizing them in large-scale *small-scale* agriculture. It's not about having agribusiness going in there and growing grain the way we do in the Midwest; it's about enabling tens of millions of farmers to grow produce and doing like they do in Bangladesh, requiring anybody who participates in international assistance to grow food of their own and to provide the seeds to do it. Just like everybody in the United States – if you don't grow vegetables in the U.S., you're not paying any attention whatsoever ... to food prices or to the quality of food you get in the store. So it's really the same solution: You have to grow more food locally.

But there are a lot of other aspects to food, and at the same time, you've got the U.N. and the World Food Program out there feeding 100 million people. The really mind-blowing thing – talk about optimism – a year ago, when we were verifying the stats for the film, 86 million people in the world were being fed by the World Food Program, and a year later, it was

100 million. And some of that has to do with the rise of food prices and fuel prices in the last year and a destabilized global economy. But it's not by any means a rosy scenario. It's that there are solutions out there, and it's not a hopeless situation. ... A lot of it comes back down to the Desmond Tutu approach, which is: You have to look at the world and realize these are actually our brothers and sisters and when children are dying, that it's not that different from our own children dying, and if there are solutions and we don't enact them, then in a lot of ways we're complicit, even in our ignorance.

It's a very frustrating global topic and situation, and the only thing that makes it not frustrating is to be part of the solution, to be doing something. ■

One Peace at a Time screens Dec. 4-10 at the Regal Arbor Cinema at Great Hills. Opening night reception and screening tickets, which benefit construction of the Mahiga Hope High School in Kenya, are available at www.nobility.org



COURTESY OF THE NOBILITY PROJECT

Turk Pipkin with students at Mahiga Primary School in Mahiga, Kenya

Adam Lambert Kissed a Boy

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Don't know who **Adam Lambert** is? He's an *American Idol* progeny who performed his sexually suggestive song "For Your Entertainment" on the American Music Awards, televised Nov. 22. During his performance, he kissed a male performer, simulated oral sex (again, with a man), and did other sexually suggestive things. Or, so I hear. I didn't see the show. All my attempts to watch it online are barred by a message saying that due to copyright laws, the video is no longer available. (Thank you, Dick Clark Productions and Sony!) Instead, I get to hear about it incessantly. The more I hear, the more perplexed I get.

While viewers for all awards shows have dropped precipitously, the AMAs had higher than usual ratings (14 million viewers, according to the Nielsen folks). From that number, some 1,500 people called ABC to complain about Lambert's performance, largely due, I suspect, to the influence of the **Parents Television Council**, a watchdog group that specializes in monitoring prime time and firing up the troops to express its outrage at what is deemed offensive material. From all indications, by the time Lambert's performance took place at the end of the show, it was past the designated "family viewing time." So the PTC isn't spending much time watching TV elsewhere, it seems. Has it bothered to check out daytime soap operas? The few times I've happened across them, there's some pretty steamy stuff happening – at least, between men and women. The same is true of prime time, as **Alessandra Stanley** pointed out in *The New York Times* shortly after the Lambert performance, when she reported that "early this season **Courtney Cox**'s character on the ABC sitcom *Cougar Town* was coyly depicted performing oral sex on a younger man."

In the subsequent tizzy following his performance, Lambert declared that there's a double standard when it comes to depictions of same-sex sex. He's right. When **Madonna**, **Britney Spears**, and **Christina Aguilera** shared a girl-on-girl kiss on the MTV Video Music Awards in 2003, the uproar consisted more of giggling titillation than the kind of disgust directed at Lambert. Granted, the VMAs aired on cable. The PTC limits its purview to broadcast TV, apparently believing that impressionable young people don't know how to use a remote control.

In the midst of all this hand-wringing, I have to say I am pleasantly surprised that the PTC has not gone after one of my favorite depictions of gay male affection on prime-time TV, the married couple Kevin and Scotty (played by **Matthew Rhys** and **Luke Macfarlane**) on *Brothers & Sisters* (also on ABC). As far as prime-time depictions of gay couples go, it is refreshingly ... ordinary. Kevin and Scotty work, they plan, they argue, and they (gasp!) kiss – sometimes quite ardently. While I appreciate the gay couple over on *Modern Family* (again, also on ABC), they are void of any sexual energy. I have seen every episode of that hilarious comedy, and I've never seen Mitchell and Cameron (**Jesse Tyler Ferguson** and **Eric Stonestreet**) exchange so much as a peck on the cheek.

In the aftermath of Lambert's performance, some pundits lamented that it was the raw aggressiveness of the depiction that was so troubling. If so, that only makes the next move by ABC that much more perplexing. The Monday after the AMAs, Lambert was "uninvited" from appearing on the ABC chat show *Good Morning America*. His "unpredictability" in a live setting was cited as the cause. The network followed up his cancellation by announcing it had booked a live performance by **Chris Brown**, the singer convicted of beating up his girlfriend, **Rihanna**. Okay, now I get it: Aggressiveness is okay as long as a woman's body is a punching bag. For a group that is intent on monitoring poor messages on TV, the fact that the PTC made nary a peep about that turn of events is headshaking. (In the wake of protests from gay and women's rights advocates, *Good Morning America* eventually canceled Chris Brown's appearance, too; he'll appear in a 20/20 interview with **Robin Roberts** Friday.)

So here's an idea: If the PTC or parents or anyone else is offended by what they see, read, or hear, why don't they stop consuming the offensive material and turn their attention elsewhere? I can pretty much guarantee that, in the end, all the brouhaha the PTC launched over Lambert is not going to hurt him as much as it would like to think.

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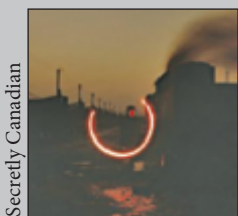
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DANIEL JOHNSTON
Is and Always Was

Daniel Johnston looks to add to his already illustrious career... but in a way you might not think. For his newest studio album, *Is and Always Was*, the legendary singer/songwriter decided to step away from the lo-fi in favor of the masterful production of Jason Falkner (of Beck, Air, and Paul McCartney fame).

\$9.99 CD
LP Available
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



Secretly Canadian
MOLINA AND JOHNSON
Belly of the Lion

Consider the collective catalogs of these two prolific masters of the new American folk songcraft: Magnolia Electric Co., Centro-matic, Songs: Ohia, South San Gabriel. Now, let's just be honest. A little bit of artistic ego and one-upmanship can serve a greater purpose. In this collaboration between Jason Molina and Will Johnson, each seem to hold the other's talents to the fire and elevate both performance and creativity.

\$10.99 CD
LP Available



Western Vinyl
OLA PODRIDA
Belly of the Lion

2009 release, David Wingo's much anticipated sophomore effort under the name Ola Podrida. Chockfull of unsentimental love songs, the album pulses with the burgeoning sexuality borne of feral adolescent summers spent in the sprawling suburbs of the South.

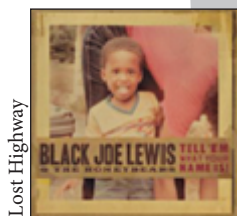
\$10.99 CD



Lost Highway
ROBERT EARL KEEN
The Rose Hotel

With his latest *Lost Highway* album, The Rose Hotel, Keen re-confirms his place among the Lone Star State's great storytellers, capable of painting rich, poignant landscapes worthy of Cormac McCarthy and spinning satirical yarns that do Kinky Friedman proud.

\$12.99 CD
LP Available



Lost Highway
BLACK JOE LEWIS
Tell Em What Your Name Is

Their gut-shot style, felt in such songs as "Gunpowder", "Master Sold My Baby" and "I'm Broke", draws directly from their classic soul, R&B and blues influences. Inspiration from artists such as Otis Redding and The Bar-Kays, James Brown and Lightning Hopkins are clearly present in their songs and live shows, but Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears inject a full-till, unabashedly brash element to this old-school style.

\$8.99 CD
LP Available



Downtown
WHITE DENIM
Fits

"The most exciting rock act out there right now" Mojo

"White Denim sound like the best rock 'n' roll party you've ever gate crashed" 4/5 Q

"Nobody has done it this well in aeons... an instant classic" The Guardian

\$11.99 CD
LP Available
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



Blue Note
NORAH JONES
The Fall

Norah has taken a new direction on the *The Fall*, experimenting with different sounds and a new set of collaborators, including Jacquire King, a noted producer and engineer who has worked with Kings of Leon, Tom Waits and Modest Mouse. Jones enlisted several songwriting collaborators, including Ryan Adams and Okkervil River's Will Sheff, as well as her frequent partners Jesse Harris & Richard Julian.

\$13.99 CD
LP Available
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



Kirtland
BOB SCHNEIDER
Lovely Creatures

Bob Schneider - bewitching pop-rock and Austin phenomenon - may have devised many of the tracks on his new album through a songwriting game, but *Lovely Creatures*, exemplifies Schneider's undeniable songwriting talents, and serious knack for writing brilliantly idiosyncratic songs out of this controlled creative chaos.

\$12.99 CD
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



Rodriguez Lopez
OMAR RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ
Xenophanes

Xenophanes is the first album which finds him at the helm vocally and lyrically, as well as musically. Sung entirely in Spanish, *Xenophanes* showcases a side of The Mars Volta guitarists rarely seen before, allowing for a much more gestural experience of the man rather than simply the musician, and truly distinguishing this album from its myriad of predecessors.

\$10.99 CD
LP Available
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



New West
STEVE EARLE
Townes

The songs selected for Townes were the ones that meant the most to Earle and the ones he personally connected to. Some of the selections chosen were songs that Earle has played his entire career (Pancho and Lefty, Lungs, White Freightliner Blues) and others he had to learn specifically for recording.

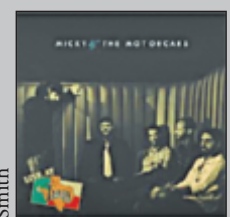
\$13.99 CD
LP Available
\$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com



Indie
ARC ANGELS
Living in a Dream

The 3 disc set has 14 live tracks along with three new studio tracks. From down and dirty blues to straight ahead rock and roll, the music never stops! The DVD has the full length concert, an Arc Angels documentary and more.

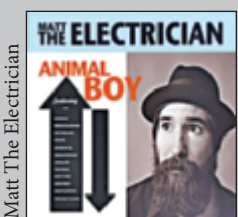
\$24.99 2xCD/DVD



Smith
MICKY & THE MOTORCARS
Live From Billy Bob's

With four albums under their belt, Micky and the Motorcars are now established as one of the best-drawing bands on the lucrative Texas Music circuit. Their last album, *NAIVE*, debuted in the Billboard Heatseekers Chart in August 2008.

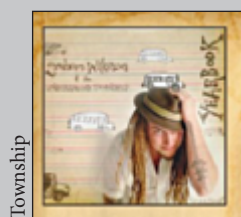
\$12.99 CD



Matt The Electrician
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
Animal Boy

Matt The Electrician had a tremendous amount of fun making his new CD, "Animal Boy", and played most of the instruments on the record. All so that you will have fun listening to it, and you will play instruments too. Have fun.

\$12.99 CD



Township
GRAHAM WILKINSON
Yearbook

His voice; raw, powerful. A rawness that belies tremendous songwriting craft. Laugh and cry in the same song. Graham's lyrics are a journal of discovery. Every song is its own revelation; exuberant, buoyant, and deeply reflective.

\$12.99 CD



Indie
TELEGRAPH CANYON
The Tide and the Current

"Telegraph Canyon navigates the pre-apocalyptic universe by the light of bright acoustic rifts and to the march of thunderous beats, everything guided by the spirit of frontman Chris Johnson's ominous, the end-is-near lyrics."

-Fort Worth Weekly
\$8.99 CD



Indie
COLLIN HERRING
Ocho

"Ft. Worth native Collin Herring's newest album, *Ocho*, may well be the singer/songwriter's best effort. And that's saying a lot considering Herring's past couple of releases, *The Other Side of Kindness* and *Past Life Crashing*, were stellar in their own right."

-Dallas Observer
\$10.99 CD



Dualtone
SOULHAT
Live at the Black Cat Lounge

Soulhat's "Live at the Black Cat Lounge" is more than just a delightful and revelatory retrospective look at a then young band coming into its own. It's also a musical journey back to another time and place. Yet now, closing in on two decades later, the music here reveals itself as timeless, sounding as fresh as it did when it was created, maybe even more so with passing of time.

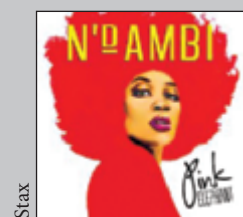
\$11.99 CD



Indie
CANDI AND THE STRANGERS
Self Titled

Candi and The Strangers is respected local producer Erik Wofford's (Cacophony Records) first foray into what he calls "the other side of the glass." Their debut full-length is a sonically pleasing collection of exquisitely arranged dream-pop.

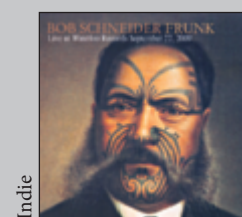
-Austin
\$8.99 CD



Stax
N'DAMBI
Pink Elephant

The long-awaited Stax Records debut from the stirring soul singer! On this exciting new album, N'dambi ingeniously distills soul-deep inspiration into a sensual style of elegance and power, making her a fundamental new addition to the Stax legacy.

\$12.99 CD



Indie
BOB SCHNEIDER
Live from Waterloo Records

Live from Waterloo Records 7 tracks recorded live at Waterloo Records on 9-22-09 in celebration of the release of *Lovely Creatures*. This CD is a Waterloo Records exclusive.

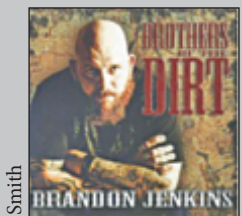
\$6.99 CD



Universal Nashville
LYLE LOVETT
Natural Forces

Natural Forces showcases Lyle's unwavering songwriting alongside amazing songs from such Texas writers as Eric Taylor, Don Sanders, Tommy Elskes, David Ball, Vince Bell, Robert Earl Keen, and the legendary Townes Van Zandt. Produced by Billy Williams and Lyle Lovett.

\$12.99 CD



Smith
BRANDON JENKINS
Brothers of the Dirt

Red Dirt Music gets its name from the blood red soil and surrounding landscape of Stillwater, Oklahoma, the place many hail as the Mecca of Red Dirt Music. Brandon Jenkins has grown up on that sound, and in *Brothers Of The Dirt* Brandon brings together the best of The Dirt with guests artists that include Cody Canada from Cross Canadian Ragweed, Jason Boland, Randy Rogers, and Mike McCure. With a voice as big as Texas and guitar chops (and beard) that would make Billy Gibbons proud, Jenkins takes his rightful place as one of the shining stars of not only Red Dirt, but American music.

\$12.99 CD



Armadillo
EUGENE HIDEAWAY BRIDGES
Live in San Antonio

Eugene is a nomadic musician living his life on the road. His home is wherever the next performance takes him and every year this is from America through Europe to Australia, with many stops in between. Born in 1963, the son of the blues guitarist Hideaway Slim, Eugene is the fourth child of five. His mother was from the Bullock family, the same as Anna Mae Bullock better known as Tina Turner. Eugene claims he got his guitar skills from the Bridges side and his voice from the Bullocks. To follow the four CDs recorded with a full band since 1998, his last self titled release Eugene "Hideaway" Bridges featured Eugene playing solos and duos with friends and fellow musicians who he has met on the road.

\$13.99 CD



z Records
THE STATESBORO REVUE
Different Kind of Light

Stewart Mann is in the process of re-defining rock and roll, refusing to let blues and country, the real roots of rock music, fall by the wayside. Stewart and the Statesboro Revue are trying to remind America what rock music is really all about: soul. Mann's voice, songs, and band, have that in spades.

Andrew Fersch, Vail Daily
\$8.99 CD



End Sounds
MAG SEVEN
Cotton Needle Sessions

Cotton Needle Sessions
THE MAG SEVEN are, in the Texas manner of speaking, "instrumentalists for hire", musical gun slingers, playing everything from Punk-Surf and Spaghetti Western themes to Jazz. Their influences range from Black Flag and the Descendents to John Coltrane and Ennio Morricone. The Ventures and Stravinsky. Together, they are a musical tour-de-force, an excellent instrumental ensemble capable of mastering any style.

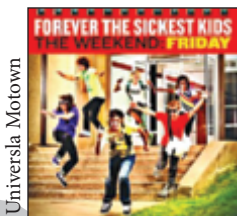
\$12.99 CD



Indie
JONNY BURKE
The Long Haul EP

A collection of 5 songs with subject matter ranging from the dark to the desirable, melodies and arrangements akin to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and the Stones, tones inherited from T. Rex, poetic lyrics often compared to Dylan and Townes Van Zandt, and vocal performances that are all his own, it's sure to make you move and groove with your body and soul.

\$5.99 CD



Universa Motown
FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS
The Weekend: Friday

FTSK are a rock band from Dallas, Texas signed to Universal Motown Records Group. In Alternative Press, the group was named the number one underground band in the "22 Best Underground Bands (That Likely Won't Stay Underground for Long)".

\$8.99 CD



Thirty Tigers
AARON WATSON
Live

Deep in the Heart of Texas
2009 CD/DVD live release. On a hot evening, deep in the heart of Texas, Aaron Watson played to a crowd of several thousand and recorded the magical night both on film and audio tape. It's been four years since his last live CD was issued, and in that time the singer that's been dubbed The Honky Tonk Kid has released two albums, sold hundreds of thousands of tickets, and toured all over the country.

\$12.99 CD/DVD



New West
DELBERT MCCLINTON
Acquired Taste

Acquired Taste is the thirteenth studio album in the career of Texas roots music legend and Grammy-winning artist Delbert McClinton. The album is produced by Grammy-winning producer Don Was (Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt). It is the first new studio recording by McClinton in over four years.

\$13.99 CD



Bismieux
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
Santa Loves to Boogie

Recorded in the Fall of 2007, this Cd includes guest stars Willie Nelson, Dale Watson, Kevin Fowler, and Jon Dee Graham. Featured in the Washington Post as one of "The Twelve Discs of Christmas."

\$12.99 CD



Plaid
THE STAN LAURELS
Death of the Sun

Lush, multi-layered, super-melodic psychedelic-prog-pop concept album in the classic genre of "boy meets girl/boy gets abducted by aliens."

\$10.99 CD



Chicken Ranch
BEAUTIFUL SUPERMACHINES
Shut Up

Veteran musician-producer David Williams makes a stunning debut album that has already found it's way to a very receptive critical response. *Shut Up* burrows its way into your ears and begs for repeated listens. Williams has made a very dense, understated, and yet sweeping, hooky record, that indie fans deserve to hear.

\$11.99 CD



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music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

New Club Crawl, Part 2

The local venue landscape is shifting faster than the weather. Since last checking in ("Off the Record," Oct. 23), club **Mixx** has shuttered. Some remaining dates, most notably **Hug's** peep show on Friday, Dec. 4, with **Coma in Algiers** and **Elvis**, have rebounded over to **Headhunters**. Meanwhile, **Transmission Entertainment** has let go of the lease on Sixth Street's **Radio Room**. "The capacity wasn't much bigger than what we have at **Mohawk**," concedes partner **James Moody**. Here's an updated scouting report on musical real estate.



JOHN ANDERSON

VALHALLA (710 Red River)

In Norse mythology, Valhalla is essentially the drinking hall for Vikings who died in combat, a fitting name and metaphor for the new rock & roll lounge that replaced **Room 710**. Like **Red 7's** indoor area, the remodeled club boasts a jukebox, pool tables, air hockey upstairs, and at least one claim to fame: "The nicest bathrooms on Red River," concludes owner **John Wickham** of **Elysium**, who plans on adding a second-story smoking deck.

THE HIGHBALL (1142 S. Lamar)

Not only is the Highball the best place in town to sip a White Russian, the **Drafthouse's** retro bowling alley also has a 300-capacity subsection, and its low-lit ambience and 1970s Vegas ballroom style make it ideal for smaller shows, such as last month's hip-hop doubleheader of **Themselves** and **Eyedeas & Abilities**, booked by Transmission Entertainment. Expect lots of themed karaoke and dance parties, including the **Action Pack's** monthly 1980s night, **Bust a Move**, this Saturday, Dec. 5.



JOHN ANDERSON

ENCORE (611 E. Sixth)

The club formerly known as **Spiros** has been split into two distinct entities, the larger of which – **Encore** – is scheduled to open this weekend with what appears to be a dance-oriented format. The neighboring **Barbarella** is an extension of Orlando, Fla.'s longstanding **Independent Bar**, with themed DJ nights (Wednesday-Saturday), and is helmed primarily by manager **Harvey Graham**, who notes, "It has more of a Sixth Street vibe than Red River."

Valhalla, I am coming: (above) Honorary Norsemen Marcos Aviles (l) and John Wickham in the nicest bathroom in all of local clubdom; (at left) Eyedeas & Abilities having a Highball, Nov. 19

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA (503 E. Sixth)

Easy to find but impossible to keep tabs on, this cantina should be a holiday staple for traditional tamales. Recently, it started providing a much needed outlet for Tejano music on Sixth Street, as illustrated last month by veteran family band the **A-T Boyz**.



Ringo Deathstarr

JOHN ANDERSON

Just Like Honey

Who says **MySpace** is dead? On the strength of its online presence alone, local shoegazers **Ringo Deathstarr** landed a deal with Japan's **Vinyl Junkie Recordings**, which issued the quartet's debut full-length, *Sparkler*, collecting the reverb reveries from the band's killer 2007 EP, a UK 7-inch, and a few unreleased songs. "They have a display of us set up at Virgin Records in Tokyo," relays singer/guitarist **Elliott Frazier**, fresh off a label-sponsored tour of the Land of the Rising Sun. This week, the band also released a split 7-inch with **Depreciation Guild** on **Club AC30**, coinciding with the band's European jaunt and an appearance at the label's **Reverence Festival**, for which it left 48 hours after returning from Japan. With any luck, a new LP, recorded over weekend spurts at the **Bubble**, will be finished by the end of the year and hopefully ensure that the group gains similar traction stateside. "We're trying to do more pop and more noise at the same time," Frazier concludes. "We want to write catchy songs but without losing our noise-y, punk edge. I want to force people to hear some guitar feedback."

American Beauty

Lyricist **Robert Hunter** has penned a new chapter in the **Grateful Dead's** long, strange trip for **7 Walkers**, the budding project between Austin's **Papa Mali** and Dead drummer **Bill Kreutzmann**, which premiered at the **Austin City Limits Music Festival** in October. "Hunter always set the Dead apart, that great catalog of songs he wrote with **Jerry Garcia**," relates **Malcolm Welbourne**, better known as Papa Mali. "Every time he sends me lyrics, I sit and stare at them until they begin to speak to me. They're so rich in character and lively with Louisiana references. It's a challenge to come up with music that's not only appropriate but worthy of his literary process." **7 Walkers**, rounded out by Austin keyboardist **Matt Hubbard** and **Reed Mathis** of **Tea Leaf Green**, is currently recording its self-titled debut, tentatively set for a February release and meeting halfway between Papa Mali's swamp-blues and Kreutzmann's jazz-influenced psychedelia. "People are excited to see something from the Dead that's not a cover band," enthuses Welbourne, who first met Kreutzmann last year at the annual **Oregon Country Fair**. "I've never been one of those guys that has posters of Jerry on my wall or tries to play like him, and that's one of the reasons this works."



JOHN CARRICO

Kreutzmann (l) and Welbourne

Random Play

● "A wall of noise can go a long way towards smoothing over your differences," acknowledges bassist **Jeff Copas**, confirming last week's announcement of a **Sixteen Deluxe** reunion – with guitarists **Carrie Clark** and **Chris "Frenchie" Smith** and longtime drummer **Steven Hall** – at **South by Southwest 2010** after a decadelong hiatus. "I've already lost hearing just typing this." The reunion also marks the 15-year anniversary of the local supernova's **Trance Syndicate** debut, *Backfeed Magnetbabe*, and there's a good cause involved, too: a benefit for the **SIMS Foundation** at **Mohawk** on March 12, 2010. While there are no plans for a new album or a tour, the band appears cautiously optimistic about the future. "Personally, I'm always looking to produce and be near great talent," furthers Smith, currently living at the **Leeders Farm** studio in the UK and helming the debut album by Swiss garage rockers the **Dandies**. "To me Carrie really radiates; I always did my best work as a writer with her. She's always been one of my idols. It was time to revisit our potential."

● **Lions** is making its new six-song EP, *Let No One Fall*, on the UK's **Maybe Records**, available for free download until Friday, Dec. 4, coinciding with the local rock staple's tour with **Monster Magnet** across the pond. Lions ringleader **Matt Drenik's** surprisingly **Band of Horses**-esque side project **Battleme** can be heard in this week's *Sons of Anarchy* season finale on FX and will be on the show's soundtrack. www.lionstheband.net.



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Picture Book

To see or not to see

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

GRUNGE

photos by Michael Lavine
Abrams Image, 160 pp., \$24.95

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

ME AND MY FRIENDS
photos by Tony Woolliscroft
Abrams Image, 224 pp., \$24.95

TRAVELIN' MAN

ON THE ROAD AND BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BOB SEGER

by Tom Weschler & Gary Graff
Wayne State University Press, 168 pp., \$27.95

LET IT BLEED

THE ROLLING STONES, ALTAMONT, AND THE END OF THE SIXTIES

by Ethan A. Russell
Springboard Press, 240 pp., \$35

THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME THE FIRST 25 YEARS: THE DEFINITIVE CHRONICLE OF ROCK & ROLL AS TOLD BY ITS LEGENDS

edited by Holly George-Warren
Collins Design, 256 pp., \$39.99

"Picture book, pictures of your mama taken by your papa a long time ago.

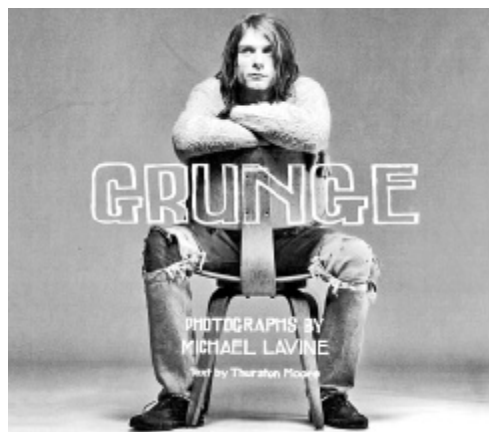
"Picture book of people with each other to prove they loved each other a long time ago."

— "Picture Book," the Kinks

Internet killed the radio star, Internet killed indie record stores, Internet killed picture book connoisseurs. Once, tombstone-sized rock & roll leaf-throughs propped up lopsided coffee tables as conduits to our idols, alternate family albums collecting images from across decades of *Life*, *Rolling Stone*, *Creem*. Debbie Harry became to *Hit Parader* what Betty Grable had been to *World War II*. Today, there's Google's image search.

Obsession powers the Internet as much as search engines and porn. Bandwidth determines just how TMZ our cyber communities choose

gift
guide
2009



to be. Everything after that depends on your ink-jet color printer.

Tacking up a copy of Keith

Richards standing under a bulletin that reads, "Patience Please ... A Drug Free America Comes First!" proves no more complicated than a few keystrokes.

Kill your idols, but collect their icons. Download it, stream it, burn it for free. Then buy the vinyl for posterity. Records include digital doppelgangers now anyway. Fetish means never having to say you're out of shelf space. Encyclopedias, history books — can the bookcase support another 16 pounds of new visual music ephemera at this late date?

Thurston Moore's essay on *Grunge* credits the titular term to Sub Pop staffer Megan Jasper: "On one hand, that word was ridiculous, horrible, completely straight-up dumb, and on the other hand, [it was] just beautiful: a smart and amusing shrug within the American scream-dream."

Scholarly and stylish, Sonic Youth's architect supplies the best insight into black-and-white scene documentation by the Seattle imprint's lensman, Michael Lavine, whose first half of *Grunge* stumbles with the early 1980s street kids of the Pacific Northwest before Buffalo Tom and the writer's endearingly shabby crew appear. Then it's the deluge: Dino Jr., Pussy Galore — Jon Spencer looking like a young Daniel Day-Lewis — and an Urge Overkill shot glinting a Vegas ghost of the MC5's *Back in the USA* LP cover steam room.



Sexy young Breeders, Babes in Toyland, L7's English sheepdog Clairol hair ad, Mudhoney, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Butthole Surfers, and a sensitive solo portrait of Gibby Haynes, clean hair and polar bear. Kurt Cobain's junkie complexion toward the end is shocking considering the Photoshop charisma on the *Grunge* front. Moore's band bios at the back glimpse the guitarist's "relentless quest to defy expectation and mortality." His punk thesis equivalent to *Time Regained* remains the *Moby Dick* of unwritten music reference tomes.

Down the West Coast, more rag-tag post-punks get the tour diary treatment in *Red Hot Chili Peppers: Me and My Friends*. Behind-the-scenes insightful beginning at 1990's *Mother's Milk*, UK snapper Tony Woolliscroft's portfolio becomes one big close-up through his thorough documentation of each photo series.

Fire helmets on the Chilis at Lollapalooza 1992 leave a visual burn, but Anthony Kiedis

riding on the shoulder of a temple-sized Samoan from the Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E. spells t.r.i.b.a.l. The quartet as light bulbs for Woodstock 1994 could be Devo, They Might Be Giants, or the Residents, but the group in Fela Kuti suits at Wembley Arena in 1999 for the last date of the *Californication* UK tour bursts piñata. Chateau Marmont as backdrop for Kiedis' vocals on *By the Way* and Rick Rubin lying on a couch reading fresh lyrics precede Woolliscroft's LP shoot for the career-high disc and match the live shots of the individual band members that end the book along with a postcard from the singer that seals the deal like "Venice Queen" battens down *By the Way*. If all your sock pairs are one-member affairs, *Me and My Friends* is your athletic supporter.

Travelin' Man: On the Road and Behind the Scenes with Bob Seger — which one's the day job, road hog or photographer? Either or both for Tom Weschler, working one of Detroit's Big Four (the others being Motown, the MC5, and Iggy Pop) and managing to finish college while doing it, including LP design and witness to "Turn the Page." Ramblin' gamblin' captions and snapshots of behind-the-scenesters accompany keepers throughout, including such captures as Seger's Beatles haircut and turtleneck from 1969, cigarette dangling from his lip.

MONSTERS PRO AND CON

by Jad Fair

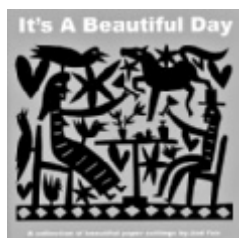
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY

by Jad Fair

JUMP FOR JOY

by Jad Fair

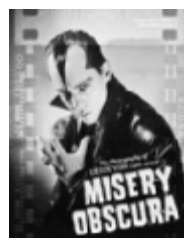
Manor's resident alien isn't just out there tending to the horses; he's a paper factory. Three new books of paper cuttings — what Fair does when he's not performing with Half Japanese or touring or recording or exhibiting — explore his obsessions through hand-cut intricacy. It's painstaking work, the kind you have to really look at, let your eyes soften, like for a Magic Eye poster. *Monsters*, a Fair favorite, features a dizzying number of vaguely



menacing/cute black and white cuts, while *Jump for Joy*'s colorful heart-shaped prints achieve inspirational folk art. (The Three Stooges one is choice.) *It's a Beautiful Day* is the better half of *Monsters*, filled with square-eyed birds, wavy vines, and flat-footed dogs, no doubt inspired by his range life. Put them all together, and it's like the inside of Fair's brain came tumbling out.

www.jadfair.com.

— Audra Schroeder



MISERY OBSCURA

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF EERIE VON (1981-2009)

by Eerie Von

Dark Horse, 160 pp., \$29.95

Children shouldn't play with dead things, but thank God they always have and always will. Some even took snaps of their undead endeavors. Case in pointed devil lock: Eric "Eerie Von" Stellmann, the Lodi (New Jersey) High pal of legendary Misfits-to-be Jerry and Doyle Caiafa who spent much of his time prior to becoming Samhain's bassist amassing a veritable coffinload of spooktacular shots of punk rock's creepiest from the 'Fits to Danzig. Von's evil eye for imagery was already in full glare when Danzig picked him for the Misfits' legendary "cave" shoot in upstate New York. Among other amazements, *Misery Obscura* includes the original contact sheets with Danzig's handwritten notes. As much a part of the punk rock historical record as Glen E. Friedman's seminal photobook, *Fuck You Heroes*, Von's photography is a lavish slab of horror rock history accompanied by an informative, unassuming, and frequently hilarious running commentary by the manster behind the lens. Straight from Spook City, USA, this is as close to finding hell in your stocking as you're ever going to get.

— Marc Savlov

Before too many pages, he's adopted the *Beautiful Loser* long hair and beard, Seger presenting an LP sales trophy to CKLW deejay Rosalie Trombley, who wouldn't play his music and about whom he wrote a tune, famously covered by Thin Lizzy. Then there's the money shot: Seger and Springsteen backstage, '78, their first meeting, but they look like brothers, one long-haired, the other short, both beaming beauty of the Gods. When a Seger bio is finally penned, picture-window installation will come courtesy of Weschler. Now ... which LP, *Night Moves* or *Nebraska*?

Last, roll two tie-ins, one for live dynamite *Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out*, newly reissued and set-designed by *Let It Bleed: The Rolling Stones*, *Altamont*, and *the End of the Sixties* tour photographer Ethan Russell, and *The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: The First 25 Years: The Definitive Chronicle of Rock & Roll by Its Legends*, backstory to recent concert celebrations for the music mausoleum.

Kill your idols, but collect their icons.

The only photographer on the 16-man crew for the Stones' 1969 U.S. trek, Russell's dramatic opening account of the entourage fleeing the free but fatal tour encore as if on the last chopper out of Saigon and making it back to his hotel in San Francisco by 9pm dominoes into his first-person recall of modern rock's darkest morality tale. The author's contextualization of his visual brands through reporting and new interviews, including Bill Wyman, Mick Taylor, and most quotably Stanley Booth ("I was in the rafters with Gram Parsons ... we're smoking this killer weed"), add up to a tour de force, a visual index to Booth's masterpiece *The True Adventures of the Rolling Stones*.

Keith Richards in sunglasses, scarf, shag haircut, and Coke patch on his jacket, leaning up against a water fountain under the aforementioned just-say-no signage, takes a backseat to *Let It Bleed*'s final hazy shot of the Stones posed high on an L.A. hillside, as haunting as contemporary pictures from the Altamont Speedway today.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's version of music history unfolds via induction and acceptance speeches, plus a filing cabinet's worth of publicity band stills and a smattering of actual photos from the events themselves. Pete Townshend's Stone veneration of Keith Inc.; Paul McCartney's letter to John Lennon; Little Steven's Jersey folk ballad-type intro of the Rascals landing him a call from *The Sopranos* casting director; Boss Springsteen's hilarious, on-point induction of U2 in 2005; Ice-T's speech on Sire Records' Seymour Stein; and Metallica's Hetfield & Ulrich killing on their Black Sabbath reading: The stuff of legends. Pity there are no pictures to match. ■

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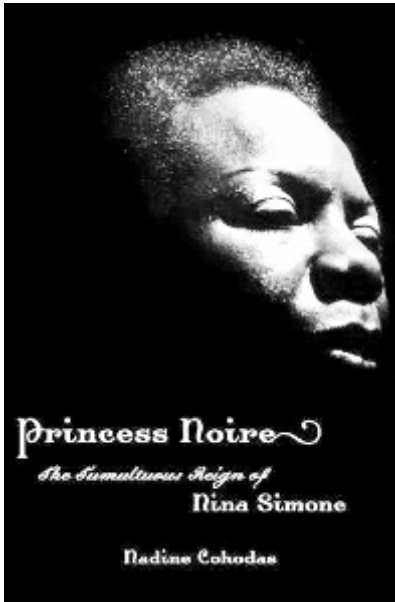
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PRINCESS NOIRE THE TUMULTUOUS REIGN OF NINA SIMONE

by Nadine Cohodas
Pantheon, 464 pp., \$30

As a phrase, *Tumultuous Reign* has a certain ring, the association with dictators and religious leaders. Nina Simone was caught somewhere in between, rejecting the poverty and racial tension of her childhood in Tryon, N.C., where she was Eunice Waymon, while also struggling to stay black and proud among the musical elite, where her extraordinary talents as a singer and pianist put her. Author Nadine Cohodas doesn't gloss over Simone's more corrosive moments of militancy and depression, but she does cut them with an optimist's scalpel, always trying to see the good in Simone's erratic behavior. Peppered throughout are remembrances from select family and friends, and Cohodas does a fair job drawing out the contrasts of Simone's life, from her classical piano tutelage by a white woman to her Atlantic City jazz indoctrination in the late 1950s, where she became Nina Simone and commenced a decades-long tug-of-war with audiences and colleagues. For all her exhaustive research, Cohodas, who also wrote a bio on Dinah Washington, another black singer who never quite got the credit she deserved, offers little in terms of criticism or humor. And yet, by the end, after it's all sunk in, Nina Simone rules.

— Audra Schroeder

MISS O'DELL MY HARD DAYS AND LONG NIGHTS WITH THE BEATLES, THE STONES, BOB DYLAN, ERIC CLAPTON, AND THE WOMEN THEY LOVED

by Chris O'Dell with
Katherine Ketcham
Touchstone,
403 pp., \$26

"I wasn't even almost famous," writes Chris O'Dell. "But I was there." How "there" was she really? That's her on film, one of a handful watching the Beatles during their famous rooftop concert – the Fab Four's last live performance. On the back cover of the Rolling Stones' *Exile on Main St.*, that's her, too. Who else had songs written about them by both Leon Russell ("Pisces Apple Lady") and George Harrison ("Miss O'Dell")? An indispensable part of the rock machinery, from office assistant at Apple Records to a Rolling Thunder Revue road manager, who slept with compadres including Russell, Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan, and Sam Shepard, O'Dell wastes no time on setup, no chapters on preteen crushes or girlish obsessions. She's just a bored and unencumbered young woman with a sense of adventure in L.A. at the right time. Thankfully, she doesn't get preachy about her recovery in 1989 nor does she spend much time on ensuing years. Her frankness is refreshing and unpretentious, and she's unapologetic about her life in other people's spotlights, as she should be: Her presence opened the door for countless young women, most of whom will never know how much they owe to *Miss O'Dell*.

— Margaret Moser

BLUES & CHAOS THE MUSIC WRITING OF ROBERT PALMER

by Robert Palmer;
edited by Anthony
DeCurtis
Scribner,
452 pp., \$30

When Robert Palmer died in 1997 due to complications of liver disease, the *Rolling Stone* headline read:



His musical mind was so far ahead of the curve that it took his peers, let alone the jazz world at large, decades to appreciate both his idiosyncratic pianism and his enigmatic compositions. In what is surely the most exacting and in-depth biography to date on this fascinating musician, author Robin Kelly painstakingly documents Monk's entire career with more than

100 pages of dense footnotes, select discography/videography information, and an impressive array of interviews from within the jazz world and Monk's immediate family. He contends it was Monk who initially laid the foundation for modern jazz, years before Parker and Dizzy Gillespie were credited for creating bebop, the revolutionary sounds that changed jazz forever.

Kelly also takes umbrage with Monk's portrayal in the press as the bizarre, mystifying, anti-social "High Priest of Bebop." Eccentric to be sure, Monk's unconventional behavior was fueled, in part, by a bipolar disorder that was exacerbated with age. Perhaps a bit dense for the jazz novice, this tome is a real treat for hepcats and best read straight, no chaser. — Jay Trachtenberg



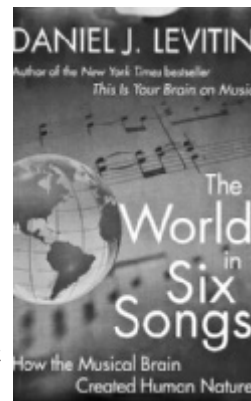
"America's Pre-Eminent Music Writer Dead at 52." It was appropriately high tribute to a critic who elevated popular music to serious and academic study. As contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* in the 1970s and the first chief popular music critic for *The New York Times*, as well as author of the seminal *Deep Blues*, Palmer wrote with incomparable authority, his encyclopedic knowledge and dogged devotion to music's roots broiling with haughty humor and inherent understanding not simply technical but aesthetic and personal, as he battled his own demons alongside rock's first generation. Anthony DeCurtis' compilation of Palmer's writings showcases his critical breadth, from blues and jazz to punk's first screeds and the earliest considerations of "World Music," all interconnected and fraught with intellectual vigor. What shines most is the diversity of Palmer's writing style, as rich as his subjects and evoked in unparalleled studies of Ornette Coleman, Richard Hell, and Tom Verlaine and uncompromising portraits like "The Devil and Jerry Lee Lewis." Like the critic himself, *Blues & Chaos* is a complex collection in pursuit of histories endlessly entangled in the present and always pushing for the possibilities of the future.

— Doug Freeman

THE WORLD IN SIX SONGS HOW THE MUSICAL BRAIN CREATED HUMAN NATURE

by Daniel J. Levitin
Plume, 358 pp.,
\$16 (paper)

As anyone who knows their ABCs can attest, songs transmit information in a way that brands memory. In his follow-up to 2006's fascinating *This Is Your Brain on Music*, musician/neuroscientist Daniel Levitin sets out to demonstrate music's centrality to the development of humanity's more distinguished characteristics. His unwieldy framework for doing this divides all songs into six categories: songs of knowledge, friendship, joy, comfort, religion, and love. Although Levitin offers plenty of personal and historical anecdotes to support his categories, this approach ultimately feels



forced and unsatisfying. Ironically, it's the author's own compelling descriptions of how song structures lend themselves to constructive memory and representational thinking that undermine his reductionist taxonomy. Given the vast array of personal and contextual proclivities toward responding (or not responding) to songs, how can we definitively say what a "comfort" song is? R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" might not feel so uplifting if played to promote capture shock at a military prison. Even if you don't buy the titular assertion of *Six Songs*, there's still plenty to learn from Levitin's endearing narrative. It's the perfect holiday gift for school board members prone to dismissing the value of music education.

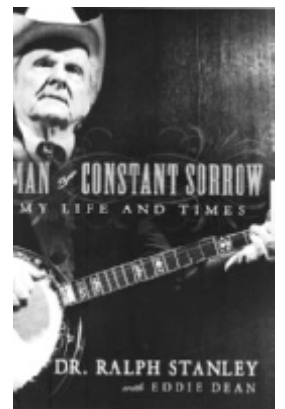
— Greg Beets

MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW MY LIFE AND TIMES

by Dr. Ralph
Stanley with
Eddie Dean
Gotham Books,
453 pp., \$27.50

In the prologue to *Man of Constant Sorrow* Ralph Stanley writes: "I've always done my best to honor what God gave me. I've never tried to put any airs on it. I sing it the way I feel it, just the way it comes out." With music writer Eddie Dean, he relates his life in the same speaking voice – honestly and with extraordinary detail. Too young to witness the birth of country music, Stanley's tale covers a great deal of its history along with the birth of bluegrass: his boyhood in coal country Virginia, a rise to fame and hard life on the road with his brother Carter and the Clinch Mountain Boys post-World War II, then Carter's death from alcoholism in 1966 and Ralph's influential career as a bandleader that peaked with an appearance on the *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* soundtrack. All the while, the banjoist interacts with legendary characters like A.P. Carter, Bill Monroe, Syd Nathan of King Records, and plenty more. The only things missing are photographs to highlight the narrative. You don't have to be a fan of country or mountain music to enjoy *Man of Constant Sorrow*, but an appreciation of American history for most of the last century helps.

— Jim Caligiuri



THELONIOUS MONK THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

by Robin D.G. Kelly
Free Press, 588 pp., \$30

Included in the pantheon of jazz geniuses alongside Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane is pianist/composer Thelonious Sphere Monk.

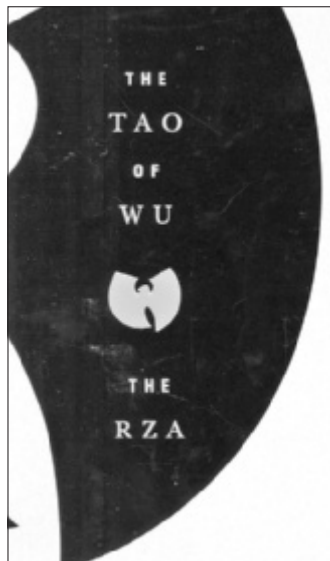
THE TAO OF WU

by The RZA

Riverhead Books, 208 pp., \$24.95

Instilling *The Tao of Wu* into the mental framework of each Wu-Tang Clansman only worked until they all went platinum on their own, but it remains the driving force for their abbot. From street dreams growing up in the Staten Island projects to "staying in the Presidential Suite of the Chateau Marmont ... pounds of weed, bottles of sherm," RZA's autobiographical memoir defines one of hip-hop's great minds. Spliced like a Wu-Tang album complete with interludes, kung fu, and "7 Pillars of Wisdom," this *Tao* isn't the money-centric post-Clan output we've come to expect from RZA. Rather, it's honest insight into how devoted the producer/rapper is to his craft, making his crew famous, and "carrying our wisdom from Shaolin to the world." As with all RZA writings, this one's better if you read it with his voice in your head, but that's not to discredit him or co-writer Chris Norris. Together they've compiled the foremost documentation of Wu-Tang philosophy, one that every student of Shaolin should read.

— Chase Hoffberger



I SLEPT WITH JOEY RAMONE A FAMILY MEMOIR

by Mickey Leigh with Legs McNeil
Touchstone, 416 pp., \$26

Rock & roll isn't always kind to the families of rock stars. Being the child or spouse of a famous musician is at least as difficult as being the sibling of one, especially one working in the same field. For Mickey Leigh, younger brother of Joey Ramone, kinship was bittersweet and strained with rivalry. Leigh wasn't destined to be an equal, Stevie Ray Vaughan to Jimmie Vaughan. He was Chris Jagger to Mick, a talent in his own right forever consigned to his big brother's shadow. With punk chronicler Legs (*Please Kill Me*) McNeil, the two coax stories from the remaining Ramones plus an assortment of friends, musicians, ex-wives, and parents, reconstructing Joey's catapult to cult stardom, a story that started beside Leigh then rocketed past him. Leigh was friends with John Cummings and Tommy Erdelyi, aka Johnny and Tommy Ramone, before his brother, and while he benefited from Ramones adventures, his participation led to a demand for compensation and a subsequent lifelong feud between the brothers. With due credit for his musical contributions – Lester Bangs handpicked him for his band Birdland – Leigh's sometimes petty tone makes *A Family Memoir* come mighty close to being called *An Axe to Grind*.

— Margaret Moser
CONTINUED ON P.70



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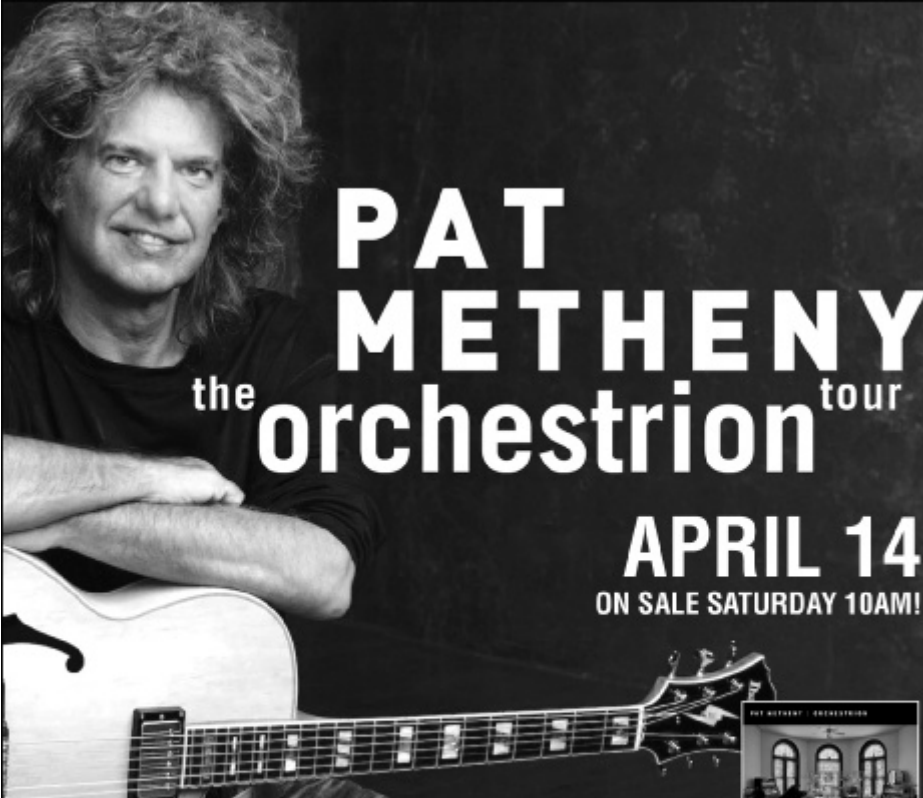
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HISTORY OF BAY AREA PUNK FROM
DEAD KENNEDYS TO GREEN DAY
by Jack Boulware & Silke Tudor
Penguin, 490 pp., \$18 (paper)

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It was punk as fuck. Tackling the gleefully vicious, calculatedly anti-social, and utterly wonderful history of punk rock's most fertile egg chamber outside the UK is a fool's errand akin to picking daisies for Danzig's pet baby unicorn on Easter Sunday. Sayeth Ian MacKaye, "Think again." Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain nailed the whole New Yawk punk rawk squawk with their essential CGBG's flashback-a-thon *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of*



Punk, Marc Spitz and Brendan Mullen recounted Southern California's 15 minutes of Weird(os) in *We Got the Neutron Bomb: The Untold Story of L.A. Punk*, and now, against all odds, Jack Boulware and Silke Tudor have gone and one-upped *both* of those indispensable oral histories with this endlessly fascinating and frankly addictive masterpiece of safety-pin journalism. Of key note here is the Texas/SF cross-country tweakshow that included the likes of DRI, Tales of Terror, girlfriend-killing Fang-frontman Sam "Sammytown" McBride, and the (ever infamous) SF/SoCo skin Marc Dagger. Apart from chords and kick-drums, the good old days were actually pretty bad, it turns out, although Berkeley's 924 Gilman St. ultimately returned the blood from fists to fret boards, where it belonged. Among other notable decedents was scene cop and *Maximumrockroll* founder Tim Yohannan, who artfully managed to sick up lymphoma in 1998, thereby allowing him to exit prior to the colossal embarrassment that is Hot Topic. To quote the late Will Shatter: "Isn't life a blast? It's just like living in the past." Hey, man, whatever gets you through the Vats. — Marc Savlov

WE'LL BE HERE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES A SWINGIN' SHOWBIZ SAGA

by Paul Shaffer with David Ritz
Flying Dolphin Press, 322 pp., \$26

Paul Shaffer loves his life as musician and bandleader to the stars, and why not? As a young Jewish boy growing up in Canada, he devoured the musical lessons heaped on him, joining bands as soon as he could. As an adult he stumbled into a uniquely talented group of entertainers and found his place seamlessly among them. It's a charming read, *We'll Be Here for the Rest of Our Lives*, with names such as Julia Roberts, Chevy Chase, James Brown, and

Britney Spears dropped affably, so affable that he also declines to tattle on otherwise dish-able friends such as Phil Spector and Mackenzie Phillips. Instead, Shaffer provides unexpectedly sweet looks at the likes of Gilda Radner and David Letterman. And never again will you read as sweet a billet-doux to a groupie as Shaffer gives the infamous Sweet Connie, who rates a chapter of her own. Shaffer's no dummy in enlisting big bio star co-author David Ritz, who helps the bandleader shape his career from *Saturday Night Live* to the *Late Show With David Letterman*. Shaffer's unflagging enthusiasm for music is as contagious as his nice-guy persona is genuine.

— Margaret Moser



ALWAYS BEEN THERE
ROSANNE CASH,
THE LIST,
AND THE
SPIRIT OF
SOUTHERN
MUSIC

by Michael Streissguth
Da Capo Press,
223 pp., \$24

Ostensibly about the making of Rosanne Cash's latest album, *The List*, this over-view digs deeper. Michael Streissguth, author of *Johnny Cash: The Biography*, offers a detailed portrait of his subject through interviews conducted in her studio, home, and even on tour in Europe, but along with exposing Rosanne's intensely thoughtful rebel heart and the fable of "the list," he includes biographical information and reminiscences that highlight the historical aspect of her life and times. The titular list is a handwritten collection of 100 essential songs that the elder Cash gave his eldest child in 1973, songs he felt any young musician should know. That she now can't find the hidden-on-purpose list offers some intrigue to Streissguth's telling, but a great deal of *Always Been There* reveals Rosanne still wrestling with her father's demise and legacy — refusing requests for "Ring of Fire" in concert and wondering how to reconstruct "the list" so she can decide which songs to record. An effortless read with plentiful photos, *Always Been There* is an enticing view of an artist unafraid to challenge herself.

— Jim Caligiuri

gift
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MOONWALK
by Michael Jackson
Harmony Books, 320 pp., \$25

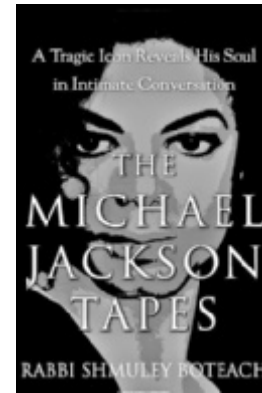
THE MICHAEL JACKSON TAPES
A TRAGIC ICON REVEALS HIS SOUL IN INTIMATE CONVERSATION

by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach
Vanguard Press, 320 pp. \$25.95

MICHAEL JACKSON 1958-2009
LIFE OF A LEGEND
by Michael Heatley
Headline, 192 pp., \$24.95

Surprise, *Tapes* is a rushed-to-the-printer piece of self-serving crap cloaked as a book of revelations. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach doubles as Dr. Phil in a yarmulke, offering commentary after snippets of dialogue with Michael Jackson. Given this "intimate conversation," Jackson was more delusional than imagined, and the rabbi excuses and indulges the King of Pop until his lips should be blue from expulsion of air. No wonder DListed.com refers to the author as Rabbi Famewhore. Jackson's own words confirm his immaturity early in *Moonwalk*, his 1988 prescandal biography rushed back into print upon his death. Though his tale was clearly spun for effect and tidied up before hitting the stands, in 1988 Jackson was a respected musician with a huge body of innovative hits, only a few personality quirks, and some of his looks still intact. *Moonwalk* remains quite revealing about the performer who played a zombie in "Thriller," then went door-to-door as a Jehovah's Witness (just ask Rabbi Shmuley). Yet Jackson was as much an image as a musical icon, and *Michael Jackson 1958-2009: Life of a Legend* illustrates that in photo after photo. This is by far the most intelligent of these offerings, author Michael Heatley allowing the visuals to paint Jackson's life. The early entries are especially compelling, Jackson so young and vibrant. The physical transformation from sturdy young black man to freakish paranoid is stunning, though not the focus of *Legend*, tribute to the master entertainer Michael Jackson most wanted to be.

— Margaret Moser



BIG MAN
REAL LIFE &
TALL TALES
by Clarence Clemons
& Don Reo, Grand Central
Publishing, 384 pp., \$26.99

Bruce Springsteen's foreword pales in comparison to his ecstatic ringside introduction raving up "Rosalita (Come Out Tonight)" on the essential *Live/1975-85* collection: "In this corner, king of the world, master of the universe, weighing in at 260 pounds, the Big Man, Clarence Clemons." Add size 17 shoes and barroom storyteller to the E Street Band saxophonist's credentials. As its title suggests, *Big Man* is equally divided between *Real Life* — short, autobiographical sketches of *Born to Run* sessions and other memorable behind-the-music moments — and *Tall Tales* — more entertaining asides, such as



"The Legend of Key West, 1976," where Robert De Niro confides that he stole his infamous *Taxi Driver* bit ("Are you talking to me?") from a Springsteen show — both distinguished by a coloring of the pages. Clemons' prose mirrors his self-coined relation to a "Newfoundland with hip dysplasia": "black, friendly, lovable, and in constant pain," peppering his narratives with vulgarities the way his Boss does themes of darkness and hope. The substantial contributions from co-author

and noted television writer Don Reo read like poorly written script, oftentimes recreating Clemons' handed-down accounts with forced, awkward dialogue. Don't be surprised then when *Big Man* hits a theatre near you.

— Austin Powell

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Robert and Roberta Masters of Prior Lake, Minn., were arrested in October and charged in connection with a series of mailbox explosions over the summer, which police say were carried out by seven teenagers who had been supplied by the couple. Police said Robert Masters bought black powder for the kids and had said it “would be a good educational tool for the kids to build pipe bombs.” Roberta Masters allegedly encouraged the teens to learn on the Internet how to make pipe bombs because it would be “constructive” (but she said she had told them to be careful).

LEAD STORY

Their Health Care Is Just Fine Without “Reform”: 1) In September, the Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers, along with four physicians and three surgical nurses, donated their services for delicate brain surgery on a 25-year-old silverback lowland gorilla at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. 2) Among the health-insurance upgrades demanded by Philadelphia-area transit workers and agreed to by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority in November was removal of the 10-tablet-per-month rationing of Viagra and similar medications, to allow as many as 30 per month (according to a *Philadelphia Daily News* report). (The final contract, reportedly even more beneficial to the union, was being voted on by union members at press time.)

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Oops! 1) Three men and a woman from Atlantic City, N.J., were arrested in August and charged with robbing the Artisans’ Bank in Bear, Del. Their escape after the robbery had been delayed when they accidentally left the keys to the getaway car in the bank. 2) Andrew Burwitz, 20, was arrested in Appleton, Wis., in November and charged with drive-by shootings into two residences. No one was hit, and the major damage was done to Burwitz’s car, in that Burwitz fired the first shot before he remembered to roll down the window.

INEXPLICABLE

For its Halloween gala, the Kings Island amusement park near Cincinnati had set up an exhibit featuring skeletons dressed to resemble, among other deceased celebrities, Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Ted Kennedy, Ed McMahon, TV salesman Billy Mays, Sonny Bono (his skeleton in front of a tree), and Ted Williams (his skeleton in front of a freezer). Alongside was a marker board labeled “agenda,” with those names crossed off but others still listed, including Bernard Madoff and the comedian Carrot Top. (Following a WLWT-TV preview of the exhibit in September, the park quickly canceled it, with a spokesman declaring, “We were not intending to be distasteful.”)

THE WEIRDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

When police in Brimfield, Ohio, stopped Jaime Aguirre, 42, for a traffic violation in October, they found some conventional photos of nude and near-nude women but were especially surprised at a stash of x-rays and mammograms, which they supposed came from Aguirre’s job as technician at an imaging center in Tiffin, Ohio. The Brimfield police chief said he believed the stash was used by Aguirre for sexual gratification, and since some of the x-rays and mammograms were of girls under the age of 18, Aguirre was charged with possession of child pornography.

CAN’T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

In April, Richard Huether, the manager of the HoneyBaked Ham outlet in Cary, N.C., was shot in the stomach during a robbery of the store and hospitalized, with medical bills paid through worker compensation and his employee health benefits. In September, when his worker compensation expired (and though still at least three months away from returning to work), HoneyBaked fired him (forcing him to begin paying 100% of his insurance premiums and making subsequent insurance prohibitively expensive because of his new “pre-existing condition”). However, HoneyBaked human resources executive Maggie DeCan told WRAL-TV that the firing was for Huether’s own good, in that it would clear the way for him to receive Social Security disability payments. Said DeCan, “We couldn’t feel any worse for Rich, and we would do anything we could for him [except keep him on the payroll].”

Those Overhead Costs! 1) The price of gasoline for U.S. troops in Afghanistan is about \$400 per gallon, according to a U.S. House subcommittee in October, citing Pentagon officials (factoring in the security necessary to bring fuel through Pakistan). 2) Patient Jim Bujalski complained to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Littleton, Colo., in September about the cost of his prescription Plavix and Crestor tablets, which he was forced to “buy” from the hospital because it administers only drugs under its control. The Plavix cost \$248 each (he pays \$8 at home), and his Crestor (\$3 at home) cost \$65. The medications were part of his \$58,000, one-day hospital stay.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Nurses might best treat patients who have self-cutting disorders by helping them in their endeavor, according to an October advisory from Britain’s Royal College of Nursing. “Assisted self-harming” should be considered as part of nursing care plans, according to the advisory, benefiting patients by having skilled professionals at their side, for example, supplying sterile blades and providing the quick stanching of blood and dressing of wounds.

On July 13, William Thomson, 55, feeling bad recently about having violently resisted arrest by the Salisbury, Mass., police in a drunken-driving incident in 1997, brought hot coffee to a Salisbury station house and sought symbolic forgiveness from the officers on duty. The very next day, however, Thomson was arrested again in a drunken-driving incident, and again he forcefully resisted, punching a Breathalyzer machine, threatening an officer, and attempting to flood a lockup cell in the station house.

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

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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IN-STORE PERFORMANCE
SAT, DEC 5 @ 3PM

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APPLY FOR THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Learn how to apply for a temporary job helping the 2010 census. 3pm. *Faulk Central Library*, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7418. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

COMMUNITY INPUT ON AISD BUDGET It might not be the best move to air the school district's budget concerns during this time of rampant consumerism and shrinking wallets, but the public is invited to learn about and discuss the future finances of your kid's education. 6pm. *William B. Travis High School*, 1211 E. Oltorf, 414-2323. www.austinisd.org/inside/budget.

★ **TRIANGLE TREE-LIGHTING** This family-friendly evening features live caroling, a screening of *The Polar Express*, snacks, cookie decorating, and games for the kids. All this leading up to the tree-lighting. 6-9pm. *The Triangle*, 4700 Guadalupe.

LAINEY'S BALLOT BLOWOUT Celebrate the first day to apply to be on the Democratic primary ballot with a man soon to be on that ballot, Lainei Melnick. Surround yourself with Central Texas politicians and the sounds of the Asylum Street Spankers. 6:30pm. *Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve*, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 799-0626. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.laineyforcongress.com.

TUMMY TALK Learn tips to a healthy pregnancy from ob-gyns and ask your own questions. A baby-healthy meal will be provided. Call to RSVP 6:30pm. *St. David's South Austin Hospital Auditorium*, 901 W. Ben White, 416-6114. Free.

CARING FOR AGING PARENTS DISCUSSIONS This series hosts an expert every week tackling tough family decisions. 7pm. *Faith Presbyterian Church*, 1314 E. Oltorf, 444-1314. Free.

NERD NITE Three specialists (nerds) talk about their specialties (nerdness). This month the topics range from the science of beer tasting to the history of marching bands in America. 7pm. *Buffalo Billiards*, 201 E. Sixth, 479-7665. Free. www.austin.nerdnite.com.

★ **WHISKY FESTIVAL** Participants can sample roughly 50 single-malt Scotch whiskies from all over Scotland accompanied by an hors d'oeuvres buffet. Whisky connoisseurs will be on hand to ensure that you swirl and sniff like the pros. 7pm. *Opal Divine's Penn Field*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. K, 707-0237. \$40-45. www.opaldivines.com.

★ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Scottish Rite offers this interactive take on the holiday classic with original songs for young audiences. Scrooge learns about kindness and sharing and so can your kids. Call or go online for tickets; only a limited number of tickets will be available at the door. *Through Dec. 22: Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2pm (except Dec. 20, 11am).* *Austin Scottish Rite Theatre*, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$15 (\$12, kids; \$5, infants). www.srct.org.

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

LA PASTORELA The Austin Latino Theater Alliance presents this comedy about a group of shepherds trying to reach Bethlehem while savvy devils attempt to thwart their progress. In Spanish with English subtitles. *Dec. 3-19, Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center*, 600 River St., 241-9799. \$12; \$8, students and seniors; *Thursdays by donation*. www.lapastorela.org.

★ **THAT TIME OF THE YEAR** Saffire T. Stone's other incarnation, Olin, performs in this holiday hoop-de-doo. *Thursdays-Sundays, Dec. 3-19, 8pm. Sam Bass Community Theatre*, 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. www.sambasstheatre.org.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3 TO THURSDAY, DEC. 10

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Bowling for Soup *Emo's*
Dianne Reeves *One World Theatre*
Tommy Castro *Saxon Pub*
Monahans *Mohawk*

FRIDAY 04

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT Now in its 19th year, this collection of artists and artisans will hopefully supply you with the unique gift you've been looking for. *Dec. 4-6: Fri.-Sat., 9am-5:30pm; Sun., noon-5pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org/holiday.

UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION TASK FORCE Experts discuss ways and ideas to prevent alcohol abuse in our schools and community. 10:30am. *United Way Capital Area*, 2000 E. MLK Blvd., 854-4229.

★ **BABY SIGN LANGUAGE DEMO** My Smart Hands of Austin teaches the benefits of signing to babies and toddlers at this demo class. Don't get too wrapped up in it, or you might end up taking the eight-week course. 11am. *Austin Baby Store*, 701 S. Lamar, 850-0013. Free. www.mysmarthands-austin.com.

SANTA PAWS BENEFIT Businesses in the Triangle unite to offer drinks, food, and prizes to encourage donations to local dog rescue groups. 11am-7pm. *Triangle Chiropractic*, 4616 Triangle Ave. #404, 237-1305. Free (donations accepted). www.dreastwood.com.

LA PASTORELA VIP FIESTA Before this Spanish-language holiday play (see Thursday, 12/3, for more) enjoy food, drinks, games, and a meet-and-greet with the cast and crew. 5:30pm. *Mexican American Cultural Center*, 600 River St., 474-8497. \$25. www.lapastorela.org.

★ **ROSE'S BUFFET & FIND FRED** Fit for a queen ... who may no longer be "fit" after this indulgence. Then stay for Find Fred: Kind of like Where's Waldo? but with color-coded name tags. Red = "Run in opposite direction"; yellow = "Proceed with caution, I have issues"; and green = "Zoom, zoom! and I hope you're paying." 5:30pm. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

★ **CHRISTMAS TIDINGS** The oldest home in Austin is decked out for the holidays, and you're invited to take it all in. Candlelight tours of the museum will be offered along with live music, refreshments, and all-around merriment. 6-8pm. *French Legation Museum*, 802 San Marcos St., 472-8180. Free. www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.

CEDAR PARK TREE LIGHTING with enough wattage to get your holiday spirit jump-started. Take a free carriage ride, say hi to Santa, or just keep warm by the yule fire. 6:30-8:30pm. *Heritage Oak Park*, 875 Quest Pkwy., Cedar Park, 512/401-5500. Free. www.cedarparkfun.com.

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG Local congregations and choirs gather to help raise money for Faith in Action Caregivers. 6:30pm. *Hill Country Bible Church*, 303 E. Pflugerville Pkwy., Pflugerville, 512/538-1152. Donations appreciated.

★ **OUT IN AUSTIN SPEED DATING FOR LADIES** Can this Dallas company hook you up? Now registering 10 femme and 10 butch women, recommended ages 21-35. No match? Next one's on them. Tell 'em Gay Place sent ya. 6:30pm, 9pm *afterparty*. Location revealed upon registration, 469/235-0644. \$15. outindallaspeeddating@yahoo.com, www.outindallaspeeddating.com.

★ **AUSTIN VISUAL ARTS AWARDS** Help celebrate the year's finest local visual artists and mingle with the artierati. Cocktails and awards are the order of the day, but keep your eyes peeled for Kanye West copycats. 7pm. *Austin Museum of Art - Downtown*, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$25. www.avaonline.org.

HOT SCIENCE COOL TALKS Dr. Gerald R. North discusses the effects of global warming on Texas. Activities and an exhibit start at 5:45pm, with the lecture following at 7pm. *UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224*, 471-5847. Free. www.esl.utexas.edu.

★ **RECOMMENDED**★ **YOUNG ONES**★ **GAY PLACES**

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

★ **IT'S A DIZNASTY WORLD** And we only live in it. The Dramazons present this R-rated fractured faerie-take on Disney-fried classics. Who knows? You may just find your own "Wizard of Oz." *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5, 8pm; Sun., Dec. 6, 6pm. Blue Theater*, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. \$10. dramazons@yahoo.com.

★ **PROMISED LAND** Quoth: "One gay boy's search for love, liberation, and a working toilet in the Appalachian woods," on stage, for your edification. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5 & 11-12, 8pm. The New Movement*, 1819 Rosewood, 921-0746. \$5-10 donation. notoriousrzz@gmail.com.

WINTER CARAVAN FUNDRAISER Six bands, a couple of DJs, two stages, and the money going to Bikes Across Borders' annual bicycle-solidarity migration to Monterrey, Mexico. 8pm-2am. *Club de Ville*, 900 Red River, 457-0900. \$5 suggested donation. www.bikesacrossborders.org.

★ **ALLIDAY WITH KNT** Ring in your happy Chrimshankwanzakah in style with the most stylish of style faeries: Rebecca Havemeyer and those hot, studly Santa's elves, Kings N Things (including Poochie the Red Nosed Drag King, we hope). 9pm. *Elysium*, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$7-10 sliding scale. www.kingsnthings.org.

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

HELLO, SWINGERS We don't always find ourselves at **Project Transitions'** twice-a-year swings (summer's **Texas Swing** and this week-end's **Holiday Swing**), but that is no reflection on the events, themselves. Well, maybe it is. See, we get seriously flustered with that much hot humanity all gathered in one place. **Sentimental Journey** or **Alvin Crow** notwithstanding, there is only so much sweet simmering sexual tension one lone lezzie should be expected to take. And yes, despite our tacky tendency to boil just about everything in this com-

munity down to its sexy quotient, this event stands on its own as being erotically attractive. Truly, what is more delicious than a tender, caring heart? And this group is chock-full, simply brimming, with big-hearted lusciousness. At this point we'd like to shout out our own sexygram to one particular PTER: **Jason Rosen**, you are one hottie bo hottie, and we think you are the cat's meow. There. We said it. (And not just because you and I could be mistaken for brothers. Except you're purdier. Though, you do look oh so **Gay Placey** when you wear a certain pair of specs.)

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



L - R: FOSSIL FEST (SEE SATURDAY) | LONE STAR CURLING CLUB (SPORTS, P.77) | SLUGFEST GALLERY (ARTS, P.78) | EVERYBODY'S FINE (FILM, P.84) | JAY REATARD (MUSIC, P.92)

yoga

events

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP Are the kids all wound up from holiday shenanigans? Get them unwound with these yoga minicamps for kids between the ages of 2 and 6. Mon-Wed., Dec. 21-23 & 28-30, 9am-noon. Kula Yoga, 2415 Exposition, 542-3334. \$90; \$170, both weeks. www.austinkulayoga.com.

FAMILY YOGA Bring the little yogis. It's never too early to start. Saturdays, 10-11am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.

FREE YOGA from a different teacher each Sunday. Check online to see what style is offered this week. Sundays through Dec. 20, 10am. Soma Vida, 1210 Rosewood, 628-1580. www.somavidaaustin.com/SomaVida/Home.html.

FULL MOON YOGA Charles MacInerney teaches classes all over town but also offers private instruction and hosts retreats. Once a month for 18 years, he has also hosted Full Moon Yoga – a free, outdoor yoga class. Go online for location and time details. 459-2267. charles@yogateacher.com, www.yogateacher.com.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS WORKSHOP Combine ancient wisdom and modern methods to reduce stress, increase energy, and improve meditation techniques. Sat., Dec. 5, 2pm. Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill, 335-4449. Free. sridhar_adapalli@yahoo.com.

KIRTAN AT YOGAYOGA Experience the yoga of sound and devotion. Bring an drum, other instrument, or just your voice and let your soul sing. Sat., Dec. 5, 7pm. Yoga Yoga, 1700 S. Lamar, 326-3900. Free. www.yogayoga.com.

LAUGHTER YOGA Put some merrymaking in your yoga routines. No experience necessary. Sundays, 2:30pm. Barton Springs, back entrance. Free. www.matteroflaughing.com.

NAKED YOGA is for those who find even their loose yoga pants too constricting. Go online for a schedule of R-rated classes for beginners and experts alike. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. www.austinnakedyoga.com.

OUTDOOR YOGA Forget the studio. Try hatha yoga in lovely Butler District Park. See www.outdoor yoga.org for a schedule of instructors and the exact times and location. \$5 suggested donation.

YOGA FOR PROSPERITY Learn the meditation and breathing techniques that help open your mind to the universe's gifts. What? Are you too good for gifts from the universe? You can always regift it. Sat., Dec. 5, 2pm. Sacred Streams Yoga, 2013-A W. Anderson, 600-4716. \$40. www.sacredstreams yoga.com.

YOGA/MEDITATION/SONG Do some stretching, posing, and singing surrounded by the goods of India. Saturdays, 9am. Marigold Gateway to India, 2200-A S. Lamar, 443-4033. \$15.

studios

BREATH & BODY YOGA offers a slew of classes, boot camps, and special events. 4800 Burnet Rd. #440, 374-1021. www.breathandbodyyoga.com.

YOGA SHALA Enjoy intimate yoga sessions in a hand-built palapa surrounded by a garden setting. 1205 Hillside, 443-5377. www.oneyoga.com.

AUSTIN YOGA INSTITUTE specializes in Iyengar yoga with daily classes for varying skill levels. If your skill level is high enough the institute has teacher training to prepare you for certification. 1122-C S. Lamar, 923-4643. www.austinyoga.org.

ONEYOGA.US This donation-based community studio offers 60 classes a week. Go online for instructor bios and a schedule. oneyoga.us, 1122-C S. Lamar, 707-2565. www.oneyoga.us.

DHARMA YOGA has classes seven days a week from basics courses to vinyasa yoga for the experienced posers. Dharma Yoga, 41st & Guadalupe, 420-0009. www.dharma-yoga.net.

YOGA FOR HEALTH Gentle classes led by certified exercise physiologist and yoga instructor Paul Smith every Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Austin Yoga for Health at Remedy Center, 4910 Burnet Rd., 452-6623. www.austinyogaforhealth.com.

DAVILA YOGA Davila's unique system of of yoga and physical therapy is designed to improve health and vitality. Group classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Go online for rates. Davila Center for Yoga & Holistic Wellness, 3202 W. Anderson, 762-9548. www.davilayoga.com.

BEA LOVE YOGA Brandy hosts regular classes all over town as well as special events and private instruction. Call or go online to sign up. 609-9230. brandy@bealoveyoga.com, www.bealoveyoga.com.

PEACE STUDIOS Take one of the many studio courses or get yourself to Shippe Park (off 45th Street between Avenues F & G) for by-donation yoga. 1607 Sage Hollow Cir., 294-5524. www.yogainthepark.net.

YOGA RX Caroline McCarter offers specialized classes and personalized attention to ensure that your stretching and posing suits your needs. Yoga Rx, 2200 S. Lamar, 554-3988. www.yoga-rx.com.

LOVE YOGA CO-OP Get the full yoga treatment with classes and workshops that help center the body and mind. Go online for a complete list of courses and to meet the instructors. Love Yoga Co-op, 2525 S. Lamar, 310/866-0874. www.loveyogacoop.com.

CLEAR SPRING STUDIO Down in the increasingly hip South First strip lies this house of yoga, tai chi, meditation, and massage. Clear Spring Studio, 605 Copeland, 231-9644. www.clearspringstudio.com.

DAWN LIGHT YOGA Melissa Savoie offers regeneration yoga and Rise and Shine Flow in addition to private lessons by appointment. 3400 Kerbey Ln. \$12, drop in; six-class card, \$60. www.dawnlightyoga.com.

CASTLE HILL YOGA Take individual courses or one of its class series to take your yoga journey even further. Castle Hill Specialized Fitness, 1112 N. Lamar Ste. B, 478-4567. www.castlehillyoga.com.

BLACK SWAN YOGA This donation-based studio has sweaty yoga, power yoga, and everything in between. 1114 W. Fifth. hello@blackswanyoga.com, www.blackswanyoga.com.

EASTSIDE YOGA Your Eastside yoga options are pretty limited, but the aptly named Eastside Yoga has Hatha yoga, meditation, and health workshops for the east of I-35 crowd. Eastside Yoga, 1050 E. 11th. www.eastsideyoga-austin.com.

YOGA VIDA Heated power vinyasa flow yoga seven days a week for all ability levels. Yoga Vida, 3620 Bee Caves Rd., 482-0800. www.yogavida.net.

SANIEH YOGA Sanieh teaches classes all over town or even in your own home if you're so inclined. Go online for a schedule or e-mail to schedule a house call. 470-2362. sanieh@saniehyoga.com, www.saniehyoga.com.

BODHI YOGA Varying classes ranging from vinyasa to hot yoga (in a heated room) all at the convenient campus-area location. Bodhi Yoga, 2905 San Gabriel, 478-2909. www.bodhiyoga.com.

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To view trailer of another offering by the makers of Raga Unveiled, please visit www.yogaunveiled.com



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Scout Night

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daytrips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Where do alligators in Texas go during the winter? As a reptile, the American alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis* for those who already know the answer, needs to find protection from freezing temperatures.

Granted, the coastal areas don't often get below 41.2 degrees Fahrenheit, the average low temperature in January for the Houston area. Freezing temperatures on the coast do happen. The record low for Orange, on the coast 100 miles north of Houston, is 11 degrees. Corpus Christi was blanketed in 4.4 inches of snow on Christmas Day in 2004. So where do these creatures with the wicked smile go when Jack Frost comes nipping at their snouts?



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Amos Cooper, head of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's alligator program and assistant manager at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area outside of Port Arthur, says I needn't worry about the thousands of alligators that inhabit the Texas coast from Louisiana to the Rio Grande. "The big males dig a den in the mud, and the females build a nest," he says. Alligators don't truly hibernate during the winter. "On a warm, sunny day in January, you'll see them out on the river bank sunning themselves," Cooper says.

The American alligators' range stretches from North Carolina to the Rio Grande. Cooper says I-35 roughly marks the western edge of their territory. They prefer freshwater but can tolerate saltwater for short periods. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike's landfall in September 2008, hundreds of the reptiles died due to saltwater contamination.

Most of the coastal wildlife preserves in Texas have alligators. Brazos Bend State Park southwest of Houston has a large colony that can often be seen sunning themselves near the trails. Cooper estimates that the 24,250-acre Murphree WMA has approximately 10,000 alligators.

Texas alligators were nearly eliminated until they were protected in 1969. The reptiles were taken off the endangered list in 1985. Harvesting wild alligators is allowed during two annual hunting seasons. There are 22 licensed alligator farms in the state, Cooper says.

By nature, alligators keep shy of humans. "They have to have a reason to attack," Cooper says. Problems arise when humans create encounters with the beasts that can grow up to 16 feet long and weigh over a thousand pounds. The biggest mistake is feeding them.

"A fisherman throws fish guts in the water, and the next thing he knows, there's a hungry alligator looking for more," Cooper says. He has even seen restaurants feed scraps to alligators and then wonder why they have problems with aggressive alligators.

Cooper says the males are most aggressive during the March to May breeding season and females are most protective during the June to August nesting season. Even the largest males move quickly on land for short distances, Cooper says. "It's the five- to six-footers that are the fastest," he says. His advice is to give them lots of space.

961st in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

outoftown

CHRISTMAS STROLL begins with Christmas movies on the square with more than 40 shops staying open late. On Saturday, the fun begins again with music, shopping, and a lighted parade in the evening. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5. Brenham, 979/836-3695. www.downtownbrenham.com.

HARBOR LIGHTS FESTIVAL begins the holiday season with downtown bathed in colorful lights, a laser-light show, illuminated boat parade, a visit from Santa, and free music on the bayfront. Sat., Dec. 5. Corpus Christi, 800/678-6232. www.visitcorpuschristitx.org.

MAMMOTH SITE GRAND OPENING finally happens more than 30 years after the discovery of the largest concentration of the remains of prehistoric mammoth elephants ever found. Sat., Dec. 5, 1-5pm. Waco, 254/750-5980. \$5-7. www.wacomammoth.org.

THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED The first American Bald Eagles that spend the winter in the Hill Country have arrived, with more expected as the weather continues to turn cold. Passengers enjoy the climate-controlled cabin as the boat searches for all kinds of wildlife around the lake. Saturdays & Wednesdays in December, 11am. Vanishing River Cruises, Canyon of the Eagles, Lake Buchanan, 512/756-6986. \$19. vtrcinfo@vtrc.com, www.vtrc.com.

BUDAFEST presents vendors selling hand-crafted items, music, a carnival, and lots of food booths. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6. Town Square, Buda, 512/694-3414. www.budachamber.com.

FOSSIL FEST showcases a wide variety of rocks and fossils (most for sale) along with exhibits, demonstrations, and special events for the kids. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6. Old Settler's Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/218-5540. \$2 (\$1, children). www.texaspaleo.com/psa/fest.html.

FAIR FOOD AUSTIN BENEFIT CONCERT This late-night benefit for Fair Food Austin features two bands and a DJ for the after-hours crowd. See Club Listings, p.92, for the complete lineup. 10pm-2am. Music Gym, 815 E. Sixth, 939-2524. \$5 suggested donation. www.fairfoodaustin.blogspot.com.

CANCER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER TRAINING is for cancer survivors and their loved ones who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. Apply online at www.thecancerconnection.org. Fri., Dec. 4, 5:45-9pm; Sat., Dec. 5, 8:45am-4pm. 342-0233. \$25 (scholarships available).

SING FOR YOUR SUPPER Get you some yummy Q, say you wish to support the Capital City Men's Chorus, and part of your meal's proceeds will go right to 'em. Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse, 1000 E. 41st, 302-1200. www.ccmaustin.org.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Thursday 12/3.)

LA PASTORELA (See Thursday 12/3.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

One Peace at a Time Premiere @ Arbor, 7, 9pm

We Will Always Be Here @ Resistencia Bookstore, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

The Mother Hips Emo's

Cowabunga Babes, Diagonals Beerland

Matt the Electrician, Lee Barber, Ethan Azarian

The Ghost Room

Kiss Frank Erwin Center

The Slackers Flamingo Cantina

Aesop Rock Mohawk

SATURDAY 05

AUSTIN PRIDE BUILD Join Habitat for Humanity to beef up some humanity (not to mention your muscles) and make some new pals as you build a house for a friend. Saturdays, 8am. RSVP for location, 472-8788. Free. www.austinhabitat.org/programs/current/pride.php.

HISPANIC FUTURES CONFERENCE Students and their parents are invited to this conference featuring speakers, exhibits, info, and materials intended to advance academic achievement. 8:30am. William B. Travis High School, 1211 E. Oltorf, 414-0084. Free.

LADY BIRD LAKE CLEANUP Register online, and meet at one of several starting locations to help pick up trash in and around one of Austin's natural treasures. Lady Bird would want it that way. See website for details. 9am. www.keepeaustinbeautiful.org.

MAGNET SCHOOL FAIR Administrators and staff from local magnet schools help you understand the education options for your kids. 9am-noon. The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, 2206 Prather, 414-9986.

PICTURES WITH PERE NOEL Take a pic with the traditional French Santa. 9-11am. French Legation Museum, 802 San Marcos St., 472-8180. Free. www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.

TREE IDENTIFICATION TOUR Get a guided tour of the Zilker gardens with a focus on figuring out exactly what kind of leafy character you're looking at. 9:30am. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 970-3405. Free. www.zilker garden.org.

ASIAN HOLIDAY BAZAAR Run around and find unique gifts from the East and the West. After that, relax with a holiday teatime complete with Asian snacks. 10am. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069.

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

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP Call or e-mail to register yourself or your family for a practical lesson in candied architecture. 10am. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. \$10 per gingerbread house. kids@wblibrary.org, www.wblibrary.org.

HOLIDAY BY THE TRACKS Snow may be hard to come by this far south, but this celebration will have everything else you need for your holidays: pictures with Santa, a craft show, a lighted Christmas parade,

children's activities, and a live nativity. If you're enticed by the window displays, why not get some shopping done? 10am-8pm. Downtown Elgin.

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR Edible Austin and the Bicycle Sport Shop invite families to jump on their bikes and take rider-friendly routes to farms and community gardens all over town. Tour stops include children's hands-on gardening activities, henhouse tours, farm tours, and samplings. Tours leave from three spots: Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar; Sunset Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones; Austin Farmers' Market, Fourth & Guadalupe. Proceeds benefit Urban Roots youth-development program. Tickets can be purchased online. 10am. \$25 (\$45/family). www.bicyclesportshop.com.

WINTER FAIR For a few dollars kids can create their own gifts to give this season. Create a candle, a finger puppet, or a rose window, all with a personal touch. 10am-4pm. Austin Waldorf School, 8702 South View, 288-5942. www.austinwaldorf.org/winterfair.

78704 ARTISAN MARKET has arts and gifts hand-crafted by local artisans. Saturdays & Sundays, 11am-6pm. Corner of South Congress & Gibson, 914-3403. www.weare78704.com.

AUSTIN FLEA Give to the community by bringing a canned good for the Capital Area Food Bank before perusing handmade art, jewelry, clothing, baked goods, purses, and more. 11am-6pm. The Ghost Room, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472. www.austinflea.info.

GIRLSTART STARRY SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA

Take a peek into the heavens with a portable planetarium that will teach you about constellations, the phases of the moon, and more. 11am. Cook Elementary School, 1515 Cripple Creek, 916-4775. Free. www.girlstart.org.

HOLIDAY HEROES This fun-for-the-whole-family show, created by Shaun Wainwright-Branigan, explores different holiday traditions like Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and more. 11am. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$9.

TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB This open house will have a Lionel model train setup with all the fixins. Come watch them ride and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. They might even let you sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the the tip jar. Saturdays through Dec. 19, 11am-5pm. 117 Lavaca (next to Ill Forks). Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.

HOME SLICE-O-RAMA One of South Austin's favorite pizza joints celebrates its fourth year with a family-friendly event featuring live music, kids' activities, pizza-themed contests, and more carnival-style fun. Pizza and beer will undoubtedly be available. Noon-7pm. Home Slice Pizza, 1415 S. Congress, 444-PIES (7437). Free. www.homeslicepizza.com.

SOUTH FIRST STROLL Indie shops on South First make it easy to support local businesses with sales, entertainment, food, and other special offers. Go online for a list of participating stores and events. Noon-6pm. South First between Gibson and Oltorf. www.ibuyaustin.com.

MARIO KART TOURNAMENT FINALS Vie for one of the wildcard spots or watch Austin's finest Mario Kart racers (ages 6 and older) battle it out. 1pm. Southeast Austin Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing, 448-0776. Free. www.connectedyouth.org.

TEXPLORATIONS PUPPET SHOW: THE NUTCRACKER You know the story; except now it's done with puppets. Recommended for kids 5 years old and older. 1pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE It's time to deck your halls with holiday crafts, games, refreshments, and a live harpist. 2-4pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS Santa and your pet, together at last. Consider your Christmas cards made. 2-5pm. Southpaws Playschool, 2324 S. Lamar, 906-9458. \$10. www.love-a-bull.org.

MANFEST This year's celebration of all things hairy and deep-voiced looks back at the history of manliness with a barbarian blowout. Turkey legs, jousting, a Conan photo booth, and, of course, enough beer to give a centaur a hangover. All this and live music from your favorite man-centric barbershop. 2-7pm. Birds Barbershop, 1902 S. Congress, 445-0500. Free.

TIEMPO DE CUENTOS PARA LAS FAMILIAS

This Spanish-language storytime features holiday classics for the whole family. 3pm. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS Bring a blanket and a picnic and let the Trinity Middle School Choir get you in the holiday spirit. Bring your camera for a picture with Santa (4-5pm). 4-6:30pm. *Hill Country Galleria Amphitheater, 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Bee Cave, 512/731-8080. Free. hadamson@trinitykids.com, www.trinitykids.com.*

LATINITAS FIESTA PHOTO SHOW Photos made in Latinitas' afterschool digital media clubs are on sale for just \$5 each. 5-8pm. *Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos St., 322-9947. Free. www.latinitasmagazine.org.*

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG, TREE LIGHTING & STROLL Gather at the south steps of the Capitol for the annual holiday sing-along before the tree-lighting at 7pm. The shops, restaurants, and museums on Congress Avenue will have special activities and refreshments. Keep your eyes peeled for live music and other performances. 6-9pm. 832/462-9314. *Free.*

FOODIES: LYNRYD'S SKIN Buff up that tramp stamp, Daisy Lou, and hustle Pa's ATV on down to Dana and Carrie's house for a sweet bath of Southern rock and mayonnaise – or whatever it is you wacky white people bathe in. 7pm. *Private residence, e-mail for location. beatsagogo@aol.com, www.foodiesaustin.com, www.whitetrash.net.*

GET READY TO SWING IT In a most sophisticated fashion, of course, dear, it's time for Holiday Swing, Project T's annual holiday falderol. Buff up your oxfords and cut a rug to the sounds of the Sentimental Journey Orchestra and the Studebakers. Perhaps you'd like to win a set of tix? See the Gay Place Blog for more details! Sat., Dec. 5, 7pm dance lessons, 8pm party begins. *Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000. \$60 (\$55, advance). www.projecttransitions.org/events/holiday-swing, austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.*

LOOSE LIPS Queer Sol Collective presents this queer open mic so you can speak out, lash out, and act out, or perhaps simply hum a radical show-tune? 7:30pm. *MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free, BYOB. www.queersol.org.*

FOSSIL FEST What's under the dirt in your back yard? Find out, and enjoy door prizes, displays, a fossil dig pit, and fossil vendors from around the world. The first 100 teachers receive a free fossil kit for their students. Sat., Dec. 5, 9am-6pm; Sun., Dec. 6, 9am-4pm. *Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/218-5540. \$2, adults; \$1, students. www.texaspaleo.com/psa/fest.html.*

HOLIDAY ART FESTIVAL Sixty artists offer their creations for your shopping enjoyment. Bid in the silent auction, or just buy jewelry, clothing, and artworks outright. Drinks will be provided, and Laguna Gloria's gorgeous 12 acres will be at your feet if you need a breather from the shopping. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 10am-5pm. *Austin Museum of Art – Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. \$7. www.amoa.org.*

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL Visit studios, stores, and the homes of the artists themselves as you search for the perfect, one-of-a-kind gift in South Austin. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 11am-5pm. *Travis Heights, South of Riverside, west of I-35, east of Congress, north of Oltorf, 447-2150. Free. www.travisheightsart.com.*

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT (See Friday.)

IT'S A DIZNASTY WORLD (See Friday.)

PROMISED LAND (See Friday.)

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Thursday, 12/3.)

LA PASTORELA (See Thursday, 12/3.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Wally Workman Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Fresh @ Paramount, 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Mother Hips *Emo's*
Vic Chesnutt Band *Central Presbyterian Church*
The Slackers *Flamingo Cantina*
Pack of Wolves *Mohawk*

SUNDAY 06

LESSONS & CAROLS Head to the 100-year-old sanctuary for carols and music. 11am & 7:30pm. *University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, 478-9387. Free. www.uumc.org.*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM This week, Louis Malfaro, president of Education Austin, talks about the future of public education. Sundays, 11:30am. *First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

MCKINNEY'S FALL JAM Twelve hours of pizza and live music featuring Soulhat, Fastball, Bruce Robison, Li'l Cap'n Travis, and more with the money going to the ARC of the Capital Area. Noon-12mid. *Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 795-8888. \$5. jd@indexaustin.com.*

BLUE DOG RESCUE SANTA PETS Get the whole family together (pets included) for a professional portrait with the money benefitting efforts to get shelter dogs into permanent homes. 1-4pm. *Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197. \$15 for picture, \$35 for christmas cards. www.bluedogrescue.com.*

CHOCOLATE & TEA TASTING Go online to RSVP and treat yourself to this interactive class. 2pm. *Zhi Tea, 4607 Bolm, 363-6301. \$15. www.blissedoutchocolates.com.*

MAKE OUT SESSION Bring your own supplies and help local art groups prepare for First Night. There will also be a recipe swap, holiday card collages, sewing, silk screening, and more. 2-7pm. *United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. Free. www.unitedstatesartauthority.com.*

PRIME TIMERS LIKE FINE WINE Mature gay men meet monthly. Hola, Papi! 2pm. *Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.austintptw.org.*

EDGAR'S MIMOSA HAPPY HOUR Give Edgar a dolla. He'll make ya holla (at how cheap his mimosas are). Sundays, 4-9pm. *Sister's Edge II, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.*

KABBALAH: THE BEST KEPT SECRET One lecture is all it takes to learn the basic tenets of Kabbalah. If it's good enough for Madonna and Ashton Kutcher, who are we to judge? 4pm. *Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 888/898-8230. Free. daniel.naor@kabbalah.com, www.kabbalah.com/lks/register.html.*

MAYOR BILL WHITE RALLY Get excited about the governor's race before everyone else. Sen. Kirk Watson hosts. 5-7pm. *Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 720/206-4378. Free. www.billwhitefortexas.com.*

VIDEO GAME MUSIC FOR A CAUSE The Descendants of Erdrick play covers of classic Nintendo music. If that isn't enough to get you there (and it should be), money raised from the evening's show goes to the Humane Society of Williamson County. Dork out for a good cause. 5-8pm. *Game Over Videogames, 110 N. I-35 Ste. 200-A, Round Rock, 454-4263. Donations appreciated. www.gameovervideogames.com.*

PRISM: UT LGBT CATHOLICS Explore what it means to be Catholic and gay, or even gay-friendly. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting: 100% open-hearted fellowship. 6pm. *University Catholic Center, 2010 University Ave., 476-7351. prism@longhorn-catholic.org, www.utcatholic.org.*

ZILKER TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY Come see the 152-foot-tall moonlight tower decked out in its 3,300 lights for the season. No Trail of Lights this year, but you can still spin yourself silly under the tree or stop by Santa's House. 6pm. *Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/tol.*

COFFEE AND CUPCAKES This fundraiser offers treats and caffeine for college students with the money going to Y Gen Out Loud, an Austin-based nonprofit news site for Generation Y. I thought the Y generation was in their 30s by now. Luckily the news is the same for any age. 7pm. *Austin Java, 12th & Lamar. \$10 donation. tamara@ygenoutloud.com, www.ygenoutloud.com.*

TWISTER SUNDAYS Right foot blue! Left hand red! Left right yellow blue green! Yup. Twister. And you can win show tickets if you don't fall over. Sundays, 8pm. *Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.*



ZILKER TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
(SEE SUNDAY)

SUNDAY SUPER SHOW Samantha DeShante, the Men of Manwatch, dollar drafts, and free burgers (4-8pm)? Where have you been all my life? *Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.*

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT (See Friday.)

78704 ARTISAN MARKET (See Saturday.)

IT'S A DIZNASTY WORLD (See Friday.)

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Thursday, 12/3.)

FOSSIL FEST (See Saturday.)

HOLIDAY ART FESTIVAL (See Saturday.)

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Dionysus in 69 @ Alamo Ritz, 1pm
Eating Alaska @ The Independent, 3:30pm
Gone With the Wind @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3pm
Stand-up Comedy Disasters @ Alamo Ritz, 6:30, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Twigs & Yarn, Elisa Ferrari *Salvage Vanguard Theater*
Grooms *Mohawk*

MONDAY 07

SAMPLE SPANISH MUSIC CLASS

Children younger than 5 years of age and their parents are invited to sample classes by Heartsong Music. Start nurturing your burgeoning bilingual kid's inner musician early. 3:30 & 4:30pm. 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. *Free. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.*

WINTER TALES & TUNES Stories and songs from around the world help warm you up for the holiday season. 3:30pm. *Spicewood Springs Library, 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

LIVEABLE CITY HOLIDAY PARTY Eat, drink, and schmooze with other folks who want to help make Austin the city it can be. You can help with your wallet as well by bidding in the silent auction. 5:30-8pm. *El Sol y la Luna, 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770. www.liveablecity.org.*

LONE STAR LAMBDAS GLBT square dancing in Austin? Heck yeah and yeeee-haw! Nothing square about this group. Every week. Get in on the ground floor, do-si-do. 7pm. *Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 418-1629. info@lonestarlambdas.org, www.lonestarlambdas.org.*

LADIES NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER Help the Children's Research Thanks and Giving campaign simply by enjoying a three-course meal and a cocktail. This charitable act will also net you a raffle ticket for a Marc Jacobs handbag. *The Melting Pot, 13343 Hwy. 183 N. #350, 294-6314. \$35. www.meltingpot.com.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Thursday, 12/3.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Julie & Julia Feast @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation
@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars
@ Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Baroness *Emo's*
Erin Ivey *The Ghost Room*
Conspirare *Long Center for the Performing Arts*

TUESDAY 08

WINTER TALES & TUNES See Monday for more info. 3:30pm. *Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

LOCAL GROWERS FIRST FROST Go for a skate with the money going to Urban Roots. 5-10pm. *Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. \$10. www.edibleaustin.com/content/events.*

Y GEN'S WINE-TASTING By trying wines you'll be helping raise funds for Y Gen Out Loud, a locally based news outlet that aims to keep college kids hip to current events. Kids still say "hip," right? 5pm. *Austin Galleries, 1219 W. Sixth, 495-9363. \$30. tamara@ygenoutloud.com, www.ygenoutloud.com.*

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM Meet and talk with the candidates for Travis County criminal court races. 5:30pm. *Southwest Key Community Center, 6002 Jain. Free. www.changeaustin.org.*

FRONT STEPS' HOLIDAY CHEER DRIVE E-mail to find out what the people at Front Steps could use to help those in need this holiday season and drop it off today. 6-8pm. *Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. dperkins@frontsteps.org, www.frontsteps.org.*

KOOP = QUEER Tweak your knobs (or Heath and Stephen's): 91.7FM. It's *OutCast*, for and about the Central Texas LGBT population. You might even hear a Gay Placer on the air now and again ... or every week. Tuesdays, 6-7pm. *KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org, www.outcastaustin.com.*

ROBOTICS VOLUNTEER TRAINING Central Texas First Lego League needs volunteers with engineering, technical, or human resources backgrounds to judge student projects for an upcoming robotics tournament. This training session will give you all the info you need to help out. 6-8pm. *Silicon Laboratories, 400 W. Cesar Chavez, 323-6779 x109. rwilkinson@skillpointalliance.org, www.centraltexasfl.org.*

ALLGO MOVIE NIGHT Get to know ALLGO the pressure-free way. What a perfect first date: You, some snacks, new friends, and a good movie. Just don't try that yawn and arm trick: They've seen it all. *Second Tuesdays of the month, 6:30pm. ALLGO, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. Free.*

CITYSIT It might seem strange to pay for this, but you can sit still (20 minutes) and then talk about it with other fans of quiet time for another 40 minutes. 7pm. IF+D, 208 Colorado, 327-7223. \$9 (\$7, advance). www.citysit.com.

★ **PARENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILDREN TRAINING** Learn to give your child a balance of guidance and freedom as well as recognize warning signs for larger problems. Free childcare and pizza will be provided. Spanish translators available. 7pm. Rosedale School, 2117 W. 49th, 414-2049.

👑 **PFLAG MONTHLY MEETING** Who do we luv more than PFLAG? Our mom. Second Tuesday of every month, 7pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/302-3524. Free. pflagaustin@gmail.com, www.pflag-austin.org.

🎄 **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (See Thursday, 12/3.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

It's a Wonderful Life @ Paramount, 7pm
Love Actually @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

McMercy Family Band *Cactus Cafe*

WEDNESDAY 09

EDIBLE LOCAL HOLIDAY GIFT FAIR Local foodmakers gather so you can create a custom gift basket from the many treats they have to offer. Not feeling creative? Then bid on one of the premade baskets. 4-8pm. *City Hall*, 301 W. Second. Free. www.edibleaustin.com/content/events.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA Get the whole family to the library for food, fun, entertainment, children's activities, and the man of the hour, Santa Claus. 6-8pm. *Oak Springs Library*, 3101 Oak Springs Dr., 974-9920. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

NUECES BICYCLE BOULEVARD OPEN HOUSE Learn about the plan to make Nueces a “bicycle boulevard.” Representatives from the Public Works and Transportation departments will be on hand to provide information and listen to your ideas. 6pm. *Pease Elementary*, 1106 Rio Grande, 414-4428.

★ **AUSTIN CARRIAGE BLUE SANTA TOY DRIVE** Bring an unwrapped toy in exchange for a free carriage ride and help the Austin Police Department help local kids this holiday season. No reservations taken. 6:30-10pm. *Downtown Central Fire Station*, East Fifth & Trinity, 243-0044. www.austincarriage.com/Transportation.html.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE UT's Dr. Michael Marder discusses the physics of failure, or how things break. 7pm. *Old Quarry Branch Library*, 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435. Free. www.centerforinquiry.net/austin.

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS Biologists share their knowledge in a way the average Austinite can understand. This week, learn about the plight of the sleep-deprived honey bee. 7:30pm. *Brackenridge Field Lab*, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd. Free. www.biosci.utexas.edu/ib/ScienceUnderStars/index.html.

👑 **BROWN BAG PARTY** A toy party with games and prizes. You know, “toys,” as in the kind you might like to carry out in a brown bag. *Wednesdays*, 8pm. *Sister's Edge II*, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.

👑 **JOY DIVISION COVER BAND** Don't hang yourself: Gretchen Phillips' JD tribute will save you. The Idiot Kills and Grrlz Will Be Boiz open. 10pm. *Chain Drive*, 504 Willow, 480-9017.

👑 **GAY & LESBIAN LEATHER SOCIAL** meets the second Wednesday of every month. Grrrrr. Creak. *Rainbow Cattle Co.*, 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.austingayleathersocial.org.

🎄 **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (See Thursday 12/3.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation
@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

The Beaches of Agnès @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars
@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Jay Reatard *Emo's*
Fireside Songs for the Soul *One World Theatre*

THURSDAY 10

🐱 **WINTER TALES & TUNES** See Monday for more info. 3:30pm. *Yarborough Branch Library*, 2200 Hancock, 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

FINE FOOD ART GALLERY NIGHT This feasting-themed show gets you in the spirit for cocktails and chef-prepared local foods with the money going to Urban Roots. 6-8pm. *Wally Workman Gallery*, 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. *Donations appreciated*. www.edibleaustin.com/content/events.

HOVERCRAFT! HOLIDAY BASH Local artists and designers lay out their wares for your gift-giving delight. Live music and snacks will also be available. 6-9pm. *Hovercraft!*, 1115 S. Congress, 707-1355. www.hovercraftaustin.blogspot.com.

★ **URBAN GEOGRAPHY LESSON** Part II of geographer Eliot Tretter's series on Austin history and geography covers the battle between the local business community and environmental organizations and its effect on Downtown renewal. 7pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.

DEAD OF NIGHT HOLIDAY BIZARRE Crafters and vendors with a gothic bent gather at Downtown's nexus of all things dark. Live music from the likes of Coma in Algiers and Psychic Violence, along with fashion showcases, chair massages, and hula hoop demos. 7:30pm-2am. *Elysium*, 705 Red River, 478-2979. nocturnal.nikhedonia@gmail.com.

★ **THE STORY DEPARTMENT** Four stories from the pros precedes a random drawing of four more storytellers from the audience. Proceeds from the evening goes to the tutoring and education efforts of the Austin Bat Cave. 7:30pm. *Continental Club Gallery*, 1315 S. Congress, upstairs, 441-2444. \$10. www.austinbatcave.org.

HERITAGE HILLS/WINDSOR HILLS LAND USE MEETING Have a say in how the land in your neighborhood is used at this meeting of city staff and residents in the Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills neighborhood. 6:30pm. *Dobie Middle School*, 1200 E. Rundberg. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.

🎄 **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (See Thursday, 12/3.)

LA PASTORELA (See Thursday, 12/3.)

👑 **THAT TIME OF THE YEAR** (See Thursday, 12/3.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Spring Student Screening @ *Dobie*, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Psychic Violence, **Coma in Algiers** *Elysium*

now . . .

ACCESS GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW More than 20 artists show off their sculptures, paintings, magnets, ornaments, and all sorts of whathaveyou. The artists receive 80% of the sales. *Through Jan. 9*. *Access Gallery*, 3701 Guadalupe #103, 323-6626. Free. www.vsatx.org.

👑 **ASSIFIEDS** New radical queer classifieds paper. Like Craigslist but slower! And probably less creepy. *Ads accepted via snail mail*. E-mail for details. Free. campcampqueers@gmail.com.

★ **BROWN SANTA** needs volunteers to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to Travis County families this holiday season. If you'd like to participate, call 24-SANTA. Brown Santa is also accepting donations of nonperishable food items, books, unwrapped toys (new or gently used), and cash, which you may drop off at the warehouse or mail to: *Brown Santa*, PO Box 207, Austin, TX 78767-0207. (You may also donate online at www.brownsanta.org.) *Brown Santa Warehouse*, 15400 Long Vista #101.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town. Don't hold anything back; that would be counterproductive. It's not just a complaining contest though; offer suggestions for the future. Go to www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm to participate.

🐱 **FAMILYLAB** provides a hands-on, experimental art experience for kids and parents. You can play and

make your own take-home art projects. *During regular museum hours*. AMOA, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$5 (free, children under 12). www.amoa.org.

👑 **FEMME MAFIA** Come express your inner and outer yumminess with this Femme ATX affinity group (as in: not hook-up or dating, instead fierceness and solidarity). E-mail for meeting dates/locations. femmeatx@gmail.com, www.femmeatx.com.

FOURTH WAY MEETINGS Are the three standard ways bumming you out. Luckily there's a fourth way, and you can learn all about its philosophy at one of their meetings. Call for date and location info. 477-5001.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS Kids and parents are invited to create their own sugary abodes made from locally baked gingerbread. *Through Dec. 20*. *Austin Children's Museum*, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$30-35 per house. www.austinkids.org.

👑 **GOD-DES & SHE NOW AUSTIN-BASED** Yup. These Brooklyn cuties and L-Word darlings (“Lick It”) now lick with Texas flava as they celebrate the release of their latest, *Three*. Watch this space for info on a January release party. www.god-desandshe.com.

H1N1 FLU CLINICS Anyone older than 6 months but younger than 24 who is under- or uninsured is eligible for a swine flu shot. Exceptions are made for those outside of that age range on a case-by-case basis. Call 972-5520 with questions or to make an appointment. www.cityofaustin.org/health.

🐱 **INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL** is calling for submissions for its youth poetry anthology from kids in grades K-12. Deadline: Feb. 1. aipfya@sbcglobal.net.

MCCOY ANIMATED CHRISTMAS DISPLAY has 40,000 lights synchronized to 10 holiday classics that you can listen to on your radio while you watch the lights fantastic. Donations go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. *Through Dec. 31*, 5:30-10:30pm. 8304 Roan. *Donations appreciated*. www.mccoylights.com.

👑 **NAKED YOGA FOR MEN** It's amazing, the things one can do while naked. This ongoing class is open to all men, but there is a reason it is endorsed by the Gay Place. Gay men teach it, and gay men are encouraged to attend. Let it all hang out, baby. (Ask about the clothing-optional co-ed option.) *Sundays*, 6pm; *Mondays*, 7:45pm; *Wednesdays*, 8:30pm; *Saturdays*, 10am. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 750-8211. \$12. nudeyoga@texas.net, www.austinnakedyoga.com.

PROJECT HELP is an initiative from the Austin Independent School District that matches generous locals with needy families, providing them with gifts for the holidays. Call 414-3690 to register and receive a family's wish list. Wrapped gifts should be brought to the *Alternative Learning Center*, *Portable #451*, 901 Neal before Wed., Dec. 9. www.austinisd.org/academics/sss/projecthelp.

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. Get in the car, and join in the festivities. *Through Jan. 2*, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, *New Braunfels* (two miles south of *Tanger Outlet Mall*), 830/743-1293. \$20/car. www.santasranch.net.

SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS 'Tis the season for charity. Register online and find a family or individual suitable to your penchant for giving. Give early and give often; the last day to help folks for Christmas is Dec. 23. *The Christmas Bureau of Austin & Travis County*, 7301 Burnet Rd. #108, 453-3950. www.cbdfaustin.org.

👑 **VOLLEYBALL AT 'BOUT TIME** Team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and there are pickup games every day. *'Bout Time*, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 18 issue is Monday, Dec. 7.** 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:



VIDEO GAME MUSIC FOR A CAUSE (SEE SUNDAY)

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

WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS has seven acres of lights designed by more than 100 local businesses. Roast a weenie or a marshmallow before jumping on the Jingle Express with the kids. Live entertainment and special events occur throughout the holiday season. *Open daily* (weather permitting), 6-9pm. *The EmilyAnn Theatre*, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free (donations appreciated). www.emilyann.org.

& later

👑 **CCMC'S HOLIDAY CONCERT** The critically acclaimed ... umm, who are we kidding? According to this very paper's review last year, a more appropriate word would be *raved*. And it's coming. Buy for one show or check out the rest of the season's package deals. *Sun., Dec. 13*, 4pm. *United Methodist Church*, 7050 Village Center, 389-0315. \$20. www.ccmaustin.org, www.frontgatetickets.com.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts *March 2*. For more information or an application, visit the APD website, www.cityofaustin.org/police. 974-5941. dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us.

👑 **CRUISE WITH MCC** Metropolitan Community Church takes to the high seas with this fun-in-the-autumn-sun fundraiser. Plan now for a seven-night Caribbean Cruise launching next year. *Departs from Galveston Sun., Nov. 7*, 2010. 888/798-6226. www.mccaustin.com, www.rauschgrouptravel.com/mccaustin.html.

👑 **UPCOMING FOODIES** Foodies: la lez e-mail-based social network shall, in December, present Lynyrd's Skin, a White Trash Christmas Costume Party; Dolly Bird at the Aviary Lounge; a White Elephant Holiday Gift Exchange; and New Year's Eve (with no Adam!). Wanna know more? E-mail Kitty to get on the list. *Dolly: Sat., Dec. 12*. beatsagogo@aol.com, www.foodiesaustin.com, www.aviarydecor.com.

Kate X Messer (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.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed
in *The Austin Chronicle*?

Submit your sporty happening online at

austinchronicle.com/commform.



Destinee Hooker

COURTESY OF JIM SIGMON AND UT

NCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Gregory Gym will play host to the **NCAA Division I Volleyball Championships** for the sixth straight year with the **UT Long-horns** coming in as the second seed overall (No. 1 in the Omaha Regional). UT and Penn State are many experts' picks to play in the championship final. If the Horns do make it that far, it's safe to say it'll be on the back of senior All-America outside hitter **Destinee Hooker**, who was unanimously selected the Big 12 Volleyball Player of the Year just this week. Also named to the All-Big 12 First Team were senior setter/opposite hitter **Ashley Engle** and junior outside/opposite hitter **Juliann Faucette**. Hooker set a conference record this week by being named the Big 12 Player of the Week for the 13th time – her sixth this season, which is also a conference record. UT faces Texas State in the first round this Thursday, at 6pm or 30 minutes after the TCU-Rice match; the winners advance to Friday's second round. *First Round: Thursday, Dec. 3: TCU vs. Rice, 4:30pm; Texas vs. Texas State, 6pm. Second Round: Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30pm.* Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. All-session tickets \$20 (reserved), \$12 (adult general admission), \$6 (youth/senior/UT student). Single-game tickets also available. www.texassports.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** retain their solid grip on first place as they welcome the Peoria Rivermen to town. A portion of the ticket sales from this game will be donated to Bikes for Kids and fans will enjoy \$2 draft beers and \$1 hot dogs. Vs. Peoria: Wed., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARS. \$9-50. www.texasstarshockey.com.

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** It's a new season (along with a new court) for the Toros as they welcome the Rio Grande Valley Vipers and the Albuquerque Thunderbirds to the Austin Convention Center. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: Tue., Dec. 8, 11am. (Note the early start time.) Vs. Albuquerque: Wed., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23 (more for courtside seats). www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

★ **HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS** There's still HS football being played in Central Texas of local interest. Here are a few games this weekend, Dec. 4-5, a short drive away. **Wimberley vs. Graham:** Friday, 7pm. Waco ISD Sports Complex, 1401 S. New Road, Waco. **Lake Travis vs. Alamo Heights:** Friday, 7:30pm. Bobcat Stadium, 1100 Aquarena Springs Dr., San Marcos.

La Grange vs. Sinton: Friday, 7:30pm. D.W. Rutledge (Converse Judson), 900 S. Seguin Rd., Converse.

Westlake vs. SA Clark: Saturday, 2pm. Heroes Stadium, 4799 Thousand Oaks Dr., San Antonio. **New Braunfels vs. SA Branded:** Saturday, 2pm. Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. USC: Thu., Dec. 3, 8pm. Vs. Long Beach State: Mon., Dec. 7, 8pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45. **Men's and Women's Swimming** Texas Invitational: Thu.-Sat., Dec. 3-5, all day. Texas Swim Center, 1900 Robert Dedman Dr. www.texassports.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Our Lady of the Lake: Fri., Dec. 4, 7pm. Vs. Harding: Sun., Dec. 6, 1pm. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Harding: Sun., Dec. 6, 3:30pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. LeTourneau: Sat., Dec. 5, 3pm. Vs. East Texas Baptist University: Mon., Dec. 7, 7:30pm. Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: Thu., Dec. 10, 7:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5. **Women's Basketball** Vs. LeTourneau: Sat., Dec. 5, 1pm. Vs. East Texas Baptist: Mon., Dec. 7, 5:30pm. Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: Thu., Dec. 10, 5:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5. athletics.concordia.edu.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Exhibition Vs. the U.S. Armed Forces: Tue., Dec. 8, 7pm.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. University of Dallas: Sat., Dec. 5, 4pm. Corbin J. Robertson Center **Women's Basketball** Vs. University of Dallas: Sun., Dec. 6, 2pm. Robertson Center. www.southwesternpirates.com.

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Texas-Pan American: Sat., Dec. 5, 4pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Tue., Dec. 8, noon. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN WILDCATS is a prepatory basketball program for boys and girls and will be holding their junior tryouts for kids grades four through six from the Austin, Hays, Dripping Springs, and Lake Travis areas. Sixth-grade boys: Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13, 1-3pm. Fourth- and fifth-grade boys: Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13, 3:30-5:30pm. Covington Middle School, 3700 Convict Hill Rd. www.austinwildcatsbasketball.org.

FREE KIDS SAFETY WORKSHOP Kids 4 and up are welcome to attend this free seminar on how to handle bullies and other bad situations. Sat., Dec. 5, 11am-noon. Austin Fitness Martial Arts, 4327 S. First Ste. 104-D, 707-8977. Free. www.austinfitnessmartialarts.com.

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE "Try before you buy" lots of new and used golf equipment. Also putting and closest-to-the-pin contests, and free 30-minute golf lessons. Sat., Dec. 5, 8am. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 926-1100.

USSSA NATIONAL SOCCER TOURNEY Soccer teams from eight states across the country will be in Round Rock for the U.S. Specialty Sports Association's National Soccer Tourney. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. www.ussa.com/sports.

LONE STAR CURLING CLUB As the weather starts to cool, you know what time it is: curling time. The fine folks at the Lone Star Curling Club are more than happy to teach you all they know about this Olympic event. Sundays, 9:30am-noon. Chaparral Ice, Northcross Mall, 2525 Anderson Ln. www.lonestarcurlingclub.org.

RALLY 'ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE GOLF TOURNEY The Armadillo Golf Players are hosting this tourney to raise money for Rally For a Cure breast cancer awareness. Players are also encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation. Sun., Dec. 6, 9am shotgun start. Wolfcandler Golf Club, 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-WOLF. \$99-119. www.armadillogolf.com.

LET'S GO PARAGLIDING Instructor Gary Leach has all the knowledge you'll need to enter the awe-inspiring world of paragliding. Tue., Dec. 8, 7pm. REI Gateway, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy.; and Thu., Dec. 10, 7pm. REI Downtown, 601 N. Lamar. Free. www.paraglidetexas.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

DECKER CHALLENGE In its 31st year, this race, the third event in the Austin Distance Challenge, features a half marathon and relay (8am), Brown Santa 5K (8:15am), and kids' K (10:15am). Sun., Dec. 6, 8am. Travis Co. Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln. www.redilicoricevents.com/events/Decker_Challenge.html.

CHRISTMAS STROLL 5K AND FUN RUN includes a noncertified 3-mile course and a 1-mile kids' course, held in conjunction with the Christmas Stroll on the Square featuring 100 vendors, a Christmas parade, a kids' area (WhooVille), a walk-through Bethlehem Village, and more. Sat., Dec. 5, 9am. San Gabriel Park (corner of Stadium and Lower Park Road), Georgetown, 512/966-4720. www.christmasstroll5k.org.

★ **RUN LIKE THE WIND** includes a 5K fun walk or run (with or without well-behaved dog) and distance runs from three to 24 hours, including relays. It benefits the Schrodi Training Fund, which helps low-income dog owners affordably train and keep their dogs. Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30am-noon. Lee Mannix Center for Canine Behavior, 6901 Old Bee Caves Rd., 626-2763. \$30-300. www.schrodifund.org/RunLikeTheWind.htm.

LIGHTS OF LOVE 5K is an evening 5K run/jog/walk benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin. Have your picture taken with Santa Claus and/or Ronald McDonald and enjoy the holiday crafts area, listen to some live music, and get in a charitable mood. Fri., Dec. 4, 5pm (6pm kids K, 6:30pm 5K). Mueller Hangar, 472-9844. www.rmhc-austin.org.

CURESEARCH WALK TO CONQUER KIDS' CANCER Join the walk or donate to help fight childhood cancer. The festivities include prizes, music, food, and fun family activities. Sat., Dec. 5, 8am (registration). Hill Country Galleria, Bee Cave, 512/656-9891. host.curesearch.org.

REINDEER RUN This fast 5K course through North Austin is part of the Marines' Toys for Tots program and will also feature a 1K kids' sleigh run. Sat., Dec. 5, 8am. Life Time Fitness North Austin, 13725 RM 620, 350-9178. www.active.com/running/austin-tx/life-time-fitness-reindeer-run-north-austin-2009.

RANGER STAMPEDE 5K RUN/WALK NO. 2 Hosted by the Texas School for the Deaf; choose a 5K run/walk or a 1-mile run/walk in this seven-event series that runs through May 2010. Wed., Dec. 9, 5pm (registration at 4pm). Texas School for the Deaf, 1102 S. Congress, 410-1078. \$2 (free for students under 21).

BY NICK BARBARO soccer watch

USL/NASL Follies

The **Rochester Rhinos** announced Monday that they're leaving the **United Soccer Leagues** for the new **North American Soccer League**, leaving just **Puerto Rico**, **Portland**, and the **Austin Aztex** in the USL First Division (and Portland leaving for MLS after one more season). The NASL is now at 10 teams; however, it remains unsanctioned by the U.S. Soccer Federation, and several of its clubs are still under contract to USL-1. In short, this is still going to get uglier before it gets better.

But get better it will, surely. In the end, the club owners want to play soccer and want to play against all the other established top-level teams. That means they want a solution that keeps all the teams together – under whichever banner survives. As Aztex owner **Phil Rawlins** put it when I asked him: "I continue to believe that common sense will prevail between the two parties and that the 2010 season will see the majority of the teams on both sides of this divide playing against each other on the field. ... However the situation resolves itself, the Aztex will do what we believe is right for the franchise and the game. ... In the meantime we continue to prepare for our second season with increased scouting activity and open tryouts scheduled for February. We are particularly excited about our move Downtown to **House Park** in 2010."

In fact, a real cockeyed optimist would even see a silver lining to the whole mess: The shake-up seems to have revived or accelerated a number of **expansion plans** around the country – including in **San Antonio**, where on-again-off-again plans for a team had been dormant of late, until the NASL option came up. An **Austin-San Antonio derby** rivalry – how cool would that be?

► **Road Trips!** The **NCAA Women's College Cup** is in College Station this weekend, featuring the same four teams as last year. Semifinals are Friday, Dec. 4: Stanford vs. UCLA, 4:30pm; North Carolina vs. Notre Dame, 7pm. Championship final: noon, Sunday, Dec. 6. All games will be shown live on ESPN2 and ESPNU. Meanwhile, the **NCAA Division III Men's & Women's final fours** are in San Antonio Dec. 4-5 at Blossom Soccer Stadium. Tickets are on sale at www.sanantoniosports.org. Friday: women's semifinals, 11am & 1:30pm; men's semifinals, 5pm & 7:30pm. Saturday: women's championship, 1pm; men's championship, 5pm.

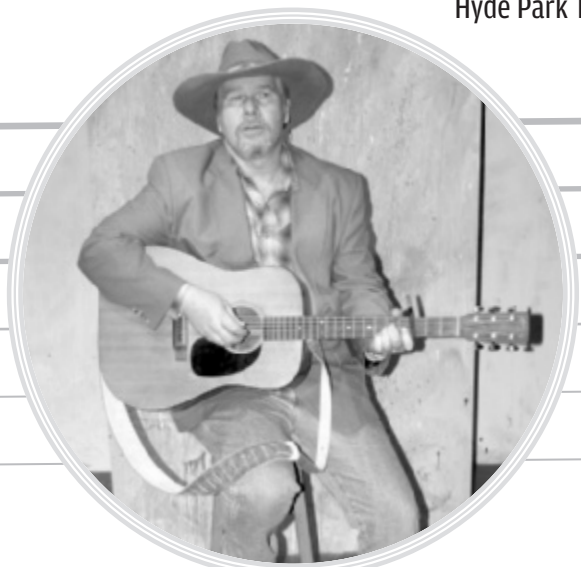
► **Also on TV:** The **World Cup 2010 draw** is this Friday, Dec. 4, live on ESPN2 from 11am to 1pm... **Arsenal-Stoke** is 9am Saturday, and the **Roma-Lazio derby** is Sunday at 1:30pm, both on FSC. And the final games in the **European Champions League** group stage are Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 8-9. The Fox networks will show five games live, both days at 1:30pm.

► **Djorn Buchholz**, new CEO of the **Austin Aztex**, will be on **Fútbol en Vivo** Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1:30-2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.

arts listings

Bohemian Cowboy

Hyde Park Theatre, through Dec. 20
Running time: 1 hr, 25 min



Bohemian Cowboy is a one-man show about one of the most common yet still-rich subjects in literature: the conflicted father-son relationship. One day, a wild musician of a cowboy

walks out into the Western desert and disappears forever. No amount of search-and-rescue can find any trace of him. It's left to his son, Utah-based writer and performer Raymond King Shurtz, to follow the other trail that his father left – his songs and his memories – to see if he can locate the true character of the mysterious man.

The strength of *Bohemian Cowboy* is the writing. A few clichés aside, Shurtz embraces the rhythms of country music and builds them into the story he tells. In speaking about his parents' brief and troubled marriage, he says, "My mother, she was a poet – but my father? He was poetic." Shurtz, who says the story is based on his father's actual disappearance, wisely takes a few poetic leaps himself. In following his father's trail into the desert, Shurtz leaves behind the literal truth of his father's disappearance and encounters a sequence of mythical persons, even daring to arm wrestle Jesus himself ... and win. From these experiences he derives some meaning, at least enough for him to move forward in life and create a decent play about it.

Now, some people will interpret this as an insult and others as a compliment, but I promise it's just plain observation. In performance, Shurtz resembles nothing so much as George W. Bush. All of his characters use that slow karate-chop gesture for emphasis – you know, with one foot forward, when pol-

itician-guys bring down their hand in the air when they really want you to get their point? At moments of high emotion, Shurtz even squints. It's hard not to think that you might be watching a play performed by the 43rd president (who, according to some, has had his share of father-son battles with Bush 41, so perhaps the choice is deliberate).

Kurt Brungardt's direction, unfortunately, doesn't serve the material as well as it deserves. For example, Shurtz plays and sings several songs with a guitar during the show. We in Austin will not fault anybody for bringing a guitar onstage, of course. But the guitar is positioned in one corner of the playing area, on a stand that threatens to topple. It interrupts the story and action whenever Shurtz crosses to pick up the guitar or set it down. Plus, he keeps tossing the pick onto the table then retrieving it later; why not just slide it through the strings? Also, the production uses digital projections to help set the scene. The images are not all high-res. In other words, some of them are so pixelated as to appear amateurish and sloppy. It's a very easy thing to locate high-res images, and it's a shame no one has done so.

These directorial mistakes are a distraction from an otherwise intriguing story. Austin loves cowboy stories, and if there is a home for a play like *Bohemian Cowboy*, this ought to be it.

– Elizabeth Cobbe

theatre

OPENING

DIONYSUS IN 69 Because those Rude Mechanicals don't already have enough on their plates of brilliance, or so it would seem, they've decided to re-create, every now and again, pivotal events of theatre and its ilk from years past. In this first instance, it's a revitalization of what NYC director Richard Schechner's Performance Group made of Euripides' *Bacchae* back in '69. It'll be interesting to see how this wild, nudity-enhanced spectacle plays out in today's more mediated environment. Because the Rudes pull no punches, because the stage is their mutable bedlam, it'll be (at least) interesting to experience the impact regardless of meta-theatrical context. N.B.: No one younger than 18 admitted without a parent or guardian. *Thu.-Sun., 8pm, Dec. 3-20. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12-25. www.rudemechs.com.*

PETRA'S PECADO Teatro Vivo presents the return of this heartwarming bilingual holiday comedy, written and directed by Rupert Reyes, about tortilla-maven Petra being chosen to direct her church's annual play about the Virgen de Guadalupe. *Dec. 3-20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-6379. \$16-21 (\$13, students, seniors; pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.salvagevanguard.org.*

NO SHAME THEATRE RETURNS! On the first Friday of each month, Gnap! Theater Projects presents Austin's pre-eminent open-mic performance forum. Script-in-hand or memorized, funny, dance-based, bad, weird, or just what-the-hell, all styles of performance are welcome and it's a helluva entertaining salmagundi. *Fri., Dec. 4, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$3. www.gnaptheater.org.*

THE TRIAL OF EBENEZER SCROOGE Out in Lockhart, behold this Mark Brown continuation of Dickens, in which the notorious E. Scrooge backslides from his Christmastime epiphany and sues Marley and the other cautionary ghosts for breaking and entering, emotional distress, and attempted murder. Ha! Directed by Stephen Reynolds. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-19, 8pm. Extra shows: Sat., Dec. 12-19, 2pm. Gaslight-Baker Theatre, 216 S. Main. www.gaslightbakertheatre.org.*

I'LL BE SEEING YOU Here's a reprise of the 1940s-style musical revue conjured for a big enthusiastic cast by TexArts' Todd Dellinger. It's digitally enhanced with slides and videos, yes, but it's also a live and "sparkling and warm family show" to drive any chill from your heart's deepest cockles. *Dec. 4-20. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. TexArt's Morris Theater, 2300 Lohman's Spur. 474-8497. www.tex-arts.org.*

IT'S A DIZNASTY WORLD AFTER ALL! Here's a ferocious new musical based on Disney spoofs, showing what sex and love are like in modern, real life. Gay-friendly? Drag-queen-friendly? Hip-hop-friendly? Wheee! Mature audiences only, puh-lease. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 4-6, 8pm. Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 773-4818. \$10. www.bluetheater.org.*

THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES What's it really like, pulling a flying sleigh all over the world for that fat sumbitch with the ho-ho-ho and the blatant elfsploitation? The reindeer themselves will tell you the cold hard truth in this Jeff Goode holiday fantasy from Onyx Company. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-19, 8pm. Studio on West, 3408 West Ave., 294-9393. \$10.*

THE RATGIRLS GO TO HELL ... and you'll want to go with them, we reckon, as Austin's favorite clog-dancing, trash-talking, culture-skewering pair of feminized rodentia returns to share a journey through the Nine Circles of the Trail of Lights, pausing only to meet the likes of Stephen Colbert, the elusive Higgs Boson, and Nancy Grace along the way. Oh, the adorable dancings! You might think that a holiday extravaganza featuring **Ratgirl Rattus** and **Jobber Ratgirl** is perfect for your little kiddies ... but, if you did, you'd be out of your fucking mind. Instead, bring all your favorite adult friends to see this show: They'll never forget it. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-19, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.*

CLOSING

SICK Zayd Dohn's twisted comedy brings us an urban family of germophobes who have severe allergies to everything from Cheez-Whiz and cleaning supplies to city air. What do they do when their paterfamilias brings home a (likely germ-ridden) grad student? Directed by Mark Pickell for Capital T Theatre, as if having helmed *Killer Joe* and *I Heart Wal-Mart* isn't sufficient for one year. *Through Dec. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$15-25. www.capitalt.org.*

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH Here is Thornton Wilder's classic about the survival of the Antrobus family through the harrowing calamities of this complex life. This rendition of the Pulitzer-winning script features a large cast and is directed by Norman Blumenfaat for Different Stages. *Through Dec. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

ONGOING

THAT TIME OF THE YEAR Here's a musical revue of original Christmas songs, Chanukah songs, New Year songs, and more from the noteworthy pens of Laurence Holzman and Felicia Needleman, as directed by David Dunlap and performed by the stalwarts of Sam Bass Community Theatre. *Through Dec. 19. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$10-15. www.sambasstheatre.org.*

INSPECTING CAROL Down south a bit, you can catch this metatheatrical comedy about a troupe performing the Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. Directed by Dawn Youngs. *Through Dec. 13. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley. www.wimberleyplayers.org.*

THE MOUSETRAP Someone has committed murder at a snowbound country inn; whoever could it be, d'you suppose? Austin Playhouse presents this classic Agatha Christie mystery, directed by Don Toner. *Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-28 (half price, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR This seldom-seen Neil Simon comedy is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a 1950s television variety show. Directed by Andy Berkovsky. *Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-25 (pay what you can, Thursdays). www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

BOHEMIAN COWBOY Raymond King Shurtz is directed by Kurt Brungardt in this son's re-creation of his honky-tonkin' father's weird-ass legacy: Live music, mystery, and habitual disappearing acts. Like, gonesville, man. See review, left. *Through Dec. 20. Tue.-Wed. & Sun., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$18 (\$16, seniors, students). www.hydeparktheatre.com.*

SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM Return, if you will, to your parochial-school days and giggle like a heresiarch as Sister presents the story of the Nativity as if it were a crime investigation: *What happened to the Magi's gold?* [Your editor's theory: That wasn't actually Melchior; it was Danny Ocean with a long beard.] Cute Catholic comedy, on tour and in your Long Center for the holidays. *Through Dec. 20. Tue.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$27-72. www.thelongcenter.org.*

ANNIE Harold Gray's once-popular comic strip (about the adventures of a Depression-era orphan who, with help from her dog Sandy and a cast of wild characters, gets by on her gumption and pluck) is the origin of this still-popular musical, here staged by an exuberant cast up in Georgetown. *Through Dec. 30. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, ages 15 and younger). www.georgetownpalace.com.*

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY Zach's 16th annual Motown-flavored revue of holiday tunes and jingle-bell terpsichore features the usual hot lineup of golden-throated divas strutting their yuletide stuff amid a brand new set design. Directed by Dave Steakley; recommended to toss a little tinsel onto your soul's barest tree. *Through Dec. 27. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 18 issue is Monday, Dec. 7.** 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: Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.
Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.

dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.
Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com.**
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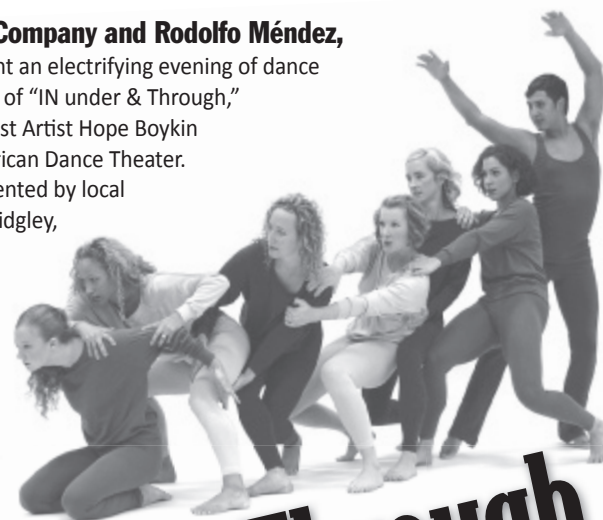
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IN under & Through

Dec. 3 – Dec. 5, 8:00pm
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This project is co-sponsored by Ballet East Dance Company and funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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The 101 Dalmatians Musical

Dell Hall at the Long Center
for the Performing Arts
Nov. 28

Has there ever been a title that *doesn't* roll off the tongue like this one? Surely there have been musicals as pedestrian as this, co-written by Dennis DeYoung and B.T. McNicholl and currently on a national tour, but did any of them have a less

euphonic title? Sometime, at some point, someone needs to admit that some things just shouldn't be reconceived as musicals. And if they are, then they at least should have a catchy title. Even *101 Dalmatians: The Musical* is better, but possibly the authors thought that "[Original Title]: The Musical" had been overused. Which it has.

The production, which resembles a kind of low-rent *Lion King* transferred to 1950s London and uses dogs instead of jungle animals, has Disney written all over it. Only you won't find Disney's name anywhere on it, because this musical isn't produced by Disney or based on either of the Mouse Factory's *101 Dalmatians* films. It's an independent production drawn from the original 1956 novel by Dodie Smith: *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* (another better title). I've never read Smith's book, but it had to hold together better than this. In case you don't know the story: Evil woman kidnaps puppies; brave mother and father dogs rescue them. That's basically what you get here. It's about that deep.

Figuring out how to embody the dogs for the production had to be the most interesting part of developing this show: Do we use real dogs? Puppet dogs? Humans dressed as dogs? Turns out, at various points, you get all three, but mostly you get humans wearing dog-like clothing, with the actors portraying human characters walking around on what appear to be high platform boots. The boots make the humans appear signifi-

cantly bigger than the dogs, and while the boots work in a cartoony visual sense, most of the time the humans look, well, stilted. Some of the actors handle the boots better than others, and it's truly amazing how well some of them dance on them, especially considering the oversized (due to the boots), gorgeous costumes they're required to wear. But no matter how hard they try, all the people are cursed with stilt-gait, which makes them look kind of like puppets. And the dogs look kind of like, well, people wearing dog clothes.

What succeeds, despite the material and the stiltedness, are the set design, a huge variety of oversized, cartoonish drops with really big furniture, and some of the performances, especially Rachel York as Cruella de Vil. York's Cruella is all cartoon, big mouth, big shoulders, big strange hair. Add the boots and she's literally larger than life. York knows it, relishes it, and breathes comic fire in every scene. Erin Maguire's upright and dedicated Nanny Cook and Joel Blum, in dual roles as the delightfully priggish Harry de Vil and an eager, clever bloodhound, also succeed because of a broad, cartoonish yet vocally precise approach to character.

But here's the real kicker: A group of talented canines – Dalmatians, precisely, trained by Joel Slaven – appears at the end of the show, sprinting across the stage to every corner, changing the set before the delighted eyes of the audience. Try finding that in your local cineplex. – Barry Pineo

THE SANTALAND DIARIES This music-spiced staging of David Sedaris' popular tale of a reluctant Macy's Christmas Elf is directed by Dave Steakley and features an effervescent **Espie Randolph** as the child-besieged Crumpet. Here's a thoroughly enjoyable performance that goes beyond its source material and will make you believe in the joy of holiday cynicism all over again. *Through Jan. 10, 2010. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

DINNER THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CRUISE SHIP CRIME Gary Payne's lively Capital City Mystery Players stage their interactive comedy/mystery shenanigans aboard the cruise ship "Titanium" in this holiday show. Can you figure out whodunit while dining on plates of pasta and pesto, *paisan*? *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 4-19, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.*

AUDITIONS

FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER This macabre masterpiece (thank you, Mr. Poe) will be presented by Weird City Theatre in February. Cold readings from script; bring headshot and résumé. E-mail for appointment. 745-2636. www.weirdcitytheatre.com.

BURIED CHILD City Theatre will present Sam Shepard's drama of dysfunctional familiarity and the deterioration of the American Dream. They're casting all roles, to be directed by Andy Berkovsky. Prepare a one-minute monologue, bring headshot and résumé. Call for appointment. *City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. www.citytheatreastin.org.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

AMPARO GARCIA-CROW'S AUDITION WORKSHOP This actors' workshop cultivates your presence for the camera, utilizing cold readings, improvisation, and technical instruction to get you that casting callback you've been jonesing for. *Sun., Dec. 6, 2-5pm. Alleywood Studios, 1902 S. Congress. 441-6085. \$60. www.amparogarciacrow.com.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Matt Bearden He's local, but he's funnier than most of the touring comics in the industry. He tours, but the homeboy prefers to stick to Texas. He can make you snort a vodka collins right out your nose with a single witticism, and any dick joke he might tell will likely include contextual data about the psycho-emotional ramifications of prostate microsurgery. Bottom line, brothers and sisters: *This fucker will make you laugh.* And **Shannon Paul** dares to open. *Dec. 3-5. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

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

This week: The fierce improv artists of **Parallelogramophonograph** bring their inspired antics to the local stage, abetted by their **Level 6 Grad Class. Thu., 8pm. Midnight Society** presents its panoply – that's right – of comedy sketches, and, boy howdy, it's a *damned funny* panoply at that. *Thu., 10pm. Eye for an iPhone* is a Second City-style sketch show led by the talented and happily hirsute **Dave Buckman. Fri., 8pm. Punchline** Stand-up comedy, ColdTowne style: Some of Austin's best. *Fri., 10pm. Boy Toy* presents a free show, featuring the rom-com musical antics of **Le Sexy. Sat., 7pm. Stool Pigeon** features a local celeb of sorts jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. *Sat., 8pm. Cage Match* Two improv teams go all lucha libre on each other for your grins and giggles. *Sat., 9pm. Stone Cold Improv* The house troupe gets funky, now with **Frank Mills. Sat., 10pm. The Late Night Show** features **Midnight Society** with **Total Panic. Sat., 11pm. ColdTowne All-Stars** is a free show with the, ah, all-stars of ColdTowne. *Sun., 7pm. Oh, Science* is another free show; this one, populated by a fan or two of XKCD, we just know it. *Sun., 8:30pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town lampoons the political antics and celebrity shenanigans of the day with musical comedy and sketches that'll put you in stitches regardless of the state of national health care. (*Stitches*, we said, get it?) Also, the death-defying magic and illusions of the amazing Ray Anderson. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! Rick Perry and Kay Bailey Hutchison duking it out in the "Texas Governor's Race." Now that's some big, hairy fun! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

Thursday: This latest run of **Threefer Madness** brings you a trio of improv troupes sure to titillate your sense of the extemporaneous. *8pm. \$3.*

Friday This News Tonight brings you fast and furious improv based on current headlines, slicing and dicing the latest scandals and more. *8pm. \$10.* Next comes the long-running **Double Barrel** show, showcasing a different pair of improv troupes each week. *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: The Dickens, you say? Indeed, here's **Charles Dickens Unleashed!** It's "Improvvised Tales of Bleak Victorian England," from the wild talents of **Parallelogramophonograph** and their friends. What a smashing idea, old bean! *8pm. \$10. Maestro* is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. Highly recommended, because it brings out the wackiest. *10pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night They're coming out of the alcohol-sodden woodwork to try and make you laugh, with your host, **Chance Royce. Thursdays, 10pm.**

Seth Cockfield This local mustachioed guy is really *funny*. If you think that's unusual, you haven't seen enough open mics. Maybe Cockfield's a mite ascerbic (You got a *problem* with that?), maybe he's a tad geeky (C'mon, you know Han drew first.), but he's definitely a whole lot of reason to bring a sweet date to the Velv. Also, **Chris Keimling** and **Chance Royce** open. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5, 9:30 & 11:30pm.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Yes, and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. Also, variety shows! Live music! So much goodness in this venue, in fact, that we'll be expanding this listing for the new year. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK Stand-up comedy – 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 Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

THE RATGIRLS GO TO HELL See our Theatre listings (p.78) for the bigger blurb about these large, female, humanoid rodents and their clever dancings and comedy sketches. But know here, too, that this show is highly recommended. Note: Not for children. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-19, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. wordpress.gnaptheater.org.*

dance

UT'S DANCE REPERTORY THEATRE:

FALL SHOWING Exciting new pieces by UT students, faculty, and guest choreographers, including a sneak peek at parts of the much-anticipated new collaborative work, *Cancion del Cuerpo* (Song of the Body). *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5, 8pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, 477-6060, 477-6060. Free. www.utpac.org.*

RIVERDANCE Oh, aye, laddie and/or lassie, the Irish music-and-song-and-dance supershow is back for (purportedly) the last time. More than 21 million people have been awed by the spectacle. Now it's your turn to

join the throng of lovers of the lords and ladies of the dance. Why, some have suggested that this spectacle is even better than Austin's own dancing Ratgirls! Dec. 8-13. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 1 & 6pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd & Robert Dedman Dr., UT campus, 477-6060. \$23-66. www.texasperformingarts.org.

BALLET EAST DANCE THEATRE: IN UNDER & THROUGH This fierce evening of new danceworks features choreography by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Hope Boykin and local choreographers Eric Midgley, Gina Patterson, Sharon Marroquin, Melissa Villarreal, Dixon Mena, Katie Feiock, and Sheila Cruz. See "Ballet East," p.39, for more. Dec. 3-6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. \$12 (\$8, seniors, children). www.balleteast.org.

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Choreographed by Stephen Mills to the timeless music of Tchaikovsky, performed by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, this *Nutcracker* is the longest-running – leaping? – in Texas. Look: It's the 47th production! But what you really want to know is the list of Mother Gingers, right? Here are just a few: **Art Acevedo**, chief of police; **Marc Ott**, Austin city manager; **Gail Goestenkers**, UT women's basketball head coach; **Lee Leffingwell**, mayor; **Sara Hickman**, musician; and News 8 meteorologist **Rich "Spare Us the Bad News" Segal**. Throw in an army of young dancers and professionals having a ball, and you have a holiday favorite, homegrown and ready to inspire. Through Dec. 23. Times vary; see website for details. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. \$15-71. www.balletaustin.org.



See lots of dance class listings online at austinchronicle.com and in the print issue the third week of each month.

classical music

OPENING

SAINT CECILIA BAROQUE FESTIVAL: A HANDEL CELEBRATION Handel's Oratorios: A Sampler First Presbyterian Church Chorale, soprano Jenifer Thyssen, tenor David Stevens, and the St. Cecilia Period Instrument Orchestra perform choruses, arias, and instrumental music from the oratorios. Fri., Dec. 4, 8pm. **St. Cecilia Period Instrument Orchestra** The group's debut features favorites of the Baroque era. Sat., Dec. 5, 8pm. **Handel's 'Gloria' and 'Utrecht Te Deum'** The recently discovered *Gloria*, an exquisite work believed to have been written by Handel at age 22, gets an airing. These works will be part of an evening prayer service, which is free and open to all. Sun., Dec. 6, 6pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 345-8866 x55. \$25 (\$20, seniors; \$10, students). www.stceciliamusicseries.org.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS The annual music-filled holiday fest. Fri., Dec. 4, 6:30-10pm. Ragsdale Center, St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 428-1297. Free. www.stedwards.edu.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHORAL CONCERT Performed in the traditional formula of a service of lessons and carols, this concert will feature music spanning nearly a millennium of choral music in a variety of styles, including works from Hammerschmidt to Lauridsen. Sat., Dec. 5. Concordia University, 3400 N. I-35, 486-2001. Free. www.concordia.edu.

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: WILLIAM KANENGISER The frontman of the L.A. Guitar Quartet comes in to spell Gabriel Bianco, who cannot make this performance; we reckon he'll be just as intense, full of flair, and fun. Sat., Dec. 5, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 300-2247. \$35-50 (free, ACGS members; \$25, seniors, students). www.austinclassicalguitar.org.

Christmas Around The World



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Slugfest Gallery
Through Dec. 14

‘Tony Fitzpatrick: No. 9, An Artist’s Journal’



You’ve seen prints and you’ve seen collages, and maybe you’ve even seen both in a single creation at the same time, but you’ve never seen them quite the way Tony Fitzpatrick

renders them – on notebook-sized paper, with a stunning arrangement of symbolic images building complexity into his highly effective choices of balance and color.

This is “No. 9, An Artist’s Journal,” a long-running series of original illustrations conjuring and conjured by the artist’s daily musings and his travels around the world. Tokyo, Chicago, New Orleans: These cities and others provide the inspirations for (and sometimes subtly influence the style of) his spectacular creations.

Difficult for works of approximately 8 inches by 10 inches each to be anywhere near “spectacular,” you might think, and you’d be right. Which is why we highly recommend this inaugural exhibition at the newly reopened Slugfest Gallery: This art is spectacular in its meticulous arrange-

ments of images – birds, women, snakes, flowers, cityscapes – and the borrowed texts adhered. The works feature a central figure surrounded by smaller figures and sharp typography, the whole thing as busy as a galaxy of information without being cluttered, offering an idea of what holy file-drawer labels might look like in the main warehouse (carved from pure crystal, illuminated by some energy within) of some God of Memory. (Or maybe some *smoking* God of Memory – the better to explain the antique matchbook covers adorning the corners of these vibrant works.)

Gods, of course, reside in heaven; and we’re suggesting that, with this Fitzpatrick show on its walls, Slugfest Gallery is currently, graphically, one of the earthbound neighborhoods of that realm. – Wayne Alan Brenner

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR Sat., Dec. 5. Anderson Mill Baptist Church, 10633 Lake Creek Pkwy., 264-5368. \$20 (\$15, seniors & students; free, kids). www.roundrocksymphony.org.

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: WINTER CONCERT The youth Intermezzo, Sinfonietta, Philharmonic, and Symphony orchestras perform a host of works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Bach, Borodin, Rossini, and more. Sun., Dec. 6, 2:30pm. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. Free (\$8, lunch). www.austinyouthorchestra.com.

PKW PRODUCTIONS: MUSIC & A MOVIE: GONE WITH THE WIND P Kellach Waddle and the musicians of PKW Productions present a live musical performance to accompany the enduring Civil War romance. Sun., Dec. 6, 3pm. Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-5408. \$12. www.draffhouse.com.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: HANDEL’S MESSIAH Guests soloists and the Parish Choirs of St. David’s Episcopal Church, under the direction of David Stevens, join ASO for this annual concert of divine choral singing and orchestral majesty. Tue., Dec. 8, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064. \$15-35. www.austinsymphony.org.

CAROLING AT NOON CONCERT SERIES Virtuoso performances, caroling, fine cuisine (and free parking downtown!). This week: **St. David’s Men’s Ensemble** Directed by David Stevens. Thu., Dec. 10, 12:05pm (lunch, 12:30pm). St. David’s Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 610-3500. Free (\$8, with lunch). www.stdave.org.

ADVENT NOON CONCERT SERIES This week: **LBJ High School Orchestra**. Handel’s *Concerto No. 9 in B flat for Organ and Orchestra*. David Davenport directs, featuring organist Jean Farris Fuller. Thu., Dec. 10, 12:05-12:45pm. St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsaustin.org.

CLOSING

CONSPIRARE: CHRISTMAS AT THE CARILLON Conspirare’s annual holiday program showcases Craig Hella Johnson’s signature collage technique of weaving diverse musical genres into one luminous whole. This year features Austin singer-songwriter Patrice Pike. Regular performances: Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 2:30 & 8pm. Concert and gala dinner: Mon., Dec. 7, 6pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-5775. www.conspirare.org.

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS FOR SPRING SEMESTER AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to all interested orchestra students both in grades K-12 from public, private, charter, and home schools and who are members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Mon., Dec. 7, 6pm. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. \$100. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.

visual arts

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY Nine galleries within walking distance (and with ample parking) are bedecked with new works and awaiting your visit on this particular day each month. Venues include Art on 5th, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, Sterling Images, Wally Workman Gallery. See website for gallery map. Thu., Dec. 3, 6-8pm. 478-4440. www.artaustin.org/westend.htm.

MARANDA PLEASANT GALLERY: 12X12 HOLIDAY ART BOX SHOW More than 450 pieces of original artwork (on 12-inch-by-12-inch panels) by local and international artists for \$100 each. Such a fierce diversity of styles and colors and permutations for a simple square to accommodate! One night only, and it’s a helluva party. Sat., Dec. 5, 6-10pm. 2235 E. Sixth, 713/922-8584. www.bigmodernart.com/boxshow.html.

ART IN A NUTSHELL Ismael Cavazos, a Local Colorful Character and the creator of “The Old Man in the Peanut,” is opening his own gallery this day, featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. And work by other artists, too. Sat., Dec. 5, 10am-9pm. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR One of our favorite things about this holiday season, the BGAB features more than 100 artists and crafters providing all manner of giftable original creations, from the whimsical to the breathtaking and all shades between. In summation, then, we offer this considered judgment: Wow! Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711. www.bluegenieart.com.

OPENING

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: FEAST Here’s a celebration of all things culinary, by some of the gallery’s most excellent practitioners of shape and line, color and balance, ink and oil and watercolor and more. Works by Helmut Barnett, Carol Dawson, Angela Fife, Amy Guidry, Gordon Fowler, and others. Reception: Sat., Dec. 5, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 24. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

CLOSING

YARD DOG FOLK ART: OVER AND UNDER Contemporary works of embroidery as art? This show features more than a dozen creative stitchers and is curated by Jenny “Sublime Stitching” Hart, so you know it has yards and yards of strange goodness to offer. Through Dec. 6. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.overandundershow.blogspot.com.

ART PALACE: ONE ON ONE ON ONE You can still catch glimpses of greatness at this Eastside venue before its proprietor up and moves to Houston. Example: The current show abounds with bold works by Sterling Allen, Sarah Frantz, Matthew Rodriguez, collaborative works by Michael Sieben and Nathan Green, and many more. Through Dec. 5. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.

DOMY BOOKS GALLERY: MONSTER SHOW 4 There are monsters, monsters, and more monsters in this fourth annual exhibition, as concocted by artists like Deth P Sun, Dylan Reece, Emily Weerts, Esther Pearl Watson, Failure, Heyd Fontenot, Ivete Lucas, Michael Sieben, Sean Gaulager, Jenny Hart, Tim Brown, and oh, dozens of others. Big, ferocious, recommended. (Tip: Check out the Jack-the-Ripper installation, if you have the, uh, guts for such a thing, and belatedly pity poor Mary Kelly.) Through Dec. 3. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and “sculptural tattoos” by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL: AMY RINGHOLZ AND LINDA ST. CLAIR Through Dec. 23. Austin Galleries, 1219 W. Sixth. 495-9363. www.austingalleries.com.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

NEW EAST ARTS GALLERY: FACING EAST The documentary photography by Kaleema H. Al-Nur, Ann Armstrong, Martha Grenon, Adolfo Isassi, and Neesha Thakkar captures life in Central East Austin. 1601 E. Fifth #106.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: NORIKO AMBE The New York-based artist wields surgical skill to transform already beautiful books into objects of even greater and surreal beauty. Curated by Glenn Fuhrman and highly recommended. Through Dec. 31. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

CHAN CHAN: PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS OF CUBA The photography of Piercarlo Abate and the paintings of Luis Abreu show a side of Cuba that’s seldom seen. 81 San Marcos St. www.piercarloabate.com.

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS: HOLIDAY SALE More than 20 artists represented with ornaments, collages, painting, drawings, sculptures, poetry, music, cards, magnets, prints, mobiles, jewelry, and more. Through Jan. 9, 2010. 3710 Cedar #7, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

GAY FAY KELLY: TEENY TINY ART Works by Jerry De Frese, Satch Grimley, Daphne Holland, Carrie Kenny, Tim Kerr, Ashe Laughlin, Brian Johnson, Dick Lavine, Michael Long, Scott Rolfe, Mo Scollan. *Call for appointment, Mon.-Fri. 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.*

ART ON 5TH: SMALL WORKS The gallery's contingent of local artists, Texas artists, and national artists have painted a special group of smaller works for this show. *Through Jan. 2, 2010. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY 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.pablataboadastudio.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

AMOA: DAVID BATES AND JADE WALKER The large and expressive oil paintings of David Bates – vivid scenes of nature, near-documentary images (based on broadcast video) of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina – are paired with new sculptures and installations by Austin's own Jade Walker, she of UT's Creative Research Laboratory. *Through Jan. 31, 2010. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

AMOA LAGUNA GLORIA: CASSANDRA JAMES "Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water" is an intimate exhibition of sketchbooks and paintings. *Through Jan. 10, 2010. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.amoa.org.*

BLANTON MUSEUM: THE PETROBELLI ALTARPIECE This work by Venetian master Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) was recently identified as a fragment of the head of Saint Michael, the central figure in the so-called Petrobelli altarpiece from 1565. *Through Feb. 7, 2010. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

A LEGACY OF QUILTS: THE JOYCE GROSS COLLECTION This exhibit, on loan from UT's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, spans more than 100 years of the enduring American art form and features 29 quilts made between 1844 and 1950. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. 1800 Congress, 936-4639. \$4-7. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeapaustinweird.com.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: KATIE MARATTA & OWEN MCAULEY Oh my, yes. The miniature horizontal graphite renderings of landscapes by Maratta and the refreshingly unusual subject choices in the realist oil-on-linen works of McAuley turn this gallery into a showcase of delicate and eerie brilliance. *Through Dec. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: NO LONE ZONE This performance exhibition features past and present students from UT's Department of Art & Art History. *Through Dec. 19. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.*

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA A curator-led tour of this museum's quirky and delightful "Impermanent Collection" is one of the hidden wonders of Austin. Tours: *Saturdays, 1-4pm. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.*

OKAY MOUNTAIN: BOOKSMART This group exhibition, featuring works by Joshua Callaghan, Gareth Long, Neva Elliott, Heman Chong, Anthony Romero, William Hundley, and Erick Michaud, presents "artistic outputs that re-order, deconstruct, or alter the book as a cultural system, either for critique, humor, formal investigation, or all three." *Through Dec. 12. 1312-B E. Cesar Chavez. www.okaymountain.com.*

SLUGFEST GALLERY: TONY FITZPATRICK Vibrant drawings, collages, and prints from this Chicago artist galvanize the inaugural show in Slugfest's newly renovated gallery space. Recommended. See review, p.82. *Through Dec. 14. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204. www.slugfestprints.com.*

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE: ALAN POGUE The amazing documentary photography of Alan Pogue, one of Austin's natural treasures himself, offers a vivid retrospective of Austin in the Seventies. *Through Dec. 12. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.samopc.org.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: DAMIAN PRIOUR'S WATER SPARKS Priour is best known for his elegant sculptures using fossilized limestone, glass, and rusted metal – the beach treasures he grew up with on the Texas Gulf Coast. His work is on fine display in this third in the Umlauf's series of annual exhibits of work by contemporary sculptors who studied at the University of Texas. *Through Jan. 3, 2010. 605 Robert E. Lee Rd., 445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: MY WICKED TWISTED SENSE OF LOVE A globally diverse group of artists presents works on paper, videos, sounds, and mixed-media installations exploring the nuances of personal relationships, the fear of dying alone, and emotional indifference. *Through Jan. 7, 2010. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

PICTURING AMERICA FROM EAST TO WEST Photographs of America and its art, in a periodically changing display. *Through May. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. www.wblibrary.org.*

EASTSIDE BOOKS Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. www.eastsidebooksaustin.com.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

LITTLE CITY: BARRY GEORGE Metal sculptural works by this multitalented local make for a more interesting cafe. *Through Dec. 31. 916 Congress, 476-CITY. www.littlectcity.com.*

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

WET: JESMINDA COLE Paintings, bones, plaster, and lead. Oh, oh my. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

THE 8TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB kicks off with Mayor Lee Leffingwell's announcement of the 2010 book selection. For the first time in the history of the event, the author will be in attendance. Mystery mounts. *Wed., Dec. 9, 10am. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220. www.cityofaustin.org.*

JULIE POWELL leaves the hazy tipsy dippy bubble of her *Julie & Julia* for the abattoir of *Cleaving*. With her marriage challenged by a love affair, she decides to take to a worldwide tour of butcher shops. Pure poetry, eh? Co-sponsored by Edible Austin. *Sun., Dec. 6, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

CHRIS BARTON paints the body electric in the true story of the invention of fluorescent paints by the Switzer brothers: *The Day-Glo Brothers*. *Sat., Dec. 5, noon. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR chants Gregorian with readers Scott Wiggeman, George Klawitter, Beverly Voss, Joe Blanda, Usha Akella, Cindy Harper, Jerry Hamby, Mary Parham, Lynn Edge, G. Mark Jodon, Christa Pandey, Stan Crawford, Frances Schenkan, Mary Ellen Branan, Katherine Oldmixon, Ralph Hausser, Bob Ayres and Debra Winegarten. All the days of your life, repeat. *Sat., Dec. 5, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ANNA BLACK snaps it with her novel *Now You Wanna Come Back*. *Sat., Dec. 5, 3-6pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

RED SALMON ARTS PRESENTS ANA CASTILLO a celebrated poet, novelist, short story writer, and essayist and one of the leading voices to emerge from the Chicana experience. Her novel *So Far From God* earned her the Carl Sandburg Literary Award in Fiction in 1993. Highly recommended. *Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. www.resistenciabooks.com.*

EAT LOCAL is a multimedia sustainable food night with special guests from the food, film and book worlds, including Ana Sofia Joanes, director/producer of *Fresh*, and Pamela Walker, author of *Growing Good Things to Eat in Texas*. Local farm food tastings and local beer and beverages offered. *Fri., Dec. 4, 6-8pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents "Lucille Clifton On Poetry," taped at the Dodge Poetry Festival in 2008. This program airs every week in December on Channel 10 and 16. See website for exact air time. www.channelaustin.org.

JIM CRACE AND ANTHONY GIARDINA read from their works. Crace is the author of the novels *Being Dead* and *Quarantine*, both short-listed for the Man Booker Prize in fiction. Giardina's work includes the novel *White Guys* and a story collection, *The Country of Marriage*. *Thu., Dec. 3, 7:30pm. Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus), 471-1601, 471-1601. Free. www.utexas.edu/academic/mcw.*

REE DRUMMOND serves up a fine stew of photography, rural stories and scrumptious recipes in her *The Pioneer Woman Cooks*. This'll be crowded, so come early! *Thu., Dec. 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: FROM OUT THAT SHADOW The HRC has teamed up with the University of Virginia to present this **Edgar Allan Poe** show – an expansive and remarkable collection of manuscripts, letters, first editions, illustrations, and other storied ephemera concerning one of the country's most famous writers. *Through Jan. 3, 2010. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

THE MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP goes viral with *A Plague of Secrets* by John Lescroart. *Wed., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

NORTH AUSTIN KNITTERS meet weekly to knit and discuss great books. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

7% SOLUTION BOOK CLUB murders in Moscow with *Gorky Park* by Martin Cruz Smith. Hosted by Sharee and Tommy. *Mon., Dec. 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

OLD QUARRY CLUB The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri. *Tue., Dec. 8, 7pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

HOWSON CLUB *The English Major* by Jim Harrison. *Thu., Dec. 3, 7pm. Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd., 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

WINDSOR PARK CLUB *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kerns Goodwin. *Tue., Dec. 8, 7pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

MORRIS DICKSTEIN presents *Making Sense of Hard Times: How the Arts Helped Americans through the Great Depression*. *Thu., Dec. 3, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

OPEN MICS

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN MIC for poetry, music, drama, and stories. Hosted by Bear Man Poet. *Fridays, 8-10pm. JP's Java Coffee Shop, 2803 San Jacinto.*

THE LIVING ROOM: LIVE STORYTELLING Amparo Garcia-Crow presents this spoken-word series that brings together an eclectic mix of stories around a specific theme. Call for reservations or to sign up as a storyteller. *Sat., Dec. 5, 8pm. Alleywood Studios, 1902 S. Congress, 441-6085. Donations accepted. www.amparogarciacrow.com.*

EXPRESSIONS: FESTIVE SEASONS A celebration of Solstice, Yule, Saturnalia, and so on, featuring the talents of Lee LeTeff, Linda Gordon, Herman Nelson, John Berry, Kathleen Romana, and Phillip Abbott. This is an all-ages reading, with live music from Darrel Mayers and Chris Van Loan. Bring a dish for the potluck and cans for Poets Pantry! Open mic follows feature. *Sat., Dec. 5, 7pm. Austin Bahá'í Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.*

GENUINE JOE *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom Moon 10 and features Danny Strack with the release of his new book. *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 *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. www.myspace.com/hotmamaspresso.*

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. You thought it rocked before, check out its new all-ages power in the Independent. *Wednesdays, 8pm. The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com.*

ACC'S LAST LITERARY COFFEEHOUSE of the season, at least, features Austin poet Pattabi Seshadri. Open mic follows. Hosted by John Herndon. *Mon., Dec. 7, 7pm. Java Lounge at Austin Java, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjava.com.*

SPOKEN & HEARD is an open-minded open-mic experience. Poetry, music, singing, whatever. Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. ASL interpreter available. Hosted by The Crew. *Every Sunday, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbutcoffee.com.*

MUSIC CAFE offers an outlet for local poetry, spoken word, and music artists. Hosted by Lee Lincecum. *Thursdays, 8pm. Music Cafe, 2050 S. Lamar, 326-8742. www.austinmusiccafe.com.*

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *or if she could snatch the light of any moment – cup it in her hands contained, the living light pulsing with all it has seen, recording this moment snatched & her gazing & how it takes eight minutes for sunlight to reach her cupping hands. how film is dead light caught in honey. how its sisters brothers born in the same starry womb treat the dead no different than the living. where does the light go the child asks when the switch is hit & we have no answer that satisfies. it dies like we do carrying its message as faithfully as an old scar. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

BARNES & NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE Give the gift of reading to children in need by donating books through locally designated nonprofit organizations. Recipients throughout the country include schools, libraries, literacy organizations, family social service agencies, and homeless centers. This year, the Barnes & Noble Arboretum location is collecting books for Women's Storybook Project. *Through Jan. 1, 2010. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

he's been

in that box

so long i

think it's

safe to say

schrodinger's

cat is dead

said the voice

in my stead

– yalmot

film listings



One Peace at a Time

D: Turk Pipkin. (NR, 83 min.)

Austin-based writer, actor, and filmmaker Pipkin is the first to admit that the world's problems are vast. No arguments there, although most of us are inclined to accept far-flung conditions such as hunger, poverty, and malnutrition as intractable and constant.

Pipkin, however, believes otherwise. He believes in solutions and that problems are fixable and goals attainable. All it takes is will, desire, commitment, and money – and films such as *One Peace at a Time*, which exhorts viewers to step up and take action. Almost any action is good in the Pipkin playbook; pick one and “just do it,” as the slogan says. Pipkin builds on his previous documentary *Nobility*, in which he speaks with Nobel Prize winners about world problems.

He revisits some of their comments in *One Peace at a Time*, but the bulk of the documentary observes Pipkin as he traverses the world showing us a score of examples of solutions that are presently working. He observes a family-planning initiative in Thailand, the building of a community well in Ethiopia through the auspices of A Glimmer of Hope, orphanages in India run by the Miracle Foundation, the struggle to pass a cluster-munitions ban in Oslo, Wheels for Humanity's wheelchair dissemination in Costa Rica, and housing proposals in Nepal, Kenya, and Ecuador executed by the AMD/Open Architecture Challenge. Locally, Willie Nelson comes down off a horse on his ranch to talk with Pipkin about biodiesel over a folksy game of chess and Texas Congressman Lloyd Doggett talks with the filmmaker about the sad state of the world. Pipkin organizes the film around the idea that children throughout the world should be entitled to the basic rights of water, nutrition,

education, health care, opportunity, shelter, and peace. *One Peace at a Time* overflows with good suggestions of ways to become part of the world's solutions and manages to do it with crisp imagery, terrific music (from the likes of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, Explosions in the Sky, Bob Schneider, and Ben Harper), and a positive tone that neither excoriates viewers for their inactivity nor sugarcoats the predicaments. The film

seeks to inspire, and that it does. However, questions inevitably arise about Pipkin's choice to downplay any focus on American problems existing on our front doorstep. Not that comparisons should be made, but starving orphans in Bangladesh seem to trump malnourished children in Appalachia and homeless ones in Detroit. One also has to wonder about the extensive globe-trotting necessitated by the filming of *One Peace at a Time* and be curious about how many water wells could be dug and schoolbooks bought with the same funds used to inspire folks back on the home front. Inspiration is necessary, of course, but how much of it is needed to produce a loaf of bread? (See the *Special Screenings* section for several opportunities to see the movie with the filmmaker in attendance and “The State We're In,” p.60 for an interview.)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor



new reviews

ARMORED D: Nimród Antal; with Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne, Amaury Nolasco, Fred Ward, Milo Ventimiglia, Skeet Ulrich, Columbus Short. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. An armored truck robbery of \$42 million is an inside job. Even though director Antal is currently in Austin filming *Robert Rodriguez's Predators*, no advance screenings were held locally.

– Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE BOONDOCK SAINTS II: ALL SAINTS DAY D: Troy Duffy; with Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus, Billy Connolly, Clifton Collins Jr., Julie Benz, Judd Nelson, David Della Rocco, Bob Marley, Brian Mahoney, David Ferry. (R, 118 min.)

Director Duffy's wickedly bloodthirsty and strangely humorous *The Boondock Saints* was a cult hit waiting to happen that somehow didn't. As a post-post-Quentin-Tarantino-hipster-shoot-'em-up, it seemed oddly dated back when it received a micro-release from Miramax before heading straight to video and developing a substantial following, in part due to the canny documentary *Overnight*, which chronicles the *Boondock* director's meteoric nonrise to and ego-fueled fall from indie cinema heaven. The original is all muzzle flash and zero smarts, but its loopy storyline, which has hard-drinking, harder-fighting Boston-Irish sibling vigilantes Connor and Murphy MacManus (Flanery and Reedus) laying waste to both the Italian and Russian mobs in modern-day Beantown, is delirious, brutish, testosterone-fueled un-fun. (It also comes with the bonus freak-out factor of Willem Dafoe as a Fed so far off the deep end it makes the actor's current turn in *Antichrist* seen downright papal.) *All Saints Day*, from its dullish title on down to its final bullet, is the sort of outrageously bad filmmaking that defines the phrase “unnecessary sequel.” If we're lucky, Duffy's return might well end up toppling into the rarified substrata of the fabled “so bad it's downright awesome” category, but only time will tell. For now, it's just a weird and inexplicable re-pairing of Flanery and Reedus, with Connolly as their Irish pseudo-savior Il Duce, along with a non-plot involving evil Fed Eunice Bloom (Benz, her country-fried Southern accent ranging all over the place), Russian vendettas, and tons of ridiculously cartoonish slo-mo chaos. Connolly, to be fair, has rarely been anything less than a pleasure to watch, and what little screen time he has here almost makes you wish this were a television pilot with the potential for a Connolly-starring spinoff. Also creepily endearing, sort of, is an unhinged turn from Collins Jr. as (in the film's radically un-PC vernacular) the new spic in these mad micks' crazed Catholic brutalverse. *The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* isn't for everyone, obviously; it might not be for anyone, come to think of it, other than Duffy. Even fans of these blood-soaked bouncing Murphys might think twice before giving the downward-spiraling director a third chance.

– Marc Savlov

› Tinseltown South

BROTHERS D: Jim Sheridan; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire, Sam Shepard, Mare Winningham. (R, 110 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. We'd be seriously worried about this American remake of Susanne Bier's striking Danish drama were it not for its outstanding cast, a script adaptation by *25th Hour*'s David Benioff, and the measured yet compassionate directorial hand of Sheridan (*In America*, *My Left Foot*). Expect emotional fireworks in this film, which was not screened before opening, about a black-sheep son who looks after his straight-arrow brother's family when he goes to war.

– Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

EVERYBODY'S FINE D: Kirk Jones; with Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale, Sam Rockwell, Melissa Leo, Lucian Maisel, James Frain, Katherine Moennig. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Everybody's Fine – a movie about the lies grown children tell their parents – is, ironically, one of the most disingenuous movies to come out of Hollywood in a while. The film is an American remake of Guiseppe Tornatore's Italian original from 1990, but the problems in tone that often beset American remakes of foreign films are merely the beginning of this movie's faux pas. The characters, whose behaviors are the result of emotionally complex situations, are two-dimensional creations with little backstory and zero depth. The story recounts episode after episode of one man's disconnect with his grown children, and then wraps it up with a sentimental, patently false, feel-good, holiday ending. Group hug, everyone (and make sure this is the shot used for the movie poster). De Niro plays the family patriarch Frank Goode (that name alone should give you a sense of the film's generously broad strokes), and one of the few things to be thankful for in this movie is that De Niro abandons the comic mugging that has characterized his last decade of work and actually acts – or, at least, doesn't overact. He is a widower of eight months when we first encounter him, anxiously preparing for the first homecoming of his four children since their mother's death. But, one by one, they phone in their regrets. So what does Frank do? He packs a bag and sets off cross-country to pay each of them a surprise visit. He first goes to New York City to pop in on his artist son, David (Austin Lysy), considered by all to be the most troubled family member. David isn't home, however, and doesn't return even after Frank spends the night waiting on his front stoop. So on Frank goes to Chicago to visit his daughter Amy (Beckinsale), who lives (I kid you not) in a mostly glass house. Here he learns that his grandson (Maisel) who is supposedly doing fabulously in school is, in actuality, not. Things seems strained with Amy's husband (Frain) and Amy also seems anxious to get rid of Pops. In Denver, Frank learns that son Robert (Rockwell) isn't the orchestra conductor that he was led to believe but, rather, the percussionist who bangs the bass drum. And in Las Vegas, the fabrications that daughter Rosie (Barrymore) weaves about her glamorous lifestyle are just a tad too obvious. Frank heads home having learned that all the years he spent being a good provider for his children and always prod-

ding them to excel has had repercussions. They have kept their failures to themselves, and his wife had always buffered him from unhappy truths. Then in less time than it takes to pronounce that old bromide, “everybody’s fine,” the Goode family finds its mojo and gathers together for the film’s final curtain. To that we can only ask: Is all well that ends well?

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★ ★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

PAA D: R. Balki; with Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Paresh Rawal. (NR, 133 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood film, a 13-year-old boy is happy and tries to live a normal life despite suffering from progeria, which causes him to physically age prematurely. He lives with his mother and tries to connect with his father, a progressive politician.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

TRANSYLMANIA D: David Hillenbrand, Scott Hillenbrand; with Patrick Cavanaugh, James DeBello, Tony Denman, Paul H. Kim, Jennifer Lyons, Oren Skoog, David Steinberg, Musetta Vander. (R, 92 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this comedy, which was not screened for press, college students on a semester abroad in Romania party hearty – with vampires.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at **austinchronicle.com**. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ **ANTICHRIST** D: Lars von Trier; with Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg. (NR, 104 min.)

Possibly the best argument against couples therapy ever, *Antichrist* is a tour-de-force trip inside the mind of a dangerously depressed man. That man is von Trier, and his film speaks the language of madness with astonishing fluency. Dreamlike and possessed of a terrible, doom-laden beauty, *Antichrist* is a flawed masterpiece and an example of highly personal auteurism that will either make you mad or drive you mad; either way, you’re complicit in von Trier’s vigorously compelling nightmare of love, death, and despair. Dafoe and Gainsbourg are fearless in their absolute commitment to their respective roles as He and She, a couple in the throes of immense, obliterating grief. They seek therapeutic escape at their cabin in the woods.

He is a therapist and arrogantly assumes he can assuage She’s pain in this act of withdrawal. But She is beyond such psychological salves, and, as von Trier steers his couple into the dark forest primeval, *Antichrist* becomes a genuine horror movie. (11/20/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★★ Dobie

THE BLIND SIDE D: John Lee Hancock; with Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron, Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, Jae Head, Lily Collins, Ray McKinnon, Kim Dickens. (PG-13, 126 min.)

Writer/director John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*) overcomes most of the built-in problems inherent to inspirational sports dramas. Also in the film’s plus column are two standout performances, from Aaron, as the sweet-mannered but largely uncommunicative football player Michael (Aaron does some very subtle body work, using the way he carries his heft as an emotional signpost), and Bullock, as the prickly, straight-talking Memphis socialite who welcomes Michael into her home and eventually makes him a part of the family. This is a dream role for Bullock – finally, a job that requires her to be adult, tart, and smart, all at once – and she makes good use of it. It’s not an altogether convincing portrait, but it is an entertaining, even moving one, and the forcefulness of her presence goes a long way in pulling the film back from the brink of cuddliness. (11/20/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ 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

CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE’S ASSISTANT D: Paul Weitz; with John C. Reilly, Chris Massoglia, Josh Hutcherson, Salma Hayek, Patrick Fugit, Willem Dafoe, Ken Watanabe, Ray Stevenson. (PG-13, 108 min.)

Cirque du Freak is fun compared to the dour googly eyes of *Twilight*, its chief rival in the young adult book series-to-film vampires stories. It’s got bite, but it’s not afraid to laugh at itself or the conventions of the genre. Massoglia and Hutcherson play best friends Darren and Steve, and they mirror and complete each other: Darren is the straight-A cream puff, while Steve dreams of cutting class and being a vampire. He gets his chance, sort of, when the mysterious Cirque du Freak blows into town and resident vampire Larten Crepsley (Reilly, hamming it up with gusto) ends up half-vamping Darren. There’s plenty more going on in this artfully directed and fancifully acted anti-*Twilight* opening salvo, but suffice it to say that Weitz’s film is simply the far more inventive and engrossing teen-vamp flick. Its concerns are similar – love, death, family – but *The Vampire’s Assistant* tackles them with a calculatedly fresh eye. (10/23/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★★ Movies 8

DE DANA DAN D: Priyadarshan; with Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Raval. (NR, 141 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood comedy, two men come up with a dognapping plan in order to raise money quickly so they can satisfy their rich girlfriends. (11/27/2009)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

openings & ratings

Armored (PG-13)

Brothers (R)

Everybody’s Fine (PG-13)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

One Peace at a Time (NR)

Paa (NR)

Transylmania (R)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

🍌 La bomba

DISNEY’S A CHRISTMAS CAROL

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Bob Hoskins, Daryl Sabara. (PG, 96 min.)

The initial “gee, whillikers” reaction to Zemeckis’ motion-capture rendition of the Dickens classic eventually turns to “bah, humbug” as the film’s technological novelty gives way to narrative mundanity. So absent is any emotional content that it’s as though Dickens’ ultimate cautionary tale is a mere afterthought onto which Zemeckis can drape his live-action/computer-animated visual hybrid that he has now used on his third sequential movie (following *Beowulf* and *The Polar Express*). Scrooge (Carrey) is still the same miserly old coot we know him to be, but instead of the transformative effect of Scrooge’s glimpses into his past, present, and future, this film emphasizes the phantasmic elements of the ghosts and the pliable mechanics they use to show Scrooge such privileged viewpoints of his life. Carrey, never a slouch when it comes to his output, plays all three ghosts in addition to Scrooge. The actor sheds his usual silliness and adopts more of the tone and breeding of a British thespian. (11/06/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

WHO WILL BE THE LAST MAN STANDING?

MATT DILLON JEAN RENO LAURENCE FISHBURNE AMAURY NOLASCO VENTIMIGLIA WITH SKEET ULRICH AND COLUMBUS SHORT

ARMORED

SCREEN GEMS PRESENTS A STARS ROAD ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH FARAH FILMS "ARMORED" PRODUCED BY JOSHUA DOWEN DAN FARAH WRITTEN BY JAMES V. SIMPSON DIRECTED BY AMROD ANTAL

MUSIC BY JOHN MURPHY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEBRA JAMES RUSSELL HOLLANDER

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ArmoredMovie.com

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 SEQUENCES OF INTENSE VIOLENCE SOME DISTURBING IMAGES AND BRIEF STRONG LANGUAGE

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

foreign cult classic —
112 west elizabeth street & 609 west 20th street
2-for-1 tuesdays and wednesdays
open til midnight on weekdays & 2am on weekends

spellbound

vulcan video

showtimes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ

320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Fantastic Fest: *Adrift in Tokyo*: Fri-Sat, 4:10pm; Sun, 3:30pm
AFS Doc Tour: *The Beaches of Agnès*: Wed, 7:00pm
Christmas Pops! Sing-Along: *Thru* (12/10), 9:45pm
Master Pancake: Christmas Show: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:00
Avant Cinema: *Dionysus in 69*: Sun, 1:00pm
Action Pack: *Elf* Quote-Along: *Thru* (12/10), 7:00pm
Everybody's Fine: *Fri*, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; **Sat**, 1:15, 4:00, 10:30; **Sun**, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **Mon-Thu**, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; **Wed**, 5:00, 10:30; **Thu** (12/10), 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Girlie Night: *Love Actually*: Tue, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: *Part Time Wife*: Wed, 12mid
Terror Tuesday: *Road Games*: Tue, 10:00pm
Saturday Morning Cartoon Cereal Party: Holiday Edition: Sat, 12:00pm
Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation: Mon, 7:00pm; Wed, 7:00pm
Show With No Name: Stand-up Comedy Disasters: Sun, 6:30, 9:00
Music Monday: *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars*: Mon, 9:30pm; Wed, 9:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.
The Blind Side: 12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 10:20
***Brothers**: 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: Fri, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 10:10pm; Sat-Thu (12/10), 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10pm
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: Fri, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm; Sat, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Sun-Thu (12/10), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm
Movie & Music: *Gone With the Wind*: Sun, 3:00pm
***Ninja Assassin**: Fri-Wed, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:40pm; Thu (12/10), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45pm
Cult Thursday: *Troma's War*: Thu (12/10), 10:00pm
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: 11:45am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm
2012: Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 3:30, 8:00pm; Sun, 11:20am, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 11:20am, 3:30, 8:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH

1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
AFS: *Arlie*: Tue, 7:00pm
The Blind Side: Fri, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Sat, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15; Sun, 12:30, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15; Tue, 12:45, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/10), 3:40, 7:10, 10:15
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30; Tue, 11:20am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm; Wed-Thu (12/10), 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30
Edible Austin: *Julie & Julia Feast*: Mon, 7:00pm
***Ninja Assassin**: Fri, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:20, 10:05pm; Sat, 4:45, 9:45; Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:25, 9:55pm; Mon, 3:40, 9:55; Tue, 1:55, 4:20, 9:30; Wed, 7:05, 9:40; Thu (12/10), 3:25, 9:55
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: Fri, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Sat, 11:05am, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10; Tue, 11:05am, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (12/10), 4:30, 7:25, 10:10
***The Road**: Fri, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Sat, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20; Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Wed-Thu (12/10), 4:40, 7:35, 10:25
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Sat, 1:40, 7:10, 10:15; Sun, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Tue, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/10), 3:55, 7:00, 10:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: Fri, 12:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00; Tue, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/10), 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
The Men Who Stare at Goats: 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri, 12:00, 3:25, 7:00, 10:20; Mon, 3:25, 7:00, 10:20; Tue, 12:00, 3:25, 7:00, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/10), 3:25, 7:00, 10:20
2012: Fri, 12:45, 6:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 3:10, 6:45, 10:10; Mon, 3:10, 6:45, 10:10; Tue, 12:45, 3:10, 6:45, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/10), 3:10, 6:45, 10:10
Where the Wild Things Are: Fri, 12:15pm; Sun, 12:15pm; Tue, 12:15pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.
Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
An Education: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25
Everybody's Fine: 11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05pm
The Men Who Stare at Goats: 12:00, 2:40, 5:01, 7:35, 10:15
The Messenger: 12:50, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
One Peace at a Time: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:00
AFS & Nobility Project: *One Peace at a Time* Premiere: Fri, 7:00, 9:00; Sun, 7:00pm
Pirate Radio: 12:40, 7:10
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: 12:20, 3:00, 7:40, 10:20
The Road: 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
A Serious Man: 3:50, 9:55

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Armored: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
The Blind Side: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
The Blind Side (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Brothers: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D): Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Everybody's Fine: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:25, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:25, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
The Men Who Stare at Goats: 3:35, 8:20

Ninja Assassin: Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:25, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40
Old Dogs: Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:10, 1:20, 2:30, 4:50, 6:00, 7:10, 9:30, 10:40, 1:55am; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:20, 2:30, 4:50, 6:00, 7:10, 9:30, 10:40
Planet 51: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:10, 3:35, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:10, 3:35, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 12:35, 1:50, 3:40, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45, 11:15pm; Sun, 10:45am, 12:35, 1:50, 3:40, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45pm
Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:35, 1:50, 3:40, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45
2012: Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 3:25, 6:55, 10:25pm; Sun, 11:40am, 3:05, 6:25, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 3:05, 6:25, 9:45

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
The Blind Side: Fri, 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:15, 8:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:15, 8:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:15, 8:50, 10:15
NCM Fathom: *The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption*: Thu (12/10), 7:00pm
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: Fri, 1:30, 3:50, 6:20, 8:40; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 3:50, 6:20, 8:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:30, 3:50, 6:20, 8:40
***Ninja Assassin**: Fri, 1:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
***Old Dogs**: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
Planet 51: Fri, 1:20, 3:40; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:20, 3:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:20, 3:40
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: 1:00, 4:00, 6:10, 7:00, 9:10, 10:00

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
***Armored**: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00
The Blind Side: 11:40am, 1:15, 2:45, 4:20, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55, 10:35pm
***Brothers**: 11:35am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25pm
NCM Fathom: *The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption*: Thu (12/10), 7:00pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30pm
***Everybody's Fine**: 12:10, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: 11:35am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40pm
***Ninja Assassin**: 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55
***Old Dogs**: 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
Planet 51: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45pm
***Transylmania**: 12:30, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri-Wed, 11:45am, 1:20, 2:55, 4:30, 6:05, 7:40, 9:15, 10:30pm; Thu (12/10), 11:45am, 1:20, 2:55, 6:05, 9:15, 10:30pm
2012: 12:55, 4:35, 8:10

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848.
Discounts daily before 5pm.
Cirque du Freak: *The Vampire's Assistant*: Fri, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
Fame: Fri, 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
G-Force: Fri, 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15
Shorle: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:40, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:40, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:00, 4:30, 7:40, 9:55
Surrogates: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10
Tyler Perry's *I Can Do Bad All by Myself*: Fri, 3:30, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/10), 3:30, 7:00, 9:40
Whiteout: Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
Zombieland: Fri, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK

4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
***Armored**: Fri, 2:25, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
The Blind Side: Fri, 1:10, 2:45, 4:15, 6:00, 7:30, 9:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:10, 2:45, 4:15, 6:00, 7:30, 9:10, 10:30
***Brothers**: Fri, 1:30, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:30, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: Fri, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:45, 3:30, 6:20, 9:20
***Everybody's Fine**: Fri, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: Fri, 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 8:50; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 8:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 8:50
***Ninja Assassin**: Fri, 12:50, 3:15, 6:45, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:50, 3:15, 6:45, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:50, 3:15, 6:45, 9:15
***Old Dogs**: Fri, 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:40
Planet 51: Fri, 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30
***Transylmania**: Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 8:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:30, 8:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:50, 4:30, 8:05, 10:35
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:10, 7:01, 8:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:10, 7:01, 8:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:10, 7:01, 8:30, 10:10
2012: Fri, 1:35, 5:20, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 5:20, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:35, 5:20, 9:25

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
***Armored**: Fri, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
The Blind Side: Fri, 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:15, 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:35
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri, 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:45

NCM Fathom: *The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption*: Thu (12/10), 7:00pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: Fri, 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
***Everybody's Fine**: Fri, 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35
***Fantastic Mr. Fox**: Fri, 1:25, 5:35, 8:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:25, 5:35, 8:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:25, 5:35, 8:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:25
***Ninja Assassin**: Fri, 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30
***Old Dogs**: Fri, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 11:35, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10; Thu (12/10), 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10, 10:10
Planet 51: Fri, 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/10), 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00
2012: Fri, 12:10, 3:45, 7:20; Sat, 3:45, 7:20; Sun-Thu (12/10), 12:10, 3:45, 7:20

DOBIE THEATRE

2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Antichrist: Fri, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Mon, 7:15, 9:50; Tue-Wed, 9:50pm; Thu (12/10), 7:15, 9:50
An Education: Fri, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; Mon-Thu (12/10), 7:30, 9:45
Ninja Assassin: Fri, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; Mon-Wed, 7:45, 10:10; Thu (12/10), 10:10pm
Spring Student Screening: Thu (12/10), 7:00pm
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/10), 7:00, 10:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10

North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
The Blind Side: Fri-Sat, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35, 11:55; Sun-Thu (12/10), 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D)**: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:40; Sun-Thu (12/10), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Everybody's Fine: Fri-Sat, 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sun-Thu (12/10), 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
Ninja Assassin: Fri-Sat, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40, 11:45; Sun-Thu (12/10), 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
Old Dogs: Fri-Sat, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30; Sun-Thu (12/10), 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
Planet 51: Fri-Sat, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30, 11:20; Sun-Thu (12/10), 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 1:55, 2:25, 4:40, 5:00, 7:00, 7:15, 9:25, 9:40, 11:45; Sun-Thu (12/10), 12:00, 1:55, 2:25, 4:40, 5:00, 7:00, 7:15, 9:25, 9:40
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, 11:50; Sun-Thu (12/10), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
2012: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

GATEWAY THEATRE

9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700x3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
Armored: 12:30, 2:45, 5:55, 7:55, 10:15
The Blind Side: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 1:15, 4:10, 4:45, 7:10, 7:45, 10:10, 10:40; Tue, 12:20, 1:15, 4:45, 7:10, 7:45, 10:40; Wed, 12:20, 4:10, 4:45, 7:45, 10:10, 10:40; Thu (12/10), 12:20, 1:15, 4:45, 7:10, 7:45, 10:40

regions than they are in meeting our leader. Jovovich “plays” Dr. Abigail Tyler (she also plays herself at the film’s beginning and ending). She is a psychiatrist in Nome, Alaska, who notices a trend in her patients – and then in her own home – when various locals begin telling her about visitations by giant owls in the night. This is a strange movie (it feels like a lost episode of the old Leonard Nimoy chestnut *In Search of ...*) about strange people doing strange things. (11/06/2009) – Marc Savlov
★★ Tinseltown South

G-FORCE D: Hoyt Yeatman; with Bill Nighy, Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis, Kelli Garner, Gabriel Casseus, Jack Conley, Tyler Patrick Jones; with the voices of Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi, Tracy Morgan, Sam Rockwell, Penélope Cruz, Jon Favreau. (PG, 89 min.)

The adolescent ticket-taker at the matinee I attend told me I have pretty hair, and I nearly fell over – how often, really, are people kind without provocation? A little ashamed, I decided I was going to be a better person, starting right then and there – starting, in fact, with *G-Force*, a movie I had an hour before referred to, sight unseen, as “that goddamn gerbil spy movie.” My first mistake: *G-Force* stars guinea pigs. My second mistake: I should have started this open-hearts policy in another 89 minutes, which is how long it takes to weather this technically competent if utterly artless family film from überproducer Jerry Bruckheimer. In its gadget-lust and obvious *Transformers* envy, *G-Force* is as loud and stupid as anything Michael Bay ever cooked up, and its characters’ sketchings are similarly crude. But the real head-stumper is how so much time, effort, and money could be spent in the service of something so colossally dumb, vacant, and pointless. (07/31/2009) – Kimberley Jones
★ Movies 8

KURBAAN D: Renzil D’Silva; with Saif Ali Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Rupinder Nagra, Om Puri. (NR, 160 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Real-life spouses Khan and Kapoor star as an Indian married couple, who are both university professors living in the U.S. when they get caught up in some urban terrorist actions. (11/27/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN D: F. Gary Gray; with Jamie Foxx, Gerard Butler, Regina Hall, Colm Meaney, Bruce McGill, Leslie Bibb, Michael Irby. (R, 108 min.)

What to make of a film that opens with a brutal home invasion which leaves a mother and child dead and then uses that ghastly jumping-off point and all its circumlocutions – legal, moral, and mortal – as an assiduous playing of the criminal justice system? Sounds promising so far, but *Law Abiding Citizen* ends on an even grimmer note, stuck fast between righteous indignation at our bankrupt system of jurisprudence and our (presumed) need for heroes. Butler turns a perfectly respectable, even riveting performance as the dead



We Will Always Be Here

We Will Always Be Here D: Cine Sol Productions. **CineResistencia.** This historic documentary by Sol Rojo Productions captures the destruction of the Los Elementos mural and Austin’s Juarez-Lincoln building, a Mexican-American center for higher education that existed in Austin during the Seventies. Great protests occurred when the building’s destruction was announced by developers in 1980. @Resistencia Bookstore, Friday, 7pm.



Ariel

Ariel (1988) D: Aki Kaurismäki; with Turo Pajala, Susanna Haavisto, Matti Pellonpää, Eetu Hilkamo. (NR, 73 min.) **Austin Film Society: The Chilly Humorist of Finland – Aki Kaurismäki.** *Ariel* is a perfect little gem of Kaurismäki moviemaking. A young man sets out for the city after the mine where he works is shut down. He has a car, finds a girl, looks for work, gets framed for a crime he didn’t commit. And be forewarned: Don’t watch if you’re trying to quit smoking. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm.

family’s husband and father, who seeks a nominal form of justice via fast-rising D.A.’s assistant Nick Rice (Foxy). What he instead receives is a quick-and-dirty lesson in the painful subtleties and Faustian backroom dealings of the Philadelphia courts. Foxx has a thankless role here subbing for the entire justice system, and his main mode of expression is steely determination and precious little else. (10/16/2009) – Marc Savlov
★★ Metropolitan

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

D: Grant Heslov; with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Lang, Robert Patrick, Waleed Zuaiter, Stephen Root. (R, 93 min.)

All goats aside, this is one odd duck. A title card reads, “More of this is true than you would believe,” but it’s impossible to tell what’s factual in this fictionalized take on Jon Ronson’s book about Army experiments in the paranormal because it all sounds so deeply ludicrous. It’s never uninteresting – but never entirely successful, either. Reeling from his wife’s infidelity, journalist Bob Wilton (McGregor) leaves his podunk paper in Ann Arbor, Mich., for Iraq, and bumps into the story of a lifetime, packaged neatly in the mustachioed frame of Clooney’s Lyn Cassady, psychic spy. This is Heslov’s first time directing, after co-writing and producing with Clooney *Good Night, and Good Luck.*, and there are too many tiny blunders to call his debut a triumph. Still, there is Clooney’s deceptively layered performance, some startling bits of laugh-out-loud absurdity, and the not-at-all-negligible pleasure to be had in a cockeyed point of view. (11/06/2009) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South



THE MESSENGER

D: Oren Moverman; with Woody Harrelson, Ben Foster, Samantha Morton, Jena Malone, Eamonn Walker, Steve Buscemi. (R, 105 min.)

There exists a gulf between those who return home from war and those who have never been, a divide that’s grown particularly profound in the last couple of decades. *The Messenger*, as its name implies, seeks to communicate across those gaps. In his directorial debut, Moverman gives us two memorable characters who jump into the communication breach and lead the way. Staff Sgt. Will Montgomery (Foster) and Tony Stone (Harrelson), who are stationed in New Jersey at Fort Dix, are members of a “casualty notification” team that informs deceased soldiers’ next of kin of their loved one’s demise. Foster and Harrelson are both stunningly effective in their roles. The script by Moverman and Alessandro Camon is replete with smart, crisp dialogue. Although a fumbling attraction between Will and a widow (Morton) is a little overplayed, there is not a false note in the relationship between the two men. (11/20/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Arbor

NINJA ASSASSIN D: James McTeigue; with Rain, Naomie Harris, Ben Miles, Rick Yune. (R, 99 min.)

Pitched somewhere between a pre-adolescent boy’s fantasy world of nunchaku and *shuriken* (or fighting sticks and throwing stars) and a wildly off-kilter exercise in homoerotic beefcakery, this astonishingly crappy slo-mo gorefest proves once and for all that McTeigue wasn’t the man responsible for the excellent *V for Vendetta* and that the writer/producer Wachowski brothers were. I’m not sure there’s *anybody* at the helm of *Ninja Assassin*, which just flat-out sucks rice dumplings, beginning with its generic title on down to its preposterously dumb view of the ups and downs and, you know, bullet-avoidance techniques of your average contemporary ninja. That would be ginchy Korean pop-lite star Rain who plays Raizo, abducted as a child by the not even vaguely mysterious Ozuno Clan, and thereafter raised to be, like, totally unkillable and way superbuff. The convoluted and really, really lousy storyline has sexy, Interpol agent Mika Coretti (Harris) digging up connections between international assassinations and the Ozunus. (11/27/2009) – Marc Savlov
● Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

OLD DOGS D: Walt Becker; with Robin Williams, John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Seth Green, Ella Bleu Travolta, Conner Rayburn, Lori Loughlin, Matt Dillon, Rita Wilson, Dax Shepard, Bernie Mac, Luis Guzmán, Ann-Margret, Amy Sedaris, Justin Long. (PG, 88 min.)

Old Dogs amounts to little more than an opportunity for Williams and the Travolta family (parents Travolta and Preston co-star alongside daughter Ella Bleu Travolta) to cash nice paychecks. *Old Dogs* is not so much bad as it is witless and predictable. No one’s heart seems to be in the affair, and the paint-by-numbers comedy just doesn’t sell itself. Travolta and Williams play Charlie and Dan, phenomenally successful sports marketers who are on the verge of the biggest deal of their careers when Dan is informed that he is the parent of twin 7-year-olds. Trivia connoisseurs should note that this film was Bernie Mac’s last; *Old Dogs*’ release was delayed eight months out of respect for the dead. Numerous other top-flight performers (among them Dillon, Ann-Margret, Wilson, an unbilled Long) make what amount to little more than cameo appearances. (11/27/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

D: Oren Peli; with Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Michael Bayouth. (R, 96 min.)

Don’t believe the hype: *Paranormal Activity* may be a lot of things, but the words “scary” and “movie” are not among them. It is instead nothing more or less than an excruciatingly tedious YouTube gag cleverly marketed to go viral in the broadest and most box-office-friendly way. (On the other hand, Paramount’s midnight-screening, street-team hype machine is to be congratulated for pulling such a fast one on both audiences and critics alike.) Like *The Blair Witch Project*, its far creepier antecedent, *Paranormal Activity* purports to exist as actual found footage – the opening text says it was discovered by the San Diego Police Department – but that’s no excuse for foisting a poorly acted (whoops! make that “realistic”), shoddily conceived, anti-directed nonstarter that pays off only in its final 10 seconds on a gullible moviegoing public that only wants to have its collective hair raised. At 96 minutes, it’s at least 90 minutes too long. (10/09/2009) – Marc Savlov
● Metropolitan

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NINJA ASSASSIN

(11:30 2:10 4:55) 7:45 10:40

FANTASTIC MR. FOX

(11:30 1:30 4:10) 7:00 9:45

new moon

(11:45 3:00) 6:30 10:00

THE BLIND SIDE*

(12:00 3:15) 6:45 10:20

20.2

(11:20 3:30) 8:00

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

(11:10 1:45 4:20) 7:15 10:10

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LABYRINTH

Saturday December 12th 7:30

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EVERYBODY'S FINE(PG-13)

Fri. & Sat. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20 11:30

Sun. - Thu. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON(PG-13)

Fri. & Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00 11:50

Sun. - Thu. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

NINJA ASSASSIN (R)

Fri. & Sat. 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40 11:45

Sun. - Thu. 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

OLD DOGS(PG)

Fri. & Sat. 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25 11:30

Sun. - Thu. 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R)

Fri. & Sat. 12:00 1:55 2:25 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:15 9:25 9:40 11:45

Sun. - Thu. 12:00 1:55 2:25 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:15 9:25 9:40

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

Fri. & Sat. 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35 11:55

Sun. - Thu. 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35

PLANET 51 (PG)

Fri. & Sat. 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30 11:20

Sun. - Thu. 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D(PG)

Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20 11:40

Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

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Eating Alaska

★ **“Eating Alaska” (2008)** D: Ellen Frankenstein. (NR, 56 min.) **Reel Women.** This film recounts what happens when a vegetarian moves to Alaska and falls in love with a hunter/fisherman and the “last frontier.” Director Frankenstein and producer Shirley Thompson will conduct a Q&A after the screening, which follows a 1pm workshop on documentary filmmaking. Proceeds from the screening benefit YouthLaunch’s Urban Roots. @The Independent, Sunday, 3:30pm.

★ **PIRATE RADIO** D: Richard Curtis; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Rhys Ifans, Nick Frost, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Sturridge, Talulah Riley, January Jones, Emma Thompson. (R, 116 min.)

Despite a title change from *The Boat That Rocked* to *Pirate Radio*, this British import exudes about as much outlaw swagger as Tom DeLay in a dance competition. Forget about historical veracity in which this film’s offshore radio broadcasting ship is a fictional stand-in for the actual operation, *Radio Caroline*, which was shut down by the British government in 1967. The politics of *Pirate Radio* never get any weightier than its general oppositional tone of Us against the Man. And when it comes to the old sex, drugs, and rock & roll equation, writer-director Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) pretty much leaves out the middle entity: drugs. However, the biggest problem with *Pirate Radio* is its lax narrative structure. The film is a series of episodic scenes which spotlight a host of characters who, without narrative material, become a mere collection of quirks, costumes, and gestures. This is all the more frustrating because the performances are good. (11/13/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Arbor

★ **PLANET 51** D: Jorge Blanco; with the voices of Dwayne Johnson, Jessica Biel, Justin Long, Gary Oldman, Seann William Scott, John Cleese. (PG, 91 min.)

Planet 51 is innocuous to the point of distraction. While the CG animation is colorful and vibrant, the story is little more than a compilation of science-fiction clichés. *Planet 51*’s main gag is the reversal of the ancient (by Hollywood standards, anyway) genre convention of society’s fear of alien invasion. Here, it’s the green-skinned, droopily antennaed *aliens* who are terrified of a lone *human* spaceman (Johnson), who crash-lands into their world. In a sop to Hollywood’s golden age of science-fiction filmmaking, the whole planet closely parallels Fifties Americana, right down to the *Happy Days* slang and the monster-movie matinees playing at the local movie theatre. I could go on and on about *Planet 51*’s multitude of direct references to its sci-fi antecedents, but the bottom line is that *Planet 51*, while expertly executed animation-wise and passably entertaining for very young kids (less so, their parents), is still as dull as the hull on *Rocketship X-M*. (11/20/2009) – Marc Savlov ★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

★ PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL ‘PUSH’ BY SAPHIRE

D: Lee Daniels; with Gabourey Sidibe, Mo’Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, Sherri Shepherd, Lenny Kravitz. (R, 109 min.)

Much like its title protagonist Precious – a sexually, emotionally, and physically abused 16-year-old African-American girl who is functionally illiterate, morbidly obese, and pregnant with her second child fathered by her own father – this film is a rough-hewn entity with unlikely odds for success. Yet both the character and the movie overcome their handicaps to become the kind of success stories that the American mythmaking machinery loves to love. Claireece Precious Jones (Sidibe) and her mother, Mary (Mo’Nique), are women we rarely notice. But instead of looking the other way, this movie and the popular book on which it is based place them front and center. Newcomer Sidibe is a real find and not just a looming presence and narrative device. Daniels has also done a marvelous job of casting famous friends of his and getting heart-stirring, stripped-down performances from them all. Despite achieving such a remarkably raw and naturalistic tone, Daniels ups the ante with extreme melodramatic touches. (11/20/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Highland, Tinseltown North

★ **THE ROAD** D: John Hillcoat; with Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron, Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce, Molly Parker. (R, 119 min.)

Cormac McCarthy’s novel, by any standard, is no one’s idea of a giddy, fun, summer beach read. It’s the story of a father and son (credited as “Man” and “Boy”) wandering through a blighted American wasteland beset by some (unnamed) catastrophe. Cannibalism, rape, and worse are the order of the day, but McCarthy’s unswerving humanity sees the novel through to a conclusion that is no less wrenching for the rusty sliver of hope it offers. Director Hillcoat proves an inspired choice to helm this film adaptation and his rendering of McCarthy’s words can’t be faulted for its visual replication of the author’s grim picture of mankind’s final days. Mortensen, viewed either as a patriarchal Christ figure or simply as a devoted father, works minor miracles in what is essentially a one-note role. Who knew there were so many facial expressions approximating unrelenting despair? (11/27/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor



The Beaches of Agnès

★ **The Beaches of Agnès (2008)** D: Agnès Varda. (NR, 110 min.) **AFS Documentary Tour.** Autobiography can be a tricky thing. But in the hands of Varda, the 80-year-old French auteur, autobiography becomes a glorious journey, a multifaceted search into the filmmaker’s self that is fearless, inventive, revelatory, and captivating. Although Varda will not be in attendance for the screening, you will leave the theatre feeling as though you have communed with the artist. On the way home, you’ll want to stop at the video store to pick up all of her films. @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 7pm.

Fresh

★ **Fresh (2009)** D: Ana Sofia Joanes. (NR, 72 min.) **Edible Austin: Eat Local Week.** This documentary celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are reinventing our food system. Joel Salatin, owner of Polyface farm, will join director Joanes and others for a Q&A after the screening. Several Austin restaurants and chefs will prepare locally sourced food and drink tastings in the lobby. Proceeds from the event will benefit YouthLaunch’s Urban Roots. See www.austintheatre.org/fresh for tickets. @Paramount, Saturday, 8pm.



★ **A SERIOUS MAN** D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Michael Stuhlbarg, Fred Melamed, Richard Kind, Aaron Wolff, Sari Lennick, Jessica McManus, Adam Arkin, Alan Mandell, Amy Landecker. (R, 105 min.)

Embrace paradox; accept life’s mysteries: These are some of the things that serious men learn. God owes us bubkes in the way of answers. With *A Serious Man*, the Coen brothers have made one of their best and most personal movies. It is rich with ideas and contemplations and packed with the sort of existential jokes that tickle the Coen boys so. The setting echoes the Minneapolis suburb of the Coen brothers’ youth, circa 1967, and captures with perfection the sound and the look of Jewish-American culture of that period. As for narrative structure, *A Serious Man* is as much the biblical story of Job as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is a Homeric odyssey. Larry Gopnik (Stuhlbarg) is the story’s de facto Job, to whom a plague of troubles comes. Actions have consequences, we are told, although it seems that inaction can mess you up, too. *A Serious Man* will keep Coenheads engaged through many viewings. (10/16/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor

★ **SHORTS** D: Robert Rodriguez; with Jimmy Bennett, Jon Cryer, William H. Macy, Leslie Mann, James Spader, Kat Dennings, Jolie Vanier, Trevor Gagnon, Devon Gearhart, Leo Howard, Rebel Rodriguez. (PG, 89 min.)

This time around it’s another family film for Rodriguez, whose filmmaking career at this point has two modes: kid pics and grisly adult fare. All are comedic action romps highlighted by their homegrown flavor of technological wizardry and Rodriguez’s near-total creative control. (In *Shorts*, Rodriguez is listed as the film’s writer, director, co-producer, cinematographer, co-editor, and contribut-

ing music composer.) The story follows tweener Toe (Bennett), who finds a multicolored stone that can grant every wish – a wishing rock that creates havoc as it passes from hand to hand. The story structure is kiddie postmodern, as the film cuts forward and backward in chapters as events rewind or fast-forward as though controlled by a digital switch (hence the title *Shorts*). The action never pauses long enough to become tiresome, though most of the film’s rude humor is directed squarely at young viewers’ sensibilities. Parents will, no doubt, be renting this electronic babysitter for a long time to come. (08/21/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

★ **SURROGATES** D: Jonathan Mostow; with Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell, Ving Rhames, Rosamund Pike, James Cromwell, Boris Kodjoe. (PG-13, 89 min.)

In a Philip K. Dickian twist on Ram Dass’ “Be here now” slogan and thanks to robotic surrogates and fancy tanning-bed/Barcalounger virtual reality units, the characters in this sublimely silly scrap of sci-fi filmmaking can be somewhere else now. And, more to the point, they can also be someone else now. This is a ridiculous and badly conceived variation on David Cronenberg’s *Videodrome*. Willis is a Boston FBI agent who uncovers a plot to kill billions of people in their homes by frying the circuits of their robotic surrogates. “But why?” you ask. Although the script (adapted from the graphic novel) by Michael Ferris and John Brancato tries mighty hard to make a compelling argument along the quasi-Luddite lines of “sexy robots bad; ugly humans good,” it’s nothing that hasn’t been done countless times before. *Surrogates*’ morality is less Asimov than asinine. (10/02/2009) – Marc Savlov

● Movies 8

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

D: Chris Weitz; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Michael Sheen, Peter Facinelli, Billy Burke. (PG-13, 130 min.)

Catherine Hardwicke started the saga with last year’s *Twilight*, a deliciously trashy mash of pulp and pop art that managed to take seriously its central lovers – doomy vampire Edward (Pattinson) and his teenage human paramour, Bella (Stewart) – while maintaining a sense of humor about itself. But Summit Entertainment chucked Hardwicke for the second installment, and her successor, Weitz, brings zero sense of play or sexual energy to the piece. It’s as if everything’s been buffed to achieve maximum banality. At the film’s beginning, Edward dumps Bella – like, *the day after her birthday*, *OMG* – and is mostly absent in *New Moon*, which turns out to be a boon. Bella, incapacitated with grief, turns to her old pal Jacob (Lautner) but than Jacob starts morphing into a werewolf. The digital effects here are top-notch (as were the ones Weitz supervised in his last film, *The Golden Compass*), and *New Moon* excels in two centerpiece action sequences. (11/27/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

2012 D: Roland Emmerich; with John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Woody Harrelson, Oliver Platt, Zlatko Buric, Beatrice Rosen, Liam James, Morgan Lily. (PG-13, 158 min.)

Life is simple in Emmerich's films. Confronted with unprecedented perils, the characters in his disaster epics manage to reaffirm their broken loves, make amends for slipshod parenting, and, most impressively, outrun fireballs and certain death with their hides and wits intact. Emmerich takes the disaster-movie genre to its logical conclusion in *2012*, obliterating or reconfiguring vast swaths of the planet's surface (solar storms boil the Earth's core; tectonic havoc ensues) and providing a 158-minute thrill ride that zips by like the real thing. Over the duration, there are homages (or lifts) to apocalyptic exercises of decades past (particularly *When Worlds Collide*) and plenty of cheeky references to Emmerich's own résumé. *2012* is PTSD – Popcorn Thrills and Sappy meloDrama – supersized to counter current real-world terrors, and it is, by turns, thrilling, ridiculous (the script, by Emmerich and longtime co-writer Harald Kloser, is riddled with howlingly goofy lines and seriously improbable deus-ex-machina moments), and just plain big, dumb fun. (11/13/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF D: Tyler Perry; with Tyler Perry, Taraji P. Henson, Brian White, Hope Olaide Wilson, Adam Rodriguez, Mary J. Blige, Kwesi Boakye, Frederick Siglar, Gladys Knight. (PG-13, 113 min.)

This latest offering from Perry, a veritable one-man movie factory, continues a trend toward increasingly mature moviemaking. Yes, we still get Perry vamping as Madea, that hulking, house-coated nag, but only in brief, giggling jags that break up a melodrama about familial duties and self-actualization. When their grandmother goes missing, Jennifer (Wilson) and her younger brothers are dumped on the doorstep of Aunt April (Henson), a hard-drinking torch singer not at all interested in her new gig as de facto guardian. Reluctantly, April must kick open the doors to both her home and her deeply hardened heart. But not at first: If Henson (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) weren't such a likable screen presence, her character would be difficult to tolerate, so screechy and unsympathetic is she. Redemption, of course, is inevitable – and Perry frankly takes too much time getting there – but *I Can Do Bad* benefits from a number of musical performances. (09/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Movies 8

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE D: Spike Jonze; with Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo, Pepita Emmerichs, Steve Mouzakis; with the voices of James Gandolfini, Lauren Ambrose, Paul Dano, Catherine O'Hara, Chris Cooper, Forest Whitaker. (PG, 94 min.)

This is a freewheeling but tonally and aesthetically true adaptation of Maurice Sendak's 1963 children's book. Jonze, in collaboration with co-screenwriter Dave Eggers, seems to have tapped every primal feeling along the spectrum – joy, grief, rage, a relish for mayhem – and put it onscreen for our viewing pleasure. And a pleasure it is – the rare children's film that isn't coded for adults or made corny and flip for kids. Working with Jim Henson's Creature Shop and adapting quite literally Sendak's original etchings, Jonze has put to film what generations of children have only dreamed about: the nearness and *dearness* of Sendak's woolly beasts. One of the many delights of the film is in how *physical* it is (somebody is always pummeling somebody else and then following the beating with a bruising bear hug). There are minor grievances with the film, all technical, but they frankly feel inconsequential when put next to the film's overall effect. (10/16/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Metropolitan



Appaloosa

Appaloosa (2008) D: Ed Harris; with Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, Jeremy Irons, Timothy Spall. (R, 114 min.) **Austin Public Library: Classic Westerns.** Harris takes a turn behind the camera for this Western, in which he co-stars with a great cast. (*) @Manchaca Library, Monday, 6:30pm; free.

WHITEOUT D: Dominic Sena; with Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht, Tom Skerritt, Columbus Short. (R, 96 min.)

Beckinsale has passed the past half-dozen years under a dark cloud, gravitating toward gloomy action pics, in roles that feel plucked from Angelina Jolie's reject pile. At least the blue-hued *Underworld* films were trashy fun – would that a leather-clad vampire or snarly lycan stumbled onto the set of this boilerplate serial killer thriller. The setting is Antarctica – which, as a title card helpfully points out (should your grasp of elementary geography fail you), is “the coldest, most isolated land mass” on the planet. There, Beckinsale plays a U.S. marshal stationed on a research base an investigating a mutilated body found out on the ice. While the landscape is intriguing, Sena (*Gone in Sixty Seconds*) shoots the snowswept

action incoherently. As for the action indoors: An opening, ogling shot of Beckinsale disrobing for a steamy shower supplies the trashy, but the fun is nowhere to be found in this overly dour duller. (09/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★ Movies 8

ZOMBIELAND D: Ruben Fleischer; with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin, Amber Heard. (R, 87 min.)

No spoilers here, but first things first: *Zombieland* has the single most outrageously entertaining and unexpected celebrity cameo of any film – genre or otherwise – this filmgoer has seen in a long, long time. It's not a sequence that makes or breaks the film, but it *does* tip *Zombieland* over the edge of zomcom ordinariness into something considerably weirder and therefore more fun. Debuting director Fleischer's action-and-innards-drenched film dials it all up to 11 from the opening credits sequence – which uses pop-music-backed mayhem to smart expository and staggeringly kickass effect – and only slows down for a breather for the length of the aforementioned cameo. Storywise, there's precious little going on here that we haven't seen before, but Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick's archly hip and often downright hilarious script, combined with a quartet of seamless performances and enough cranial destruction to sate even the most diehard *Fangoria* reader, makes for one hell of a wild ride. (10/02/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Movies 8

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

“A REMARKABLY TOUCHING FILM!”
First-rate performances by Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell.”
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“TERRIFIC!”
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The super swoony girlie night holiday tradition returns! With Birds Barbershop, Lovely Austin & Edible Arrangements
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	THE ELF QUOTE-ALONG	700		
	ACTION PACK 1997 SING-ALONG	945		
FRI, DEC 4	FAN FEST PRESENTS: ADRIFT IN TOKYO	410		
	EVERYBODY'S FINE	500	745	1030
	MASTER PANCAKE CHRISTMAS SHOW!	700	1000	
SAT, DEC 5	CARTOON/CEREAL PARTY: HOLIDAY ED,	1200		
	EVERYBODY'S FINE	115	400	1030
	FAN FEST PRESENTS: ADRIFT IN TOKYO	410		
	MASTER PANCAKE CHRISTMAS SHOW!	700	1000	
	THE BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP: UT vs NEB			
SUN, DEC 6	DIONYSUS IN 69 w/ Richard Schechner	100		
	FAN FEST PRESENTS: ADRIFT IN TOKYO	330		
	EVERYBODY'S FINE	415	700	945
	STAND UP COMEDY DISASTERS	630	900	
MON, DEC 7	EVERYBODY'S FINE	500	745	1030
	SPIKE & MIKE NEW GENERATION	700		
	MUSIC MONDAY: ZIGGY STARDUST	930		
TUE, DEC 8	EVERYBODY'S FINE	500	745	1030
	GIRLIE NIGHT: LOVE ACTUALLY	700		
	TERROR TUES: ROAD GAMES	1000		
WED, DEC 9	EVERYBODY'S FINE	500	745	1030
	AFS DOC TOUR: BEACHES OF AGNES	700		
	SPIKE & MIKE NEW GENERATION	700		
	ZIGGY STARDUST & THE SPIDERS FROM MARS	945		
	WEIRD WEDS: PART TIME WIFE	MID		
THU, DEC 10	EVERYBODY'S FINE	500	745	1030
	THE ELF QUOTE-ALONG	700		
	ACTION PACK CHRISTMAS POPS SING-ALONG	945		

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NINJA ASSASSIN •	1115*	140*	420	725 955
TWILIGHT NEW MOON	1250*	140*	355*	700 1000
THE BLIND SIDE	1230*	340	710	1015
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AFS: ARIEL			700	Tues

ALAMO VILLAGE - 2700 W ANDERSON LANE				
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2012	1245*	310	645	1010
CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D	100*	345	630	900
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS	430	715	955	
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE				1215*
ROCKY HORROR			MID	Sat

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special screenings

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The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 03

1997 Sing-Along Action Pack.
@Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) *D: Satoshi Miki; with Jo Odigiri, Tomakazu Miura, Kyoko Koizumi, Yuriko Yoshitaka. (NR, 101 min.)* **Fantastic Fest Presents.** In this well-reviewed Japanese comedy, a slacker law student and his loan shark cut a deal that has the debtor accompanying his creditor on a walk around Tokyo. @Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders.

The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption NCM Fathom. Glenn Beck's stage show based on his inspirational novel returns to the- atres this year in remastered form. After the show, which was recorded live during his 2008 tour, Beck will introduce several people who were touched by the story about transformation and redemption. A repeat presentation of this show is also scheduled for Dec. 10. @Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, 7pm.

Dr. Hackenstein (1988) *D: Richard Clark; with David Muir, Michael Ensign, Cathy Cahn, Stacey Travis. (R, 88 min.)* **Cult Thursday.** A mad scientist is using the body parts of locals to reassemble his wife. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Elf Quote-Along *D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. Action Pack.* @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Monsoon Wedding (2001) *D: Mira Nair; with Rajat Kapoor, Kamini Khanna, Parvin Dabas, Vasundhara Das, Tiltama Shome, Vijay Raaz, Shafali Shetty, Lillete Dubey, Naseeruddin Shah. (R, 113 min.)* **It's Bigger Than You: Bollywood Film Series Fundraiser.** Tickets available at www.itsbiggerthanyou.org/2009/08/bollywood-film-series. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 6:30pm.

SPACES

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) *D: John Lewis and Patrick Fries; narrated by Ray Wylie Hubbard. (NR, 22 min.)* See Texans struggle with nature – on the big screen and with immersive sound. The film features a score by David Hamburger and performances by Omar Kent Dykes, Toni Price, and Carolyn Wonderland. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm.

FRIDAY 04

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) @Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. The seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars 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, 7, 10pm.

One Peace at a Time Premiere (2009) *D: Turk Pipkin. (NR, 83 min.)* **Austin Film Society and the Nobility Project.** Attend receptions at either 5:30 or 7:30pm at Manuel's Arboretum, across the parking lot from the Arbor, to celebrate the national release of the film. Proceeds from the benefit will help build Mahiga Hope High School. See “The State We're In,” p.60, for more. @Arbor, 7, 9pm.

SPACES

We Will Always Be Here See p.87.

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

SATURDAY 05

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) @Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

Christmas Show @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

Fresh (2009) See p.88.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the “Time Warp” thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

Saturday Morning Cartoon Cereal Party: Holiday Edition Film nutrition at its finest. Pajamas and stuffed animals encouraged. @Alamo Ritz, noon.

SPACES

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

SUNDAY 06

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) @Alamo Ritz, 3:30pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

Dionysus in 69 (1970) *D: Brian De Palma and Richard Schechner; with William Finley, Joan Macintosh, Will Shephard. (X, 85 min.)* **Austin Film Society: Avant Cinema.** De Palma captures a live performance of the avant-garde Performance Group's uninhibited and controversial update of the Euripides play, *The Bacchae*, in Greenwich Village in 1969. The play's director, Richard Schechner, will be in attendance for a Q&A. For more on the new Austin staging of the play see “‘Bacchae’ to the Future,” The Arts, Nov. 27. @Alamo Ritz, 1pm.

Gone With the Wind (1939) *D: Victor Fleming; with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard, Olivia De Havilland, Hattie McDaniel, Thomas Mitchell. (NR, 238 min.)* **Movie & Music.** PK. Waddle will perform live chamber music to go along with this classic film epic. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3pm.

One Peace at a Time Premiere (2009) @Arbor, 7pm. (See Friday.)

Stand-up Comedy Disasters The Show With No Name. From their vast collections, comedian Andy Ritchie and *The Show With No Name*'s Charlie Sotelo present clips of stand-up flameouts of the delusional, misguided, and downright baffling kind. @Alamo Ritz, 6:30, 9pm.

SPACES

Eating Alaska (2008) See p.88.

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

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. 18 issue is Monday, Dec. 7.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

MONDAY 07

Julie & Julia Feast (2009)

D: Nora Ephron; with Meryl Streep, Amy Adams. **Edible Austin: Eat Local Week.** This benefit film-and-food event will raise funds for YouthLaunch's Urban Roots program. See www.originalalamo.com for menu. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation (2009) *D: Various. (NR, 90 min.)* For a change, Spike & Mike decided to shift their focus from gross-out titillation and instead gather simply the best and funniest animated shorts they could find. The collection includes award-winning animated shorts from around the globe. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars (1973) *D: D.A. Pennebaker. (PG, 91 min.)* **Music Monday.** Pennebaker's documentary captures the final concert of the Ziggy Stardust tour at the Hammersmith Odeon outside London on July 3, 1973. Music Monday admission prices do not apply to the Wednesday screening. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

SPACES

Appaloosa (2008) See p.89.

Fargo (1996) *D: Joel Coen; with William H. Macy, Frances McDormand, Steve Buscemi, Peter Stormare, Harve Presnell, John Carroll Lynch, Kristin Rudrud. (R, 95 min.)* **Movie Mundi: Winter/Holiday Classics.** Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 7:30pm.

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

TUESDAY 08

Ariel (1988) See p.87.

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.)* **Holiday Film Series.** This sentimental perennial is a holiday chestnut. (*) @Paramount, 7pm.

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre

Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab is now accepting registrations for the new class sequence, in which filmmaker Steve Mims requires students to produce two short films and play a key role in a class-produced feature-length film. See website for details. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

ChannelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern Ave. www.channelaustin.org.

Cine las Americas 13: Call for Entries

Cine las Americas invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate in the showcase of contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and the Iberian Peninsula, as well as works made by or about Latinos and/or indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2010. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Dobie Theatre Poster and Movie Junk Sale

Hundreds of movie posters and other film-related items at various affordable prices make this weekend a film-lover's shopping dream come true. Dec. 4-6. Fri., 3-10pm; Sat., noon-10pm; Sun., noon-8pm. *Dobie Theatre*, 2025 Guadalupe (*Dobie Mall*, second floor), 472-FILM. www.landmarktheatres.com.

Holiday Cheer With Connie Britton This is a live interview and conversation with the star of NBC's *Friday Night Lights*, presented by Reel Women. Britton

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 Curtis. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Road Games (1981) *D: Richard Franklin; with Stacy Keach, Jamie Lee Curtis, Grant Page. (PG, 101 min.)* **Terror Tuesday.** In the Australian outback, a truck driver and hitchhiker think they have discovered the serial killer who has been murdering and dismembering hitchhikers. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

SPACES

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

WEDNESDAY 09

The Beaches of Agnès (2008)

See p.88.

Part Time Wife (1975) *D: Arthur Marks; with Judith M. Brown, Lois Hall, Peter Hooten, Andrew Robinson, Keenan Wynn. (R, 90 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** A woman comes between two brothers. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation (2009) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Monday.)

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars (1973) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Monday.)

SPACES

“Wild Texas Weather” (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

offscreen

will give you an insider's view of what it's like working on that locally based but nationally seen show, while you partake of egg nog and cider and holiday cookies in this informal and informative atmosphere. Sat., Dec. 5, 2-4pm, *Picture Box Studio*, 701 Tillery, 971-1663. \$15 (\$12, *RW members*). www.reelwomen.org.

Reel Women: Big Holiday Party Here's the fourth annual year-end shindig, the jingle-bell, mingle-well networking 'n' nutmeg party of the season, with a live DJ and a silent auction and, oh, you know how the fun goes: like a highlights reel of the 12 months before. (Bring something for the *RW Warm-Up* donation gathering – gloves, caps, hats, socks, blankets – for the *Austin Children's Center*.) Mon., Dec. 7, 7-11pm. *Emerald City*, 405 E. Seventh. 480-9291. www.reelwomen.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.

Texas Archive of the Moving Image Holiday Open House Enjoy screenings of films from the Archive's collection and refreshments during this open-to-all event. Wed., Dec. 9, 4:30-6:30pm, *501 Studios*, 501 N. I-35 #204, 485-3073. www.texasarchive.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes Fundamentals Tuesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 20, 1:30-4pm. \$225 (\$210 through Dec 30). **Master Class** Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 23, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 23-March 27, 1:30-4pm. \$395 (\$370 through Dec 30). **Introductory Script Consultation** A 1½-hour private consultation on your screenplay or screenplay ideas. \$70. **Private Instruction and Story Consultation** Five sessions, 90 minutes per session. \$370. All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

THURSDAY **10**

Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption @Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

Elf Quote-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

Spring Student Screening D: Various. **Austin FilmWorks.** Austin FilmWorks presents an end-of-term screening of this semester's Production One and Two final projects. @Dobie, 7pm; \$8.

Troma's War (1988) D: Michael Herz and Lloyd Kaufman; with Carolyn Beauchamp, Rick Washburn, Jessica Dublin, Patrick Weathers. (R, 87 min.) **Cult Thursday.** Troma founders Herz and Kaufman direct this insane us-against-them saga with the militant pigs, housewives, naked beauties, and used-car salesmen of Tromaville taking on elite armies. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

SPACES

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/3.)

imax

Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Bob Hoskins, Daryl Sabara. (PG, 96 min.) (*) Thu. (12/3)-Sat., 1, 3, 5, 7, 9pm; Sun., 1, 4, 6, 8pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/10), 3, 5, 7, 9pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/3)-Sat., 10am; Sun., 3pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/10), 10am, 1pm.

The Alps (2007) D: Stephen Judson; narrated by Michael Gambon. (NR, 45 min.) John Harlin III attempts to climb the North Face of the Eiger, the site of his father's death 40 years earlier. The music is by rock band Queen. Thu. (12/3)-Sat., noon; Mon.-Thu. (12/10), 11am, 2pm.

Under the Sea 3D (2009) D: Howard Hall. (NR, 40 min.) The impact of global warming is examined in the waters of Southern Australia, New Guinea, and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region. Thu. (12/3), 11am; Mon.-Thu. (12/10), noon.

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music

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listings



Vic Chesnutt Band

Central Presbyterian Church, Saturday 5

Vic Chesnutt has collaborated with everyone from Michael Stipe to Widespread Panic, but his latest alliance, a band featuring Fugazi guitarist

Guy Picciotto and members of Canada's Godspeed You! Black Emperor and its sister act Thee Silver Mt. Zion, takes him to a different front. All of the above worked on his latest opus, *At the Cut*.

"I think we're making some of the best rock & roll that's ever been made," the Athens, Ga.-based singer/guitarist boasts. "And I'm not the most confident dude. This band is the most powerful band any singer-songwriter ever had. It's loud, and it's delicate and bombastic and beautiful all at the same time."

The band was brought together by filmmaker Jem Cohen, Chesnutt's longtime friend and producer of 2007's *North Star Deserter*, and the resulting tour has re-energized its namesake. "I knew exactly what we could do," explains Chesnutt. "We had such a good rapport. It was like a family. I wrote some of the songs

thinking about them, writing things they could really hit. I knew we wanted to make another album in a more democratic way, so I fired Jem. He was there at the session, he did the album artwork, and he actually picked a couple of the songs, but I didn't want him to be the boss of this record, and, really, everybody had a hand in it."

Some fans are disappointed with his new direction, but Chesnutt revels in it.

"A guy shouted out at a show in Athens recently, 'Louder isn't better,'" he recalls. "I disagree in this case. There's the intellectual aspect to my songwriting – I'm an intellectual guy, very arty – but then there's the physical power of the actual volume this band brings that sends it to another emotional, physical level." – Jim Caligiuri

View the extended Q&A at austinchronicle.com/earache.

COWABUNGA BABES, DIAGONALS

Beerland, Friday 4

Save for Tokyo rock & roll trio the Heiz dropping in, this is a solid gold fox of a local show. Catch local weed-pop enthusiasts Cowabunga Babes before they leave on a West Coast tour, paired with Diagonals' organ-shined pop chops and the early show from Flowers, featuring members of When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Diamond Caverns, and Black Eyes. – Audra Schroeder

THE MOTHER HIPPS

Emo's, Friday 4 & Saturday 5

Northern California, the early 1990s: Rick Rubin signs you to American Recordings. For Chico, Calif., quartet the Mother Hips, it was a window of opportunity, but instead of blowing up like labelmates the Black Crowes, they dropped the jam and changed direction with the tides. A 2004 reunion fine-tuned them for latest LP *Pacific Dust*, which retraces their steps all the way back to West Coast psych. Brothers and Sisters and Deadman open Friday; Zookeeper and Pink Nasty do the deed Saturday. – Audra Schroeder

PACK OF WOLVES

Mohawk, Saturday 5

Pack of Wolves' howling metal brought the downpour to the Sunday of Fun Fun Fun Fest, and with the local fourpiece traveling into the eye of a Baltimore winter early next year to record its name-breaking second LP this send-off proves a prime opportunity to bark at the moon. Nuclear blues brothers Amplified Heat and Beauty Bar instrumentalists Eagle Claw complete the Red River roar. – Raoul Hernandez



Step inside this
House of Songs at
austinchronicle.com/earache.

BARONESS

Emo's, Monday 7

Mastodon's leviathan rises on Baroness' much-anticipated *Blue Record* (Relapse), and the titanic roots of Black Mountain move heaven and earth as well, but the Savannah, Ga., quartet coalesced the arena crunch of its Monarch Event Center knockout last year into a tidal wave of somehow indigenous metallurgy. With the Maiden gallop of Iron Age's recent *The Sleeping Eye* (Tee Pee) in support, Emo's inside stage loosens Baroness' "The Gnashing." – Raoul Hernandez

CONSPIRARE

The Long Center, Monday 7

"Rock My Soul," Conspire's June showing of African-American spirituals starring local trumpeter Hannibal Lokumbe, gives way to the Janis Joplin-esque volcanics of Patrice Pike and "Christmas at the Carillon." All the weekend concerts are sold out, but Monday evening – with its gala dinner beginning at 5:30pm – provides another head count on the it-takes-a-village heavenly choir communing with a much higher power. – Raoul Hernandez

JAY REATARD

Emo's, Wednesday 9

After a steady stream of frothing singles, Jay Reatard hit his terrible twos this year. The bastard child of Memphis' garage-rock scene fired his backing band just in time for his proper Matador bow *Watch Me Fall*, which teeters between tart pop tantrums and darker, classic punk anthems. Local labelmate Harlem previews its forthcoming "Hippies", and scene veteran Ben Snakepit debuts his new outfit, Shanghai River. – Austin Powell

PSYCHIC VIOLENCE, COMA IN ALGIERS

Elysium, Thursday 10

Billed as a "holiday bizarre," this free show also offers fashion and crafts for those working on their night moves. Locals Coma in Algiers and Psychic Violence will not be doing Bob Seger covers, but rather fashioning their own bizarre love triangles out of screamy post-hardcore and industrial-strength synth, the aural equivalent of too much 'nog. – Audra Schroeder

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

soundcheck

MATT THE ELECTRICIAN, LEE BARBER, ETHAN AZARIAN

The Ghost Room, Friday 4

Three local singer-songwriters walk into a bar

AESOP ROCK

Mohawk, Friday 4

Fables from the hip-hop underground.

KISS

Erwin Center, Friday 4

Rock City's honorary Grateful Dead fluffs the *Love Gun*.

THE SLACKERS

Flamingo Cantina, Friday 4 & Saturday 5

NYC's ska posse retunes the sound system.

GROOMS

Mohawk, Sunday 6

Pavement's grandkids go *Rejoicer*.

TWIGS & YARN, ELISA FERRARI

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Sunday 6

Makin' a nest with found sounds and porch songs.

ERIN IVEY

The Ghost Room, Monday 7

Austin's folk-pop mama continues her Monday residence.

MCMERCY FAMILY BAND

Cactus Cafe, Tuesday 8

A very gospel holiday.

FIRESIDE SONGS FOR THE SOUL

One World Theatre, Wednesday 9

More good cheer from Guy Forsyth and Carolyn Wonderland. 7 & 9:30pm.

live music venues p.94

roadshows + club listings p.96

in-stores

Friday: **Half-Mile Fox Fur**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Saturday: **Rosanne Cash**, Waterloo Records, 11am; **Rosie Flores**, Antone's Records, 3pm; **Adrian & the Sickness**, Encore Records, 3pm; **Tunnels**, End of an Ear, 6pm; **Crack Pipes**, **A Giant Dog**, **Bottle Service**, **Black Panda**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Sunday: **Monahans**, End of an Ear, 3pm

Tuesday: **Wild America**, **Mosquito Bandito**, **John Finn**, **Bleach Boys**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Wednesday: **Weekend Nachos**, **Naw Dude**, **Chest Pain**, **MyFistYourFace**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 8pm

Thursday: **Destroy Nate Allen**, Trailer Space, 7pm



| L - R: THE MOTHER HIPPS (FRI. & SAT., 12/4 & 5) | GROOMS (SUN., 12/6) | ERIN IVEY (MON., 12/7) | COMA IN ALGIERS (THU., 12/10)

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ANTONE'S RECORDS, 2928 Guadalupe, 322-0660

ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283

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THE INHERITANCE
HAPPY HOUR: J WESLEY HAYNES TRIO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 ★ 10 PM ★ \$3
HOUSEHOLD NAMES
BRYCE CLIFFORD
THE DUQUAINES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 ★ 10 PM ★ \$3
HOTEL HOTEL
PERSIAN WARS
CHIEF RIVAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 ★ 4 PM ★ \$3
VERSATILE SYNDICATE PRESENTS A BENEFIT
FOR THE JON PETTIS MEMORIAL FUND WITH
THE EASTERN SEA, PRAYER FOR ANIMALS
BRIDGE FARMERS, MIDGETMEN
THE BREAD, FOLLOW THAT BIRD
FRANK SMITH, JESSIE MOORE AND THE ECFC
HOBOMOUTH, BOB SHOWDOWN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 ★ 10 PM ★
LEO RONDEAU AND FRIENDS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 ★ 10PM ★
CLYDE AND CLEM'S WHISKEY BUSINESS
BOONTOWN
THE BREAD
MALEMIANHOMBRE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 ★ 9 PM
THE ARCHIBALDS
MINORCAN
PRECIOUS BLOOD

★ KITCHEN AT 11AM ★
www.myspace.com/holeinthewallatx

LA ZONA ROSA

SISTER HAZEL
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

UNDEROATH
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
AUGUST BURNS RED emery
TUESDAY, DEC. 15

CHRIS HARDWICK
Nice Tweets
SAT. FEB. 13

myspace.com/backstagebarLZR
BACKSTAGE BAR OPEN DAILY 8PM-2AM
Clubside Shows
TICKETS ON SALE DAY OF SHOW AT THE VENUE ONLY!
December 4 • Sounds Under Radio
December 18 • Feeding 5000

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1979 **Cactus** CAFE 2009
475-6515 23RD & GUADALUPE

THE HOUSE OF SONGS PRESENTS
LIVE FROM DENMARK
ANE TROLLE & GUDRID HANSODTIR
WITH MICHAEL RAMOS & MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
HOSTED BY TROY CAMPBELL

IN CONCERT
JOHN GORKA
GUEST STAR • MEG HUTCHINSON

IN CONCERT @ THE CACTUS
JANE SIBERRY
TIX @ THE DOOR

2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
McMERCY FAMILY BAND

CACTUS CD LAUNCH
GRAHAM WEBER
WITH SPECIAL GUEST STARS
FREE SHOW!

AN EVENING WITH
SLAID CLEAVES
GUEST STAR • ROD PICOTT

THE REUNION OF
TWANG-TWANG
SHOCK-A-BOOM
STARRING • DAVID GARZA
CHRIS SEARLES & JEFF HUGHS

AUSTIN SCOTSMAN
Ed MILLER
WITH SCOOTER MUSE
& JIL CHAMBLESS

OPEN STAGE
HOSTED BY DAN GRISSOM 7PM SIGN-UP FREE SHOW!

CACTUS DEBUT!
FROM THE FACES
IAN MCLAGAN

LIVE AND IN PERSON
TODD SNIDER
TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
TIX ON SALE SOON AT ALL TEXAS BOX OFFICE OUTLETS

www.cactus.union.utexas.edu
Coming Soon to a Cafe Near You

1.16 TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA	2.5 & 6 JOSEPH ARTHUR
1.22 JIMMY LAFAYE	2.13 TERRI HENDRIX
1.23 ELIZA GILKYSON	2.14 CHRIS SMITHER
1.26 & 27 JOHNATHAN RICHMAN	2.16 & 17 MIKE DOUGHTY
2.3 FRED EAGLESMITH	2.25 & 26 GENE WEEN
2.4 CHRIS KNIGHT	2.27 SARA BETTENS

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.

the HighBall

BOWLING - KARAOKE - SKEEBALL
- & SUPER SPECIAL EVENTS -

THIS WEEKEND IN THE HIGHBALL BALLROOM

LIKE, TOTALLY:
THE HIGHBALL 1980s KARAOKE PARTY
All '80s Songs, All Night Long
Friday, Dec 4, 11pm
NO COVER!

THE ACTION PACK presents
BUST A MOVE
the ultimate 1980s video dance party
Saturday, Dec 5, 11pm - NO COVER!

Join us for
HIGHBALL HAPPY HOUR
EVERY MON-FRI FROM 4:30 - 7:30
Enjoy up to 2 hours of complimentary private karaoke room rental as well as \$2 Lone Stars, \$3 local beers or \$5 well drinks with any food purchase!

www.TheHighball.com
1142 South Lamar Blvd
(512) 237-7561

Dec 4th Austin Poetry Slam presents
«ACQUINO»
SLAM MIXTAPE CD
Greatest Hits of the Year from Austin Poetry Slam

Dec 12th **WINTER BALL**
The Carrots, CFA, Soft Healer

Dec 18th Fighting Brothers McCarthy

Dec 31st New Years Eve with **The Gourds**
Tix available at www.froastgetickets.com

INDEPENDENT
Upcoming Events at
501 N I-35
Corner of E. 5th and Brushy
www.austinindependent.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 7PM
LIZ MORPHIS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 • 10PM • \$5
LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 3PM
SUNSET VALLEY BOYS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER 8PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 7PM
PAUL GLASSE & MITCH WATKINS

EVANGELINE CAFE
8106 BRODIE LANE
282-2586

FLAMINGO CANTINA
21 AND UP WELCOME
515 E. SIXTH ST. 512.494.9336
BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO AUSTIN FOR 18 YEARS
THUR. DECEMBER 03 *ROCK* DOORS 9:00

ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS
MOONTICCA & THE TEXAS CLOCK
& NATE BOFF BLUES
DECEMBER 04 & 05 *SOUL/SKA/REGGAE* DOORS 9:00

18+ 2 NIGHTS!
THE SLACKERS
PROPER VILLAIN SNDSYSTM
CHANNEL ONE - FRIDAY
THE BANDULUS - SATURDAY
MONDAY DECEMBER 07 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00

18+ TONY REBEL
QUEEN IFRICA
UPCOMING SHOWS

12:10: SPANK & Toast
12:11: ASHES OF BABYLON
12:12: THE PURRIN LION SOUND/FLEX CREW
PRESENTS: MIX TAPES & TEXAS BASS CHAPTER 1 WITH DVS1, BRAD SLACK, WERM, CHRIS TORRES, MC GREMLIN, MC SWIFT, ZERO AKA INTEGER, ROBERT M. GROMMIT AND CHI (18+)
WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM



208 W. 4th St. Warehouse District 512-495-9669

HEADLINERS THIS WEEK

Shows start at 9 pm. Cover charge at the door for all headliner shows.

THU 12/3	Skyrocket!
FRI 12/4	Suede Austin
SAT 12/5	UND
SUN 12/6	Little Red Corvette
MON 12/7	OJ and the Broncos
TUE 12/8	Ritmo 3
WED 12/9	The Spazmatics

HAPPY HOUR M-F 6-8PM

THU 12/3	Karen and Kaki
FRI 12/4	Trent and Dave
MON 12/7	Kalu James
TUE 12/8	Tavana
WED 12/9	Josh and Jason

PRIVATE EVENTS

Book a party at our veranda deck or plan a happy hour or private event in any of our rooms. Contact Amy Dial at amy@208events.com.

cedarstreetaustin.com

club listings

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.

THU 03

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ACES LOUNGE Dorrough

ANTONE'S Much Love, Eric Tessmer (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star Swing (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Computer Jesus Refrigerator, How I Quit Crack, Night Viking, Telepathik Friend (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Preacher Keen (8:00)

BEERLAND Simple Circuit, Dead Space, the French Inhales

BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson, Shawn Nelson (5:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton (9:00)

BUENOS AIRES CAFE Una Noche Portena Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat

CACTUS CAFE Ane Trolle & Gudrid Hansottir, Matt the Electrician, Michael Ramos, Danny Malone, Troy Campbell (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Space Invader Orchestra, Steve Arceri, Paper Threat (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Zach Walther & the Cronkites, Brandon Rhyder (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE White Squirrel Music Project

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Frank Mustard Project, Chili Cold Blood, Grady (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Sophisticates

roadshows

december

THU 3

Telepathik Friend, Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735

Dead Space, Beerland

Ane Trolle & Gudrid Hansottir, Cactus Cafe

Bowling for Soup, Smile Smile, Emo's

Buster Jiggs, Gruene Hall

Meggan Carney, Momo's

Dianne Reeves, One World Theatre

El Paso Heist, Red 7

Tommy Castro, Saxon Pub

Moistboyz, Vinoh Mudeh, White Knuckle Drivers, the Scoot Inn

Benjy Davis Project, Andrew Hoover, Stubb's

Spider Bags, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

Mr. Gnome, Triple Crown

FRI 4

Raul Malo, Antone's

The Heiz, Beerland

John Gorka, Cactus Cafe

Annie Dressner, Carousel Lounge

Drug Mountain, Eat Avery's Bones, Club 1808

The Mother Hips, the Dull Drums, Emo's

The Slackers, Flamingo Cantina

Annie Dressner, Flipnotics Coffeespace

Kiss, Buckcherry, Frank Erwin Center

The Weathermen, Hanover's

Smiling Knights, Headhunters

Aesop Rock, Starving Martyrs, Mohawk

Wynonna Judd, Paramount Theatre

Joe Firstman, Saxon Pub

C-Rayz Walz, Crew 54, the Scoot Inn

Undertone, Stubb's

Half-Mile Fox Fur, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

SAT 5

Vic Chesnutt, Central Presbyterian Church

Radney Foster, Cheatham Street Warehouse

Female Demand, Club de Ville

Pilar Andujar, El Sol y la Luna

The Mother Hips, Emo's

The Slackers, Flamingo Cantina

Modern Don Juans, Mohawk

Big Sam's Funky Nation, Momo's

The Effigies, Red 7

Plague of '98, Diminisher, Red Eyed Fly

Dash Rip Rock, Roadhouse Rags

Twang, Louie's Homemade Jam, Ruta Maya

Bay of Pigs, the Scoot Inn

DJ Angola, Ursula 1000, Social

Rosanne Cash, Texas Union

Ballroom

Perseph 1, Triple Crown

Rosanne Cash, Waterloo Records

SUN 6

Malcolm Holcombe, Continental Club

Iron Lung, Voetsek, Emo's

Kelley Mickwee, Gruene Hall

Grooms, Mohawk

Jane Monheit, One World Theatre

Done Deal, Red Eyed Fly

Tavana, Speakeasy

Davy Knowles, Stubb's

MON 7

Jane Siberry, Cactus Cafe

Baroness, Dark Castle, Emo's

Tony Rebel, Queen Ifrica, Flamingo Cantina

Frank & Derol, Windsor Drive, the Parish

Sequoyah Prep School, Red Eyed Fly

Emory Quinn, Saxon Pub

Hollow, Triple Crown

TUE 8

311, Austin Music Hall

The Faceless, Dying Fetus, Beneath the Massacre, Suffokate, Enfold Darkness, Emo's

The Kris Special, Flipnotics Coffeespace

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

Drew Holcomb, Stubb's

Wild America, Mosquito Bandito, Bleach Boys, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

WED 9

Jesse Rose & the Made to Play Posse, Beauty Bar

The Founding Fathers, Beerland

Jay Reatard, Throwdown, Bury Your Dead, ABACABB, the World

We Knew, Eisenheim, Emo's

Sister Hazel, La Zona Rosa

Kimya Dawson, Mohawk

Valley of the Mariner, Red 7

Weekend Nachos, Snake Eyes

Vinyl

Bobby Long, Stubb's

The Safes, Amish Electric

Chair, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

The Whalers, Northern

Paradox, Trophy's

THU 10

Pandemic, Nothing More, Antone's

Rod Picott, Cactus Cafe

Ladyfingers, Lamberts

Meggan Carney, Lisa Marshall, Momo's

Amy Boudreaux, the Parish

Destroy Nate Allen, Trailer Space

Records & Events Center

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

for your benefit

Fair Food Austin Benefit w/ DJ Hoodie Allen, Frank Smith, Smoke & Feathers, **Music Gym**

MON 06

ARC of Austin Benefit, Kevin McKinney

Birthday Bash w/ Topaz & Mudphonic, Girl Guitar, Wayne Sutton, Fastball, Bruce Robison, Shandon Sahm, Li'l Cap'n Travis, Soulhat, **Antone's**

John Pettis Memorial Fund Benefit w/ Dark Weather Market, Bob Showdown, Jessie Moore & the East Cameron Folklore, Frank Smith, Follow That Bird!, the Bread, Midgetmen, Bridge Farmers, Prayer for Animals, the Eastern Sea, **Hole in the Wall**

THU 03

Katzen Benefit Bash w/ White Knuckle Drivers, Vinoh Mudeh, Black Eyed Vermillion, Moistboyz, **the Scoot Inn**

FRI 04

Christmas Bureau Benefit w/ Raul Malo, **Antone's**

Bikes Across Borders Benefit w/ Capitalist Kids, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, Weird Weeds, Wino Vino, Til We're Blue or Destroy, the Blue Hit, **Club de Ville**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

GLITTER ART BY **SUE ZOLA**
 • THURSDAY // 10PM
CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI
 • FRI • SAT • SUN // 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
 WILL BE ROCKIN' THE GALLERY WITH
JOHNNY MOELLER & FROSTY
 SUNDAY AT 8PM
JON DEE GRAHAM
ANDREW HARDIN
& MALCOLM HOLCOMBE
 • MONDAY // 10PM
CRYBEAR
 • TUESDAY // 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
 • WEDNESDAY
 10PM: **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
 EVERY WED. 8-10PM: **JON BLONDELL**

THUR
DECEMBER 3
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
 12:30AM
GRADY CHILI COLD BLOOD
 11:15PM
FRANK MUSTARD PROJECT
 10PM
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4
HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
 10PM
SESSIONS ON S. CONGRESS
 12AM
GRADY
ALEJANDRO ESCOBEDO
WED DECEMBER 9
HAPPY HOUR
STONE RIVER BOYS
 12AM
JAMES McMURTRY
 10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 10
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
 12AM
DAVID GARZA
 10PM
STRANGE DARLING
Chrysta Bell
FRIDAY DECEMBER 11
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
 12AM
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
 10PM
CLYDE & CLEM'S WHISKEY BUSINESS
SATURDAY DECEMBER 12
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
 12AM
ROGER WALLACE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 6
 3-7PM
JANET LYNN STUDENT CONCERT
 WITH **REDD VOLKAERT**
 AND **EARL POOLE BALL**
 10PM
HEYBALE
COMING SOON
T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS 12/18
PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS 12/19
BOOZE WEASELS 12/26
 1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.-FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444

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CONTINENTAL Club

MONDAY DECEMBER 7
H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti
DALE WATSON
AND HIS LONESTARS
 10PM
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8
H. H. 6:30
TONI PRICE
WED DECEMBER 9
HAPPY HOUR
STONE RIVER BOYS
 12AM
JAMES McMURTRY
 10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 10
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
 12AM
DAVID GARZA
 10PM
STRANGE DARLING
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BOOZE WEASELS 12/26
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THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL

Friday, December 4th
BILLY BROWN and TRIPLESOT

Saturday, December 5th
AARON WATSON
 with special guest **MAX STALLING**

Friday, December 11th
SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS

Saturday, December 12th
JOHN CONLEE
CASH COOPER opening

Friday, December 18th
KEVIN FOWLER

Saturday, December 19th
COUPLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY
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WE HATE FANCY, BUT WE LOVE COUNTRY!

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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

THU, DEC 3 6-8PM **RUBY DEE**
8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **DOUG MORELAND**

FRI, DEC 4 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **ALVIN CROW**

SAT, DEC 5 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9:30PM **CORNELL HURD**

TUE, DEC 8 **band in restaurant**

WED, DEC 9 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **DALE WATSON**

Gatsys

COWGIRL all ages welcome!

Music Line-up CAFE

MONDAYS now serving \$2 DRAFTS ALL NIGHT

Tues Sand & Sunnie (country requests)

Wed Paul Eddy (pop/rock)

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Good Times!

Patrice Pike with **Craig Hella Johnson**
Conspirare & Company of Voices
Christmas at the Carillon: holiday music like none other!

• Monday, December 7, 8pm •

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SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

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40th and North Lamar
call 512.206.1000 for details

@ WESTGATE
4477 South Lamar
call 512.899.4300 for details

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY 6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
REDD VOLKAERT
hendrix of country guitar

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
TWO HIGH STRING BAND
bluegrass, americana

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
SHELLY KING
soul, gospel, americana

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
CIENFUEGOS
cuban

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
hobo hot jazz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
BETTY SOO
singer-songwriter

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
WILSON
soul, pop, piano

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
LEEANN ATHERTON
americana

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
COMBO MAHALO
hawaiian

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS
every Wednesday \$2 Shiners, BBQ specials, and legendary blues!

at north lamar:
DEC 6 - 4th Annual Capital Music Children's Christmas Concert 4-6 pm
DEC 13 - 2-4 pm - 5th Annual Jewish Community Association of Austin's 'CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD' Celebration. Community sing-a-long and dancing, crafts for the kids, latkes and sufganiyot (donut) for sale, and the lighting of the first candles on the big Menorah. There will be bins set up for a toy drive to benefit the Austin State Hospital-Children and Adolescent wing.

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

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Woodsboss (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Justin Vasquez Triptych (9:30)

EMO'S Cruiserweight, Smile Smile, Riddlin' Kids, Bowling for Soup

FLAMINGO CANTINA Adrian & the Sickness, Moonticca & the Texas Clock (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (7:00); Brian Douglass Phillips (8:00)

FRIENDS Brother Magnum, Chowderfoot (7:30)

THE GHOST ROOM Redd Volkaert (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Buster Jiggs, Reckless Kelly (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Bobby Fuentes & the All-Stars (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL J. Wesley Haynes Trio, the Inheritance, Will Sexton, Jason Blum (10:00)

HOUSE WINE A.J. Vincent (8:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Grant Ewing (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MOHAWK The Distant Seconds, Monahans, the Pons, Jesse Po-Dunk (10:00)

MOMO'S Meagan Tubb, Isle of White, Will Evans Project, Derrick Davis, Meggan Carney

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Carl Crowther

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears (9:00); Bobby Bookout (11:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Dianne Reeves (7:00, 9:30)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Weldon Henson (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Brooks Alan Brannon

RED 7 El Paso Heist, We the Granada

RED EYED FLY Post Society, Something Called Nothing, Chasca, Original Glitch, the Fight of Our Lives

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RED SHED TAVERN Geoff Union, Big Sky (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Henry + the Invisibles (9:00)

SÃO PAULO'S Os Alquimistas (7:00)

SAXON PUB George Macias (6:00); Tommy Castro, Seth James (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Katzen Benefit Bash w/ White Knuckle Drivers, Vinoh Mudeh, Black-Eyed Vermillion, Moistboyz (8:00)

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers (9:30)

STUBB'S Andrew Hoover, Benji Davis Project (10:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Rattlesnake George & the Sidewinders (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (8:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Spider Bags, John Wesley Coleman, Cause for Applause, the Golden Boys (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Ricky Stein, Holly Psychedelic, Mr. Gnome, River Hymn (6:00)

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Sarah Pierce (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

ACES LOUNGE Curren\$y

THE AMSTERDAM Mike Maven (11:00)

ANTONE'S Christmas Bureau Benefit w/ Raul Malo (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé (7:30)

AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA Mike & the Moonpies (noon)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Erin Jaimes (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen, Obsolete Machines, All Hail CD Release

BEERLAND Shanghai River, Flowers, Diagonals, Cowabunga Babes, the Heiz

BOTTICELLI'S Douglas Jay Boyd, Jerry Sires (5:30)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Alvin Crow (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Meg Hutchison, John Gorka (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mad Cowboys (7:00); the Blitzens, Transgressors, Thunderchiefs (9:00)

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Omar Lopez (8:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Island, Texas (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Corrina Corrina (8:00)

CLUB 1808 Eat Avery's Bones, Soft Healer, Drug Mountain, Dan Doyle

CLUB DE VILLE Bikes Across Borders Benefit w/ Capitalist Kids, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, Weird Weeds, Wino Vino, Til We're Blue or Destroy, the Blue Hit (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); Patricia Vonne, Charanga Cakewalk (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Wall Street (8:30)

COTTON CLUB Tobacco Road (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Conwell/Crepps, Shotgun Party (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM The Brew (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: Flesh Lights, the Dull Drums, Wild Harem, Shapes Have Fangs; Inside: Deadman, Brothers and Sisters, the Mother Hips

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Bandulus, Proper Villain Soundsystem, the Slackers (9:00)

FRI 04

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Annie Dressner, Ginger Thompson (7:00); Ray Primm (10:00)

FRANK ERWIN CENTER Buckcherry, Kiss (8:00)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Eric Tessmer, DJ Tetsuo (5:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Ethan Azarian, Lee Barber, Matt the Electrician

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Trishes, Reckless Kelly (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)

HANOVER'S The Weathermen

HEADHUNTERS Smiling Knights, Elvis, Coma in Algiers, Hug

HILL'S CAFE Jaelyn Lucas

HOLE IN THE WALL Country Willie, Duquaines, Bryce Clifford, Household Names (10:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Sounds Under Radio

LATITUDE 30 Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey (10:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Hour Band, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK Glitterbillies, Starving Martyrs, Aesop Rock (9:00)

MOMO'S UT Caribbean Ensemble (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Judith Miller Band (8:30)

MUSIC GYM Fair Food Austin Benefit w/ DJ Hoodie Allen, Frank Smith, Smoke & Feathers (10:00)

THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL Billy Brown

ONE 2 ONE BAR The Hi-Deffs (11:00)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Wynonna Judd (8:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texana Dames (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Doug Kent, Texas Renegade

RED 7 Zorch; She, Sir; Many Birthdays; the Dry Season

RED EYED FLY Lost July, Luvream, Matches for Memories, Dark Summer Dawn

RED FEZ DJ Jayson Lee (10:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS The Perilous Tide, the O's, Pissant Farmers (8:30)

RUTA MAYA Funk-o-Tron, Muchos Backflips! (9:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Joe Firstman, George Devore (9:00)

THE SCOOT INN DJ Aspekt, DJ N/A, Grim Nasty, Crew 54, Phranchyze, Dubb Sicks, C-Rayz Walz (8:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Capital Suspects (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Sauce (9:30)

STARDUST CLUB Thumbs Up

STUBB'S Undertone, Invincible Czars, Full Service

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Half-Mile Fox Fur (7:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Silver Creek (7:30)

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TUES DEC 8TH
 AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY
 BLUES JAM 6PM

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 BLUE TUESDAY
 FEATURING GRISSOM,
 LAYTON, MALFORD
 AND O'BRIEN AND MORE!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH

VIP TABLES
 AN INTIMATE
 EVENING WITH
RAUL MALO

TROY CAMPBELL WITH
 GUDRID HANSBOTTER OF DENMARK
 & RUBY JANE WITH A VERY SPECIAL GUEST
 BENEFITING CHRISTMAS BUREAU

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VALLEJO
 WITH LOVE
 AT WIR

AND
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WED DEC 9TH

BETTYSOO
 AKINA
 ADDERLY
 AND
 THE VINTAGE
 PLAYBOYS
**DUSTIN
 WELCH**
 & EARL BROWN

DOORS 7:30

SUN DEC 6TH

MCKINNEY'S FALL JAM 40TH BDAY BASH
 BENEFITING THE ARC
 OF THE CAPITOL AREA
 NOON TO MIDNIGHT!

SOULHAT 3 • FASTBALL • LIL CAPN TRAVIS
 EAT PEACH • ELECTRIC SOCIETY • GIRL GUITAR
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 WITH
 LUCKY
 TOMBLIN BAND & OUACHITA

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH

GRUPO FANTASMA WITH FOOT PATROL

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MON DEC 14TH 7PM

MERCH SALE
 BENEFITING HAAM

GIRL GUITAR
 XMAS PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13TH

BENEFIT FOR THE AUSTIN CHILDRENS SHELTER WITH
SPEAK • STEREO IS A LIE

FRANTIC CLAM • SCHMILLION • ELECTRIC SOCIETY
 FABI REYNA • PATCHES • & CHARLIE BELLE

DOORS 4:30 • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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SAT 19 DEC

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FRI 25 DEC

CAROLYN WONDERLAND

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JOE ELY REUNION BAND

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!

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THE SCABS

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 EARLY SHOW WITH
MARCIA BALL

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10PM
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40 YEARS OF
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WED JANUARY 27TH

JAY FARRAR & BENJAMIN GIBBARD
 OF SON VOLT
 OF DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

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Yo La Tengo

FRI JAN 29TH

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FRI FEB 5TH

JONATHAN COULTON
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GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH
THE BELLS OF JOY

SUN DEC 6 — DOORS 8PM

DAVY KNOWLES
 AND BACK DOOR SLAM

TUE DEC 8 — DOORS 9PM

DREW HOLCOMB
 WITH DUSTIN WELCH

WED DEC 9 — DOORS 9PM

BOBBY LONG

THU DEC 10 — DOORS 9PM

BOBBY DUNCAN
 WITH CASEY BERRY

WED DEC 16 — DOORS 9PM

SUBROSA UNION
 WITH DRIVER F

THU DEC 17 — DOORS 9PM

AUSTIN 360 CONCERT SERIES
THE GARY
 WITH GREAT NOSTALGIC AND ST-37

SAT DEC 19 — DOORS 9PM

WHITMAN
 WITH THE WHITE WHITE LIGHTS,
 COLOUR WHEEL

SUN DEC 20 — DOORS 8PM

JOE PURDY

THU DEC 31 — DOORS 9PM

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WITH **BLACK JOE LEWIS**
 AND THE HONEYBEARS
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Flowers, Shanghai River

sa 5 Flametrick Subs,
Izzy Cox

su 6 Expensive Shit, Liz Burrito &
more!

mo 7 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM

tu 8 Reverend Glass Eye, Stella
Lithe, Christl Stephenson

we 9 The Founding Fathers (feat.
former members of the Weary Boys)

th 10 Literature, Pillow Queens,
Simple Circuit, Zoltars

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

TRIPLE CROWN Nathan Hamilton,
Moving Matter, Spank (6:00)

TROPHY'S Burly, Gogo Beware,
the Couch, Honky

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Poor Yorick (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Matt Creation (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Blacktop
Bend (7:00)

SAT 05

THE AMSTERDAM
The Spoiled, Eagle
Pritchard Murray
Band (9:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Earl
Hinton & the Jokers (10:00)

ANTONE'S Ryan Harkrider, Love
at War, Vallejo (9:00)

ANTONE'S RECORDS Rosie
Flores (3:00)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN La Strada
(10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan
Haynes (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Red Leaves,
Nic Armstrong & the Thieves
(10:00)

BEERLAND Flametrick Subs

BOTTICELLI'S Jacob Jaeger,
Gillian Welch Tribute (5:30)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons
(9:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Jessie
Torrissi, Annie Dresner, Mike
Nicolai & Amy Mitchell, Stabba

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Vic Chesnutt

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE John Arthur
Martinez, Radney Foster (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE The Society of Dancing Crones
Christmas Special (8:00)

CLUB DE VILLE Female Demand,
Fingaar Bangaar, Zorch, Bee
vs. Moth (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin's B-3 Groove
(10:00); In the Club: Redd
Volkaert (3:00); Roger Wallace,
the Derailers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Groove Daddy

COTTON CLUB Kenny Orts (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
& Outlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar:
Patricia G. (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
George Carver Trio (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Pilar Andújar,
Atash (9:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Blaze (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: Follow That
Bird!, Horse + Donkey,
Mutating Meltdown, Moth
Fight; Inside: Zookeeper, the
Mother Hips

ENCORE RECORDS, VIDEO & APPAREL Adrian & the
Sickness (3:00)

END OF AN EAR The Tunnels
(6:00)

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA
Channel One, Proper Villain
Soundsystem, the Slackers
(9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
David Nathan, the Lennings,
Roy Robertson (6:00)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Shurflow,
DJ Southpaw (4:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Art Bazaar
w/ Erin Ivey, Shawn Nelson,
the O's, the Deaf Ears (10:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON JWW & the
Prospectors (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Karen Abrahams
(1:00); Warren Hood, Kelly
Willis & Bruce Robison Holiday
Show (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trent Turner
(6:30)

HANOVER'S Jo Hell & the Red
Roosters

HEADHUNTERS Barisal Guns

HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair

HOLE IN THE WALL Chief Rival,
Persian Wars, Hotel Hotel
(10:00)

HOUSE WINE Tony Taylor (8:00)

JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA
The Davis Levels, Fight With
Flash CD Release

LUCKY LOUNGE Twilight
Broadcast, DJ Protege (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey &
the Texcellorators (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT West Coast
Pinups

MOHAWK Modern Don Juans,
Amplified Heat, Eagle Claw,
Pack of Wolves (9:00)

MOMO'S Fifth Nation, Afrofreque,
Big Sam's Funky Nation (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer
(11:30am)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS
Paula Held (8:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Meagan Tubb,
Lisa Tingle, Karl Morgan (8:00)

THE PARISH Jah Mighty,
DJ Baby G

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Rosie
Flores (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bad Rodeo

RAIN ON 4TH Eighties Night w/
DJ Dallas (10:00)

RED 7 Exile, Come & Take It,
Jesus Christ Superfly, Sober
Daze, the Effigies (8:00)

RED EYED FLY Diminisher,
Porifera, Plague of '98, Scraps
of Life, Brink of Disaster

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RED SHED TAVERN Kyle Spitzer
(10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Big Chris
Gates & Gatesville, Dash Rip
Rock

RUTA MAYA Louie's Homemade
Jam, Twang (3:00); Illusionist
Electric Orchestra (9:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR
Continental Graffiti (7:00)

SAXON PUB Prey for Sleep, Spin
Alley, Distant Lights, Whitman,
Kalua, Bayta Darell (7:00)

THE SCOOT INN TXRD Afterparty
w/ La La Quarry, Bay of Pigs,
Cruiserweight (10:00)

SNAKE EYES VINYL Capital
Scam, Blank Generation, Front
Line Martyrs (7:00)

SOCIAL Ursula 1000, DJ Angola
(9:00)

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers
(9:30)

STARDUST CLUB Rip Lorick

TEXAS UNION BALLROOM The
Gourds, Rosanne Cash, Bob
Schneider (8:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Lixbox
(8:30)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Black
Panda, Bottle Service, A Giant
Dog, the Crack Pipes (7:30)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL
Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Jaysin, Omari
Kamau, Emcee Eats, Perseph 1

VICTORY GRILL DJ Aquaman,
Sakebo, Hard Proof Afrobeat
(9:30)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Byrd & Street (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Jeff Wood (10:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Rosanne
Cash (11:00am)

WHEATSVILLE FOOD CO-OP Arts
Festival w/ Lili & Walter (1:00)

WHIP IN Aaron Davis (8:00)

SUN 06

ANTONE'S ARC of
Austin Benefit Kevin
McKinney Birthday
Bash w/ Topaz & Mudphonic,
Girl Guitar, Wayne Sutton,
Fastball, Bruce Robison,
Shandon Sahm, Li'l Cap'n
Travis, Soulhat (noon)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing
Kings (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish
Tunes Session (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Biscuit Rollers (6:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CAFE CAFFEINE Steelbeam (5:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Two High String
Band (4:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Janet
Lynn's Student Concert
(10:00); Gallery: Jon Dee
Graham, Malcomb Holcombe,
Andrew Hardin (10:00); In the
Club: Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
James Speer (7:00); Kris
Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Aime (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Mindless, PLF, Voetsek,
Iron Lung

END OF AN EAR Monahans (3:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Dickie Lee Erwin, Spit & Tears,
the Inheritance (6:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam
(8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques
Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Kelley Mickwee,
Andrew Hardin & Jamie Wilson
(12:30); Porter Davis (4:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Tex Thomas
& the Dangling Wranglers (3:00)

HILL'S CAFE Gospel Brunch w/
the Seiker Band

HOLE IN THE WALL John Pettis
Memorial Fund Benefit w/
Dark Weather Market, Bob
Showdown, Jessie Moore &
the East Cameron Folklore,
Frank Smith, Follow That Bird!,
the Bread, Midgetmen, Bridge
Farmers, Prayer for Animals,
the Eastern Sea (4:00)



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THURSDAY-DECEMBER 3 THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES ORIGINAL GLITCH CHASCA SOMETHING CALLED NOTHING POST SOCIETY SATURDAY-DECEMBER 5 BRINK OF DISASTER SCRAPS OF LIFE PLAGUE OF 98 PORIFERA DIMINISHER MONDAY-DECEMBER 7 BAYOU CITY OUTLAW BAND SEQUOYAH PREP SCHOOL SCORCHIN IN JANUARY THE END CORPORATION DIRTY DEUCE IN THE LOUNGE @ MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 9 MINI'S BIRTHDAY BASH THE HIGHWAY REGULATION SIZE AGAIN FOR THE WIN ACTION FROM LIVE STORY MATTHEW'S IPOD NIGHT FRIDAY-DECEMBER 11 ISSUE NINETEEN PRESENTS BIRTH HOUR TRASHY & THE KID SKIN PRISON BUTCHERWHITE SHOTGUN REBELS LOUDER SHRINE	FRIDAY-DECEMBER 6 DARK SUMMER DOWN MATCHES FOR MEMORIES LUVREAM LOST JULY SUNDAY-DECEMBER 8 THE ANTI-SCENE I DEAL SUICIDE DONE DEAL ELERY WHITE TUESDAY-DECEMBER 8 ARENA 51 PAINTED CONSIDER ME SPILLED I WANT FOR TOMORROW REV JONNY PLASIN IN THE LOUNGE @ MIDNIGHT THURSDAY-DECEMBER 10 TELANDSAURUS DEN COLD AS GHOSTS RESIDUE BABY ANACONDAS RADIO FALL OUT SATURDAY-DECEMBER 12 EYES BURN ELECTRIC VEHICLE REASON DEEP ELLA FLOW MONDAY VON ARMY IN THE LOUNGE - THE BROTHERHOOD FROM PLAGE - UNDER THE SUN
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UPCOMING SHOWS

12/18 - VEGAS BOMB, STEGOSAURUS LIPS, 7 DAY TRIP,
G-DUB FUNK, THE STIGS

12/19 - NEW DISASTER, WHITE RHINO, AMERICAN HEIST

12/31 - TENTH ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE STUMMIES,
BORN TO LOSE, NAKED EMPIRE, CANDIDATE,
A.M. MELTDOWN

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Lucas Lanthier 11:30PM
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Hollow 10:30PM
with DJs NONE & MALEDICTION

Friday • Dec 4 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

KINGS N THINGS
austin's premiere
drag king troupe
[ALL]IDAY PARTY

Saturday • Dec 5 **HAVEN**
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN with DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Dec 6 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

Tuesday • Dec 8 **ROCK BAND**
The ROCK BAND Experience
our stage, our lights, our console, your **ROCK BAND**
WITH DJ MINIMUS

Wednesday • Dec 9 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu. Dec 10 • **DEAD OF NIGHT -**
Holiday Bizarre - Craft Exhibition &
Fashion Gala - **Live!**
Psychic Violence 12 AM,
Coma in Algiers 9:30 PM

Fri. Dec 11 • Carbon Theory,
Sick Muse, Gnomes of Kush

Thu. Dec 17 • **SIOUXSIE SIOUX**
Tribute Night - w/ DJ None

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La Zona Rosa
December 9



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Mohawk
AUSTIN, TEXAS

912 red river all are welcome.

Th 12/3 - MONAHANS, Distant Seconds, Pons, Jesse Po-Dunk - 10pm
F 12/4 - AESOP ROCK W/ ROB SONIC AND DJ BIG WIZ, Starving Martyrs, Glitterbillies - 9pm
Sa 12/5 - PACK OF WOLVES, Eagle Claw, Amplified Heat, Modern Don Juans, White Rhino - 9pm
M 12/7 - FRAMING STRANGERS, Wine and Revolution, Jeremy Nail and The Incidents - 10pm
W 12/9 - KIMYA DAWSON, Graham Wilkinson, Danny Malone - 8pm (early) **THE STRANGE ATTRACTORS**, White Dress, Nic Armstrong - 10pm (late)
Th 12/10 - RED BULL LOCALLY THROWN - 9pm
F 12/11 - BALMORHEA, Ola Podrida, Martin Crane - 9pm
Sa 12/12 - THE DUTCHESS AND THE DUKE, Greg Ashley, Fergus and Geronimo - 10pm
W 12/16 - MONAHANS, Colin Herring - 10pm
Th 12/17 - CRYSTAL ANTLERS, Harlem, Audacity - 10pm
F 12/18 - FRANK SMITH, Clay Nightingale, Cartright, Sad Accordions - 10pm
Sa 12/19 - CHRISTMAS CACOPHANY - 8pm

RED7

611 east 7th venue & wreck room

Th 12/3 - WE THE GRANADA, The El Paso Heist, Plutonium Farmers, In Beds, Abstract Atmosphere
F 12/4 - THE DRY SEASON, Many Birthdays, She Sir, Zorch
Sa 12/5 - THE EFFIGIES, Sober Daze, Jesus Christ Superfly, Come and Take It, Exile
Su 12/6 - THE DJ MELEE
W 12/9 - VALLEY OF THE MARINER, In Situ Sound
Th 12/10 - OPPOSITE DAY, The Better Dead, Attic Ted
F 12/11 - BENEFIT FOR HOUSTON, Honkey, Dixie Witch, Duke
Sa 12/12 - BLACK WIDOWS HOLIDAY BURLESQUE SHOW Featuring Butcher Bear and Charlie
M 12/14 - RED7/MOHAWK CHRISTMAS PARTY! All are welcome after 9pm
W 12/16 - KRUMBUMS FREE SHOW, Crash Gallery, Blunt Force Trauma, The Anchor//
FREE! DJ Alan B

12/5 - Vic Chesnutt, Guy Picciotto and members of Thee Silver Mt. Zion **UPCOMING** / godspeed you! black emperor and Witchies (Central Presbyterian Church),
12/9 - Downtown Ruler's Club (Club Deville), **12/20 - Bill Callahan** (St. David's Episcopal Church), **12/31 - Metallagher** (Red 7), **1/1-1/9 - Transmission Free Week** (Mohawk, Red 7, Club Deville), **1/14 - Dana Falconberry** (Mohawk), **1/16 Black Milk** (Red 7), **1/21 - MC Lars** (Highball) **1/23 - Agnostic Front** (Red 7), **1/27 - Anti-Flag** (red 7), **2/6 - Bowerbirds** (Mohawk), **2/13 - Joe Jack Talcum** (Mohawk) **2/13 - Nouvelle Vague** (Mohawk), **2/20 - Four Tet** (mohawk) **2/24 - Title Tracks** (Mohawk)

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the PARISH

DEC. 3
BTG ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
THE SHOWCASE

DEC. 5
RING THE ALARM WITH DJ BABY G,
JAH MIGHTY AND JR. VIBES

DEC. 7
QUIET COMPANY
WITH FRANK AND DEROL
& WINDSOR DRIVE



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.THEPARISHAUSTIN.COM

DEC. 11
THE ASTER BONOVAN
FOUNDATION PRESENTS
THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE
WITH ADAM ARCOURAGI
& THE EASTERN SEA
BENEFITTING
THE SUSTAINABLE
FOOD CENTER

DEC. 13 & DEC. 14
DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE

DEC. 18
THE PARISH & C3 PRESENTS
GIVERS
WITH THE LEMURS & THE LAUGHING

JAN. 23 - 1010TX PRESENTS THE CRIBS
ON SALE NOW THRU C3PRESENTS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
JAN. 29 - 1010'S DAILY DOSE & NEXT BIG THING PRESENTS GIRLS WITH MAGIC KIDS
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FEB. 24 - AKRON FAMILY WITH WARPAINT.
PRESENTED BY 1010'S DAILY DOSE & NEXT BIG THING
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JUST ANNOUNCED

DEC. 10 - AMY BOUDREAUX
FAREWELL AUSTIN SHOW

DEC. 17 - AMPLIFIED HEAT
WITH THE STRANGE ATTRACTORS
& SMOKE AND FEATHERS
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JAN. 6 TO JAN.10 - FREE WEEK!

FEB. 3 - SONDRÉ LERCHE
WITH JBM
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 3 • NO COVER



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TWO NIGHTS! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
& SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



THE GOURDS

OPENING ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
NO SHOW PONIES
7:30-9PM
\$15 AT THE DOOR

THE GOURDS
10PM

OPENING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
GRUB DOG & THE MODESTAS
7:30-9PM
\$15 AT THE DOOR

THE GOURDS
10PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 • NO COVER
HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY
NATURAL EAR MUSIC SHOW
4-7PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 • NO COVER
SIN NIGHT!
CARI HUTSON 8-10PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 • NO COVER
GEEKS WHO DRINK! 8-10PM



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3TH

Tommy Castro
Doors open at 7pm! Show starts at 8pm \$15 Advance tickets! \$20 Door
Seth James 11pm \$10

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

FROM LAST CALL WITH CARSON DAILY
JOE FIRSTMAN
8pm \$10 Advance \$12 Door

George Devore
Birthday Party 11:00pm \$10

No Cover Happy Hour Earl Poole Ball & The Cosmic Americans 8pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

2009 HIRESIDE CREATIVE
SHOWCASE
WITH: Bayta Darell, Kalua, Whitman, Distant Lights, Spin Alley, Prey For Sheep
FEATURING SIX AUSTIN BANDS
Door 7 Show 7:30 \$10 Cover

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

THE RESENTMENTS
Present: Geoff Muldaur and the
The Texas Sheiks
Feat: Geoff Muldaur, Jim Kveskin, Johnny Nicholas, Cindy Cashdolla, Suzy Thompson, Bruce Hughes, Jud Newcomb & John Chipman 7pm \$15
a special night of music from their new CD, 'TEXAS SHEIKS'.
with the work of Stephen Bruton
Steven Ray Will 11:30pm \$5

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Emory Quinn 8:30pm \$5 Door
Matt the Electrician 7:00pm \$5
Southern Reluctance w/ Brannen Temple and Marty Muse 11pm \$5
The Twalls 12:30pm \$5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

Uncle Lucius 10pm \$5
BRUCE HUGHES & THE ALL NUDE ARMY 8pm \$5
Deadman 12am \$5
No Cover Happy Hour Waylon Payne

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

MONTE MONTGOMERY 8pm \$10
The Mystiqueros 10pm \$10
Greg Maldo 12am \$5
NO COVER Happy Hour The Nortons

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

Cory Morrow
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23TH
Carolyn Wonderland
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH & 27TH
Joe Ely
Tickets On Sale Now

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

LAMBERTS Black, Red & Black (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Chasing Something Better (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon); Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)

MOHAWK Followed by Static, Grooms (10:00)

MOMO'S Suzanne Sherwin, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Greg Izor & the Box Kickers (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open Mic w/ John Johnston (3:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Compass Rose & Christopher Dale (7:30)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Tonewheels, Nathan Singleton (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Jane Monheit (6:00, 8:30)

RED EYED FLY Elery White, Done Deal, I Deal Suicide, the Anti-Scene

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Tony Airolidi & the Lounge Gypsies, Barbarians of Sevilla (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Connie Leverton (10:30am); Monster Big Band (7:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Elisa Ferrari, Twigs & Yam (8:00)

SAXON PUB Cole Whalen, the Resentments, Texas Sheiks (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Tavana (9:30)

STUBB'S Back Door Slam, Davy Knowles (10:00)

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

TROPHY'S Chelsea Manor

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Jim's Country Jam (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Sweet Bunch of Daisies (6:00)

MON 07

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Jonathan Horne, Sitardelik (9:00)

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

BEAUTY BAR The Bread, Book of Sounds (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Nick Ginbey, Bobby LaRoche & David Perales (5:30)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Jane Siberry (8:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Southside Union (9:30)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Crybar (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Marshall Ford Swing Band, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

EMO'S Dark Castle, Iron Age, Baroness

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Queen Ifrica, Tony Rebel (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Dennis Ludiker (6:00)

FRIENDS Travis Green, Eric Tessmer (7:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Erin Ivey

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Leo Rondeau (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Song Swap/Open Mic (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Chris Tondre (9:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Conspire w/ Craig Hella Johnson (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Makalani Movement (10:00)

MOHAWK Jeremy Nail & the Incidents, Wine & Revolution, Framing Strangers (10:00)

MOMO'S Tres Womack, Beckham Bros., Dustin Welch, Brandon Jenkins, Chris Morris

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Patrick, Barry & Friends (6:30)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

THE PARISH Windsor Drive, Frank & Derol, Quiet Company

RED EYED FLY The End Corporation, Orchids in January, Sequoyah Prep School, Bayou City Outlaw Band

RED FEZ DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, the Jitterbug Vipers, Sarah Sharp (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Emory Quinn, Southern Reluctance, the Twalls (7:00)

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids, Leprechaun Theory, Hollow, A Mind Divided

TUE 08

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL State Radio, 311 (8:00)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEAUTY BAR 100 Days (10:00)

BEERLAND Stella Lithe, Reverend Glasseye

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE McMercy Family Band (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Double Bogie, Demon Hiatus (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Alejandro Escovedo, Grady (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Jason Weems & Jason Freed (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00); Jon Blondell (9:30)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus (6:30)

EMO'S Inside: Disfigured, Scattered Remains; Outside: Enfold Darkness, Suffokate, Beneath the Massacre, Dying Fetus, the Faceless

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00); Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Kris Special (7:00); Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRIENDS Ugly Elephant, Erin Jaimes (6:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Adam Carroll Songwriter Night w/ Jason Eady (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burkland

HOLE IN THE WALL Malemanhombre, the Bread, Boomtown, Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business (9:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (6:00); Jacob Jaeger (8:00)

MOMO'S Sophia Eschrey, La Guerilla, Wino Vino, the Batikum (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan (11:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand Sheff (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED EYED FLY I Wait for Tomorrow, Consider Me Spilled, Painted, Arena 51

RED FEZ Benmused Showcase, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (9:00)

RIVERBEND CENTRE Handel's Messiah w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00); Bruce Hughes & the All-Nude Army, Uncle Lucius, Deadman (8:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Ember (9:00)

SPEAKEASY O Positivo (9:30)

STUBB'S Dustin Welch, Drew Holcomb

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Bleach Boys, Mosquito Bandito, Wild America (7:00)

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SAT 12/12 THE DAMN TORPEDO
TUE 12/15 TACK & DECAY
WED 12/16 CD RELEASE PARTY BAND
FRI 12/18 MYSTERIOUS WAYS \$5 COVER
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 8PM
KATZEN BENEFIT BASH
W/ MOISTBOYZ(TX)
BLACK EYED VERMILLION
VINO H MUDEH
WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVERS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 8PM
C-RAYZ WALZ
DUBB SICKS
(RECORD RELEASE PARTY!)
PHRANCHYZE
CREW 54
GRIMNASTY
DJ'S ASPEKT & N/A
& MORE
(1/2 OFF COVER W/ WRISTBAND
FROM AESOP ROCK)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 10PM
TXRD ROLLER BALL
AFTERPARTY W/
CRUISERWEIGHT
BAY OF PIGS
LA LA QUARRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 5PM
& TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 6PM
BREWSKEEBALL LEAGUE PLAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 9PM
AUSTIN HARTLEY-LEONARD
BEN DEIGNAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 9PM
BABY GOT BACTERIA (W/
BRASS OVARIES DANCERS)
A GIANT DOG
CREATURE PREACHER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 9PM
KNUCKLE RUMBLER PRESENTS
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

OUTSIDE: **BOWLING FOR SOUP**
 RIDDLIN KIDS • SMILE SMILE • CRUISERWEIGHT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

OUTSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
 WILD HAREM • THE DULL DRUMS (TULSA, OK)
 THE FLESHLIGHTS

INSIDE: **THE MOTHER HIPPS**
 BROTHERS AND SISTERS • DEADMAN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

OUTSIDE: **MOTHFIGHT!**
MUTATING MELTDOWN
 HORSE + DONKEY • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!

INSIDE: **THE MOTHER HIPPS • ZOOKEEPER**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

INSIDE, DOORS @ 9PM: **IRON LUNG**
 VOETSEK • PLF • MINDLESS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

101X NO CONTROL PRESENTS INSIDE:

BARONESS
IRON AGE • DARK CASTLE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
 NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:

THE FACELESS
DYING FETUS
BENEATH THE MASSACRE
SUFFOKATE • ENFOLD DARKNESS
DISFIGURED
SCATTERED REMAINS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

OUTSIDE, 101X PRESENTS

JAY REATARD
HARLEM • SHANGHAI RIVER

INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
THROWDOWN • BURY YOUR DEAD
FOR TODAY
THE WORLD WE KNEW
SET AFLAME • EISENHEIM

COMING SOON: • 12/31 (NEW YEAR'S AT EMOS WITH) SCOTT H. BIRAM • 1/1 - 1/10 EMO'S FREE WEEK FEATURING AUSTIN'S BEST BANDS • 1/13 ADAM FRANKLIN & BOLTS OF MELODY, RINGO DEATHSTARR (INSIDE) • 1/15 THIS WILL DESTROY YOU W/ LYMBYC SYSTM (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 1/16 GOODIE MOB REUNION TOUR W/ SPECIAL GUEST: SCARFACE • 1/17 NEVER SHOUT NEVER, CARTER HULSEY, THE DENISON (INSIDE) • 1/21 NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS: KORPIKLANI, TYR, SWASHBUCKLE, WHITE WIZZARD (OUTSIDE) • 1/23 THE HOPE CONSPIRACY, BITTER END, EIGHTFIFTEEN (INSIDE) • 1/25 VH1 CLASSIC PRESENTS: THE ANVIL EXPERIENCE WITH ANVIL (OUTSIDE) • 1/31 101X PRESENTS: BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: SCOTTY DON'T (OUTSIDE) • 2/6 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ON SALE SAT 11/28) • 2/11 MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK W/ SET YOUR GOALS, THIS PROVIDENCE AND THE SWELLERS (ON SALE NOW) • 2/13 RDJ2 W/ HAPPY CHICHESTER (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 2/13 LADERA SKATEBOARDS PRESENT WINTER BLACKOUT 2010 FT. THE EXPENDABLES, IRATION, PASSAFIRE, POUR HABIT, AND ROOTS DOWN BELOW (INSIDE, ONSALE SAT 12/5) • 2/24 EVAN DANDO (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW)

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

OUTSIDE: **PURE LUCK**
CORRINE ROSE
JORDAN PRICE & THE NATIONALS

INSIDE: **CHRISTMAS SWEATER DANCE PARTY**
CAR STEREO (WARS) • NEILYO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

INSIDE: **THE SHAKY HANDS**
THE MERCERS • LOXSLY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

INSIDE LATE:

PRAYER FOR ANIMALS
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
OBSOLETE MACHINES
DISTANCE RUNNER

INSIDE EARLY DOORS @ 5PM: **THIEVES**
WITH THE PUNCHES • CARRIDALE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

OUTSIDE, DOORS AT 6PM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
ALL THAT REMAINS
STORY OF THE YEAR
HASTE THE DAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE:

THE ROLLER • RATKING
KEGCHARGE • CURSE THE HEAVENS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

OUTSIDE: **ROONEY**
TALLY HALL • CRASH KINGS

INSIDE: **SNAFU KITTIES**
PAPER SHAPES • WE AIM TO TRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

INSIDE:

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
(JASON OF VOXTROT)
SPECIAL GUESTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

INSIDE, DOORS AT 8PM:
HORSE THE BAND • ZLAM DUNK
CRASH GALLERY • VERSUS
LEVIATHAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

INSIDE: **THE RED JUMPSUIT**
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Fr 4 Nathan Hamilton 6pm
 Spank, Moving Matter 10pm

Sa 5 Spread The Word: Perseph One, Emcee Eats,
 Omari Kamau, Rocbox, Jaysin 10pm

Su 6 Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 7 Gerry's Kids 6pm
 A Minddivided, Hollow, Leprechaun Theory 10pm

Tu 8 Bruce Smith 6pm
 Buck Jones & the Haggards 10pm

We 9 RC Banks 6pm Devil's Hollow 10pm

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FRIDAY, DEC 11th**

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1/2 Price Drinks
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Monday - Friday**

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WRAPPING
11am - 6pm
MON-FRI**

the YELLOW ROSE
AN AUSTIN LEGEND

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Smith, Buck Jones & the Haggards (6:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Kid's Night w/ Bill Oliver (7:00)

WED 09

THE AMSTERDAM Spoiled Royals

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The J&A Show (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 The Sugar Queens (9:00)

BAR 141 Electric Mayhem (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEAUTY BAR Jesse Rose & the Made to Play Posse (10:00)

BEERLAND The Founding Fathers

BOTTICELLI'S Jamie Thomas, P.J. Herrington (5:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Graham Weber CD Release (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Harrison Brown, the Generals (7:00)

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 Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: White Dress (6:30); Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Diamond Simon & the Roughcuts (9:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Baker's Dozen (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Outside: Shanghai River, Harlem, Jay Reatard; Inside: Eisenheim, Set Aflame, the World We Knew, ABACABB, For Today, Bury Your Dead, Throwdown

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE George Carver (6:00); Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Graham Wilkinson (8:30)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Swamp Sauce (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Statesboro Revue (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Loves It, Precious Blood, Minorcan, the Archibalds (10:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (7:00)

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James

LA ZONA ROSA Sister Hazel (8:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LATITUDE 30 Clay Jeffrey (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lance Kotara, Adam McInnis, Stephanie Daulong (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Watts Brothers (8:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Graham Wilkinson, Kimya Dawson (8:00); Inside: White Dress, the Strange Attractors (10:00)

MOMO'S Justin Black & the Big Heart, Brian Keane, David Jimenez, Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; the Walls (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Holiday Show w/ Guy Forsyth & Carolyn Wonderland (7:00, 9:30)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Songwriter Night (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Valley of the Mariner

RED EYED FLY Action Figure Love Story, Again for the Win, Regulation Size, the Highway

RED FEZ Get Right Kids (10:00)

RED SHED TAVERN Dr. Dubbist (8:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00); Monte Montgomery, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Greg Maldo (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Ben Deignan, Austin Hartley-Leonard (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Video Stars

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (10:00)

SNAKE EYES VINYL Myfistyourface, Chest Pain, Saw Dude, Weekend Nachos (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Soulution (9:30)

STUBB'S Bobby Long (10:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Amish Electric Chair, Love Collector, the Safes (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Devil's Hollow (6:00)

TROPHY'S J.T. Wright & Solstice, Northern Paradox, the Whalers

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 10

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S Distant Lights, Nothing More, Dawn Over Zero, Pandemic

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Michael Ballew (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan Haynes (8:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson, Copper Pots (5:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton (9:00)

BUENOS AIRES CAFE Una Noche Portena Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat

CACTUS CAFE Rod Picott, Slaid Cleaves (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mockingbirds, Brittany Shane, Tin Stars (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Park (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB David Garza, Strange Darling (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bill Davis (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Lucky Strikes (8:00)

ELYSIUM Dead of Night Holiday Bizarre w/ Alexander J. Hamilton, Psychic Violence, Coma in Algiers (7:30)

EMO'S Outside: Jordan Price & the Nationals, Corrine Rose, Pure Luck; Inside: Neiliyo, Car Stereo (Wars)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Toast, Spank (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell, Scrappy Jud Newcomb (7:00)

FRIENDS Brother Magnum, Eric Tessmer (7:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Granger Smith (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL J. Wesley Haynes Trio, Computer Jesus Refrigerator, Language Room, Pataphysics (10:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LAMBERTS Ladyfingers, the Hi-Tones, Mike & the Moonpies

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Fatback Circus (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Gunhands

MOMO'S Sydney Sprague, Lisa Marshall, Will Evans Project, Derrick Davis, Meggan Carney (7:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NOMAD Rich & the Obits (10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears (9:00); the Dank Trio (11:00)

THE PARISH Amy Boudreaux

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Rooster Jenkins (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Beautiful Mistakes

RED 7 The Better Dead, Opposite Day

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RUTA MAYA The Bandulus, McPullish, Remedios Soundsystem (9:00)

SAXON PUB George Macias (6:00), Malford, David, Tommy, Frosty & Gabe (6:00); Ginger Leigh, George Devore, Much Love (8:00)

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers (9:30)

STUBB'S Casey Berry, Bobby Duncan (10:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Rattlesnake George & the Sidewinders (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (8:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Destroy Nate Allen (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw, the Archibalds, Bryce Clifford, Gleeson (6:00)

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

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CONJUNTO 11:45

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GREG IZOR & THE BOX KICKERS 12:15

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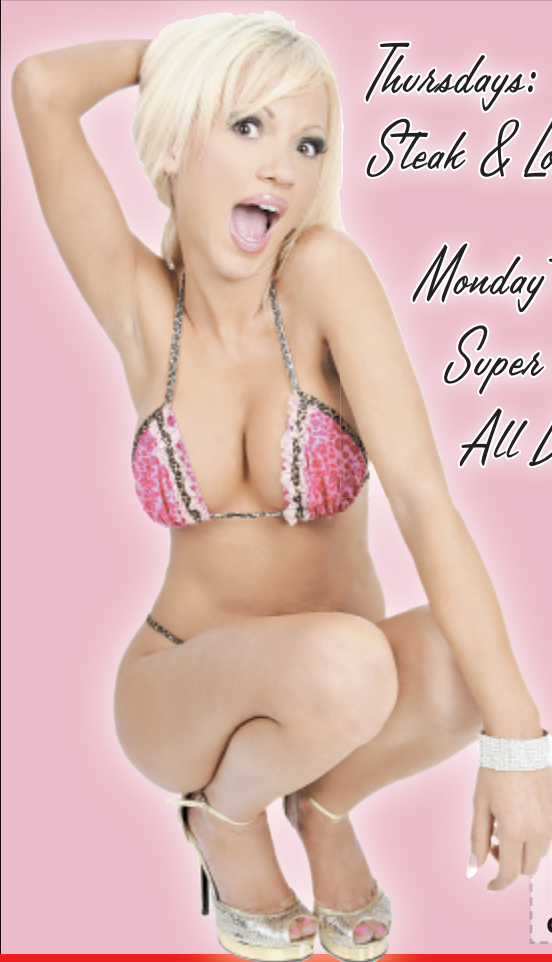
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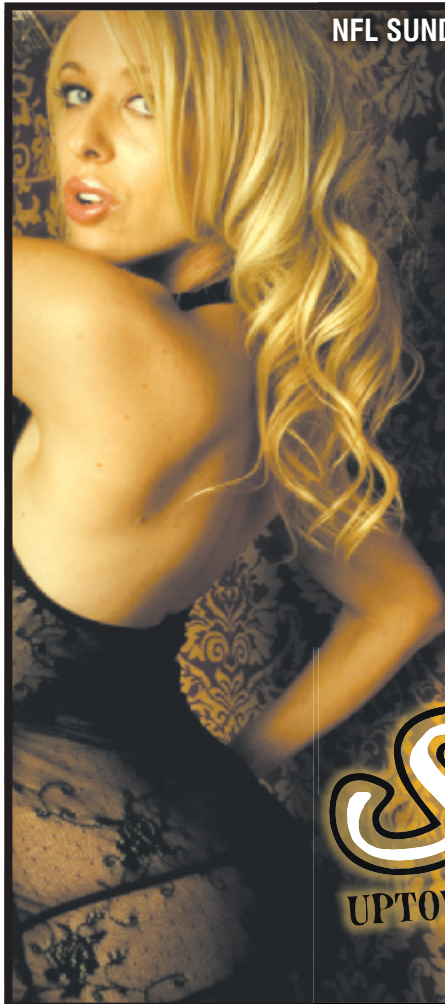
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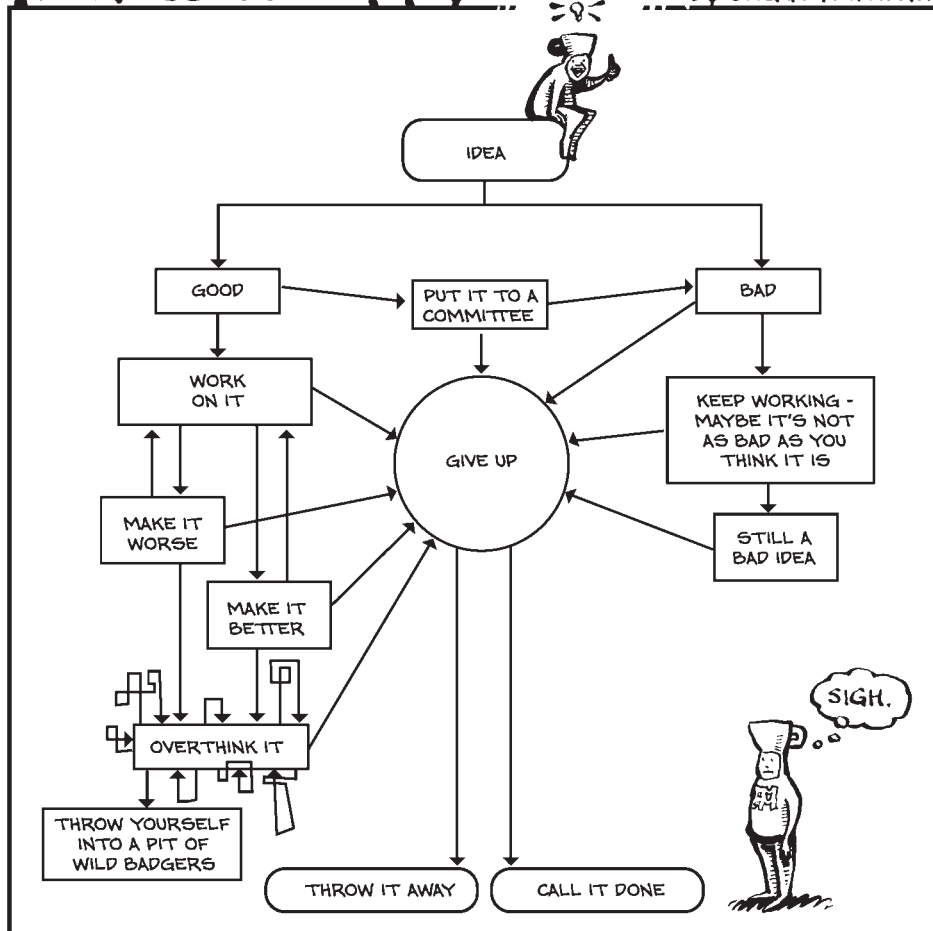
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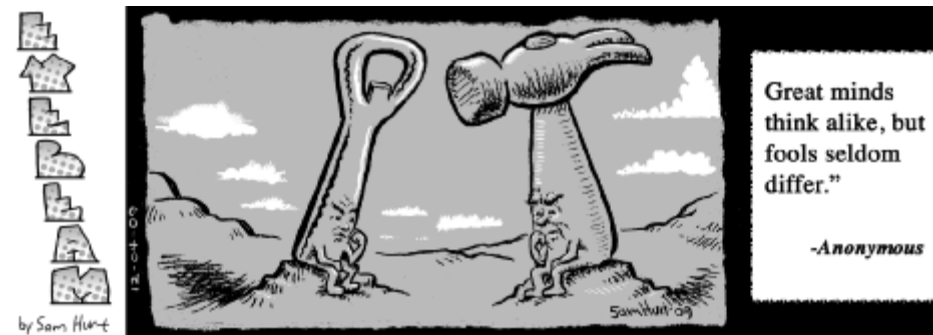
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The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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DOES MAJOR DEPRESSION CHANGE YOUR OUTLOOK?

A clinical research study-STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)-is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.
- Have tried at least one antidepressant without success.

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study. Visit STEPmdd.com, or call

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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.

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Does major depression change your outlook?

A clinical research study—**STEP-D** (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)—is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

Ask your doctor if the **STEP-D** study is right for you.



You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.
- Have tried at least one antidepressant without success.

STEP
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In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study.

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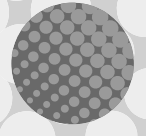


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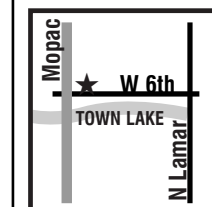
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AUCTION Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, **Storage Town USA**, located at **13107 Dessau Rd. #100, Austin, Texas 78754** will hold a Public Auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will begin at **2:30 PM DEC 16TH, 2009**. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. 512-251-4162

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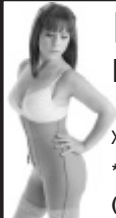
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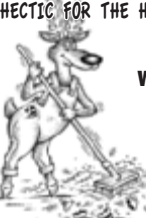


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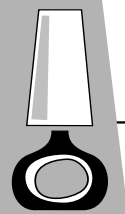
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-004249 To: ADAM BROWN and to all who it may concern. Respondent(s): GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 20, 2009, and said suit being number D-1-FM-09-004249 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "STATE OF TEXAS FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATASHA BROWN and ADAM BROWN, and In the Interest of SYDNEY R. BROWN, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

This Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 20, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ SHEILA COLLINS, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
LUIZ VON PAUMGARTEN
900 SOUTH CAPITAL OF TEXAS HIGHWAY
LAS CIMAS IV, FIFTH FLOOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GARY GAYLE PARKER AKA GARY LEE PARKER Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-000780 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DARLA STRACENER PARKER alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on June 25, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship and an Application for Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GARY GAYLE PARKER AKA GARY LEE PARKER, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-

house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 30, 2009.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ D. MENDEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-006105 To: JUAN SANTOS

and to all who it may concern. Respondent(s): GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who is-

sued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE and TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER filed in said court on NOVEMBER 17, 2009, and said suit being number D-1-FM-09-006105 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF PRISCILLA SANCHEZ and JUAN SANTOS, ET AL CHILDREN and In the Interest of MELANIA AMABEL SANTOS-SANCHEZ, ANDREA CONTRERAS, LUCAS CONTRERAS, CHILDREN".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide

AV1217 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

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095063589	1991 MITS 4DR M84DRW TX JA3CR56R3MZ032155
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095063831	1994 BUIC 4DR V17CNZ TX 2G4WF55LXR1451507
095064038	2001 TOYT 2DR CCV518 TX JTDY32T110041791
095064247	1998 MERC 4DR 376JXY TX 1MEFM50U9WA607224
095064272	1992 LEXS 4DR PNB449 TX JT8UF11EXN0127263
095064273	**** CHEV 2DR ***** ** 164376R230066
095064276	2004 CHEV 4DR BBP371 TX 1G1ND52F54M653262
095064712	1994 MITS 4DR P44FRF TX 4A3AJ56GORE065916
095064781	1994 HOND 4DR 379GXZ TX 1HGC0563XRA195128
095064793	1992 OLDS 2DR 216WXS TX 1G3NL14A7NM421817
095064797	1989 CADI 2DR 320JPJ TX 1G6EL1159KU627291
095064799	1993 MAZD 4DR T45MFG TX JM1BG2242P0628491
095064817	1987 MAZD 2DR GXC083 TX JM1FC3314H0510922
095065197	1995 LAND SW 494BSB TX SALHV1247SA661301
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car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

SNAFU CHANGES READER'S OPINION ABOUT CAR

Dear Tom and Ray:

Last week I bought a used 2007 Mazda 3 with 43,000 miles for \$10,800 at a dealership. I went through the financing process, signed the final purchase papers and called my insurance company to transfer my plates. As I hung up the phone with my insurance company, the sales manager came over to me and said the guy cleaning my car caught the front bumper on a post and pulled it almost all the way off the front of the car. This caused a lot of damage, including the front lights coming out of their housing, the insignia dangling off the front and a scratch down to the metal on the body. My mother was with me, and she took pictures. We all were shocked, even the car folks. They did offer a loaner car until this one could be fixed, which took a week. They also took \$800 off the price of the car, at our request. The car is now ready to be picked up. I have an opportunity to take the car or turn it down. Should I take the car? I am not sure I want it anymore. I feel this is a bad omen. Please advise. — Rachel

TOM: Well, we have two answers for you, Rachel. One is our professional mechanical opinion. The other is our amateur psychological advice. And of course, they contradict each other.

RAY: From a professional point of view, there's nothing wrong with this car. The guy who washed the car caught the edge of the plastic bumper cover on something and yanked it off. As ugly as it looked, it was only cosmetic damage.

TOM: That's what they said when my brother was born and the doctor ran over him with the gurney. Twice.

RAY: Here's why it's not a big concern, Rachel. When a car is in a real accident, you worry about the frame being bent. You worry about the wheels never aligning properly and your tires always wearing unevenly. You worry about unseen wiring that gets pinched and causes electrical gremlins later on. None of that stuff is a concern here, because the incident happened at parking speed, and all they have to do is replace a bunch of pieces, most of which are plastic.

TOM: Plus, you got a free rental while they fixed it, and \$800 off the price. When my brother knocks off a customer's bumper, he tries to convince them it was like that when it came in! So I think the dealer did absolutely the right thing here, and treated you very well. It was, after all, an accident.

RAY: So if you liked the car a week ago, you should like it even more now that it's \$800 cheaper.

TOM: But I don't think you should buy it.

RAY: Me neither.

TOM: You think the accident was some kind of "bad omen." And if you really believe that, then every time anything goes wrong with this car, you're going second-guess yourself.

RAY: Right. Five years from now, you'll get a nail in your tire, and you're going to say, "See, I never should have bought this hunk of junk."

TOM: So if you feel that this incident will forever loom over your ownership experience, then just tell the dealership that you'd like to buy something else instead. Ask them to show you something that had its previous accident off the dealer lot.

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

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AUSTIN TEXAS

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continued

legal notices

the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 18, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ NIKI MITCHELL, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
LEIGH VANCE DE LA REZA
1704 1/2 SOUTH CONGRESS
AVE, STE L
AUSTIN, TX 78704
BUSINESS PHONE:
(512) 301-0274
FAX: (512) 276-6672

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF NATHANIEL SANDERS II, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001605 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

NATHANIEL SANDERS, SR and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 30, 2009, an Application for Independent Administration and to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said NATHANIEL SANDERS II, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 30, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-09-003964

To: PAULA ZAMARRIPA RANGEL, AND ALL HEIRS OF PAULINE ZAMARRIPA MATA, HEIRS OF SABASTIAN ZAMARRIPA, HEIRS OF MANUAL ZAMARRIPA, HEIRS OF VALENTIN ZAMARRIPA, HEIRS OF GILBERTO ZAMARRIPA AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY TO-WRIT. Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: D-1-GN-09-003964 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 JANUARY 9, 2010, and answer the FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION OF Plaintiff(s), filed in the 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 24, 2009, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number D-1-GN-09-003964, in which LEON FELIPE RODRIGUEZ Plaintiff(s), and PAULA ZAMARRIPA RANGEL, ET AL Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON TITLE TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO-WIT: S 86.43FT OF LOT 10 BLK 17 OLT 8 & 62 DIV B GRANDVIEW PLACE. ALSO KNOWN AS: 2102 E. 9TH STREET, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 25, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ IRIS LARYEA, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
DON E. WALDEN

7200 N MO PAC EXPY #300
AUSTIN, TX 78731-2563
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 349-9595
FAX: (512) 795-8079

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-006017 To: UNKNOWN FATHER and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation; then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER OF KENA LOUD Petitioner(s) filed in said court on NOVEMBER 13, 2009, against VALERIE P. LOUD AND UNKNOWN FATHER Respondent(s), and said suit being entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF KEVIN C. LOUD, A CHILD" the nature of which suit is a request ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

The Name, Birth date, and Place of Birth of said is as follows:

KEVIN C. LOUD
MAY 11, 2009
TRAVIS COUNTY

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 13, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ NIKI MITCHELL, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
KENA LOUD
14206-A SUSSMAN CT
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78728

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-09-000299 To: UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF GREGO-

RY L. SMITH 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 DECEMBER 28, 2009, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION OF Plaintiff(s), filed in the 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JANUARY 29, 2009, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-09-000299, in which WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff(s), and GRACIE SMITH, VELARIE CASTILLO, PAULA ANN CASTILLO AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF GREGORY L. SMITH IN RE: 1301 LARELLEAF DRIVE, PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS 78660 Defendant(s)

and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

PLAINTIFF WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS BY AND THROUGH ITS ATTORNEY OF RECORD, MARK G. TORABI OF BARRETT DAFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP, 15000 SURVEYOR BLVD., ADDISON, TEXAS 75001, 972-386-5040, BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST DEFENDANTS GRACIE SMITH, VELARIE CASTILLO, PAULA ANN CASTILLO, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GREGORY L. SMITH. TO ENFORCE THE VENDOR'S LIEN ON AND ASSERT SUPERIOR TITLE TO THE PROPERTY LOCATED 1301 LAUREL-LEAF DRIVE, PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS 78660 AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS: LOT 1, BLOCK L, OF HEATHERWILDE SECTION FOUR, PHASE FOUR, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 200100208 OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 13, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ ALEJANDRA MEDRANO-CHAPA, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

MARK GREGORY TORABI
BARRETT DAFIN FRAPPIER
TURNER & ENGEL, LLP

15000 SURVEYOR BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, DEPARTMENT 4000

ADDISON, TX 75001
BUSINESS PHONE: (972)386-5040
FAX: (972)341-0734

NOTICE of public sale to be held at AusTex Towing at 201 E. Braker Lane, Austin, TX, Monday, November 30, 2009.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas Abandoned Vehicle Motor Act, the following may be sold at public auction unless charges are satisfied within 30 days.

1997 Dodge Intrepid 2B3HD46TXVH712746 No Plates.

1992 Plymouth Acclaim 1P3XA46K3NF294798 No Plates.

620 Lakeside Towing, 12400 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, TX 78726. 512-266-8620.

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.

CAMPER SHELL NO VIN # 2002 PONTIAC 1G2NF12E1C288796

1998 SAAB YS3DF78N3W7007509

1991 CHEVY VAN 1GBEG25KXM7132112

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated location(s) to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285

9717 U.S. HWY 290 E
Austin, TX 78724

(512) 278-1220
Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @ 9:00AM

228 Brooke Jewell: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, construction equip, accting rcdrds, sales samples

548 Diane Veal: hslsd gds, boxes, TV/stereo equip

609 Kyndel Samuel: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

802 Jorge Baez: furn gds, boxes, spring gds, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, construction equip

823 Brandis Foley: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

2247 Jose Nieto Granados: band equip

6638 John C. Mason: hslsd gds, boxes, appliances

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78753

(512) 833-0855
Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @ 9:30AM

361 Angela Courtney: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip

902 Duran Alicia: hslsd gds, furn, boxes

922 Ninfa Garza: furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

926 Jeff Cotton: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

934 Julia S. Knight: hslsd gds

936 Kevin Pettis: tools, appliances

958 Penny Galindo: clothes, electr.

1001 Melinda Dalton: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, accounting records

1021 Brenda Marie Bell: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, other

1023 Brian Bailey: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip

7732 Joey Smith: furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #276

2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664

(512) 310-0279

Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @ 10:00AM

5112 Brittany Stautmeister: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office

furniture, office machines/equip, landscaping equip, account records

5114 Marcus Nickerson: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, landscaping equip

5122 Onnesha Williams: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

5312 Orlando Zapata: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip

5318 Cathy Blackson: furniture, boxes, sporting goods

6125 Melissa Mitchell: household goods, boxes, TV's or stereo equip, account records, hygiene, personal

6309 Linna M. Shuler: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

7122 Jayme McDaniel: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office equip

8125 Tiffany Kirby: household goods, boxes, appliances

8237 David Kennedy: household goods, furniture

8302 Ansley Judie: household goods, tools, electronics

8325 Brenda Gant: household items, boxes, childrens toys

9104 Lois Denise Wells: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

9125 Hunter Nau: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

9405 Natasha Wright: household goods, boxes

9663 Kelly Janice: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr.
Austin, TX 78729

(512) 336-8390

Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @ 10:30 a.m.

1003 Shirley Dewitt: boxes, TV/stereo equip

1302 Teresa Pleasants: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

1318 Nicole Murchison-Southard: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, appliances, TV/stereo equip, acct rcdrds

Uncle Bob's #198

10307 FM 2222
Austin, TX 78730

(512) 372-9046
Tuesday, 12-15-09 @ 11:00 a.m.

233 Josh Shurgin: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip

737 Steve Schlabs: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, acct records

826 Halley Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes

829 Halley Brooks: household goods

861 Halley Brooks: household goods, furniture

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South First Street
Austin, TX 78745

(512) 326-9696

Tuesday, 12-15-09 @ 12 noon

P24 Benito G. Gomez Jr.: Taco Stand

253 Fermin R. Pineda: boxes, tools

256 Edric Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture

278 Dale Efflandt: household goods

306 Jerry Chrane: others

2241 Tramisha Green: furniture, TV's or stereo equip

2434 Arthur Mendez: boxes

3113 Pamela Beck: household goods, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

3239 Marie Parrish: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture, account records, motorcycle

3239 Nancy Darby: household goods, furniture, boxes,

zappliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture, account records, motorcycle
3302 Alex Penrod: household goods, furniture, boxes
3311 Joseph Herman: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools
3407 Darwyne D. McVey: boxes
3523 Maria Betancourt: household goods, furniture

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
ABI Storage, pursuant to Ch. 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives notice of a public sale. On **December 12, 2009**, ABI Storage located at 7320 E. Ben White Blvd. Austin, TX 78741 will conduct a sale. Delinquent rental spaces will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at **10 a.m.** on the premises. The public is invited to attend. Total of 5 rental spaces containing misc. items, clothing, household items, appliances, furniture, construction items, tools, will be sold to satisfy Landlord

Liens. All items will be sold "as is" to the highest bidder. 10% BP CASH AND CREDIT CARDS, NO CHECKS. All items are subject to prior redemption. Tenants included in this sale are: A08 Orlando Zepeda, B19/50 Abandoned, B26 Abandoned, C09 Abandoned, C70 Marisol Flores - Auctioneer Melissa Rackel #10846

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LEONORE SPIWAK KOSTER Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Leonore Spiwak Koster, Deceased, were issued on December 1, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001525, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Vera Roberta Janes. All persons hav-

ing claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this 1st day of December, 2009.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the USB BUILDING ELEVATOR REFURBISHMENTS (IFB No. B100043-JT), a project consisting primarily of REFURBISHMENTS OF THE USB BUILDING ELEVATOR in Travis County, will be received electronically through www.bidsync.com. Bids will be accepted **THIS DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 2:00 PM CST, DECEMBER 11, 2009**, then publicly opened and read aloud. Travis County will also accept paper bids received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, marked "Sealed Bid (USB BUILDING ELEVATOR REFURBISHMENTS, IFB No. B100043-JT)" at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of paper bids.

You may print the Plans and Specifications from www.bidsync.com or they can be obtained in the Travis County Purchasing Office. Hard copies (printed) Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Travis County Purchasing Office for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money or-

der, or company check payable to "Travis County." The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. In addition, Plans and Specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms listed below.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. IF A COPY OF THE BID SECURITY IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH WWW.BIDSYNC.COM, AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY WILL BE DUE (BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS) ONE BUSINESS DAY AFTER THE BID OPENING DATE. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

IF THE CONTRACTOR FAILS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IN THE WORKING DAYS SPECIFIED, LIQUIDATED DAMAGES OF \$450.00 PER DAY OF DELAY WILL BE ASSESSED.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Travis County Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws

and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened. THERE ARE ALTERNATES AND/OR UNIT PRICES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BID. BIDDERS MUST DOWNLOAD AND COMPLETE THE ASSOCIATED BID PROPOSAL WORKSHEET (LOCATED IN THE "DOCUMENTS" SECTION OF THIS BID) THEN UPLOAD AND SUBMIT IT WITH THEIR BID. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE BID PROPOSAL WORKSHEET MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR BID.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the GAULT BUILDING ELEVATORS REFURBISHMENTS (IFB No. B100044-JT), a project consisting primarily of REFURBISHMENTS OF THE GAULT BUILDING ELEVATORS in Travis County, will be received electronically through www.bidsync.com. Bids will be accepted until **THIS DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 3:00 PM CST, DECEMBER 11, 2009**, then publicly opened and read aloud. Travis County will also accept paper bids received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, marked "Sealed Bid (GAULT BUILDING ELEVATORS REFURBISHMENTS, IFB No. B100044-JT)" at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th

Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of paper bids.

You may print the Plans and Specifications from www.bidsync.com or they can be obtained in the Travis County Purchasing Office. Hard Copies (printed) Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Travis County Purchasing Office for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County." The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in list below.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. IF A COPY IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH WWW.BIDSYNC.COM, AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY WILL BE DUE (BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS) ONE BUSINESS DAY AFTER THE BID OPENING DATE. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use

lump sum pricing.

IF THE CONTRACTOR FAILS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IN THE WORKING DAYS SPECIFIED, LIQUIDATED DAMAGES OF \$450.00 PER DAY OF DELAY WILL BE ASSESSED.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

THERE ARE ALTERNATES AND/OR UNIT PRICES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BID. BIDDERS MUST DOWNLOAD AND COMPLETE THE ASSOCIATED BID PROPOSAL WORKSHEET (LOCATED IN THE "DOCUMENTS" SECTION OF THIS BID) THEN UPLOAD AND SUBMIT IT WITH THEIR BID. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE BID PROPOSAL WORKSHEET MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR BID.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Betty S. Phyr, Deceased, were issued on November 24, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001528 pending in the Travis County Probate Court, Travis County, Texas, to: Shawna Dukes.

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.

Ms. Shawna Dukes
c/o: Jack M. Wilhelm
1201 Rio Grande, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78746
DATED the 30th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Jack M. Wilhelm
Attorney for Shawna Dukes
State Bar No.: 21475280
1201 Rio Grande, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 236-8400
Facsimile: (512) 236-8404

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On October 22, 2009, Janice Marie White was appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of Lonnie Abner White, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001289, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of Independent Executor is c/o Andrew C. Friedmann; Attorney & Counselor at Law, 4408 Spice-wood Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78759, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Vera D.

Deegan, Deceased, were issued on November 19, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001411, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Roy John Terence Deegan.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC

Attorneys at Law
2901 Bee Caves Road,
Box D
Austin, Texas 78746
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 24th day of November, 2009.
/s/ Barbara J. Lipscomb
Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gordon Fisk Blood, aka Gordon F. Blood, aka Gordon Blood, Deceased, were issued on November 24, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001537, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Alice Tydings Blood.

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: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 4th day of December, 2009.
/s/ Candice H. Bocock,
Attorney

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. C-1-PB-09-001446 Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Athena Augusta Cullen, Deceased, were issued on the 19th day of November, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001446, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to Carol Ann Cullen Carter, Executor. Claims may be mailed to:

THE AUTO DEPOT

CV AXLES • CLUTCHES • A/C • BRAKES
AND EVERYTHING ELSE

MENTION THIS AD AND
RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF ANY MECHANICAL REPAIR,
AND GIVE THAT TO A CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE!
*MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS.

**MOST CARS/TRUCKS QUALIFY FOR OPTIONAL 4
YEAR/UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY GOOD
ANYWHERE IN THE U.S. OR CANADA!**

836-9767

909 PRAIRIE TRAIL

ONE STREET SOUTH OF KRAMER, WEST OF NORTH
LAMAR. LOOK FOR THE BIG RED AUTO BARN.

MON- FRI 8AM-6PM

SAT 10-5PM OR BY APPT.

PHONE JIM AT **294-2885** UNTIL 9PM
OR 7 DAYS/WEEK FOR ANY OF THESE CARS OR FOR
REPAIRS. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND WHAT YOU WANT.

autodepotaustin.com

**DON'T FORGET - WE BUY CARS
(RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)**



**WE ARE A FULL-SERVICE BODY SHOP AND
MECHANICAL/RESTORATION FACILITY ...
FOR ALL OUR SALE VEHICLES, TO TO AUTODEPOTAUSTIN.COM**

**DURING DECEMBER, WE'LL BEAT ANY OTHER
SHOP'S PRICE BY 10% ON THE SAME REPAIR
(\$100 ON A CAR PURCHASE), AND GIVE THAT TO A
CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE!***

We have parts for the following cars: Civic, 96-00, Accord 94-97,
4 Runner, 96-00, Lexus SC300, 92-00. We'll beat any price
on the same part from a recognized salvage yard.

*** MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH
OTHER DISCOUNTS.**

**VOTED BEST IN
AUSTIN 7 TIMES
BY THE AUSTIN
CHRONICLE AND
CITYSEARCH**



continued legal notices

Carol Ann Cullen Carter, 8905 Granada Hills Drive, Austin, Texas 78737 or to the Executor in care of Doug W. Ray, Ray, Wood & Bonilla, 2700 Bee Caves Road #200, Austin, Texas 78746. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

If you have a secured claim against the estate, you must present your claim to the Executor at the address listed above.

Carol Ann Cullen Carter
8905 Granada Hills Drive
Austin, Texas 78737

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marianna Schumacher, Deceased, were issued on November 24, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001540, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Susan ("Sue") Chapin-Strike.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
2901 Bee Caves Road,
Box D
Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 30th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Ellen P. Stewart

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of OLIVER W. NELSON, Deceased, were issued on November 3, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001194, pending in the County Court at Law No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: DONALD OLIVER NELSON.

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: WEBB WALKER III
Attorney at Law
400 South Main
Burnet, TX 78611

DATED the 25th day of November, 2009.

/s/ WEBB WALKER III
Attorney for DONALD OLIVER NELSON

State Bar No.: 20738500
400 South Main
Burnet, TX 78611

Telephone: (512) 756-2931
Facsimile: (512) 756-2933

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Pressure Washer and Water Recycling Equipment, B100060-LD

Opens: December 14, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

**TRAVIS COUNTY
ONLINE AUCTION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER
17, 2009**

**www.GovDeals.com
(FOR TRAVIS COUNTY)**

•VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDS. VISIT WWW.GOVDEALS.COM FOR LOCATIONS AND TIMES FOR VIEWING.

•FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DAN ROLIE AT (512) 854-6459 OR RON DUBE AT (512) 854-6458.

motor

cars

1995 MERCEDES SL-320
Two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a '10' and we can take your car in a trade. \$10,950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2000 COROLLA 4dr, only 77k. Minor hail dents. New motor. Warranty. \$4500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2000 LEXUS RX-300, had a minor ding at right rear quarter. Ready now. Stunning with 103k miles. Can trade and warranty. \$8500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2001 MERCEDES SLK-230, red, nice, can trade, warranty. \$7950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2002 CIVIC four-door, auto 92k, one year warranty. Clean, nice, \$6550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2003 TACOMA 4dr, Crew cab, auto, 82,000 miles, light hail. Clean, warranty, \$10,550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2005 NISSAN "Nismo" 4WD Xtra cab pickup. 53k miles. Can trade, nice, \$13,950. Full warranty. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

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WET AND HORNY

looking for dominate much much older male 50 plus for discreet en counters. Loved to be spanked and teased. **hotneasy**, 24, [#131716](#)

SENSUAL KISSER LOVER

I am a 37 year old woman who wants nothing more than to spend time with someone that I can call on when I want it! I am pretty simple... **boytoywanter**, 37, [#131255](#)

ORGASM?

I have many fantasies. I want you to teach me and tell me how.23 years old, 5'4", 110 lbs, very cute and willing. **LittleLady**, 23, [#131233](#)

SUBMISSIVE SEEKS MASTER

I'm 26 years old and love being a submissive to a knowledgeable Dominant male. I am untrained but have enough brains to know how to respect my Dom/Master. **kinkyken-dra69**, 25, [#131116](#)

BI SUBMISSIVE FEMALE

Looking for couples with bi female, bi females,straight men 21yrs of age and older for kinky 3somes, 4somes and more. **sillysandie12**, 59, [#131072](#)

ELMO LOVER

I'm a girl who just wants a lot of fun and wild things into my life. **lova-blelibra12**, 20, [#130651](#)

SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to be-friend and maybe more. **Willow1113**, 18, [#129849](#)

SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION

Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. **burlygqgirl**, 25, [#128939](#)

MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litlred**, 31, [#128782](#)

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**, 43, [#122521](#)

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**, 24, [#119045](#)

NO CLOTHES NECESSARY

It's not that hard. We'll either want to have sex with you or not. Turning down someone and being turned down by someone is not that big of deal. **VeloSexy**, 30, [#131915](#)

DOWNTOWN DREAM COUPLE

Looking 4 sexy, drama-free, anything goes fun with a single lady or couple, specifically no-strings horny sexy fem we can spoil and fuck and possibly even travel with! **sexyloftlovers**, 31, [#131373](#)

YOU MAKES THREE

Couple seeking another female for some discreet fun. We're open minded but looking for the right person. Him - 31, fit,dom, and her - 39, average/curvy, sub/vers. **hishners**, 33, [#131257](#)

OPEN-MINDED, SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married couple that loves to meet new people and make friends! We always play together and never force chemistry. Feel free to ask any questions. **curiousbikers**, 27, [#131117](#)

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

We're an attractive, committed couple interested in meeting similar couples or select singles. We're sane, fun, and drama-free. If you're both bi (or at least curious) that's a plus. **PairOfAces**, 29, [#131110](#)

ATYOURSERVICE

please no crazies,retards,or dudes. much obliged :) I like to try everything at least once so as to not be a close-minded moron and to speak on fact, not opinion. **DMTerrific**, 28, [#131019](#)

AHHHITSYOURFACE!

First off we have been together for 7 years now. So we are very comfortable with what we are trying to do here. **LvLup**, 24, [#130887](#)

SEXKITTEN & ROCKGOD

Sexy, young couple seeking first 3way. Me: tall, blonde, slender, great in bed. Him: equally hot/long hair and tats. **CattieBrie27**, 27, [#130620](#)

SEEKING INTENSE PLEASURE?

M/F/M Trio(Males Str8). Into music, concerts, raves, 420, rollin', trippin', Paganfests, drumming, firespinning, campouts, hottubs, swimming, Greenbelt, Barton Springs, Eyeore's, Flipside. Seeking girl into playful trippin' 4somes. Possible LTR/ Live-in. **GroovinTrio420**, 37, [#130205](#)

DP INTEREST

She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wnatng to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 33, [#128950](#)

HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 34, [#128804](#)

B OUR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex, and more sex. **newbies**, 37, [#127079](#)

WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris_and_jack**, 36, [#122165](#)

FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? **femaleforme**, 34, [#131835](#)

A WET TREAT

I am 28,sexy and looking for someone who knows how to use their hands and mouth well. Let's see how juicy I can get!!! **austinkristal**, 28, [#131787](#)

HOTTIE SEEKING NAUGHTY

Happy in relationship with boyfriend, just curious for some girl on girl fun.. Have only been with one girl- often daydream about it. **temptress**, 26, [#131370](#)

LUSCIOUSLY WET BI

Married Bi looking 4 other married bi-ladies (35-45) 4 daytime fun (occasional evenings) NSA/FWB situation. Would love 2 find a friend 2 hang out w/ & occasionally exchange some "benefits". **Luscious_n_wet**, 39, [#131050](#)

PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIANBEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man;couples considered. I'm very open-minded,feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STE-Free. **Asian-Orchid**, 24, [#131487](#)

SEXY COLLEGE GRAD

Lonely sexpot seeks hot couple to bring fantasy to reality. Want a non-jealous couple to let me enjoy both at the same time. **youngnsexy**, 24, [#131182](#)

SHY REDHEAD

chills at home. looking forspice. not very experienced, am willing to be shown the ropes. not into pain, but very imaginative. notsurewhat i'm looking for, openfor suggestions. slightly goth butnot ina grossway. **mutemuse**, 20, [#130686](#)

YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know....ava 18. **bossgurl45**, 19, [#129789](#)

RAINMAKING TRUTHSEEKER

I am an attractive nineteen-year-old bisexual female. I consider creativity, health, and honesty to be the most relevant traits in a person. I'm looking to be friends first. Be real. **sweet-eighteen**, 20, [#128243](#)

MANPLEASURER

Love men of all types...just want to do whatever makes you moan with joy...! **OverEasy**, 29, [#131200](#)

EROTIC, NUDE MESSAGES

Handsome, athletic, HM with two strong hands, seeks good-looking, muscular/athletic masculine WM studs, 30-50, for erotic, nude massages. Tattoos drive me crazy when giving massages to HOT guys. **nakedboy**, 46, [#127232](#)

A CIVIL SERVANT

Discreet, closeted bi-WM, 37 5'11 good shape and looks. Seeking a WM closeted, masculine and discreet civil servant or football player type. Large build and hairy preferred. Start slow (lunch?). **tonkatruck**, 38, [#126357](#)

KINKY LOVER

I'm looking for some discreet kinky fun. rough role play.Forced sex roll play, anything really I'm HOT AND HORNY. **Straponlover**, 25, [#131823](#)

I'LL HELP YOU

New to austin, fit male looking for couple or women to help fulfill your wildest dreams or nightmares! My last 2 girlfriends were Bi, so lots of group, Very clean. **saliva**, 39, [#131764](#)

BLONDE T-GIRL TOP

Hot Blonde T-girl likes to "Dance and Prance". Seeking Hot "Athletic Model" type boys to work the Floor with. I like Muscles or lean. You will like All of me. **BlondeHottie**, 35, [#101055](#)

LOOKING FOR LOVE?

2 kinds of sex emotional sex and sex for fun. Love to find the emotional sexual connection but at the same time have my cake and eat it too! **austinman32**, 32, [#115213](#)

I DUNNO. :(

Umm... I'm trying to find someone "special". I'm kinda new to this. Lol. **AceSC2**, 21, [#131936](#)

YES ITS BIG

Its been awhile. Now it seems all I think about about is sex. I get hard for no reason. Looking for a woman willing to help me with my problem. **MrBig**, 38, [#131914](#)

TALL THIN SUBMISSIVE

love to give/recieve oral sex and be told what to do. must be willing to drive to Elgin looking for rough sex biting scratching and hair pulling welcome. **crowley666**, 25, [#131868](#)

"BBC FOR LADIES

I'm basically on this site looking for FWB, not into one night stands, new to the area and wanna meet an interesting lady. **cometdash**, 30, [#131842](#)

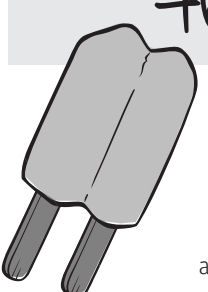
HORNY WITH STAMINA!

I don't want to be your BF and I don't want you to be my GF. I want to hang out, and have fun. No games, BS, or "talk"! **rnguy**, 33, [#131831](#)

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Flavor of the Week

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fun couple seeking playmate

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read the rest of **FUNLOVINCOUPLE's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet



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The Luv Doc

Opal Divine's Whisky Festival • Thu., Dec. 3, 7pm
Opal Divine's 3601 S. Congress Ste. K
www.opaldivines.com/2009-whisky-festival.html

Truly one of the best things about the holidays is that they are an excellent and generally accepted excuse to enjoy a little recreational intoxication. Yes, you, Jesus, and Krissy Kringle can all make a solid case for the spirit of giving, but inevitably materialism is the road to ruin. It may look like a lot of fun when everybody gets a new car on Oprah or when Skeeter wins the lotto and buys an aboveground for his double-whub, but there is a darker, uglier side to materialism, and not just that chest-crushing moment when you find out the big box under the Christmas tree with your name on it contains a Texas Longhorns Snuggie. Ohhhhhh, you better not pout. Here's a suggestion: If you actually do manage to nurture your white, hot rage all the way to the North Pole, make sure you're packing a sidearm with enough caliber to drop a polar bear in less than six rounds. Rumor has it that when those bitches come up out of the water they are insane with hunger ... and that Texas Longhorn Snuggie is going to stick out like a sore thumb. Santa Claus, on the other hand, should give you much less trouble ... unless you've already emptied your clip on a polar bear. Needless to say, it would take a lot of hate to pistol-whip Santa in front of the elves, reindeer, and Mrs. Claus. To summon that kind of fury you would have to binge-drink Starbucks and listen to Gorgoroth all the way to the North Pole. A few days of that evil shit and you'd be ready to strangle the baby Jesus, so putting the beatdown on Santa would almost feel like a mercy killing. But really, if you're going to binge-drink, why squander your money on the dark side? Why not imbibe something that warms your heart and makes you launch into I-love-you-man soliloquies for random people such as your postman, your boss, and that surly, liver-spotted old lady behind the counter at your dry cleaners? No, not ecstasy, that shit hasn't been legal since the Eighties. What you need is Holiday cheer (aka booze!). Sure, there should be some lengthy, ponderous boilerplate here about responsible drinking, but deep in our hearts we all know that truly responsible drinking means not drinking at all. F that S. Humans have been using alcohol to get stupid at least since they could articulate the word "grog," but very likely a few centuries before that. Even though chemically its effect lacks the subtlety and nuance of pricier and more potent drugs, alcohol is nonetheless the most epicurean because of its countless permutations and means of delivery: Jell-O shots, rum cakes, beer bong, absinthe, ether. You could spend an entire lifetime pickling your liver with all manner of alcoholic inventions and still not exhaust the supply. Ask Michael Parker from Opal Divine's. He's been on an alcoholic vision quest for most of his adult life, and though his journey is far from over, Austin has benefited from his worldliness and willingness to share it. This Thursday, Opal Divine's Penn Field location is hosting its seventh annual Whisky Festival. From 7 to 10pm you can sample more than 45 of the finest malt whiskies from all the regions of Scotland. You can also nosh on hors d'oeuvres like smoked salmon, smoked meats, and fruits and cheeses, all for the amazingly low price of \$45. Even more amazing is that all of the proceeds from the event will benefit Meals on Wheels and More. What a great way to enjoy the spirit of giving and still get your spirit on.

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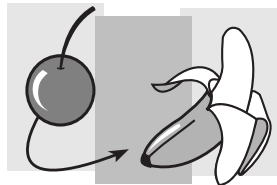
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TAKE A WALK

I am honest and real, wittily self-effacing and interested in getting outside of my happy little world to explore laughter, wonder and good times with someone on their own path. **truthorconsequences**, 46, **#131946**

CHRISTIAN WOMEN

I am loving, romantic, friendly, caring, understanding, respectful and Christian women. I'm described as a person that is outgoing with a wonderful personality and I'm always full of life... **txrescuelady**, 35, **#131935**

HELLOOOOOOOOOO WORLD

Free-Spirited bouncy kangaroo. **LahTeeDah**, 28, **#131921**

HELLO FOR STARTERS

Truth: 100 percent of us are not Neat, intelligent, funny..Most of us are Sloppy, insecure, narcissistic. Open up and show all of the characters that are distinctively you. **Dextria**, 24, **#131895**

PEACE LOVING CUTIE

I like artistry and ingenuity, daytrips, extended trips, cooking, eating, prefer to be outside not in. Looking for someone healthy, kind and genuine who enjoys life, and simple pleasures shared. **marisol**, 50, **#131892**

SWEETGIRL

I enjoy theatre (live and indie), hiking, and picnics. I just love life and having fun, I am very independent, but I would like to spend time with someone special. **justme62**, 47, **#131846**

LOVE TO LAUGH!

Hi,I live east of Austin & am looking for cool people to hang out with! Thanks 4 checking me out & email me if you like what u see! **Spicy2nite**, 31, **#131830**

SILLY, FLIRTY, LOVEABLE

Silly woman that loves to spend time hanging out with the people that matters most. Very energetic but can be shy at first. Knows how to have a good time. **flirtylady04**, 20, **#131820**

EXTREMELY CLASSY BROAD

Probably not the watermark for maturity, but I just am looking for someone to make me laugh. **pomeller**, 23, **#131818**

CHILL, HONEST, FUNNY

I'm extremely laid back. I'm brutally honest. I smoke a lot. I act a lot older than I really am. And I don't put up with any bullshit. **startuhriot**, 18, **#131727**



many more ads online!

austinchronicle.com/loverslane

JUST SMILE

This is the hard part...I'll keep it short and sweet, like me. I love music, reading, walking, spending time with my son, and meeting new people. **PhotographHER84**, 25, **#131707**

FRESH FROM MOUNTAINS

New to Austin and I'd love to meet someone to go explore with. Bad at small talk, attracted to the hilarious. Nietzsche. Bukowski. Jodorowsky. Pinot noir. Punk rock. Cheesecake. Anthropology. **Syrachelise**, 24, **#131646**

LATINLOVER

Latin lady looking for something real & genuine. someone who can stimulate & intrigue me. Seeking a gentleman with a big heart who knows how to treat a lady. **SexiMexi**, 32, **#131544**

FRIENDS ARE FAMILY

I meet nice folks all the time, hang out, listen to music and laugh. There's no desperation here. It's just that I want something deeper and more meaningful. **WalkinAustin**, 52, **#123606**

THIS IS FUN

I've got a head on my shoulders and I can use it surprisingly well for my age. I love to laugh and I do it often. Life's a game. **itsruby**, 19, **#131662**

ADVENTEROUS CHALLENGE.

Music. Movies. Escape routes. Zeigenbock. Merlot. Mary. Poetry. Running for hours. Wading through the past and determining not to have regrets this...is me. **pretty_much_awesome**, 21, **#131495**

KIND, HONEST,DORKY

just a pretty awesome lady who needs a good man with a backbone...who happens to be hilarious and handsome. **darkcloud**, 34, **#131484**

SMART & KIND

Being a good friend is the most important thing there is. Kindness lasts forever. Love the New Yorker. Love art shows, music shows,and to sit and talk outside. **drfrank**, 51, **#131455**

JOYFUL , CAREFREE

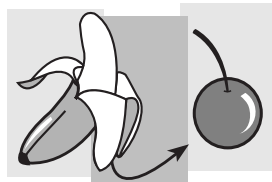
Okay, I'm gonna be real with you I'm just a girl that want's 2 meet a guy,that can treat me like a lady! U will Be a KING ! **joiluv**, 29, **#131425**

TRAVELING AND SEEKING

Just seeking the man of my life. Just seeking the right guy. **dreaming76**, 33, **#131407**

SPICY, MUSIC LOVER..

myself very open-minded, but tend to not tolerate smoking, obesity or BO. For friends, I just moved to Austin. I am not picky, wanna have some fun on the weekends. **lilthing**, 32, **#131344**



ILIKE SMART HOTTIES

She says, she's too hot and too smart, so guys are afraid of her! I say, WHAT. Tell me WHERE this girl is, and I want to meet her a.s.a.p. **ILikeSmartHotties**, 34, **#131939**

FO SHEEZIES!

I work, walk my dog, ride my motorcycle, go to church at home watching a german movie while drinking a miller light. Lets hang out :). **iLoveSportBikes**, 25, **#131930**

NAME IS THOMAS

aw girl i'm 19!, young fit brown hair boy.moderate. average.no nonsense with me.I am true, honest, and real.I am relaxed, accepting,and have the time to spend on someone right now! **TDubz32**, 19, **#131922**

FORTUNATE CHARMS

i lay down sarcasm like its low fat butter. **jeffrey99**, 28, **#131923**

SNUGGLE BUDDY WANTED

large king size, what the hell, FAT man looking for love, or at least a snuggle buddy :). **TxChubStud**, 50, **#116567**

BEDAZZLED! BESPECTACLED! BITCHIN!

Four-eyed, four-stringed doghouse manipulator! I like: Uplift Mofo Party Plans Sad Song That Sound happy Happy Songs That Sound Sad Mic Grabbing Bring Your Child to Work Day. **double_dutch**, 26, **#131920**

OPEN TO UNIVERSE

I roll with the flow. I give more than I take. I'm looking for one quality woman to chill with. my heart is open to whatever the universe brings. **surferman2010**, 33, **#131917**

DON'T FEEL FIFTYSOMETHING

Seeking friends to enjoy activities and as special partner to get close to. I love the outdoors - hiking, camping, biking, gym or the occasional nightlife in live music capitol. **cap-tainkdp**, 51, **#118463**

WHO IS THIS

just a honest person looking for a good time, i love to cook, paint, read,and have the time to time drink. **crazy_sam**, 32, **#131902**

LOVEABLE YOUNG STALLION

19 year young student, been in Austin 3 years and work full time. My mind-set is wiser and adventurous. Looking for a girl who could say the same. **khriaround2**, 19, **#131901**

PICK ME!

Me:work hard, play hard, good heart and great sense of humor. You: not afraid to ride on the back of my motorcycle and must look good doing so! **BackRoadJunkie**, 49, **#131900**

NEW TO TOWN

26, a lifelong musician, reader, and traveler. I'm always exploring new places and art. You should be open-minded, active and love live music. **NewToTown83**, 26, **#131889**

MUSICAL MAD HATTER

I'm a budding musician in this musical city looking for casual dates and playful mates. Allow my quirky and sometimes droll humor to make you glow as we tumble together. **Pokieh42**, 22, **#131883**

MY ONLINE AD

I support local businesses, especially those who know that there's always money in the banana stand. I like Jeff Tweedy, even on Prairie Home Companion. I like NBC Thursdays. **dloury**, 24, **#131873**

SENSITIVE, RESPONSIBLE, CREATIVE

I am a "great guy". I have been told that I have a "Peter Sellers factor" whatever that means ... maybe it's the glasses and the wacky sense of humor. **dharmadude**, 41, **#131871**

WE'RE COMPATIBLE IF...

Looking for someone to hang out with and possibly more. Someone who likes to dine out, see good movies and theater shows, or concerts. **utopia_guy**, 53, **#131866**

BRIT VISITING AUSTIN

Hi, I'm in Austin the first week of December - and wondered if anyone fancied meeting up for dinner or a drink. John. **john_someone**, 52, **#131824**

PICNIC BASKET BOOBOO

Enjoy short rides on the space shuttle and journeys to the center of the earth? Abe Lincoln was riding bicycles with a poodle in my head during the Thursday social. **Dutch-Boy**, 30, **#131805**

YOUNG STUD

im a young stud looking for a nice charming lady who looking to have sexy fun time to time every week im athletic and funny i love partying. **Kngrbrucelee**, 21, **#131804**

MUST LOVE GARLIC

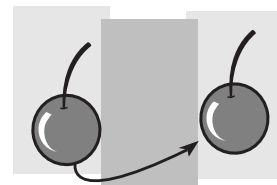
I am a guitarist/music lover new to Austin. Looking to make some new friends, hopefully a great date. **jdangelo**, 32, **#131803**

ITILIII

just tryin to fully enjoy everyday in this hectic world of ours. look to take advantage of all the great offerings of our area and experience real people. **brulescus**, 49, **#119320**

ADVENTUROUS, WITTY, INOVTIVE, RESOURCEFUL, DREAMER

lookingfor love,& best friend to share fears,movies,Sunny days on lake travis, long walks with no real destination. picture getsmine. spark of attraction is visual. Not my fault , evolutions. **luv2fly**, 44, **#131800**



SCIENCE/MUSIC NERD

I just moved here and I'm many hours away from everyone I know and love. I love learning, reading, science, playing music, making jewelry, nature, my frogs,cooking, and unplanned adventures. **velvet-goldmine**, 23, **#131887**

LOOK BETTER ON

im Ace. moved to austin 2 weeks ago. love to laugh. very single. college student. love coffee. im very blunt, not rude. love mexican food. loooove walks. really laid back. **AceOf-Spades**, 19, **#131753**

ADVENTURE BECKONS

fun, genuinely funny, three-year texan seeks someone to enjoy life with. spiritual is a plus. **pleasantly-human**, 29, **#131741**

NEW TO TOWN

Just moved to Austin from Florida. I also just graduated nursing school. For fun I like working out when I can, watching or playing sports, movies, chilling, food, downtown. **Swoosh12101**, 23, **#131567**

QUEEN SEEKS COURT

Let's go skinny dipping at night under the stars and drink wine by the pale of the moon. Make me laugh, make me happy - I'll reciprocate! **brownsugarjones**, 44, **#120282**

NEW TO AUSTIN

Generally a really positive person, I live life to the fullest and without regrets because my mistakes have proven to be my best teachers. **juicebysarah**, 22, **#131478**

DINO-S-RAWR

This lovely lady is into designer jeans and thrift store T-shirts. Pizza and beer, lots of yoga and a passion for green living. Ridiculously grown-up, but total Peter Pan syndrome. **Pedal-estrian**, 25, **#131366**

Texas ADVENTURE SEEKER

I am upbeat, fun, cute, and adventurous. I'm looking for a woman who is successful and loves to travel. We both enjoy the finer things in life, particularly fine dining. **chulaleo**, 39, **#131345**

I LIKE QUESO

i don't really know what i am looking for, but i'm sure i will when i find it. **allietea**, 23, **#131071**



Flavor of the Week

em194 Age: 20

adventurous & loveable cutie
I love spending all my time outside, photography, music, good movies, art,discovering new places and new people. Food is not only my profession, but also my passion in life. I'm looking for a guy who's adventurous, spontaneous, and genuine.

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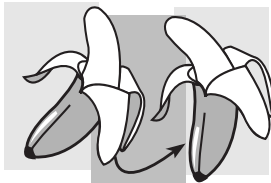
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NICE AND SIMPLE

Laid back guy seeks low drama situation with another guy. Enjoy hanging out with friends, margaritas, red wine, dining out. Road bike riding, 24Hour Fitness. Dog lover. Disease/smoke free here. **jodetx**, 50, **#131890**

OPERA OR PUNK

Wait a minute... He likes Opera and punk? He likes Grindhouse and Love, Actually? He likes Chez Nous and The Salt Lick? Is fun and capable of making a commitment? **pparker**, 53, **#131728**

ROMANCE 2 WILD

I love a man that thinks about me first thing in the am and the last thing at nite. hand holding and cuddling is a must, as is kissing. **man2man**, 52, **#131299**

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Originally from Boston. I enjoy going back east to visit family. I'm looking for someone with the same intrests, cooking, taking walks, talking about the important things in life. **It-TakesTwo**, 46, **#131616**

HIPSTER GAYSIAN WANTED

Are you: awesome? asian? hipster? hilarious? social and homebody? 21-30ish Do you: like electro and indie? dance? drive? want to find love? I'm: skinny, white, 6'01", dark hair musician, hairdresser. **artist4asian**, 22, **#131400**

NEW TO AUSTIN

Very blessed, spiritually-changed. 51 GPM ISO honest, outgoing, totally real, self-confident and self-loving gay man who wants to work hard on a friendship and relationship together. **newtoaustinguy**, 51, **#131167**

HUGS & KISSES

Austin man desires friend & lover. 45/ GWM/6'2"/200. Love to laugh, share and explore. You be smart, healthy and open to possibilities. **bluehead-lights**, 45, **#131094**

LAID BACK GUY

Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. **AustinRomance**, 32, **#128768**

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**, 43, **#126941**



IS MUSIC GOOD?

is music even good? home of live music? yes. no one said it was all good. new to city. going to uncover it. PMA having freaks get on board. Ol. **wounded_knee**, 38, **#131945**

EXTRAORDINARY MACHINE

Grrrr, 30 words: piano, risk-taking, travel, running, singing, writing, playing, comedy, sex, the arts, moderation, cats, science, the surreal, Legos, blueberries, green, electric guitar, poetry, vintage, modern, children, cooking, dancing. **Redboot-sandlipstick**, 30, **#131918**

SENSATIONAL, THEATRICAL, PRESENTABLE,

I love the theatre, I like moves, I am a great fan of Video Games. I like musicals. I make re-make music videos for fun and write scripts for fun. **alexcrumb**, 24, **#131826**

A LOST FOREIGNER

Im a mellow guy that is easy to get along with.Im new to Austin and wouldnt mind having a female companion to show me what this city has to offer. **Bayborn**, 21, **#131782**

BAM DRUMMER BOY

SSHHHH, lets pretend we met at the Library, I liked your t shirt of little kittens in a basket, you liked my curly hair, and red Bugle Boy sweat pants. **Rumplestiltsken**, 24, **#131743**

"I DO"

At a networking event you asked if I sell homes, right as I asked if your home needs to be Sold. We Both Said... "I Do." Go over vows again? **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Austin Networking Event. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904496**

NEW MOON NINJA

Gorgeous in white track jacket in line for New Moon. Me, skinny kid shaved head. You said I should call you before you disappeared into your theater. Make that possible? **When: Thursday, November 19. Where: Regal Gateway 16 Theater. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904501**

SEEKING NATURE LOVER

You: Civic minded, Me: Underloved park, 100 years old but with lots of life still left in me. Looking to put some purr back in my Pergola. **When: Thursday, June 18. Where: 9th & Guadalupe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904494**

SYLVIA@ STEINER STEAK

You were with a guy and another couple on Friday night. We made eye contact while y'all were having dinner. As y'all were leaving we chatted briefly and held hands. **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Steiner Steak House. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904493**

JULIE'S ROCKIN TOMATO

saw you thursday night after kicked that guy in the nuts when you left said shoulda kissed me...well give you a chance t'see if you meant it over lunch jonah **When: Thursday, November 19. Where: at the night owl bus stop @ 6th n congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904502**

CESAR CHAVEZ ADONIS

Me: passenger in older light blue Honda Civic who stared hard enough to force a response. Your response-A SMILE TO MELT A SOUL. I need a repeat, only closer. **When: Friday, November 13. Where: 3:00pm Ce-sChav walking westward between Trinity and Brazos. You: Man. Me: Man. #904491**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for Dec. 4-10

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Dear Rob: I love to be proven wrong. That's not an ironic statement. I actually get excited and feel creative when I acquire new information that shows me I've been operating under a misunderstanding. One of my very favorite life moments occurs when I am convincingly liberated from a negative opinion I've been harboring about someone. As you can tell, I'm quite proud of this quality. The way I see it, emotional wealth and psychological health involve having so much self-respect that I don't need to be right all the time. - Sagittarian Freedom Fighter." Dear Freedom Fighter: Thanks for your testimony. The capacity you described is one that many Sagittarians will be poised to expand in 2010. And this is an excellent week for them to start getting the hang of it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In an early version of the tale of Pinocchio, friendly woodpeckers chiseled his nose back to its original size after it had grown enormous from his incorrigible lying. From a metaphorical perspective, Capricorn, a comparable development may soon occur in your own life. A benevolent (if somewhat rough) intervention akin to the woodpeckers' assistance will shrink an overgrown, top-heavy part of your attitude, allowing you to proceed to the next chapter of your story with streamlined grace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "There is light enough for those who wish to see," wrote French philosopher Blaise Pascal, "and darkness enough for those of the opposite disposition." I'm hoping you will align yourself with the first group in the coming week, Aquarius. More than ever before, what you choose to focus on will come rushing in to meet you, touch you, teach you, and prompt you to respond. Even if all the smart people you know seem to be drunk on the darkness, I encourage you to be a brave rebel who insists on equal time for the light.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): White dwarfs are small and extremely dense stars. They're typically no bigger than the Earth but as heavy as the sun. You currently have a resemblance to one of those concentrated balls of pure intensity. I have rarely seen you offering so much bang for the buck. You are as flavorful as chocolate mousse, as piercing as the scent of eucalyptus, as lustrous as a fireworks display on a moonless night. Personally, I'm quite attracted to your saucy and zesty emanations, and I think most people with strong egos will be. But some underachievers with lower self-esteem may regard you as being more like astringent medicine. My advice: Gravitare toward those who like you to be powerful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): When Carolee Schneemann was a kid, her extravagant adoration of nature earned her the nickname "mad pantheist." Later, during her career as a visual artist, she described her relationship with the world this way: "I assume the senses crave sources of maximum information, that the eye benefits by exercise, stretch, and expansion towards materials of complexity and substance." I hope that you're attracted to that perspective right now, Aries. To be in most productive alignment with the cosmic rhythms, you should be in a state of nearly ecstatic openness, hungry to be stretched - like a mad pantheist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Dear Rob: Last night my son and I were stargazing. When we focused on the constellation Cassiopeia, an owl started hooting. Then a brilliant shooting star zipped by as a huge bat flew right over our heads. Was this a bad omen? Bats are creepy - associated with vampires. And in Greek mythology Cassiopeia got divine punishment because she bragged that she and her daughter were more beautiful than the sea god's daughters. But I don't know, maybe this blast of odd events was a good omen. Owls are symbols of wisdom and shooting stars are lucky, right? What do you think? Are we blessed or cursed? - Spooked Taurus." Dear Spooked: The question of whether it's good or bad luck is irrelevant. Here's what's important: You Tauruses are in a phase when the hidden workings of things will be shown to you - the mysterious magic that's always bubbling below the surface but that is usually not visible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The week ahead will be a ripe time to pull off magic reversals. May I suggest that you try to transform dishwasher grays into sparkling golds? Or how about recycling the dead energy of a lost cause in such a way as to generate raw fuel for a fresh start? I'm confident, Gemini, that you'll be able to discover treasure hidden in the trash and that you'll find a way to unleash the creative zeal that has been trapped inside polite numbness. Now ponder this riddle, please: Do you think there's any mystical significance in the fact that the word "stressed" is "deserts" spelled backward?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lately you remind me of the person Robert Hass describes in his poem "Time and Materials": "someone falling down and getting up and running and falling and getting up." I'm sending you my compassion for the times you fall down and my admiration for the times you get up and my excitement for the times you run. It has probably become clear to you by now that the falling down isn't a shameful thing to be cursed, but rather is an instrumental part of the learning process that is teaching you marvelous secrets about getting back up and running.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "I burn for no reason, like a lantern in daylight," writes poet Joseph Lease. I think that's a succinct formulation of one of your central issues, Leo. Burning for no reason, like a lantern in the daylight, can be the cause of either failure or success for you, depending on subtle differences of emphasis. This is how it can be failure: When you're mindlessly and wastefully burning through your prodigious reserves of fuel without any concern for the benefits it may provide you and others. This is how it can be success: When you are exuberant and self-disciplined in shining your light and radiating your warmth just because it feels so good and so right and so healthy, and without any thought about whether it's "useful" to anyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In one of his short poems, John Averill (www.twitter.com/wireme-sa) describes a scene that I think captures the essence of your current astrological omens: "Today is the day of the photo of moonrise over Havana in a book on a shelf in the snowbound cabin." Here's a clue about what it means: The snowbound cabin is where you are right now in your life. The moonrise over Havana is where you could be early in 2010. How do you get there from here?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An estuary is a bay where the salt water of a sea mixes with the fresh water of rivers. These days you remind me of such a place. You are two-toned, Libra. You're dual-purpose and double-tracked. You're a hybrid blend of the yes and the no, the give and the take, the extravagant and the traditional. And somehow this has been working out pretty well for you. You're not so much a dysfunctional contradiction as an interesting juxtaposition. You're not being crushed by a squeeze of opposites so much as you're getting massaged by the oscillating throbs of complementary influences. Keep doing what you've been doing, only more so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Big shiny egos with flashy tricks may be mucking around in everyone's business, calling narcissistic attention to themselves as they pretend to do noble deeds. Meanwhile, I hope you'll be doing the hard, detailed work that must be done to serve the greater good - quietly and unpretentiously improving people's lives without demanding major tribute. That approach will stir up some sleek, silky karma that will come in handy when you undertake the building of your masterpiece in 2010.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

a shot in the dark

PARISH; 11/28 EOTO

Courtney from the parish! Danced with you during the eoto show. Lets do the window washer sometime! **When: Saturday, November 28. Where: The parish. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904516**

BLUEYDBIKEBOY

Gorgeous man with the infinite hearts tattoo and bloody arm.I bought you a whiskeyat the bar. You gave me shivers the whole time we talked! Come find me baby boy. **When: Thursday, November 19. Where: Justines. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904515**

SUSHI KNEE BUMPING

You said you read shot in the dark every week to see if anyone has noticed you. You've been noticed. I look forward to our next sushi outing. **When: Sunday, November 29. Where: eating sushi. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904514**

YAHOO BILL

Yahoo Bill: we've been winkin' on yahoo. How about a cup of coffee and a cigarette sometime? **K When: Monday, November 2. Where: Yahoo. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904513**

PERLAS SAT NIGHT

I was in a black shirt, jeans and goat-tee standing at the bar with family. We smiled when our eyes met. i want to get to know you. **When: Saturday, November 28. Where: Perlas. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904512**

MY DOOR STEP

man in a white helmet on my door step asking me on a date friday morn,who are you?I was to taken back and confused to ask you at the time. **When: Friday, November 27. Where: my front door. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904511**

OPERATION TURKEY TRAFFIC

Angilina(?), we talked alot during Operation Turkey Thanksgiving. Didn't say goodbye. Would like to say hello again. Loved your beautiful eyes and smile. Hope you see this and respond. **When: Thursday, November 26. Where: traffic control. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904510**

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BARTON KIOSK KUTIE

You dark hair and eyes. Green t-shirt. Cutest, quirkiest, Horologist I've ever met. Me big fella with the compass tattoo that you asked about. Maybe we can hang out? **When: Wednesday, November 25. Where: Precision Time Barton Creek Mall. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904508**

MADAM MAM'S

Friday night, November 20, Madam Mam's on Anderson Lane. You were with another woman. Our eyes met at least 3 times.How about a more personal meeting? Let's get together. **When: Friday, November 20. Where: Madam Mam's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904506**

METAPHYSICAL FAIR-RADISSON

You were wearing jeans and a green long-sleeved shirt. You kept smiling at me, it was endearing. I was the blonde, wearing the jeanskirt and black tunic making jewelry. **When: Saturday, November 21. Where: Metaphysical Fair at the Radisson. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904505**

JUST GOT BEATUP

you bummed a smoke and we had some small talk should have got your number as we where on the same bot across austin **When: Tuesday, November 17. Where: at the #3 stop at the south austin acc. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904503**

GET UP KIDS

You tall thin cutie (guy) dances the robot w/ a bearded friend at Get Up Kids Show. Me short girl red sweater, burgundy hair next to you at the bar. **When: Wednesday, November 18. Where: Emo's Get Up Kids Show. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904499**

SEXY SEAN DYLAN

We've never actually met, I see you all the time and too flustered to talk to you! You dressed up at the Shagrla anniversary last night and i almost fainted. **When: Tuesday, November 17. Where: Shangrila. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904498**

MASTADON. FRIDAY 13.

You: TazerAss. New Braunfels sexy booty girl with tazer ass video. Still hurt? Kiss and make it better! **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Austin Music Hall. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904492**

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