

VOLUME 29 ★ NUMBER 22 JANUARY 29, 2010

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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A Glass of Bubbly With Austin Lyric Opera

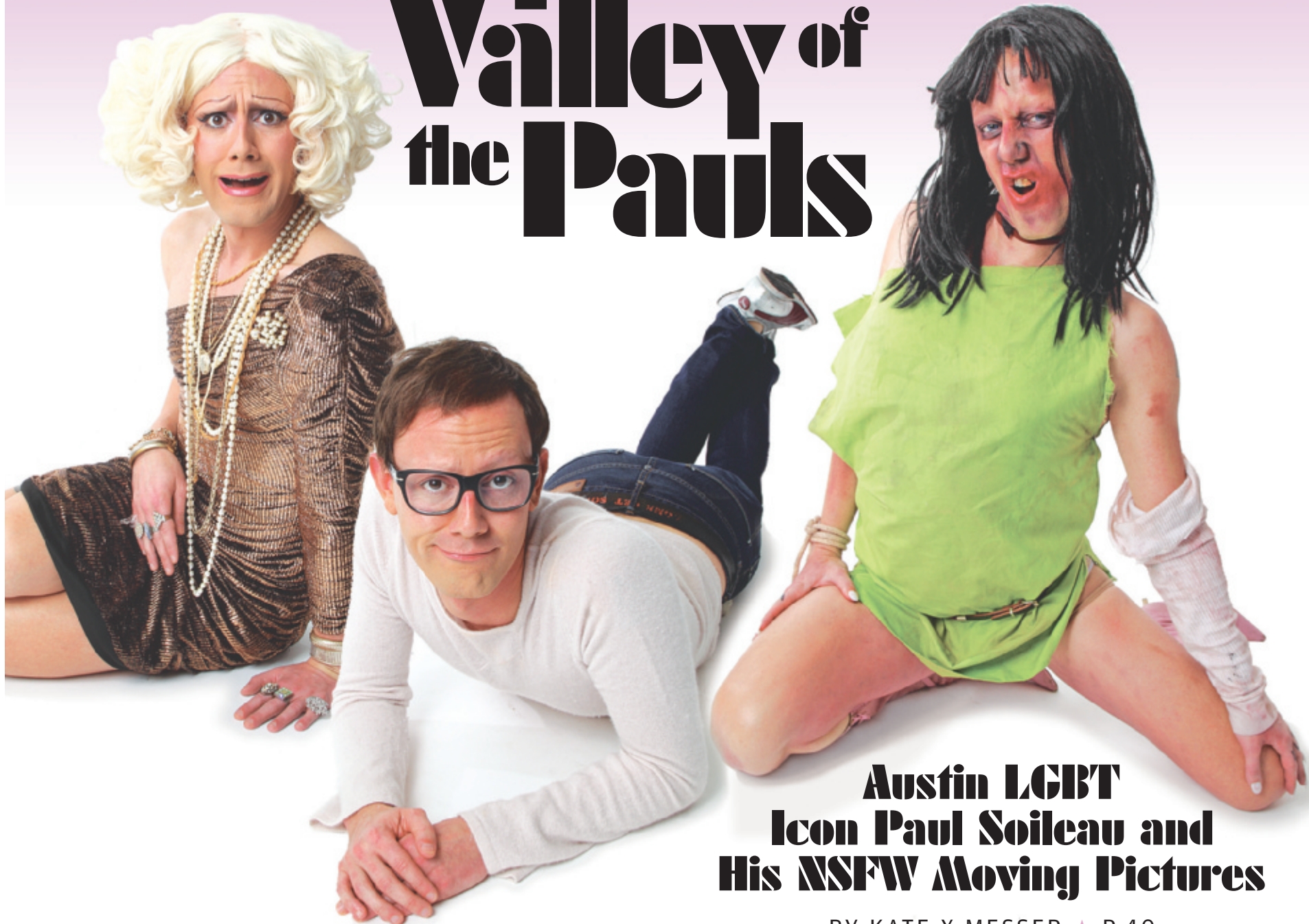
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His NSFW Moving Pictures**

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THE AUSTIN

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FOOD Virginia B. Wood

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CALENDAR

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ASST. LISTINGS Anne Harris

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Wells Dunbar, Katherine Gregor, Margaret Moser, Lee Nichols, Marc Savlov, Jordan Smith

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DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod

MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. Steinberg

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WEB DIRECTOR Brian Barry

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

GÓMEZ HAS POOR RECORD

Dear Mr. Black,

On January 15 the *Chronicle* ran a story about the Commissioners Court race in Precinct 4 ["Precinct 4: It's Good to Be the Incumbent," News]. The story said it's good being an incumbent. I'm not so sure. Incumbents have established track records, and Margaret Gómez's track record leads to a loss of confidence.

I worked for Commissioner Gómez for more than a decade and have lived in East Austin for 22 years. I observed how she lost touch with her constituents firsthand. We need better advocacy, someone who will show up for work and speak to the needs of Precinct 4. The name Joe Vela (my name) appears on the supporters lists of both candidates for Precinct 4 Travis County Commissioner. To clarify any confusion, I support Raul Alvarez for this office.

Raul is much more interested in doing the job than just having the job. He has a *proven* track record as a public servant, not just another politician.

*A concerned citizen of Travis County, Precinct 4,
Joe Vela*

KELLER SHOULD BE CHARGED

Dear Editor,

Re: "Public Humiliation Is Punishment Enough" [Newsdesk, Jan. 20]: No. Public humiliation is not enough. Sharon Keller's decision cost a human life. She should not be given immunity from prosecution. Keller should be criminally charged and her case decided by a jury. I sparked a federal investigation that ended with the conviction of my own attorney and judge. What was discovered is state oversight commissions do not police their judges, they protect them.

*Nancy Swan
Mobile, Ala.*

FIND POSITIVE VISION

Dear Editor,

Louis Black has had some of his best editorials lately. There are some things I would like to add to his most recent about "throwing the bums out" and why it doesn't work ["Page Two," Jan. 22].

More and more today, the political landscape is one dominated by anti-movements instead of movements. We have many people who are very clear about what they are against and very few people who know what they are for. I have actually asked people: "What are you for?" They do not know how to answer the question.

As Louis correctly pointed out, the Ross Perot movement died a quick death because it had no ideology, no philosophy, no ideas. It was a movement of people who simply wanted to vote for somebody else. These people were actually the most docile products of the system.

Another result of this is that people search for villains instead of solutions. This gives rise to the many conspiracy theories, whether they be about the assassination of men like Kennedy and King or about the destruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and the World Trade Center.

And, while most of the conspiracy theories I've heard over the years have some validity, there is also a lot of truth in Hanlon's razor. It basically says, "Never attribute to malice that which can be easily explained by stupidity."

One of the reasons why the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s movement was successful was that King was not interested in punishing the many villains. He treated his opponents as misinformed, not evil. He was, above all, a man of peace.

Perhaps during this period of ideological bankruptcy, Americans will find a positive vision to support. Until they do, it won't matter who is in office.

Chris Baker

"PAGE TWO" IS TAKING A BREAK.

PROBLEMS WITH CAPITAL METRO

Dear Editor,

Re: "Can't Get There From Here" [News, Jan. 22]: I have lived in Austin for the past 10 years, and I can say that Capital Metro really doesn't offer the service it promotes or advertises. I used services from the Texas Commission for the Blind, and they had me enrolled in stupid training programs that try to help those with eye impairments get jobs. For all the talk the city of Austin has done, it has failed to serve the disabled community here in Austin. Getting an education and trying to find a job makes no sense if you can't get to that job. Cap Metro bus stops haven't been updated for decades and have the same routes. I have been offered many jobs with higher salaries over the years but had to take lower-paying jobs or no job at all because there was no ride to that job. Cap Metro has really failed in its mission to provide quality service. Try complaining to them and all you get is a shove to the side and a complaint that will get you nowhere in life. Cap Metro needs to be sued and shut down, and a realistic transportation system should take its place, because it's doing nobody a bit of good.

Daniel Meiske

VOTING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Dear Editors,

In last week's *Austin Chronicle*, you listed the candidates from the Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians for the November 2010 statewide election ["The Primary Candidates," News, Jan. 22]. However, Texans should know that the slate of Green Party candidates can be found at www.txgreens.org. Interested voters will see that Austin's own Roger Baker is running for Travis County Clerk with a focus on bringing changes to the office to institute fair, transparent, and verifiable elections for Travis County voters – no more black box voting!

In order to sign the petition for "alternative" political parties like the Greens, Libertarians, Constitution Party, Socialists, and others, voters should not vote in the primary elections for the status quo party(s) that have placed many unconstitutional barriers against electoral competition.

Instead, registered voters can still vote for their favorite candidate in the November election *and* sign a petition to allow alternative candidates the opportunity to be on the ballot so that all of us will have a wider choice of qualified individuals that could be voted into offices and represent citizens' interests instead of only the present corporate duopoly that regularly purchases and/or creates legislation so that they think they own the ballot box!

Save your vote for a party that will work to make certain your vote is counted fairly, verifiably, transparently.

*Peace,
Bill Stout
Green Party of Texas
Legislative liaison*

GONE OVER TO DARK SIDE

Dear Editor,

Re: "Page Two" [Jan. 15]: Mr. Black has gone over to the dark side – I believe he is now a neocon. In the past he championed issues like the safety and health of the workplace and the rights of its workers. How does that apply to every business but entertainment? What is the current policy of the *Chronicle's* offices regarding smoking, and when was it implemented and why? Whenever something is legislated, unfortunately, there are losers as well as winners; some rights are affirmed and the others denied; that is our system. Dig this: People with asthma or other respiratory illnesses for whom it would have been an impossibility to catch a live show almost anywhere other than the Cactus Cafe can enjoy going out as much as anyone else. Or I guess maybe they don't matter either.

Tim Pipe

[Louis Black responds: I'm not sure where neocons would stand on a smoking ban, but starting out a letter with an insult is a good strategy. When the final law regarding the smoking ban was passed, there were only 200 businesses that still allowed smoking, out of the many thousands of Austin businesses.]

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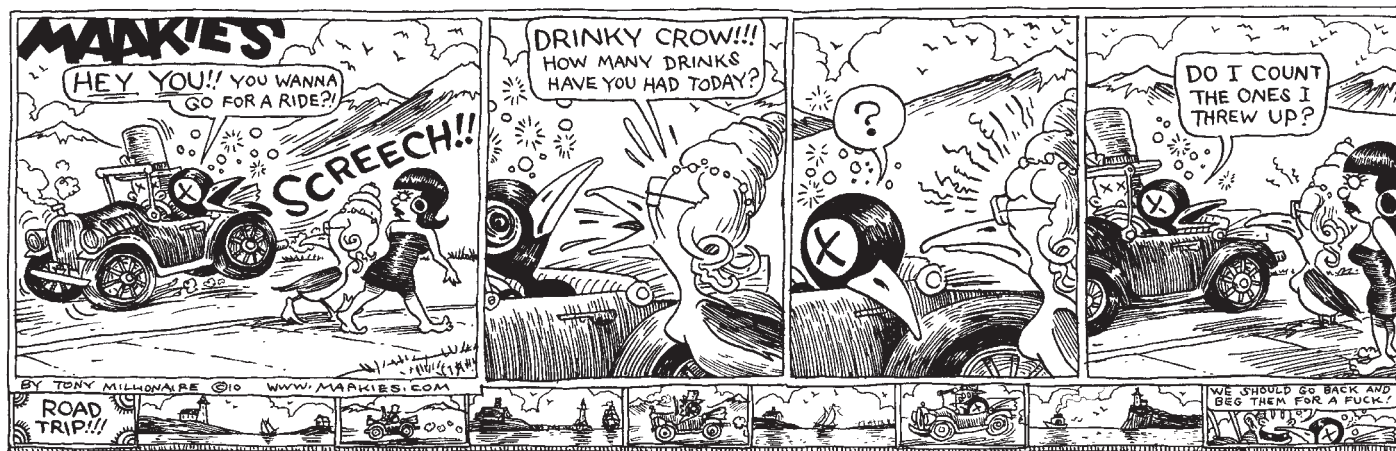
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LEGALIZE IT

Dear Editor,

Re: "Talking Travis: Elliott Naishtat" [Newsdesk, May 15, 2009]: Thank you for your continued coverage of the medical use of marijuana (cannabis). My hope is that there are more representatives than Rep. Elliott Naishtat who find the issue of cannabis important enough to provide legal provisions for Texans with painful disabilities and diseases to grow and use cannabis medically without worry of criminal charges. The American Medical Association and the federal government have recently changed direction regarding their previous stances on this topic, and Texas policy should follow. The value of a drug to a patient should be between a doctor and patient, not between lawmakers. The current Texas drug policy, especially surrounding the uses of the cannabis plant, is outdated, unwarranted, and overly penalizes Texans who choose to use cannabis for any purpose. The plant has clear, scientifically proven benefits to health and society. Clearly, abusing the plant is not its only use, yet Texas drug policy only focuses on the abuse of the plant in the formation of its laws regarding the plant. If all laws were made this way, we would not have access to many paints, solvents, or gasoline for that matter. Alcohol was once outlawed using this very outdated methodology. We must repeal prohibition laws because we currently cannot grow cannabis for food, oil, or fiber products. We cannot use it for clothing, cosmetics, medicinally, or even research its other beneficial properties and uses (like clean fuel). It's time everyone come out and get educated about this useful plant. It's not just about abuses anymore.

David Wagner

BEGGING BLACK TO RECONSIDER

Dear Editor,

I am writing to *beg* you to reconsider your influential opinion on the smoking ban ["Page Two," Jan. 15]. I have been working, off and on, in nightclubs for 20 years, and the difference between a smoking club and nonsmoking club is literally night and day. To try and repeal this would be like taking away the 40-hour work week or removing safety standards from the mining industry. A true step backward.

It's very simple: When other people drink, I don't get drunk, but when other people smoke cigarettes, I am smoking, too. I quit 15 years ago; it was very hard, but I stuck with it and I finally prevailed. Why should I still be at risk of getting lung cancer just because of the way I make my living?

As far as the clubs not doing well, it's a recession, that's what happens. People aren't going out 'cause they're broke! Not because they have to go outside to smoke. To attach the two is complete nonsense. As I said, I *beg* you to reconsider.

Thank you,
Gary Lindsey

[Louis Black responds: Relax, Gary. The editorial said nothing about a repeal, and I can safely assure you that calling my influence even "very limited" would still be an exaggeration.]

MYSTERIOUS RESIDENTS RETURN

Dear Editor,

The Residents can easily be described as a performance art band from San Francisco, but what is not easy to describe is what they have

done with music, visual art, and the use of modern technologies manipulated over the last 38 years. They are one of music's most prolific and versatile bands in the industry without being tied into the industry. Since 1972, the band has released more than 65 albums, dozens of limited-edition CD projects, numerous music videos and short films, three CD-ROM projects, and 10 DVDs and have undertaken seven major world tours. Their albums are often complex conceptual pieces composed around a theme, theory, or plot and are noted for surrealistic lyrics and a disregard for standard Western pop-music composition. Soundtrack work for the Discovery Channel and an installation at the Museum of Modern Art are only a few of their credits. Their live shows are works of performance art with symbolic stage props, mysterious costumes, and dramatic theatrics. To this day the band remains shrouded in mystery, best illustrated by their iconic eyeball-and-top-hat look. The reasons why the Residents have not been to Texas in more than 20 years are not clear. I personally have traveled more than 1,000 miles each time they have toured over the last 17 years, and I am excited to have the chance to see them here. Keeping true to form, this tour is also a bit mysterious, being called the Talking Light tour. I have no idea what is going to happen. There is no press release for it yet. This is the information from **www.residents.com**: "The story of the Talking Light piece is basically that of an older man who questions, not only decisions he made as a teenager, but also if the events he remembers from that time happened at all. 'A dead infant clutching a ring with an inscription the teenager cannot read' is the stuff of dreams. The following stories

in the show may or may not shed light on the inscription. Questions remain unanswered. The Residents study death, not as a horrific end, but as the ultimate question that we all ask while wondering if any of it is even real." I can't wait. Feb. 2, Stubb's.

Deanna Szuter

CREATE PUBLICLY FUNDED CAMPAIGNS

Dear Editor,

Today the Supreme Court removed restrictions on the political spending of corporations and unions. If you agree that special interests tend to hijack public policy for narrow, selfish, and short-term gains, then this should alarm you. "The Fortune 100 companies alone had combined revenues of \$13 trillion and profits of \$605 billion during the last election cycle" [Forbes.com, Jan. 21].

Please consider taking a few minutes to call your representative and urge him or her to support the Fair Elections Now Act to create publicly funded campaigns.

Thanks,
Paul Silver

CONSERVATIVE JUDICIAL ACTIVISTS

Dear Editor,

Not long ago conservatives in Congress were grilling Supreme Court nominee Sotomayor on her impartiality, impugning her ability to avoid ideological bias in her rulings. Now a conservative Supreme Court majority is blatantly pursuing an activist agenda at the expense of decades of legal precedence. The recent ruling on campaign financing by corporations amounts to conservatives' very own pornography, which is also protected on the grounds of a First Amendment right to free speech. Just as pornography represents a hideous stain on our national character, so unfettered political influence by corporations will result in the complete prostitution of a political system already dominated by special interests and powerful lobbies. Under this ruling, "freedom for all" becomes just a free-for-all in which only the biggest, baddest, and wealthiest have the chance to make their voices heard. Most sickening are conservative commentators who disingenuously try to claim that this ruling gives more power to the little guy. In their grotesque, egregious, yet innate hypocrisy, conservatives insist that in the unregulated market, individuals have the right and the ability

CONTINUED ON P.8

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to “decide for themselves” when faced, for example, with an onslaught of political advertising. Yet these same conservatives will fight tooth and nail against the right of Americans to decide matters of conscience and morality according to their individual belief systems or lack thereof. It only goes to show, once again, that the Republican is an animal most at home in the jungle – the bloodier, more cruel, more vicious it is, the better he likes it, for at heart he is at best, in addition to being a natural-born hypocrite, nothing but a bully.

Katherine Edmiston
Granite Shoals

INSANE STOPLIGHT TIMING

Dear Editor,

To whomever at the Texas Department of Transportation that is responsible for timing the stoplights on U.S. 183 at the Toll 45 overpass in Mustang Ridge:

Thanks a lot, psychopath – I’ve very nearly killed people at that intersection twice because you set both the north and south lights to trip at the exact same time. Those lights are on either side of a divided overpass, and thus the far light is not visible to drivers on U.S. 183 until they are almost underneath the near light; that means that drivers who see the near light change to yellow at too short a distance to easily stop for it will carry through the intersection, and not realize until they’re under the overpass that they are now approaching another light – now red – at 65 mph, with just barely enough room to stop before crashing into cross traffic. At least

one massive wreck has already occurred there because of this insane stoplight timing; you can still see the skid marks and police paint markings leading to a blackened concrete support column.
Good job, you lunatic – good job.

Jason Meador

YONDER COMES ONE, MAYBE

Dear Editor,

In some large cities in the world (Lisbon and Hong Kong come to mind), a bus comes by every 15 minutes or so and bus stops are readily available. So many government entities forget that the main purpose of government is to provide for the people collectively what they cannot provide for themselves individually. In Austin, smoother streets and coherent bus service come to mind.

Ken Loveless

MORE PUNCTUATION

Dear Editor,

Re: Lauren Mueller’s “Postmark” “Laws Impose on Rights,” Jan. 22: Please see “Postmark” “New Punctuation Tool!” Jan. 22. You may be able to get a group rate. Sorry, I could not resist.

Jeffery Grajek

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
UPDATED DAILY

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

LANGUAGE IS A VIRUS

HOW IDIOTIC ARGUMENTS ENTER THE POLITICAL MAINSTREAM

STEP ONE: SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE HAS A BRIGHT IDEA.

HEY--WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE COULD SPEND THE ENTIRE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ON RARE SINGLE-MALT SCOTCH AND EXOTIC PROSTITUTES FOR CEO'S SUCH AS OURSELVES?

WORKS FOR ME.

STEP TWO: THINK TANK LACKEYS COME UP WITH AN INTELLECTUAL RATIONALIZATION.

WHY SHOULD WE WASTE SOCIAL SECURITY ON NON-PRODUCTIVE RETIREES--

--WHEN WE CAN USE IT TO HELP HARD-WORKING CEO'S RELIEVE THEIR STRESS?

The Institute For American Values

STEP THREE: IDEOLOGICALLY SYMPATHETIC TALKING HEADS PARROT THIS RATIONALIZATION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY...

OUR NATION'S CEO'S ARE UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE! IF WE DON'T PASS THE HOOKERS AND WHISKEY ACT, THE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ECONOMY COULD BE DEVASTATING!

...WHILE TALK RADIO HOSTS GIVE IT A POPULIST SPIN.

THIS IS AMERICA! ANY OF YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THE TOP IF YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH!

AND WHEN YOU DO, DO YOU WANT TO LET THE LIBERALS DENY YOU THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE?

NO WAY, RUSH!

STEP FOUR: THE ARGUMENT IS REPEATED SO FREQUENTLY, PEOPLE BEGIN TO ACT AS IF IT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE.

PERHAPS THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE HOOKERS AND WHISKEY ACT SHOULD AT LEAST BE REGULATED IN SOME WAY.

WHAT ARE YOU-- SOME KIND OF BIG-GOVERNMENT SOCIALIST?

I SAY GIVE 'EM ALL THE HOOKERS AND WHISKEY THEY WANT!

NEXT WEEK: BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS IS ACHIEVED!

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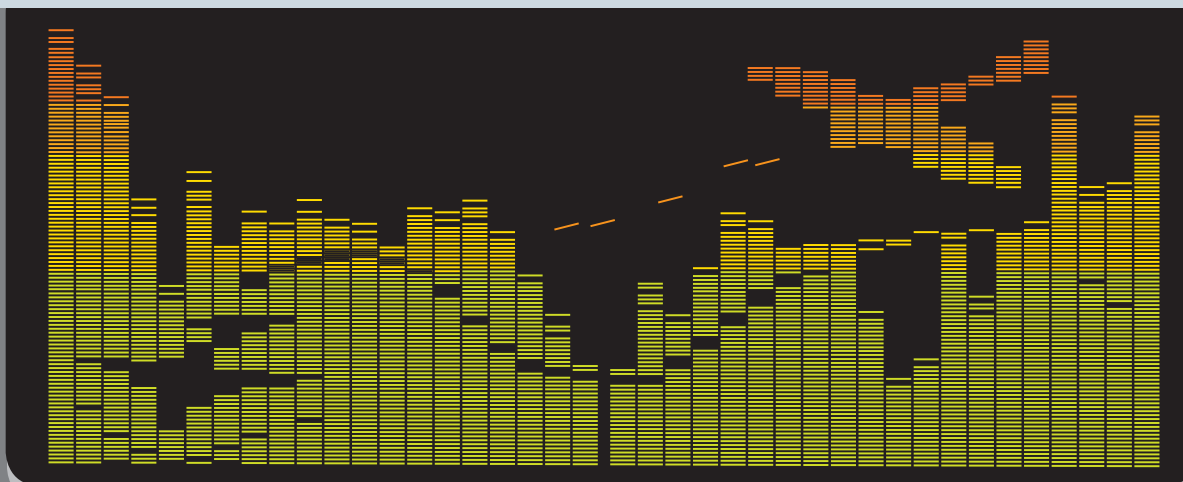
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is a **song competition** between local Austin bands competing for notoriety, exposure, and for a chance to win **cash and prizes** ... and bragging rights of course!

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TO VOTE:
Monday,
February
15**



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SONG



VOTE



ONLINE



TODAY



Competing bands must be registered in the *Chronicle's*
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and opt in on their Musicians Register profile page in order to participate and be included in the contest.
Update your Musicians Register profile, upload your song, and good luck!

Prizes courtesy of *The Austin Chronicle* and Music Lab

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news

Headlines

- City Council decides on the **Hanger Orthopedic Group** incentives deal today (Thursday, Jan. 28), hears a presentation on **Austin Energy's** generation plans, and more. See "City Hall Hustle," p.12, and "The AE Generation Plan's Latest Monkey Wrench," p.15. And good news for council junkies: Venerable community radio **KAZI** 88.7FM will begin airing council meetings from start to finish, beginning at 10am today.
- While local boosters may be ecstatic over the prospect of a prosthetics company coming to Austin (see above), the city of Cedar Park is poised to make a bigger splash today with the announcement that **Schlitterbahn Waterparks** is poised to plunk millions into an "experiential entertainment resort" in the little city to the north.
- Austin hit the No. 1 spot on Portfolio.com's list of best places in the U.S. to open a small business and scored a No. 9 ranking on the list of Advocate magazine's 15 gayest cities. No matter how cosmopolitan Austin becomes, the magazine noted, "gay and lesbian residents will always take their barbeque, two-stepping, and live music culture seriously." Seriously.
- The state's unemployment numbers have inched upward again. According to the **Texas Workforce Commission**, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 8% in November to 8.3% in December as the state lost 23,900 nonagricultural jobs.
- Lawmakers are discussing possible security increases at the Capitol in the wake of the Jan. 21 shooting on the Capitol's south steps. **Fausto Cardenas** was arrested for allegedly firing a small-caliber handgun. There were no injuries. He has been charged with deadly conduct, a third-degree felony.
- STAARS over Texas: Education Commissioner **Robert Scott** has announced that the unpopular Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests will be replaced by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness starting in the 2011-12 academic year. The high school class of 2015 will be the first students to be faced with the new graduating requirements.
- All aboard? Finally? For real? Capital Metro sent a Jan. 21 letter to the Federal Railroad Administration with word that the transit agency intends to open the **MetroRail Red Line** to Leander for paying passengers in mid- to late March. See "MetroRail Watch," p.15.
- With the second Republican gubernatorial candidates' debate scheduled for Friday (Jan. 29), Gov. **Rick Perry** is already grabbing headlines with his announcement he will not seek any newspaper endorsements. Meanwhile, Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** has added former President **George H.W. Bush** to her list of supporters.
- A gentle reminder if you want to vote in the March 2 primary: Voter registration closes Monday, Feb. 1. Early voting starts Tuesday, Feb. 16, and runs through Friday, Feb. 26.
- Monday, Feb. 1 is also the deadline for paying property taxes in Travis County. Payment options abound: in person at any county tax office, after hours in drop-boxes at 5501 Airport, online at www.traviscountytax.org, or by mail (must be postmarked Feb. 1 or earlier). Call 854-9473 for more info.



Hundreds of gun-rights activists rallied Monday at the Austin Police Department in response to recent law enforcement actions that led to the shutdown of a gun show scheduled Jan. 16-17. Local gadfly and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones is shown with bullhorn in foreground.

Revenge of the Cyborgs

Speech may be free, but justice costs real money

BY MICHAEL KING

Reading through the Supreme Court opinions this week in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* case – which struck down virtually all restrictions on corporate (and union) financing of election campaigns – I found myself reaching for outlandish metaphors to describe how otherworldly the entire exercise seemed. Justice Anthony Kennedy's strenuous majority opinion is filled with defenses of bottomless campaign spending for multinational corporations as expressions of absolute "free speech" – a notion the court had no patience for when the speaker was a high school kid carrying a rude poster – and denunciations of the supposed "bans" on corporate free speech represented by decades of relatively toothless campaign finance laws. "The law before us [a restriction on express corporate electioneering shortly before an election]," thunders Kennedy, "is an outright ban, backed by criminal sanctions."

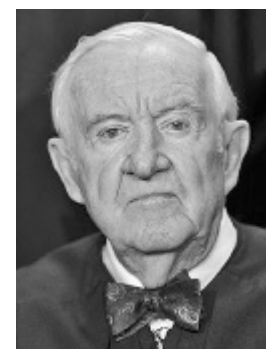
I'm sure you're all familiar with the long line of corporate miscreants marched off to the penitentiary for violating campaign finance laws. Why, under the existing law, Kennedy reels with horror, government officials "could have banned the film [*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*]."

That's not only not remotely accurate, it's ludicrous. Yet Kennedy's opinion is filled with similar humbuggery, because he's desperate to find grandiose reasons for making what should be a technical dispute about whether video-on-demand constitutes illegal broadcasting under FEC regulations into the biggest case since *Marbury v. Madison*.

Kennedy's self-flattering effusions are followed by Chief Justice John Roberts (joined by Samuel Alito), primarily to insist that what looks to any rational person as completely overturning settled campaign finance law (feeble as it is) is instead a grand return to original constitutional principle. Antonin Scalia (joined by Alito and Clarence Thomas) weighs in to claim that the founders did not disdain or fear corporations quite so much as the dissenters demonstrate. Wackiest of all, Thomas dissents only from upholding laws requiring disclosure of campaign donors – because, he says, some California Proposition 8 opponents reportedly harassed or threatened named supporters of the proposition. Now there's a central social problem of our time: mobs of gay people menacing poor defenseless heterosexuals.

point
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QUOTE of the WEEK



"While American democracy is imperfect, few outside the majority of this Court would have thought its flaws included a dearth of corporate money in politics."

– Justice John Paul Stevens, dissenting from the Supreme Court's ruling on campaign finance laws

CONTINUED ON P.13

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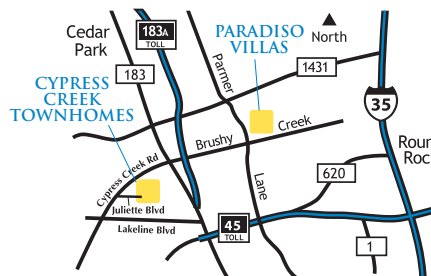
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Naked City

► **CITY SHELLS OUT FOR QUINTANA** According to the agenda posted for the Feb. 4 City Council meeting, members will authorize another \$250,000 for legal services to defend Austin Police Officer **Leonardo Quintana** in the federal civil suit filed by the family of slain 18-year-old **Nathaniel Sanders II**. The city has hired outside counsel **Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez** to handle the lawsuit filed by attorney Adam Loewy on the family's behalf. Icenhauer-Ramirez has defended the city in similar suits in the past, including in the defense of two officers involved in the notorious 1995 Cedar Avenue Valentine's Day melee and, more recently, for APD Officer Julie Schroeder, who was terminated in 2005 for the shooting death of Daniel Rocha. The city's original contract with Icenhauer-Ramirez was for \$50,000, but council will now consider increasing the total to \$300,000 in order to pay for "anticipated fees and expenses," including the hiring of experts. The money will come from the city's Liability Reserve Fund. — *Jordan Smith*

► **UT TO TACKLE BUDGET WOES** A request from the state may see the **University of Texas** at Austin looking to find \$29 million in savings on top of the \$31.1 million it needs to find to cover critical priorities (see "Running the UT Numbers," Dec. 18, 2009). On Jan. 15, Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and House Speaker Joe Straus gave all state agencies one month to present plans to cut 5% of their general revenue and dedicated general revenue fund expenditures over the 2010-2011 biennium. The request does not require any reduction in eligibility and essential staff for several of the state's biggest expenditures such as **Medicaid** and the **Children's Health Insurance Program**. With those funds protected, that means that the state is actually looking for close to \$1.6 billion in savings, or 1% of its total biennial budget. UT Chief Financial Officer **Kevin Hegarty** said it's still unclear whether these are one-time costs or whether the 5% is a statewide goal or target each agency must reach. With less than three weeks to go before the submission deadline, he said, "We hope to have greater clarity on this matter within a week's time." — *Richard Whittaker*

► **PERRY, PALIN, WHAT A PAIR!** The Dallas Cowboys have crashed out of the NFL championship, but Texans still have something to do on Super Bowl Sunday as Gov. Goodhair and the newest Fox News talking head share a stage. Gov. **Rick Perry** has announced that Fox News contributor and failed vice presidential candidate **Sarah Palin** will be stumping for his re-election in Houston on Feb. 7. Details of the event are yet to be confirmed, but if the governor is thinking about cutting into game time, he better have some big-screen TVs on hand. It will be interesting to see if the same Republicans who called for MSNBC host Ed Schultz to quit his media job when he was approached to run for North Dakota's senate seat will at least ask for Palin to drop her employer's "fair and balanced" label since Perry called her "a true conservative leader."

— *R.W.*



NEWS

ANYONE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT?

Once again the growth conundrum: If we don't Hanger together, we'll all hang separately

BY WELLS DUNBAR

With Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke's reappointment potentially running into a buzz saw, Austin has a suitable fed replacement — in the form of **Brian Rodgers**.

City Council watchers may have experienced a profound sense of déjà vu last week (Jan. 21), as Rodgers stood in council chambers, weighing in on Domain-related city incentives. But it was markedly different this time around: The special meeting was called to consider city incentives for **Hanger Orthopedic Group**, designed to entice the company into relocating from Maryland to the Domain, North Austin's mixed-use mall. Moreover, Rodgers was not here in opposition; in contrast to the undeniably messy Domain incentives (which had served as the casus belli behind **Stop Domain Subsidies**, the campaign that brought Rodgers into the public eye), he, like virtually all the speakers this day, didn't expressly oppose the city's proposed payments.

Indeed, as compared to other incentive agreements, the simplicity of the Hanger deal was roundly praised. (Basically, it's a \$50,000 yearly grant for five years, dependent on the creation of 133 jobs, continuing for five more years if at least 250 jobs are created.) And also, the public process addressing the incentives — the first under expanded notification rules prompted, in part, by Rodgers' Stop Domain Subsidies work — was praised for its far more transparent process. As Rodgers himself acknowledged, "the process is much improved."

But there's no improving on perfection, and the question at the meeting's forefront was a classic in Austin politics: Can growth pay for itself? While Rodgers didn't oppose the terms of the incentive, he questioned the reasoning of incentives in general. The city's financial analysis of the package posited benefits of nearly \$6 million to Austin, while tabulating additional expenses — utility costs and added strains on services such as courts, parks, libraries, public safety, and the like — at more than \$5 million, leaving an estimated net revenue of roughly \$877,000. But in addition, Rodgers extrapolated costs of additional public infrastructure — roads, utility lines — for new homes to absorb the new jobs, which, according to his math, puts the city "in the red" for some \$1.8 million. "This is not a Hanger problem," he said; instead it's an "underlying structural problem with the way the city deals with growth. ... The city's in a box, because the more housing units we build, the more money the city needs to raise from

city
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hustle

For more on City Council, see "Council Preview," p.14. Follow www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle.

its existing citizenry." **Sheryl Cole** pointed out the potential fallacy of assuming the 100-plus hires would all be clamoring for new homes, to which Rodgers responded, "We already have an inventory of homes, but then they'll build a new inventory of homes."

While Rodgers seems right that growth is a treadmill that incessantly revs up its own speed, like the rest of us he doesn't necessarily have a realistic handle on controlling it. After he said "you don't fan the flames" of growth through pro-Austin lobbying and PR, **Randi Shade** opened up on him. "We've been growing at a steady clip since 1880, since they've been measuring it, whether we were paying for PR firms or whether we weren't, whether we had

Opportunity Austin or we didn't, whether we had an economic development-savvy City Council [or we didn't]. ... I'm just perplexed, because I don't know that activities like this are what are creating the problem."

Ultimately, Rodgers proffered a harsh prescription for growth management. "What is the solution to keep people from moving here? Well, I guess its to let the unemployment rate drift up to about 6 percent. ... People move here because of jobs. The more jobs, the more net in-migrations. ... By getting our unemployment rate so low, we're inducing people to move here. So I guess you would say we have to let the unemployment rate drift up a bit." In this respect, Rodgers is an improvement on Bernanke: Ben's been pilloried for implying 10% unemployment is the price for low inflation; Rodgers thinks 6% is OK if it keeps taxes lower.

Aside from the inherent selfishness of the proposal, it raised another problem: in the words of another speaker,

Michael Oden, "I don't think there's a whole lot that cities can do to determine what their growth is going to be." Oden, an associate professor at the University of Texas' School of Architecture who specializes in city planning, held forth with Shade

on the various — and radically opposed — growth problems cities can face. There's our problem of trying to pay for expansion or the counterpoint problem of decline (think Detroit or Las Vegas), where infrastructure demands must be met with a dwindling, not expanding, tax base.

The Hanger package comes back before council this week (Thursday, Jan. 28). While its passage seems all but assured, the eternal argument over how to manage Austin's exponential growth isn't going anywhere. ■

res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS**, P.52.

THURSDAY 28

HOMELESS COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ECHO, a coalition of local organizations working on homelessness, needs help tallying homeless people in parks, campsites, and other spaces. Training provided. Sign up online. *Training:* 2pm, *count:* 4-10pm. 782-8835. www.traviscountyhomeslessnesscount.org.

LIVE UNITED FILM SERIES United Way Capital Area and KLRU present *It All Adds Up*, which documents the successes of a groundbreaking math program for high school kids. Afterward, local experts will discuss the topics raised in the film. RSVP at www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org. 6pm. *Austin City Limits Studio* 6A, CMB, UT campus. Free.

TRAVIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FORUM Meet the Dem candidates in this year's local and statewide elections. 6pm. *Millennium Youth Complex*, 1156 Hargrave, 905-4493. www.traviscountymocrats.org.

FRIDAY 29

STRUGGLE FOR A FREE PALESTINE Richard Becker discusses his latest book, *Palestine, Israel and the U.S. Empire*. 7pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

SATURDAY 30

AFRICAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE: THEN AND NOW Austin's African American Quality of Life Initiative team will share its progress and solicit input. 9am. *ACC Eastview Campus*, 3401 Webberville. www.cityofaustin.org/aaql.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND BOYS CONFERENCE Sen. **Royce West** delivers the keynote address at this workshop for students, parents, and teachers. 10am-2pm. *Reagan High School*, 7104 Berkman, 232-8588. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

SUNDAY 31

COMMUNITY FORUM: AUSTIN REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER Learn about the ARIC, which, if approved by City Council, will serve as a "fusion center" letting the Austin Police Department share info with other enforcement agencies. Texas Impact hosts. 4-5:30pm. *Cristo Rey Catholic Church*, 103 Robert Martinez Jr., 472-3903. www.texasimpact.org.

MONDAY 01

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE The W.H. Passon Historical Society invites you to tour the Southgate-Lewis House and its artifacts of the African-American experience in Austin. *Mon.-Sat.*, Feb. 1-6, 10am-2pm. 1501 E. 12th, 220-1157. Free. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwhphs.

ALGPC CANDIDATE FORUM Local candidates craving the love from the Austin Lesbian/Gay Pol-

itical Caucus will air their wares in hopes of snagging those coveted endorsements. 7pm. *Granger Bldg.*, 314 W. 11th, 474-0750. Free. www.outaustin.org.

RETHINKING MEXICO-U.S. MIGRATION As Mexico prepares for its bicentennial of the Independence movement this year, St. Edward's opens the discussion concerning the tricky subject of intracontinental migration. 7pm. *Maloney Room, Main Building*, 233-1678. Free. www.stedwards.edu/kozmetzky/upcomingevents.htm.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE to vote in the March 2 primaries; applications are available at libraries, post offices, and elsewhere. See www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do for a list of locations, to verify your registration, or to change your address.

WEDNESDAY 03

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION meets monthly to discuss and

Wrestling With Alligators

Thomas' silliness is only the extreme version of unreality that runs through all of the majority's arguments – completely, willfully oblivious to the actual state of U.S. politics, in which demonstrable floods of corporate money course through every election campaign like, as former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor put it in her *McConnell* decision, “an alligator in the bathtub.” The majority opinions read like the conversation you might have at the asylum should you arrive on the day after the most brilliant lunatics in residence have just assumed control of the joint. The sentences sound coherent, the syntax is accurate – but all connection to actual, lived political reality has been lost.

Kennedy and his colleagues reason not only that artificial, government-sanctioned corporations are akin to citizens, therefore exercising the rights of citizens – but that there is no distinction between corporations and citizens at all. Having created these cyborgs for our economic convenience, we have watched them evolve in size and power beyond all our human political capacities – and now the robots rule.

Make no mistake, this is an “activist” decision made by judges determined to force political reality into an idealized abstraction. The dissent of John Paul Stevens (joined by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Sonia Sotomayor) fairly sputters with frustration at the majority's blind absolutism. “The Court operates with a sledge hammer rather than a scalpel,” Stevens writes, “when it strikes down one of Congress' most significant efforts to regulate the role that corporations and unions play in electoral politics.” He quotes Thomas Jefferson denouncing “the aristocracy of our monied corporations” and points out that the constitutional framers, “Unlike our colleagues ... had little trouble distinguishing corporations from human beings, and when they constitutionalized the right to free speech in the First Amendment, it was the free speech of individual Americans that they had in mind.” Stevens repeatedly emphasizes the practical political reality that Kennedy, et al., expressly dismiss as irrelevant: “in a functioning democracy the public

must have faith that its representatives owe their positions to the people, not to the corporations with the deepest pockets.”

Sold American

But that was in another country, and besides, the horse is dead. Glenn Greenwald, writing last week in *Salon*, takes (with the American Civil Liberties Union) a free-speech absolutist position but also defends the court's decision because he considers it already in force. He argues that the current law effectively restricts small corporations (e.g., nonprofit advocacy groups) more harshly than the megafirms and that, in any case, the corporate powers have long since taken control of our national politics – witness the health care/insurance debacle and the impunity of the banks.

To take the salient local example, the Texas Association of Business bragged (accurately) that it “blew the doors off” the Legislature with corporate money for “educational” mailers in the 2002 campaign – despite century-old state restrictions on corporate campaign money. District Attorney Ronnie Earle threw up a stop sign, a few companies got slapped, and Tom DeLay scuttled away in disgrace – but the House was nevertheless remade in TAB's image. At the federal level, the restrictions are supposedly tighter, but it's hard to believe the Supreme Court's oblivious decision can make things much worse.

Yet just because things are bad is hardly an argument for making them awful.

As O'Connor implied, the Supremes might not have been quite so sanguine about the negative effects of corporate campaign money if they still had to troll for it. The history of the Texas Supreme Court amply demonstrates that sufficient buckets of money spent in strategic ways can steadily remake an ordinary citizen's last refuge into a corporate defendant's final redoubt. Nobody directly “bought” Kennedy, Roberts, Alito, et al. – they just funded a series of administrations that knew what was required of them. And now we've got, for a long time, a youthful Supreme majority that expressly believes there is no distinction between money and advocacy.

That song you hear drifting from K Street and the TV networks? *Laissez les bon temps rouler*. ■

advise City Council on programs for Austin's African-American community. 5:30-7:30pm. *Street-Jones Bldg., 1000 E. 11th, Rm. 400-A, 974-7819.*

AISD COMMUNITY SUMMIT Join AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen to discuss transforming public education in Austin. 7:30am. *ACC East-view Campus, 3401 Webberville. www.austinisd.org.*

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP Hosted by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. *Wed.-Fri., Feb. 3-5. Regional Foundation Library (formerly the Hogg Foundation Library), 1009 E. 11th. www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/growork.shtml.*

TEXAS TRAILS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE examines best practices for implementing methods of transportation that encourage physical and mental well-being, social interaction, safety, and environmental conservation. *Wed.-Sat., Feb. 3-6. AT&T Center, 1900 University Ave. www.texastrails.biketexas.org.*

THURSDAY 04

RECYCLED READS As of today, the Austin Public Library expands the hours for its used-book store to *Thu.-Sun., noon-6pm. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

ONGOING

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD NOMINATIONS The Austin Climate Protection Program is accepting nominations of individuals, businesses, and organizations who deserve recognition for their green efforts. Get nominee criteria and submit nominations by March 1 at www.coolaustin.org.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD DRIVE Visit any of 57 participating H-E-B and Randalls groceries to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank by making a cash donation or buying food for donation to someone in need. See www.souperbowl.org for locations. *Through Feb. 7.*

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Heritage Trees: Size Does Matter

Austin is a city of tree huggers – it's a badge we wear proudly. But can Austinites get their arms around a tree with a 24-inch diameter? Or a 30-inch one? That's the question with which City Council will grapple at its Feb. 4 meeting, when it hears city staff's proposal for a "heritage tree" protection ordinance.

About two and a half years ago, the *Chronicle* spotlighted the city's current **tree protection ordinance**, which mandates penalties for chopping down a tree of 19 inches in diameter or greater without a permit – the thrust of the article being that the law lacks real teeth (see "Clear-Cutting Austin," Sept. 21, 2007). With a penalty of only \$2,000 per tree, some developers simply viewed the fine as a cost of doing business. "The fines are meaningless," complained one interviewee. "On a half-million-dollar project, a builder will spend more than \$2,000 just buying lunch for his workers."

Under a new ordinance that's been wending its way through the city's boards and commissions process, the protection for those 19-inch trees would be slightly strengthened, but, more importantly, a new class of protection would be created: Trees with a 24-inch diameter or greater would now be classified as "**heritage trees**." Whether this will really have any effect is debatable, though, because state law forbids raising that \$2,000 penalty.

The key difference in the new classification is that while the current law makes it relatively easy to remove a protected tree by simply getting the city arborist to agree to a mitigation plan (usually the planting of new trees), 24-inches under the new ordinance wouldn't be removed unless they are in very poor health, they pose a safety hazard, or a number of alternatives that might make removal unnecessary have been considered and ruled out.

And then there's the real biggie, also a point of contention: While permission to remove most heritage trees could be granted administratively by the **Planning and Development**

Review Department, removal of one with a diameter of 30 inches or greater would require permission from the Land Use Commission after a review by the Environmental Board and possibly the Urban Forestry Board.

Translation: **public hearings**. That doesn't sit well with the **Real Estate Council of Austin**.

RECA – often painted as the bad guy in enviro vs. developer wars – says it supports the current ordinance and even the creation of a heritage tree ordinance. But the Land Use Commission hearings would lead the process down the wrong path, says RECA Vice President **Jeff Howard**. "We hear the concerns of people who would like to see a stricter ordinance for our biggest and best trees and would like to see it stricter in terms of removing those trees," he says. But as for hearings on 30-inch-plus trees: "The concern there is not just the timing and expense of going through that process ... but there's also the concern that we will take what ought to be an objective position made by professionals considering all the various site constraints in a development and make it a political decision. ... [It] could potentially make the trees straw men for opposition to a project so that it will be a tool to oppose development rather than a tool to enhance the urban canopy."

The ordinance has strong support from the city's Urban Forestry Board, says board Chair **Keith Babberney**. The value of such trees "goes beyond the touchy-feely," he says.

"The urban forest should be viewed as part of the city's infrastructure," he says. "It provides stormwater remediation, air filtering, shading, which reduces UV degradation of pavement. It reduces the heat island effect; it reduces the demand for electricity. And trees are the only part of our infrastructure that has any potential to increase in value. And 90 percent of our infrastructure benefits come from 10 percent of our trees – you can plant 100 1-inch trees to replace a 100-inch tree, but you don't get the return on that investment for many, many years."



City arborist Michael Embesi sizes up a tree.

JOHN ANDERSON

But will the ordinance make any difference without stronger financial penalties? "The way it's written now, it needs some more work," says Babberney, although he didn't specify what that might be. "It's hard for me to ever say it has enough teeth, but I'm certainly on board with any improvement that's better than what we have now. If we can do more later, we'll do more later."

Babberney defends the public process about which RECA worries. "It doesn't [currently] take much to get a tree approved for removal," he says. "It only takes one person, a city inspector. Not that those guys aren't doing enough now to protect trees, but one person having a bad day or getting strong-armed by the person requesting removal, any number of factors, might lead to a bad decision, and there's not much recourse to that – once the permit is given, the tree comes down."

The ordinance also has the support of the **Save Our Springs Alliance**.

Read the draft text of the ordinance at www.cityofaustin.org/trees. The final public hearing on the ordinance before it goes to council will be before the city's Zoning and Platting Commission on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

– Lee Nichols

AISD Ponders a Budget Fix

Like just about every other governmental agency, the Austin Independent School District is facing a bleak budget cycle. Now Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** has implemented an administrative hiring freeze and is asking the board of trustees to consider the extraordinary step of declaring financial exigency, allowing her to make major structural reforms to stanch the budget bleeding.

Current calculations show that the district needs an extra \$15.7 million in fiscal year 2010: \$8.6 million for priority first-year projects in the new strategic plan and \$7.1 million to cover a predicted tax shortfall. In 2008, voters approved a property tax increase of 3.9 cents per \$100 valuation. At the time, the board of trustees was criticized by Education Austin President **Louis Malfaro** for not proposing a larger increase to give more long-term stability. Now, with property values sinking, the district is left with a structural deficit. AISD Chief Financial Officer **Nicole Conley-Abram** said, "Basically, our expenditures are outpacing our predicted revenues, so in order to eliminate the structural deficit, we have to pare down our expenditures."

While the 2010 fiscal year budget is still in its predrafting stage, Carstarphen has suggested that the board declare financial exigency. Under the Texas Education Code, this is an emergency state that allows districts to terminate contracts early. Carstarphen suggested that this time exigency is about taking a structural approach to running the district. She said: "We're so used to accumulating the debt and unleashing huge program reductions as our budgeting style. To me, those things just show a lack of foresight."

Echoing that sentiment, AISD board of trustees President **Mark Williams** said: "Everyone wants to plan, everyone wants to have a balanced budget, and everyone says they want us to reach all these goals, but no one's willing to say, 'What's it going to take to do that?' What she's done is accelerated the conversation."

The board is scheduled to discuss the budget at its Feb. 8 work session, and Carstarphen expects her request to be discussed then. If the trustees decide to move forward, a vote could take place as early as their Feb. 22 regular meeting. However, board Vice President **Vince Torres** said he was "surprised" by Carstarphen's request and will wait for more detailed staff presentations on the budget before considering such a radical step.

– Richard Whittaker

In the Mix

There's much afoot at this week's City Council meeting (Thursday, Jan. 28), across several disparate categories. Let's take a look.

WON'T SOMEBODY THINK OF THE CHILDREN?

Council has done just that, in addressing controversial budget-cut suggestions from last year relating to children's activities. Last meeting, it was funding "**splash pads**," water features for parks that saw their pools closed per the tightening of the city budget. This week, council takes up another hot topic from last summer's budget battles: keeping the lights on for **Little League teams**. A proposal to charge teams for utilities was pulled over public outcry. Now it seems the city is striking a compromise with Item 30, which will cover utilities "up to a maximum amount per-year per-field," an as-yet-undetermined number to be based on the look of the budget in a given year. Similarly, Item 42 enters the city into an agreement with the **West Austin Youth Association** to develop sports programs, with a funding vote to be brought back to council in 60 days.

ANYTHING BUT BRIEF

A pair of briefings are scheduled for 10:30am; the first, Item 44, discusses **Austin Energy's generation mix** – coal, gas, renewables – and AE's intrinsically linked **Carbon Reduction Plan**, which seeks to wean us off the fossil fuels. A final vote isn't expected until later this spring. (For more, see "The AE Generation Plan's Latest Monkey Wrench," p.15.) Item 45 brings council up to speed on redevelopment efforts along lower **Shoal Creek and Seaholm**; on a somewhat related note, Item 23 would add an extra \$525,000 to the contact with URS Corporation,

decommissioning the **Green Water Treatment Plant** next to Seaholm. Work there had ceased since the city noticed URS' "consistent problems in controlling the safety environment on the Green Project, including the activities of its subcontractors," wrote Public Works Director Howard Lazarus in a memo to council.

DON'T BE DENSE

As we wrote last week, council acquiesced to the Planning Commission's request for more time to study the **density bonuses** as part of the **Downtown Austin Plan**.

Item 58 gives the commission the authority to convene a stakeholder review board and sets dates for interim updates. The commission has until June 8 to issue its final recommendations.

INCENTIVES EXCITEMENT

The \$50,000-a-year incentive package aimed at attracting **Hanger Orthopedic Group** to Austin comes up for all-but-certain final approval as Item 43 (see "City Hall Hustle," p.12). Additionally, a few items of note are in the draft agenda posted for council's next meeting, Feb. 4, including tweaks to the city's **single-stream recycling** contract extension with **Greenstar North America**. Added flexibility in the contract, such as not having to deliver all recyclables to Greenstar for the last six months of the contract (March to September 2011), bodes well for the city using a local materials recovery facility by the spring of 2011. Also, a 6pm public hearing is scheduled to discuss "**heritage tree**" protections in which a variance would be required to remove trees more than 2 feet in diameter, measured at a height of 4½ feet from the ground (see "Heritage Trees: Size Does Matter," above).

– Wells Dunbar

The AE Generation Plan's Latest Monkey Wrench

On Thursday (Jan. 28), City Council discusses **Austin Energy's** 2020 generation plan proposal, hoping to establish the right mix of traditional and renewable energy resources to power Austin's homes and businesses through the next decade. Despite nearly two years of deliberation on the plan – and support for AE's proposal from the **Electric Utility Commission**, the **Resource Management Commission**, and the **Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force** – council is unlikely to be making any quick decisions. While the proposal fulfills **Austin Climate Protection Plan** goals, critics have charged it doesn't go far enough, especially when it comes to phasing out coal; others have balked at the potential costs. As public debate has focused on balancing these issues, officials looking ahead to the next legislative session have hit upon yet another troubling concern: potential deregulation of Texas' municipally owned utilities.

If publicly owned utilities such as AE were to some extent privatized and forced to compete in Texas' energy market, the city of Austin could lose a substantial chunk of its income. (About 20% of the city's money comes from utility fund transfers; it's unclear whether deregulation would affect the entire AE amount or just a portion.) Rumors began circulating last fall that generation-plan skeptics might support deregulation efforts in 2011, in retaliation for passage of the plan, but supporters held their ground. "There certainly are always rumors about the industrials going to the Legislature asking for Austin to be deregulated," said **Public Citizen's**

Generation Plan: The Good, the Bad, and the Holy

Some recent events have given supporters of Austin Energy's generation plan reason for optimism. **The Interfaith Environmental Network** has come out in support of the proposal, countering criticism from the **Catholic Diocese of Austin**, which had thus far been the most vocal group from the faith community, an especially significant body of stakeholders because of its work with low-income rate-payers. Then last week, Portland General Electric Co. announced intentions to shut down Oregon's only coal-fired power plant, seemingly bolstering environmentalists' position that phasing out coal is feasible and cost-effective. But the imminent retirement of AE General Manager **Roger Duncan** has cast a shadow over the plan's future. "He has been such a point person and leader on the generation plan," says Council Member Sheryl Cole. "It's hard to push without Roger here." Indeed, opinions expressed at a Monday night public forum on the search for Duncan's replacement fell largely along the same lines as the generation plan debate – environmental concerns vs. commercial/industrial interests – and led to speculation that the new hire better be able to "walk on water." – N.A.

Tom "Smitty" Smith at the time. "And we fully expect they will, whether or not" AE takes a position favorable toward them, he added. Meanwhile, **John Sutton** of the **Building Owners and Managers Association** – a member of both the AE task force and the **Coalition for Clean, Affordable, Reliable Energy**, one of the most vocal critics of the plan – says he knows of no such efforts. "That [deregulation] was one of the things that we [at CCARE] threw out there as a possibility," said Sutton recently, referring to discussions last fall, "but it didn't really go very far."

City staff and council members couldn't point to a specific person or group professing to support deregulation, but several said the possibility can't be ignored. City Council Member **Bill Spelman** said such opposition has "largely been motivated by folks who don't realize our costs are going to go up anyway." Still, he said, there's reason to believe that the Lege is watching Austin.

Last week, Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** issued interim charges to the Senate **Business and Commerce Committee** to "study the generation costs of municipally owned electric utilities' planned generation portfolios."

"It doesn't say, 'Let's talk about opening Austin up to competition.' I think that's what everybody's reading into it, and I'm not even sure whether that's appropriate. Maybe we shouldn't be reading anything into it," said Spelman. Nonetheless, he said, "I think we need to take it very seriously."

While the generation plan remains on council's regular Thursday agenda, the deregulation issue may stay behind closed doors for now, as council has also scheduled an executive session "to discuss or take action on a 'competitive matter' of Austin Energy." The generation plan debate is likely to drag on for at least another month; city staff are planning a public forum on the plan for mid- to late February.

– Nora Ankrum

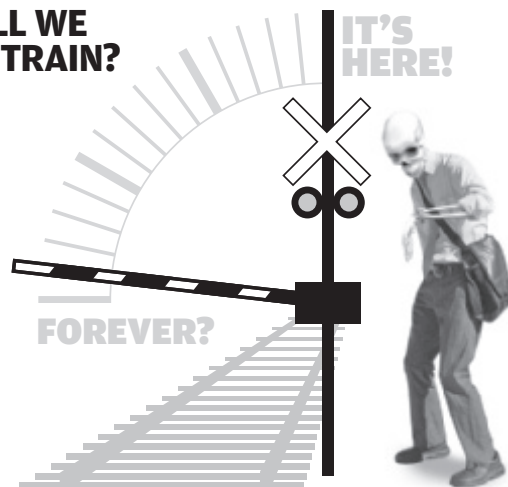
METRORAIL WATCH HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT FOR THE TRAIN?

Capital Metro sent a letter to the **Federal Railroad Administration** Jan. 21 stating that its attempt to work out the kinks in its signaling and crossing-guard system for its Leander-to-Downtown commuter rail system are "well under way" and should be complete by the end of February. And here's the big one you're waiting for: "We will operate the system to simulate revenue service for two weeks in early March and will open the line later in March. A specific date has not yet been set."

You'll have to forgive us if we're skeptical. Haven't we been the wrong way down this track before? But we will give them the benefit of the doubt and raise the arm another notch.

IN OTHER CAPITAL METRO NEWS:

- Austin Mayor Pro Tem **Mike Martinez** was elected chair of the Capital Metro board of directors by his fellow board members Monday. "There's a better day coming for Capital Metro," said Martinez. "I don't plan on staying in this position for 10 or 15 years." Instead, he said, he wants to get the agency where "we all want it to be" and then move on.
- The agency hired **Gilbert Tweed International** for \$175,900 to lead its search for a new CEO/president. Martinez said speed in hiring was not the issue. "For me, it's not about whether it takes six days or six months," he said, but about getting the best possible candidate.
- **Monday's board meeting** had a good deal of tension, as dozens of citizens with disabilities packed the small boardroom wall-to-wall to complain about the agency's treatment of the transit-dependent, apparently motivated at least in part by an article in last week's *Chronicle* (see "Can't Get There From Here," Jan. 22). – Lee Nichols



Nominate a person or group by **March 1** at www.coolaustin.org/awards for making a "green" difference in Austin's environment.

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Children's Zone: Can Harlem Come to Austin?

During his 2008 presidential campaign, then-Sen. Barack Obama applauded the **Harlem Children's Zone** in New York for using governmental, educational, and nonprofit groups in a coordinated program to break the cycle of childhood poverty. His election pledge was to create 20 Promise Neighborhoods that could apply the lessons of Harlem across the nation. Now public agencies and nonprofit groups in Travis County are competing to become part of this grand experiment.

The Harlem Children's Zone was founded in 1997 by education advocate **Geoffrey Canada**: Serving 15,000 children and 7,000 adults in a 100-block area of New York, the concept is to create a pipeline from cradle to career, bringing together every possible neighborhood influence and social agency to both enrich the educational process and remove impediments to childhood development. The Obama administration's **Promise Neighborhood initiative**, as it's described, won't simply duplicate what worked in Harlem with the hope it will work everywhere. Instead, U.S. Education Secretary **Arne Duncan** has said it takes the "core concepts of the Harlem Children's Zone" and creates localized solutions to specific local problems.

The basic idea is to target specific neighborhoods, selected on criteria of poverty and academic underachievement. A consortium of governmental agencies and nonprofits would then work together to provide interlocking services to address the root causes underlying childhood poverty and consequent academic difficulties. Since each community has different issues, from high parental unemployment to limited English language proficiency to child homelessness, each project proposal must

reflect the needs of the individual community. Texas Rep. **Mark Strama**, D-Austin, said it's all about giving kids from economically disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to thrive by providing the same resources and opportunities as those available to children from affluent homes. He said, "There's nothing explosive in that — except no one's ever tried to do it."

There's more on the line than convening a few interagency committees. Before the summer, the Department of Education will release the terms to apply for the first stage: selecting 20 neighborhood consortia, each getting a \$500,000 planning grant funded with American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act money. There will be additional long-term federal funding, and the consortia will work with federal agencies including the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. Welcoming the change of focus on barriers to childhood development, the Austin Independent School District board of trustees President **Mark Williams** said: "Sometimes we have a tendency to look at schools and say, 'You're failing kids,' and we don't realize that there are many other factors that impact how they perform in school. Are they hungry, scared, sleepy, sick, don't come to school at all?"

Two proposals are being drafted in Travis County, both focusing on East Austin. One, backed by the **Sooch Foundation** and the **Webber Family Foundation**, brings together representatives of the city of Austin and AISD, as well as local nonprofits such as dropout prevention experts Communities in Schools, youth services provider LifeWorks, and affordable housing advocates Foundation Communities. Their focus is on the St. John/Coronado Hills

neighborhood planning area between I-35, Highway 290, and Highway 183, potentially using AISD's Reagan High "vertical team" — from elementary through high school — as the project backbone. Education nonprofit **Southwest Key Programs** is working on its own proposal for the Govalle and Johnston Terrace neighborhoods. This would build on its existing **East Austin Children's Promise** program and use resources like Southwest Key's East Austin Family Center and its charter school, the East Austin College Prep Academy.

Potential confusion or competition among local bids may be the least of Austin's worries. Representatives from 120 consortia from across the nation attended the **Changing the Odds** conference hosted by Duncan and the Harlem Children's Zone in November, but there are expected to be between 150 and 200 applications filed. Strama attended the meeting with the St. John group and warned: "We're going to be going up against Detroit and Cleveland. When Austin's application reaches [the Department of Education] they're going to say, 'Austin doesn't have blight.'" The challenge will be breaking that presumption, and Strama said the city's high child poverty and low graduation rates could strengthen its case. He said, "When they put up the numbers that they were attacking in Harlem, I said, 'That could describe East Austin.'"

Council Member **Sheryl Cole** serves on the local Promise Neighborhoods advisory committee and described this project as almost a missing piece in council thinking. She said, "We spend a lot of time, and rightly so, dealing with the implications of climate protection, transportation, and public service issues, but all those things depend



Geoffrey Canada

on us having a future generation." Staff is already looking at using city-owned assets like recreation centers as part of any eventual program. She said, "I'm really anxious to see in what capacity we can use those facilities [to] improve student performance."

Whatever the final result for Austin's applications, both local initiatives applaud the process. John Turner, Southwest Key's interim communications director, said, "If we got this grant, it would be great, but it would really just accelerate what's happening anyway." **St. John Community School Alliance** facilitator **Allen Weeks** echoed that sentiment: "The coalition building part is the greatest benefit for any city. That will remain, whether we get the grant or not." — Richard Whittaker

Fundraising Battle in Precinct 4



A house divided? This home brandishes two campaign yard signs for two candidates — Margaret Gómez and Raul Alvarez — competing for the same seat.

It's rare when a political challenger raises more money than a veteran incumbent, but **Raul Alvarez**, who is challenging incumbent Precinct 4 County Commissioner **Margaret Gómez**, managed to do just that in the final months of 2009, the most recent campaign filings show.

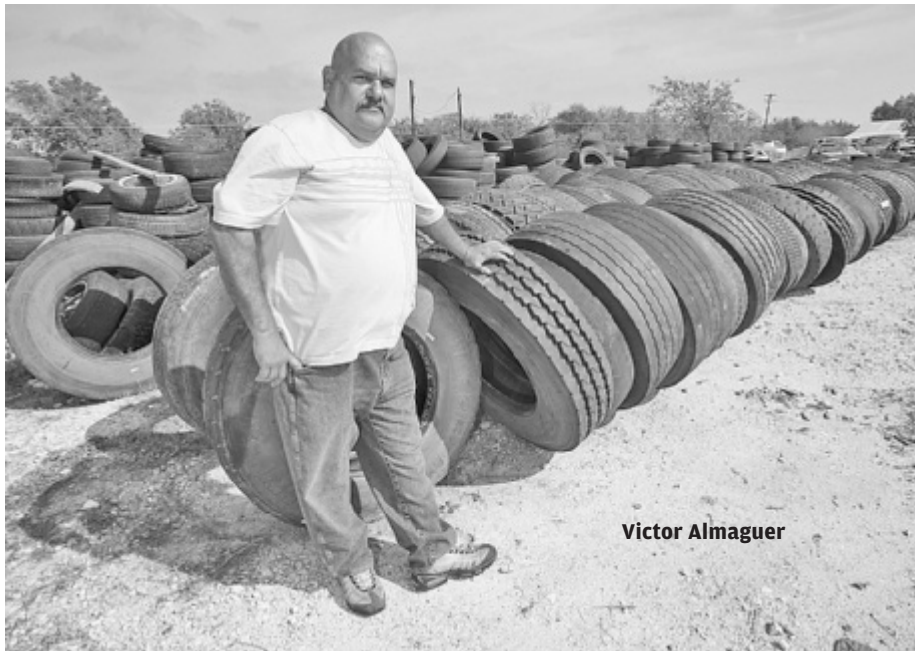
Alvarez raised \$30,417 (including a \$3,000 loan to himself) between the time he filed for office in October through the end of December. By comparison, Gómez raised \$21,508 between July and December.

The hitch is that Gómez started the campaign season sitting on a comfortable cushion of more than \$43,000 and, after an assortment of expenditures, reported having \$42,103 left in her war chest, which is likely to swell in the weeks leading up to the March 2 primary. Alvarez ended the reporting period with just less than \$11,000 cash on hand, so he still has his fundraising work cut out for him. Once the candidates had filed their campaign reports this month, Gómez's campaign was the first to issue a press release, stating the incumbent had "nearly a 4 to 1 cash on hand advantage over her opponent." Alvarez fired back with a statement that he had "out-raised his opponent by nearly \$10,000."

The finance reports show Gómez receiving larger contributions from fewer donors when

compared to Alvarez. Gómez picked up several \$1,000 and \$1,500 contributions from big lobby law firms such as Clark, Thomas & Winters; Brown McCarroll; and Vinson & Elkins. She also pulled in smaller donations, generally in the \$50 to \$150 range, from loyal county employees; local progressives such as parks advocate Ted Siff and political consultant Kelly Fero, who died earlier this month; and from current members of the Commissioners Court and former and current elected officials, among them state Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, District Judge Charlie Baird, former County Attorney Ken Oden, and former County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner.

Alvarez's campaign claimed more than 200 individual donors — 80% of them contributing \$100 or less — ranging from grassroots activists (Robin Schneider, Karen Hadden, Tom "Smitty" Smith, Susana Almanza) to City Hall observers and players such as former council candidate and Planning Commissioner Perla Cavazos and city employee and former Zoning and Platting Commissioner Clarke Hammond. Alvarez's largest contributions (\$1,000 each) came from Channy Soeur and Raza Khataw, engineering consulting firm owners. On Wednesday, Jan. 27, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez, Council Member Randi Shade, and former Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley hosted a fundraiser for Alvarez. — Amy Smith



Victor Almaguer

JANA BIRCHUM

State Gives Almaguer Deadline for Tire Cleanup

Victor Almaguer, the tire shop owner left holding the bag on roughly 6,000 scrap tires collected from city of Austin vehicles, has until Feb. 8 to comply with state laws governing the handling and disposal of scrap tires, says the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. If Almaguer fails to get his tire business in order, according to TCEQ's penalty policy, he could face thousands in fines.

Since as far back as 2003, scrap tires removed from city vehicles have been molding on property Almaguer leases in Southeast Austin. Almaguer says he was told to remove the tires by **Bill Janousek**, Tire Program manager for the city's **Fleet Services Division**, but that he has not been paid for removing and storing the tires since at least 2007. (Janousek has been placed on administrative leave pending investigation.) According to Almaguer, Janousek told him to remove the tires even though he allegedly knew that Almaguer was not registered as a scrap-tire transporter, as is required under state environmental regulations.

We first reported on the story in early December, which prompted the TCEQ to open two investigations, one into Almaguer's handling of the situation and another into the city's management of the tires it removes each year from the roughly 5,000 vehicles maintained by Fleet Services (see "Tire Mound of Mystery," Dec. 4, 2009). According to a TCEQ report, agency investigators found Almaguer in violation of four state code provisions governing the management of scrap tires. In addition to citing Almaguer for not being registered as a transporter, TCEQ found that he also failed to register as a scrap-tire storage site or as a scrap-tire generator (requirements for anyone

storing more than 500 tires) and that he had also failed to register as a scrap-tire processing facility – since Almaguer actually worked to dismantle some of the city tires he's been storing by cutting the sidewalls and collapsing the tires, he is also "considered a scrap tire facility," the investigators wrote. Almaguer says that he and his attorney are in communication with TCEQ on the best way to resolve the issues at hand and that he's negotiating with the city for removal of the tires, which could take place this week. "We're going through some tough times right now," he said.

The investigation into the city's handling of scrap tires – including whether it has failed to follow state law that requires strict documentation for the final disposition of all such tires (our investigation revealed that the city had failed to properly document disposal of any of its scrap tires since at least 2006) – is ongoing, said TCEQ spokeswoman **Andrea Morrow**.

Meanwhile, the city still has not released to the *Chronicle* any written communications among city employees and officials regarding potential problems with the scrap-tire program. Although the city initially told us that our inquiries had raised questions that senior management had "previously not been advised of," the city then appealed our open records request. In a December letter to Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott**, Assistant City Attorney **Cary Grace** wrote that the Austin Police Department sergeant "who is responsible for overseeing the criminal investigation has requested that these evidentiary communications be withheld while the investigation is on-going." The A.G.'s ruling is due in mid-February.

– Jordan Smith



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Keller Keeps Her Robes, for Now

According to State District Judge **David Berchermann**, Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge **Sharon Keller** should not be removed from office for her failure in 2007 to keep the court open for a last-minute appeal by **Michael Richard**. In fact, Berchermann wrote in his findings of fact that Keller's "conduct ... does not warrant removal from office, or even further reprimand beyond the public humiliation she has surely suffered." Whether the **State Commission on Judicial Conduct** will agree with that conclusion remains to be seen.

Keller was tried last summer on a string of ethics charges brought by the SCJC connected to Richard's execution on Sept. 25, 2007. Richard's attorneys with the **Texas Defender Service** had sought a stay of execution based in part on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that day to hear a Kentucky case challenging the three-drug lethal injection method of execution. Although the court ultimately upheld the cocktail method of execution as constitutional, their decision to take the case imposed a de facto moratorium on executions until they issued their decision in April 2008.

On the day Richard was to be executed, TDS was unable to finish preparing its appeals until after 5pm; that afternoon, a TDS paralegal called the court's deputy clerk to ask whether it could file the appeal after 5pm, the time the clerk's office would close. The deputy called then-General Counsel **Ed Marty**, who called Keller at home to ask about accepting the late filing. Keller reportedly told Marty the court would close at 5pm.

What she meant by that has been the subject of much debate: Was she saying that the clerk's office would close at 5pm or that the court itself would shut its doors? More than two years later, the answer remains unclear, noted Berchermann. "Most likely, [none of the court employees] was making a precise distinction between the two," he wrote in his decision.

Regardless, there were other ways for TDS to file the appeal – notably, by contacting directly the other judges on the court to ask if any of them would accept the late filing. Had TDS done so (the judges' phone numbers are in the phone book, he noted), they would've found that Judge **Cheryl Johnson**, the judge assigned to the Richard case, was ready and waiting to accept an appeal. This was a "vital" mistake by TDS, Berchermann wrote. (Moreover, he noted that TDS should have had its lawyers call the court to confirm whatever information the paralegal had learned from Marty. Had they done so, he wrote, "they likely would have been able to present the lethal injection claim. Their error does not implicate Judge Keller.")

Because no final appeal was filed with the CCA, the federal courts were unable to intervene, and Richard was executed that evening.

Berchermann found that the lion's share of responsibility for the failed appeal rested with TDS. While TDS originally claimed that major computer problems hampered their ability to get the appeal in on time, the judge noted that there was no evidence to support that claim. As it turns out, TDS' computer problems that day had to do with internal e-mail communications. "Much like a lot of the other allegations in this case, the 'seri-



LEAH LOVISE

ous computer crash' story seems to be an embellishment that was blown out of proportion in the media," Berchermann wrote. "TDS has only itself to blame for not having the pleadings prepared by 5:00."

That said, Keller's action – or, inaction – did not escape Berchermann's scrutiny. Keller "certainly did not exhibit a model of open communication," he wrote. "She should have been more forthcoming with Marty," telling him, "at a minimum," that he should direct communications to Judge Johnson, who had stayed at work late in anticipation of an

appeal. Or Keller "could have called Judge Johnson herself," he wrote. Although under Texas law it is Keller's call on whether to keep the clerk's office open late, her refusal to do so was not "nefarious or a purposeful attempt to circumvent" the court's execution-day procedures, he wrote. Still, her decision not to keep the doors open "might have exhibited poor judgment," he wrote, and she "certainly exhibited poor judgment in not reminding Marty" of proper procedure and in failing to notify Johnson that TDS wanted to file late.

The SCJC will now consider what to do. The commission is not bound by Berchermann's findings and may reprimand Keller or could even decide she needs to be removed from the bench. But her lawyer **Chip Babcock** said in a statement that Keller is "gratified" by Berchermann's decision. Although Keller said in court that she would not change any of her actions on that day if she could, Babcock said that Keller takes to heart Berchermann's "advice that she should strive to be more collegial and that the court's internal communications should improve."

Indeed, in his ruling, Berchermann noted that Keller was not completely innocent in what happened in the Richard case: "Judge Keller's conduct ... was not exemplary of a public servant," he wrote. "She should have been more open and helpful about the way in which the TDS could present the lethal injection claim to the [CCA]," he continued. "Although she says that if she could do it all over again she would not change any of her actions, this cannot be true. Any reasonable person, having gone through this ordeal, surely would realize that open communication, particularly during the hectic few hours before an execution, would benefit the interests of justice." – *Jordan Smith*

County Permits TXI Aggregate Mine

On Tuesday, the Travis County Commissioners Court voted 3-2 to approve the site development permits for **Texas Industries'** embattled **Hornsby Bend** sand and gravel mining project near Webberville – with Commissioners **Ron Davis** and **Karen Huber** dissenting. The vote apparently clears the way for TXI to prepare the roadway improvements (under a separately approved agreement with the county) that would eventually support sand and gravel mining on nearly 2,000 acres, in a project opposed by many local residents.

The vote had been postponed at the Jan. 12 Commissioners Court meeting after the Fort Worth office of the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, alerted by a resident of **Austin's Colony**, said it wanted to meet with TXI and review the project for potential Corps jurisdiction under the **U.S. Clean Water Act**. On Jan. 21, **Stephen Brooks** of the USACE wrote TXI: "[W]e have determined this project will not involve activities subject to the requirements of Section 404 [of the Clean Water Act] or Section 10 [of the Rivers and Harbors Act, governing navigable waters]. Therefore, it will not require Department of the Army authorization." Brooks said the decision was based on project documents provided by TXI, other available information, and "field reconnaissance conducted by USACE personnel January 20, 2010."

At its Jan. 12 meeting (see "Point Austin," Jan. 15), commissioners said they were surprised by the Corps' intervention, because previous county requests for review concerning similar projects had been summarily rebuffed. But **Ryan Metz**, an environmental consultant who lives near the proposed site, contacted the Corps directly and told the commissioners he believed TXI's own documents reflected at least one tributary of **Gilleland Creek** that should fall under federal environmental jurisdiction. This week, Metz called the Corps' decision "disappointing to say the least" and said that he was told that Corps personnel concluded "the tributary in question would be classified as a 'grass-lined swale,' and as such, would not be considered waters of the United States." (The county's agreement with TXI covers roadway improvements necessary to transport the aggregate to the company's processing plant, but according to Corps personnel, any permit review concerning the roadway work would not include the mining itself.)

"We are not giving up," said Metz via e-mail, "but this new development certainly hurts our community's cause. ... We hope that an unspoken revelator is out there waiting for the most opportunistic time to come forward."

– *Michael King*

Ruling: 'A Raging Flashflood of Corporate Money'

It has been called the worst court decision since Chief Justice Roger B. Taney told Dred Scott that African-Americans could not be U.S. citizens and the most intellectually dishonest since the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals said checks aren't money. On Jan. 21, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission** dismantled key restrictions in the 2002 **McCain-Feingold** Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act on the role of corporations and unions in election campaigns. Now politicians and ethicists are examining the 183-page ruling's impact on Texas.

The decision deals not with campaign donations but instead with money spent independently by special-interest groups. In a 5-4 decision split along party lines, the court ruled that the Federal Election Commission should not have restricted conservative pressure group Citizens United from using its operating budget to promote *Hillary: The Movie*, its 2008 feature-length attack ad on then-presidential primary candidate Hillary Clinton. Elizabeth McClellan, program associate for the **Texas Public Interest Research Group**, said the decision will see "the landscape of elections financing washed away in a raging flashflood of corporate money." Decrying the decision to afford

corporations First Amendment protections, she added, "A corporation is not part of 'We the People.'"

Individual states are examining the ruling's impact on their own laws. As the entity that deals with this state's campaign finance filings, that falls to the **Texas Ethics Commission**. Its analysis is complicated by differences between state and federal language – for example, what the feds call independent expenditures are direct expenditures in Texas – but it seems that the ruling will not affect the limits on campaign donations. In a statement, the commission said it's "our position that corporations are still prohibited from making political contributions unless specifically allowed by [the state] Election Code."

Just as the U.S. Congress is contemplating possible laws or even a constitutional amendment to restore the old status quo, Texas politicians are already looking for legislative redress. House Democratic Caucus Leader **Jim Durnam**, D-Waco, has called for the formation of a bipartisan panel to consider the decision's impact. In a Jan. 22 letter to Republican Speaker **Joe Straus**, he wrote, "A balanced examination of the issue and a measured response that preserves Texas's public policy as expressed in our statutes is the least they deserve."

– *Richard Whittaker*

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

NADER'S NOVEL IDEA

Okay, maybe you're one who still stews about Ralph Nader's presidential campaigns – but give the guy credit for his lifetime of confronting corporate arrogance, his inventive thinking to produce effective reforms, and his tireless advocacy for economic fairness and social justice.

Nader's great strength is that he has always been a big thinker, willing to propose solutions that at first blush seem to be impossible. He's at it again. This time with, of all things, a novel bearing the un-Naderesque title of *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!*

Using such real-life characters as Warren Buffett, Bill Cosby, George Soros, and Yoko Ono, Nader imagines a meeting in Maui at which 17 of these older, unconventional, superrich philanthropists realize that their individual charitable donations to various "good-guy" causes are not making any widespread difference in how things work. So they decide to pool their megabillions into a unified agenda for structural economic and political change that can transform America into a true egalitarian society.

Nader's novel is the tale of the titanic power struggle that ensues, including dramatic moments of intrigue and (who would believe it?) romping humor!

The significance of this work is that Nader sees it not as a novel but as "a fictional vision" that might come true. For example, what if such a group put \$50 billion or \$100 billion behind the single-payer, "Medicare-for-all" health care idea? That would alter the political dynamic, rally the grassroots, and make true reform possible.

Nader is already having conversations with a few of his superrich "characters" who are at least intrigued by his audacious vision. To connect with the real-life effort behind the novel, go to www.onlythesuperrich.org. Imagine if life were to imitate fiction.

REINING IN THE GODS OF THE FED

This story would be comic, were it not so serious. It's about "The Fed," a hydra-headed creature of enormous power that exercises its power from within the midst of a Washington, D.C., marble cavern that is unapproachable by commoners.

The Fed is the Federal Reserve, which is a private, for-profit bank run by and mostly for other big bankers. But it's also its own, secretive branch of our national government. The Fed creates its own money, sets our interest rates, regulates Wall Street, and – as we've recently learned the hard way – bails out Wall Street.

The Fed operates largely beyond the purview of Congress or even the White House, and both the media and the public are essentially shut out from scrutinizing its financial machinations. The banking gods who dwell within The Fed's temple are said to have knowledge, even wisdom, that the rest of us cannot fathom, so they must be left alone to make their decisions.

But, wait. Aren't these the same omniscient gods that failed to see – much less forestall – the looming financial disaster that Wall Street finaglers were building atop a very shaky housing market? Yes, the gods were so intoxicated with the fumes of their own conventional wisdom that they failed abjectly as regulators, as public servants – and, most certainly, as gods.

Yet, without apologizing for (or even acknowledging) their failure, these denizens of the temple now insist that Congress entrust them with even more authority over our financial well-being. However, many lawmakers – led by such longtime knowledgeable Fed critics as Rep. Ron Paul and Sen. Bernie Sanders – are daring to challenge the gods, proposing steps to rein in their arrogance, aloofness, and authority. For more information on this challenge, contact the watchdog group OMB Watch at www.ombwatch.org/fiscal_stewardship.

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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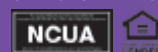
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Imagining Austin

Austinites begin a new comprehensive plan for the city's future **BY KATHERINE GREGOR**

BY KATHERINE GREGOR
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF WALLACE ROBERTS & TODD



“If we do our jobs right, we’ll create a plan that has a profound influence on our generation and the next.”

Do those words make your heart leap? John Fernsler, a principal with consultants Wallace Roberts & Todd, offered them up to inspire a dozen tables of engaged Austinites who attended a comprehensive planning kickoff community workshop at Scholz Garten last August. If you're like the folks in that room, planning and community activism already quicken your pulse. You're likely a planning or policy wonk or involved with a nonprofit or neighborhood association or task force – and probably a habitué of City Hall. But for many, talk of a comprehensive plan can be a real eye-glazer: What is it, and why should I care if the city of Austin is doing one?

The short answer: Cities create comprehensive plans to holistically address all community needs. Citizens come together to express common values, visions, and aspirations for the future; those will get translated into a comprehensive plan, according to the city of Austin, that “will drive the way the city grows, spends, and conserves its resources.” The City Charter says the new adopted plan “shall contain the council’s policies for growth, development and beautification of the land.”

It's more than a land-use plan, though: All "quality of life" issues are considered – affordability, the environment, children living in poverty, parks and green space, public services, a healthy economy, and more. As a guiding document intended to underlie all city of Austin projects, programs, and initiatives, the adopted plan will drive hundreds of millions in spending decisions and public improvements in the following five years. It could result in new sidewalks or a pocket park – or a sewage treatment plant – being built next to your home.

Indeed, the less you currently know about comprehensive planning, the more the city of Austin and already involved citizens want to hear your concerns. They hope you'll stay involved and help create a road map for Austin's future – and become sufficiently engaged to help implement it. By mid-February, the comp plan team will begin drafting a vision statement for Austin's future – a lofty expression of our guiding aspirations. Before that starts, the city and a citizens advisory task force for the plan want to hear from thousands of Austinites; the outcry for outreach – especially to Not the Usual Suspects – is reaching a fever pitch exceptional even for Austin. (So far, more than 1,000 responses

have come in.) A comprehensive plan can only be truly all-inclusive on the issues and finding cross-city solutions if it's first inclusive of all Austinites.

What's at stake? Perhaps the future of Austin. Without a comprehensive plan that proactively charts a future course, said Fensler, "we're rolling down the highway, at an ever-increasing pace of growth and change, with no hand on the wheel."

Believe in Me

Of course, it requires an act of faith to believe that any plan, however visionary, will shift the city's course. To do so, it has to be the right plan, backed by a deep level of community support and commitment – and it needs a muscular implementation strategy. With that in mind, City Council established three overarching comp plan goals: community engagement, sustainability (for the economy, environment, and future use of resources), and implementation. The Vision and Plan Framework (see www.imagineaustin.net) says a focus on implementation will guide the entire process, “culminating in formulation of a realistic action agenda and benchmarks to measure progress in achieving the Vision.”

Garner Stoll, an assistant director in the Neighborhood Planning and Development Review Department, is the lead city staffer working alongside Wallace Roberts & Todd. He concedes that Austinites are understandably skeptical about city planning. The city has a history of doing a series of unfunded aspirational plans, such as its pedestrian plan

and bicycle plan. Completed plans have tended to sit on the shelf – lacking the needed funding or political will (or both) to transform vision into reality. Austin’s decadelong exercise in neighborhood planning has glaringly lacked a fund-and-build-it commitment; annual capital improvement project budgets were never tightly linked to priorities set forth in neighborhood plans. (That’s finally begun happening in the past year.) When adequate financing, staffing, and other resources have failed to materialize – and when neighborhood plans have been ignored in granting zoning-change requests – it has created cynicism and anger. Mark Yznaga, a community task force member and a passionate citizen comprehensive-planner, said that cynicism about city planning and the lack of follow-up implementation is now “the 900-pound elephant in the room.”

Council Member Laura Morrison, a former president of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, helped craft an ANC resolution calling for a comprehensive plan in 2007 (see “Call for Action to Manage Austin’s Growth,” at www.ancweb.org). The recognition that one was needed, she said, “came out of the neighborhood planning process. People had put in a tremendous amount of energy and time, and in the end, they oftentimes felt they got ignored.”

Why should we believe this time will be different? What's to say a new comprehensive plan really will be implemented – that future zoning decisions, council policies, and major infrastructure projects will support the grand vision? Stoll and others point to the City Charter. In that legally binding document (in effect, the city's constitution), "the intent is that the new comprehensive plan will coordinate all city policies – this is the organizing vision, document, and framework that makes sense of them all," explained Stoll. "The charter says it's designed to drive all of the city's regulating powers."

"It's a decision-making tool," he added, "and the charter says it must be used, once adopted." At the same time, he said, council members and city management must consistently reference and cleave to it.

Morrison agreed. "If Austinites are going to spend time on this, they need to be sure leaders are going to use it as the voice of the community that's going to guide our decisions. It will have the force of law, yes, but its power is always going to be about our expectations and commitment to it."

Outreach or Else!

On the one hand, it's discouraging that of Austin's 750,000 or so residents, only about 220 showed up for the first round of community forum meetings. (According to Planning Commissioner Dave Anderson, little Pflugerville had 300 people show up for its comprehensive plan meetings.) A number of close observers are critical and concerned, including Jeb Boyd and Glenn Gadbois of the Austin Urban Coalition. That group is advancing a New Urbanist, or "town centers," model for

Council and the Planning Commission could start behaving like the still-on-the-books Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan is the bible right now.

Without a comprehensive plan, “we’re rolling down the highway, at an ever-increasing pace of growth and change, with no hand on the wheel.”

– John Fernsler, WRT consultant

sustainable growth; its participants include the Alliance for Public Transportation, Congress for the New Urbanism – Central Texas, the Downtown Austin Alliance, League of Bicycling Voters, and others. But Fernsler thinks things are going well; he and others expect greater involvement as the process moves beyond the warm-and-fuzzy visioning phase and delves into the meat of serious issues. “The degree of civic engagement is unique in Austin,” commented Fernsler, who has worked with communities all over the country. “there is a true sense of citizen ownership, and people feel they’re entitled to speak up and be heard on anything.”

Where we’ve fallen down, he suggested, is that we tend to have a lot of single-issue, even myopic activists, rather than broad discussions about how to synthesize numerous “livability” and “quality of life” issues into big-picture solutions. He observed that in Austin, “There tend to be silos of issues – people are very passionate about one, but they may or may not see the connections to other issues.” He said we need a comprehensive planning process to “give people the opportunity to sit next to people, at community forums, that are not from their own club or neighborhood or interest groups. They’ll hear different perceptions, and when they do, they begin to rethink their own – or become more tolerant of other attitudes.” Indeed, shifting community dialogue could be the single best outcome of this planning exercise – especially if it gets us past simplistic dialectics like “environment vs. developer.” Yet it’s worrisome that Fernsler couldn’t say precisely how Wallace Roberts & Todd is going to make that happen.

Thanks to all the work done since that early meeting at Scholz Garten, the city now has a public participation plan that runs to more than 20 pages. It outlines a long list of tools – surveys, meetings and events, media coverage, a website, social networking, a speakers bureau, e-mail blasts and newsletters, and even a book club. The Imagine Austin campaign could use more strategic finesse and help with messaging – ideally from a local firm with expertise in social marketing – and some celebrity spokespeople. But clearly, city staff and the consultant team are truly committed to outreach.

Despite bumps, hiccups, and a slow start, a diverse 38-member Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force is on board as well. But at its Jan. 12 meeting, the volunteer task force – whose members represent diverse segments of the community – was still struggling to find its voice and its role. The group is handicapped by being formed after the consulting firm began work, and it’s trying to catch up to the process and sort out organiza-

The Comp Plan Schedule

PHASE TWO

2010

Feb.-March	Developing Vision Statement Planning Implications: Current Data & Trends “Status Quo” Future Scenario
April-June	Vision Statement Endorsed Community Forums: Alternative Scenarios
July-Aug.	Community Forums: Selecting a Preferred Future
Sept.-Dec.	Plan Framework: Development & Review

PHASE THREE

2011

City releases draft of plan
May City Council election
Dec. Community Forums

2012

Plan goes to City Council
Public Hearings
Adoption

tional issues. The group has also been prevented from brainstorming by Open Meetings Act restrictions – in fact, it has accomplished virtually nothing in four months.

A larger problem is that no organizational chart delineates how communication and responsibility is supposed to flow among all the involved parties – the citizens group, the consultant team, city staff, the planning commission, and council members. There’s been no clear leader. Several participants say they’re not sure who to talk to about resolving problems – which has left them confused and frustrated.

City Manager Marc Ott recently tasked Assistant City Manager Sue Edwards with righting the ship and providing the missing management structure. Edwards is frank about the problems and open to suggestions,

CONTINUED ON P.22

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In 2009, over 600 people submitted their short stories for consideration, and five people will be recognized for their work. All the manuscripts submitted were the original work of the contestant and have never before been published. The first-place winner’s story will be published in the Feb. 12 issue of *The Austin Chronicle*.

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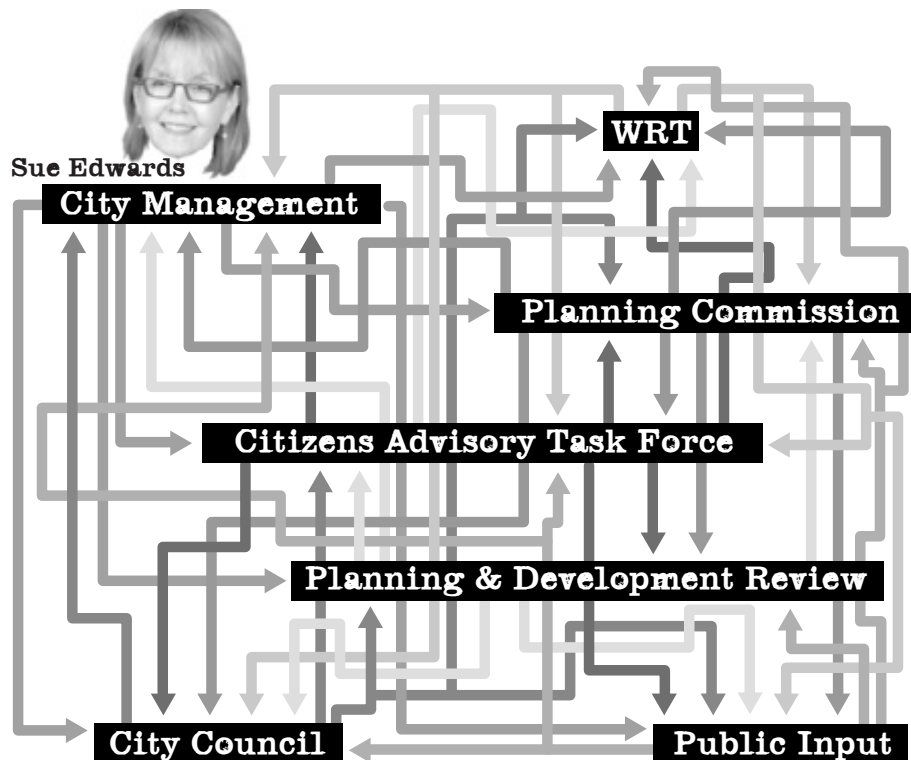
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Assistant City Manager Sue Edwards has taken on the challenge of creating a clear organizational chart, “unraveling” communication lines for the comprehensive plan.

and she said confidently: “It’s going to go well! We’ve got enough people who really care about this, within and outside the organization, and we’re devoting enough resources, that we’re going to get it done.”

City Council is monitoring progress through the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee: Sheryl Cole (chair), Laura Morrison, and Chris Riley. The Planning Commission has its own comprehensive plan committee, chaired by Dave Anderson. For the rest of us, there’s an initial survey online, with more to come in later phases (a statistically valid survey will be done as well by a national firm). An innovative Meeting in a Box tool is proving popular and fun for small groups. (Both are online at www.imagineaustin.net.) So those who never lift a finger on the comprehensive plan in 2010 and then complain about Austin’s direction will have no one to blame but themselves.

We’re all invited to this party.

Powers of the Charter

According to the City Charter, any comprehensive plan “shall contain the council’s policies for growth, development and beautification of the land.” Those policies apply not just within city limits but also in the city’s extrajurisdictional jurisdiction – which currently has acreage equal to that of the city itself. A plan must incorporate the following 10 elements:

- 1) future land use;
- 2) traffic circulation and mass transit;
- 3) wastewater, solid waste, drainage, and potable water;
- 4) conservation and environmental resources;

- 5) recreation and open space;
- 6) housing;
- 7) public services and facilities, including a capital improvement program;
- 8) public buildings and related facilities;
- 9) economic development and redevelopment;
- 10) health and human services.

Attorney Chad Shaw, from the city’s legal department, said the plan’s powers originate in the “surprisingly short” Chapter 213 of the Texas Local Government Code, which allows city comprehensive plans to cover land use, transportation, and other topics desired. It explicitly leaves it up to cities to define “the relationship between a comprehensive plan and development regulations” and the consistency required between them. In other words, we can decide if the plan is merely advisory or mandatory. (Stoll seemed to strongly counsel the latter – a comp plan with teeth.)

A previous generation of comprehensive-planning Austinites voted for mandatory. The language that will give the new comprehensive plan teeth is in the City Charter’s Article X, “Planning.” Voters placed it into the charter in a January 1985 election, in anticipation of council adopting a new comprehensive plan (which never happened). The charter spells out the legal effect: “Upon adoption of a comprehensive plan ... all land development regulations [e.g., the Land Development Code] ... and all city regulatory actions relating to land use, subdivision and development approval shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan [emphasis added].” That’s what makes it the core document from which all other regulations must flow.

“We’ve got enough people who really care about this, within and outside the organization, and we’re devoting enough resources, that we’re going to get it done.”

– Assistant City Manager Sue Edwards

Unfortunately, the same language also created a loophole: It applies to that new plan ... that never happened. Although Article X begins, “It is the purpose and intent of this article that the city council establish comprehensive planning as a continuous and ongoing governmental function,” Austin hasn’t done a lick of comprehensive planning since the charter was amended in 1985 (see “The Comp Plan Schedule,” p.21), instead embarking on unfunded advisory neighborhood planning. The last section of Article X says that any prior comprehensive plan – e.g., the still-on-the-books Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, which dates from 1979 – “shall continue to have such force and effect as it had at the date of its adoption” until a new comp plan is adopted. That section has been interpreted over the years to mean that the Land Development Code (and all zoning decisions) don’t have to be consistent with Austin Tomorrow. Only once a new comprehensive plan is adopted would consistency become mandatory.

Since all neighborhood plans are amendments to the existing Austin Tomorrow Plan, this reading – and three decades of failing to adopt a new comp plan – in effect weakened the legal standing of neighborhood plans. Council felt it had a free hand, over the years, in granting zoning variances that were not in accordance with neighborhood plans. The current council has shown greater commitment to consulting neighborhood plans; still, many neighborhood advocates worry that the comprehensive plan will further undo their work. Yet there’s a potential silver lining to adopting a new comprehensive plan: Neighborhood plans, if amended to this one, will finally gain clear and strong legal standing.

No Development Permitted

“I can certainly understand if people approach this process with a degree of skepticism,” said Mayor Lee Leffingwell. “The neigh-

borhood plans have been difficult and very disappointing for some people. But I know that the council members on the subcommittee and the staff are determined to do everything they can to make this work. I’m out there every day telling people how important it is for them to participate.”

The most powerful way for council to spur motivation would be to vocally abide by the comp plan we have, of course, and the neighborhood plans amended to it. Though it’s a bit murky, it could be argued that the provisions of Article X kicked in last year – when council adopted the interim update of the Austin Tomorrow Plan. So council and the planning commission really don’t need to wait for a new comprehensive plan; they can start behaving like the one we have is the bible right now. For the good of this comprehensive planning process, they should. The more Austinites hear and see council members and planning commissioners reference the comprehensive plan’s power this year – emphasizing that all of their land-use and development approval decisions must follow it – the more motivated folks will feel to work on the new comp plan. Seeing is believing.

Once a new plan is adopted, following the charter’s process, “no public or private development shall be permitted, except in conformity with such adopted comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.” If City Council truly adheres to that language at every Thursday zoning hearing, the new comp plan will be powerful indeed. It also becomes the job of the Planning Commission – not council – to “submit annually to the city manager ... a list of recommended capital improvements ... necessary or desirable” to implement the plan. Article X also says “the council shall provide for financing of all elements contained in the comprehensive plan.” That’s a strong directive. If council fails to fund the plan’s implementation, could citizens sue them for violating the charter?

Add Your Vision and Voice

Here’s how to contribute to the comprehensive plan’s initial vision statement. All tools remain available at www.imagineaustin.net through March 1.

- Take the initial **Imagine Austin** survey.
- E-mail the survey to others.
- Organize a **Meeting in a Box** event for a small group.
- Volunteer to assist with wider outreach, especially to **underserved neighborhoods**.
- Read the **Community Inventory**, a 400-page data book rich in statistics on Austin demographics, employment, land use and zoning, housing, neighborhoods, transportation, parks, urban design, the environment, and other topics.
- Attend (or watch) City Council’s monthly **Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee** meetings; the next one is Monday, Feb. 1, 2pm at City Hall.
- Attend the monthly meetings of the **Citizens Advisory Task Force**.

Not into the vision thing? Look for other surveys and a spring community forum series that will delve into growth strategies, on the website throughout 2010. Questions? Contact city planner **Matt Dugan** at matthew.dugan@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-7665.

– K.G.

Follow the Money

Assistant City Manager Robert Goode pointed out that city staff has long lacked clear, definitive direction on how Austinites want resources allocated. "We are implementers, not policy setters," said Goode. "But we need the big vision – it makes our lives and jobs so much easier." Once council adopts a community-created comprehensive plan, said Goode, the City Charter requires the city to fund its implementation.

That means the comp plan will drive spending decisions for hundreds of millions in city projects over the next five years – a "follow the money" impact that ought to wake up the whole town. Yet to date, major employers and business groups, like the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Real Estate Council of Austin, haven't shown much interest in the comprehensive plan. Indeed, they're among the under-represented groups that the city must now try to engage. The risk is that they'll sit out the public engagement process – but jump in at the end to throw their weight (and PR dollars) around to jettison what they don't like, or even the whole plan's adoption. A version of that dynamic is currently playing out with Austin Energy's Resource and Climate Protection Plan. Is anyone brave enough to ask the major employers not to do that again?

City Manager Marc Ott emphasized that sustainability is council's one overarching theme for the substance of this plan. Ott strongly recommended it to council as a tool for focusing the city's energies and resources on what matters most. A comprehensive plan forces us to set priorities, he explained, for always limited resources. "We have so many big, significant plans going on at the same time," he commented, that the city risks going off in too many different directions. Instead, it needs to tie all of its various initiatives back into one consolidated, cross-sector comprehensive plan that's officially adopted. City Council may take 100 separate actions on any given Thursday; Ott asks, "Toward what end?"

Indeed, Ott's commitment to implementing the plan appears to be the single strongest new factor in its favor. His predecessor, Toby Futrell, was no fan of comprehensive planning; infamously, she thumbed her nose at a 2006 city auditor's report (requested by council) that advised doing the plan. Commented Morrison, "It's really terrific to

have a city manager who has a good, deep understanding of the plan's role; it makes for a very effective partnership between management and council."

Goode and Ott came to Austin from Fort Worth, where the city updated its comprehensive plan annually. Austin's charter requires an annual review, with a major update every five years. But even in Fort Worth, said Goode, it was challenging to translate the broad goals of the comprehensive plan directly into priorities for the annual city budget, departmental plans, and annual capital improvement plan. "The link wasn't as strong to the capital program there," as he believes Ott wants in Austin. "If city management and the departments aren't consulting it, it won't be as effective. We have to ensure that departmental business plans get checked against it.

"From staff's standpoint, it's so critical to have that plan, because it should be influencing all our decisions," said Goode – which projects get done and where and how. "A particular roadway that furthers a priority in the comp plan – that the community has told us to go do – rises to the top of the list," he explained. "You have to look at issues like: How does the solid waste services master plan link to what's expressed in the comprehensive plan? It has to, or we're working at cross-purposes.

"We as city staff, once the comprehensive plan is adopted, will need to use every resource we have to help achieve that plan," Goode emphasized.

"Once the community says, 'Here's our vision,' our job is [to] say: 'Using all the tools we have available, how do we achieve that vision?'"

Since City Council never officially adopted the Envision Central Texas preferred-growth scenario, staff hasn't had clear authority to use it to prioritize projects, said Goode. "We need a document that tells us what the community wants its future to look like. Everybody has to think big picture about how all this fits together."

Now is the time to speak. "There are serious challenges this community faces," said Fernsler soberly – mentioning what he's learned about the high percentage of children living in poverty, without health care, and even homeless. "We can't afford the gridlock of doing nothing, or continuing to do the same thing, just because it seems easier. The community is facing some serious problems – those have to be addressed in this comprehensive plan." ■

**"We need a document that tells us what the community wants its future to look like. Everybody has to think big picture about how all this fits together."
– Assistant City Manager Robert Goode**

For information about all aspects of the comprehensive plan, including the team and schedule, the data on which it will be based, and opportunities for having a voice, visit www.imagineaustin.net.

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Behold The Maslin

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

If this paragraph were a movie trailer, a sonorous voice would intone: “Some there are who live and die for literature. Others live to kill it.” Pages are flung out the window of a Manhattan condo as we hear throaty laughter, self-possessed, unconcerned, and certain of safety. Sonorously: “This is a tale of a writer, a book, and” – dark music swells – “the critic.”

I am innocent of firsthand knowledge of Joshua Ferris and his second novel, *The Unnamed*. As far as I know, I know no one who knows Ferris. I live so far off the literary grid it’s unlikely I’ll meet him. I may or may not read his book. Nevertheless I offer my sword – pen, pencil, keyboard – in his defense and in defense of his volume.

I do so because on page 1 of the artsy section of *The New York Times*, Jan. 14, Mr. Ferris and his volume got sliced up, laid out on a plate, and dined upon by The Maslin. An intellectually corrupt entity is The Maslin.

The Maslin is not a person. The Maslin is a function. The Maslin is legion. The Maslin comes in all genders, and you will find The Maslin on the book-review staff of virtually every takes-itself-seriously publication in the Western world, as well as in many a classroom of lower and higher misinformation and at each and every artsy party.

To call this entity The Maslin is merely a convenience. The function that is The Maslin could carry the name of any of its minions and malefactors. As it happens, a Janet Maslin wrote the review in question, a review like many another, so calling this function “The Maslin” is almost pure chance.

We can imagine that this particular manifestation of The Maslin smiles at children, recycles, is reasonably witty, certainly savvy, and rarely too loud at inappropriate moments. Further, she, too, so I believe, has an immortal

but fragile soul and bears her share of what used to be called the “human condition” with all the grace of which she’s capable, which is not easy for anybody. It is not her person but her function that is in question. She is important not as an individual but for her sameness. What distinguishes The Maslin, of which she is merely a part, is precisely its sameness.

The Maslin, or its editor, headlined the review of Mr. Ferris’ volume with a tongue-in-cheek-existential “Compelled to Wander, Nowhere to Go.” In the first sentence The Maslin informs us that Mr. Ferris’ first novel was “charming but weightless.” The Maslin

the world over makes such statements without feeling responsible to convey what “charm” and “weight” might mean to itself, because the first and most defining quality of The Maslin, next to its sameness, is that it takes no personal responsibility for its judgments. It writes not as an individual but as The Maslin.

In the first sentence, then, Mr. Ferris has been damned. We don’t know why, and we won’t be told. (We also won’t be told that his first novel, *Then We Came to the End*, was a National Book Award finalist.) The sentence also informs us that the “main character” in *The Unnamed* has a “peculiar condition”: He can’t stop walking. Walks compulsively ’til he drops. His condition: “Is it medical? Is it spiritual?” And there The Maslin gives something away.

The Maslin doesn’t tolerate spirituality well, or, really, at all. Not in American writers. Latin Americans, Eastern Europeans, Arabs, and Russians can get away with serious writing about daily metaphysical dilemmas, but American writers had best step lightly. The Maslin’s prime function is to enforce a business ethic in literature. The major organs of this materialist culture demand a materialist



JASON STOUT

literature. Spiritual concerns in the novel are OK for foreigners and dead Americans (Zora Neale Hurston, Herman Melville), but if The Maslin scents a whiff of it in a living writer, you’re as good as dead, literarily. The Maslin goes out of its way to embarrass the metaphysical writer because it finds the metaphysical embarrassing, which says more about The Maslin than it does about the metaphysical.

There are caveats: A brainy, satiric novel involving metaphysics may get high marks because The Maslin thinks itself brainy and feels safe laughing. Or do your metaphysics in a story that can be taken as a sort of fable, and some of The Maslin will permit praise. In both instances it plays a kind of game of taking you seriously without taking you seriously, and it

uses words like “postmodern” or compares you to Thomas Pynchon – it doesn’t get you, but it may praise you. Do your metaphysics in a more or less realist fashion, and The Maslin balks. The Maslin’s unshakeable literary belief is that what it knows, or rather what it thinks, is all there is.

Back to the review. The Maslin goes on to inform us that Mr. Ferris “gives *The Unnamed* a writerly preciousness,” and his “syntax” is “adorable.” It’s a shame there’s no adequate masculine or genderless usage meaning “bitchy,” because “bitchy” sounds sexist. (The masculine “bastardly” conveys something utterly different.) I’m as sexist as the next fellow, I suppose, but to say The Maslin is being bitchy is something else again. The Maslin has



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no sex (that's the thing about sameness); its bitchy ways are employed regardless of genital equipage. What's interesting here is the assumption beneath the bitchiness.

That assumption is, again, a business ethic transferred to literature. Digression, nuance, and loveliness have no place in a business meeting or on a spreadsheet. Business is minimalist. The Maslin attempts to enforce minimalism. William Shakespeare, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Henry Fielding, Henry Miller, they're all safely dead and can digress, nuance, and be lovely with The Maslin's reluctant but general approval. It's equally permissible to be postmodernly incomprehensible because that's seen as cool, and there's nothing The Maslin likes more than identifying with what's cool. (See it coo over Patti Smith's memoir, Jan. 18.) But turn a sentence this way and that for the hell of it, the fun of it, the loveliness of it, the gloryness of it, while you tell a more or less realistic tale, and The Maslin becomes secretly afraid. The Maslin writes plain. Because it can do nothing else. The Maslin, believing itself a realist, makes a realist writer pay for doing what it cannot.

"Mr. Ferris writes prettily, too prettily," quoth The Maslin, citing sentences out of context to prove its point. Even Shakespeare can look a fool quoted out of context. (Said *Mad* magazine, "To be or not to be – this is a question?") Mr. Ferris writes of the "armies of God," he writes of the "body and soul," and – without telling what Ferris writes of the body and soul – The Maslin presents this as sufficient reason for damnation. Ferris writes "charmingly" of "an unseen, undefinable threat." This The Maslin cannot tolerate. The Maslin no doubt thinks itself charming enough, but "unseen" and "undefinable" bring down real estate values. According to The Maslin, Mr. Ferris' novel goes "pitiful when he turns out to have given [his characters] no real way to withstand a biblical degree of suffering and sorrow."

That there may be no "real" way to withstand some sufferings and sorrows is what The Maslin cannot afford to consider. "Uplift The Maslin!" is The Maslin's cry to literature.

For all I know, the book stinks. My point is that The Maslin wasn't writing about the book. It wrote, and always writes, to enforce its dicta.

"It's too easy to shrug off what happens in *The Unnamed* without imagining that it could happen to you." So ends The Maslin's review. And there a truth is revealed: If it cannot happen to The Maslin, it is not real.

The Maslin demands of literature a reflection of itself. The Maslin rejects what cannot be, or happen to, itself. Literature for The Maslin is itself.

Intellectually corrupt, confined, conformed, co-opted, convinced, its prose invincibly plain – that is The Maslin. An entity enormous but for its littleness. ■



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Sitting in a darkened theatre, just before the curtain rises, one never knows exactly what will be served up. The anticipation that mounts before the performance begins is akin to what you feel in a newly discovered restaurant as you patiently wait for your epicurean delight to arrive. Austin is blessed to have so many eclectic eateries; they make going out such a pleasurable experience. And the same can be said for our stage fare, especially when dance and theatre are used as a basis to inform each other (with one acting as a side dish or a spice or garnish to the other) or inventively mixed together to make a rich performative fusion. If you ever had the pleasure of seeing touring artists Carbone 14, Pina Bausch, Liz Lerman, 33 Fainting Spells, or Paula Hunter or our own Rude Mechanicals, Allison Orr, or Heloise Gold, you'll understand what a kinesthetic gastronomic event is all about.

Philadelphia's Headlong Dance Theater, presented by Dance Umbrella at the Long Center this week, understands this mix. Founded in 1993 by co-directors David Brick, Andrew Simonet, and Amy Smith, HDT has garnered stellar reviews and audience adulation for its collaborative theatrical lens. Although primarily dance, the performances are greatly informed by ideas, conceptual viewpoints, and rich combinations of theatrical styles. "We always

start together with a specific theme or concept. With this new work, we took a completely different route by adding another collaborator of sorts to the mix," Smith explains.

That additional cook in the studio was choreographer Tere O'Connor, who served up a richly moving work in Austin in 2008. "Tere gave us the provocation to make three separate works on the same six dancers without talking to one another about it. All three works were then performed live, back-to-back, each of us discovering what the other had made for the first time. From there, we collectively created a fourth piece titled *more*. The result wasn't a combination or best

of; rather, we made a new work out of the questions and dialogue the other three pieces invoked," Smith says.

"We wanted to mess up our collaboration. We got new tools from Tere, and he provoked us to ask new questions through a different kind of research. It was powerful because you couldn't conceptualize beforehand," Simonet says.

The result veers away from HDT's usual fare. "A lot of our work in the past has been purposefully humorous, a bit self-mocking, and would directly engage the audience. This piece is darker and more self-reflective," Smith explains.

"We ended up making a formal piece that mirrors the process of our body's life transformation. The piece is more of a mosaic than a story. There are layers built upon layers. It's a reflection on life. We were interested in the transition of the day and life of the body, including the mundane as well as the epic, as they do happen simultaneously," Simonet says.

HDT's shift away from overt narrative was revealed through what O'Connor calls "emerging content." By letting go of the initial creative response in the studio, formable layers

emerged, tapping something deeper.

"This piece is much more poetic than what we've

created previously. It is an emotional and intense work about the fragility of our bodies. Just like poetry, it asks you to bring your attention to it before it bursts open. You're not in a known structure or universe right away," Brick says.

It is promising when artists are willing to abandon what they know to discover something new. Only then does innovation occur. HDT's creative departure and less-is-more approach hold great promise. And they might just have you leaving the theatre delighted that you tried something new and tasty.

— Andrew Long

FUSEBOX FESTIVAL

Charged up!

The switch has been thrown, and the 2010 Fusebox Festival has officially started generating electricity. Festival mastermind Ron Berry did the honors last week, unveiling the lineup for his cross-disciplinary arts binge's seventh edition to a crowd at Okay Mountain. And based on his announcement, this year's Fusebox promises to be every bit as wild, novel, gonzo, astonishing, thrilling — pick your adjective — as its predecessors. The 11-day event, running April 21 to May 1, will include modern dance from Japan, a Western from England, a Western swing big band with 200 two-steppers on the steps of the Capitol, a stage version of the French film *Cléo From 5 to 7*, a male performer channeling Joni Mitchell, an invented sorority, a performance of YouTube video comments, a scavenger hunt, and a séance for broken electronic devices, for starters. As usual, Austin will be introduced to artistic innovators from around the world, but more of our local innovators will be showcased as well: Allison Orr, Graham Reynolds, Mike Smith, Wura Ogunji, Okay Mountain, Rubber Repertory, Sodalitas, Luke Savisky, Heloise Gold, and, after too long an absence, Physical Plant Theater. Kicking things off (in a literal sense) will be choreographer Orr and composer Reynolds, who will get the aforementioned herd of two-steppers dancing at the statehouse, then lead them down Congress Avenue to the Paramount Theatre, where Tokyo contemporary dancemaker Kaiji Moriyama will perform *The Velvet Suite*, which he created for the 2007 Venice Biennale Festival of Contemporary Dance. Other works scheduled include:

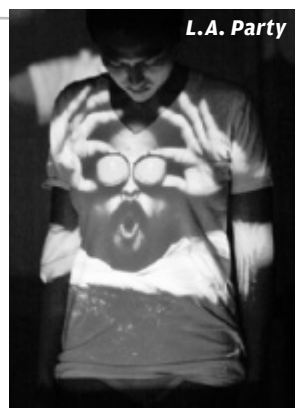
- **A Western** In a bar, two performers from Action Hero of Bristol, England, try to enact an imaginary Western with help from the audience and the environment.
- **Every Time I See Your Picture I Cry** Winnipeg artist Daniel Barrow manipulates images on an overhead projector to animate the tale of a garbageman with a vision.
- **Comme Toujours Here I Stand** New York's Big Dance Theater turns Agnès Varda's French New Wave film *Cléo From 5 to 7* into an intimate work for the stage.
- **WeeTube** Two members of Vancouver troupe Theater Replacement watch YouTube

videos with audience members, then perform the publicly posted comments.

- **Paved Paradise Redux: The Art of Joni Mitchell** New Yorker John Kelly becomes Joni Mitchell to perform songs by and tell stories of the singer-songwriter.

- **Texan** Los Angeleno Greg Brooker crafts a site-specific poem of text, a crop duster, a taxi, a million newspapers, the geography of Texas, and twin brothers.

- **L.A. Party** Fusebox regular Phil Soltanoff serves a performance with live video about a fanatical vegan who falls off the wagon one night.



L.A. Party



Comme Toujours Here I Stand

- **GravelWorks** A showcase of moods, humor, bodies, pop songs, personalities, and friendly impertinence by Montreal dance troupe Grouped'ArtGravelArtGroup.

- **Erectheum** Longtime collaborators Michael Smith and Jay Sanders investigate the Greek fraternity/sorority system by transforming tests into a new chapter of the National Panhellenic Conference.

- **one hundred black women, one hundred actions** Wura Ogunji builds a performance of actions, gestures, and movements from 100 black women around the world, performed in East Austin and projected live in West Austin.

- **This From Cloudland** New York writer-performer Kristen Kosmas and Physical Plant Theater spin stories involving lovers holding themselves hostage, someone falling off a high wire, and someone whose head is stuck in a bear's mouth.

- **Blender Love** Austin playwright Kirk Lynn and Houston artists Mary Magsamen and Stephan Hillerbrand create séances for broken electronic devices brought to them by the public.

- **First Name Last Name** A workshop staging of Rubber Repertory's exploration of one person's life told purely through the physical sensations that person has experienced.

- **I've Never Been So Happy Scavenger Hunt** Rude Mechanicals spin an original event out of the Western musical they've been developing over the past year.

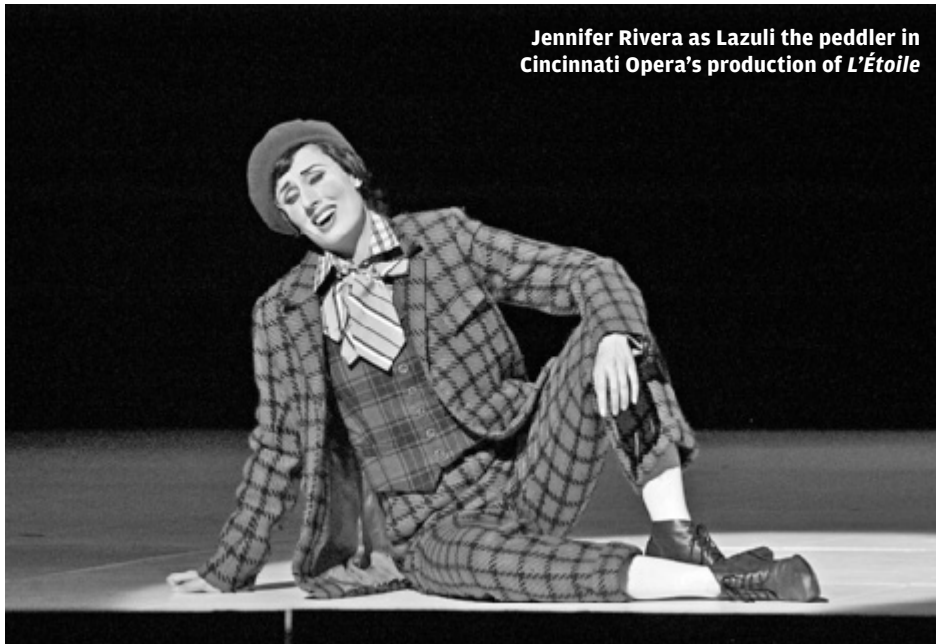
- **Stepchild** Video artist Luke Savisky creates an installation on the steps of City Hall.

- Visual-art collective **Sodalitas** leads a series of walks through Austin that are documented through photography, video, audio, mapping, and objects found along the way.

For more information, visit www.fuseboxfestival.com.

— Robert Faires

Jennifer Rivera as Lazuli the peddler in Cincinnati Opera's production of *L'Étoile*



COURTESY OF CINCINNATI OPERA

Manufacturing Fizz

What makes 'L'Étoile' a light, bubbly Champagne of operas

BY ROBERT FAIRES

Oenologically speaking, opera is a red wine world. The works for which the art form is best known and that get revived most often – your *Butterfly*, your *Bohème*, your *Carmen*, *Traviata*, *Tosca*, and the like – tend toward the dark, thick, and heavy, like Cabernets aged for years in barrels of oak. These chewy reds so dominate the operatic bill of fare that the public can lose sight of the fact that lighter libations exist, that opera also serves Champagne: bubbly, intoxicating refreshments such as *Die Fledermaus*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and *L'Étoile*.

Now, if that last title doesn't ring a bell (and for those of you whose high school French is as rusty as mine, it translates as *The Star*), don't worry about losing your street cred in the opera house. Though well-received when it premiered in Paris in 1877 and hailed by composers from Debussy to Ravel to Stravinsky, *L'Étoile* cast a pretty dim light in its first century. There was a production in Berlin the year after its premiere, but it took a dozen more years for the work to get to New York City, and then it was under a different title with the score largely rewritten, as it was when the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company staged it in London in 1899. With just a smattering of notable revivals – Brussels in 1909, Paris in 1925 and 1941 – *L'Étoile* largely languished in obscurity. It's only been since 1984, when the Opéra-Comique and Opéra National de Lyon teamed for a major revival, that *L'Étoile* has come to be more than a footnote in the encyclopedia of opera. The production and subsequent recording communicated so effectively the opera's effervescent charms that every season or two since has seen another company take a chance on the piece: Opera North in England; Opera Zuid in the Netherlands; L'Opéra Français de New

York, Glimmerglass Opera, and New York City Opera in this country; L'Opéra de Montréal in Canada; Zurich Opera in Switzerland. And with each new staging, more and more operagoers (and not a few fans of musical comedy) found themselves giddy over *L'Étoile's* extravagantly comic characters, the lunacies of its fairy-tale plot, and Emmanuel Chabrier's music, as playful and witty as it is ravishingly melodic.

In recent years, more and more operagoers have found themselves giddy over *L'Étoile's* extravagantly comic characters, the lunacies of its fairy-tale plot, and Emmanuel Chabrier's music, as playful and witty as it is ravishingly melodic.

One such convert was Kevin Glavin, who, though an opera singer by trade with some 30 years' experience in comic operas, had no knowledge of *L'Étoile* until he was cast in a production at Cincinnati Opera in 2006. "This show is not like, 'Ugh, opera,'" he insists. "It's really a fun show. The people in Cincinnati went nuts for it. They wanted more."

What's not to go nuts for? You have an oddball king who likes to celebrate his birthday every year by executing one of his subjects (which is not nearly as grim as it sounds). You have a peddler and a princess-in-disguise who fall in love at first sight. And when the peddler accidentally insults the king, who is also in disguise, he is condemned to be the royal birthday sacrifice, but then the court astrologer reads in the stars that the fates of the king and the peddler are intertwined, and as soon as the peddler goes the way of all flesh, the king will, too, which leads the king

to do everything he can to protect the peddler from harm, which is working out pretty well until the ambassador from the princess' neighboring country, who was imprisoned by the king for getting in the way of the romance between the princess and the peddler, orders the peddler shot. In short, you have more disguises, mistaken identities, and romantic complications than you can shake a stick at. And you have songs that celebrate tickling, sneezing, drinking green chartreuse, impending death, and the ineffectiveness of husbands in the matter of their wives' affairs.

Glavin has been delighted to reprise the role of the astrologer Siroco in the Austin Lyric Opera production that opens this weekend, not least because it gives him the opportunity to reunite with the performer who played the king in that production, Jean-Paul Fouchécourt. The opera casts the two characters in a classic comic love-hate relationship. The monarch – whose very name, Ouf, sounds like an exclamation of cartoon exasperation – reveres Siroco's auguries enough to reverse course on his plan to separate the peddler's head from his body, but he also changes his will to stipulate that if he, Ouf, dies, then 15 minutes later, the astrologer is to be killed too. Which leads Siroco to be on his guard where his boss is concerned. (Or, as Glavin puts it,

"So I have to keep an eye on him or else I'm dead.") And yet, when it looks like the peddler, Lazuli, has gone to his last reward, the two commiserate together over a bottle of green chartreuse, the potent monks' liqueur

and Albert Vanloo, stuffed *L'Étoile* with jokes for the Parisian boulevard comedy crowd, but in translating the work into English several years back, Jeremy Sams has added even more, some updated and quite topical.

"The text that we have written for us is very funny," Glavin says.

"But it's subtle," Fouchécourt adds, pointing out how the best bits in the opera arise from the situations and relationships of the characters. When he makes a point about *L'Étoile*, you'd best *écouter*. The internationally renowned tenor is intimately familiar with the work, having seen the 1984 Opéra National de Lyon revival and played Ouf three times already, most recently at Geneva Opera this past fall. And before this season is out, he'll have two more runs at the role: in a revival at New York City Opera in March and in a new staging at Berlin State Opera in May. He can tell you not only that the music is "gorgeous" but also how it rises out of a specific opéra comique tradition, how you can hear in Chabrier's score the traces of Jacques Offenbach who preceded him and Debussy and Ravel yet to come.

When it comes to the qualities that make Chabrier's opera so light, so sparkling, so fizzy, Fouchécourt finds it in the music. The composer has an uncanny gift for, as Pierre

Marc Bellemare wrote in a 2005 essay, "enticing droll effects from various elements of the musical language, making the score of *L'Étoile* an uninterrupted succession of musical jokes. He has a range of tricks to tickle the listener's funny-bone: the unexpected turn of a musical phrase, laughable contrasts between the libretto and the music, a childlike joy in transforming sounds and even words into something ridiculous, and so on." The music of *L'Étoile* is, simply put, fun.

And that's a word that keeps surfacing whenever this opera is discussed. The music is fun to listen to. The productions are fun to watch. And for the performers, it's fun to play. Comedy may be hard with other works, but not this one.

"It's absolute fun," says Glavin. "The rehearsals – it's like working on a sitcom. We laugh. We have a good time. Everyone in the room has a good time."

A good time for all? In these times, that's something to raise a glass to. *À votre santé!* ■

L'Étoile (The Star) runs Jan. 30-Feb. 7, Saturday, Wednesday, and Friday, 7:30pm; Sunday, 3pm, in Dell Hall at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside. For more information, call 472-5992 or visit www.austinlyricopera.org.





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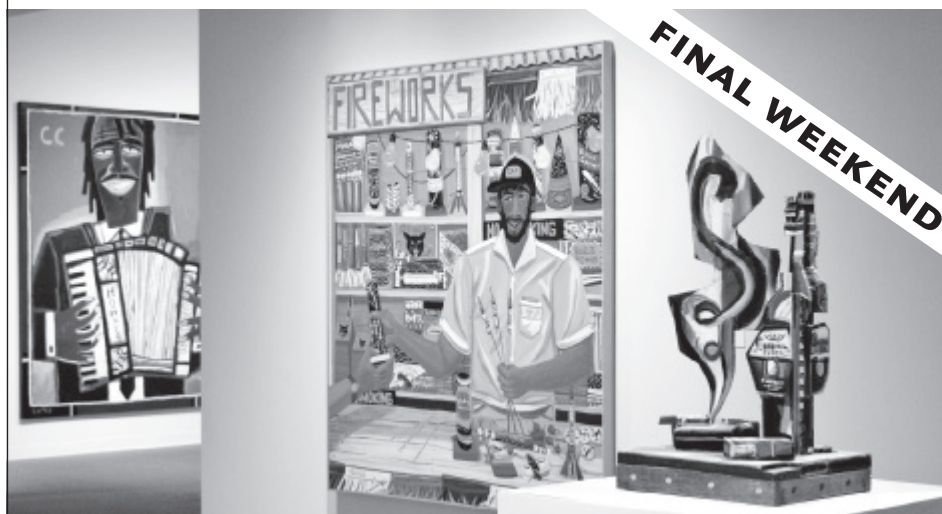
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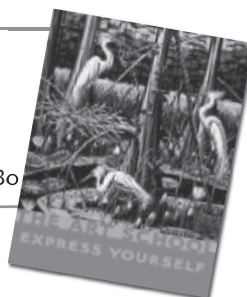
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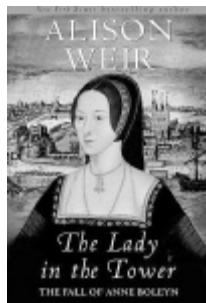
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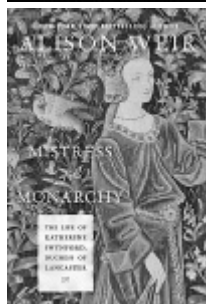


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THE LADY IN THE TOWER: THE FALL OF ANNE BOLEYN

by Alison Weir
Ballantine,
464 pp.,
\$28



MISTRESS OF THE MONARCHY: THE LIFE OF KATHERINE SWYNFORD, DUCHESS OF LANCASTER

by Alison Weir
Ballantine,
432 pp., \$17 (paper)



THE SISTERS WHO WOULD BE QUEEN: MARY, KATHERINE, AND LADY JANE GREY: A TUDOR TRAGEDY

by Leanda de Lisle
Ballantine,
384 pp., \$30

in
print

The pleasure in reading an author such as Alison Weir is that with every new book comes a deeper level of understanding. Weir, one of the first names of biographical writing, is as revered as her subjects, with as endless a hunger as her readers – a potent combination for an author.

In her latest, *The Lady in the Tower*, Weir examines Anne Boleyn during the final months of her doomed life. How has the second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I remained such a memorable figure over the centuries? Is it because she was a Renaissance Eve, daring to taste the fruit that did not belong to her and going to the chopping block for it? Seriously, is what amounts to the royal quest to bed Boleyn why Protestants aren't Catholic? By focusing on Boleyn's last days, Weir redirects the scope away from the court intrigue and Hollywood elaborations. Her strict use of documentation is itself intriguing because it works on the premise that the written words are truthful; she acknowledges this by questioning or codifying statements and suggesting conclusions from them. If Jane Seymour's brothers Edward and Thomas were as scheming and ruthless as it is understood, then, Weir guilelessly posits, "we might wonder if their sister shared the same character traits." Considering how fast was Seymour's climb into a royal bed still warm from Anne's departure, we vote yes.

For a woman of equal scandal and royal importance, the hard facts of Katherine Swynford's life are pitifully few and far between (Anya Seton's sainted historical novelization *Katherine* took some liberty filling in the blanks). In *Mistress of the Monarchy*, Weir collects the scattered evidence of Katherine de Roet Swynford, Duchess of Lancaster, and presents it as another finely wrought tapestry that is nonetheless as dense as it is thin. A young woman of common stock and uncommon beauty married at age 12 to a knight, she later became the lover of John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, and bore him five children before marrying him late in life. Among her descendants were Henry VII (of the House of Tudor) and great-great-great-granddaughters Mary, Katherine, and Lady Jane Grey.

Weir's resources are impressive given the lack of imagery, letters, will, or other direct evidence of Swynford's alluring life – tax roles are most illuminating – but the use of so many qualifying phrases, even with Weir's authoritative tone – is tedious. It's quite clear that Katherine's behavior as the duke's leman was quite proper, humble even, and not deserving of the scorn she received. More visceral are the reactions in the late 1300s to John of Gaunt's public affection for "the enchantress" Katherine, spoken of in centuries-old prose that sounds quite Victorian in its disapproval, a testament to Weir's ability to mine history for nuggets.

Leanda de Lisle (*After Elizabeth: The Rise of James of Scotland and the Struggle for the Throne of England*) is no stranger to biographical excavation either, and *The Sisters Who Would Be Queen* thrusts the hapless Grey sisters into a royal maelstrom of ambition, manipulation, and denial that rivals anything Boleyn or Swynford were accused of. As descendants of Henry VII, the sisters' very lives threatened the rule of Elizabeth I: Any male child they had would supersede her. That Jane actually made it to the throne earned her the "Nine Days Queen" sobriquet; alas, she did not stay there. De Lisle's language is compelling; the account of Jane's last moments in her own words is heartbreaking, as is de Lisle's measured account of an eyewitness to the teen queen's execution: "'And so,' a witness recorded, 'she ended.'" De Lisle is particularly unrelenting of the Virgin Queen, whose persecution of Jane's sisters seems particularly vengeful as well as desperate.

Taken as a whole, these three books represent the eternal appetite for history re-examined and re-envisioned, and it's only part coincidence that their characters intersect: Anne Boleyn is sympathetic while still being culpable, Katherine Swynford comes to shadowy life, the three Grey sisters remain indeed a tragedy of mythic proportions, if more fully understood. The rub of love of history is that you always know how it ends.

— Margaret Moser

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8/20	PAULA POUNDSTONE
8/27	JUDY COLLINS
10/24	CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO








Events at BookPeople



WALLACE STROBY *GONE 'TIL NOVEMBER*

Friday, January 29 7 PM
MPS

Crime writer Wallace Stroby is on top of his game with *Gone 'Til November*. The story revolves around Sherriff's Deputy Sara Cross's investigation into a shooting by her former partner. It also involves Mikey-Mike's drug running operation, and a new hold up happening in Florida. As the novel progresses, each half of the story gets closer to the other, culminating in a dark and menacing finale.

YEHUDA BERG *KABBALAH: THE POWER TO CHANGE EVERYTHING* Tuesday, February 2 7 PM Perseus Book Group

Yehuda Berg is a renowned authority on Kabbalah. Touted as "the people's kabbalist" he shares these teachings as a technology to improve everyday life. In *Kabbalah: The Power to Change Everything*, his goal is to wake people up to the understanding that every one of us has the power to change our life and our world.



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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER



Anthony Dominguez, owner of Dominic Anton Models + Fashion, at the company's launch party at the Phoenix

ALLEY CATTING If last weekend was a preview of the **Spring Social Olympics**, then we'd better get our transitional wardrobes ready and hit the slopes flying. The best event was the opening party for the **Austonian**. Fifty-six stories in the air, the view is spectacular – especially the view looking down on the **Frost Tower** and across to the **Capitol**. And what a swank party, too. Blues on one floor, jazz on the other, and **Patrón** tequila and white flowers by the Mandarin Flower Co. were everywhere. With the midnight backdrop behind us, the world was shimmering and new, and it was easy to forget the other troubles of life. I guess you get to do that if you can afford to live up there... The launch party for **Dominic Anton Models + Fashion** at the **Phoenix** was awash with fash-

ionistas and wannabes. Founded by **Anthony Dominguez** and **Jennifer Reyna**, the agency promises to bring a new wave of high-fashion models to Austin. And we eagerly await the results. We'll check in again on them soon and offer more information. I was pleased to meet the talented young singer **Larissa Ness** at the model party. Beautiful enough to be a model herself, she has all the makings of a star... On to the East Austin home and showroom of **Brian Crumley** (www.crumleynewyork.com). I'd never met Brian before but blithely said, "What's with all the pictures from **Vogue** on the wall?" "That's my work," he replied, and suddenly we were riveted by the fabulous and sculptural statement jewelry the models (including **Giselle**) were wearing. I was truly dumbfounded

and rather embarrassed that I didn't know who he was, but that's no one's fault but my own... All in all, an illuminating weekend, yes?

CATWALKING Friday, Jan. 29, 8-10pm at **Lanai**, is **MyStyle – Austin's Fashion 5**, honoring top picks of those who have brought style to the city or their profession... Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30 and 31, are the fabulous **Le Garage Sale**, Austin's only **fashion clearance** event. It lasts from noon to 5pm at the **Palmer Events Center**, and admission is \$15 for a two-day pass, \$10 for a one-day pass... The then oh-so-fashionable '80s goth rockers **Gene Loves Jezebel** will perform again at **Momo's** Thursday, Feb. 4, 9pm, playing all their greatest hits. Tickets available in advance for \$15 at www.frontgatetickets.com. Further info can be found at www.genelovesjezebel.com and www.momosclub.com... Friday, Feb. 5, 7pm (9pm showtime), is the **Fashion Freakout**, a production of several of Austin's vintage stores hellbent on dressing Austin's fashion backward. With a taste for yesterday and an eye for tomorrow, **Prototype Vintage**, **New Bohemia**, and **Buffalo Exchange** (with hair and makeup by **Avant**) take over **Mohawk** with DJs, bands, drink specials, and stage and party decor fit for a rock & roll queen. Admission is \$10 and will sell out. For advance tickets, go to www.transmissionentertainment.com or www.mohawkaustin.com... The delightful **Kappie Bliss** invites you to the **Sip and See** cocktail party being held Tuesday, Feb. 9, 4-8pm at her store, **Beyond Tradition**, in the **2nd Street District**. Go to see her

gorgeous jewels and accessories for your **valentine**... Saturday, Feb. 13, **Artsträda Magazine** presents its goth-biker-corset fashion show at the always-wild **Elysium**. Go to www.artstradamagazine.com for further details... **We Wanna Help Will Sexton Benefit** is the name of the fundraiser being held Monday, Feb. 15, 7pm at **Antone's**. Go and do a good thing to help one of Austin's own who has suffered a debilitating stroke. The benefit is a concert featuring many of Austin's iconic performers.

THE TREND The accessory of the season seems to be **Girl Scout Cookies**. No matter what's being worn, citizens are strolling around with the brightly colored boxes tucked under their arms like clutch purses.

LOVE NOTE I've felt frivolous and silly writing this column this week, but it was hard to sound breezy and blithe after I heard about my editor, **Kate Messer**, and how she has just suffered the loss of her mother. It's on my mind most of the time right now, and I simply do not know what to say to her. Kate, for more than 10 years, we've laughed and cried, fought and celebrated, and always kissed and made up. But ultimately, you are always right and always do right by me. I'm so fortunate to have had you guide me for so long, and I grieve deeply with you over the loss of your dear mother.

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

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food

Winter Seasonals

The holiday beer season is over; now it's time for winter seasonals (they're not exactly the same thing). A couple of nice ones have popped up here in Texas.

SHINER FRÖST

If you lamented the retirement of the limited-edition **Shiner 99**, the Munich-style helles lager that Spoetzel Brewery released back in 2008, you're in luck: This is a very similar beer.

It's not what I expected from a winter beer: fairly clean and crisp in comparison to most of the rock-heavy, high-alcohol things we often expect to give us a fuzzy blanket against the chill. But then, that recent freeze notwithstanding, we don't really have winter in Texas, do we? Instead, this is a "Dortmunder Style beer," first brewed in 1842 by coal miners in Germany, according to Spoetzel brewer **Jimmy Mauric**: "We just finished the Holiday Cheer, a darker, heavier, festive beer, and fading into the spring, we wanted something kind of intermediate," he says. "It's got the malt profile of a helles but more the hop character of a pils. It's kind of in-between those two products."

Speaking of Shiner, keep an eye out in February for **101**, its new pilsner. Shiner is having fun with its new marketing campaign – the brewery sent me a poster written completely in Czech.

REAL ALE PHOENIX DOUBLE ESB

I didn't have high expectations, as the ESB (Extra Special Bitter) style doesn't usually get me too excited. But I'm really liking this. The first thing that hits you is the heavy malts, but it's no doppelbock – very quickly you start to notice strong, floral hop notes cutting their way through the thick malt jungle, clearing a path that you'll want to explore again and again.

"We wanted to brew more of a medium-strength beer for winter that was hoppy," says brewer Erik Ogershok. "We wanted to make [it] like a hoppy, strong English beer. ... It's English ingredients, English hops ... but it's hopped to American levels – it's over 50 IBUs [international bittering units]. The label says ESB, but that's not really fair; it's more like an English strong ale, but hoppy."

Phoenix isn't new – Real Ale Brewing Company's been selling it draught-only for four years now, but this is the first time it's been available in bottles. (Props to the label designer for the homage to the old Trans Am Firebird logo.)

Neither of these beers made my head spin (in the taste sense, not the alcohol sense; the Phoenix is 7.2% alcohol by volume), but they're solid enough that I'll buy more. I'd grade both a high B and worth your money.

– Lee Nichols

Lee Nichols blogs about beer at www.i-love-beer.blogspot.com.

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flights

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37 Restaurant Roulette



JOHN ANDERSON

Ho Ho Chinese BBQ

13000 N. I-35, Bldg. 6, 339-9088

www.hohochinesebbq.com

Sunday-Thursday, 11am-10pm; Friday-Saturday, 11am-11pm

The folks at Ho Ho were the first Din Ho Chinese BBQ owners, so expect some similarities. Ho Ho took over the old Village Inn, tweaking it with Asian motifs to alter the original. You enter a foyer lined on the right with saltwater tanks of live sea creatures waiting for their final reward, and on the left, hanging lacquered ducks and barbecued meats. The menu is large, Cantonese, and heavy on seafood.

A couple of appetizers tempted us. **Pan-fried dumplings** (\$5.50) ended up being deep-fried instead, but we received 10 dumplings, and the sauce was good. We doubted they were made in-house. We also tried the **egg roll** (\$1.25): It has a predominately shredded cabbage filling, is made from many layers of rice paper, and was not the least bit greasy.

The **shrimp with lobster sauce** (\$9.95) is rich and loaded with shrimp but less thickened than most versions. **Szechuan bass fillet** (\$10.95) we loved: thinly battered and in a spicy chile-ginger sauce. The **pepper steak flat noodle** dish (\$7.95) features wide, light-as-a-feather noodles; tender beef; and a rich black bean sauce. The **quail in special salt** (\$8.50) disappointed:

overcooked birds with a nonspecial breading. The **black mushrooms with seasonal vegetables** (\$8.95) include rich, unctuous braised shitake mushrooms with baby bok choy.

Another trip had us eating a superlative **seafood pan-fried noodle** dish (\$8.95): crispy noodle cake topped with shrimp, squid, scallops, and imitation crab in a light and rich sauce. Ho Ho's **scallops and shrimp with garlic sauce** (\$9.95) is lighter than most versions, with slices of garlic and ginger. The **bean curd with pork in szechuan hot sauce** (\$7.95) is one of the better plates of mapo doufu in town.

We sampled Ho Ho's barbecue via the **combo plate** (\$10.50). A large platter emerged with **barbecue pork** (lean, not gloppy and heavy like some, and kissed with honey and five-spice powder), **roasted duck** (crispy skin and succulent flesh), and marinated and **roasted chicken** (the moistest roast chicken we have ever eaten). On our next trip, we will have to try the **roast pork** – a chunk of crisp pork belly hanging on a hook. Great barbecue and fresh seafood cooked in a light style will have us going back to explore more facets of Ho Ho's mega menu.

– Mick Vann

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

This week brings news of several interesting changes in the local culinary scene. Milwaukee natives **Jessica Nieri** and **Hans Dietrich** moved to Austin more than a decade ago to fulfill their dream of restaurant ownership. The intrepid couple opened **Cafe Mundi** (1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634, www.cafemundi.com) in 1999, pioneering the casual club scene that has since grown up east of I-35. Cafe Mundi offers food, coffee, tea, beer, and wine, all embellished with local art, movie nights, acoustic music, and spoken-word performances. The quirky little garden oasis near the railroad tracks has always provided a nurturing neighborhood hangout for artists and other new residents in the area. As is often the reward for risk-taking urban pioneers, Nieri and Dietrich recently found themselves faced with a 100% rent increase or the loss of their lease. Dietrich advised us last week that Cafe Mundi will close in late March after South by Southwest and relocate to an as-yet-undetermined location later in the year. We'll keep you posted... News from a few blocks farther east is that original Hot Mama **Holly Lawson** is once again the owner of **Hot Mama's Espresso Bar** (2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262) and that Ararat catering owner **Kelly Abshire** is running the business as general manager and chef. The eclectic coffee shop/cafe/party venue reopened last week and is currently serving a limited menu of coffees, teas, Ararat-style specialties, and pastries from **Starlet Sweets** baker **Jamie Teer**. The Hot Mamas are throwing themselves a grand reopening party from 6 to 9pm Saturday, Jan. 30, with dinner and drink specials, live music, art, tarot readings, and dancing around the fires on the patio. Go hungry, spend some money, and check out the venue for future party bookings... Changes are also in the works at **Hudson's on the Bend** (3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369, www.hudsonsonthebend.com). Executive Chef **Robert Rhoades** and his wife, Vanessa, are leaving Austin for Houston, where chef Rhoades will become the executive chef at Eddie V's first Bayou City outlet. The Rhoades couple will maintain its part-ownership in the very popular Mighty Cone food trailer business, so they will still have strong ties to Austin. Hudson's owner **Jeff Blank** reported last week that current pastry chef/chef de cuisine **Kelly Casey** will step into the executive chef job and Culinary Institute of America graduate **McCailey Cranna** will become Hudson's new pastry chef... Look for custom sausages prepared by the **Kocurek Family Artisanal Charcuterie** (291-4461, kocurekfamilycharcuterie@yahoo.com) at the Austin Farmers' Market Downtown and the Triangle, Sunset Valley Farmers Market, and HOPE Farmers Market. The French-inspired artisan business is the brainchild of local chef couple Lee Ann and Lawrence Kocurek and offers products made from locally sourced, hormone-free pastured meats and game. Sign up for the Kocureks' weekly e-mail newsletter describing available products, and they will fulfill orders at their market stalls.

Event Menu Jan. 30–Feb. 3

- ▶ The owners of **Boomerang's Gourmet Veggie & Meat Pies** (3110 Guadalupe, 380-0032, www.boomerangspies.com) celebrate the company's anniversary on or around **Australia Day** every year. This year, the party includes food and drink specials, live entertainment, a silent auction, and the second Fastest to Eat a Pie contest. A percentage of frozen pie sales from this week will be donated to Meals on Wheels and More. Saturday, Jan. 30, noon-8pm.
- ▶ **The Moveable Feast Supper Club** presents a four-course winter dinner with wine pairings suggested by the Austin Wine Merchant. \$40 per person. Dinner location revealed upon confirmation of reservations at themoveablefeastaustin@gmail.com. Saturday, Jan. 30, 7pm.
- ▶ **Flat Creek Estate** (512/267-6310, www.flatcreekestate.com) hosts a Grape Escape holiday with tastings, winery tours, food specials in the bistro, herb sales, live music both days, and a special wine and chocolate pairing class presented by Miss Jane Nickles on Sunday (\$25 a person, limited seating). Jan. 30-31. Tasting room: Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.
- ▶ **Fabi + Rosi** (509 Hearn, 236-0642, www.fabiandrosi.com) hosts a wine tasting party to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society's upcoming Houston-to-Austin BP MS150 bike race. Enjoy appetizers and four great wines for a \$30 donation. Sunday, Jan. 31, 5-7:30pm.
- ▶ It's never too early for romance; enjoy a pre-Valentine's wine dinner at **Andiamo Ristorante** (2521 Rutland, 719-3377, www.andiamoitaliano.com). Four courses with Italian wine pairings for \$40 per person. Reservations necessary. Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7pm.
- ▶ English-born chef **Kenny Gray** will share the secrets of some classic English dishes at **Faraday's Kitchen Store** (1501-A RR 620 N., 266-5666, www.faradayskitchenstore.com). \$45 per person; reservations necessary. Bring your own bottle of stout! Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6-8pm. – V.B.W.

East Side Show Room

1100 E. Sixth, 467-4280

Sunday-Friday, 5pm-12mid; Saturday, 5pm-1am

www.eastsideshowroom.com

With exceptional vision, local designer Mickie Danae Spencer has transformed one of the languishing old corner stores on East Sixth Street into a thoroughly engaging restaurant space that is equal parts Parisian bistro, burlesque cabaret, and steampunk film set. Dim lights flicker along art-lined brick walls. A movie screen running old silent films catches the eye for occasional moments of slapstick amusement. A small stage in the corner hosts musicians nightly who spin ballads in the style of Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday, and Django Reinhardt.

Welcome to the East Side Show Room, an aptly named new restaurant where theatre reigns over cuisine and being spotted is a fine art form. From the beer tap suspended from the ceiling made from a brass periscope to the exceptionally baroque cocktails and the twinkling chandeliers fabricated from metal gears and other found objects, just about everything oozes style, including the young and beautiful clientele. However, while the East Side Show Room is one of those places rich in creative spark, it can be underachieving when it comes to the administrative details of running a restaurant.

This isn't to say that food is bad at the Show Room. On the contrary, the clever, constantly changing menu – designed around locally grown produce, sustainable farm-raised meats, and local dairy products – has so much promise. And at times it delivers with resounding clarity. I love the PB&J (\$11), a slow-stewed pork belly, crisped at the last minute in the oven then drizzled with a light citrus (was it grapefruit?) vinaigrette and served over a bed of perky fresh greens. I am also impressed by the gratin du jour (\$6), a simple but thoroughly satisfying dish when prepared properly. Mine was a plain potato gratin made from thinly sliced spuds cooked down in cream and cheddar cheese. The layers were piled high, practically melted together, yet were perfectly crisped on the top. And a spicy seafood cacciatore (\$7), served like a pot pie topped with a wheel of flaky puff

pastry, makes an irresistible first course.

But these successes happen inconsistently. Frankly, the very inventiveness that draws fashionistas into East Side Show Room like a giant tractor beam seems to overwhelm the two-person kitchen and inadequate waitstaff. Case in point: On a recent Wednesday night in December, the place was abuzz with activity. Waits for tables topped an hour, and once seated, customers' wait for service was embarrassingly long. We ordered pasta with wild boar Bolognese (\$22) for dinner. The Bolognese was exceptional – a simmered stew of game swaddled in a luxurious spicy tomato sauce that I could have eaten with a spoon. Too bad it was served atop wet, limp, and overcooked noodles.

On a different night (a Sunday, and remarkably, equally busy), we were told that two of the dinner items we wanted were already sold out. We settled for fried chicken and pulled pork in a beignet accompanied by cabbage slaw (\$16 each). The plate with the fried chicken came piled with a molten sweet-potato-carrot puree humming with sweet intonations of butter and curry and snappy green beans coated in mustardy vinaigrette. The fried chicken was crisp, well-spiced, and generally delicious ... until we bit into a pink, undercooked thigh. The pulled pork was well-executed – slow-cooked, flavorful, and tender. But it arrived cold, and I couldn't help feeling that the overall flavor would benefit from a strong shot of pepper.



The desserts that night seemed like an afterthought. A lavender chocolate torte (\$7) weighed on the tongue, the dense chocolate overpowering all evidence of lavender. A napoleon of too-thick puff pastry rounds – the same that topped the seafood cacciatore, only unlike the pastry on the cacciatore, these were cold and chewy – separating thin citrus custard and cream that oozed all over the plate (\$7) was impossible to eat with any grace. But it's clear that after waiting for close to three hours for a table and dinner, most people don't bother with dessert.

I really want to like to this restaurant for its creative and inventive spirit. But ultimately, it may become a victim of its own popularity. Or perhaps with time, the kitchen and waitstaff will find an equilibrium that balances both the spark and the little details.

– Rachel Feit

Beets Living Foods Cafe

1611 W. Fifth #165, 477-2338

Monday-Wednesday, 8am-8pm;

Thursday-Friday, 8am-9pm;

Saturday, 10am-9pm; Sunday, closed

www.beetscafe.com

It isn't easy to create an organic, vegan, raw food restaurant that fulfills the needs of its base clientele while remaining accessible enough to draw in more omnivorous folks. Beets Living Foods Cafe beats the odds.

To start with, the menu includes such familiar and popular dishes as chalupas, pizza, guacamole, and Asian-style noodle salad – all made, of course, from organic, uncooked, vegan ingredients, but nevertheless colorful, appetizing, and recognizable. Vegan versions of ice cream, chocolate candy, and cheesecake grace the dessert display, and soups, salads, breakfast options, juices, and smoothies round out the menu. Don't get me wrong: This is about as hardcore as health food gets – everything is made entirely out of raw vegetable matter – but the menu isn't intimidating in the slightest.

As I looked around the bustling dining room, I noticed quite a few larger groups lunching happily. Often, one member of a such a circle will have stricter dietary parameters than the rest. At Beets, you can go out to



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

eat without leaving your vegan daughter or gluten-free co-worker behind, while still enjoying a satisfying meal yourself.

The atmosphere of the restaurant is as accessible and cheerful as the menu. Flooded with natural light, the space is uplifting. The

decor is modern and tasteful, with a blond wood, slightly upscale feel. "It is part of our mission to provide a relaxing, peaceful environment," explains chef Alicia Ojeda. A classically trained chef, Ojeda decided eight years ago to devote her culinary expertise to raw food. She relocated to Austin from Southern California when she was offered the opportunity to collaborate with Beets' owner/chef Sylvia Heisey. "We decided that every dish must have a really high 'wow' factor," Ojeda continues. "Every component of every dish must be fabulous."

Such attention to detail seldom goes unrewarded. Everything I sampled at Beets had the "wow factor" Ojeda describes, in both appearance and flavor. The Shakin' Berrie smoothie (small, \$5.50; large, \$6.50), made from bananas, strawberries, almond milk, and vanilla, achieved a perfect balance of sweet and tart, and the Choco-a-la-na-na smoothie, a concoction of cacao, banana, dates, vanilla, and spices, was as rich and chocolaty as melted chocolate ice cream. The nori roll (\$7.95), a vegan version of sushi made with avocado and a variety of crisp vegetables, was excellent. Served with a powerful ginger dipping sauce, it also genuinely stimulated the appetite. The chalupas (\$11.95) – surprising-

ly crunchy corn tostadas piled with sunflower paste, guacamole, and salsa – were as filling as any I've ever had, while far healthier and stunningly colorful. The dish that stays with me, however, is the Asian-style noodle salad (\$7.25/\$11.50). The exotic blend of napa cabbage, daikon radish, broccoli, kelp noodles, sea vegetables, carrot, scallion, and sesame seeds, all tossed in a sweet and spicy miso dressing, was deeply satisfying and a joy to eat. The Pizza Rustica (\$11.95), while lacking the crusty texture of a traditional pizza, fully delivers complex marinara flavor along with marinated mushrooms, sweet peppers, and caramelized onions, and the crispy romaine Caesar salad with garlicky croutons that accompanies it complements it beautifully.

From my previous raw food experiences, I knew that the desserts would most likely be good, and I wasn't disappointed. The house-made "I-Scream" (\$6.25), which doesn't include soy, refined sugars, or dairy, is superb, and the cheesecakes (\$6.50) are light, creamy, and guilt-free. The hands-down winner, however, was the decadent, chewy chocolate coconut cluster (\$3.25).

From beginning to end, Beets Living Foods Cafe offers a first-rate raw-food experience.

– Kate Thornberry

restaurant roulette

ESTIMATED MEAL COST PER PERSON

\$ <\$10 \$\$ \$10-25 \$\$\$ \$25-40 \$\$\$\$ \$40+

DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: PARADISE CAFE Its Downtown location and hearty menu have led to success as both a lunch destination and nighttime spot. **401 E. Sixth, 476-5667. www.paradiseonsixth.com. \$\$**

BARBECUE: STUBB'S One of Austin's premier rhythm-and-grub joints. Damn good barbecue. The Gospel Brunch on Sundays has become so popular that reservations are a must for both seatings. **801 Red River, 480-8341. www.stubbsaustin.com. \$\$**

CAJUN/CREOLE: ROUX Occupying the former location of Jazz, Roux offers Cajun favorites with a "fusion twist" of Southwestern flavor. **214 E. Sixth, 479-0474. www.rouxaustin.com. \$\$\$**

DELIVERY, PIZZA: ROSALIE ROPPOLO'S PIZZERIA Nothing beats a hot slice when you're making the nightly rounds on **414 E. Sixth, 477-5877. www.myspace.com/rosalieroppolos1. \$**

INDIAN: THE CLAY PIT Best described as contemporary Indian cuisine, the menu pairs traditional Indian techniques and flavors with items such as mussels and salmon. Don't skip the soup. **1601 Guadalupe, 322-5131. www.claypit.com. \$\$\$**

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

JAPANESE: YU SUSHI IZAGAYA Located in the Second Street shopping district, this spot offers your favorite udon and ramen noodles and bento specials at lunch, sushi at dinner, and a full bar. **206 Colorado, 708-8887. www.yusushimizagaya.com. \$\$\$**

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

TEX-MEX: THE SCREAMING GOAT You won't find *cabrito* here, but you'll be so happy munching on tilapia tacos with the Goat's proprietary Olivia sauce that you won't notice. **900 W. 10th, 477-GOAT. www.thescreaminggoat.com. \$**

TEX-MEX: SERRANOS Muchas margaritas and full-service Tex-Mex overlooking the Symphony Square amphitheatre. **1111 Red River, 322-9080. www.serranos.com. \$\$**

EAST

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: PROGRESS COFFEE serves Fair Trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35. **500 San Marcos, 493-0963. www.progresscoffee.com. \$**

BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ Late-night hours make this spot popular with musicians, but the great barbecue keeps folks of every occupation coming back any time of day or night. **2000 E. 12th, 478-0378. \$**

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. \$\$**

SEAFOOD: TERRY'S SEAFOOD CO. Terry knows how to batter up and fry right. Ample dinner boxes of shrimp, fish, and chicken. **1805 Airport, 477-3237. \$**

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

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: DARIO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Try the fajita omelet with grilled peppers, onions, potatoes, and beans, but don't overlook the rest of the menu or you'll miss the fabulous enchiladas. *¡Que rico!* **1800 E. Sixth, 479-8105. www.enaustin.com/Darios/darios.html. \$\$**

LAKE

BARBECUE: OPIE'S BARBECUE Get there in a hurry, because the pork chops go fast. The usual sides of coleslaw, beans, and potato salad keep them company. **9504 Hwy. 71 E., Spicewood, 830/693-8660. www.opiesbarbecue.nv.switchboard.com. \$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: TEXAS STAR KITCHEN The drive-through and walk-up windows provide two fast, convenient ways to take home anything from charcoal-grilled burgers to meat loaf with homemade mashed potatoes, salads, veggies, and desserts for a complete and tasty lunch or dinner. **1602 RR 620 S., 402-0222. \$**

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

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE: JIM'S Breakfast fare includes most of the standards, along with decent tacos and waffles. For lunch or dinner, try the chicken-fried steak plate. **9091 Research, 837-1119. www.jimsrestaurants.com. \$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE STEEPING ROOM Tearooms are making a comeback, just in time for moist cupcakes and delicate tea sandwiches. You'll find a selection of small plates, salads, and daily soups here as well. **11410 Century Oaks Terrace #112, 97-STEER. www.thesteepingroom.com. \$\$**

BARBECUE: BONE DADDY'S HOUSE OF SMOKE Your waitress may resemble a runaway who's lost her clothing, but don't call the cops — just order the ribs. **11617 Research, 346-3025. www.bonedaddys.com. \$\$**

CAJUN/CREOLE: MAMA ROUX NEW ORLEANS STYLE CAFE The decor evokes casual Crescent City eateries, and the food doesn't disappoint. You'll find an affordable menu and generous portions of New Orleans favorites. **13000 N. I-35 #600, 490-1304. \$\$**

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

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

PAN-ASIAN: MAMA FU'S ASIAN HOUSE Find a 100% MSG-free menu with all of your favorites from noodle bowls to pot stickers. **11301 Lakeline Blvd. #300, 637-6771. www.mamafusaustin.com. \$\$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE It's unusual to find both Southern comfort food and great steaks under the same roof. But this place has been slingin' three hots a day long enough to make it work. **11800 N. Lamar #6, 835-2414. \$\$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: SPRINGHILL CATFISH COMPANY Relax after a day on the lake with a cold brew or a bottomless tankard of iced tea. The daily buffet always features fried catfish, vegetables, and a salad bar. **1119 FM 1825, Pflugerville, 512/251-0159. \$\$**

NORTH CENTRAL

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: WHICH WICH? This chain offers a practically limitless selection of customizable hot and cold sandwiches designed specifically for takeout, though counter space is available for dine-in. Also, "breakfast sandwiches"? What? **4700 Guadalupe #5, 533-WICH. www.whichwich.com. \$**

JAPANESE, KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN The sushi and Korean dishes are as good as ever. Try the *banchan* tidbits, noodle dishes, or the sushi train in the next room. You can also grill Korean barbecue at your table. **6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149. \$\$**

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. \$**

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SEAFOOD: CAPT. BENNY'S SEAFOOD A full range of both fried and broiled seafood in the boat formerly occupied by the Captain's Seafood & Oyster Bar. **5700 N. I-35, 452-1417. www.captbennys.com. \$\$**

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. If you're up early, hearty breakfast tacos are available. **4230 Duval St., 452-1040. www.juliosaustin.com. \$**

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SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL A welcome South Austin branch of the venerable neighborhood institution, where the coziness of the original is replaced with a sleek sensibility. The menu is identical, however, including the legendary fries. **4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700. www.hydeparkbarandgrill.com. \$\$**

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INTERIOR MEXICAN: SAZÓN With a grade of "A" for the chile relleno, you should feel adventurous for the rest of the menu. For fans of dishes made with the corn fungus *huitlacoche*, this place is a must. **1816 S. Lamar, 326-4395. www.sazonaustin.com. \$\$**

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

JAPANESE: DK SUSHI After 7pm, this sushi show is for 21 years and up, which gives you some idea of the party put on nightly by chef DK Lee. The menu features both Korean and Japanese favorites. **6400 S. First Ste. C, 326-5807. www.dksushi.com. \$\$**

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

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Famously fabulous for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and a favorite of the late-night set, this place wears its groovy legacy on its sleeve with Frisbee-sized pancakes, pastas, black beans, and great coffee. **2606 Guadalupe, 477-5717. www.kerbeylanecafe.com. \$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP DELIVERY: FOODHEADS Morning fare consists of cappuccino, espresso, pastries, and breakfast tacos. By lunchtime, you can choose from a staggering array of sandwiches, soups, salads, and side dishes. **616 W. 34th, 420-8400. www.foodheads.com. \$**

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

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PIZZA: MELLOW MUSHROOM Don't go here just for the gourmet pizzas: In addition to hoagies, calzones, and salads, it offers more than 30 beers on tap on any given day. **2426 Guadalupe, 472-MELO. www.mellowmushroom.com. \$**

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. \$**

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: 34TH STREET CAFE A neighborhood place that tries to keep everyone happy. Among the standards are some delicious jewels, if you're willing to seek them out. **1005 W. 34th, 371-3400. www.34thstreetcafe.com. \$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: SWEETISH HILL CAFE & BAKERY This well-loved institution has earned its reputation with excellent breads, cakes, and pastries. This place keeps it coming through the lunch hour with great sandwiches on fresh bakery bread. **1120 W. Sixth, 472-1347. www.sweetishill.com. \$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: PACHA You'll find superior coffee drinks at this relaxed and comfortable neighborhood hangout. Step up to the counter for tasty breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, too. **4618 Burnet Rd., 420-8758. www.motherpacha.com. \$**

BARBECUE: BERT'S BAR-B-Q The chicken still rocks the yard, but with those ribs as an opener, you can't lose. **3563 Far West, 345-2378. www.bertsbbq.com. \$**

PIZZA: REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE The drive up Research may be tedious, but Reale's is much closer than the East Coast pizzerias that it accurately approximates. **13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115. www.realespizzaandcafe.com. \$\$**



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screens

MAKE 'EM LAUGH (AND, YES, EVEN LEARN)

The Alamo Drafthouse inaugurates a new film appreciation series, Cinema Club

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

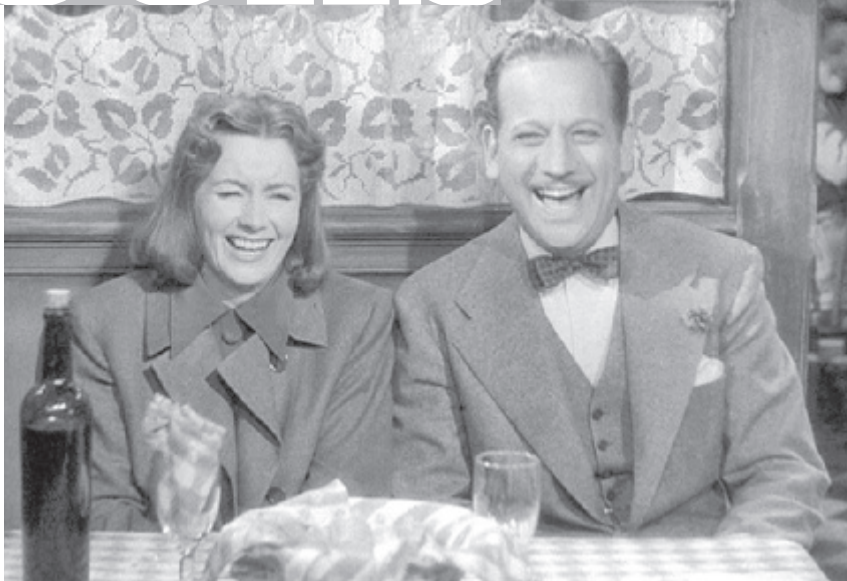
She was arguably the most famous actress in the world when she first spoke onscreen in 1930's *Anna Christie* – an occasion so momentous it was sold with the slogan “Garbo Talks!” – but audiences would have to wait another nine years for that sweetest sound: “Garbo Laughs!” It took someone very special to find the funny bone of the straight-faced Swede and tickle it; you might say Greta Garbo was touched by a Lubitsch. But more likely, you'd say, “Say what?”

“The Lubitsch Touch! You couldn't go to film school without hearing that term, and now you don't hear it anymore,” says University of Texas film studies professor Charles Ramírez Berg. “Not only do people not know what the Lubitsch Touch is, they don't know who *Lubitsch* is.”

The nascent Cinema Club, then, is here to educate and elucidate. It's a new, bimonthly series from the Alamo Drafthouse, an outfit more commonly known for genre enthusiasms: the midnight-movie stuff upon which the Alamo brand was built. But then a one-off screening in October of the 1929 silent *Piccadilly*, timed to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the historic Ritz building on Sixth Street, got them thinking.

“[Alamo co-owners] Tim and Karrie [League] came out of the movie aglow. *Everybody* came out of that film aglow, and I think that was the impetus for wanting to do something like this,” says Alamo programmer Lars Nilsen. “Tim gave us a green light, and we stepped on the gas.”

The plan is to screen vintage films in the outer reaches of the classical canon – like this month's selection, *Ninotchka* – and pair them with film historians from the Austin community. And the point is to provide context to an audience maybe unversed in older cinema and a forum in which to have a back-and-forth conversation. “Watching movies is like a tough drive in a way,” says Nilsen. “You [have to be] so alert to every little thing. ...



Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas in 1939's *Ninotchka*

So I think what we want to do, with the help of our academic friends, is to lead discussions about some of those refined points of films. The fine enjoyment of films. Like somebody who's enjoying a fine wine would say: ‘Do you note that flavor? You can tell that it was in an oak cask,’ or something, you know? I want to alert people to those refined notes in the films.”



Cinema Club: *Ninotchka* With Charles Ramírez Berg takes place Sunday, Jan. 31, at 6:30pm at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. *Ninotchka* will also screen as a special brunch, sans discussion, on Saturday, Feb. 6. For more info, visit www.originalalamo.com.

Nilsen calls “co-captain” Daniel Metz, a University of Texas Master of Arts candidate in film studies, instrumental in connecting the Alamo programmers with UT faculty. First up: Ramírez Berg, a charter member of the Austin Film Society and a much-loved Radio-Television-Film Department institution who regularly wins awards for teaching excellence. For Ramírez Berg,

Ninotchka isn't just an outer planet in the classic film constellation, figuratively speaking; it's dangerously close to getting declassified, Pluto-style.

“Because Ernst Lubitsch is one of those filmmakers that I think we've lost track of. I think there are a handful of them that, as the years go by, we kind of lose track of. I think another one is Preston Sturges. We don't show him that much in film classes. I think it's an acquired taste. ... The same thing is probably true of Ernst Lubitsch. So you've got to provide a context and help people along.”

No one's trying to intimidate anyone here – *Ninotchka* isn't rocket science – but it also doesn't go down as easy as some of its screwball comedy contemporaries. Context is key: For one, its comedic critique of Communist Russia circa 1939 grows even more barbed when you take into account that its chief architects, director Lubitsch and co-writer Billy Wilder, were two German-Jewish emigrés with no love for totalitarianism. Garbo plays *Ninotchka*, a Party faithful and Soviet envoy to Paris who attempts to sell a deposed Russian duchess' jewels in order to fund the next Five Year Plan. Comrade *Ninotchka* is deliciously grim, not once winking to the camera: “The last mass trials were a great success. There are going to be fewer but better Russians.” She meets a man, a playboy bon vivant played by Melvyn Douglas, who helps her find that foretold laugh, but beyond that, I'm not telling. Only this: Seventy-one years later, it's still funny and sweet and shot through with gallows humor (mock execution as foreplay!). Seventy-one years later, and its notes still so refined. ■

in
play



ARMY OF TWO: THE 40TH DAY

EA, \$60

BAYONETTA

Sega, \$60

Death comes to most every video game character, be it the player or your enemies. How those deaths come about is where most of the fun lies. Two recent releases are big on killing and small on consequences. And really, what more could you ask for?

The second iteration of *Army of Two* makes death a team sport. The blood-soaked bromance tells the story of Salem and Rios, soldiers for hire who choose the wrong job. As they work together to shoot, slash, and obliterate their way out of an already exploding Shanghai, they have “morality moments” where they can execute or simply detain enemies. These moments have immediate consequences but nothing that sticks with the characters in any way. The effect is laughable and completely unnecessary. The gameplay surpasses its flawed predecessor, but during the interim between the games' releases, the expectations for cooperative multiplayer experiences has skyrocketed. Case in point: *Borderlands* has cooler guns, *Left 4 Dead 2* is more fun, and *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* looks better. Sorry, fellas. At least you have each other.

Bayonetta, on the other hand, is an army of one: a witch with a cheeky attitude and enough moves to keep the heavenly hordes guessing how they're going to die next. The plot and characters are miles above over-the-top, so it's hard to believe there are wagging fingers aimed at the portrayal of the protagonist as a hypersexualized woman. At the risk of overthinking the issue – something the game's creators certainly didn't do – Bayonetta may be drowning in at least one wave of feminism, but the fact that her towering heels have guns mounted in them must be empowering on some level.

Kicking realism to the curb, *Bayonetta*'s action sequences are thoroughly engrossing, capitalizing on every move and weapon at your disposal. Master the art of evading opponents' attacks and the game goes into Witch Time, an embarrassing name for slow-motion decimation that helps you take down several baddies in rapid succession – a truly inspired touch. By the time you're skilled enough to easily summon creatures from the underworld, the creative kill sequences for some of the larger deities will have you cheering as the puddles of blood become lakes. It's when Bayonetta whips her hair and body around in a breakdance-style flurry of katana-slashes and bullets only to come to rest in a photo-worthy pose (*Breakin*'s Ozone and Turbo would drool) that you realize just how fun dying can be.

– James Renovitch





Paul Soileau

Bravo/Brava

Paul Soileau trips the light (and the dark) fantastic in his multimedia performance pieces

BY KATE X MESSER PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM

At one point during last year's Freakshow-a-Go-Go gender-skew revue at Emo's, things went pear-shaped. Or more succinctly: plum-shaped. Sweet, ripe, juicy plum-shaped. A new performer not slated to appear on the bill arrived uninvited and squeezed her way into the lineup.

Christeene took to the stage in a tore-up miniskirt, sticky black fright-wig, eyes like a raccoon on meth, and lipstick smeared across her face, escorted by beefy backup boys clad only in thongs. Her slow jam commenced.

"I hear a baby cryin', see a rainbow flying overhead/It's getting hard to blow you when I know that you're tricking on him instead/My tee-taw's raw inside, and I cannot hide the pain/You ain't payin' me for my quality, and you're gonna be to blame/Where do all my tears go when they fallin' from my pussy"

Christeene crashed the party to premiere her new single, "Tears From My Pussy." Despite the context of a night packed with drag kings and genderfuck, the trashy diva's writhing, grinding dissertation of dick-defying disappointment produced more than a few gasps. She squatted on the floor of Emo's outdoor stage for a grind with her boys C-Baby and T-Gravel. Then, as Christeene spread her legs, a disturbing little dollop of man sac flopped out of her thong for all to see.

"That was kind of my first terrorist drag bomb," intimates Paul Soileau, Austin performance artist, the man behind and inside of Christeene. "I knew she wasn't going to go over very well with some people," he remembers.

He was wrong. Christeene's raunchy exuberance was a hit.

Initially conceived as a short-term alliance with local filmmaker PJ Raval (*Trinidad*), "Christeene," says Soileau, "has gone from a wig, an outfit, and a dream to this creature. PJ has been making amazing videos – enough for an EP." And with this EP, *Soldier of Pleasure*, the slut/not-slut joins the ranks of other musical Dada pranksters like Divine & Edith Massey, Hedwig, Lisa Suckdog, Quintron & Miss Pussycat, et al.

"My one caveat," says Raval, "is it has to be fun, that we not worry about money – where it's coming from or who the project is for."

"And I," says Soileau, "was looking to get serious about being an artist." Their collaborative, called Three Dollar Cinema, was born.

The collaboration extends far beyond the duo. "A lot of artists contribute to Christeene: filmmaker Jeanne Stern, [art lecturer and *Chronicle* blogger] Andy Campbell, Josh Meyer and Matt Hislope from the Rubber Repertory, Masashi Niwano [executive director of the Austin Asian American Film Festival]," among many others, Soileau says. "People outside of Austin are shocked when I tell them how it happens. There's no money involved. We feed you; we hand you a bottle of vodka. The final budget is about \$200 per video."

"It was actually less than \$200," says Raval. "And half of that was alcohol. I borrowed the camera, and we spent about \$20 on baby props from a thrift store. Our first video, 'Fix My Dick,' was done in a day."

"That's Austin," says Soileau. "You can't do that shit in other cities for so cheap. Good quality, good form, horrible taste!"

Soileau hails from Lake Charles, La., and matriculated at Loyola University in New Orleans. After school, he lived in New York and then moved back to the Crescent City. After Hurricane Katrina, he bounced around Atlanta, finally ending up here, in Austin, Texas. "Christeene," he says, "is a product of a lot of angst and anger and things from the hurricane, from moving around a lot in one year. Then I worked at Starbucks. Two years. That was the button-pusher, the corporate monster that really kind of made Christeene."

Another character inspired by Soileau's years in food service is his grande dame of the social scene. "I love jobs that I hate because that's where my characters come from," he says. Miss Rebecca Havemeyer – a lady in the vein of Dame Edna, Kiki & Herb's Kiki, and even the drag queenier parts of Bette Midler – is a dishy Southern belle gone terribly wrong.

"Rebecca came from [working in] a restaurant in New York, Schiller's: high volume, high celebrity, high decor. I was really into that jet-setting Hollywood accent at the time. I was all, 'Oh dahlin',' Myrna Loy-talkin' and all that," he reveals, nailing the clipped, roof-of-the-mouth nasality that defines early talkies. "Rebecca was this voice I started doing just to mess with my co-workers: 'I left my diaphragm under table 12! Can ya go get it for me?' And they'd scream. That's when I realized it was making people laugh."

"I wanted Rebecca to be old money, like a Vanderbilt – a burnt-out starlet who fell off the wagon or something horrible, but she's okay, real happy about it. I was walking in Williamsburg [in Brooklyn] and had my iPod on. Was high as a kite. I look up and see a street sign that says: 'HAVEMEYER.' And I say, 'Rebecca,' and it's all rhythmical: Rebecca Havemeyer. 'God, that sounds good,' I thought. 'Rebecca Havemeyer! That's it! That's it!'"

CONTINUED ON P.42

'People Celebrate a Celebration of Da' Bootay'

A Q&A with Christeene

Austin Chronicle: Tell us about your relationship with Paul.

Christeene: He's sooo sweet to me. Sometimes I cum over, and he let me cum in 'n' chill. We have a goood time. He got der clean baffroom here. I's so nice. He hook me up with all dees people I'm workin' wit. I do my jam, and he put my jam out derr for me.

AC: What is it you want to convey to the people?

Christeene: I like to talk about da' things dat I'm sometimes not gettin' in life. Or da' things dat I get a lot of. ... And I like talkin' bout da' things dat make da' people click up in they yee-ys and they boo-taay. People celebrate a celebration of da' bootay.

AC: You collaborate with some hot boys ...

Christeene: Ohh yeah. My boyzz: T-Gravel 'n' C-Baby. I just met dem' at a truck stop or something. Daaay dance wit me. They good. Everybody like them when we go places. They

want da' boyzz. We get a little rumpus on stage, and we do touch. And I will expose myself sometimes. They have spit on me, and they will lift me up sometimes.

AC: You came through some tough times to get here, didn't you?

Christeene: Ummmmmm. Oh that hurricane. Sum Katrina situation and Atlanta, G-A. I lived there ferr six months – something like that. The girls there really taught me how to git downnn. Dirty South. Da' girls are hoochie over there, an' we danced all da' time, and I went to fun places, but I knew dat I had to go bigger places.

AC: Like where?

Christeene: Here. People here have been nice to me. I've been to the Alamo Ritz. I've been to a homosexual festival in a backyard. I've been to a gay bar, the Chain Drive.

AC: Do you know Paul's friend Rebecca?

Christeene: Yea, she was there at that gay party in the backyard. She was nice, and she drinks. A lot. She says silly words. She talk crazy, but everybody like her. They real sweet. We are in the dressing room, and she let me borrow some stuff. She loud though. She talk funny. I don't know where she's from.

AC: Tell us about your music video project.

Christeene: It's my first EP. And I made it wit' friends. And da' video is with Peegeeee. Peegeeee Ravool. Peegeeee so sweet. He's a little man. He's a little kind of Asian baby man like a baby Asian. He so cute I could sell him for money on the market where I cum from.



AC: When does the EP come out?

Christeene: The CD package wit da' video cum out on January 29, an' I'm gunna sing at the bar Elysium. They gonna play my videeeos.

AC: While you perform?

Christeene: No, before I get on. Then they gonna put sum pictures of puppies on there. I love puppies. It's gon' be puppies and vid-eeeos and puppies. Then

I'm gonna go on wit my boyzz. I'm gonna do my shit on dat stage, and we're gonna tear it up. Real hard. We ready to burn up that buh-hole.

AC: Break a leg.

Christeene: Fuck you. Don't tell me to break no leg. I need 'em.
– K.X.M.

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Filmmaker PJ Raval (l) and Soileau

Since Soileau's landing in Austin, Rebecca Havemeyer has been a regular on the performance circuit, making many appearances at the now-defunct Camp Camp queer talent show and emceeing nonprofit events around town. Her vita includes an annual holiday show with Stanley Roy Williamson and Dr. Bruce Kirkland, Trivia Travesty, her piano cabaret with Russell Reed called After Ours, the Alamo Drafthouse's Hey Homo!, and aGLIFF's Brunch Time Booyah.

"This year, I learned that this is a job. I used to be such a baby: 'Oh! I can only do one Rebecca show this month. It takes so much work to put it on. You don't understand!'" says

Soileau. "There's an almost painful satisfaction of having to put on that outfit and those heels. It's like puttin' on your suit: Time to make the doughnuts! I finally embraced it."

The Havemeyer air is informed by Soileau's early years in Louisiana. "I love my heritage. I'm Cajun. My dad speaks Cajun-French. I love Louisiana. Its patience with people, its kindness, and respect for things you may not believe in or understand or agree with," says Soileau.

"'Bless your heart.' Those three words allow Louisiana people to process what they're looking at. They may be saying, 'I don't agree with that ... but bless your heart!'"

Soileau solo, sans Rebecca or Christeene, enjoys dalliances with other characters as well. He's been cast in the upcoming Kyle Henry-directed/Michael Stipe-produced *Fourplay* playing the role of a sex worker, and the IMDb.com archives reveal a part in Steven Soderbergh's 1998 thriller *Out of Sight* as Lulu, a prison bitch to Luis Guzmán's jailbird Chino. "Mom and Dad are real proud of me," he recounts wistfully. "Every role I've had has been a whore or sex worker."

Rebecca Havemeyer is his one nod to high society. Christeene, on the other hand, fits right in with the pattern.

"Christeene is a very strange vagrant creepy woman/man/woman who somehow has a platform to express her-/himself only with the knowledge she/he has obtained from the grocery store magazine racks or word of mouth. Most everyone you talk to is the same way. Nobody knows what the hell they're talking about. And Christeene is calling you on it."

"All my characters are ignorant. Rebecca, she has 'winning ignorance,' as I like to say," says Soileau. "I think Christeene has 'winning ignorance,' because I myself am quite ignorant. I mean, come on, girl, I'm Louisiana-educated. I ain't gonna brag like I know my stuff. I'm not gonna say stuff I don't know. Or try not to, unless I'm in character. Then I can get away with it."

For his character to get away with anything, he was first going to have to develop it. His fascination with Janet Jackson and Mike Tyson inspired the vocal creation of Christeene's childlike nasal whine. Her new song, "African

Mayonnaise," is testament to the celebrity machine: "I am your new celebrity/I am your new America/I am the piece of filthy meat/You take home and you treat to yourself."

"People would expect Christeene to be a loud, brash, demon woman. But it's the rule of opposites," says Soileau. "Jackson and Tyson are amazingly strong, dangerous creatures on stage and in the ring, but when interviewed, they turn into baby woman and baby man."

Ignorance, moral turpitude, and nasal whine aside, Soileau imbues his latest creation with complexity: "Christeene is approachable. It is so important to me to make my characters accessible to people outside of the queer and performance art bubbles."

That desire to involve and include a wide range of folks in his audience is part of what bonds Soileau and filmmaker Raval and engages their larger collective.

"All I've known PJ for over the past year is this skank, Christeene. I told him I fell in love with his work because of the choices he makes on some damn strong issues. And he turned and looked at me and said, 'Paul, Christeene is social commentary. That's why I'm doing this. You do have a message.'"

"Christeene comments on gender, sexuality, media, pop stars, and then flips it all on its head," says Raval. "She's likable, sweet, and sincere."

And the time is right for Christeene and her message: "There's a big dirty marquee flashing red lights, and the bulbs are all working!" beams Soileau. "So let's work that; I think it's time." ■

'We Ain't Here to Make Everyone in This World Like Everybody Else'

A Q&A with Rebecca Havemeyer

Austin Chronicle: Hello, Miss Havemeyer!

Rebecca Havemeyer: Ohhhh! Ha ha! Don't stand up, please, lemme bend over. How you doin' Ms. Messer?

AC: *I'm doing very well, darling; it's such an honor to be able to interview you. You're such a fixture on the scene. Tell us about your film series curating.*

RH: Kayla Williams and Chivonn Anderson [of the Alamo Drafthouse] approached me and said that they wanted someone who could kinda curate, kinda speak for tha homosexual crowd, cinema and all, and I said, "Of course!" Basically, I go in there and showcase movies woven into the fabric of a homosexual lifestyle. We wanna show you ya' history. We wanna show ya' why ya' here! Why ya' dress the way ya' do! Act the way you do! It's a learnin' experience. It's a bubble of education for the homos an' cinemastas.

AC: *So what are you doing while Paul is putting so many of his career eggs in that Christeene basket?*

RH: Ya' know honey ... I love to represent talent. I love to showcase. I'm an ol' broken mule

myself; my days are over! They ain't gonna be puttin' me on the cover of the big-time booya magazines! My callin' is to make people in the world aware of very special people. Now, I don't mean "bus" special – I mean talent, honey. And this is the kind of a town where there's a lot of that! And if if ... if if if Paul recognizes some-thin' within a little girl like Christeene, then I'm gonna help for sure! The girl's got talent, she may not She doesn't wash, she doesn't wash like a young lady should, but she's talented.

AC: *Do you think you could help her with her etiquette and*

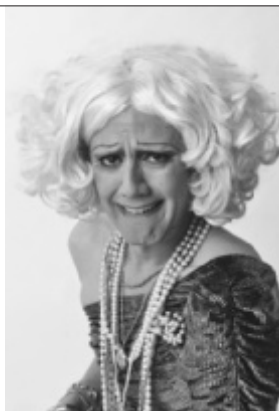
RH: Hygiene? You know, honey, when a chicken's born that way, out of an egg, you let the chicken run. We ain't here to make everyone in this world like everybody else.

AC: *Oh, that is such a beautiful and forward-thinking sentiment.*

RH: I wish I remembered what I just said. I'd use it again!

AC: *Have you been approached to be in any films in Austin?*

RH: I haven't been approached, per se – that's French for "kind of" – in a movie. I have, well



... no! I have not been approached to be in a movie. But I have been asked to maybe appear in small photographs. I've been in photographs many times.
AC: *What kind of photographs?*

RH: Michael Thad Carter has been a wonderful friend of mine. He's a talented young man. We've done many photo shoots togetha' and uhhh, what was I talkin' about? Being in pictures! We did a photo shoot at the Saint Cecilia togetha' at Liz Lambert's new establishment.
AC: *How do you know Liz? She's a bon vivant.*
RH: Oh, very nice French! It means "big liver," like not in your body, but "she lives!"
AC: *I think the way Liz lives, she needs a big liver.*

RH: We all need a big liver in this town! Liz is like a bulldozer of entertainment and style. She showed up at a Trivia Travesty that I do with Silky Shoemaker. We do a lot, me and Silky. We are nasty girls! I love that little child! Liz showed up, and we got to know each other.

Every now and then we bump shoulders as girlfriends do. Then I did a photo shoot at her place, and she was kind enough to let me know that she approves of what I do. Kind of.

AC: *She seems to be supportive of what Paul does as well.*

RH: She's very kind to the homosexuals, and she's very kind to the city. I don't see her as a bulldozer that gets rid a' things. I thinks she's a person who builds things. She's a smart cookie, without crumbles.

AC: *What's next for you, Miss Rebecca?*

RH: Ya' know, I've been doin' a lot of emceeing lately. The talkin' for others. And I think it's time that I sit down, lock myself up – I have a strong punch in my gut to put togetha' an entertainin' show that really speaks about parts of life that we know with my own philosophy injected. Kind of like when you take a turkey baster and put it up the turkey's yee-yeon and put all that flavor in there, well, I'm ready to do that with Austin and the world. I think my next big baby is gonna be a very nice theatrical show, more than a one-run. Where I really get to give you a healthy sit-down with ol' 'Becca, with music and song and music. And philosophies. And I believe it's gonna involve pigeons. Pigeons.

AC: *Thank you.*

RH: Thank you. Uhhhhhh good-bye. – K.X.M.

Let's Get Digital

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Not a day goes by that I don't marvel at what life, work, and pleasure are like with technology. For those of us who have witnessed the creation of e-mail and social media like Facebook and Twitter, it's both exciting and exhausting. But what of those "digital natives," the young people for whom technology is a natural part of life? How does technology change the way we think, learn, interact with others, and define ourselves? These are a few of the questions approached in "Digital Nation: Life on the Virtual Frontier," the focus of the PBS series *Frontline* airing next week.

Continuing from a previous *Frontline* episode, "Growing Up Online," filmmaker, producer, and mother **Rachel Dretzin** is amazed at the things her children can accomplish with the click of a mouse. At the same time, she wonders what the long-term impact of all this connectivity will be.

Joining Dretzin in her examination of constant connectivity is **Douglas Rushkoff**, an expert on and an early evangelist for digital culture. Interestingly, Rushkoff has significantly dialed back his enthusiasm in "Digital Nation." "Now I want to know whether or not we are tinkering with something more essential than we realize," he states.

Veering between steadfast proponents and guarded skeptics, "Digital Nation" would leave one feeling discombobulated except for the somewhat hopeful note it settles on. In the end, humans crave interaction. The nature of that interaction is changing. But is the conventional idea of being human immutable? As "Digital Nation" points out, that might be the ultimate question that remains unanswered in our lifetime.

"Digital Nation: Life on the Virtual Frontier" airs Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 8pm on PBS.

Last Words

I knew there were **Battlestar Galactica** fans in town. Little did I know how quick several of them would be to write in to comment on last week's review of **Caprica**, the *Battlestar* prequel that premiered last week on SyFy. Besides encouraging me to watch *Battlestar* in its entirety on DVD, they were quick to correct this BG virgin about my description of

time. While press materials clearly state that *Caprica* takes place in the future but before *Battlestar Galactica*, the fans who e-mailed me were adamant that this was not the case.

"As you haven't seen *Battlestar* (and you must)," Skipp Manson wrote, "I will only say that neither it, nor *Caprica*, are set in the future. If you want a mega-spoiler, I shall provide it on request."

With all due respect to Manson and the other readers who posed similar questions: Lalalalalalala! (Fingers in ears, head shaking vigorously.) No! I do not want a spoiler.

As for the response from the diehards to *Caprica*, it's been all over the place.

"I saw the pilot (on DVD) a while ago. Liked, but didn't love, it," Jon Delfin wrote. "You critic folks have been most unhelpful, what with all of your mixed opinions. I've read as many raves as pans."

Well, it's not like there's a club where all us TV critics get together and decide on what we like and dislike. (Actually, there is a club. I'm not a member.) But thanks, Mr. Delfin, for suggesting that anybody pays attention to TV critics in the first place.

As always, stay tuned.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.
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SXSW 2010 Keynote:
The legendary **Smokey Robinson**, one of the architects of the "Motown Sound," is set to deliver the SXSW 2010 Keynote Address on Thursday, March 18th.

A few SXSW 2010 Music Conference Highlights:

- **Chris Walla**, guitarist for Death Cab For Cutie, who has over a dozen production credits to his name, joins the "Producers Adapt and Survive" panel.
- **Ian Rogers**, CEO of Topspin and creator of one of the first music-related web sites, presents a compelling alternative to the record business model.
- **Paul Miller**, aka **DJ Spooky**, composer, multimedia artist and writer discusses the growing bonds between fine arts venues and popular music forms.
- **Anya Marina** returns to discuss her involvement with the *Twilight* phenomenon on "Case Study: New Moon" which will explore how the blockbuster soundtrack was conceived and executed.

A few SXSW 2010 Music Festival Highlights:

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See SXSW.COM/MUSIC for the latest updates!

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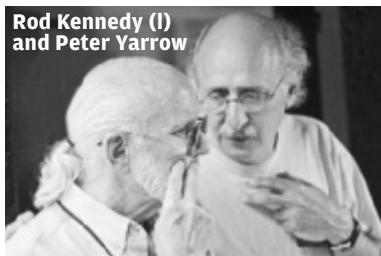
music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Wheels of Fortune

"I had no idea I was going to live to be this old," chuckled **Rod Kennedy** on Friday, his 80th birthday. "It's amazing, especially being in the music business." Judging only by the numbers, the Texas music luminary has had a Hall of Fame career, producing more than 1,500 events, including the **Longhorn Jazz Festival** and **Kerrville Folk Festival**, which he founded in 1972 and spearheaded for more than three decades. By his count, he heard 30,000 songs as the head of the **Kerrville New Folk** competition, an event that helped launch the careers of **Lucinda Williams** and the **Dixie Chicks**, among countless others. "I could tell what was going on in the world just by listening to the music," Kennedy concludes. Yet numbers only go so far. Kennedy helped establish **KUT** and founded the **Texas Association of FM Broadcasters**, along with operating the **Chequered Flag club**, which provided a platform for then-emerging songwriters such as **Townes Van Zandt** and **Jerry Jeff Walker**. "The Kerrville Folk Festival has definitely been a huge part of my life all



Rod Kennedy (l) and Peter Yarrow

these years," reminisced **Butch Hancock**, who appeared with the **Flatlanders** at the first festival in 1972 after **Peter Yarrow** heard the group performing outside under a tree. "It was always delightful, and Rod always kept it going." The Flatlanders return the favor on Tuesday at the **Paramount Theatre** for "Music From the Heart," a special tribute to Kennedy that benefits the **Center for Texas Music History** at Texas State and features fellow Kerrville alumni **Robert Earl Keen**, **Ruthie Foster**, and **Jimmy LaFave**, among others. "The loyalty of the artists, that was always the thing that really surprised me," echoes Kennedy. "Hopefully I was an effective, enlightened dictator over those years."

Written in Reverse: Spoon's Britt Daniel outside Waterloo Records' sunset strip



Get Back

If only in spirit, **Spoon's** triumphant performance at the fenced-in parking lot of **Waterloo Records** on Monday afternoon recalled the **Beatles'** final rooftop appearance as spectators lined the streets and rooftops of neighboring buildings to catch a glimpse of the band's lone homecoming engagement. Austin's Fab Four rewarded the capacity crowd in kind with a stripped-down, hourlong set that complemented the staggered strut of "The Mystery Zone" and throttling rattle and hum of "Nobody Gets Me But You" from the recently released *Transference*. Frontman **Britt Daniel** was at his most casual and confident, digging deep into the group's catalog for the piano-soul of "Me and the Bean" and swaggering *Kill the Moonlight* rarity "Something to Look Forward To" and vicious encore closer "Jonathan Fisk." "I haven't been in Portland for two months," he remarked at one point, defending his Austin ties. "There's a reason for that."

You're a Woman, I'm a Machine

Wolfgang Gartner believes there's a "strange phenomenon" in the DJ world: "The city you live in you tend not to play in as much." That theory certainly holds true for the 26-year-old Austin transplant, born **Joey Youngman**, the only local artist aside from Spoon to make the cut this year for **Coachella**. Despite spinning at gigs around the world, including a current Australian tour, not to mention releases on notable house labels **Tango**, **Om Records**, and **Naked Music**, the electro-house specialist has rarely gigged locally, citing a variety of factors, including a general lack of attendance and poor promotion. That's unfortunate considering his recent remixes for **MSTRKRFT** ("Heartbreaker") and **Tiesto** ("I Will Be Heard") and *Fire Power/Latin Fever*, his latest in a string of EPs that hits as hard and low as **Justice**. "I usually fly out on weekends and hibernate in the studio during the week," Gartner reveals. "I'm actually starting to be a draw. Whereas before I was getting booked and people were coming out just because of the club and the night, now people are actually coming out to see me."



Wolfgang Gartner

Blood, Sweat, & Murder

Stepping into character might be a stretch, but the soundtrack to *Ernest*, a forthcoming indie horror film, should come easily to **Scott H. Biram** ("One in a Million," Dec. 16, 2005). The local hellraiser has been cast as the lead – a truck-driving serial killer – and recently wrapped filming of a demo short in Tennessee. "It was 16 degrees the whole time we were shooting," shrugs Biram, who hits the **HighBall** on Sunday

before leaving for another West Coast tour. "It wasn't as bad for me as it was for the girl in a miniskirt hanging by her wrists inside the barn." The Dirty Old One-Man Band is also the subject of a new import-only, hardbound comic, *My American Diary*, which documents his tour through the watering holes and barbecue dives of Central Texas with illustrator **Nicolas Moog**. "I wish I



knew what it said," cackles Biram of the comic, which also features fellow travelers **Tom VandenAvond**, **Possessed by Paul James**, and **Ralph White**. "It's all in French."

Random Play

While not featured prominently onscreen, **Charlie Sexton** assisted **Justin Timberlake** and newcomer **Matt Morris** on guitar for an immaculate reading of **Leonard Cohen's** "Hallelujah" on Friday as part of the all-star "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon, which raised close to \$60 million and is available for download via iTunes. Two nights later, the Arc Angel and Dylan sideman closed out the 10-hour **Help Austin Help Haiti** marathon at the **Austin Music Hall** with an emotional cover of the Beatles' "Help." No exact figures from the show are available, but the auction alone raised \$20,000 for the cause. **Antone's** keeps the benefit ball rolling on Sunday with **Del Castillo**, **Carolyn Wonderland**, and **Susanna Choffel**.

The **White Stripes'** concert documentary *Under Great White Northern Lights*, directed by **Emmett Malloy** and corresponding with an official live album, will have its stateside premiere at the **South by Southwest Film Conference** – fitting, considering the Detroit duo ravaged **Room 710** at SXSW 2001. No word yet on whether or not Jack & Meg will make an appearance, but this would be a good time to cash that IOU from ACL 2007.

On May 30, **Augie Meyers** ("High Texas Rider," Oct. 30, 2009) turns 70, which would be a celebratory occasion under different circumstances. The Vox maestro, whose latest with the **Texas Tornados**, *Esta Bueno*, drops in March, is in need of a kidney transplant and on regular dialysis, but after his birthday, he will no longer be eligible for the kidney donor list unless someone donates one specifically for him. Any interested parties should contact **Diane Tarpey** at San Antonio's Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital, 210/575-4483.

Austin's premier heavy metal parking lot, **Snake Eyes Vinyl** (1101 Navasota), is closing. The specialty shop, which moved to its current location in August 2008, is currently hosting a liquidation sale, and a final in-store send-off is scheduled for Feb. 6. "Four years is a good run," relays owner **Rebecca Hubinsky**, who decided not to renew her lease and instead go back to school to study business and accounting. "I just decided to not take a risk."

Don't forget: Ballots for the **Chronicle Music Poll** must be submitted or postmarked by the end of Friday, Jan. 29. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

Everyday Magic

Lee Barber's emotional rescue

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



"You know, you take a pencil and you make a dark line, then you make a light line, and together it's a good line."

That line from *Wings of Desire* is spoken by Peter Falk, who plays himself in German director Wim Wenders' 1987 film about angels in existential crisis. He's telling one celestial being named Damiel how good it feels to be mortal, to lie, to experience a range of emotions.

"To smoke and have coffee. And if you do it together, it's fantastic."

Standing in Lee Barber's living room as he explains how the painting on the cover of his 2009 debut, *Thief and Rescue*, came together, that line came to mind. The dark and the light are in that image, if you stare long and hard.

"I started with something abstract, like a cloud," he says, staring long and hard. "I drew a few random lines, two figures, then added some random splotches of paint. That's how they start. Then I looked at it, tried to find the faces. I saw this face, then I saw the beast."

Why are their faces covered?

"I think ... masked figures can transcend the physical. You see there's something like a fire behind these trees? They're running away from whatever that is. He's either stealing it or rescuing it, which is why I called it *Thief and Rescue*, but either way, it's an ambivalent action. He's saving the creature."

Barber communicates with his hands, whether painting, playing guitar, or as a draftsman, his day job. Talking in the kitchen of his South Austin home, he twirls a pen in his fingers, spins it on the table, concentrates on it like he's trying to find words or figures.

"I do approach music in a physical way," drawls the 53-year-old local, with a hint of Cajun accent. "I know I'm finished when there's nothing else I can do. It has to have a completeness."

That ideology helped birth *Thief and Rescue*, self-released last fall but written over the span of several years. It's his first solo album, so it strips off years of bad and good road, Barber's voice low and steady as the narrator, Lou Reed of the bayou. Blues horns, snaking guitars, and hushed percussion accent *Thief*: It's a subtle album, filled with pinewood floors, crows, and other Delta emblems. It's Barber putting himself out there at middle age, when he felt ready.

Producer and Glass Eye bassist Brian Beattie became his co-captain for the recording, helping Barber sketch out his vision. It felt right, Barber seeing parallels between the way Beattie approaches recording and the way he approaches painting.

"It's all about making the colors work in a relative way, to make it sing and come together in a focused way," waves the painter. "It's all about balance."

Barber enlisted Beattie to play bass, Craig Ross to play guitar, and longtime collaborator Jon Greene to play drums, bringing in top-shelf Austin as well: Will Sheff, Amy Annelle, Matt the Electrician, and James McMurtry's son Curtis to name a few. He also asked his 18-year-old son, Wells, who played drums in local teen band the Diving Captain, to contribute, and some of his friends played horns. Barber bartered with several musicians on the album, his paintings for their time.

Paintings — all his — adorn the walls of Barber's living room. Perhaps the strange,

colorful figures made their way into his songs. Maybe they're just visiting. I wonder aloud about the bird theme in his art and lyrics.

"Birds represent visitation, maybe a window to a parallel reality," he muses. "Or a spiritual reality, even though I don't like to use that word."

Barber was born in 1956 in New Orleans, where his father was attending seminary. He became a Southern Baptist preacher, so Barber spent much of his childhood in Baton Rouge and, for a short time, Mississippi. He spent a lot of time in church and eventually took to singing in choir, an environment that no doubt fostered his talents. He paints a picture of life along the Mississippi that could be a Tom Waits song.

"In the Sixties in Baton Rouge, long before they started thinking environmentally, the air could be pretty terrible, with the Exxon refinery



and the chemical plants. If the wind was blowing the wrong direction, it could be nasty."

His father preached on into his high school years, though Barber states it wasn't a "fire and brimstone" affair, and he wasn't restricted with music.

"There's that wonderful inclusive Cajun tradition," he adds, "where kids and old folks and everyone's dancing, you know, *freely*. My parents loved music, but that kind of thing was sort of a conflict for them. They stuck with the Andy Williams records."

Those Andy Williams records stuck with him, too, and he became fascinated with singers and singing. At 16, he came across a Leonard Cohen songbook, saw the light, and learned to play the songs. He still does "Suzanne" once in a while.

"Neil Young's *After the Gold Rush* was [an inspirational album]," he continues. "My sister brought it home when I was about 15. I think the raw emotional commitment in the singing and the presentation hit me right from the beginning. I'm still moved by songs like 'After the Gold Rush,' 'Don't Let It Bring You Down,' 'Birds,' and 'I Believe in You.' In the voice there is no doubt the guy cares deeply, that, with words and music, he's reaching for or trying to reveal something that is hidden and true."

In the late 1980s in Jackson, Miss., he started gigging with the Barbers — him on guitar; his wife, Elaine, on harp; and Bruce Golden on percussion. A few years later, the Barbers, minus Golden but plus their young daughter, Hedda, moved to Austin. They put out two folkie, experimental albums: 1997's self-titled and 1999's *You Know How It Is*, the latter recorded by Beattie. Then, Barber didn't play for a while.

"I know there's that place, the place you go to find a song," he states, staring at the pen. "And I didn't look in that corner for a long time. You know, that corner where you find stuff? But when I've got music in my hands and things are rolling around in my head ... well, it's only natural."

The collision of fate and nature caused Barber to look in that corner again. In August 2005, just as his 25-year marriage to Elaine was ending, Hurricane Katrina was descending on his beloved city. The pain is illustrated with all five senses on "1000 Miles":

"I drew a few random lines, two figures, then added some random splotches of paint. That's how they start. Then I looked at it, tried to find the faces. I saw this face, then I saw the beast."

Thief and Rescue, by Lee Barber

"I know there's that place, the place you go to find a song," states Barber, staring at the pen. "And I didn't look in that corner for a long time. You know, that corner where you find stuff?"

*It smells like Sherman's ghost down here
Someone's poisoned the squirrels
The fire has reached the birdhouse now
All smoke and silver curls
If you ain't got nothin' good to say
Don't say anything
That's what our public servants say
When they read the news
And I feel like I'm a thousand miles from you*

"That song took me to a real emotional temperature that I'd never reached before," Barber says. "In some way, it's kind of the heart of the record."

There's levity among *Thief and Rescue*'s more emotional temperatures, and Barber's talent as a storyteller cools off songs like "Broken Cup" and "Gloryland Bus Driver." "The Monkey and the Ass" brings a bit of Cohen-esque reverence to the album, the poetry of longing: "There's so much to forget, misplace, between the monkey and the ass. The nights we slept on sheets of glass, until you called it over. But I'll remember the perfume, the ceremony in your room, when we were young as lovers."

If "1000 Miles" is the heart, closer "Let's Get Lost" is the release, done in one take and climaxing in a surge of guitar. Barber was going for "the pure sensory, in-the-moment experience with no details or foot-notes attached." He succeeded.

Since the album's come out, Barber's gigged locally with his band the Broken Cup – Greene on drums, Beattie on bass, and Scrappy Jud Newcomb on guitar. Every Saturday in January (concluding this Saturday), he's played low-profile gigs with Scrappy Jud at the Whip In down South, on a small stage where you can't escape the smell of incense and curry. Despite his admittedly introverted demeanor, onstage he's allowed to be someone else for a little while. Some artists have a distinct process they go through to create. Barber knows an idea's arrived when his hands start moving.

"Trying to arrange a group of words is a very mysterious thing that can become magical," he reflects. "Just a group of words. That's what attracts me to the whole process. Words can be very sensual; they're like a color."

A few days later, he leaves this postscript in my e-mail inbox, which brought back that Peter Falk line:

"I'm telling lies with painting. I'll make the hand a deep blue, or the sky acid orange, to dislodge it from the static, to animate it. The same thing is happening with words. I'm telling lies in an attempt to document something that is not static, namely life." ■

Lee Barber & the Broken Cup play Hole in the Wall Thursday, Feb. 11.

Barber Shop Quartet

Van Morrison, *Astral Weeks*

"A thoroughly spiritual record where breath and words combine in ways that transcend. A great example of songs that can't be explained but that make perfect sense."

Otis Redding, "I've Been Loving You Too Long"

"To misquote Bill Clinton, 'It's the emotion, stupid.'"

Bob Dylan, *New Morning*

"An overlooked album that's intimate and playful, with great singing throughout. This isn't the overplayed Dylan cartoon character!"

Captain Beefheart & the Magic Band, *Lick My Decals Off, Baby*

"Underrated as a singer, an incredible vocal range and ear for phrasing genuinely poetic images. Less cerebral than Zappa." – A.S.

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Conferences and Festivals

Randy Miller
Partner, Rainmaker Artists and
Primary Wave Music Publishing

Casey Monahan
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Paul Oveisi
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JON DEE GRAHAM & THE FIGHTING COCKS *It's Not as Bad as It Looks (Freedom)*

Jon Dee Graham is a man of contradictions. One minute he's happy-go-lucky, the next he's in a rage, then deeply introspective. One thing for certain, his songs always sound like the truth, even when he may be lying through his teeth. *It's Not as Bad as It Looks* is the local mainstay's sixth studio disc and his first since a mid-2008 car crash that left him battered and minus his spleen, which perhaps explains the title. Those differing emotions are in full flourish here. He's positively joyful on "My Lucky Day," but sighs with regret on "I Will Be Happy Again." The jolly R.E.M.-like guitar jangle of "PopSong" is offset by the murky, clanging "La La (La-La-La)," where Graham almost chuckles, "How do you like me now?" That's followed by foot-stomping blues "God's Gonna Give You What You Need," his coarse vocals sounding more like Satan than anything remotely heaven-sent. *It's Not as Bad as It Looks* is the first album where Graham credits his band, the Fighting Cocks, and guitarist Michael Hardwick, bass player Andrew Duplantis, and drummer Joey Shuffield bring a fitting rawness to his anguish mixed with hope. Despite the contradictions, or maybe because of them, Graham has devised his most satisfying collection of songs yet.

★★★★ – Jim Caligiuri

DANNY BARNES

Pizza Box (ATO)

"I don't do dope; I don't drink wine. I likes to play ... It's cheaper that way," croons Bad Livers banjo master Danny Barnes on the title track of his solo debut for Dave Matthews' label, ATO. "Basically it's all elemental: Us Southern boys are sentimental." So much so that *Pizza Box* dishes "TSA" even more romantic ("my baby's she's working for the TSA"), the now-Pacific Northwest's tart vocals almost as pointillistic as his picking, percussion big and roomy beneath him ("with her hair in a bun, her hand on her gun, we made love with the radio on"). Completing the tender triptych is "Overdue," while "Charlie" evokes the *Peanuts* gallery of "You're a good man, Charlie Brown" with an equally funny, homespun tale of a part-time speed freak. *Pizza Box* flies the freak flag all



right, adapting truisms into musical stakes à la "Broken Clock," which leans to classic country ("even a broken clock gets right twice a day"). Paddleboat twang in Barnes' hands ("Caveman") makes bluegrass a plantation ramble of trailer-park proportions. (**Danny Barnes goes redneck with Honky and Dixie Witch at Emo's, Saturday, Jan. 30.**)

★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

KIRK VAN PRAAG

Town Crier

"Bury me in East Texas caliche," growls Kirk Van Praag to open *Town Crier*, apropos of the local songwriter's hardened and cracked sediment of a voice. Follow-up to *The Wrest*, his 2004 2-CD debut, *Town Crier* cuts deeps under the point of Van Praag's harrowing outlook, a weary Texas realism brutal in its honesty yet stretching ever toward an unrealized mercy. Production by Leatherbag bolsters the rawness of Van Praag's bark, especially in the unexpected mellotron ("Everybody Sins") and sitar ("Guess"). Though "Pony" feels undeveloped, its odd, lonely levity couches well between the wrecking-ball loss of "Pearly Gates" and "Rehearsed." "This Ole World" ploughs electric blues, and "Wipe the Smile" juxtaposes an acoustic bounce, but it's songs such as "Sunday Best" that best capture the power of Van Praag's songwriting, rising from a place so desperately broken that each word keels with a honed sincerity.

★★★ – Doug Freeman



SPOT

Nae Plumb Nor Square (No Auditions)

SPOT/ALBERT

In the Bag!! (No Auditions)

Chances are that Spot produced one of your favorite records. As the house engineer for SST Records, the longtime local helmed seminal works by Black Flag, the Meat Puppets, and Hüsker Dü, not to mention the Misfits, the Big Boys, and Ed Hall. These days Spot prefers the role of wayfaring stranger, mining the folk traditions of Old Weird America. Originally released as a tour-only CD-R in 2005, *Nae Plumb Nor Square* gathers his Celtic stomps with DeLorean Mechanics (the medley "Jigs: Humors of Garlic/Old as the Hills/Ryan's") with his rollicking, fiddle-led 1990s outfit Spot Removal (Morricone's "Good, Bad & Exodus") and various instrumentals. What Spot lacks in songwriting he makes up for with intensity of performance, as in the bluesy slide guitar original "Dog, Duck, Dildos, Bondage, Toys," which plants him in the one-man band camp between Ralph White and Possessed by Paul James. Backed by Albert Alfonso on an assortment of percussive instruments (bodhrans, roundron, etc.), *In the Bag!!* three years later proves an equally mixed sack,



including tenor banjo dust-ups ("Farewell to Tequila") and a 33-second homage to the "Minutemen." There's even an electric blues shuffle ("Jig: Hideaway") that calls to mind Greg Ginn's Taylor Texas Corrugators. Now if only there was some way to get those two SST pillars to jam together.

(Both) ★★ – Austin Powell

SNOWBYRD

Diosdado (Saustex Media)

On its own, *Diosdado* is a powerful testament to the fusing of eclectic genres that makes Snowbyrd's sound so slippery to describe. Given that it also stands in tribute to a lost member of their flock, it soars jubilantly. Named for the group's late drummer Manuel Diosdado Castillo, San Antonio's young, committed ambassador of Chicano culture, *Diosdado* captures Snowbyrd's exuberant indie rock in a fierce grasp. Fueled by Castillo's bombastic drum style, much like Cowboy Mouth's relentless Fred LeBlanc, the radio-ready sounds of "Halcyon Days" and "Light It Up" crash into but never burn down the neo-glam sounds of "Avalancha!" and "Crystal Blue," not to mention the tart pop flavor of "Can't Take It" and "Ozona" and the dreamy country touch of "Uvalde Socialite." *Diosdado* translates literally as "God given," and that's appropriate for a band blessed with someone of Castillo's stature, a giant whose shadow will be cast long into future generations.

★★★ – Margaret Moser



ERNEST GONZALES

Been Meaning to Tell You (FoF Music)

San Antonio's Ernest Gonzales is the latest in a long line of electronic artists empowered by Pro Tools, constructing microinstrumentals with detailed precision. Following his collaboration with former Alamo City mixmaster-turned-Austinite DJ Jester the Filipino Fist on 2008's *Get Busy*, the artist formerly known as Theory of Everything evolves on his second LP, *Been Meaning to Tell You*, a 13-song album that balloons with an expanded edition, which includes a coffeetable art book and 16 remixes. Gonzales weaves a seamless listen, from the beatboxing collage of "Dancing in the Snow" and Nintendo trance of "Falling Asleep to the Glow of the Television" to sedated closer "Upon the 49th Day." His instrumentals resemble the narrative efflorescence of Lymbyc Systym, often juxtaposing light, hypnotic guitars against propulsive trance beats ("We Can Live in the Forest"). The effect is akin to sleep paralysis: Your mind wants to move, but your body's not ready. (**EG appears at the Independent @ 501 Studios, Saturday, Jan. 30.**)

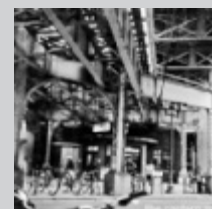
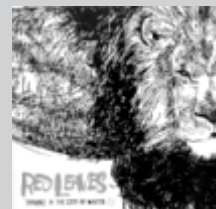
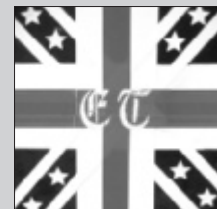
★★★ – Austin Powell

THE TEXAS SAPPHIRES

As He Wanders ... (Ike)

Why the Texas Sapphires aren't plowing over the current crop of country bands is a mystery, but *As He Wanders ...* slices through the genre. The trucking pace of "Nashville Moon" illuminates the locals' steady course

CONTINUED ON P.50



deEP end

Bear Claw's four-song vinyl one-sider for local multimedia imprint Monofonus Press displays a long-forgotten axiom: that music, as a package, can be a piece of art, to be enjoyed as such. The songs were culled from a recent cassette-only release by local singer-guitarist Nigel Rainey, who even has the perfect name for his kind of music. Supported by melodica and drums, "Needle and Thorn" and "Romantic Period" recall the 1980s sad-wave of the Smiths without aping it. Rainey's folkier musings keep things from getting too morose. LP, please. Influence from across the pond also comes via quartet **English Teeth**, whose five-song debut says up front what these guys are mainlining: 1960s Brit R&B. Opener "Catastrophe" and follow-up "Invasion" bring out the Kinks, and "Cursed" repurposes the guitar riff from the Stones' "Can't You Hear Me Knocking." **Red Leaves** drop four on the floor with *Trouble in the City of Water*, showing how much they've matured musically since 2006's *All the Zombies* EP. Then, the Austin trio was still finding its sound, dancing awkwardly. Here, on EP No. 3, the now-quartet combines its powers, locking into more structured rhythms and imbuing songs like "Ghost Paws" and "Deadweight" with lovely pop tones. The **Eastern Sea's** second EP drops a quartet of songs, spelling out some sort of code: "The Mountain," The Sea," "The Name," "Your House." The group's sound has also matured since its first EP. "Your House" especially unwinds with ease, and "The Name" steps outside the confines of folk to dance, if a bit awkwardly.

– Audra Schroeder

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Merge

SPOON Transference

Transference features immediately winning songs like "Who Makes Your Money," "Written In Reverse," and "Got Nuffin," all thickly groovy in the classic Spoon style, and it breaks some new ground on the aching, twangy "Out Go The Lights," which finds Daniel paying homage to Factory Records.

\$9.99 CD LP Available



Indie

TWANG TWANG SHOCK-A-BOOM Me So Twangy

Twang Twang Shock-A-Boom's *Me So Twangy* was its fourth and final release until the reunion *The Last Performance Live* show. It was a cassette-only release in 1990, and as such is incredibly difficult to find. Now remixed and remastered.

\$9.99 CD



Matador

VARIOUS ARTISTS Casual Victim Pile

A compilation album that includes 17 bands from Austin along with another two bands out of Denton. Representing the 512 will be Dikes of Holland, Follow That Bird!, Kingdom of Suicide Lovers, Flesh Lights, The Golden Boys, Harlem, Love Collector, Wild America, Woven Bones, and more.

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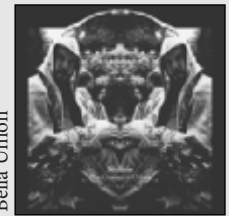


Bordello

RAY WYLIE HUBBARD A. Enlightenment...

With a keen eye for observation and a wise man's knowledge, Ray Wylie Hubbard composes and performs a dozen songs that couldn't spring from anywhere else but out of his fertile Rock 'n' Roll bluesy poet-in-the-blistering-heat southern noggin.

\$12.99 CD



Bella Union

MIDLAKE Courage Of Others

Existing outside the plane of trends and even time, Midlake has once again conjured a novel world, but one that seems to have existed forever. Looms of intricately textured keyboards, flute, guitars and voice are woven into broad cloaks of sound, all riding the wave of songwriter Tim Smith's sweeping vocals.

\$11.99 CD LP Available



Western Vinyl

OLA PODRIDA Belly of the Lion

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

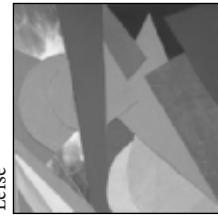


Indie

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



Lefse

NEON INDIAN Psychic Chasms

An elusive new project from composer Alan Palomo, Neon Indian delivers equal parts synthetic nostalgia, Dreampop lullabies, and grinding guitar noise to create something eerier than the sum of its parts.

\$11.99 CD



ATO

DANNY BARNES Pizza Box

Known early on for his work *The Bad Livers*, Barnes has developed a profile for himself as one of the most progressive and genre-bending artists of his craft. With *Pizza Box*, Barnes spins tales of American life like a latter-day John Steinbeck, wielding banjo and pen with equal effect, and the character of his voice as the perfect mouthpiece to truly bring these songs and stories to life.

\$9.99 CD



Playing In Traffic

SPEAK Hear Here

Forever questing for innovation, *SPEAK* invoke timeless melodies in energetic, synth-laden anthems.

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Secretly Canadian

MOLINA AND JOHNSON

Consider the collective catalogs of these two masters of the new American folk songcraft: Magnolia Electric Co., Centromatic, Songs: Ohia, South San Gabriel. Now, let's just be honest. A little bit of artistic ego and one-upsmanship 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



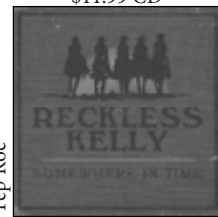
Indie

JEFF LOFTON Jazz To The People

Austin Chronicle's Top 9 Austin Albums '09, and KUT's Top 10 Albums of 2009: DJ Picks.

"... hits the bull's-eye on this sterling local debut that digs a deep groove ... swings passionately..." - Austin Chronicle

\$12.99 CD



Yep Roc

RECKLESS KELLY Somewhere In Time

Inspired to bring Pinto's songs to the world, Reckless Kelly turns up the pedal steel to eleven and offers a truly inspired take on the country music they cut their teeth on. Always seeking to expand the definition of their identity as artists and showmen, *Somewhere In Time* sheds light on yet another facet of their already brimming legend.

\$13.99 CD



VMG

VALLEJO Acoustica

Vallejo melds a funky hard rock millennium style, with swiveling Latino rhythms and superfuzzy guitars. Vocals are surly and sleazy, adding a little dirt to the nearly pristine studio professionalism. - David Fricke *Rolling Stone*

\$9.99 CD



Indie

LEGS AGAINST ARMS Come On Let's Disappear

"Distinguishing itself with a lush sound characterized by doses of textured fury and passages of enchanted pop, local outfit Legs Against Arms is positioned to rise above the generic brand in our city's congested musical realm - Austinist

\$6.99 CD

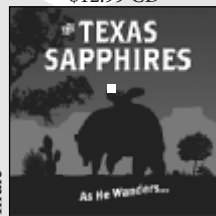


Texas Jamboree

LUCAS HUDGINS The World Left Is Mine

The World Left Is Mine is an album drenched in heartache and despair and accentuated by the wail of a steel guitar. It doesn't have any pretensions of being deep, but revels in its simplicity and old school charm.

\$12.99 CD



Indie

THE TEXAS SAPPHIRES As He Wanders...

As He Wanders is an absolute gem...the Sapphires possess an old school ethos as many of the album's tracks would feel at home on some of the sparsely produced greats from 1970's Red Headed Stranger-era Austin. While the label "Honky-Tonk" has been overused, this band's sound is tailor-made for shuffling around a dusty floor with a brew in one hand and a pretty lady in the other." - (twangville.com)

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Boobuzzard Productions

MIKE DAVIS AND ALICIA GILL Journeys

Long-time music veterans Mike Davis & Alicia Gill have proven their partnership was meant to be! Enjoyable, light & breezy, their music is an easy choice to leave in the CD player! - My Texas Music

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Sustain

SHURMAN Still Waiting For The Sunset

There is an elusive sweet spot at the crossroads where soul music, country, and rock n roll intersect, and the Austin, TX-based band Shurman hits that bullseye dead on. Underneath the energy and grit of the band's performance lie songs that breathe the truths of unrequited love, every day life experiences, and emotions that are both.

\$11.99 CD



Little Train

KEVIN HIGGINS Find Your Shine

"If William Faulkner was from West Texas, played guitar and wrote songs, they might sound like this," (Stephen Doster, producer). Award-winning songwriter Kevin Higgins offers up *Find Your Shine*, "articulating the fullness of human experience within spendid and alluring melodies...timeless and endlessly fulfilling music." (Rob Patterson, veteran music journalist)..

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into two-step territory with "190," Rebecca Cannon's bid to be considered in the ranks of Kitty Wells instead of Faith Hill. Her voice is taut, strong, with a hint of gulp; "Spurned once or twice in my younger days," she muses mournfully in "Make Him Make Me." Knit tightly into Billy Malkus' ropy vocals, Cannon's voice folds into the guitarist's with the grace of a lovers waltz ("Stunt Double," "Riddled Days"). The Sapphires' diamond edge comes courtesy of Malkus, who's developed his songwriting in the style of classic country story ("Baltimore Cage"), while keeping one eye on the setting sun of the Americana West. As *He Wanders ...* is an open invitation to follow that road.

★★★

— Margaret Moser

DAVID ISRAEL

Say Goodbye to Sorry (Natrix Natrix)

The first 12-inch vinyl from homespun retro-label Natrix Natrix, David Israel's debut full-length shades his 2006 EP, *These Are the Clothes We'll Wear When We're Old*, but wraps his deadpan gravel drawl in fleshier arrangements. Israel remains as playfully and ponderously perplexing as ever, an amalgam of lines both absurd and poignant that unsettles itself at every turn. Part Jonathan Richman, part Dave Berman, the local songwriter revels in being constantly off-kilter, with songs like "Even if You Lived a Million Years" drifting through so many time shifts and disjointed images that it seems like a medley. Still, tunes such as the title track and "I Hate This Town" have disarming charm, odd barroom asides contorted into song. "Country of the Future" could ride on the back of Deer Tick's *War Elephant*, while "The Battle of the Century" crawls with eerie intensity. Though scattershot, when Israel hits his mark, it's spot on.

★★★

— Doug Freeman

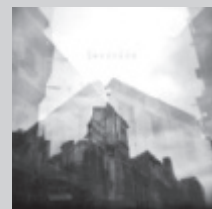
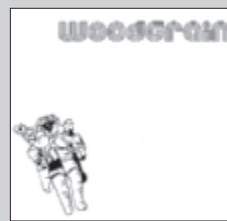


7 & 7 is

Splattering open the second half of Matador's thrillingly dank *Casual Victim Pile*, **Love Collector's** boy/girl bar grind goes Beatles butcher cover on *My Baby Goes Waaah!* for Minnesota's Big Action Records. A hot mess of DIY petroleum and punk waaah, the fiery four throw baby, bathwater, and beer at the titular A-side, while fitting a pair on the flip, fist-pounding "Tell Me" and gas-huffer "Come Back." Australian Cattle God suggests one "Imagine Robert Rodriguez remaking *Tron*" apropos of a two-song tease to new **Woodgrain** LP *The Bronze*. Dueling keys fry the fourpiece's "Selsun" and especially prog spank "Coal Lampin'." The **Kill Sectors'** two-man, two-tune, too-cool gray-marble vinyl single, summoned at Sweatbox with sweatbox Mike Vasquez for the Española Recording Compania (Kemo Sabe Publishing), indeed kills. Frankie Medina's finest Iggy Stooze vox rumba meets Keith Herrera's knee-knocking thump, "Red River Street" rollin' a big beat Dylan noir about war, women ("there she was in the camera eye, she was a 10 or a nine, I wouldn't lie"), and broken strings. "Live Like a Dog" chomps

a Black Keys calf. Killing. **Cruddy** barks six songs at 45 rpm for Let's Pretend Records from Lt. Col. Henry Blake's (M*A*S*H) hometown of Bloomington, Ind. ATX burst from the Alison-beat trio throbs primal, "Berlin Wall" ("my brick, my brick, my brick") and "Running Rats" beating hasty retreats, while the B-side administers its own beating ("Ready Set Let Go"). Rare beast: a Super Secret Records single without color somewhere in its run. Nevertheless, **Lovetaps'** eponymous, jet-black 7-inch, "Love 'Em or Leave 'Em" b/w "Goodbye Sunshine," bangs garage doors and jangles Byrdian bells (yells) of Rhymney. Blue vinyl and 12 inches from Austin's Chicken Ranch Records separates **Beautiful Supermachines'** tuneless *Consumed* EP, "Radical Subjectivity" featuring Matador avatar Gerard Cosloy on guitar, and the **Distant Seconds'** *Hot Buttered Anomie* EP. Another *Casual Victim Pile* warm body, the Distant quartet's song trio here taps a Spoon or two, transference in front-man Matthew Baab's vocal abrasion. 1980s UK: "I Don't Want to Go Back to) Memphis."

— Raoul Hernandez



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7 PM
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 3RD

STUDIO 40 in the
CMB building
on the UT campus

2501 WHITIS AVE

LEAD STORY

In December, a prominent online game-player, "Buzz Erik Lightyear," won the auction for ownership of a virtual space station in the *Planet Calypso* game, paying 3.3 million Project Entropia Dollars (PEDs), which at various points entered the game's play-like economy at an out-of-pocket cost of 10 actual U.S. cents per PED. Thus, Lightyear paid \$330,000 for nothing more than digital representations of cool-looking structures. However, Lightyear can now charge other PED-seeking players who shop and hunt for valuables on the popular space station and appears confident he will eventually earn back his investment. On the other hand, if everyone suddenly abandoned the game, Lightyear will have spent thousands of hours online buying, selling, and bartering to earn \$330,000 worth of PEDs that would then be worthless.

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

In January, the Berkeley, Calif., school board began consideration of a near-unanimous recommendation of Berkeley High School's Governance Council to eliminate science labs from its curriculum, reasoning that the classes mostly serve white students, leaving less money for programs for underperforming minorities. Berkeley High's white students do far better academically than the state average; its black and Latino students do worse than average. Five science teachers would be dismissed.

New York City, under Mayor Michael Bloomberg's leadership, has taken aggressive positions against cigarette-smoking and restaurant dishes made with trans fats, but the city's Department of Health is apparently more tolerant regarding heroin. A recently released, department-funded 16-page pamphlet instructs heroin users on "safer" ways to inject the drug (and suggests, if the first needle stab misses a vein, the more healthful course is to pull out and begin anew rather than to try to maneuver the syringe). Of course, the booklet contains several warnings against any use of heroin, but those, obviously, are messages habitually ignored by addicts.

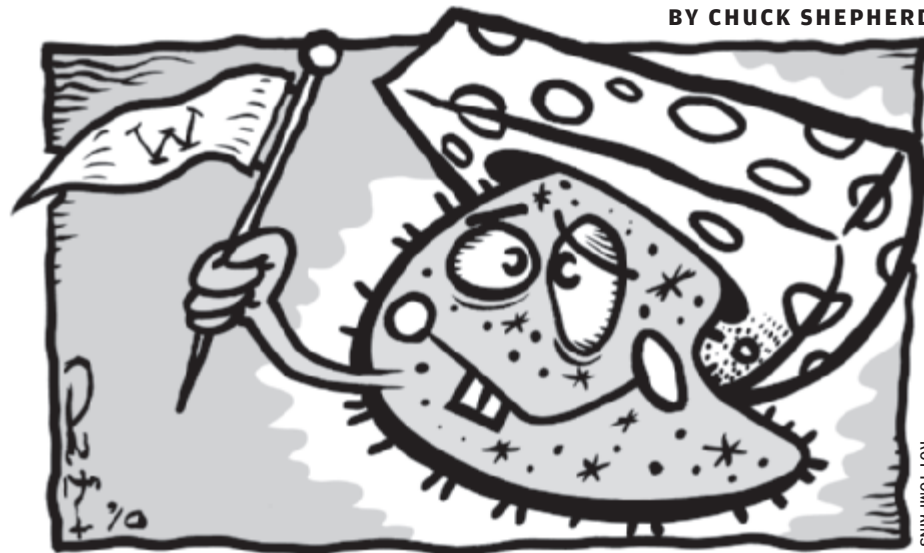
ARE THE TERRORISTS SAFE?

Although the U.S. military stateside can direct a drone aircraft halfway around the world to deliver bombs mostly on highly specific targets in Iraq, the Pentagon acknowledged in December that even after six years of war, its signals to the drone are still not encrypted. Thus, Iraqi insurgents can pinpoint drone locations merely by using ordinary computer programs like SkyGrabber, which is widely available from software retailers for about \$40. U.S. officials admitted that the software could make it easier for insurgents to anticipate the timing and location of attacks.

Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to be dangerous for blundering insurgents. In January, 14 suspected Taliban terrorists accidentally blew themselves up in the Kunduz province while riding a bus carrying bombs to an intended target. And in Karachi, Pakistan, three days later, eight suspected terrorists accidentally blew themselves up while handling bombs in their "safe house."

NEW OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



The Wisconsin Legislature is considering a bill to designate a state bacterium (the *Lactococcus lactis*, which is crucial to turning milk into the state's famous cheese). If approved, the bacterium would join two dozen other state symbols (according to the *Wisconsin Blue Book*): coat of arms, seal, motto, flag, song, flower, bird, tree, fish, state animal, wildlife animal, domestic animal, mineral, rock, symbol of peace, insect, soil, fossil, dog, beverage, grain, dance, ballad, waltz, fruit, and tartan.

POLICE BLOTTER

1) Clovis, N.M., Nov. 21: "The [grandmother], who said she relied on a walker for mobility, said the [son-in-law] had come into the bathroom while she was using it and had grabbed and twisted her nose until she could hear the bones and cartilage cracking. The man was arrested." 2) Apple Valley, Minn., Oct. 13: "Officers responded to a report that a man was sitting on the curb in front of his house talking to himself. When officers arrived they found a very intoxicated man who wanted officers to drive him to Washington, D.C., so that he could discuss the country's military involvement in the Middle East with President Obama."

PEOPLE WITH ISSUES

Ewwwww! 1) Prominent eastern Idaho prosecuting attorney Blake Hall, 56, was fired in November (and he also resigned from a major national political position) after his conviction for stalking an ex-girlfriend. Evidence at trial revealed that Hall had been tossing used condoms onto the woman's lawn, a total of 19 collected on 10 different days. 2) Truck driver Yuuki Oshima, 22, was arrested in Chiba, Japan, in December after allegedly urinating through the mail slot of a woman's apartment door on more than one occasion. Oshima told police that he was frustrated, apparently too shy to approach the woman, and admitted that he was crazy about her.

GREAT ART!

In December, Portuguese dancer Rita Marcalo, seeking to raise public awareness of the tragedy of epilepsy (which has afflicted her for 20 years), performed a 24-hour "show" at a Bradford, England, theatre in which she attempted to trigger an epileptic seizure onstage. She had stopped taking medication beforehand and repeatedly stared into flashing strobe lights, but she was unsuccessful. However, in the second part of her project (which has been funded by an Arts Council grant of the equivalent of about \$20,000), she will continue the quest, but only in front of cameras, hoping to capture a seizure for a subsequent video production.

Scottish sculptor Kevin Harman was fined the equivalent of about \$325 in November for vandalizing the Collective Gallery in Edinburgh by smashing a metal scaffolding pole through a gallery window. Harman insisted that the incident was actually art in that it was part of a video for a project at the Edinburgh College of Art and that he had immediately paid to replace the window. However, it was not art to the gallery's management, which pressed charges. Harman, according to London's *The Guardian*, said he was less distressed by the fine than by the gallery's insulting his art by calling it vandalism.

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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THURSDAY **28**

VIVA MONTE CARLO KICKOFF

Prepare for ASA's classic faux gambling event with a new twist: Viva Las Vegas goes to Monte Carlo. The menu list includes "tarts," and "mini pressed Cubans." We're almost sure both of those are food. 5:30-7:30pm. *The Belmont*, 305 W. Sixth, 406-6157. \$15. www.asaustin.org.

 **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FORUM** Hear from all the Dem candidates from the governor's race on down the ballot at this kid-friendly forum. 6-10pm. *Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex*, 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Free. www.traviscountymayors.org.

LIVE UNITED FILM SERIES United Way Capital Area and your local PBS station present *It All Adds Up*, which documents the successes of a groundbreaking math program for high school kids. Afterward, local experts will discuss the topics raised in the film. Go online to RSVP. 6pm. *Austin City Limits Studio 6A, CMB (on the UT campus)*. Free. www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

 **(GRRL POWER) SOUL POWER** Let Lisa Marshall's rapturous vox wrap you up in heaven. Check out her Thursday residency now through February – now with new and improved 9pm start time (for us workin' folk). 9pm. *T.C.'s Lounge*, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200. www.lisamarshallmusic.com.

 **HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY OILCAN'S!** Awww. Look who got all grown up right before our very eyes! Anniversary celebration includes Back to the Nineties Buffet & Casino Party (Friday), a Black Light Black Out Party with Miami's DJ Michael Tank (Saturday), a county fair (Sunday), and more. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

 **STUCK ON GEE-DOT** Generic Ensemble Company takes a stab at Mr. Beckett's (im)patient play. Local perf arter kt shorb directs and holds the terrible silence at bay. E-mail for specific location. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 22-24 and Thu.-Sat., Jan. 28-30*. \$10; pay what you can at the *Jan. 28 show*. www.genericensemblecompany.blogspot.com.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.)

The Flaming Idiots *Zach Theatre*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Natural Selection @ *Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek*, 7:30pm

Szygy @ *Austin Film Studios Screening Room*, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

A Giant Dog *Beerland*
Fiery Furnaces *The Parish*
Jonathan Richman *Continental Club*

FRIDAY **29**

MATHEWS ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

Take a tour of this award-winning public elementary school. 8am. *Mathews Elementary*, 906 West Lynn, 841-1516. Free. bethrohllich@yahoo.com, www.mathews360.com/programs/open-house.

WEBPOSIUM FOR TEACHING ARTISTS Following a one-hour international webposium will be local experts sharing their knowledge of teaching the arts to students with disabilities. Go online or e-mail for registration info. 9am. *Council Chambers at City Hall*, 301 W. Second, 454-9912. Free. teachingartist@vsatx.org, www.vsatx.org.



| L - R: NERD NITE (SEE THURSDAY, FEB. 4) | HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS (SPORTS, P.57) | ENDGAME (ARTS, P.56) | LA DANSE (FILM, P.62) | THE RESIDENTS (MUSIC, P.70)

THURSDAY, JAN. 28 TO THURSDAY, FEB. 4

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

WINE PARTY Take in live cooking demos from Le Cordon Bleu trained chefs while the wine samples flow. Other bite-sized eats will also be available for your palate's pleasure. 5-8pm. *Market at Steiner Ranch*, 4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd., 266-8808. Free. www.themarket-steiner.com.

EL ELEFANTE IN THE BOARDROOM Juan Tornoe, CMO at Cultural Strategies, shares his knowledge of America's largest minority and its importance in your marketing strategies. 5:30pm. *Mexican American Cultural Center*, 600 River St., 478-6222. Donations appreciated.

www.sietaraustin.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. *Fridays*, 5:30pm. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

STRUGGLE FOR A FREE PALESTINE DISCUSSION Richard Becker discusses his latest book, *Palestine, Israel and the U.S. Empire*. 7pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

FIVE THINGS Come early or stay late for live music, or come right on time for some award-winning stories. 7:30pm. *United States Art Authority*, 2906 Fruth. \$1. www.fivethingsaustin.com.

GOGIRLS MEET-UP Free and open to the public, this open mic features women from all generations speaking their minds. 8pm. *Hot Mama's Espresso Bar*, 2401 E. Sixth. Free. www.gfiremusic.com.

 **TIM MILLER & RUDY RAMIREZ** Man on the land! Both of 'em honor it. Rudy with *Promised Land* and Tim with *Lay of the Land*. Two shows only! *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 29-30, 8pm. The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. *Sliding scale*, \$10-30.

SNUGGIE PARTY As the weather cools off again, the rules of style change again. Cinch that Snuggie, accessorize it with a brooch, or take scissors to it and let the world know that you are both cozy and chic. Prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed Snuggler. 9pm. *Submerged Martini Lounge*, 333 E. 2nd, 499-8768. www.submergedaustin.com.

 **CHRISTEENE DUMPS IT** A new EP! A new CD! A new pee-pee! A new dawn! Let Christeene in your life (see “Bravo/Brava,” Screens, p.40). And let opener Gretchen Phillips’ *Disco Plague* lubricate you good and loose for proper insertion. 10pm. *Elysium*, 705 Red River, 478-2979. www.facebook.com/Christeene.

 **HOME & GARDEN SHOW** Whether you're looking to remodel your house or to just look in awe at the work of professionals, this gathering of experts and vendors has it. The kids will be distracted by the Fun Zone while you focus on the big toys. Bring donations for the Austin Humane Society. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 29-31. Austin Convention Center*, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000. \$7.50 (kids free). www.showtechnology.com.

 **HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY OILCAN'S!** (See Thursday, 1/28.)

 **STUCK ON GEE-DOT** (See Thursday, 1/28.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Mexic-Arte Museum

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Dex Romweber Duo *Emo's*
Willie Heath Neal Beerland
Christeene EP Release *Elysium*
ATX DIY Fest *Broken Neck*

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

RIFFING WITH PABLEAUX Truth: Gay Place really likes Paul Soileau. And yes, Frenchy, it is pronounced, “Swallow.” And yes, I torture him with the tedious “or spit” joke every time I say his name out loud. Really, I cannot even believe he tolerates it. He was so much fun to work with on this week's (mad shill alert!) cover story. By me. In fact, I'd say that Paul's almost as demure as his flagship diva **Rebecca Havemeyer**. So needless to say, it was a blast getting to actually have a discussion with Ms. Havemeyer, herself, as well as with fellow Soileau-er **Christeene**. Yeah, yeah, talking to Paul was nice, too, but whatever. I had to cut a lot of Ms. Rebecca, so I'd like to share some of her excised witticisms and philosophy (free of context, for the most part) with you all here. Try to keep up: “I have been around for a while. Definitely, from what I can remember, it's been a wild ride, and I always tend to find the homosexuals to be the most adventurous and the most productive in our entertainment

lifestyles.” “Oh well, a huh ha ha ha ha! He's a little lamb! You see there's ... well, I'm a big wild talkin' girl, and I like to call him my manager-man. You know, we spend a lot of time together, but we're like two kernels: Ya put us in a pot, ya turn up the heat, and those kernels gonna start poppin' honey, and sometimes the popcorn gets a little too full, a little too buttery, and white and salty. It all gets thrown on there, and that's when you get a tummy ache, and ya gotta put the popcorn away.” **AC:** *I thought you meant like Kentucky Colonel.* “Oh honey, ain't no Kentucky involved in this, especially that chicken. That demon man with his chicken factory. I know everything that's going on with him. He's processing demon birds with no legs, chests the size of Dolly Parton, and no head, either. I read the paper!” **AC:** *Yeah, but that original recipe! “It is good isn't it?” I love a good old KFC chicken, I'm sayin'.* Mmmm, greasy greasy!” (See “Bravo/Brava,” Screens, p.40; see Friday.)

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

CENTRAL TEXAS GARDENING 101 Learn the basics of gardening in Austin's unique growing environment. 10am. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 854-9600. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

LAST CHANCE FOR A SLOW DANCE This is the last hurrah in the old location of Treasure City Thrift. Have a drink, reminisce with a slide show of TCT past, and buy some vintage goods (everything must go). Don't cry though, it's just moving down the street. 10am-4pm. Treasure City Thrift, 1720 E. 12th, 524-2820. www.treasurecitythrift.org.

SOLDIER TO STUDENT OPEN HOUSE Veterans are invited to Concordia University to find out their options for higher education. Select a program that suits you, weigh your financial aid options, and perhaps meet with a counselor. 10am-2pm. Concordia University, Bldg. A, 1400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4602. Free. kc.pospisil@concordia.edu.

LE GARAGE SALE You can tell it's going to be one fancy garage sale because of the frenchified "le." Don't let that scare you off. More than 70 local boutiques will be showing their stuff. No changing rooms, so bring a sheet and a friend. Sat.-Sun., Jan. 30-31, noon-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. \$10 (\$15, two-day pass), kids free. www.legaragesale.net.

MODERN HOME TOUR Purchase your tickets at any Central Market location, or just show up to one of the many local houses that will be open to the public in order to promote responsible urban growth. Go online for a list of participating houses. Noon-6pm. \$20 (\$10, advance). www.modernhometouraustin.com.

CATS VS. DOGS It's the ultimate battle of the species that will be decided with books, activities, games, trivia, and more. Come dressed as your favorite house pet, but leave the actual pet at home. 2pm. Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

EVERYTHING ABOUT A DAY (ALMOST) The students of Zach's Performing Arts School present this comedy depicting the trials and tribulations of a day for the average kid. For ages 5 and older. Saturdays through Feb. 6, 3 & 6pm; Sundays through Jan. 31, 2 & 4pm. Zach Theatre's Whisenhunt Stage, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$13 (\$11, kids). www.zachtheatre.org.

PROFESSIONAL TOURING WORKSHOP If your dream is to load up the van and hit the clubs of the world with the band, you might want to hear what these veterans have to say. Everything from budgeting to tips for maintaining sanity will be addressed. 2pm. Austin Arts & Music Partnership Clubhouse, 411 W. Monroe, 206/605-3026. \$10. www.rubydeemusic.com.

BOOK SIGNING WITH JOYCE ADEJUMO Joyce Adejumo celebrates the release of her book, *My Daily Prayers – Spiritual Words of Wisdom, Vol. 1*, and you're invited. Live jazz and hors d'oeuvres included. 3-6pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. Free. www.mitchie.com.

AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE Help release the creative giant from your little one through arts classes and self-exploration. See what Explorations has to offer at this open house. 3:30pm. Amala Foundation, 1006 S. Eighth, 517-8858. www.amalafoundation.org/afterschool.html.

AUSTINDIA Dance performances, refreshments, jewelry, apparel, and more – all flavored with the tastes of India – and the proceeds benefit the Association for India's Development. 6pm. Small Middle School, 4801 Monterey Oaks, 301-7145. \$10. austindia.tx@gmail.com, austin.aidindia.org.

HOT MAMA'S GRAND REOPENING Back from the dead, Hot Mama's is under new management. Don't fret, the original owners are back and serving up coffee, teas, treats, and more. Bring some money to donate. Live music, hula hooping, and more help you work up an appetite. 6-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. Free (donations appreciated). www.hotmamasaustin.com.

STEP SHOW & STRUT COMPETITION Local high schools and colleges put their best feet forward to benefit educational programs sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Stepping starts at 6pm, followed by the strut competition at 8pm. When the afterparty rolls around at 9pm, attendees are invited to hit the floor with their finest moves. 6-11pm. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/699-0443. \$15 (\$10, advance). piomegazeta@yahoo.com, www.orgsites.com/tx/piomegazeta.

DONNA JAM Your clam shall jam along with Katie Evans, Inne Aguilar, Dawni McCray, Ginger Thompson, Stephanie Cavazos, and the gals from the big Lesbian Takeover. 6:30pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825.

LOOSE LIPS You know these Loose Lips don't lie, and I am starting to feel you boy. Come on let's go, real slow, don't you see baby *así es perfecto!* QPCs spit for your aural delightification. 7:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.

CIAO-MEOW Songwriter Liz Simmons kicks off this purrrrrfect way to wrap up the month, Foodies-style. Scratch right there. No, right *therrrrrre*. Yeah, yeah, yeah! Right there! 8pm. House Wine, 408 Josephine, 322-5210. Free. beatsagogo@aol.com, www.foodiesaustin.com, www.myspace.com/distantsiren.

WINTER WONDERLAND BALL The Austin Femme Mafia makes offers you can't refuse as it flaunts all facets of that mysterious expression that makes some of us weak at the knees through dancing with DJ Lina X, a kissing and spanking booth, photo booth, bonfire, and more. 9pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. \$5. www.femmeatx.com.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS (See Friday.)

TIM MILLER & RUDY RAMIREZ (See Friday.)

HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY OILCAN'S! (See Thursday, 1/28.)

HOME & GARDEN SHOW (See Friday.)

STUCK ON GEE-DOT (See Thursday, 1/28.)



VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
(SEE MONDAY)

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 Feb. 12 issue is Monday, Feb. 1.** 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:

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

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

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

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/commform.

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

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Domy Books, Mexican American Cultural Center, Pro-Jex Gallery, Pump Project

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

7 Faces of Dr. Lao @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am
Aliens @ Alamo Ritz, 3:20pm
The Mama's Guest (Mehman-e Maman) @ Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus), 2pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Ratas del Vaticano Beerland
ATX DIY Fest Broken Neck
Hatred Surge Domy Books
Danny Barnes Emo's

SUNDAY 31

MEDITATION CLASSES Sundays, 9:30-11am. Chittamani Buddhist Center, 1918 Bissel, 916-4444. \$10. www.meditationinaustin.org.

FREE DAY OF DANCE Whatever your style of moving – country, salsa, swing, tango, ballroom, or belly dancing – there's a free class for you somewhere in Austin today. Check the website for a complete list of participating venues and a schedule of classes. 10am-9pm. 339-9391. Free. www.freedayofdance.com.

HOPE FARMERS MARKET This weekly gathering is part farmers' market, part community meeting, and part arts exchange. Browse the local produce options while learning about local organizations, signing up for wellness opportunities, or participating in a free yoga class. Sundays, 11am-3pm. Pine Street Station, 414 Waller, 699-6077. www.hopefarmersmarket.org.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM This week, Susan Cooper, founder of BodyBusiness, talks about feeling good and fitness for longevity. Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.

BUDDHIST CLASSES & MEDITATION Expand your heart, calm your mind, and soothe your wallet. Classes are open to the public. Sundays, noon-2pm. Land of Compassion & Wisdom, 2601 Penny #230, 921-6901. Free (donations appreciated). www.austinfpm.com.

IDENTIFICATION DAY Bring your human-made or natural artifact with you to be identified by UT scientists and other experts. Remember, just because you found it buried in your yard, a shoe is not an artifact. We're talking arrowheads, bones, rocks, etc. 1-5pm. Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, 471-1604. Free. www.texasnaturalsciencecenter.org.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE Parents and their 4- to 10-year-olds work together and add ingredients to the off-the-cuff recipe. Bring your suggestions to keep the improv coming. Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5. www.flyingtheatermachine.com.

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.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME This six-week series of stories from the mind of Carmen Lomas Garza is presented in English and Spanish with songs, activities, and, of course, storytelling. Wednesdays, 6pm; Sundays, 3 & 4pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$6.50 (free on Sundays). www.austinkids.org.

JEST FEST Holly Lorka, Carey Moore, and Sean Mooney find your bone and make it titter. Um, yeah. 6pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825. \$5. www.rooftopcomedy.com/comics/HollyLorka.

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@longhorncatholic.org, www.utcatholic.org.

PET YAPPY HOUR Get your furry friends a mani/pedi (or is it a pedi/pedi?), or teach them some new tricks, but be sure to bring toys, beds, food, and old towels for a local rescue group. 2-5pm. Irie Bean Coffee Bar, 2310 S. Lamar, 507-4484. Free. www.trainmydogs.com.

78704 ARTISAN MARKET (See Saturday.)

LE GARAGE SALE (See Saturday.)

Haiti Relief Guide

DIVINE & CONJURE Live hip-hop, jazz, spoken word, and other surprises raise money for Haiti relief. Fri., Jan. 29, 9pm. Orun Center of Cultural Arts, 1401-B Cedar. \$5. www.projectabundantlife.org.

KARAVEL SHOE DRIVE Drop off your used shoes of any kind at Karavel Shoes during store hours and they will go directly to Soles4Souls. Through Feb. 15. Karavel Shoes, 5525 Burnet, 459-7603.

QUARTERS 4 RELIEF The Kung Fu Saloon is the new bar on the block but has 19 vintage arcade games. For a limited time, all the quarters pumped into these retro game boxes go directly to the American Red Cross. Through Feb. 1. Kung Fu Saloon, 510 Rio Grande. www.kungfusaloon.com.

RED CROSS The city of Austin recommends sending donations to the Central Texas Red Cross at www.redcross.org. You can even text in your donation by sending the message "Haiti" to 90999 to send \$10. 800/RED-CROSS.

RICHARD DAWKINS FOUNDATION Just when you think atheists are a bunch of hyperintellectual windbags, they show you they really care. Donate via the website, and Richard Dawkins will personally handle the PayPal fees, which means 100% of your donation goes to Doctors Without Borders and the International Red Cross. givingaid.richarddawkins.net.

SOLES4SOULS is accepting new and gently worn shoes – especially work boots, tennis shoes, walking shoes, and children's footwear – at Total Relief Footwear in the Woodland Shopping Center, 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #250. A \$2 donation with each drop-off is appreciated for shipping costs; call 996-0002 or visit www.totalrelieffootwear.com for more info.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES FOR HAITI Buy Haitian artisan products from your local Fair Trade emporium and 50% of the proceeds will go to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund. Through Jan. 31. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440.

UNDERGARMENT DRIVE The Soul Movement Church and the Original 4 Kingz Inc. have teamed up to collect new, packaged undergarments. If you can't make it during the drop-off times, call to arrange a pickup. Sunday, Jan. 24 & 31, 10:30-11:15am & noon-1pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 745-9800. www.bigboychurch.com.

WHITE HOUSE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF In case you forgot that the government can, in fact, do the right thing, see what the White House says about the crisis in Haiti. Former presidents Bush (Jr.) and Clinton are accepting funds via www.clintonbushhaitifund.org, or you can text "quake" to 20222 to donate \$10 to the cause. www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake.

YÉLE HAITI If you prefer your donation to have a bit of star power, Wyclef Jean's organization (www.yele.org) gives you that without losing any of your donation's effect. You can also text "yele" to 501501 to donate \$5.

For more ways you can donate money for Haiti relief, go to austinchronicle.com/haiti.

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*

The **Flying Saucer Pie Co.** does one thing and does it very well. The Houston pie factory does that one thing in 15 different flavors.

Some people are cake people, and some people are pie people. You know who you are. For the rest of you, it's OK to be an omnidessertivore.

To pie people, pies are so much more than just a dessert. Pies are loaded with plenty of healthy-sounding stuff. The average blueberry pie must be loaded with vitamins, right? What better way to eat healthy fruits than in a pie? Never mind all the sugar and butter that goes with the 4 cups of fruit. Sure, cake people have carrot cake and zucchini bread, but pie people have the nutrient-rich sweet potato and pumpkin pies.

Personally, I think chocolate, lemon, and key lime pies fall more in the pudding category. Now, if you add nuts and dark chocolate, voilà, you have a healthy snack. A handful of pecans is loaded with natural antioxidants, making a slice of pecan pie nearly a health food.

Flying Saucer Pie Co. isn't a doughnut shop with a pie sideline. The bakery makes only pies – wonderful, heavy-as-a-load-of-bricks, fresh pies.

One guy in line at the pie company counter had come by to grab dessert to accompany his evening meal. He said he usually gets a regular fruit pie, but tonight he felt like strawberry cream pie. It must be nice to have a neighborhood pie factory.

On my last visit, four women were holding up the line as they fussed over the pies as if they were selecting expensive jewelry. They had driven across Houston to get a dozen pies for an upcoming party. Wow, a party with four grocery bags of pies. They declined my request for an invitation.

When you walk into Flying Saucer Pie Co., there are stacks of pecan pies in shiny metal racks begging to be taken to a good home. I have to admit: I was a little disappointed that there wasn't a display case full of pies to admire. You make your choice from a sign hanging over the cash register.

It's best to get to the counter early in the day, because many of the popular flavors sell out. Even with only 10 varieties left, it can be a hard decision. How bad would it be if you got there just before closing time and all they had left was apple pie?

The Flying Saucer Pie Co. is located at 436 W. Crosstimbers, northwest of downtown Houston, outside of Loop 610 between U.S. 290 and I-45. The out-of-this-world pies are available from 7am to 7pm, Tuesday through Saturday. The company doesn't do special orders or ship its pies, but if you call the pie company at 713/694-1141, you can find out what is available.

969th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO presents star-studded concerts, a carnival, livestock shows, and a professional rodeo. Feb. 4-21. AT&T Center and Joe & Harry Freeman Coliseum Grounds, San Antonio, 210/225-5851. www.sarodeo.com.

THE AMISH PROJECT was written by and stars Jessica Dickey in a one-person performance that *The New York Times* called "extraordinary" as the actress portrays seven characters coming face-to-face with the true meaning of faith and forgiveness. Thu.-Sun., Jan. 28-31. Unity Theatre, Brenham, 979/830-8358. www.unitybrenham.org.

INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW attracts more than 70 vendors dealing in arrowheads, jewelry, books, and an assortment of other items by and about North American native peoples. Sat., Jan. 30, 8am-4pm. Lady Bird Johnson Park Pioneer Pavilion Hall, Fredericksburg, 830/626-5561. \$5. www.fredericksburg-texas.com.

BLUES FESTIVAL features a long list of performers including Paul Thorn, Seth Walker, Guy Forsyth, the S.A. Blue Cats, and more. Sat., Jan. 30, 2:30pm. Luckenbach, 830/997-3224. \$20. www.luckenbachtexas.com.

VOLUNTEER DAY needs more participants to help the park staff pick up trash, remove invasive species, plant wildflowers, and make the park ready for the summer season. Sat., Jan. 30, 9am-noon. Blanco State Park, Blanco, 830/833-4333. www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

PLAY IT AGAIN CONCERT SERIES continues with the West Texas Jazz Orchestra filling the galleries with the music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Glen Miller and jazz classics. Refreshments served and a cash bar will be available. Sun., Jan. 31, 2-4pm. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo, 325/653-3333. \$10. www.samfa.org.

EVERYTHING ABOUT A DAY (ALMOST) (See Saturday.)

HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY OILCAN'S! (See Thursday, 1/28.)

HOME & GARDEN SHOW (See Friday.)

NAKED YOGA FOR MEN (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Amadeus: Director's Cut @ Alamo Drafthouse
Lake Creek, 7:30pm
Ninotchka @ Alamo Ritz, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
ATX DIY Fest Broken Neck
Gidon the Mighty Warrior The Parish

MONDAY 01

GARDEN OPEN HOUSE Bring the whole family and learn about organic gardening, from double-digging to seed-saving. Mondays-Wednesdays, 9-11am. Ronda's Montessori Garden, 4300 Mount Vernon, 707-8635. Free. www.rondasgarden.net.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE The W.H. Passon Historical Society invites you to check out the Southgate-Lewis House and its artifacts of the African-American experience in Austin. Mon.-Sat., Feb. 1-6, 10am-2pm. W.H. Passon Historical Society, 1501 E. 12th, 627-2985. Free. www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~txwhphs.

ALGPC CANDIDATE FORUM Local candidates craving the love from Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus will air their wares in hopes of those coveted endorsements. 7pm. Granger Building, 314 W. 11th, 474-0750. Free. richgbailey@sbcglobal.net, www.outaustin.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.

RETHINKING MEXICO-U.S. MIGRATION As Mexico prepares for its bicentennial of the Independence movement this year, St. Edward's opens the discussion concerning the tricky subject of intracontinental migration. 7pm. Maloney Room in Main Building, 233-1678. Free. www.stedwards.edu/kozmetsky/upcomingevents.htm.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE is today at midnight. If you didn't know that and haven't paid yet, you might want to go online or give the county a call and see what your options are. 854-9473. www.traviscountytax.org.

VALKYRIES HAVE THAT SPECIAL TOUCH Austin's women reps in the Texas Rugby Union are calling for newbs. Training with brand-new head coach begins in a few weeks. See website for details. Monday and Wednesday practices, 7-9pm. Burnet Middle School, 8401 Hathaway, 841-8289. recruiting@austinvalkyries.com, www.austinvalkyries.com.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE is today if you want to vote in the March 2 primary election. And you know you want to. Call or go online to make sure you're on the list. 854-9473. www.traviscountytax.org.

NAKED YOGA FOR MEN (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

TUESDAY 02

MIDWINTERS THEOLOGICAL LECTURES

Leaders of seminaries from across the nation share their expertise and thoughts. Go online for a schedule of lectures. Tue.-Wed., Feb. 2-3. Austin Seminary, 100 East 27th, 404-4800. Free. www.austinseminary.edu/midwinters.

LISTEN TO OUTCAST! 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.

FORUM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Dr. Jay Boisseau of the Texas Advanced Computing Center talks about supercomputing and why it's important to Austin. 6:30pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 404-1900, 877/744-8822. Free. www.austinforum.org.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING This month's meeting features a talk on supplying power for the whole world sustainably. 7pm. Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

SXSW STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS Several experts from the local music biz help you get your South by Southwest game plan together, because going to see all your friends' bands isn't going to land you that record deal. 7pm. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 323-0787. Free. www.austinmusicfoundation.org.

KARAOKE WITH

MARGARET Margaret's one damn fine KJ. North Austin's fave neighborhood gay bar may not offer cash to the best crooners (like some other bars), but someone might offer you \$\$ to stop singing. Tuesdays, 9pm. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Chalk @ Windsor Park Library, 6:30pm

Son of a Lion @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Residents *Stubb's Frode Gjerstad Trio Space 12 10th Annual Bob Marley Tribute Tour* Flamingo Cantina

WEDNESDAY 03

BILINGUAL BEGINNERS COMPUTER

LAB Learn the basics of computing, including surfing the Internet, setting up an e-mail account, and using Word to help you create a résumé. No sign-up is necessary. Wednesdays, 10am-noon. Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 974-3625. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

RECRUITMILITARY CAREER FAIR This job fair is specifically for recently returning troops, other veterans, and their spouses. Dress to impress, and prepare to interview with local, state, and national employers. 11am-3pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 800/226-0841. www.recruitmilitary.com.

AIBA HAPPY HOUR Members and nonmembers alike are invited for drinks, networking, and fun courtesy of the Austin Independent Business Alliance. RSVP to membership@ibuyaustin.com. 5:30pm. Clayworks, 1209 E. Sixth, 441-2123. Free. www.ibuyaustin.com.

QUÉ ME CUENTAS Brush up on your Spanish through discussion and reading. Forty percent proficiency is preferred, but the group will help you get there if need be. Wednesdays, 6pm. Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HAYS TECHNOLOGY BOOTCAMP Learn to use social technology to ensure your business or organization gets the exposure it deserves. While you're there, why not do some in-person socializing? 6:30pm. Holiday Inn Express Buda, 15295 I-35, Buda, 512/757-4260. Free. www.haysbootcamp.com.

'BOUT TIME FOR VOLLEYBALL! Team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and pickup games every day. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.

MIDWINTERS THEOLOGICAL LECTURES (See Tuesday.)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE (See Monday.)

BILINGUAL STORYTIME (See Sunday.)

VALKYRIES HAVE THAT SPECIAL TOUCH (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Along Came Kinky ... Texas Jewboy for Governor
@ CMB Studio 4D (on the UT campus), 7pm
Black Caesar @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Sondre Lerche The Parish
Fred Eaglesmith Cactus Cafe

THURSDAY 04

CONCORDIA SPEAKER SERIES
LUNCHEON Niyanta Spellman, executive director of Rainforest Partnership, talks about environmental stewardship and her organization's grass-roots community involvement. 11:30am. Concordia University, Bldg. A, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-5302. Free. www.concordia.edu/speakerseries.

SAVE OUR SPRINGS SCREENING Backpacker magazine Editor Annette McGivney discusses her new book, *Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision of the American West*, and screens the video project based on her writing. 6pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 477-2320. \$10 suggested donation. www.sosalliance.org.

NERD NITE: THE LOVE-IN Three specialists (nerds) talk about their specialties (nerdness). This month, the topics range from syphilis to Judy Blume as a third-wave feminist. 7pm. Buffalo Billiards, 201 E. Sixth, 479-7665. Free. www.austin.nerdnite.com.

TOLTEC NIGHTS Appetizers and drinks help get your checkbook lubricated for the myriad silent auction items with the money going to the El Paso High School Scholarship Fund. 7pm. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 731-5653. Free. www.elpasosocial.net.

EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE CO. FASHION SHOW uses reclaimed materials to make handcrafted bags and accessories. A portion of the proceeds from the evening go to Town Lake Animal Center. 7:30-10pm. 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 277-0800. \$10 (\$8, advance). www.emotionalbaggageco.com.

MAD MADAMEZ WOMYNZ COLLECTIVE MEETING Join this all-female group, and learn about upcoming events and perhaps suggest your own. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE (See Monday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Dougherty Arts Center, Salvage Vanguard Theater

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
"Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision of the American West" @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 6:30pm
The Philosopher Kings @ Picture Box, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Justin Townes Earle Stubb's
Lizz King Club 1808

now ...

AIR FAIR The Austin Children's Museum's current exhibition is a whirlwind of excitement with kids exploring and experimenting with the properties of moving air. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$6.50-\$4.50. www.austinkids.org.

BARTON SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PLAN SURVEY The Parks and Recreation Department needs your input to get a better idea of the use patterns at Barton Springs Pool. If you don't participate, you can't complain if PARD decides to install heaters in the pool. sabina.mora@ci.austin.tx.us, www.surveymonkey.com/s/ksgyrbw.

BRADFORD FOR JUSTICE He's walked the blocks and got the sigs: Daniel Bradford's officially on the ballot. Now, let's help our man get to the JP seat in Precinct 1. 275-6773. www.bradfordforjustice.com.

CITIZEN SERVICE ABOVE SELF HONORS The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is looking for nominations of ordinary Americans who become extraordinary through their indomitable courage and selflessness. Go to www.citizenserviceabovethehonor.org for the nomination form.

FREE TAX SERVICES Eight area Community Tax Centers are providing free tax-preparation services to income-qualifying individuals and households this spring, and they're also offering low-fee, refund-anticipation loans. See www.communitytaxcenters.org for participating locations, hours, and details on income qualifications, or just call 211.

GRANNY PANTY SHOWS YOU HOW Every Friday, check YouTube for a fresh installment of the finest correspondence course you will ever take: Granny Panty's Charm & Etiquette School for Strippers. It's a peek-a-booo hell yeah, each week, right there in your box. Free. www.flickr.com/photos/granny_panty, www.youtube.com/GrannyPantyBurlesque.



MODERN HOME TOUR
(SEE SATURDAY)

INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL is calling for submissions for its youth poetry anthology from kids in grades K-12. Deadline: Feb. 1. aipya@sbcglobal.net.

KIDSACTING SPRING REGISTRATION Young theatre buffs (ages 3 to 18) should sign up now for the spring semester. Classes include acting, theatrical design, musical theatre, and more. 836-5437. www.kidsactingstudio.com.

NATURAL HEALTH CENTER has workshops in locations all over town, most of which are free of charge. Learn to balance hormones and alleviate allergies and migraines the natural way. Call for upcoming courses. 892-3366. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.

POINT FOUNDATION LGBT SCHOLARSHIPS Hey students! Apply to the nation's largest scholarship-granting org for LGBT students of merit. Applications available now. Deadline: Fri., Feb. 12. shannon@pointfoundation.org, www.pointfoundation.org.

SHOTS FOR TOTS Bring your immunization record and proof of Medicaid coverage (if applicable) and ensure that your kid's shots are up to snuff. Appointments must be made Mondays-Fridays. Saturdays are first-come first-served from 9am to 1pm. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. St. John Community Center, 7500 Blessing; Far South Health Clinic, 405 W. Stassney; Rosewood-Zaragoza Neighborhood Center, 2800 Webberville, 972-5520. \$10. www.cityofaustin.org/health/shots.htm.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD DRIVE Visit one of 57 participating H-E-B or Randalls grocery stores to participate in this benefit for the Capital Area Food Bank either by making a cash donation or by purchasing a prepackaged bag of food for donation to someone in need. See www.souperbowl.org for participating locations. Through Feb. 7.

& later

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., Feb. 12, 5:45-9pm; Sat., Feb. 13, 8:45am-4pm. 342-0233. \$25 (scholarships available).

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.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS Middle and high school students create poetry, prose, or a play under the tutelage of a professional writer culminating with the publication of a workshop publication. Saturdays, starting Feb. 13. Westlake United Methodist Church, 1460 Red Bud Trail, 538-1305. \$500. giuseppe.taurino@badgerdog.org, www.badgerdog.org.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE WORKSHOP Listen to the pros as they teach you to transform your yard into a habitat for all manner of woodland creatures. Register by Feb. 5. Sat., Feb. 13, 9am. Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8181. \$10 (\$15, couple). ansc@ci.austin.tx.us, www.keeptaustinwild.com.

HILL CO. RIDE, YO Now's the time to get your pedal-pushin' posse, papi, to raise dough for services for those affected by HIV/AIDS through our beloved Interfaith Care Alliance. Do it. Then you can watch your team's name on the big board as that dollar figure soars! Sat., April 24. 371-RIDE. www.hillcountryride.org, www.interfaithcarealliance.org.

AMERICAN VOICES

**AT THE LONG CENTER
FEBRUARY 6 • 8PM
701 W. RIVERSIDE DRIVE**

Texas favorite Larry Gatlin joins forces with Nashville's own Crystal Gayle and Irish-American Andy Cooney. Together for the first time, they'll celebrate America!

For tickets: thelongcenter.org or 474-LONG (5664).

**To WIN TICKETS to see
American Voices at The Long Center,
log on to www.austinchronicle.com/contests**

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A VEE CORPORATION PRODUCTION

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FEBRUARY 18-21

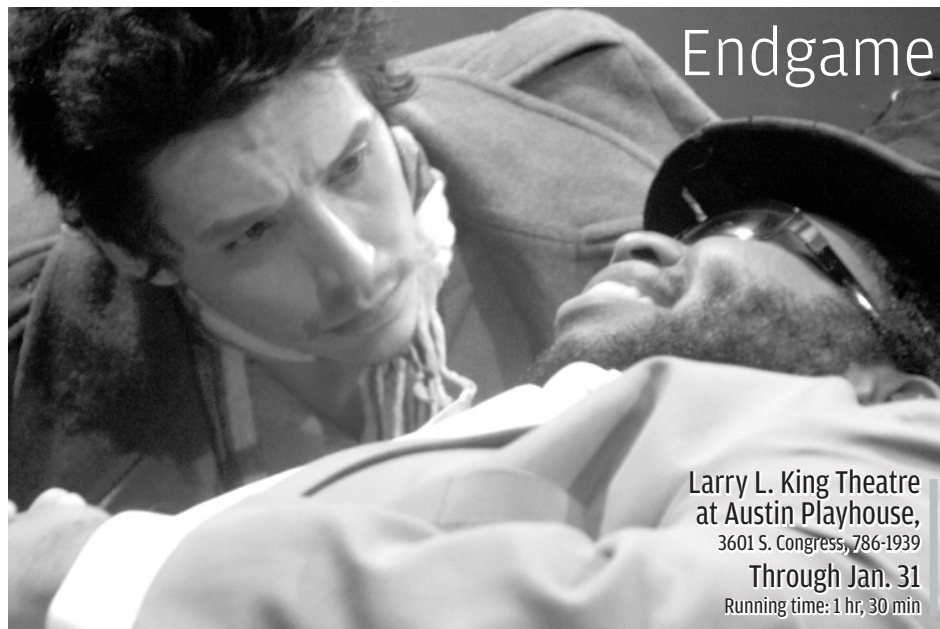
the THEATRE
at the Frank Erwin Center.

TICKETS START AS LOW AS \$13!
Convenience charges may apply.

Tickets: TexasBoxOffice.com • 800-982-2386 • 512-477-6060 • uterwincenter.com
Convenience charges may apply. All information subject to change.
Subscribe to be the First to Know at TexasBoxOffice.com

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arts listings



What waits for us at the end of the world? A gutted-out warehouse where anything useful has long since been stripped away. A blind tyrant who cannot stand and his vexed servant

who cannot sit. The tyrant's parents, living in trash cans, legless and begging for scraps. A life stripped of possibility. And here, near *Endgame*, one of the strugglers proclaims, "Nothing is funnier than unhappiness, I grant you that."

Ahh, Beckett! No one pisses more freely on the futility of existence than the famous Irish playwright, embracing and mocking the confines of reality. The characters particularly of *Endgame* and *Waiting for Godot* are defined by their bleak worldviews and confined environments and yet can forget their plights instantaneously.

Palindrome Theatre's inaugural production presents Hamm and Clov, Nell and Nagg, as they wind down into oblivion. The home they've created is squalid, and the world out their window is just as bleak and even more lifeless; they have no idea if the rest of the world beyond their view has similarly disintegrated, nor do they care.

And while other modern post-apocalyptic tales imbue these heroes-on-the-brink with significance and meaning, *Endgame* shrinks away from such import. "Clov, we're not starting to mean something, are we?" asks Hamm angrily. Again, Hamm: "We do what we can." Clov, in response: "We shouldn't."

Hamm and Clov have no interest in saving humanity or anything else, and in director Kate Eminger's production, they seem pissed, stressed, frustrated, and sad that they are the last souls burdened with existence. Jarrett King's Hamm, the blinded

tyrant of squalor, reflects on their situation with a near-total bitterness. Gabriel Luna's Clov is beleaguered, world-weary, cynical. In Palindrome's production, the two characters seem to need each other so much because they know only pain. They garner no pleasure from each other but cannot get away either. Time and again when Hamm asks Clov, "Where are you?" it is a shout of anger, not a plea for help.

It is this plight that Palindrome pushes in its production, too. The creative choices tend toward the existential, with director Eminger seeming to want to squeeze all the meaning possible out of the play. Subsequently, Palindrome's *Endgame* is very light on humor. Beckett's plays are full of homages to the clowning of Buster Keaton and Chaplin, and *Endgame* is no different. This near-slapstick humor is usually the fascinating and engrossing contrast to the existential angst of his worlds and, indeed, where change is found, but Eminger has chosen to really dig into its contemplation of oblivion.

Luna continues his fine run of performances – *Ophelia*, *Black Snow*, *Orestes* – with Clov, committing strongly to the character's ramshackle physicality. And though he starts off slowly, King really grows into the wry, embittered power of Hamm. Palindrome may have been founded by recent St. Edward's University graduates, but the quality of their designs and performances suggests a professionalism well beyond a first production. – Avimaan Syam

theatre

OPENING

THE FLAMING IDIOTS Oh, now *here's* a glorious reunion – sort of like Peaches and Herb and more Herb, y'know? The three brainy acrobats (Pyro, Gyro, and Walter, by stage name) who conjure shows of pure entertainment are reunited and returning (it's been years!) to Zach Theatre with their manic tumbling and impressive antics. They're more Conan O'Brien than corny grandpa, more Shando than Shecky, and, ladies and gentlemen, that's just the gravy: These fellers could keep their yaps shut the whole night and their mad juggling skills alone would give you your ticket's worth of joy. Yeah: We like them a lot. Highly recommended. *Jan. 28-March 7. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

PROMISED LAND Vortex Repertory Company presents this new one-man play, written and performed by Rudy Ramirez, about "a gay boy seeking love, liberation, and a working toilet in the backwoods of Tennessee" and the queer haven of Radica Fairyland that he discovers in the Appalachian mountains. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 29-30, 10pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd, 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

TIM MILLER'S LAY OF THE LAND The internationally acclaimed performance artist returns, at long last, for a rare set of shows at the Vortex with his "saucy, sharp-knifed look at the State of the Union during a time of trial." This is peerless, fearless queerness, live and onstage, from a fierce master of the art. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 29-31, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

THE CAPITOL STEPS Here's a fancy night of musical lampooning in a political vein, from the wry toasts of Washington, the golden-throated darlings of NPR, the banes of senatorial existence. Constitutionally recommended. *Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 474-5664. \$19-49. www.thelongcenter.org.*

R.A.W. THEATRE This Vortex Resident Artists' Workshop series is a sort of enhanced open mic for company members to present snippets of their upcoming side projects – readings, dances, music, diverse performances – and is open for public attendance on the first Tuesday of each month. *Tue., Feb. 2, 7pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free. www.vortexrep.org.*

THE DIONYSIUM This month's showcase of intellectual and aesthetic delights features a rollicking debate (Resolved: There's no such thing as a wasted vote), Stoddard Smith speaking on "The Karma Bum," W. Joe Hoppe laying it down that "All Great Poems are Love Poems," and the redoubtable Lance Myers introducing an animated cartoon. All wrapped up in a package of incidental banter between that red-headed fiscal conservative L.B. Deyo and the dapper human swizzle stick known as Buzz Moran, with musical accompaniment by Graham fuckin' Reynolds on the vintage Drafthouse organ. Recommended! Huzzah! *Wed., Feb. 3, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. \$8. www.dionysium.com.*

DYING CITY Capital T Theatre takes its "unsettling new play that seeks the truth of war in a quiet, transfixing tale of grief and violence, set in the shadow of the Iraq war" beyond the confine's of FronteraFest's Long Fringe for an extended short run of its own. Written by Christopher Shinn, directed by Derek Kolluri, recommended by us. *Wed., Fri., Sat., Feb. 3-6, 8pm. Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. www.capitalt.org.*

BURIED CHILD Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama digs deep into a family's dysfunction and reveals the deterioration of the American dream. This new staging is directed by Caleb Straus for City Theatre. *Feb. 4-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. NB: No performance Feb. 6. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-20. www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

JOHN & JEN Penfold Theatre Company presents this original musical (scored for piano, cello, and percussion) that explores the relationships between brother and sister and parents and children, set against the backdrop of an everchanging America between the 1950s and 1990s. Music by Andrew Lipka and lyrics by Tom Greenwald; directed by Michael "Evil Dead: The Musical" McKelvey. *Feb. 4-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 800/838-3006. \$20 (\$15, students, seniors). www.penfoldtheatre.com.*

CLOSING

ENDGAME Samuel Beckett's one-act about family, servitude, love, and inevitable decay is the inaugural production from Palindrome Theatre, directed by Kate Eminger. See review, left. *Through Jan. 31. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 786-1939. \$20 (\$15, students). www.austinflayhouse.com.*

STUCK ON GEEDOT This inaugural production by the Generic Ensemble Company is an all-women-of-color adaptation of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Set in a deserted house, DeeDee and GohGoh are two queer youth who are waiting for Geedot, She Who Fixes Things. Directed by kt shorb. *Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. LemonPeel Lounge, 2906 Glen Rae. \$10. www.genericensemblecompany.blogspot.com.*

OEDIPUS REX Japhy Fernandes and his irrepressible Austin Drama Club presents this classic Greek tragedy, directed by Erin Jo. As ever, e-mail for location and details. *Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. japhyfernandes@live.com.*

DEATHTRAP Ira Levin's classic thriller about two writers playing a deadly cat-and-mouse is brought to the stage by the Way Off Broadway Community Players out Leander way. *Through Jan. 30. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy, Leander, 512/259-5878. www.wobcp.org.*

EURYDICE This is Sarah Ruhl's acclaimed adaptation of the Orpheus myth as a modern dramatic comedy, brought to the lighted boards by the Different Stages company under the direction of Karen Jambon. Lord of the underworld? Check. Chorus of stones? Good to go. Timeless love story? But of course! *Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

LA FENICE: SUITORS AND TUTORS The Austin Commedia Society, known for its enthusiastic modern interpretation of the influential style of commedia dell'arte, has been reborn (with four of the original members) as La Fenice, and here's the troupe's first production: an original scenario directed by Dr. Gian Giacomo Colli and featuring live music by Doryan Rice of the Barebones Orchestra. *Through Jan. 30. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Club de Ville, 900 Red River, 539-0358. \$5-15. www.lafeniceaustin.org.*

ONGOING

NUNSENSE II Up in Georgetown, the Palace Theatre's cast of 2007's *Nunsense* returns in this habit-kicking sequel penned by Dan Goggins. Directed by Ron Watson. *Through Feb. 7. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Georgetown Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, ages 15 and younger). www.georgetownpalace.com.*

MISALLIANCE This fast-paced George Bernard Shaw comedy features a whirlwind of characters from different social classes and professions: an underwear magnate, an ambassador, a Polish acrobat, and a socialist clerk, careening off one another during the course of one afternoon at an English country estate. Don Toner directs a stellar cast in this Austin Playhouse mainstage production. *Through Feb. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-35 (half-price, students). www.austinflayhouse.com.*

AUDITIONS

HARVEY Mary Chase's whimsical classic will be directed by Ron Watson for the Palace Theatre in nearby Georgetown. Prepare a two-minute comedic monologue. Send an e-mail (include your name, phone number, and which audition day and time you'd prefer) for appointment. *Jan. 30-31. Sat., 2pm; Sun., 6pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown. www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

THE CARPETBAGGER'S CHILDREN Three sisters spin the tale of their family and a bygone era in this Horton Foote play, to be directed by Norman Blumensadt for Different Stages in March and April. Seeking: Three women, ages 40-65. Actors are strongly urged to read the script before applying. All ethnicities encouraged to audition. Call for details and appointment. *Mon., Feb. 1, 7-9pm; Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-noon. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 444-3303. www.cityofaustin.org.*

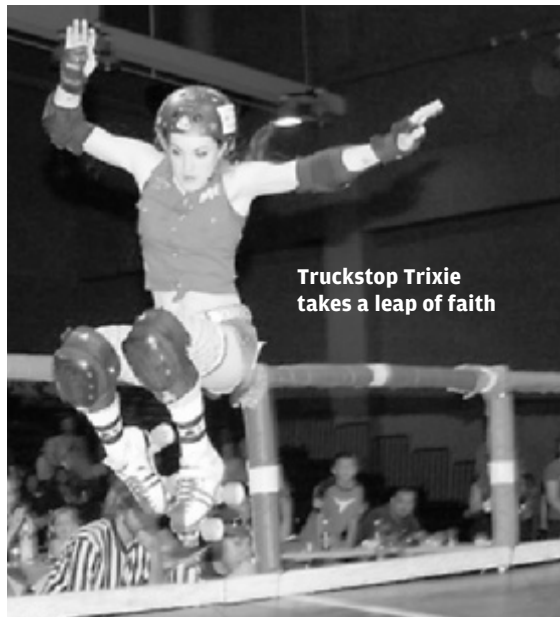
THEATRE CALL BOARD

THE ACTOR'S GYM Your acting coach, Amparo Garcia-Crow, will help you whip yourself into fine thespian shape with this four-session workshop. Master the dreaded audition, practice being in the zone, become a lean, mean, acting machine. *Alleywood Studios, 1902 S. Congress. 441-6085. \$100. www.amparogarciacrow.com.*

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



Truckstop Trixie takes a leap of faith

PHOTO COURTESY OF TXRD

TXRD LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS

If Drew Barrymore's Roller Derby movie, *Whip It* (out this week on DVD and Blu-ray), made you want to see some banked-track action in person, the TXRD Lonestar Rollergirls oblige when they kick off the 2010 regular season this weekend. The Putas del Fuego will try to put their 2009 seasonlong losing streak behind them as they take on the Rhinestone Cowgirls. **Sat., Jan. 30, 7pm (doors at 6). Austin Convention Center. \$15 (\$13 advance), free for kids under 12.**

— Richard Whittaker

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** Childhood is not complete until your kiddo has experienced the joy of a Harlem Globetrotters game featuring the all-star antics of current Globetrotters "Flight Time" Lang and "Big Easy" Lofton (who recently appeared on *The Amazing Race*) among others. They are funny, athletic, and never fail to amuse with their basketball-playing hijinks. **Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 477-6060. \$15, \$21, \$32, \$53 VIP, \$115 magic circle. www.uterwincenter.com.**

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN TURFCATS FREE AGENT COMBINE** Last chance to earn one of the 45 spots on the Turfcats training camp roster as they prepare for their first season in the Indoor Football League. Anyone who can handle the drills and who has completed or will forgo their remaining NCAA college eligibility is welcome. Training combine: **Sat., Jan. 30, 10:30am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln. www.turfcats.com.**

★ **TEXAS STARS** NHL-caliber hockey in Central Texas. Vs. Abbotsford: **Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30pm; Sat., Jan. 30, 7pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARS. \$9-50. www.texas-starshockey.com.**

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** Malik Hairston was named last week's NBA Development League Performer of the Week. Cedar Park fans won't want to miss Hairston and the Toros at the Showdown in Cedar Park Feb. 2-3 vs. the Reno Bighorns. Vs. Los Angeles: **Thu.-Fri., Jan. 28-29, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23 (more for courtside seats). Vs. Reno: Tue.-Wed., Feb. 2-3, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars. Tix as low as \$5. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.**

★ **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball** Vs. Baylor: **Sat., Jan. 30, 3pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45. Men's Tennis** Vs. Middle Tennessee State: **Sat., Jan. 30, 2pm. Vs. Texas Tech or California: Sun., Jan. 31, 2pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. www.texassports.com.**

★ **SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball** Vs. Rhodes College: **Fri., Jan. 29, 6pm. Vs. Birmingham-Southern College: Sat., Jan. 30 6pm. Men's Basketball** Vs. Rhodes: **Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm. Vs. Birmingham-Southern: Sat., Jan. 30 8pm. Corbin J. Robertson Center. www.southwesternpirates.com.**

★ **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Hardin-Simmons University: **Thu., Feb. 4, 7:30pm. Women's Basketball** Vs. Hardin-Simmons: **Thu., Feb. 4, 5:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5. athletics.concordia.edu.**

★ **HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Langston University: **Thu., Feb. 4, 7:30pm.**

★ **ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Lincoln: **Thu., Feb. 4, 8pm. Women's Basketball** Vs. Lincoln: **Thu., Feb. 4, 5:30pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.**

★ **TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball** Vs. UT Arlington: **Sat., Jan. 30, 2pm. Women's Basketball** Vs. Southeastern Louisiana: **Wed., Feb. 3, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.**

RECREATION & FITNESS

★ **GOLF LESSONS** Learn the fundamentals of golf in small self-paced classes. Call Scott for info and to register. 389-2250. \$90 for 13 hours of instruction.

★ **KUNG FU & TAI CHI GRAND OPENING** Check out the school's new location, and meet the students and teachers. **Sat., Jan. 30, 10am-3pm. Shaolin-Do Kung Fu & Tai Chi, 2136 Rutland Dr. Ste. D-1, 339-8978. Free. www.austinkungfu.com.**

★ **RUNTEX OPEN HOUSE BENEFITTING THE ARC OF THE CAPITAL AREA** Drop by and check out some running-related art while noshing on some healthy snacks and beverages. Don't forget to buy some raffle tickets and a custom-designed T-shirt. **Thu., Jan. 28, 5:30-7pm. RunTex, 4615 Lamar, 795-6802. www.runtex.com.**

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

★ **CRITICAL MASS** Bicyclists have been "subverting the paradigm" in Austin since October '93. Let's keep it civil, everybody. Held on the last Friday of each month. **Fri., Jan. 29, 5pm. Riders meet at the UT West Mall (Guadalupe between 22nd & 23rd). www.critical-mass.info/austin.html.**

UPCOMING

★ **AUSTIN IN PLAY COED SWINGIN' SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT** Register by Feb. 10. **Sat., Feb. 20, 9am-5pm. Krieg Fields, 517 South Pleasant Valley. \$240/team, \$20/individual. www.austininplay.com.**

soccer watch

BY NICK BARBARO

The **Austin Aztex** started selling season tickets and "Aztex Alliance" memberships this week in anticipation of the USSF Division II schedule that should be released any minute now. There's a clever flexibility for season ticket purchasers: You get tickets to all 15 home games, but they can be used at any combination of games. Read all about it at www.austinztex.com. The Aztex have made a couple of positive roster moves heading into their upcoming Feb. 13-14 open tryouts. They re-signed popular and productive Cuban midfielder **Yordany Alvarez** to a three-year contract (incidentally, he came out of last year's open tryout). And they picked up a proven attacking midfielder in **Lawrence Olum**, second-team all-league last year with the Minnesota Thunder.

Elsewhere: **Stoke City** got a big win Sunday in the FA Cup fourth round, 3-1 over Arsenal... Interesting regional rivalries in the **African Nations Cup** semifinals: Egypt-Algeria, a rematch of their World Cup elimination game, and Ghana-Nigeria.



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SHOWDOWN AT CEDAR PARK

AUSTIN TOROS vs. RENO BIGHORNS

FEBRUARY 2ND
7:30PM

FEBRUARY 3RD
7:30PM

VISIT TICKETMASTER.COM OR THE CEDAR PARK CENTER BOX OFFICE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.



‘aRrrrrrr,
play us
a song
there,
Matey’

First United Unitarian Church
Jan. 23

There are countless examples of how America’s obsession with reality programming cheapens our culture – no need to name names to prove a point. But there are those few gems – the *Project Runways* and *Top Chefs* – that instead offer us a

scintillating opportunity to go beyond the cult of personality and explore the act of creation, demystifying the notion of talent as an exotic thing to be worshipped from afar.

Few artistic traditions are more steeped in distant formality than chamber music, which is why I am thrilled to see Michelle Schumann continue to lead the Austin Chamber Music Center out of the concert hall and into the reality of our proverbial living rooms. Saturday’s exciting, intimate concert provided further evidence of this.

An example: In the moment before launching into Rossini’s *Variations*, a difficult piece even if not played on a single string, cellist Greg Sauer tuned his entire instrument in preparation. Schumann chimed in with, “Is there a reason why you’re tuning all your strings?” Sauer blushed, and the crowd laughed, now invited into the scene. The wall between artist and audience broken down, the musicians then took to the piece with tremendous verve, Sauer’s fingers moving with swift grace across the fingerboard.

Violinist Teresa Ling then joined Sauer and Schumann for Ravel’s *Piano Trio in A minor*, an elegant example of the composer’s signature sonic landscape. The three master musicians soared through the metrically eccentric first movement; in the second, Schumann’s outstanding virtuosity leapt off the page. The haunting tension of the third movement led into a symphony of textures in the finale, capturing both the sense of discovery and the obsession with all things Oriental that inspired the composer, and much of Paris to boot, following the 1900 World’s Fair.

The performance of the Ravel was so tremendous, I almost failed to mention the Rachmaninov *Trio Elegiaque*, the second act’s epic. The trio’s performance was nuanced, emotionally gripping, and due more commentary than this space allows.

Earlier, Schumann explained the whimsy behind the concert’s title: The creation of each of the pieces being performed involved an element of piracy. The Rossini took off on a tradition established by the perhaps-fictional account of Niccolò Paganini’s experience in prison. Rachmaninov wrote the string trio presented here in honor of the sudden death of his mentor, Tchaikovsky, who himself had produced a string trio after the death of his teacher, Arthur Rubinstein. Ravel’s trio involved material stolen from his own canon; the work was under way as he was drafted into World War I, forcing him to swipe elements of his previous works to complete it in time. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then in this case self-imitation is bliss, a perfect fusion of inspired writing and ecstatic performance.

The pirate premise was slightly cheeky, but as with most reality programming, if the gimmick gets you in the door, it’s the quality of what follows that keeps you coming back. This reminded me of Schumann’s mantra for the current season: “We aim to engage!” Engage she did, first by drawing the audience into the human dramas of composer and performer alike and then by slaying us with some of the most exceptional musical artistry happening in Austin today. And did I mention how good the Ravel was? I did? Argh, well, it was worth repeating. Matey. – Michael Kellerman

FRONTERAFEST 2010

The 17th annual festival of theatre continues at (of course) Hyde Park Theatre with the Short Fringe schedule of five short shows per night. And now here’s the final week of the Long Fringe at SVT and the Blue Theatre. Check the Hyde Park website for news and details, yes, but also see here for this week’s entertainments:

SHORT FRINGE

at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd

Thu., Jan. 28, 8pm: Blue by Aslan Hollier; **The Sex of Joy** by Joy Loveall; **Johns and Spirits** by Jude Hinojosa; **Improvised Mamet** by Confidence Men; **Parents/Kids Dance Party** by Michelle Flanagan.

Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm: Natasha Sonovavitch in ‘Dancing With the Czars’ by Sue Billich; **The Struggle Within** by Danielle Ricci; **Boy Toy** by ColdTowne Theatre; **Astronaughty** by Keira McDonald and Dafydd James; **The Color of Pain** by Kristie Schuh.

Sat., Jan. 30, 8pm: Best of the Week

Tue., Feb. 2, 8pm: When You Say Go Here by Errin Delperdang and Matthew Young; **Spit** Evie Worsham aka June Doe; **19 Years** by Julianna Fry; **Heartbreakers and Other Good Guys** by Kat Williams; **Poor Life Choices** by Leah Moss.

Wed., Feb. 3, 8pm: The Understudy: A Musical by Rain Nox; **Magician’s Assistant** by Christi Ginger; **Falling for You** by Ryan & Ross Wilsey, Chris Doubek, and Tex Carlson; **An Ownership Society** by Hank Schwemmer; **Cathy Dresden Sings for Her Supper** by Joe Hartman.

Thu., Feb. 4, 8pm: The Wussy Boy Manifesto: Episode Five by Big Poppa E; **Sea Witches and Storms** by Lorene Stilwell; **ms** by Molly Fonseca; **Gus!** by David Meyers & Patrick Knisely; **Beans!** by Sharon Sparlin.

LONG FRINGE

at Salvage Vanguard Theater,
2803 Manor Rd.

Lady M (Melissa Rodriguez) Gruoch Comegain is a Scottish noblewoman happily married with a child. What happens to transform her into the fiendlike Lady Macbeth? Directed by Matthew Braylon Haynes. *Thu., Jan. 28, 7pm.*

Some Other Day (Ben Schave & Caitlin Reilly) Schave and Reilly’s take on the inevitable: death and weather. With their absurd blend of physical comedy and dance, the clowns take ‘em on. *Sat., Jan. 30, 2:15pm; Sun., Jan. 31, 8:15pm.*

Dance Carousel (Spank Dance Company) Forty one-minute dances: four each created by local choreographers Ellen Bartel, Tom Benton, Yvonne Ferrufino, Nikki Jonston, Meredith Knight, Lisa Kobdich, Sumi Komo, Maia McCoy, Rosalyn Nasky, and Janna Rock. *Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 31, noon.*

Bohemian Cowboy (Raymond King Shurtz) An authentic portrayal of a theatre artist, a bohemian, and a cowboy still searching for the West and for his father who walked into the Nevada desert and vanished. *Sat., Jan. 30, noon.*

Things in Life (Ben Prager) Three-time Best of Fest winner Prager reprises his comic monologues that portray with unblinking realism “ordinary” Americans. Directed by Wynne West. *Sat., Jan. 30, 8:30pm; Sun., Jan. 31, 3:45pm.*

I Can’t Believe It’s Not Funny: The Best of Midnight Society Presents (Midnight Society) A full hour of the best sketch comedy Austin has to offer, with troupe members Lance Gilstrap, Michael Jastroch, Joel Keith, Delaney Liming, Andy Petruzzo, Nick Ramirez, Kyle Swaney, Jericho Thorp, and Michael Williams. *Thu., Jan. 28, 9pm; Sun., Jan. 31, 2pm.*

Hotel Morocco (Aaron Black) Having lost his dad, girlfriend, and job, Adam is stuck as the overnight bellman at Hotel Morocco, a Times Square tourist trap. And now the owners want someone dead? Directed by Shannon Davis. *Sat., Jan. 30, 6:15pm.*

LONG FRINGE

at the Blue Theatre,
916 Springdale

Habit (Robert Minshaw) Timothy is down to his last five cigarettes. Moving to a new home, however, dredges up his past with his wife, Jane, and complicates the task of quitting. Directed by Josh Nanninga. *Sun., Jan. 31, 3:30pm.*

One Man’s Music: A Monologue With Song (Vince Bell) Based on his new autobiography, Bell tells a tale about Texas music, the singer-songwriter tradition, and a personal journey (rehabilitation from a car wreck) that ends triumphantly. *Sat., Jan. 30, 2:15pm.*

A Man, a Magic, a Music (Melvin Brown) A journey through black music from the Fifties to the Nineties in story, song, tap, clogging, comedy, and character. With music by Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, and more. *Sat., Jan. 30, 10:15pm.*

American Volunteers (City on a Hill? Productions) John M. Meyers’ play follows a squad of special operations rangers as they patrol the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and the conflicts that arise as they pursue life, liberty, or happiness. *Sat., Jan. 30, noon.*

Alice! (Chaotic Theatre Company) James Jackson Leach’s play depicts a girl’s descent into madness. On her journey she meets characters with sinister smiles and outrageous personalities. *Thu., Jan. 28, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 31, 5pm.*

Love Me (Philip Kreyche) Oskar still can’t get over the love who left him several years ago. So to avoid reality and save himself, he orders a mannequin made in her image. But his fantasy is becoming a nightmare. *Sat., Jan. 30, 6pm.*

The Mommy Confessions (Rhonda Kulhanek) Kulhanek’s one-woman show features 13 characters struggling to survive their maternal lives, from a “memaw” who talks to Jesus to a former beauty queen to an unwed mother-to-be. *Sun., Jan. 31, 7pm.*

Dying City (Capital T Theatre) Christopher Shinn’s unsettling new play seeks the truth of war in a quiet, transfixing tale of grief and violence, set in the shadow of the Iraq war. *Thu., Jan. 28, 9pm; Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm.*

Feelgood Hits of the 70s (Pommelhorse) Two roommates. On a couch. Drinking Tab. No subtext. No growth. No future. It’s *Waiting for Godot* meets Richard Linklater. Written and performed by Sam L. Landman and Matthew Glover. *Fri., Jan. 29, 9:15pm; Sat., Jan. 30, 8:15pm; Sun., Jan. 31, 1:30pm.*

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Cafes, Strip Clubs, and Black Box Performance Spaces (Kevin Draine/The Bitter Poet) The Bitter Poet performs his darkly humorous, satirical, guitar-driven poems about searching for true love and the contortions you meet along the way. *Sat., Jan. 30, 4pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. www.hydeparktheatre.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 Feb. 12 issue is Monday, Feb. 1.** 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, visual arts. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

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

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Mike MacRae Just one man, but an entire roomful of celebrities, the way this TV-screen regular unleashes his warped repertoire of impressions into scenarios only a madman might dream up. Oh, and – hells, yeah! – **Kerri Lendo** opens. Feb. 3-6. Wed.-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.

Kevin Nealon The former SNL star, host of *Poker Royale*, and current touring headliner brings his freshest to Cap City, with **Andi Smith** opening. Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm, Jan. 29-30.

Maria Bamford and Her Austin Friends It's not enough that this comedian's been slaying crowds at Montreal and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; it's not enough that she so often brightens Comedy Central's diverse lineup; it's not enough that she's bringing her acclaimed stand-up back to Austin, is it? No, it's just not enough for you, you cynical, parsimonious reprobates. Maybe that's why Bamford's stacking the deck with some of the best local wits, too; to make this show even more irresistible. Recommended. Thu., Jan. 28, 8pm.

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

The Week in Coldness: The fierce improv artists of **Parallelogramophonograph** present their knights-of-the-open-road saga called **The 1930s: Hobos!** Thu., 8pm. **UpTowner** Sketch comedy, homegrown. 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, ColdTowner style: Some of Austin's best. Fri., 10pm. **Boy Toy** presents a free show, featuring that improv classic, the Harold. Sat., 7pm. **Stool Pigeon** features that sweet improv couple **Dave Buckman** and **Rachel Madorsky** 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** features the **ColdTowners** and, hurrah, the **Frank Mills!** Sat., 10pm. **The Late Night Show** sizzles with **Midnight Society** and **Oh, Science**. Sat., 11pm. **ColdTowner All-Stars** is a free show with the, ah, all-stars of ColdTowner and the **Glamping Trip**. Sun., 7pm. **Murphy and the Jam** is also free. Sun., 8:30pm.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfolies.com.

Esther's Folies Esther's popular jesters are starting the New Year off with their musical satire and lively vaudeville, Texas-style! The magic of Ray Anderson, topical satires on the news of the day, and musical production numbers begin this decade in hilarity right there on Sixth Street. 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: Oh, how **Threefer Madness** brings you a trio of improv troupes! Oh, how they work without a script! 8pm. \$3.

Friday: This **Week Tonight** brings you fast and furious improv based on current headlines, slicing and dicing the latest scandals and more. 8pm. \$10. **The Double Barrel** features two troupes of the-devil-only-knows-what for your late-night amusement. 10pm. \$10.

Saturday: **Austin Secrets** Every week, an improvisational exploration of the hidden things that define who we are, **based on secrets sent in anonymously by your friends and neighbors** – maybe by you. It's off the cuff and in your lives. And recommended. 8pm. \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience, sure to bring 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, **Benjamin Johnson**. Thursdays, 10pm.

Todd Womack Put your hands together for this veteran of the Aspen Comedy Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile, and all-over-your-small-screens – sometimes even when he's simultaneously performing at New York's UCB Theatre. Whoa, Mack! Dude's got a comedy résumé longer than the oosik of an elephant seal, and **Joe Staats** and **Roxie Castillo** will, ah, prime the Cheese Palace pump for him this weekend. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 29-30, 9:30 & 11:30pm.

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

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.

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Yes, a vigorous battle between skilled improvisers – sort of like *Highlander*, but unscripted – 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! Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. *Cafe Caffeine*, 909 W. Mary.

THE NEW MOVEMENT They've taught and they've wrought and they're ever so hawt, and now – finally – it's time for acclaimed instructors **Chris Trew** and **Tami Nelson** to take their brand of hijinks to their own New Movement stage with talented friends and disciples. Yes, a regular ongoing series of shows, right there in the theatre next to Nubian Queen Lola's, in inimitable Chris 'n' Tami style. This weekend's best bet: The burgeriffic antics of **McDonald's Corporate Comedy Crew**. See website for details. Wed., 8 & 9:30pm; Thu., 10:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 9:30pm. *New Movement Theater*, 1819 Rosewood. www.newmovementtheater.com.

ONE MORE NIGHT Because the thousand and one nights of Scheherazade weren't quite enough, here's the one that got away: Improvised tales of courageous heroes, sexy sultanas, genies, and other mythical beasts, performed by a fierce and clever Gnap! Theater Projects cast under the direction of Audrey Sansom. Recommended? Yes, and the door is open, Sesame! Fri.-Sat., Jan. 22-Feb. 13, 8pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Two Gnap!tastic improv troupes, one after the other, for maximum compare-and-contrast opportunities of comedy styling and schools of prov-fu. This weekend, **Snackers presents Switcheroo!** and **Parallelogramophonograph**. Sat., Jan. 30, 10pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.

dance

BIG RANGE DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS

The annual gathering of contemporary dance, movement-based performance art, and dance video that turns this city into an epicenter of creative kinesis – produced by Spank Dance Artistic Director Ellen Bartel – has four programs to choose from (and choreographers are compensated, yes). Out-of-towners are also welcome to apply. See website for details. Application deadline: Jan. 30. www.bigrangeaustin.org.

FREE DAY OF DANCE CLASSES! FREE DAY OF DANCE CLASSES!

Yes, wannabe hoofmeister, local dance instructors are offering this "Free Day of Dance Classes" for Austinites this very Sunday. There are learning opportunities all over town, with lessons in tango, waltz, foxtrot, bolero, two-step, samba, and so on until your toes go numb. See website for details. Sun., Jan. 31, all the livelong day. www.freedayofdance.com.

"High Spirited, Silly Fun!"

– The New York Times

The Flaming Idiots



Photo Michelle Bates

Reignited and It Feels So Good!

Enjoy outrageous, crackerjack juggling and hilarious hijinx. Great fun for all ages!

Live! Now on Stage!

ZACH TICKETS 476-0541, x1
THEATRE or ZACHTHEATRE.ORG

Cap City Comedy presents

Kevin Nealon

Jan. 29-30
From "SNL"
& "Weeds"



25TH ANNUAL FPIA BEGINS SOON!

Leanne Morgan



♥ **Feb. 10-13**

Join Cap City Valentine's week with Leanne Morgan as seen on "The View," & "The Paula Dean Show." \$3 of every ticket sold will be donated to Susan G. Komen!



467-2333 www.capcitycomedy.com

free! **the Austin variety show** **viewing party sundays** 10pm to midnight

grab a brew with the cast & crew!!! watch the show on a giant screen!!!

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AustinVarietyShow.com

'Ideas of Mountains'

Creative Research Laboratory, through Feb. 6
2830 E. MLK, 477-9328, uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab



Mountains as landscape-defining masses: The lithic record of seismic obstreperity. World warts. Horizon busters. That, as the saying goes, is about the size of it. This juried exhibition at

Creative Research Lab, featuring University of Texas students and alumni and other Austin artists, seeks to provide such immensity of ground.

"This broad and open platform is a rare opportunity for artists to reach beyond the normal scope of art making and investigate the possibility of creating something epic," reads the official CRL description. "Right," you might imagine the artists responding as they judge the venue's parameters, the space available for rendering their visions into three big fat dimensions, "I got your 'epic' right here."

Stephanie Bonham covers one corner of the generous space with a bit of audio history in her *All the Streisand Records in Town*, having scoured local shops to gather and arrange a collection of the "most abundant and least sought-after used vinyl in circulation today." Not so mountainously awe-inspiring of a gambit, although a helluva hoot, Barbra-wise, and spurring rumination about the correspondence between this specific unwanted oeuvre and the general fate of vinyl in a digital world. Also, of course, weren't a few of these familiar discs and their sleeves released by Sony's, ah, Epic Records?

Mark Aguhar presents a more personal mini-epic in his *Guestbook*, having arranged a pair of chairs and a small table into a sitting room, the defining wall of which is horizontally lined with strings. For the show's opening, Aguhar sat in one chair and sketched (with a variety of colored pens) any visitor sitting in the other chair, meanwhile chatting amiably,

and then used clothespins to hang each tiny portrait on the stringed wall. Two things: 1) Although the artist won't be there every day, the portraits will remain for your viewing; 2) Although no clothing was removed, Aguhar drew everyone as if they were naked except for a pair of tighty-whities.

Over in the gallery's far corner is the most intricate installation of the show, *Camp Base Camp: Everest Friends*, a work that must have taken an epic number of hours to create. Peter Reichardt, Mary Rothlisberger, and Kristyn Weaver have rendered the show's title almost literally – by building a launch site for a team that seems intent on conquering the mountain called Art. Tents, sleeping bags, camping gear, even an altar, all appropriately embellished with fierce craft and creative paraphernalia. This trio of artists could serve as Sherpas to guide the rest of us up that shifty mountain, pausing, as they climb with rough-hewn pitons and ropes woven from hand-dyed hemp, to point out the other highlights of this CRL show: Nicholas Dertien's *Asthma Through a Transparent Body*, three figures of clear blown glass, suspended from the ceiling, gorgeously bathed in projected light and shadow; Anthony Garza's *what came before*, enormous graphite portraits of the skulls of prehistoric creatures; and *TV Nest* by Kendra Kinsey: an eerie, Cronenbergian tableau in which plush couches and chairs are embedded with working but dead-channel TV screens.

And there's yet more for your exploration: North face, south face, "Ideas of Mountains" is a peak of no small aesthetic excitement.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

HEADLONG DANCE THEATER: MORE Dance Umbrella presents Philadelphia's acclaimed Headlong troupe with "a dance of our bodies after our bodies have gone away. In an ever-shifting landscape, a house is built, dismantled, and built up again. ... Through it all, a furious lament of disappearing bodies tears across a domestic world of microwaves and Doris Day songs." Recommended. Jan. 29-30. Fri., 3 & 8pm; Sat., 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 450-0456. \$18 (\$15, in advance). www.danceumbrella.com.

DANCE CAROUSEL AT FRONTERAFEST Spank Dance Company presents 40 one-minute dances: four each created by local choreographers Ellen Bartel, Tom Benton, Yvonne Ferrufino, Nikki Jonston, Meredith Knight, Lisa Kobdich, Sumi Komo, Maia McCoy, Rosalyn Nasky, and Janna Rock. Recommended. Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 31, noon. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.spankdance.com.

classical music

OPENING

DAVID STEVENS AND THE MORRIS NELMS QUARTET features Alex Coke on woodwinds and presents a swinging evening of two of works by George Gershwin and Duke Ellington. Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. 345-8866. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$5, students). www.stceclliamusicseries.org.

TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS: YURI YUNAKOV ENSEMBLE Bulgaria's greatest saxophone player and pioneer of the country's "wedding music" scene, Yunakov and his orchestra bend traditional eastern European sounds and rhythms into free-wheeling exuberance. Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm. Hogg Auditorium, West 24th & Whitis, UT campus, 477-6060. \$34 (\$10, students; other discounts available). www.texasperformingarts.org.

TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FROM 17TH-CENTURY AUSTRIA AND ITALY A cast of internationally renowned musicians joins TEMP's concertmistress, Laurie Young Stevens, for "Harmonia Ariosa," a marvelous repertoire from the high Baroque. The illustrious group performs music of the Baroque period, played on original instruments, including the U.S. premieres of newly found works by Posch, Schmelzer, and Vitali. Fri., Jan. 29, 8pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 377-6961. \$20 (\$15, seniors; \$5, students). www.early-music.org.

PKW PRODUCTIONS: MUSIC AND A MOVIE: AMADEUS Milos Forman's highly acclaimed 1984 movie was the first of PKW Productions' Music and a Movie events, in which the chamber group played some of Mozart's most memorable pieces live during the film. The original is back to celebrate the group's four years of making music to the movies. Sun., Jan. 31, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-5408. \$12. www.drafthouse.com.

CHAMBER SOLOISTS OF AUSTIN: TRIBUTE TO FRANZ SCHUBERT This concert includes Schubert's *String Quintet in C*, as well as works by Haydn and American composer John Harbison. Featured performers include Eric Jacobsen (cello), Gregory Allen (piano), and Karl Kraber (flute). Stanislav Pronin, concertmaster of the Austin Lyric Opera, makes his Austin chamber music performance debut. Sun., Jan. 31, 4pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 380-0065. \$20 (\$10, students). www.chambersoloists.com.

CLOSING

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: GERMAN TROMBONIST ABBIE CONANT AND COMPOSER WILLIAM OSBORNE Three days of original music, virtuoso performances, and engaging conversation about music and feminism wraps up with *Music for the End of Time*, a concert-length tone poem in six movements for trombone and quadruphonics. Thu., Jan. 28, 7pm. Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1504. Free. www.southwestern.edu/sarofim.

visual arts

EVENTS

CO-LAB: 60 SECOND SOUTHERN VIDEO FESTIVAL The Birdhouse Collective presents Fugitive Projects' vast array of one-minute indie media gathered from across the country and around the world. Sat., Jan. 30, 7-10pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.seangaulager.com/co-lab/info.html.

DOMY BOOKS: DUNNY FATALE RELEASE The newest series of customized Dunny figurines, as modeled, glammed up, or lovingly desecrated by brilliants of the distaff side – Junko Mizuno, Aya Kakeda, Tara McPherson, Sara Varon, among them – go on sale this night at Domy, due to they're all in bed with the awesomeness purveyors at Kidrobot. It's gonna be a frenzy. Thu., Jan. 28, 6-8pm. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

OPENING

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: IMAGINING MEXICO: EXPRESSION IN POPULAR CULTURE This new exhibition illustrates the vibrant and multifaceted nation of Mexico. Reception: Fri., Jan. 29, 6-9pm. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

MACC: SERGIO RODRIGUEZ The Mexican American Cultural Center presents "Reflections," the large-scale oil paintings of this acclaimed artist. Exhibition: Jan. 30-March 27. Artist reception: Sat., Feb. 6, 7pm. 600 River St., 478-6222. www.maccaustin.org.

PRO-JEX GALLERY: MINORITY REPORT Martha Grenon presents her documentary photography of Roma life in Albania and Kosovo. Reception: Sat., Jan. 30, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 26. 1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.

PUMP PROJECT: INTERLUDES Complex and evocative new works by UT's Michael Mogavero. Reception: Sat., Jan. 30, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 20. 702 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.

DOMY BOOKS: HALFWAY TO FOREVER The artist Give Up's large-scale screenprints are designed using photos, paper, scissors, and a photocopy machine. Old-school band-flyer style meets fine art subversion on Domy's wonderwalls. Reception with music from Hatred Surge + Intervention Net and L.A.'s Dublab: Sat., Jan. 30, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through March 11. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. <http://www.domystore.com/austin/index.html>.

REAL GALLERY: SACRED ILLUMINATIONS Behold: Tatiana Nikolova-Houston has further glorified the work of ancient Slavic scribes! Artist reception: Sat., Jan. 30, noon-2pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 27. Scarbrough Building Lobby, 101 W. Sixth. 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.com/photo_12.html.

GAY FAY KELLY: BRIAN JOHNSON The master printer presents a series of 5-foot-wide relief prints in "... the more things change ..." Hours by appointment; call for a viewing. Jan. 30-Feb. 26. 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

SVT GALLERY: BEVERLY KEMP This Austin artist's work is being presented in partnership with Sterling Price-McKinney of Eponymous Gardens. Exhibition: Feb. 4-19. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org/gallery.php.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: THE STATIONS OF THE WEST John Mulvany's one-man show explores loss of faith – in governments, religions, and institutions, riding the current waves of anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Reception: Thu., Feb. 4, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 25. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.

ARTISTIC TEXTURES: STUDIES FROM WOOD TO WAX Thu., Feb. 4. 512-735-8000. Free. www.shalomaaustin.org.

CLOSING

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. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

ART ON 5TH: CITYSCAPES The urban acrylics of Alexandre Zerbe are featured in this near-Downtown gallery. Through Jan. 30. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR

A group show, with all works priced less than a grand, opens the new year at this acclaimed gallery. *Through Jan. 30. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

SALVAGE VANGUARD: THE SUBTLE ARTS

The Eponymous Garden presents this exhibition, assembled by Sterling Price-McKinney, showcasing works that evoke “the lost art of letter writing” and “the lost art of mourning” as practiced in Victorian times. *Through Jan. 30. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and “sculptural tattoos” by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

ART IN A NUTSHELL This is the gallery of Ismael Cavazos, creator of “The Old Man in the Peanut,” featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.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.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

AUSTIN ART SPACE

A variety of local artists. 7739 Northcross Ste. Q, 771-2868. www.austinartspace.com.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS

Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE

Original art by local artists. 2200 S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

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.

CECILIA LING: MY SECRET GARDEN Photography of natural aquatic scenes from Austin, France, China, and more. *Through Feb. 28. 360 Gallery, 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 346-6789. www.360galleryofaustin.org.*

DUMONT GALLERY

Linda Dumont: cityscapes, abstracts, and portraits. Call for appointment. 906 E. Fifth. 698-1890. www.lindadumont.com.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: CLOWNS AND PORTRAITS

That’s right: as painted by Brooklyn-based artist Jim Torok. *Through March 13. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

REAL GALLERY: JAN AND ORION KNOX

The husband-and-wife team present their paintings and photography of the great outdoors. *Through Feb. 7. 101 W. Sixth, 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.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.pablotaoboadastudio.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.

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. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS

Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinsbluemoon.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: CHILL

Cold, shmold: This exhibition features work by a gathering of artists who know how to warm up a venue with intricate visual beauty: Cynthia Camlin, Sara Frantz, Jennifer Maestre, Leslie Mutchler, Raychael Stine, Steve Wiman, and Sydney Yeager. *Through Feb. 6. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: IDEAS OF MOUNTAINS

This is a juried group show emphasizing wild, large-scale experimentation in site-specific installations, featuring UT students and alumni and other artists living and working in Austin. Andrew Long, Anthony Garza, Christa Mares, Teruko Nimura, Jesus Benavente, and Andrea Bonin, to name just a few. See review, p.60. *Through Feb. 6. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab.*

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: LOLI KANTOR

The Fort Worth-based photographer presents “There Was a Forest: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Today,” featuring her documentary work portraying Holocaust survivors. *Through Feb. 27. 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.lnowlingallery.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.

MONARCH EVENT CENTER: NEW YEAR NEW SHOW

The Monarch in Lincoln Village has new owners, did you know, and they aim to do right by the ATX and its cultural brilliance. Exhibit A: This inaugural art show featuring work by **Christa Palazzolo**, **Ryan Davis**, and **Dustin Michael Pevey**. *Through March 26. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711. www.themonarchtexas.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: INTO THE LIGHT

This is Christine Gray’s second solo exhibition at Okay Mountain, wherein the artist continues to explore the frenetic play between real and unreal created using sculptural arrangements as the basis for her paintings. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 13. 1312-B E. Cesar Chavez. www.okaymountain.com.*

REVERSE GALLERY

Michael Bacon paints abstracts on the back of clear vinyl and his works are viewed through the untouched side; this is his new gallery. 612 Brazos #100, 592-0219. www.michaelabacon.com.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE:

TRIBUTE TO BILL NARUM This is a terrific retrospective and memorial exhibition of work by rock art giant and Armadillo World Headquarters stalwart Bill Narum. *Through Feb. 27. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.samopc.org.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: KIA NEILL

The artist’s new “Terrain” transforms the W&TW gallery into a subterranean grotto, with synthetic rocks, geodes, and moss crawling across and growing out of the floor, with fabricated stalagmites and unusual geological forms surrounding visitors. Thinking about seeing it? We must say: Cave into the urge. *Through Feb. 27. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

YARD DOG: SOUTHERN FOLK ART

Austin’s best bastion of folk art begins 2010 with a show of works by artists from Texas and the Deep South. *Through Feb. 5. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY

Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

RUSSELLS BAKERY: NORMAN GARRETT

The photographer’s documentation of brides and their weddings is presented in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Altar.” 1601 W. 38th, 619-9633. www.thanksforthememories.biz.

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.*

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE: EDWARD ROBIN

CORONEL A menagerie of furry, feathered, and costumed critters. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 30, 6-8pm. 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900.*

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.

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

FIVE THINGS The champions of the recent Five Things contest to craft some fine-ass fiction (1250 words each) based on the theme “A New Year” will read from their winning works at this most excellent drink-fueled literary gatherum. *Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. www.fivethingsaustin.com.*

THE AWESOME! AND GREAT!

READING SHOW! may indeed be just that, as it features reading writers **Owen Egerton** and **Amanda Eyre Ward**, is hosted by **Elizabeth Crane**, and includes live music from the muy talented (and dare we say “Austin’s answer to Jonathan Coulton?”) **Southpaw Jones**. *Wed., Feb. 3, 7-10pm. Momo’s, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. www.momosclub.com.*

TRAVIS POLING presents his new book, *Beer Across Texas*, and Saint Arnold Brewing Company will be there with samples of its tasty beers, just to prime the well. *Thu., Jan. 28, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

WALLACE STROBY

does crime right with his complex novel *Gone ‘Til November*. *Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

FOUR AUTHORS

welcome the new year: Barbara Youngblood Carr, with her newest in the Ancestor Series; Cindy Lou Ruffino, with *Dead Xs in Texas and Out of the Texas Mist*; Linda Cheviot Himes, with *Live, From the Mystic*; and Mitch Haynes, pushing *Hollywood Agent Provocateur*. *Sat., Jan. 30, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

LOCAL AUTHOR JOYCE ADEJUMO

presents her book of the spiritual journey of a mother who lost her only child to a drunk driver and learned the true meaning of God’s will. *Sat., Jan. 30, 3pm. Mitchie’s Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

CRAIG WATKINS

begins the dissection of how we came to be the culture we weren’t just five years ago in his *The Young and the Digital*. *Wed., Feb. 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

YEHUDA BERG uses principles of Kabbalah to show you that, no matter the problem, you have *The Power to Change Everything*. *Tue., Feb. 2, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.yehudaberg.com.*

OPEN MICS

FRIDAY NIGHT MIC for poetry, music, drama, and stories. Hosted by Bear Man Poet. *Fridays, 8-10pm. JP’s Java, 2803 San Jacinto.*

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 Ricardo Acevedo and friends! *Mondays, 7-10pm. Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM

Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast. *Wednesdays, 8pm. The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com.*

SPOKEN & HEARD

Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. ASL interpreter available. Hosted by The Crew. *Sundays, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbutcoffee.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, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.*



‘HALFWAY TO FOREVER’ BY THE ARTIST KNOWN AS GIVE UP OPENS THIS WEEKEND AT DOMY BOOKS.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY’S Hosted by Lee Leteff with Jena and family. Also, Michael McClanahan and Kathleen Romana. Next feature is Lili’s birthday with Darla McBride and special guests. *Vinny’s Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

2010 AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL calls for submissions for its youth poetry anthology from kids in grades K-12. Deadline: Feb. 1. (Deadline for the adult anthology: Feb. 10.) alpfya@sbcglobal.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! & if he buys a harmonica learns how to breathe in & out narrow & wide note & chord how it was a west Texas boy taught Lennon the old standby & the Saints march in note after note a music of order (orders of saints the names of the gods a list on a staff blow in draw out press the tongue to the metal can it be without words) this long breath falling away listening to voices the tongues of angels in the mouths of starngers saying let me show you would you show me an order that makes us shake the holes in the air. Namaste. Shake the world awake.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

And what is this sweetness

you have brought to our table

the gnawing at the bone of our pain

— Neil Meili, “Ode to Achmatova,”

for Christina Sergeyevna (Wendy Christina Podwalny), a beloved Austin poet and namesake of the AIPF annual award. She died Jan. 12. R.I.P

film listings



La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet

D: Frederick Wiseman. (NR, 158 min., subtitled)

In his fly-on-the-wall examination of the world-class Paris Opera Ballet, Wiseman travels with camera in and out of rehearsal spaces and prop shops, from the basement belly of the *la bête* all the way to its rooftops, where a beekeeper

quietly goes about his work. An inattentive viewer might call the beekeeper scene a non sequitur, but really he is just one more worker in the busy hive of the company. In a 40-year career spanning the late-Sixties eye-opener *Titicut Follies* (about a Massachusetts correctional institute and banned upon release) to 2007's *State Legislature* (about Idaho politics), Wiseman has consistently shown a fascination with process, and that continues in the 2½-hour *La Danse*, in which the camera is just as likely to linger on a costumer hand-gluing sequins to a tutu as a prima ballerina put through her paces. That camera is a democratizing one: Without the aid of any textual identifiers, the company's stars are rendered as anonymous as the toiling members of the corps de ballet. They may get more face time, but unless you're already familiar with the names of *les étoiles* like Laetitia Pujol, then you won't be any wiser after watching *La Danse*. Forget wisdom: There are far richer rewards to be had here. There is the obvi-

ous pleasure in the dance itself; the film follows the rehearsals and performances of seven ballets in progress, including classics (Nureyev's *The Nutcracker*) and electrifying new works (Angelin Preljocaj's

Le Songe de Médée and Wayne McGregor's *Genus*). No one plays to the camera, and there is no direct address. Wiseman achieves nearness without the inevitable compromise that comes when a filmmaker has become the intimate of his subjects. Often the camera simply

fixes in place, sometimes catching the action in the reflection of a mirror. The effect can lull you into thinking this is a purely objective piece, sans point of view – an observational documentary that captures within the frame the totality and truth of the moment. Then an understudy glides past the camera's eye and glides right back out: It's a revelation, a startling reminder of avenues unexplored in this lovely and enthralling piece of work. – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Arbor



new reviews

EDGE OF DARKNESS D: Martin Campbell; with Mel Gibson, Bojana Novakovic, Shawn Roberts, Danny Huston, Ray Winstone. (R, 117 min.)

Adapted from the six-episode BBC television drama of the same name, this is also Gibson's first major film since his scandalous roadside rantings and arrest in July 2006. Rumors that the actor's career was henceforth DOA seemed a bit overenthusiastic at the time, but with the release of this British-funded maelstrom of Mel Gibson-ness, it appears that this older, weaker Mad Mel's future hasn't flat-lined just yet. But what a bizarre choice of film for a comeback this is. Gibson is Thomas Craven, a Boston police detective who reunites with his college-age daughter, Emma (Novakovic), hours before she's gunned down on the Craven family front porch by an unknown assailant. Essentially, *Edge of Darkness* is a man vs. system film, with Gibson going up against a U.S. senator (Damian Young) and a mysterious (and heavily fortified) Massachusetts-based nuclear weapons research and development corporation. That shadowy company, Broadmoor, is headed by Jack Bennett (Huston), a patently insane CEO with some serious missile envy issues but no scruples to speak of. Add to this mix various shadow agents of the U.S. government who are working to shape Craven's tragedy so that some seriously evil deeds will not reflect back upon their bosses (i.e. the president), and you've almost got the right ingredients for a fine, edgy BBC miniseries. There's even a tip of the hat to the UK's infamous Animal Liberation Front in there somewhere, and what could be more gripping than that? As directed by Campbell, *Edge of Darkness* has the look and feel of a Brit film shot in America – it's all dark, boxy rooms with powerful white men in impeccable black suits discussing how to tidy up the minor mishaps of their game over brandy and cigars. But Campbell, who helmed the terrific James Bond reboot *Casino Royale*, can milk suspense and a smattering of action out of practically anything (yes, even a bottle of milk is used in an inappropriate manner), and he forces Gibson into the frame as much as possible. But the actor looks old and run-down here, and it's not just the makeup department adding layers of faux grief to his character. Gibson is no longer the man who played Aussie Police Officer Max Rockatansky (who also lost his wife and infant daughter and went mad) or *Lethal Weapon*'s crazyman Riggs. He moves slowly, haltingly, and his face has become a road map of chiseled and pitted age lines overcast by a small sprinkling of gray hair. He seems chastened – Catholic imagery is all over this film – and humbled by the strange Hollywood thrill ride he's been on for the past five years. And knowing that makes his character more sympathetic and more human. Still, *Edge of Darkness* is not a great movie. It's a middling comeback, tentative, wary of much, and a fascinating portrait of a

Hollywood icon doing his best to tiptoe back into the audience's good graces. And Gibson, a blue-eyed charmer to the bitter end, almost manages it. – Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

LEGION D: Scott Stewart; with Paul Bettany, Dennis Quaid, Tyrese Gibson, Adrienne Palicki, Doug Jones, Jon Tenney, Charles S. Dutton, Kevin Durand, Lucas Black, Kate Walsh, Willa Holland. (R, 105 min.)

Another week, another apocalypse, another severely ripped tough guy with snow-white wings fluttering from his back. *Legion* – not to be confused with another winged-dude movie currently in theatres, *Tooth Fairy* – arrives with a great premise at its core but quickly devolves into a greatest hits repackaging of homages, lifts, and outright steals from other, better (and, very rarely, worse) truck-stop apocalypse pics. Certainly Brit actor Bettany deserves some sort of theologically bipolar acting award for playing two diametrically opposed characters in two individual films in the same month. Bettany, fresh off *The Young Victoria*, also stars in new release *Creation* as the young Charles Darwin, evolutionary genius and slayer of gods. In a twist of release-schedule fate that lends some serious credence to the notion that God is, you know, just fucking with us, *Legion* casts Bettany as the angel Michael, wings and all. This being another biblically inclined horror show, Bettany's version of Michael differs slightly from the version found in King James. He's still the commander of God's heavenly army and the Book of Revelation's prince of light, but in *Legion* he's also a loner, Dottie, a rebel ... and – you'll pardon the cliché but it's just too apropos – humanity's last, best hope. God, the wrathful, smitey one, has finally given up on mankind (thanks a lot, Darwin) and decided to initiate armageddon just in time for Christmas. Michael, distressed, vacates his post, shears off his wings, and plummets earthward, intent on saving the world from his former boss and his equally buff replacement, Gabriel (Durand). Long apocalypse short, Michael straps on some Israeli-made firepower (uzis!) and holes up in a rattletrap diner in the Mojave Desert. This is not just any diner, either. It's the workplace of Charlie (*Friday Night Lights*' Palicki), a fleshly woman heavy with God's other son. Once inside the diner, *Legion*'s nonstop references to other films are, well, legion. John Carpenter's *Assault on Precinct 13*, the Robert R. McCammon-scripted *Twilight Zone* episode "Nightcrawlers," every dead flick George Romero has ever done, and more come to mind and bubble over into random play in *Legion*, making this more a horror-geek trivia game than an actual horror movie per se. With its cliché-heavy cast of diner patrons running the gamut from ornery owner Bob (Quaid) to the terrific Dutton as a Bible-thumping fry cook, *Legion* most of all reminded me of *Maximum Overdrive*, Stephen King's ill-fated car crash of a directing debut. *Legion* isn't quite as howlingly superbad as King's goof, and

therefore nowhere near as entertaining, mainly because it takes itself way too seriously for the audience to take seriously. (It's like the Bible in that respect.) Bettany, to his credit, gives it his all, mowing down angel-possessed, CGI-malformed people by the dozen and doing his best to protect the unborn savior inside Charlie. It's almost enough to save the film from itself, but ultimately *Legion* feels cobbled together from odd bits of other films, which indeed it is. Did I mention this all takes place in a town named Paradise Falls? Do I need to? Thought not. If you're really that hard up for yet another apocalypse horror show, you could do worse than renting 1995's *The Prophecy*, which at least had the good sense to cast Christopher Walken as the angel Gabriel. As for *Legion*, well, if you've seen one plague of flies and death and angels at war with each other, you've seen 'em all. – Marc Savlov

MY SON, MY SON, WHAT HAVE YE DONE D: Werner Herzog; with Michael Shannon, Willem Dafoe, Chloë Sevigny, Brad Dourif, Michael Peña, Udo Kier, Grace Zabriskie, Loretta Devine. (NR, 91 min.)

Produced and “presented” by David Lynch, *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done* is the second Herzog film of the season (the first was *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*) and leads one to wonder if the great director might not have discovered the fabled fountain of youth in Peru while shooting *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* back in '72. Certainly Herzog possesses a unique genius that allows him to incorporate into his films, documentary or otherwise, whatever his current obsession happens to be. His intensely stoic constitution and keen eye for the absurdities of his fellow human beings has resulted in a windfall of cinematic masterpieces, books, and even his own “Rogue” film school. What hasn't he done? Up until now, a good answer to that question would have been “worked with David Lynch.” Now this dynamically odd couple has produced a film that, while fascinating for its pedigree alone, is remarkably chaste when compared to either one of the filmmakers' more ambitious works. The story, by Herzog and his sometime assistant director Herbert Golder, sounds like a distillation of both Lynch and Herzog's favored cinematic grace notes, among them Peru, birds, and offbeat pacing and line delivery. Michael Shannon is Brad, a thirtysomething SoCal suburban seeker who, as the film begins, has just murdered his mother (gravely played by Lynch regular Zabriskie) with a cavalry sword. “Ever since he came back from Peru he's been strange, different,” Irma P. Hall's neighborly Mrs. Roberts tells Detective Hank Havenhurst (Dafoe). The directorial in-joke refers to Herzog's epic travails shooting *Aguirre* and *Fitzcarraldo* both deep inside the green hell of the Amazon basin and atop the cloud-scouring spires of Machu

Picchu. *My Son, My Son ...* is chock-full of similar film-head nods to the respective résumés of both Lynch (coffee, coffee everywhere) and Herzog (jittery hand-held camerawork, deadly raging rivers, wild animals). Unfortunately, the end result feels more like a formal exercise in combining the hallmarks of the two infamous auteurs to see what happens, which, when you get right down to it, isn't much more than a standoff between Brad and the police. Brad's troubled history is sketched in flashbacks supplied by his girlfriend (Sevigny) and theatrical director (Kier) – it turns out that Brad was starring in *Orestes*, hence the sword. *My Son, My Son ...* frankly baffles me. The tone and pacing – laconic, thoughtful, weird – is pure Lynch all the way through. So is the dialogue: “Wouldn't it be nice to live on the moon?” and “I hate it that the sun comes up in the East” are two egregious Lynchisms among dozens. But Herzog's stylistic, occasionally combative flourishes are in evidence as well, among them some swoopy Peruvian camera moves and a run-in with a herd of ostriches (one of whom swallows Udo Kier's reading glasses). To a one, the cast acts as though they were in a Lynch film, giving odd turns of phrase an even odder quality and generally acting a half-beat off of reality. By the end of this film/experiment/prank – which, to be blunt, is pretty unsatisfying – the viewer is left to ponder what it's all about, and what its purpose may have been, which, knowing Lynch and Herzog, might well be what it was about, and what its purpose was. – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Ritz

openings & ratings

Edge of Darkness (R)

La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet (NR)

My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done (NR)

When in Rome (PG-13)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- La bomba

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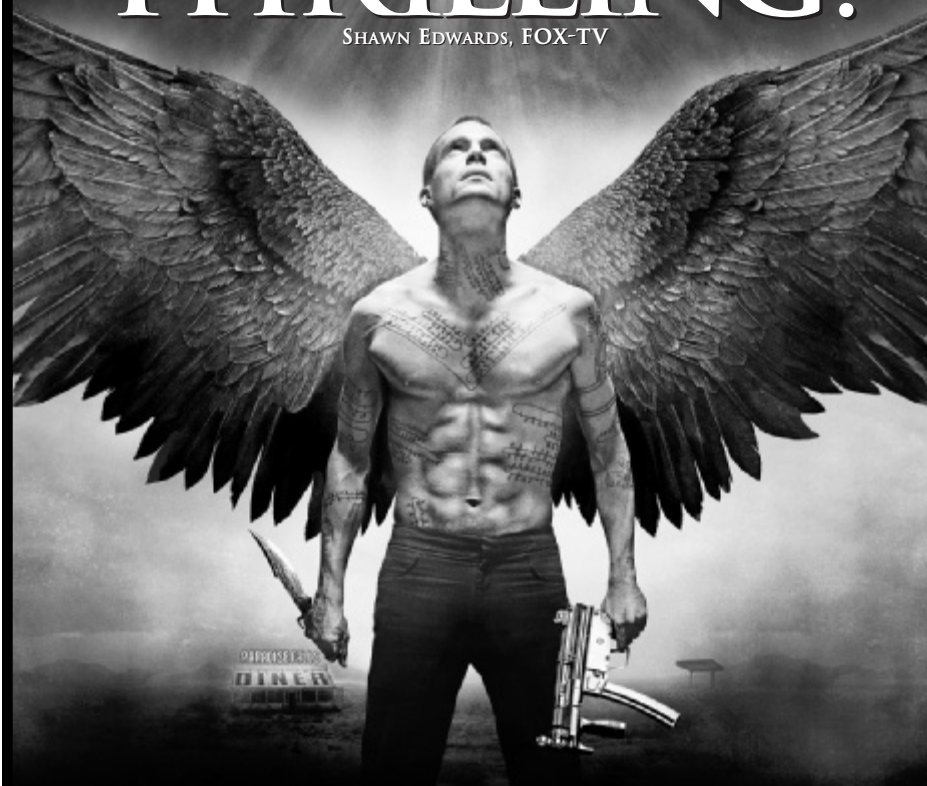


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showtimes

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Big Screen Classics: Aliens: Sat, 3:20pm
Weird Wednesday: Black Caesar: Wed, 12mid
Music Monday: dubla Live: Mon, 9:45pm
Big Screen Classics: Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man: Tue, 7:00pm
Terror Tuesday: J.D.'s Revenge: Tue, 9:45pm
Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Thu (2/4), 7:00pm
My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done: Fri, 4:40, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Sat, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Sun, 2:20, 3:45, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Mon-Tue, 4:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Wed, 4:00, 5:00, 6:35, 7:45, 9:20, 10:30; Thu (2/4), 4:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Cinema Club: Ninotchka: Sun, 6:30pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010: Mon, 7:00pm
Action Pack Theater: Terminator 2: Judgment Day: Sun, 10:00pm
Master Pancake: Transformers: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK
13729 Research, 219-5408.
Movies & Music: Amadeus: Director's Cut: Fri, 7:30pm
***Avatar (3-D):** 12:00, 4:00, 8:00
The Book of Eli: 12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:20
***Edge of Darkness:** 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:00
Groundhog Day: Tue, 3:30, 7:30
It's Complicated: Fri-Sat, 12:10, 9:50; Sun, 12:10pm;
Mon, 12:10, 9:50; Tue, 12:10pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 12:10, 9:50
***Legion:** Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:10; Sun, 1:30, 7:45, 10:10; Mon, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:10; Tue, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:10
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Tue, 7:00pm
The Lovely Bones: Fri-Sat, 3:00, 6:30; Sun, 3:00pm; Mon, 3:00, 6:30; Tue, 3:00pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 3:00, 6:30
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40; Mon, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40; Tue-Thu (2/4), 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40
Up in the Air: Fri-Mon, 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40; Tue, 12:45, 10:10; Wed-Thu (2/4), 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:35pm;
Mon, 3:00, 7:00, 10:35pm; Tue, 11:10am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:35pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 3:00, 7:00, 10:35
Crazy Heart: Fri, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20pm;
Sat, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20; Tue, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Sat-Sun, 11:15am; Tue, 11:15am
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:00; Mon, 3:40, 7:05, 10:00; Tue, 12:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:00; Wed, 3:40, 7:05, 10:00; Thu (2/4), 3:05, 7:05, 10:00
Action Pack: Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along: Thu (2/4), 10:20pm
***Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision of the American West*:** Thu (2/4), 6:30pm
Kids' Club: 7 Faces of Dr. Lao: Sat, 11:00am
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 4:00, 7:25, 10:30; Mon, 4:00, 10:30; Tue, 12:45, 4:00, 9:55; Wed-Thu (2/4), 4:00, 10:05
A Single Man: Fri-Sun, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; Mon, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; Tue, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10; Wed-Thu (2/4), 4:25, 7:10, 9:55
AFS: Son of a Lion: Tue, 7:00pm
A Town Called Panic: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 10:25pm;
Mon, 10:25pm; Tue, 11:30am, 10:25pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 10:25pm
Up in the Air: Fri, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:35pm; Sat-Sun, 1:50, 4:35, 7:35; Mon, 4:35, 7:35; Tue, 1:50, 4:35, 7:35; Wed-Thu (2/4), 4:35, 7:35

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.
Action Pack: 1999 Sing-Along: Fri, 12mid
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:55, 6:50, 10:25pm;
Mon, 3:00, 6:50, 10:25; Tue, 12:00, 3:00, 6:50; Wed, 3:00, 6:50; Thu (2/4), 3:00, 6:50, 10:25
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55; Mon, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55; Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 10:25; Wed, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
The Lovely Bones: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:55, 7:20; Mon, 3:55, 7:20; Tue, 12:30, 3:55, 7:20; Wed-Thu (2/4), 3:55, 7:20
Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Wed, 10:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 6:40, 10:35pm;
Mon, 3:45, 7:10, 10:35; Tue, 11:45am, 3:45, 7:10, 10:35pm; Wed-Thu (2/4), 3:45, 7:10, 10:35
Youth in Revolt: Fri-Sun, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 10:15pm

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Broken Embraces: 10, 9:35
Crazy Heart: 11:40am, 12:50, 2:20, 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 10:40, 10:20pm
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus: 3:00, 10:05
A Dance: The Paris Opera Ballet: 12:20, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45
The Maid: 12:20, 7:10
Nine: 12:10, 6:50
A Single Man: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm
Up in the Air: 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:15
The Young Victoria: 12:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50

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.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 12:35, 3:00, 7:25, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:35, 3:00, 7:25, 9:45
Avatar (3-D): Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 2:55, 6:30, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:10am, 2:55, 6:30, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 11:10am, 2:55, 6:30, 10:05pm
The Blind Side: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:05, 4:40, 7:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 10:00am, 1:05, 4:40, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:05, 4:40, 6:55, 10:00
The Book of Eli: Fri-Sun, 1:40, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25, 10:45; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:40, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
Extraordinary Measures: Fri-Sun, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35; Mon, 5:20, 7:55, 10:35; Tue, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35; Wed, 4:50, 10:35; Thu (2/4), 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
It's Complicated: Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 1:20, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:20, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
Leap Year: 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
Legion: Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00pm; Sun, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
The Lovely Bones: Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20pm; Sun, 10:05am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 10:05

Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
The Spy Next Door: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:45pm
To Save a Life: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:00pm
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15
Up in the Air: Fri-Sat, 11:55am, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 10:55pm; Sun-Thu (2/4), 11:55am, 2:40, 5:25, 8:00, 10:40pm
When in Rome: Fri-Sat, 10:35am, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45pm; Sun, 10:35am, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20

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Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri, 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00; Sat-Wed, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00pm; Thu (2/4), 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10; Sat-Wed, 11:40am, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10pm; Thu (2/4), 3:10, 6:40, 10:10
The Blind Side: Fri, 3:50, 9:20; Sat-Wed, 10:30am, 3:50, 9:20pm; Thu (2/4), 3:50, 9:20
The Book of Eli: 1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Opera: Carmen: Wed, 6:30pm
***Edge of Darkness:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Wed, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Thu (2/4), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
***Extraordinary Measures:** Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55; Sat-Wed, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55pm; Thu (2/4), 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
It's Complicated: 10:15pm
Leap Year: 1:20, 6:50
***Legion:** Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25; Sat-Wed, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25; Thu (2/4), 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
The Lovely Bones: 12:40, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50
Sherlock Holmes: Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30; Sat-Wed, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30pm; Thu (2/4), 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30
The Spy Next Door: Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40; Sat, 11:50am, 2:20, 9:40pm; Sun-Mon, 11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40pm; Tue, 11:50am, 2:20, 9:40pm; Wed, 11:50am, 2:20pm; Thu (2/4), 2:20, 9:40
***Tooth Fairy:** Fri, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Wed, 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00pm; Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
***When in Rome:** Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Wed, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30pm; Thu (2/4), 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14
12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:15, 6:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:45, 4:15, 6:40
***Avatar (3-D):** 12:40, 4:20, 8:00
The Blind Side: Fri, 11:45am, 2:55, 6:35, 9:30pm; Sat, 11:45am, 2:55, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:45am, 2:55, 6:35, 9:30pm; Mon, 2:55, 6:35, 9:30; Tue, 2:55, 10:00; Wed-Thu (2/4), 2:55, 6:35, 9:30
The Book of Eli: 12:45, 3:40, 7:00, 9:50
Opera: Carmen: Wed, 6:30pm
***Edge of Darkness:** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
***Extraordinary Measures:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
It's Complicated: 12:30, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35
Leap Year: 9:15pm
***Legion:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
The Lovely Bones: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:50, 6:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:50, 6:30, 9:40
Sherlock Holmes: 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00
The Spy Next Door: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Tue, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05; Wed, 2:20pm; Thu (2/4), 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05
***Tooth Fairy:** Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20
Up in the Air: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Wed, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55; Thu (2/4), 1:50, 9:55
***When in Rome:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:20

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK
2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
Armored: Fri, 1:50, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:50, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:50, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs: Fri, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30
Couples Retreat: Fri, 3:45, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:45, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (2/4), 3:45, 7:00, 9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05
Ninja Assassin: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45
Planet 51: Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50
2012: Fri, 2:30, 6:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:00, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:30, 6:00, 9:20
Where the Wild Things Are: Fri, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 3:00, 5:15, 7:45
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri, 2:30, 6:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 2:30, 6:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:30, 6:30, 10:05
The Blind Side: Fri, 3:10, 6:20, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:15; Mon-Thu (2/4), 3:10, 6:20, 9:15
The Book of Eli: Fri, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
***Edge of Darkness:** Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
***Extraordinary Measures:** Fri, 1:05, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:05, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20
It's Complicated: Fri, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 9:55am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30
Leap Year: Fri, 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
***Legion:** Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40
The Lovely Bones: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:20

Sherlock Holmes: Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
The Spy Next Door: 10:10pm
***To Save a Life:** Fri, 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45
***Tooth Fairy:** Fri, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
***When in Rome:** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS
9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri, 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45
Avatar: Fri, 1:40, 5:10, 8:40; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:40, 5:10, 8:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:40, 5:10, 8:40
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
The Blind Side: 12:50, 6:40
The Book of Eli: Fri, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 7:25, 8:30, 10:10; Sat, 10:25am, 11:45, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 8:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 10:25am, 11:45, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 7:25, 8:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 7:25, 8:30, 10:10; Tue, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 8:30, 10:10; Wed, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 8:30, 10:10; Thu, 1:15, 2:35, 4:20, 5:35, 8:30, 10:10
Opera: Carmen: Wed, 6:30pm
***Edge of Darkness:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
***Extraordinary Measures:** Fri, 12:55, 3:35, 6:35, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:55, 3:35, 6:35, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 12:55, 3:35, 6:35, 9:30
It's Complicated: 3:50, 9:50
***Legion:** Fri, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
The Lovely Bones: Fri, 2:15, 5:20, 8:20; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:15, 5:20, 8:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 2:15, 5:20, 8:20
The Princess and the Frog: Fri, 1:35, 4:35; Sat-Sun, 10:35am, 1:35, 4:35pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:35, 4:35
Sherlock Holmes: Fri, 1:00, 3:55, 7:10, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 3:55, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:00, 3:55, 7:10, 10:15
The Tooth Fairy: 7:15, 9:35
***Tooth Fairy:** Fri, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25
***When in Rome:** Fri, 1:20, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:20, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:20, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-6118.
The Book of Eli: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (2/4), 7:00, 9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30; Mon-Thu (2/4), 7:30, 9:30
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus: Fri, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/4), 7:15, 9:50
Red Cliff: Fri, 4:45, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:45, 8:00; Mon-Thu (2/4), 8:00pm

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.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri-Sat, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35, 11:45; Sun-Thu (2/4), 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
***Avatar (3-D):** 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 11:00
The Book of Eli: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:50; Sun-Thu (2/4), 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00
Extraordinary Measures: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40; Sun-Thu (2/4), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Legion: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45; Sun-Thu (2/4), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
The Lovely Bones: 12:55, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55
Nano Vankates: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:30; Mon-Thu (2/4), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30; Sun-Thu (2/4), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
When in Rome: Fri-Sat,



Ninotchka

Ninotchka (1939) D: Ernst Lubitsch; with Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Bela Lugosi. (NR, 110 min.) **Cinema Club.** Garbo and a wonderful supporting cast star in this romantic comedy in which Garbo plays a no-nonsense Russian agent who is sent on a mission to Paris but succumbs to the city's romantic charms. Professor Charles Ramirez Berg of UT will introduce the inaugural film in this new Alamo series and lead a post-screening discussion. For more on Cinema Club, "Make 'Em Laugh (And, Yes, Even Learn)," p.39. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 6:30pm.

first runs

* Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

D: Betty Thomas; with Zachary Levi, David Cross, Jason Lee, Wendie Malick; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney, Anna Faris, Christina Applegate, Amy Poehler. (PG, 88 min.)

It's a rare but not unheard-of event for a sequel to top its predecessor. This is not one of those sequels, however, and director Thomas, working from a script by returning screenwriter Jon Vitti and *Kung Fu Panda* scribe Jonathan Aibel, does little to improve on 2007's original "film/rebranding event." While *The Squeakquel* might be appreciated by filmgoers ages 10 or younger, the rest of us should be investing heavily in d-CON and working feverishly through the night to build a better rodent trap. This time out, the all-singing, all-dancing, all-CGI chipmunks – rebel with paws Alvin (Long), wise guy Simon (Gubler), and tubby emo vermin Theodore (McCartney) – wind up in a contrived "squeak-off" with a new trio of singing female chipmunks, cruelly dubbed the "Chippettes" by down-on-his-luck record exec Ian Hawk (Cross, returning from the original in search of a paycheck and not much else). Muskrat love, of a sort, is in the air. (12/25/2009) – Marc Savlov

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

ARMORED

D: Nimród Antal; with Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne, Amaury Nolasco, Fred Ward, Columbus Short, Skeet Ulrich, Andre Kinney, Milo Ventimiglia. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Neither the best heist movie of the new millennium (that would be *The Bank Job*) nor the worst (Tony Scott's snoozy remake of *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* gets that honor), *Armored* is a serviceable and solid slab of testosterone, gunfire, and seriously impregnable trucks that aims low and scores higher than you'd think. It's like the Schlitz of caper movies – it goes down easily, buzzes around your brainpan for a couple of hours, and then vanishes from your memory within 24. *Armored* continues Antal's penchant for generic, single-word film titles, but it's such a streamlined suspenser that you can forgive the dopey bits and go with the good-men-gone-bad flow of the film. Dillon plays an armored-car guard who, together with a crew of five others (among them Fishburne, who appears to be having a ball, and *The Professional's* Reno), plans an inside job worth a cool \$42 million. (12/11/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8



AVATAR D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.)

At 162 minutes and a cost of somewhere between \$250 million and \$300 million, Cameron's ne plus ultra of futuristic mechanized mayhem and seamless CGI trickery is both a cinematically spectacular slab of virtually nonstop action and an unmistakable diatribe against corporatized American imperialism. There are the usual muscled-up boys (and equally powerful girls) with big-bang toys, crying havoc and letting slip the dogs of war, to be sure, but at its heart this mammoth film is ... a chick flick. Despite a script that at times leaves its most interesting characters delivering some of the most banal lines in a Cameron film thus far, somehow it all holds together. As a purely visual experience, it's like nothing you've ever seen before: a lush, sexy, primal world created entirely by Cameron's legions of CGI masters. *Avatar* is thrilling, lovely, sad, and explosive in all the right ways. (12/18/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE BOOK OF ELI

D: Allen Hughes, Albert Hughes; with Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, Ray Stevenson, Jennifer Beals, Evan Jones, Michael Gambon, Frances de la Tour, Tom Waits, Malcolm McDowell. (R, 118 min.)

Like its titular protagonist (a deadly smooth Washington), *The Book of Eli* early on sets a course and never deviates from its core mission of being an action-packed, end-of-days road movie. A war has happened some 30 years prior and sucked the color out of the sky, most of the people from the earth, and all the King James Bibles from the physical plane. The enigmatic Eli, stoic as a monk, plods along the road with his precious cargo safely tucked away inside a dusty backpack. (Everything is dusty in this film.) His occasional encounters with other human beings prove less than encouraging – bandits, cannibals, and illiterates haunt the American interstate highway system – until he arrives at a dingy little wreck of a town overseen by Carnegie (Oldman), a teapot dictator with a yen for the Good Book. Dust ensues, but for all its grit and detritus, *The Book of Eli* is a well-polished movie. (01/22/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, 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-Tarantino hipster-shoot-'em-up, it seemed oddly dated back when it received a microrelease 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 rise 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. *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." Even fans of these blood-soaked bouncing Murphys might think twice before giving the downward-spiraling director a third chance. (12/04/2009) – Marc Savlov
★ Tinseltown South



BROKEN EMBRACES D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Penélope Cruz, Lluís Homar, Blanca Portillo, José Luis Gómez, Rubén Ochendiano, Tamar Novas, Ángela Molina, Rossy de Palma. (R, 127 min., subtitled)

Ever the lush and melodramatic filmmaker, Almodóvar appears to be adding a bit of narrative suspense to his storytelling in *Broken Embraces*. Starring his longtime muse Cruz, the film is about mad love and its consequences, but *Broken Embraces* is as much about the art of filmmaking as anything else. It takes place in the past and the present and features characters who assume different names as the story progresses. Although it's not particularly hard to follow, the story is convoluted, and the visuals are rich, color-drenched, and intricate. *Broken Embraces* is also thematically layered. At times, it looks as though the film might be the love child of Douglas Sirk and Alfred Hitchcock, with its dramatic broad strokes, iconic reds, and teasing narrative clues. In the third act, events pile on at an excessive rate and the subplots also come into greater play. The experience can be heady and delirium-provoking, but hey, that's cinema for you. (01/08/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

BROTHERS

D: Jim Sheridan; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire, Sam Shepard, Mare Winningham, Bailee Madison, Taylor Geare, Clifton Collins Jr. (R, 110 min.)

Inferior in practically every way to Danish director Susanne Bier's original *Brødre* – but now with more U2! – *Brothers* draws from two rampaging traditions, Greek tragedy and romantic melodrama, and renders both weirdly inert. Maguire plays the elder Cahill brother, Sam, a captain in the Marines; an attentive husband to his high school sweetheart, Grace (Portman); and a devoted father to two little girls. *Brothers*, in its most effective and engrossing stretches, examines the malleability of the roles the various Cahills are assigned, either by themselves or by others. All the actors do well enough, but they don't mesh at all – it's as if everyone's acting in his or her own movie – and there's simply no lived-in quality to the film. Sheridan and scripter David Benioff stick closely to the bullet points of the original but can't seem to translate the rich complexity of the characters and the choices they make. (12/11/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Tinseltown South



CRAZY HEART D: Scott Cooper; with Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Robert Duvall, Jack Nation, Ryan Bingham, Colin Farrell. (R, 111 min.)

You'd never guess that *Crazy Heart* is the work of a first-time filmmaker, but it is, and while the story is as old and true as the broken-down country & western balladeer at the heart of it, nearly everything about Cooper's debut feels intimate and immediate and as emotionally raw as every country song that ever mattered. That's due almost entirely to Bridges' searing and sorrowful turn as the alcohol-basted and nicotine-stained C&W has-been Bad Blake. It's a performance that's magnificent in its road-weariness, and it's a measure of just how truly great an actor Bridges has matured into over the years. Backed (and haunted) by a blazingly fine soundtrack courtesy of T Bone Burnett and the late Stephen Bruton and a theme song (and screen appearance) by rising star Ryan Bingham, Bridges makes this sozzled and desperate ex-desperado – a cliché by any other name – as fresh and vital as one final shot at cowboy-poet redemption. (01/08/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

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This WEEKEND at Lake Creek

EDGE of DARKNESS*
(12:20 3:30) 7:00 10:00

LEGION*
(1:30 4:30) 7:45 10:30

THE BOOK OF ELI
(12:30 3:50) 7:15 10:20

UP IN THE AIR
(12:45 3:40) 6:45 9:40

SHERLOCK HOLMES
(1:00 4:15) 7:30 10:40

THE LOVELY BONES
(3:00) 6:30

it's Complicated
(12:10) 9:50

AVATAR HD DIGITAL SOUND
(12:00 4:00) 8:00

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Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:25 4:15 7:05 9:55
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35
NAMO VENKATESHA (NR) DBox Motion Chairs Fri. - Sun. 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:30
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DAYBREAKERS D: Michael Spierig, Peter Spierig; with Ethan Hawke, Willem Dafoe, Claudia Karvan, Sam Neill, Michael Dorman, Isabel Lucas, Jay Laga'aia. (R, 98 min.)

The populace of *Daybreakers* are vampires in a topsy-turvy world where children bus to school at 2 in the morning and the local coffeehouse slings blood like java brew. But the vampire community is in crisis: With humans hunted to near extinction, there's a serious food shortage, which is why hematologist Edward Dalton (Hawke) labors round the clock to come up with a blood substitute. Edward is a mournful, moral-high-horse kind of guy who gets by on animal blood and hates the rah-rah militarism of his little brother, Frankie (Dorman). When a small enclave of human resistance rightly senses Edward is a sympathizer, he goes off the grid to help manufacture a cure to vampirism. It's a little bit silly – as is Dafoe's Kentucky-fried cowboy mechanic named Elvis – but silly is fun. In fact, one wishes it were sillier still; *Daybreakers* is an ingeniously conceived, designed, and dressed piece, but whether the sex and the humor, huh? (01/08/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Tinseltown South

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

D: Tom Vaughan; with Brendan Fraser, Harrison Ford, Keri Russell, Jared Harris, Patrick Bauchau, Courtney B. Vance, Meredith Droeger, Diego Velazquez, Sam Hall. (PG, 105 min.)

It's unsurprising that the first movie released by the new film production outfit CBS Films is something that looks and tastes an awful lot like a TV movie of the week. A fatal juvenile disease, heroic parenting, a recalcitrant collaborator (Ford, also an executive producer), a ticking clock, and near-insurmountable odds give *Extraordinary Measures* all the dramatic arcs necessary for this type of thing. Yet the very predictability of those arcs and their outcomes dampens that which, under other circumstances, would be invigorating and inspirational. We would all like to believe that we would act as heroically for our children as parents John and Aileen Crowley (Fraser and Russell) do. However, the ideal world of this movie, which is inspired by a true story, leaves out numerous practical details. Most of the time, inspiration is simply not enough to get you through the hard times. (01/22/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS

D: Terry Gilliam; with Heath Ledger, Christopher Plummer, Tom Waits, Lily Cole, Andrew Garfield, Verne Troyer, Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell, Jude Law. (PG-13, 122 min.)

Christopher Plummer is delightful as this movie's master magician and impresario of the rickety Imaginarium, a traveling road show that features a mirrorlike portal into one's unconscious, but the real Parnassus here is Gilliam. In what has almost become his signature m.o., Gilliam rescues his film from the jaws of disaster – this time when his star Heath Ledger died abruptly midway through filming. Concocting a scenario that almost works seamlessly, three actors – Depp, Farrell, and Law – were enlisted to play different aspects of Tony, the name of Ledger's character who entices people to part with their money and trip through the Imaginarium. This “continuity snafu” is not what undermines *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. Instead, the problem resides with the story itself, or rather, the lack of story. Co-written with Charles McKeown, with whom Gilliam also wrote *Brazil* and *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, the scenario doesn't contain much activity beyond the initial setup. (01/08/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Dobie, Tinseltown South

IT'S COMPLICATED

D: Nancy Meyers; with Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, John Krasinski, Lake Bell, Caitlin Fitzgerald, Zoe Kazan, Hunter Parrish. (R, 118 min.)

The thing about *It's Complicated* is that it's not ... complicated. Writer-director Meyers has come to specialize in making wish-fulfillment fantasies for middle-aged women in which smart, professional, single, Caucasian women of a certain age have wonderful careers, picture-perfect homes, and love



affairs aplenty. In *It's Complicated*, Streep plays Jane Adler, a Santa Barbara, Calif., restaurateur who is 10 years divorced from Jake (Baldwin) when they begin having an affair. Also present in Jane's life is Adam (Martin), the architect who is overseeing the planned expansion of her already perfect home. Many are the amusing and knowing moments in this comedy, yet the fabric of Meyers' fantasy is too gossamer to sustain the weight of their truths. Streep, who is usually so impressive, seems little more than ordinary in this work, and Martin's unique talents are sadly wasted. Meyers has a good feel for contemporary comedy; it's reality, however, that slips through her grasp. (12/25/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Westgate

LEAP YEAR D: Anand Tucker; with Amy Adams, Matthew Goode, Adam Scott, John Lithgow, Noel O'Donovan, Kaitlin Olson. (PG, 97 min.)

Brit director Tucker's film is a soulless, Lifetime-lite flibbertigibbet of a movie. *Leap Year* is a desperately unfunny depiction of a Boston society-girl wannabe who, blanching and distressed in the face of yet another nonproposal from her cardiologist beau (Scott), secretly follows the ungroomee in question to Ye Auld Eire with plans to ensnare him on the titular date (according to some arcane leprechaun lore, it's doable in Dublin). Anna (Adams) is coiffed and costumed to resemble an uptown cross between *The Quiet Man*-era Maureen O'Hara and vintage Nicole Kidman, but the character is ill-flavored with a sort of ugly-American perkiness that sets your nerves on edge and makes you wonder in all seriousness if Tucker isn't employing some sort of wickedly dry, highly unsubtle cultural critique on both the U.S. and Ireland. *Leap Year* is a perfect template for romcom mediocrity, from its cookie-cutter script to the stupendously absent electricity between Adams and her coy Irish rover boy (Goode). (01/08/2010) – Marc Savlov

● Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown South

THE LOVELY BONES

D: Peter Jackson; with Saoirse Ronan, Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz, Susan Sarandon, Stanley Tucci, Michael Imperioli, Rose McIver, Reece Ritchie, Carolyn Dando. (PG-13, 135 min.)

Jackson has moved on from Middle-earth but, apparently, not so his interest in fictional worlds. The alternate world in this film, which is based on the bestseller by Alice Sebold, is the netherworld – the place between life and death, Earth and heaven, the place where souls linger when they are not yet ready to part from life. The storyline is horrifyingly disturbing and by all rights should be a heart-tugger: In 1973, a 14-year-old girl is murdered by a serial killer, and although her body is never recovered, her corporeal presence lingers in the in-between world observing her family. A story about the unbreakable bonds between parents and children is diverted by Jackson into a story about the CGI wow factor of his in-between world. His images, however, are fairly prosaic and commonplace. Although the performances are all very good, they fail to connect emotionally with the audience. (01/15/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Along Came Kinky ... Texas Jewboy for Governor

Along Came Kinky ... Texas Jewboy for Governor (2009) D: David Hartstein. (NR, 88 min.) **Screen Door Film & UT Documentary Center.** This documentary follows from beginning to end Kinky Friedman's grassroots campaign to be elected governor. The filmmaker will be present for a post-screening discussion moderated by Evan Smith of the Texas Tribune along with political strategists Jason Stanford and Laura Stromberg. The short film “Great Grandmama for Obama” by Micah Barber will screen first. @CMB Studio 4D (on the UT campus), Wednesday, 7pm; free.



THE MAID D: Sebastián Silva; with Catalina Saavedra, Claudia Celedón, Alejandro Goic, Andrea García-Huidobro, Mariana Loyola, Agustín Silva, Mercedes Villanueva, Anita Reeves. (NR, 93 min., subtitled)

Class resentments between maids and their employers are a familiar narrative theme. Usually, the stories end in outbursts of violent revenge committed by the downtrodden servant class. Despite its title, the Chilean film *The Maid* is not one of these stories, though it shares many common elements. The behavior of Raquel (Saavedra), this film's titular maid, can't be thoroughly explained away by class analysis. Raquel's behavior is more inscrutable, more pathological, and more human than any dialectical formula can explicate. Winner of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Grand Jury Prize, *The Maid* is an intriguing psychological study that, more or less, leaves out the psychology and presents us with surface behavior. Saavedra's central performance is remarkable. Not only is it free of vanity, it also shows the malleability of the human body as an outward indicator of inner sentiments. Silva films the drama with a handheld video camera that allows for greater intimacy, though not necessarily better images. (01/22/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor

NAMO VENKATESA

D: Srinu Vytla; with Venkatesh, Trisha Krishnan, Brahmanandam. (NR)

Not reviewed at press time. This is a new Telegu-language romantic comedy. (01/22/2010)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Highland

NINE

D: Rob Marshall; with Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Penélope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench, Kate Hudson, Sophia Loren, Ricky Tognazzi. (PG-13, 118 min.)

For a film director whom we're told is creatively blocked, Guido Contini (Day-Lewis) has a rich panorama of images cascading about his brain. Most of his images are of the women in his life dancing about elaborate stages in corsets. Marshall has gathered an impressive stable of on- and off-screen talent but never gets these various pieces to jell. It's a bold move to film a musical with cast members who, apart from Fergie and Cotillard, are not known to possess any singing or dancing skills. Each musical number gives the appearance of having been doctored to within an inch of its life with crazy pans, cuts, differing film stocks, jewel-bedecked costumes, and eye-catching movements constantly grabbing our focus. Day-Lewis also performs and dances two numbers obligingly, but the chinks in this great actor's performance arsenal show. Also, much of the film's music is instantly forgettable. (12/25/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Arbor



RED CLIFF D: John Woo; with Tony Leung, Zhang Fengyi, Yong You, Chang Chen, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Chiling Lin, Zhao Wei, Hu Jun, Shidou Nakamura. (R, 148 min., subtitled)

Woo's stateside time has been less than bracing, with only 1997's *Face/Off* coming anywhere near the holy-shit-did-I-just-see-that?! bullet-riddled ballet of Woo's better yesterdays. *Red Cliff*, now the biggest box-office smash in Chinese history, is being buzzed as Woo's return to form, although it should be noted that what American audiences are seeing is a condensed version of Woo's original cut, down to slightly more than two-and-a-half hours from five. In some respects it is a return to the ballistic ballets of Hong Kong-era Woo, only this time the projectiles are sheathed in quivers instead of shoulder holsters: Tens of thousands of arrows darken the sky

as Woo's epic retelling of an ancient Chinese battle from the 14th-century Han Dynasty unfolds. So many are the tactical twists and strategy turns that it's tempting to synopsise the whole thing as Dresden on the Yangtze and leave it at that. The real reason to see this behemoth of a battle is its epic scale. (01/22/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Dobie

SHERLOCK HOLMES

D: Guy Ritchie; with Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong, Eddie Marsan, Kelly Reilly, James Fox, Hans Matheson, Geraldine James. (PG-13, 128 min.)

Ritchie has reinvented the chilly, brainiac character of Sherlock Holmes as a tortured genius, ladies' man (sort of), and occasional backroom brawler. As played by Downey Jr. (an inspired casting choice that works in the film's favor), this incarnation is a post-millennial man of action. With Watson (Law, another spot-on bit of casting) at his side, Holmes uncovers a satanic plot that takes him from the lowliest subterranean hell-holes to the highest levels of Parliament. Ritchie manages to mostly restrain his more florid directorial flourishes while creating a CGI London so benighted and soot-heavy you can practically smell it. This is Downey Jr.'s film all the way, and while literary traditionalists and Baker Street Irregulars (of which I am one) may find this Holmes' penchant for face-crunching fisticuffs and back-alley chases a sad sop to the action-jaded audiences of the 21st century, the actor's more masculine interpretation of the character is never anything less than startling, fresh, and altogether entertaining. (12/25/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



A SINGLE MAN D: Tom Ford; with Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Matthew Goode, Nicholas Hoult, Jon Kortajarena, Ginnifer Goodwin, Paulette Goddard. (R, 99 min.)

George Falconer (Firth) is a middle-aged, British expat teaching at a southern California university in 1962. A closeted homosexual by cultural necessity, he's possessed of monumental outward conformity. On the face of it, the immaculately groomed and exceedingly dry George is preparing for yet another day in the classroom. But beneath that lies the real George, a heartsick shell of a man who is grieving the accidental death of his longtime companion Jim (Goode). Adapted from the novel by Christopher Isherwood, *A Single Man* is an exquisite and haunting feature debut from fashion designer/icon Tom Ford. It's a melancholy meditation on love and death and hidden lives, and Ford brings everything he has to the film, not least of which is his picture-perfect designer's eye for detail, composition, and the infinite subtleties of narrative shading. Everything fits perfectly, from titles to *fin*, but most of all Firth, who dons the role of George like a fine bespoke suit. Which, Ford being Ford, it surely was. (01/15/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor



Chalk

Chalk (2007) D: Mike Akel; with Troy Schremmer, Chris Mass, Janelle Schremmer, Shannon Haragan, Jeff Guerrero. (PG-13, 85 min.) **Austin Public Library: Lights. Camera. Austin.** Made by teachers for teachers, this local indie offers no easy answers to its statistic that 50% of teachers quit within their first three years on the job. Mass, who co-stars in the film, will be present for a post-screening Q&A. (*) @Windsor Park Library, Tuesday, 6:30pm; free.



Son of a Lion

Son of a Lion (2007) D: Benjamin Gilmour; with Niaz Khan Shinwari, Sher Alam Miskeen Ustad. (NR, 92 min.) **Austin Film Society: Children of Abraham/Ibrahim 4 – Films of the Middle East and Beyond.** In northwestern Pakistan, a young boy wants an education although his father will not permit him to go to school. However, there is greater complexity to the father's decision than initially meets the eye. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$6, AFS members free.

THE SPY NEXT DOOR D: Brian Levant; with Jackie Chan, Amber Valletta, George Lopez, Billy Ray Cyrus, Madeline Carroll, Will Shadley, Magnús Scheving, Alina Foley, Lucas Till. (PG, 92 min.)

There was a time when the arrival of a new Jackie Chan movie was an event to be celebrated, a film to be seen, and its own hybrid art form, combining incandescent star wattage and impossibly entertaining physicality – a thing to be marveled over, really. But that was last century, and the Chan we knew and loved, the Chan who contorted (and frequently fractured) his lithe, Peking Opera-trained body into a spellbinding, often comic, acrobatic exclamation point on the very tip of action cinema, has been missing for years now. Certainly the Chan of yore is nowhere to be found in *The Spy Next Door*, which casts the actor as a deep-cover CIA spook with parenting issues. *Spy* recycles the most irritating and silly parts of recent Chan films and then adds both children and – the end has got to be nigh, seriously – Billy Ray Cyrus into the mix. Moth-eaten pratfalls are no substitute for actual kickassery. (01/22/2010) – Marc Savlov

● Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

3 IDIOTS D: Rajkumar Hirani; with Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Madhavan, Boman Irani, Sharman Joshi. (NR, 172 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Two friends embark on a quest for their lost buddy in this new Bollywood comedy. (12/18/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

TO SAVE A LIFE D: Brian Baugh; with Randy Wayne, Deja Kreutzberg, Joshua Weigel, Robert Bailey Jr., Kim Hidalgo, Sean Michael, Bubba Lewis, Steven Crowder, D. David Morin. (PG-13, 120 min.)

You, too, can prevent teenage suicides, if you reach out as a good Christian ... or something like that. *To Save a Life* is a well-meaning but ineptly made message movie. However, the screenplay by Jim Britts, a first-time scriptwriter, and the direction by Baugh, a cinematographer-turned-director, are clumsy and ham-handed, though the performances by a mostly teenaged cast are better than might be expected, considering the circumstances. Of course, the light and love of Jesus Christ is shown to be the path to righteous behavior, yet the film doesn't resort to the Good Book and its liturgy to make its points. Over the course of two hours and a plethora of background music, Jake (Wayne) suffers all the ills common to modern American teens: parental divorce, unplanned pregnancy, peer pressure, suicidal friends, and more. The filmmaking goes back and forth between choppy and sluggish, with mismatched shots and sound discontinuity prevalent. (01/22/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

● Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown South

A TOWN CALLED PANIC D: Stéphane Aubier, Vincent Patar; with the voices of Vincent Patar, Stéphane Aubier, Bruce Ellison, Jeanne Balibar, Nicolas Buisse. (NR, 75 min., subtitled)

A *Town Called Panic* is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. This whimsical, Belgian import imagines a primary-colored world in which tiny toy cowboy, Indian, and horse figures come alive and find themselves in all manner of goofy yet compelling adventures. The film has won a cult following already – not least because its creators have been steadily churning out variations on this same claymation horse/cowboy/Indian theme for almost a decade now and picking up numerous awards along the way. That's as it should be: *A Town Called Panic* is nothing if not original, combining as it does the autonomous magic inherent in stop-motion with a decidedly Belgian sense of the absurd. However, even at a trim 75 minutes, this feature feels overlong and colorfully overwhelming. It's one thing to watch Aubier and Patar's 10-minute episodes in a festival situation or while surfing the Web and quite another to spend more than an hour with these zany, nattering yokels. (01/22/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

UP IN THE AIR D: Jason Reitman; with George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman, Amy Morton, Melanie Lynskey, J.K. Simmons, Sam Elliott, Danny McBride. (R, 109 min.)

Either by design or default, Reitman has customized a film perfectly in tune with these economically distressed, tetchy times, which may explain the near-universal hosannas with which *Up in the Air* has been met. Reitman sets the film in motion with an opening-credit sequence that highlights how America's vistas look from up above – apropos, considering that's where “career transition counselor” Ryan Bingham (Clooney) spends most of his time. Bingham, by choice, is a man without country or close ties, but very quickly two women (Farmiga and Kendrick) arrive in his life to shake up the status quo. Reitman's instincts, of both timing and tone, can feel just a hair off in the film's imperfect first and third acts. But the middle is terrific, especially in a lengthy, unassuming scene in which the three leads sit, sip drinks, and have a good chat: It marks one of the great celluloid pleasures of the year, so virtuosically written, performed, and filmed is it. (12/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown South, Westgate

VEER D: Anil Sharma; with Salman Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Bianca Van Varenberg, Jackie Shroff. (NR, 168 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Veer is the name of an Indian man who courageously fights against the British Empire in this Bollywood epic. (01/22/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

THE YOUNG VICTORIA D: Jean-Marc Vallée; with Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, Jim Broadbent, Mark Strong, Thomas Kretschmann, Jesper Christensen, Harriet Walter. (PG, 100 min.)

How young is young Victoria? At the film's beginning, she's just 17, with all the sullenness you would expect from a shut-in future queen fending off attack from her *maman* and prospective suitors cherry-picked by two kings. Blunt convincingly portrays the Princess Victoria as bullied and slightly silly but, most of all, desperately alone. Scriptwriter Julian Fellowes makes admirable work of shorthanding the complicated lineages and motives and maneuverings. Director Vallée leans on candlelight for several key scenes, and the effect is not only gorgeous but also intimates the deepening attachment between Victoria and Albert – one that was mutually felt but not spoken about plainly. (Having just earned her independence, Victoria isn't keen on giving it up again so soon.) All told, *The Young Victoria* is a very well-made if not especially memorable picture, moving with all the grace and steadfastness of a waltz Victoria and Albert share, but absent any urgency or anything particularly exclamatory. (12/25/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Arbor



YOUTH IN REVOLT D: Miguel Arteta; with Michael Cera, Portia Doubleday, Jean Smart, Zach Galifianakis, Mary Kay Place, Justin Long, Fred Willard, Ray Liotta, Steve Buscemi, Ari Graynor, Adhir Kalyan. (R, 90 min.)

Taken from C.D. Payne's early Nineties epistolary novel, *Youth in Revolt* chronicles the tortured life of Nick Twisp (Cera), a teen living mostly friendlessly in Oakland, Calif. Nick's life takes a turn for the better, however, when a family outing to a trailer park puts him in the path of Sheeni Saunders (Doubleday). She's sharp, educated, and cool to touch, at home in bikinis and Fifties shirtdresses. She drives Nick wild. Cera is fine here, and his range broadens some when Nick invents an alter ego named François – chain-smoking, troublemaking – because, as Nick puts it, “my one and only love wants me to be bad.” Gustin Nash's script consistently delivers on situational laughs, even if he never shades in the characters beyond mere pencil sketch. And given the edgy bent of director Arteta's stand-out earlier work (*The Good Girl*, *Chuck & Buck*), there's a surprising lack of bite to the film. (01/08/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Tinseltown South

also playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

THE BLIND SIDE ★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS ★★★ Movies 8

COUPLES RETREAT ● Movies 8

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL ★★ Movies 8, Millennium

FANTASTIC MR. FOX ★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Movies 8, Dobie

NINJA ASSASSIN ● Movies 8

PLANET 51 ★ Movies 8

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG ★★★★★ Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE ROAD ★★★ Tinseltown South

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON ★ Gateway, Metropolitan

2012 ★★ Movies 8

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE ★★★★★ Movies 8

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FRI, JAN 29	HERZOG'S MY SON, MY SON	400	500	745	1030						
	MASTER PANCAKE TRANSFORMERS			700	1015						
SAT, JAN 30	HERZOG'S MY SON, MY SON	220	500	745	1030						
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	MASTER PANCAKE FORREST GUMP			700	1015						
SUN, JAN 31	HERZOG'S MY SON, MY SON	220	345	500	745						
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	ACTION PACK THEATER TERMINATOR 2				930						
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TUE, FEB 2	HERZOG'S MY SON, MY SON	400	500	745	1030						
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	TERROR TUES: JD'S REVENGE				945						
WED, FEB 3	MY SON, MY SON	400	500	635	745	920	1030				
	WEIRD WEDS BLACK CAESAR						MID				
THU, FEB 4	MY SON, MY SON	400	500	745	1030						
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	ACTION PACK LOVE BITES SING-ALONG				700						

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SHERLOCK HOLMES	1245*	400	725	1030					
IMAGINARIUM DR. PARNASSUS	1230	340	705	1000					
A TOWN CALLED PANIC	1130			1025					
FANTASTIC MR. FOX		1115a		Sa/Su					
Kids' Clubs: THE 7 FACES OF DR. LAO		1100a		Sat					
Free Sneak Screening: DISTRICT 13 ULTIM.		730p		Mon					
AFS Essential: SON OF A LION		700p		Tues					
TV at the Alamo: LOST (SEASON PREMIERE)		945p		Tues					

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THE LOVELY BONES	1230*	355	720						
EDGE OF DARKNESS	1245*	345	700	955					
YOUTH IN REVOLT				945					
Action Pack: THE 1999 SING-ALONG				MID	Fri				
ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW				MID	Sat				
TV at the ALAMO: LOST (SEASON PREMIERE)				1000	Tues				
Action Pack: MOULIN ROUGE SING-ALONG				1015	Wed				

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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 28

1999 Sing-Along Action Pack.

@Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Natural Selection (1999) *D: Mark Bristol; with David Carradine, Michael Bowen, Darren Burrows, Joe Unger, Bob Balaban. (NR, 90 min.)* **Austin Film Festival Presents.** This locally shot black comedy examines the bizarre feedback loop that exists among celebrity psychopaths, the increasingly tabloidized mainstream news media, and, not least, our own bad selves. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$4, AFF members free.

Old School Quote-Along Keg Party (2003)

D: Todd Phillips; with Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, Luke Wilson. (R, 91 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Sambho Siva Sambho (2010)

D: P. Samudrakhani; with Raviteja, Allari Naresh, Siva Balaji, Suneel, Priyamani. (NR, 148 min.) In this Telegu-language movie, three jobless Indian individuals risk everything to help two other jobless friends get married. @Tinseltown South, 4:45, 8:45pm.

White Lightnin' (2009) *D: Dominic Murphy; with Edward Hogg, Carrie Fisher. (NR, 92 min.)* **Vice Magazine Presents.** If you've ever seen Jacob Young's documentary series, *Dancing Outlaw*, which profiles the Appalachian clog dancer Jesco White, you're already familiar with the subject of *White Lightnin'*. This British film is inspired by White's tumultuous life story and turns it into a hillbilly Gothic. The film won the jury prize for Best First Feature at last year's Sundance Film Festival. Vice magazine will present special giveaways. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

SPACES

"It All Adds Up" *D: Sue Marx, Allyson Rockwell, Bob Berg.* **United Way of Capital Area and KLRU-TV: Live United Film Series.** The film profiles the teachers and students of Wayne State University's Math Corps, a groundbreaking organization that partners struggling middle and high school students with collegians. A moderated discussion with community leaders and issue experts will follow, and information on volunteer opportunities will be available. @Austin City Limits Studio 6A, 6pm; free but please RSVP at www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

Szygy Avant Cinema. Jennifer Lane will be on hand to present her experimental films "Fawn" (2003, 5 min.), "Use as Directed" (1999, 3 min.) and "begin again at zero" (1999, 6 min.). Complementing the program are some short classics from the early days of woman-identified experimental cinema. These are "My Name Is Oona" by Gunvor Nelson (1969, 10 min.), "Amanita" by Vic Atkinson (1974, 9 min.), "Sweet Dreams" by Freude Bartlett (1970, 3 min.), and "La Prisonnière" by René Laloux and Philippe Caza (1988, 7 min.). @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7pm; \$6, \$4 AFS members.

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SPACES

The Mama's Guest (Mehman-e Maman) (2004) *D: Dariush Mehrjui; with Golab Adineh, Amin Hayayee, Parsa Pirouzfar, Hassan Pourshirazi. (NR, 107 min.)* **Center for Middle Eastern Studies.** This social comedy from veteran director Mehrjui (*The Cow*) doubles as a love story to cinema itself. Co-star Pirouzfar will be present for a Q&A after the screening. @Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus), 2pm; free.

SUNDAY 31

Amadeus: Director's Cut (2002)

D: Milos Forman; with F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce, Elizabeth Berridge, Simon Callow, Jeffrey Jones. (R, 180 min.) **Movies & Music: PKW Productions.** Supplementing Forman's multiple-Oscar-winning biopic of the musical prodigy will be live orchestral concerts prior to the screening and during intermission. Renowned bassist and composer P.K. Waddle and the musicians of PKW Productions will perform. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm.

Ninotchka (1939)

See p.65.

Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)

D: James Cameron; with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Edward Furlong, Robert Patrick. (R, 137 min.) **Action Pack Theater.** Expect big bangs on- and off-screen. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

MONDAY 01

dublax Live Music Monday. The show includes rarely seen music videos, new dublab VisionVersion films, comedy clips, out-there animation, a discussion with the curators Frosty & Morpho, and more. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 The return of an annual favorite, the new compilation features a whole new array of Japanese television weirdness. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Groundhog Day (1993) *D: Harold Ramis; with Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott, Stephen Tobolowsky. (PG, 103 min.)* **Movie Mundi: Romance Month.** Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 7:30pm.

TUESDAY 02

Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man

(1943) *D: Roy William Neill; with Lon Chaney Jr., Patric Knowles, Ilona Massey, Bela Lugosi, Maria Ouspenskaya, Lionel Atwill. (NR, 72 min.)* **Big Screen Classics.** Chaney's the werewolf, and Lugosi is Frankenstein's monster. It's a definite meeting of the monsters. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Groundhog Day (1993) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:30, 7:30pm.

J.D.'s Revenge (1976) *D: Arthur Marks; with Louis Gossett Jr., Alice Jubert, David McKnight. (R, 95 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Blaxploitation mainstay Marks directs this picture about a 1940s pimp seeking vengeance from beyond the grave. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Son of a Lion (2007) See p.67.

SPACES

Chalk (2007) See p.66.

WEDNESDAY 03

Black Caesar (1973) *D: Larry Cohen; with Fred Williamson, Gloria Hendry, Art Lund, D'Urville Martin, Julius Harris. (R, 87 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** This is one of the essential works of blaxploitation cinema and tells the story of a Harlem man's rise from shoeshine boy to mob kingpin. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Carmen (2010) *D: Richard Eyre. (NR, 210 min.)* **Metropolitan Opera: Encore Presentation.** Eyre debuts as a director at the Met with this new production of the popular Georges Bizet opera. Elina Garanca and Roberto Alagna perform the leads with Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting. @Hill Country Galleria, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, CM Cedar Park, 6:30pm.

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001) *D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. (PG-13, 127 min.)* **Action Pack.** If Nicole can do it, so can you. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/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 its 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 at the start of this new decade, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, screenwriting essentials, introductions to Dreamweaver and Fetch, 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. www.channelaustin.org.

Dobie Theatre: Back-to-School Poster Sale Movie posters and other film-related items and swag: cheap, cheap, cheap! Jan. 22-31. Fri., 3-10pm; Sat.-Sun., noon-10pm. Dobie Theatre, 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM. www.landmarktheatres.com.

Reel Women: First Monday Mixer offers Reel Women members and others an opportunity to meet one another, find collaborators, and talk about past, current, and future projects. Mon., Feb. 1, 6-8pm. Stompin' Ground, 3801 S. Congress, 480-9291. www.reelwomen.org.

Reel Women: Lighting Workshop With PJ Raval The award-winning filmmaker will share his secrets for getting the "right look" in this hands-on workshop. Sat., Jan. 30, 1-4pm. Picture Box Studios, 701 Tillery. \$40 (\$25, Reel Women members). 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.

SXSW Seeks HD Shooters and Final Cut Editors South by Southwest Film, Music and Interactive is in need of experienced volunteers for its production and post-production teams March 12-21. The HD production teams will be documenting the festival's panels, keynotes, red carpet premieres, and music showcases. Volunteers in the program will be compensated with a platinum SXSW badge. Shooters with their own HD cameras are preferred. Editors need to be proficient with Final Cut. Production internships at SXSW are also available for more ambitious applicants. Production interns have more responsibilities including managing media, scheduling volunteers, and working with staff on production workflow. Submit résumé, demo reel, or a link to your work to: newmedia@sxsw.com.

SPACES

Along Came Kinky ... Texas Jewboy for Governor (2009) See p.66.

THURSDAY 04

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Drafthouse Ritz, 10:20pm.

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001) Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Wednesday.)

"Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision of the American West" D: Annette McGivney; narrated by Holter Graham. (NR, 30 min.)

Save Our Springs. The story of Glen Canyon – its flooding by Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell and its resurrection by drought – are captured in this film and accompanying book. McGivney will be present for the screening, discussion, and a booksigning. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 6:30pm; \$10 suggested donation; make reservations by e-mailing pat@sosalliance.org.

SPACES

The Philosopher Kings (2009) D: Patrick Shen. (NR, 70 min.) **Reel Women.** Searching for wisdom in unlikely places, this documentary interviews eight custodians at several of the nation's top universities to hear their untold stories. @Picture Box, 7pm; \$7, \$5 Reel Women members.

imax

Avatar (2009) D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.) (*) Thu. (1/28)-Thu. (2/4), 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15pm.

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. (1/28)-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (2/4), 10am.

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. (1/28)-Sat., 11am; Mon.-Thu. (2/4), 11am.



Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film



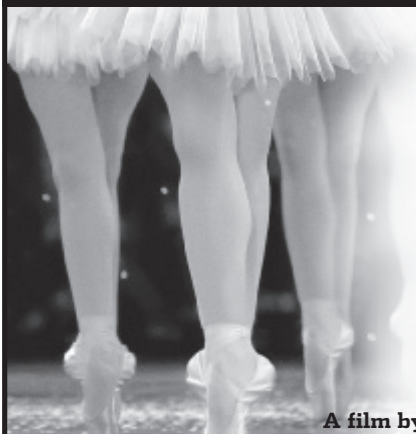
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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR JAN. 29 TO FEB. 4

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings

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THE LINEUP



ATX DIY Fest

The Broken Neck, Friday 29-Sunday 31

Local radio pirates KAOS and metal pushers Burnt Bridges Records combine forces for (insert monster truck rally voiceover here): *three days of*

no-holds-barred hardcore action! It'll be a largely local affair, featuring literally every punk/metal/hardcore sub-subgenre documented to date and a few that are probably made up on the spot. The TXHC cabal features Condemned Unit, Kill the Client, Dissent, Doom Siren, Akkolyte, and Kegcharge,

to name just a few. L.A. thrashers Insecticide headline Friday, while Canadian anarchist metal group Iskra brings harsh realms to Saturday and New Jersey's Lethal Aggression vents on Sunday. Starts 8pm Friday, 3pm Saturday and Sunday. www.kaosradioaustin.org.

— Audra Schroeder

in-stores

Friday: **Girls**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; **Dex Romweber Duo, Exene Cervenka**, End of an Ear, 6pm; **Evil Come, Evil Go; Love Bones**, Trailer Space, 7pm
Saturday: **Mutant Press, Something Called Nothing, Bike Problems**, Trailer Space, 7pm.
Sunday: **Danny Barnes**, Waterloo Records, 5pm
Wednesday: The **Texas Sapphires**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

DEX ROMWEBER DUO, EXENE CERVENKA

Emo's, Friday 29

Play a deck of post-punk cards and you'll deal out Exene Cervenka as queen and Dex Romweber as jack of all sounds. Cervenka's soaring vocals made her grande dame of L.A. punk decades ago singing in X, while guitarist Romweber's Flat Duo Jets was stripped down before stripped-down was cool. On hot title *Ruins of Berlin*, he's teamed with drummer/sister Sara for a little sibling chivalry.

— Margaret Moser

HATRED SURGE

Domy Books, Saturday 30

Boutique bookseller Domy presents the first Austin solo exhibition by Houstonian wheat-paster Give Up, featuring his forays into sculpture and installation art, as well as his trademark fly-post art and photography. L.A.-based radio streamers Dublab provide music indoors, while the outdoor stage bears the weight of local power violence quartet Hatred Surge and Zappa-meets-Minutemen punk of Intervention Net, both from the same hardcore scene that produced Give Up. 7pm, free.

— Daniel Mee

GIDON THE MIGHTY WARRIOR

The Parish, Sunday 31

With help from Gidon the Mighty Warrior and his brother Quincy Ockletree's Public Offenders, local hip-hop project the Cipher has facilitated the MC development of some of Austin's finest young talent. This quadruple bill of social activism and cultural consciousness pits student before teacher as the Cipher's elite rappers drop jewels alongside Gidon, Public Offenders, and ATX mainstays Blacklisted Individuals. Expect collaborations.

— Chase Hoffberger

THE RESIDENTS

Stubb's, Tuesday 2

Since forming in Shreveport, La., four decades ago, the Residents have done an admirable job of coloring outside the lines. From their adopted home of San Francisco, the mysterious eyeball quartet has released a dizzying number of primitive electro albums since 1974 debut *Meet the Residents*. This is their first live tour in two decades, so hopefully they've had plenty of time to squeegee that third eye.

— Audra Schroeder

FRODE GJERSTAD TRIO

Space 12, Tuesday 2

Epistrophy Arts tops last spring's Ken Vandermark/Ab Baars Victory Grill fog-out with its inaugural 2010 performance. Norwegian alto saxophonist Frode Gjerstad brings years of collaborative experience to this free-jazz meet-up, which includes drummer and fellow countryman Paal Nilssen-Love (The Thing, Peter Brötzmann) and UK double bassist Nick Stephens. All this at Space 12, a new performance space off Airport and 12th. 8pm.

— Audra Schroeder

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

Stubb's, Thursday 4

Takes a fierce songwriter to quell a yard full of Pogues fanatics with only an acoustic guitar, but that's just what JTE did outside at Stubb's a few nights shy of Halloween. By the end of 2009, his Bloodshot Records bow *Midnight at the Movies* had screened an Americana favorite, marrying Rhett Miller to Bob Dylan in the ancient art of Southern Gothic. Inside the barbecue joint, Earle joins Dawn Landes at the bar.

— Raoul Hernandez

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

YO LA TENGO/GIRLS
Antone's/The Parish, Friday 29
Sold out.

WILLIE HEATH NEAL
Beerland, Friday 29
Local skronky-tonkers Chicken Ranch dish outlaw country from Nashville.

CHRISTEENE EP RELEASE
Elysium, Friday 29
See "Bravo/Brava," Screens, p.40.

DANNY BARNES
Emo's, Saturday 30
See "Texas Platters," p.48.

RATAS DEL VATICANO
Beerland, Saturday 30
Scuzzcore via Monterrey. Locals the Hex Dispensers headline; ANS and Criaturas open.

10TH ANNUAL BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE TOUR
Flamingo Cantina, Tuesday 2
Groundation celebrates a decade of toasting Jamaica's patron saint.

ROD KENNEDY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY
Paramount Theatre, Tuesday 2
See "Off the Record," p.45.

SONDRE LERCHE
The Parish, Wednesday 3
Norwegian pop on the Heartbeat Radio.

FRED EAGLESMITH
Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 3
Miranda Lambert covered his "Time to Get a Gun," but the Canadian folkie lived it.

LIZZ KING
Club 1808, Thursday 4
Baltimore multi-instrumentalist knocks over the strobe with locals Metal Bunnies, Spiked Punch, and Magic Jewels.

live music venues p.72 ● roadshows + club listings p.74



L - R: DEX ROMWEBER DUO (FRI., 1/29) | FRODE GJERSTAD TRIO (TUE., 2/2) | THE RESIDENTS (TUE., 2/2) | FRED EAGLESMITH (WED., 2/3)

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Saturday, January 30th
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Saturday, February 6th
JASON ALLEN

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 CIENFUEGOS cuban SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 AUSTIN FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC SHOWCASE 8-9PM 1001 NIGHTS ORCHESTRA 6:30-7:30PM RATTLETREE MARIMBA 5-6PM BIG JUG BAND SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 CHRIS BELL QUARTET jazz FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 GINGER LEIGH pop folk rock SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 THE LOST PINES americana, bluegrass	THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 LEFT OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON world music FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 NOELLE HAMPTON soul grooves SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 BRUCE JAMES SOULTET straight-up soul SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 SENIOR GATO latin WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY SPENCER THOMAS every Wednesday \$2 Shiners, BBQ specials, & blues!
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at north lamar: FEB 7 - The Tea Merchants FEB 12 - Ukemi FEB 13 - Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces FEB 14 - Tameca Jones Quartet FEB 19 - Son Y No Son FEB 20 - Dustin Welch	at westgate: FEB 4 - Jarrod Dickenson FEB 5 - Ruby Jane Show FEB 6 - Jonas Alvarez FEB 7 - MilkDrive FEB 10 - Jimi Lee Trio FEB 11 - John Arthur Martinez FEB 12 - Betty Soo
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38TH & MEDICAL

THURS, JAN 28, 7PM: SLACKEY FAMILY BAND
SAT, JAN 30, 7PM: MATT CREATON
TUES, FEB 2, 7PM: MICHAEL REAUX & THE OUTRIDERS
WED, FEB 3, 7PM: PTARMIGAN

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FAT TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

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THURS, JAN 28, 10PM KARAOKE WITH NOTORIOUS S.I.D.
FRI, JAN 29, 10PM: WYNN TAYLOR
FREE TEXAS HOLD 'EM 9PM & 11:30PM
SAT, JAN 30, 10PM: BENTLI
SUN, JAN 31, 10PM: OPEN MIC NIGHT

WYNN TAYLOR JANUARY 29TH

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CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI

• FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY // 10PM
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FRIDAY & SATURDAY WITH
DENNY FREEMAN

SUNDAY WITH
DEREK O'BRIEN

• MONDAY // 10PM
BRUCE JAMES SOULTET

• TUESDAY // 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE

• WEDNESDAY
10PM: **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
EVERY WED. 8-10PM: **JON BLONDELL**

THUR
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PLANET CASPER

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11:30PM

JONATHAN RICHMAN 10:30PM

IZZY COX 10:30PM
FRIDAY JANUARY 29
HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY BLUE SPECIALISTS

BRUCE ROBISON 12AM

SHURMAN 10PM
SATURDAY JANUARY 30
MATINEE 3-7PM **REDD VOLKAERT**

DERAILERS 12AM

MOONHANGERS 10PM
SUNDAY JANUARY 31
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT** AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

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TONI PRICE MUDPHONIC

WED FEBRUARY 3
H. H. **STONE RIVER BOYS** 10:30PM

JAMES Mc MURTRY 10:30PM

KEVIN WELCH 10:30PM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER TEXAS SAPPHIRES 11:30PM

THE COVETERS 10PM
FEATURING SUZANNA CHOFFEL, DAN DYER, WARREN HOOD, ED JURDI & JEFF BOTTA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5
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SAT FEBRUARY 27TH
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FRIDAY FEB 27TH
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BOB FLOYD BAND
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SXSW 2010 Interactive Opening Remarks and Keynotes:



DANIEL EK

In addition to social networking expert **danah boyd**, who will give the festival's opening remarks on Saturday, March 13, and Spotify CEO **Daniel Ek**, who will participate in a keynote interview on Tuesday, March 16, we're pleased to announce two more keynote presentations:

SUNDAY KEYNOTE: **Valerie Casey**, founder and Executive Director of the Designers Accord

MONDAY KEYNOTE INTERVIEW: Twitter CEO **Evan Williams** and **Umair Haque** of the Havas Media Lab

Visit **SXSW.COM/INTERACTIVE** for more speaker news.



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EVAN WILLIAMS



club listings

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ★ RECOMMENDED ♪ HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 28

ANTONE'S Earle Brown, Ouachita, No Justice (9:00) R

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Mike Nicolai, Dark Water Hymnal

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Chad Henson (8:00)

BEERLAND Simple Circuit, A Giant Dog ☺

BESO CANTINA Player One (Version 3.0) (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Shake Russell (8:30) R

CAFE CAFFEINE Open Mic

CAROUSEL LOUNGE George Macias, Patrick Cooper, John Craigie, Valerie Cochran (7:00) R

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Left of Sunday Afternoon (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Honeybrowne (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), Izzy Cox, Jonathan Richman (10:00) ☺ R

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Ricky Stein (6:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

roadshows

january

THU 28

No Justice, Ouachita, Antone's
Shake Russell, Cactus Cafe
John Craigie, Carousel Lounge
Jonathan Richman, Continental Club

All the Day Holiday, Kinch, City Lives, Searcher, Emo's
Dimitri's Ascent, Flamingo Cantina

Zest of Yore, the Demigs, Mohawk

Bob Floyd Band, Momo's
Fiery Furnaces, Drug Rug, the Parish

Meggan Carney, Saxon Pub
Buttercup, Stubb's
Bassturd, Triple Crown
Modern Don Juans, Trophy's

FRI 29

Yo La Tengo, Times New Viking, Antone's

Willie Heath Neal, Beerland
Insecticide, Akkolyte, Human Struggle, S.U.S., Broken Neck
Shurman, Continental Club
Dex Romweber Duo, Exene Cervenka, Emo's

Exene Cervenka, Dexter Romweber Duo, End of an Ear
Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown Texans, Flamingo Cantina

Todd Snider, Great American Taxi, Gruene Hall

Yuri Yunakov Ensemble, Hogg Auditorium

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, One World Theatre

Girls, Magic Kids, the Smith Westerns, the Parish

Hoyle Bros., Riley's Tavern
Crooks, the Scoot Inn

MyNamelsJohnMichael, Stubb's
Hoyle Bros., Triple Crown
The Cartographers, United States Art Authority

Mary Carr, Rodney Crowell, Unity Church of the Hills
Girls, Waterloo Records

SAT 30

Ratas del Vaticano, A.N.S., Beerland

Iskra, Kill the Client, Dodswalla, Sanctions, Chicken Little, Abrupt, Ecocide, Broken Neck

Kit Holmes, the Bugle Boy
Todd Snider, Cactus Cafe

Dublax, Domy Books

Danny Barnes, the Audition, Dangerous Summer, Sparks the Rescue, Right Coast, Emo's

DJ Michael Tank, Oilcan Harry's
Travelin' McCourys, One World Theatre

Nothing More, Paco Estrada, the Parish

Barrington Spence, Herby Augustine & Frenezi, Ruta Maya

Ouachita, Saxon Pub

SUN 31

The Wiggins, Blackie, Somosuno, Beerland

Dissent, Till Death, Vorrados, HRA, Broken Neck

Badfish, Scotty Don't, Bob Floyd Band, Emo's

Hoyle Bros., Mean-Eyed Cat
St. David & the Dirty Kids, Mohawk

The Iveys, Saxon Pub

Tavana, Speakeasy

Bleu Edmondson, Nic Cowan, Stubb's

Danny Barnes, Waterloo Records

february

MON 1

Wheatfield, Cactus Cafe
Hoyle Bros., Continental Club

TUE 2

Corey Smith, Antone's
Stress Ape, Creeping Jeans, Beerland

Veil of Maya, Animals as Leaders, Circle of Contempt, Periphery, New Found Glory, Saves the Day, Hellogoodbye, Emo's

Groundation, Flamingo Cantina

St. Cloud, the Ghost Room

Robert Earl Keen, Randy Rogers, Paramount Theatre

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub
Frode Gjerstad Trio, Space 12

The Residents, Stubb's

WED 3

Sarah Rivas & 24-7, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Fred Eaglesmith, Cactus Cafe

Kevin Welch, Continental Club

Sondre Lerche, JBM, the Parish
Ouachita, Saxon Pub

THU 4

The Persimmons, Beerland

Lizz King, Club 1808

Mansions, Pistolita, Emo's

True Widow, Mohawk

Gene Loves Jezebel, Momo's

Waylon Payne, Poodie's Hilltop

Bar & Grill

Bad Breaks, Red 7

Justin Townes Earle, Dawn Landes, Stubb's

for your benefit

THU 28

Open Ears w/ Carrie Elkin, **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

FRI 29

Divine & Conjure Haiti Relief Benefit w/ Makalani Movement, Riders Against the Storm, Gidon the Mighty Warrior, **Orun Center of Cultural Arts**

Austin Songwriters Group Benefit w/ Rodney Crowell, Mary Carr, **Unity Church of the Hills**

SAT 30

American Red Cross International Response Fund for Haiti w/ DJ Jah Ray, Crucial Mystic, Herby Augustine & Frenezi, Root Dimension, Irie Jane, Barrington Spence, **Ruta Maya**

SUN 31

Hope for Haiti Benefit w/ Nina Singh, Kathy Valentine, Suzanna Choffel, Johnny Goudie, Carolyn Wonderland, Del Castillo, Love at War, **Antone's**

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TUE FEB 2



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WED FEB 24



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Devil's Prada
dark tranquillity
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FRI FEB 26



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WINTER TOUR
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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 28 — DOORS 9PM
AUSTIN360 CONCERT SERIES FEATURING
QUIET COMPANY
WITH WHITMAN AND BUTTERCUP
FRI JAN 29 — DOORS 9PM
THE SOLDIER THREAD
WITH MYNAME IS JOHN MICHAEL
SAT JAN 30 — DOORS 9PM
THE BLUE HIT
WITH SOME SAY LELAND
AND DOMINIC HENRICKZ
SUN JAN 31 —

SAT FEB 27



BAD TO THE BONE
CHEF SMACKDOWN
BENEFIT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER
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WED MAR 3



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FRI MAR 5



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SAT MAR 6



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NIC COWAN

THU FEB 4 — DOORS 9PM
JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE
WITH DAWN LANDES

SAT FEB 6 — DOORS 9PM
DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

WED FEB 10 — DOORS 9PM
RAINA ROSE
(CD RELEASE)
WITH CARRIE ELKIN

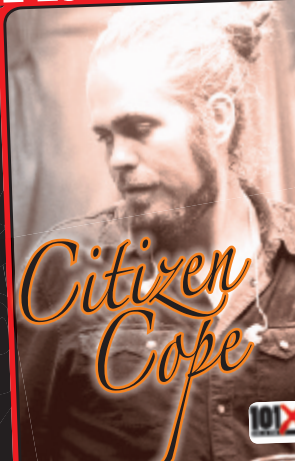
THU FEB 11 — DOORS 9PM
RETRIBUTION GOSPEL CHOIR

FRI FEB 12 — DOORS 9PM
MANIFESTO
WITH PREY FOR SLEEP
AND BRINK OF DISASTER

SAT FEB 13 — DOORS 9PM
VALENTINE'S EVE PARTY
WITH WHITE DRESS
THE MERCERS
AND THE SOUR NOTES

TUES FEB 16 — DOORS 9PM
DALLAS MOORE & THE SNATCH WRANGLERS

FRI MAR 12



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FRI MAR 26



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MON APR 19



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SAT MAY 1



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th 28 A Giant Dog, The Shitty Beach Boys,
Simple Circuit, The Zoltars,
The Bad Lovers

fr 29 Willie Heath Neal, Boomswagglers,
Whiskey Wisetales

sa 30 Hex Dispensers, Ratas Del
Vaticano, A.N.S., Criaturas

su 31 Followed By Static, The Wiggins,
Spiked Punch, Blackie, Somosuno

mo 1 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM

tu 2 Magic Jewels, Expensive Shit,
Stress Ape, Creeping Jeans

we 3 Brother Machine, Manatee Tights,
Electric Courage Machine

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Bird!, Dikes of Holland, Kingdom of
Suicide Lovers, Distant Seconds,
The Persimmons

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Thursday • Jan 28 **LIVE MUSIC!**

Accord of Dissonance 12 AM
www.myspace.com/accordofdissonance
Ugly Elephant 11 PM
www.myspace.com/uglyelephantband
Sheer Khan & the Space Case 10 PM
www.myspace.com/sheerkhanandthespacecase

Friday • Jan 29 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

TRANS CHRISTEENE
with her boyz C-Baby and T-Gravel

Saturday • Jan 30 **HAVEN**

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER
W/ SPECIAL GUEST DJ NEPH

Sunday • Jan 31 **REGRESSION**

RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

Tuesday • Feb 2 **ROCK BAND**

The ROCK BAND Experience
WITH DJ MINIMUS

Wednesday • Feb 3 **MID-WAVE**

UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu. Feb 4 • Live! Michael Holt & the
Trophy 500s 12 AM, Johnny Hootrock
11 PM, Spoiled Royals 10 PM

Fri. Feb 5 • Rocky Whorer Picture Show

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Liz
Morphis (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Gaila Kenneally,
Erik Telford Collective (6:00)

ELYSIUM Sheer Khan & Space
Case, Ugly Elephant, Accord of
Dissonance

EMO'S Searcher, City Lives, Kinch,
All the Day Holiday (R)

FLAMINGO CANTINA DJ
Metranohm, Spank, Dimitri's
Ascent (9:00) (R)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy
Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/
Lisa Kettyle (8:00)

FRIENDS Red Corner Rhymers, the
Finest Kind (7:00)

FROGS POOL HALL Open Mic w/
Ian Wolfe (9:00)

THE GHOST ROOM The Authors (J),
New Roman Times

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Mangled
Bohemians, My Empty
Phantom, Focus Group (10:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Gary
Newcomb Trio, the Lonesome
Heroes (6:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LOVEJOYS Blower

LUCKY LOUNGE Grant Ewing
(10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Trim (8:00)

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA
Kiko Villamizar & Huerta
Culture (10:00)

MOHAWK The Sour Notes (J), the
Demigs, Zest of Yore (10:00) (R)

MOMO'S Phil Marshall, Bob Floyd
Band, Javi Garcia & the Cold
Cold Ground, Nathan Hubble (R)

MONARCH EVENT CENTER
Megafauna, We the Granada,
Fatback Circus (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears
(9:00), Mingo Fishtrap (11:00)

THE PARISH Drug Rug, Fiery
Furnaces (9:00) (R)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jim
Halfpenny (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Catch a Dream

RED 7 The Hounds, the Riot Scene,
Dead Reckoning, 13th Victim

RED FEZ DJ Rich (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Brigitte London (J)

RUTA MAYA Austin Volunteer
Orchestra, Killa Dilla, Armadillo
Road (9:00)

SAXON PUB David Holt & Tommy
Shannon (6:00), Seth Walker,
George Devore, Meggan Carney
(8:00) (R)

THE SCOOT INN Zach Highwire,
DJ Yay Yay, Adam Warped,
Prepmode, Damon Allen, POSR
(9:00)

SENGELMANN HALL Trevor Cole,
Heather Kolacny

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers
(9:30)

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH Open Ears w/ Carrie
Elkin (7:30)

STUBB'S Buttercup, Whitman,
Quiet Company (9:00) (R)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic
Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann
Band, the Carneys, Bassturd,
Joe Jack Talcom (R)

TROPHY'S Jimmy & the Mustangs,
Modern Don Juans, Michael
Holt, Vicious Guns of Texas (R)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura (6:00)

FRI 29

ANTONE'S Times New
Viking, Yo La Tengo
(9:00) (R)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jerry Sires (7:30)

BAM'S ROADHOUSE GRILL Ian
Wolfe (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Preacher
Keen (10:30)

BEERLAND Hilly-Ass Event
w/ Whiskey Wisetales,
Boomswagglers, Willie Heath
Neal (R)

BLU Christian Barbutto (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Gillian Welch Tribute
(8:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN NECK ATX DIY Fest
w/ S.U.S., Human Struggle,
Akkolyte, Insecticide (8:00) (R)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons,
the Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

THE BUGLE BOY Seth Walker (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Asylum Street
Spankers (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Chapparral
Dixielanders, Greatest
American Heroes (7:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Cienfuegos (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Noelle
Hampton (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Ponty Bone (9:30)

CHINATOWN DOWNTOWN Lucky
Strikes (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike
Flanigin w/ Denny Freeman &
Frosty (10:00); In the Club:
The Blues Specialists (6:00),
Shurman, Bruce Robison
(10:00) (R)

COTTON CLUB Chris Albright (8:30)

COUPLAND DANCEHALL The
Gourds

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar:
Adoniram Lipton, Jenny Miori
(6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Kris Kimura Quartet

ELEPHANT ROOM The Jitterbug
Vipers, Just Released (6:00)

ELYSIUM Gretchen Phillips,
Christeene EP Release (10:00)
(R)

EMO'S The Cassingles, Exene
Cervenka, Dex Romweber Duo
(R)

END OF AN EAR Dexter Romweber
Duo, Exene Cervenka (6:00) (R)

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Proper Villain
Soundsystem, Equals, the
Bandulus, Ryan Scroggins &
the Trenchtown Texans (9:00)
(R)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild
Bill & the Lost Knobs, Libby
Kirkpatrick, Whiskey Tango
Family Band (6:00)

FRIENDS Eric Tessmer, J.T.
Coldfire (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Slowtrain, the
Preservation, Flatcar Rattlers
(10:00)

GIDDY UPS Lost John Casner (J)
(9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Trishes, Great
American Taxi, Todd Snider
(7:00) (R)

HANOVER'S Patricia Vonne, Del
Castillo (8:00)

HILL'S CAFE Arielle Nicole

HOGG AUDITORIUM Yuri Yunakov
Ensemble (8:00) (R)

HOLE IN THE WALL In & Outlaws,
the Beaumonts, Hickoids
(10:00)

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR
Austin GoGirls Open Mic w/
Gfire (9:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Reid Wilson &
His So-Called Friends, Darren
Hoff & the Hard Times (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Chelle Murray,
About: Blank, DJ Diamond Tip
(6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
Atherton (7:00)

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA
Boca Abajo (10:00)

MOHAWK Gobi, Missions (10:00)

MOMO'S Jarrod Dickenson,
Big Circle, TX, the Belleville
Outfit, Shawn Nelson & the
Ramblers

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Lisa Marshall
(8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Jumbo Shrimp,
Bus to Brooklyn (8:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Big Bad
Voodoo Daddy (7:30, 9:30) (R)

ORUN CENTER OF CULTURAL
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Relief Benefit w/ the Makalani
Movement, Riders Against
the Storm, Gidon the Mighty
Warrior (9:00)

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ANDROID NO
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LOUDER SHRINE
RIGHTEOUS BRISKET
BROKEN IN THE LOUNGE 8-10 PM

SATURDAY - JANUARY 30
BOMBING STASSNEY
OAK IS KEEPING
CAPTAIN INCREDIBLE
MATCHES FOR MEMORIES
LIFE ON LOAN

SUNDAY - JANUARY 31
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE
JOHNNY'S BODY
FINAL CONFESSION
AFTERMATH

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 1
ALLIGATOR DAVE
SLOW CAR CRASH
ALEXIS MOORE
IN THE LOUNGE @ 8PM

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 2
CHAOS COMEDY BENJAMIN
A NIGHT OF OPEN MIC STAND UP
IN THE LOUNGE @ 8PM
FREE SHOW

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 3
JAMES & THE DOUCHEBAGS
TOMBSTONE BULLIES
PLANETS
WATERA
MATTHEW'S IPOD NIGHT
ON THE LOUNGE ALL NIGHT

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 4
ELEVEN CENT CONFIDENCE
TEX OFFENDERS
DIGITAL ANTIQUE
THE FRACTALS
THE APPLE TRIO

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 5
ZLAM DUNK
GIGGLE PARTY
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS
WHITE SAILS
EDISON CHAIR

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 6
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS
SHOTGUN REBELS
KILLER CROCS OF UGANDA
ANTHONY PHINEAS LOVE STORY

UPCOMING SHOWS
02/10 - PAUL DIANNO, ICARUS WITCH
02/12 - DISTANT LIGHTS, DARK SUMMER DAWN
02/13 - BARN, HATCHETWORK, INDIGUST CD RELE
02/19 - TEXAS ROCKFEST BENEFIT SHOW
02/20 - LEFT RECORDS SHOWCASE
02/28 - SCOTT H. BIRAM, BIRT DAUBERS
03/12 - DICK DALE

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1/23 Higher Than Why
1/28 Hamell on Trial
1/30 Sneakview

2/18 Dre Day w/ DJ Mel
2/19 Mystik Journeymen
2/20 Nina Simone Tribute
2/24 KUT Welcomes
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FEB 16

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2.19 GOURDS & OTIS GIBBS	3.24 BATTLEFIELD BAND
2.20 AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS	4.10 JACKOPIERCE
2.24 GENE WEEN	4.16 CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
	4.17 CARRIE RODRIGUEZ



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LIVE NATION



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

THE PARISH The Smith Westerns, Magic Kids, Girls (9:00) **R**

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Dana Cooper (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Doug Warriner, Slow Down Lady **J**

RED 7 Team Fabrication DJs (inside); Death Is Not a Joyride., Churchwood, Pong

RED FEZ Ian Orth, DJ Ramesh (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Hoyle Bros. **R**

ROCKIN' TOMATO PIZZA COMPANY Major Major, Laserz (9:00)

RUTA MAYA From Out of the Woods, Sugar Glyder (9:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR The Swingsters (7:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00), BettySoo, Paula Nelson, Carolyn Wonderland (9:00)

THE SCOOT INN Headdress, Woodsboss, Crooks (9:00) **R**

SENGELMANN HALL Granger Smith

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Video Vamp (9:30)

SPEAKEASY Lost in Austin (9:30)

STUBB'S MyNameIsJohnMichael, the Soldier Thread **R**

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Deja Who

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Love Bones; Evil Come, Evil Go (7:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies

TRIPLE CROWN Hoyle Bros., Scott H. Biram **R**

TROPHY'S Burly Boys, Whalers, Black Magic Kit, Gogo Beware

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY Five Things w/ Bethany Bauman, the Cartographers, Morris Orchid, the Baker Family (7:30) **R**

UNITY CHURCH OF THE HILLS Austin Songwriters Group Benefit w/ Rodney Crowell, Mary Carr (8:00) **R**

WATERLOO RECORDS Girls (5:00) **R**

SAT 30

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Bitta Blue (10:00)

ANTONE'S Sweet Meat, Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, Foot Patrol (9:00)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Long Woodson (10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Wheelhouse (10:30)

BEERLAND Criatures, A.N.S., Ratas del Vaticano, the Hex Dispensers **R**

BOOMERZ Roy Heinrich & the Pickups (9:30)

BOTTICELLI'S The Copperpots (8:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN NECK ATX DIY Fest w/ Ecocide, Karoshi, Abrupt, Chicken Little, Sanctions, Dodswalla, Kill the Client, Iskra (3:00) **R**

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Jake Hooker (8:00)

THE BUGLE BOY Jean Synodinos **J**, Kit Holmes (8:00) **R**

CACTUS CAFE The Trishes, Todd Snider (8:30) **R**

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Friends of Traditional Music Showcase (5:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Bruce James Soutlet (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Texas Renegade

CHINATOWN DOWNTOWN Chris Maresh (9:00)

CHUPACABRA MEXICAN RESTAURANT Adam Warped, Scorpio, Dey One, Czech One, POSR (10:00)

COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF Tara Craig (11:00am)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin w/ Denny Freeman & Frosty (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), the Moonhangers, the Derailers (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's **J** (8:30)

COUPLAND DANCEHALL Brandon Rhyder

DOMY BOOKS Dublab, Intervention Net, Hatred Surge (7:00) **R**

DONN'S DEPOT Danny Britt & Red Dawg **J**

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Patricia G. (8:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Lucky Strikes (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Kat Edmonson Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Early: The Stampede, Right Coast, Sparks the Rescue, Dangerous Summer, the Audition (5:00); Later: Corrine Rose, Danny Barnes, Honky, Dixie Witch (10:00) **R**

END OF AN EAR EME Relac Soundfactory (6:00)

FADÓ Mysterious Ways (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Trippin' Out West, Sun Salutation, Darby Drivers (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies (10:30am); the 90/90, Peter Smith (6:00)

FRIENDS Trent Turner, Casey Epps (7:30)

THE GHOST ROOM Miss Odette, Hollywood Gossip, Haunt (10:00)

GIDDY UPS Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders

GRUENE HALL Gary Claxton, Erik Hokkannen (1:00); Ray Wylie Hubbard CD Release (9:00)

HANOVER'S Skyrocket!

HILL'S CAFE Sam Bentley

HOLE IN THE WALL Planet Rye Co. **J**

THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS The Sour Notes **J**, White White Lights

IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR Open Mic

JOVITA'S Donna Jam w./ Stephanie Cavazos, Ginger Thompson, Dawni McCray **J**, Inne Aguilar, Katie Evans (6:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jabarvy (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Angel Ferrer, DJ Protege (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Shawn Nelson (9:00)

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA Bubba Hernandez y Los Super Vatos (10:00)

MOHAWK Bevo, Salesman, Moonlight Towers (10:00)

MOMO'S Meagan Tubb, the Trim, Josh Weathers, Dertybird **J**

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS La Vie en Rose (8:30)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

OILCAN HARRY'S Anniversary Party w/ DJ Michael Tank **R**

ONE 2 ONE BAR Josh Perdue, Uncle Bruno (8:30)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Travelin' McCourys (7:00, 9:30) **R**

THE PARISH Paco Estrada, Nothing More, Petals, Mothers Anthem, Eyes Burn Electric CD Release (9:00) **R**

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Atomic Duo, Mutton Busters (5:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Dustin Welch, James McMurtry

ENCORE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
RHYMIN' 'N' STEALIN' (BEASTIE BOYS TRIBUTE)
ONE STEP PROGRAM (DOORS 8PM) • CLINT'S B-DAY BASH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
WAR BEAST • HEADCRUSHER • KILLING IN APATHY
MANIFESTO • SOUTHERN FRONT (DOORS 8PM)

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2.11 Crooks, Guns of Navarone
2.18 Shed Alfred, Dirty Charlie Band, Corinne Rose

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RYAN SCROGGINS & TRENCHTOWN TEXANS
THE BANDULUS
EQUALS & PROP VILLAIN SNDSYTM

SAT. JANUARY 30TH *REGGAE/JAM* DOORS 9:00
DARBY DRIVERS
SUN SALUTATION & TRIPPING OUT WEST

TUE. FEBRUARY 2ND *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
GROUNDATION
10TH ANNUAL BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE TOUR!
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 1/2 price appetizers

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR
 Every Sunday 4pm-Close

SIN TUESDAYS
 \$1 Select Beers \$2 Wells
 Food Specials All Night!
 4pm-Close

LIVE MUSIC
NO COVER ALL WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 • NO COVER

GIRL GUITAR 6-7PM
GARY NEWCOMB TRIO 7:30-9PM



LONESOME HEROES
 9:30-10:30PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 • NO COVER

GIRL GUITAR 6-7PM
REID WILSON & HIS SO CALLED FRIENDS 7:30-9PM
DARREN HOFF & THE HARDTIMES 9:30-11PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 • \$10 COVER

DONNA JAM: 6:30-11:30PM
GINGER A THOMPSON
STEPHANIE CAVAZOS
DAWNI MCCRAY
INNE AGUILAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 • \$5 COVER
JEST FEST COMEDY NIGHT: 6-8PM

JEST FEST AT JOVITA'S
with Austin's only comedy show



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • CLOSED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

SAM LIPMAN 6-7:30PM
THE SADDLE 7:45-8:30PM
AARON BARRERA 8:30-10PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

GEEKS WHO DRINK 8-10PM



Thurs. - 1/28 



WOXY, Austinist, and The Onion Present
The Fiery Furnaces
 w/ Drug Rug

Fri. - 1/29 



101X's Daily Dose & Next Big Thing Present
Girls
 w/Magic Kids, The Smith Westerns

Sat. - 1/30



Eyes Burn Electric
 (Formerly Dremt the End) Official CD Release
 w/ Mothers Anthem, Petals,
 Nothing More, Saturday's Radar
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

Sun. - 1/31

Gidon the Mighty Warrior
 w/ Public Offenders, Blacklisted Individuals,
 The Cipher, and more.
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

Tue. - 2/2

Slow Down Lady official CD Release
 w/ Jesse Woods
ONSALE NOW AT: www.TheParishAustin.com

Wed. - 2/3 

SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE PRESENTS



Sondre Lerche
 w/ JBM
ONSALE NOW AT: crpresents.frontgatetickets.com

Sat. - 2/6

Prince Klassen's Birthday Party

Sun. - 2/7 Jazzsteppa

Sat. - 2/13

Rock The Casbah w/DJ MEL

Fri. - 2/19

The Bright Light Social Hour
 214 East 6th Street Austin, TX
www.TheParishAustin.com

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

RED 7 Desmortes, Hexlust, Suicide Solution, Drifter

RED EYED FLY Life on Loan, Matches for Memories, Captain Incredible, Oak Is Keeping, Bombing Stasney (8:30)

RED FEZ DJ Orion, Prince Klassen (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Allen Atwood

RUTA MAYA American Red Cross International Response Fund for Haiti w/ DJ Jah Ray, Crucial Mystic, Herby Augustine & Frenezi, Root Dimension, Irie Jane, Barrington Spence (2:00) 

THE SALT LICK Jeremy Steding (2:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Casa del Swanka (7:00)

SAXON PUB Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox, Uncle Lucius, Ouachita CD Release (8:00) 

THE SCOOT INN DJ Rough Ice

SENGELMANN HALL White Ghost Shivers

SPEAKEASY Buzz Fuel (9:30)

STUBB'S Dominic Henrickz, Some Say Leland, the Blue Hit

TEXAS BAR & GRILL NTO's

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Bike Problems, Something Called Nothing, Mutant Press (7:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN The Perilous Tide, Gleeson, Clay Nightingale

TROPHY'S Este Vato, Betaplayer, La Guerilla, DJ Cauze One

WHIP IN Lee Barber & Brian Beattie (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BEERLAND Somosuno, Blackie, Spiked Punch, the Wiggins, Followed by Static 

BLUE VELVET Fractals (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

BROKEN NECK ATX DIY Fest w/ HRA, Vorrados, Till Death, Dissent, Lethal Aggression (3:00) 

THE BUGLE BOY Marcia Ball (3:00)

CAFE CAFFEINE The Diminished (5:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH We Three (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Señor Gato (12:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin (10:30); In the Club: Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM John Fremgen Trio (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Bob Floyd Band, Full Service, Scotty Don't, Badfish 

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Dickie Lee Erwin, the Inheritance (6:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (5:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL McKay Bros. (12:30); Jason Eady (5:00)

HILL'S CAFE The Bells of Joy

HOLE IN THE WALL Ukemi, the Deserters (8:00)

KLUB KRUCIAL ATX Awakening w/ Bulletproof, Rawstin City, Razor, Li'l Tay, Swag Heart, Myeshia, D.O.P. 1 of a Kind, 25 Mafia, Texas Mic Breakers, No Brakes Just Gas, Young Hustllionaire (8:00)

LAMBERTS Black, Red & Black (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Broke Beads (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Hoyle Bros. (8:00) 

MOHAWK Major Major Major, St. David & the Dirty Kids, Diamonds, Thieves (8:30) 

MOMO'S Carley Wolf, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Clownie

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Carl Crowther (7:30)

NUOVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

THE PARISH The Cipher, Public Offenders, Blacklisted Individuals, Gidon the Mighty Warrior (10:00) 

RED 7 Diamonds, Strangers, Paper Shapes, Squidbucket, Bridge Farmers

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

RUTA MAYA Mr Steve (10:30am); Puente Fuente (8:00)

SAXON PUB Lincoln Durham, the Resentments (6:00), The Iveys (10:30) 

SPEAKEASY Tavana (9:30) 

STUBB'S Brunch: Gospel Silvertones (noon); Nic Cowan, Bleu Edmondson (10:00) 

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Danny Brooks (11:00am)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Lofton (11:00am)

WATERLOO RECORDS Danny Barnes (5:00) 

WHIP IN Southpaw Jones (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 01

ANTONE'S Guilty Pleasures, Girl Guitar (8:00), JJ Usher, Soul Track Mind (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Jonathan Horne

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

Transmission Entertainment

Mohawk
 AUSTIN, TEXAS
 912 red river all are welcome.

Th 1/28 - Zest of Yore, The Demigs, The Sour Notes - 10pm
 F 1/29 - Missions, Survive, Gobi, How I Quit Crack & DJ Orlando Mas - 10pm
 Sa 1/30 - Moonlight Towers, Salesman, BeVo - 9pm
 Su 1/31 - Thieves, Diamonds, St. David & the Dirty Kids, Major Major Major - 8:30pm
 W 2/3 - Haiti Relief Benefit feat: Daniel Francis Doyle, Candi & the Strangers, Zorch & Businessman DJs - 9pm
 Th 2/4 - Birdpipe Entertainment Show w/ Brother/Ghost, True Widow, The Tastydactyls, Stegosaur, Circle Birds - 8pm
 F 2/5 - Fashion Freakout! w/ the Carrots & Strange Boys DJ set (presented by Prototype Vintage Fashion Design) - 7pm
 Sa 2/6 - Bowerbirds, Julie Doiron - 9pm // Minorcan, Jude/Ross - 12am

for info on upcoming tours, check out www.transmissionentertainment.com

RED 7

611 east 7th venue & wreck room

Th 1/28 - 13th Victim, Dead Reckoning, The Riot Scene, The Hounds - 10pm
 F 1/29 - PONG, ChurchWood, Death is Not a Joyride // Team Fabrication DJ set
 Sa 1/30 - Drifter (Iron Maiden Tribute), Suicide Solution (Ozzy/Sabbath Tribute), Hexlust, Desmortes - 10pm
 Su 1/31 - Bridge Farmers, Squidbucket, Paper Shapes, Strangers, Diamonds - 10pm
 Tu 2/2 - Pretty Pretty
 W 2/3 - Form of an Ice Wave, Clubs, Organic Think Machines, The Organics - 10pm
 Th 2/4 - Tornadho, Megafauna, We the Granada, Bad Breaks

www.mohawkkaustin.com

www.red7austin.com

HOLE IN THE WALL AUSTIN EST. 1974 ★ TEXAS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 ★ 10 PM ★

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SPECIAL GUESTS

SAD BASTARD HAPPY HOUR 6:30PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 ★ 10 PM ★ \$5

HICKOIDS

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IN AND OUTLAWS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 ★ 10 PM ★ \$3

PLANET RYE COMPANY

THE PRESERVATION

NIC ARMISTRONG

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 ★ 8 PM ★

SPIT AND TEARS

MAX RIOS AND THE WAYSIDERS

THE DESERTERS

UKEMI

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 ★ 10 PM ★

LEO RONDEAU

WOODSBOSS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 ★ 10PM ★

CLYDE AND CLEM AND FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 ★ 9 PM ★

THE DOOLINS

DARREN HOFF AND THE HARD TIMES

PINE ROSS (MISS)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 ★ 10 PM ★

DIALTONES

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anita baker

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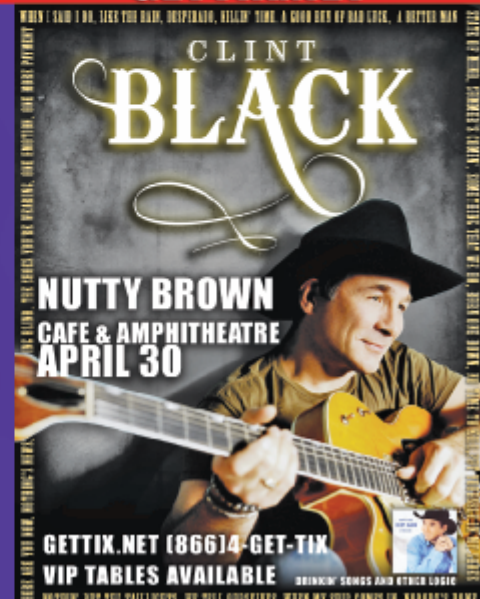
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Music Line-up CAFE
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Thur 1/28 Jim Halfpenny
Fri 1/29 Dana Cooper
Sat 1/30 Atomic Duo
The Mutton Busters
Tues 2/2 Sand & Sunnie
Wed 2/3 Wink Keziah
Thur 2/4 Driftwood Moon

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PRESENTS "NO BAD WEDNESDAYS"
OPEN MIC - \$2 LONE STAR
\$2.50 OLD WHISKEY RIVER SHOTS

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FREE POOL, \$2 WELL DRINKS &
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1ST DRINK FOR LADIES
W/ OUT-OF-TOWN DRIVER'S LICENSES
NO COVER SUNDAY - THURSDAY NIGHTS

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- 'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' RESTAURANT POLL 2006
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
AMBER LUCILLE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
SLOW DOWN LADY
DOUG WARRINER (OPENER)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
JAMES MCMURTRY
DUSTIN WELCH (OPENER)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
WAYLON PAYNE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
MICHAEL MYERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
MARK ALLAN ATWOOD

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TOMORROW HAPPENS HERE.

SXSW Film is a hotbed of discovery and interactivity that offers five days of panels, nine days of screenings and full immersion into the art and business of independent film!

Register by February 12 and save.

Register for
SXSW Film by FEBRUARY 12th and SAVE!
★
Full Feature Lineup to be announced on February 4th!

Once again, **SXSW Film Festival** offers a kickass lineup, starting with our Opening Night film, ahem, **Kick-Ass** – a twisted, funny, high-octane adventure, based on the comic. Also premiering: ★ **SATURDAY NIGHT**, a behind-the-scenes look at *Saturday Night Live*, directed by actor **James Franco** ★ The White Stripes documentary **Under Great White Northern Lights** ★ **Cold Weather**, the latest feature from SXSW Alum **Aaron Katz** ★ **Lemmy**, a documentary about heavy metal icon and Motörhead frontman **Lemmy Kilmister**

The **SXSW 2010 Film Conference** promises an eclectic mix of panels and workshops including: ★ The return of "Jeffrey Tambor's Acting Workshop" ★ *Ain't It Cool News* 'Harry Knowles' talks with cult comics legend **Gilbert Shelton** ★ "Blow Something Up! A Live Action Special Effects Workshop" from stunt guru **Steve Wolf** ★ "Remix Goes Mainstream: Making Mashups Pay," moderated by **Patricia Aufderheide** of American University & the Center for Social Media ★ "Ripping Reality – Creativity and the New Documentary" from Hot Docs programmer **Sean Farnel**

Visit **SXSW.COM/FILM** for more film and speaker news.



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

BEAUTY BAR Richard Henry, Burly Boys, Real Book Fake Book, Muchos Backflips! ♫

BOTTICELLI'S Stefanie Fix ♫ (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Wheatfield (8:30) ♫
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cheatham Street All-Stars

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Bruce James Soultet (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Hoyle Bros., Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (9:30) ♫

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Milkdrive (6:00), Freddie Mendoza's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Strange Brew Showcase w/ Trevor Reichman (8:00)

FRIENDS Johnny Austin ♫ (7:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Erin Ivey, the Finest Kind (9:30)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Friends of Moss (10:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

PLUSH Telepathik Friend, VC Chldkrft, FM Campers, How I Quit Crack

RED FEZ DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, the Jitterbug Vipers (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

SAXON PUB Tom Gilliam, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEERLAND Creeping Jeans, Stress Ape, Expensive Shit, Magic Jewels ♫

BLU Joey Colarusso Trio (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Milkdrive (7:30)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Weldon Henson

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Coffee Sergeants (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30), Mudphonic (10:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Jamie Thomas Duo (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Kris Kimura (9:30)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Outside: Fireworks, hellogoodbye, Saves the Day, New Found Glory; Inside: Falsetta, Periphery, Circle of Contempt, Animals as Leaders, Veil of Maya ♫

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Bob Marley Tribute Tour w/ Richard Henry, Groundation (9:00) ♫ ♫

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lost & Nameless Orchestra (7:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Nic Armstrong ♫, One Wolf, St. Cloud, the Ripe (9:00) ♫

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer & the AM Band (9:00)

GRUENE HALL John Arthur Martinez (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund

JOVITA'S Sam Lipman, the Saddle, Aaron Barrera

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Diamond Tip, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MOMO'S Laura Meyer

ONE 2 ONE BAR Farlow, Meagan Tubb (8:30)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Rod Kennedy Birthday Tribute w/ Brady Black, Randy Rogers, John Inmon, Jimmy LaFave, Lloyd Maines, Terri Hendrix, Joel Guzman, Paul Glaspe, Eliza Gilkyson, Ruthie Foster, Bobby Bridger, Ray Benson, Marcia Ball, the Flatlanders, Robert Earl Keen (7:00) ♫ ♫

THE PARISH Jesse Woods, Slow Down Lady ♫ CD Release

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand Sheff (7:30)

RED 7 TBA, The Autons, Pretty Pretty

RED FEZ Benmused Showcase, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (9:00)

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) ♫

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Ember (9:00)

SPACE 12 Frode Gjerstad Trio (8:00) ♫ ♫

SPEAKEASY O Positivo (9:30)

STUBB'S The Residents ♫ ♫

TROPHY'S Armadillo Road, Singer-Songwriter Night (9:00)

WED 03

ANNIES CAFE & BAR Tango Night w/ Glover Gill (7:30)

ANTONE'S Bridge Farmers, Dawn Over Zero, Black Bone Child ♫ (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The J&A Show

BAR 141 Electric Mayhem (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner (10:00)

BEERLAND Electric Courage Machine, Manatee Lights, Brother Machine

BESO CANTINA Gustavo Rodriguez Band (11:00)

BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM Teen Music Texas w/ Avenging Poor Yorick, Sarah Rivas & 24-7, Cipher Crew (4:00) ♫

BOTTICELLI'S Leeann Atherton (7:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Billy Garza, Dance Lessons, Lucky Tomblin (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Ginn Sisters, Fred Eaglesmith (8:30) ♫ ♫

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Soulphonics (7:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Spencer Thomas (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party (6:30), Kevin Welch, James McMurtry (10:30) ♫

DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Paul Matthews Trio

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 • 7PM
CRAIG TOUNGATE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 • 10PM
SHAWN PITTMAN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 • 10PM
GREG IZOR & THE BOX KICKERS



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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • 6:30PM
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER 8PM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 7PM
MALFORD MILLIGAN

Hanovers

DEL CASTILLO
PATRICIA VONNE 8PM • \$15

SKYROCKET 9:30PM • \$10

MELODIC DRIFTERS 8PM

THE WEATHERMEN 9PM

SIGNALS 9PM
"RUSH TRIBUTE"

SHUFFLE UP & DEAL 8PM

BLUE FINGER DISCO 9PM • \$5

BREWER NATION 9PM

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 9PM
POSR
DAMEN ALLEN
PREPMODE
ADAM WARPED
DJ YAY YAY
ZACH HIGHWIRE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 9PM
CROOKS
WOODSBOSS
HEADRESS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 9PM
SEASON 3 BREWSKEE BALL & FUNDRAISER (HELP SEND OUR TEAM TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS!)
D.F.I.
DJ ROUGH-ICE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 8PM
WOXY PRESENTS
MIDLAKE
"THE COURAGE OF OTHERS" LISTENING PARTY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 9PM
STRING
MOUNT RIGHTEOUS
ONE HUNDRED FLOWERS
THE RIVER HYMN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 9PM
THE BLIND PETS
ELECTRIC ATTITUDE (HOUSTON) & GUESTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 9PM
THE GARY (CD RELEASE SHOW)
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:
ALL THE DAY HOLIDAY
KINCH • CITY LIVES • SEARCHER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
INSIDE, DOORS @ 8PM:
DEX ROMWEBER DUO
EXENE CERVENKA • CASSINGLES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
INSIDE: **DIXIE WITCH • HONKY**
DANNY BARNES • CORINNE ROSE
EARLY SHOW, DOORS AT 5PM:
THE AUDITION
THE DANGEROUS SUMMER • SPARKS THE RESCUE
THE RIGHT COAST • THE STAMPEDE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS
BADFISH (A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME)
SCOTTY DON'T • FULL SERVICE • BOB FLOYD BAND

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS
NEW FOUND GLORY
SAVES THE DAY • HELLOGOODBYE • FIREWORKS
INSIDE, DOORS AT 7PM:
NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS
VEIL OF MAYA
ANIMALS AS LEADERS • CIRCLE OF CONTEMPT
PERIPHERY • FALSETTA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
INSIDE: **FREE SHOW**
SIMPLE CIRCUIT • ICHI NI SAN SHI
LITERATURE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
INSIDE: **JOHN NOLAN**
(OF STRAYLIGHT RUN)
MANSIONS • PISTOLITA
DEAN STAFFORD (OF POMPEII)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
INSIDE: **ALEC OUNSWORTH**
(CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
INSIDE: **THAT 1 GUY • MANY BIRTHDAYS**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:
THE CHARIOT • GREELEY ESTATES
INHALE/EXHALE • MEMPHIS MAY FIRE
THE COLOR MORALE

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INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM: **FRANK TURNER**
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
EMMURE: THE MOSH LIVES II TOUR
PRESENTED BY NO CONTROL RADIO
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AFTER THE BURIAL • MISS MAY I
THICK AS BLOOD • FALSETTA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:
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SET YOUR GOALS
THIS PROVIDENCE • THE SWELLERS
INSIDE: SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE
PRESENTS A \$2 SHOW
KALU JAMES • POLYSKY
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM: 101X PRESENTS
THE ENGLISH BEAT
FISHBONE • OUTLAW NATION
INSIDE: BICENTENNIAL BABY
RECORD RELEASE PARTY
RED X RED M
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GOSPEL TRUTH • DEAD SPACE • DJS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
OUTSIDE: 101X CHILLVILLE PRESENTS: **RJD2**
KENAN BELL • HAPPY CHICHESTER
INSIDE: LADERA SKATEBOARDS PRESENTS:
WINTER BLACKOUT 2010
THE EXPENDABLES • IRATION
PASSAFIRE • POUR HABIT • ROOTS DOWN BELOW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
INSIDE: **SCREAMING FEMALES**
JEFF THE BROTHERHOOD
GHOST KNIFE • MUTATING MELTDOWN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
INSIDE: **IN FEAR & FAITH**
FIRE FROM THE GODS • THIEVES
A WAR BETWEEN OCEANS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
OUTSIDE: HOT TOPIC PRESENTS
THE SUB CITY TAKE ACTION TOUR
WE THE KINGS • MAYDAY PARADE
A ROCKET TO THE MOON
THERE FOR TOMORROW • STEREO SKYLINE
INSIDE: SUPERPOP SHOWCASE
A GIANT DOG • THE BUBBLES
BAD LOVERS • BROTHER MACHINE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH
George Devore 10pm \$5
Seth walker 8pm \$10
Meggan Carney 12am \$5
David Holt, Tommy Shanton, Frosty and Special Guests 6pm Happy Hour No Cover

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH **Lonestar State of Mind**
Carolyn Wonderland 9:00pm \$12 Advance/ \$15 Door
Paula Nelson 11:50pm \$7
93.3 KGSR **BettySoo** 11:10pm \$7
No Cover Happy Hour The Cosmic Americans 6pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH
BUS STOP STRLIONS 8PM \$10
Uncle Lucius 10pm \$10
Ouachita 12:30am \$5

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST
THE RESENTMENTS
LINCOLN DURHAM 6pm/ \$7
The Iveys 10:30pm \$5
Josh Langston 12am \$5

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST
BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND 8:30 \$10
Tom Gillam 7pm \$10
Jeff Plankenhorn 11pm \$5
Steven Ray Will 12am \$5

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND
Private Function
No Cover Happy Hour **Waylon Payne**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD
Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros 9pm \$10
Ouachita 11pm \$5
No Cover Happy Hour Till 8:30pm **The Nortons**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
Omar & the Howlers
AND
PORTER DAVIS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH
Shandon Sahn and WC Clark

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
Kym Warner of the Greencards
Acoustic Session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
Glen Phillips from
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Simple Circuit

ENCORE The Brimmers

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau
Chaplains, Stop the Truck (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE George
Carver, Dennis Ludiker, Jarrett
Killen (6:00)

FRANK & ANGIE'S PIZZERIA Flying
Balalaika Brothers (7:30)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Swamp
Sauce (8:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann (6:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro,
Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art
Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ben Burgess
(10:00), Lance Kotara, Adam
McInnis, Stephanie Daulong
(10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce
Newman's Nutty Idol

THE PARISH JBM, Sondre Lerche
★ (6)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Wink
Keziah (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Mark Allen Atwood

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly"
Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 The Organics, Organic
Think Machine, Clubs, Form of
an Ice Wave

RED FEZ Get Right Kids (10:00)

RUSTY SPURS Open Mic Jam (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La
Mona Loca (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00),
Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros,
Ouachita (9:00) (R)

SPEAKEASY Soulution (9:30)

TROPHY'S J.T. Wright & Solstice

VINNY'S ITALIAN CAFE Kim
Simpson (7:00), Dana McBride, Lili
& Walter (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan
(7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS The Texas
Sapphires (5:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen
Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU **04**

ANTONE'S Honeybrowne

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone
Star Swing (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric
Tessmer (8:00)

BEERLAND The Persimmons, the
Distant Seconds, Kingdom
of Suicide Lovers, Dikes of
Holland, Follow That Bird! (R)

BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson
(7:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison,
Dance Lessons, Jesse
Dayton (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Chris Knight (8:30) (R)

CAFE CAFFEINE Open Mic

CAROUSEL LOUNGE
Undergrowth52

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Jarrod
Dickenson (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Southside Union

CLUB 1808 Magic Jewels, Spiked
Punch, Metal Bunnies, Lizz
King (R)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Continental Graffiti (10:00);
In the Club: Planet Casper
(6:30), the Coveters, the Texas
Sapphires (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Tameca Jones

ELEPHANT ROOM Patrick Green
(6:00), Butch Miles (9:30)

ELYSIUM Michael Holt & the
Trophy 500's, Johnny Hootrock,
Spoiled Royals (10:00)

EMO'S Dean Stafford, Pistolita,
Mansions, John Nolan (R)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Grim Nasty,
Storm Shadow, Ratarue (7:00),
Higher Than Why (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy
Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/
Lisa Kettle (8:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)

THE GRAY HORSE SALOON The
Stand Outs

GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins & the
Mystiqueros (6:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Bobby Bookout
(10:00)

MOHAWK Circlebirds, Stegosaurus,
Tastydactyls, True Widow,
Brother Ghost (R)

MOMO'S Gene Loves Jezebel (R)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Driftwood
Moon (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Waylon Payne (R)

RED 7 Bad Breaks, We the
Granada, Megafauna, Tornadho
(10:00) (R)

RED FEZ DJ Rich (10:00)

RUTA MAYA The Raspas, Lux
Divon (7:00), Ugly Elephant (9:00)

SAXON PUB David Holt & Tommy
Shannon (6:00), John Gaar
& the Hopeful Souls, George
Devore, David Beck (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN River Hymn,
One Hundred Flowers, Mount
Righteous, String

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers
(9:30)

STUBB'S Dawn Landes, Justin
Townes Earle (R)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic
Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (7:00)

TROPHY'S The Organics, the
Beaumonts, Two Hoots & a
Holler

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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THURSDAY January 28 \$5
Laura Lee BISHOP NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
Paul Marshall 7 BOB FLOYD BAND 8
Dustin Welch 9:15 Nathan Hubble 11
RICKY STEIN 12:30

FRIDAY January 29 \$10
Jared DICKENSON 8 BIG CIRCLE TX 9
THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT 10
Shawn Nelson & THE RAMBLERS 12:15

SATURDAY January 30 \$10
meagan TUBB 8
Sideshow Tragedy 9
JOSH Weathers & the true endeavors 10
DETTY BIRD 11:15
THE Greyhounds 12:15

SUNDAY January 31 \$7
CARLEY WOLF 8
WARREN HOOD 9:30
& THE HOODLUMS
DARREN HOFF 12:15

MONDAY February 01 \$5
Nick Flora 7 THE Kicks 8
a house a home 9:15
Jorel Segura 10:30 LOST JULY 12

TUESDAY February 02 \$5
90.50 **World Music Night**
Valley of the Mariner 6:30
Austin Piazzolla Quintet 8
Kiko Villamizar 10

WEDNESDAY February 03
Tony TOPKINS NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
Akina Adderley 8 Margo Valiente 9:15
TED feat. Drew Smith 10:30
Sideshow Tragedy 12

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THU, JAN 28 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
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9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, JAN 29 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **CORNELL HURD**

SAT, JAN 30 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:30PM **JAKE HOOKER**

TUE, FEB 2 **WELDON HENSON** NO COVER

WED, FEB 3 6-8PM **BILLY GARZA**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **LUCKY TOMBLIN**

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Joe Jack Talcum (Dead Milkmen),
The Bass Turd, The Carnys,
Lord Grunge (Grand Buffet), DJ Jester 10pm

Fr 29 Hoyle Brothers 6pm
Scott Biram 10pm

Sa 30 Clay Nightingale, Gleeson,
The Perilous Tide 10pm

Su 31 Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 1 Gerry's Kids 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm

Tu 2 The Iveys 6pm Orquesta Ritmo 10pm

We 3 Scott Wood 6pm Electric Mayhem 10pm

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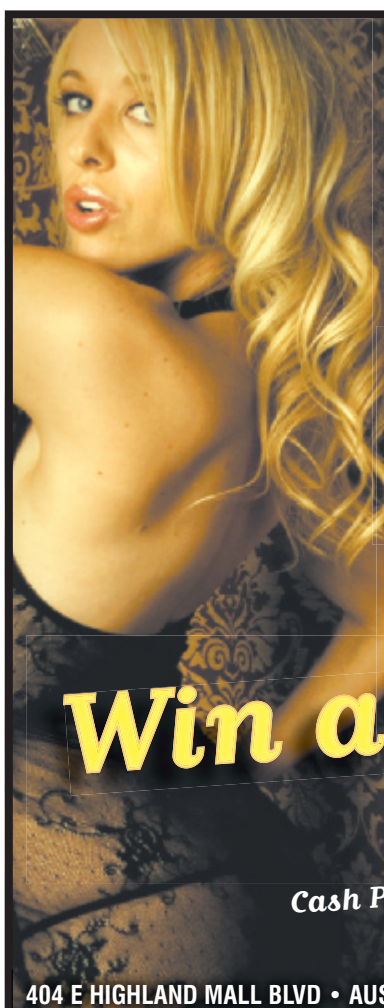
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SUNDAY: DOOR PRIZES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2PM
 \$3 DRAFT 'TIL 7PM & \$3 SHOT SPECIALS 'TIL 11PM
 NO COVER WITH SIN CARD & GET DISCOUNTED TAB.

STEAK & LOBSTER
 \$9.99 EVERY WEDNESDAY

FRI & SAT OPEN TIL 4AM
 18+ WELCOME AFTER 2AM

EVERY DAY 2PM-5PM
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DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
 NOON-4PM \$9.99
 MON - SHRIMP PLATTER
 TUE - STEAK & SHRIMP
 WED - BEEF & SHRIMP KABOBS
 THU - RIBEYE
 FRI - FILET MIGNON

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Starting January 7th
 Small Chest Dance Contest
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 *(\$4,000 toward breast augmentation)

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♥New Releases and Blu-rays!

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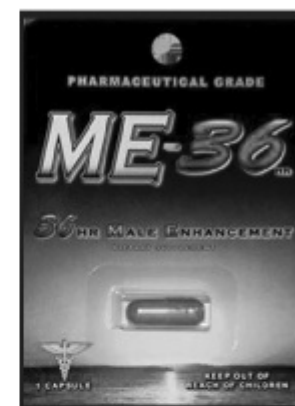
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How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



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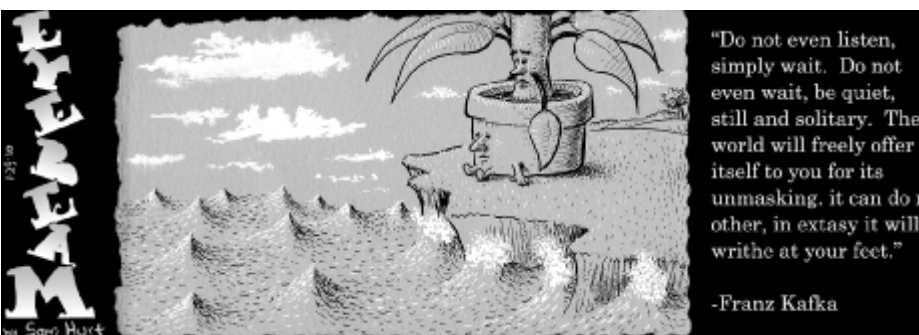
(HEALTH CARE WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY)

WWW.TMCM.COM



TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



According to one source, not all raccoons like to eat dead raccoons.

John Lennon and George Harrison's primary school, Dovedale Junior School, has recently banned Beatles fans from taking pictures of its playground to prevent pupils being captured in photographs. Fans are still allowed to take photos of the building.

For each cell in your body, there are 10 single-celled organisms at work on or inside you.

Michigan company Trijicon has been supplying the U.S. military with weapon parts containing New Testament biblical passages embedded within its serial numbers.

Mr. Gas Pipe is left-handed.

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.

jobs

art/design

MODELS The Art Institute of Austin, is seeking models to pose for several drawing courses this quarter. Two classes meet on Mondays from 2-5pm & 7-10pm.

Models must be comfortable posing in a swimsuit/nude; pass a criminal background check; & cannot be a current student of The Art Institute. If interested, send resume to jforrest@aui.edu



beauty/salon/spa

ALL Now hiring- Hair Stylists, Nail techs, Massage Therapists FT/PT. Between UT & Capitol. Call Mary 477-7068

EMPLOYMENT Pink-slipped? Get back on your feet with *The Austin Chronicle's* Employment Section.

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease \$130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

Children are our Future.
Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons.



Work hours: 2:15-5:45pm, M-F
Starting pay: \$9.00-\$9.80/hr, EOE
Sites at over 70 elementary schools.
Apply at:
Extend-A-Care for Kids
www.eackids.org 55 North IH-35

education/schools/training

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA Fast, Affordable & Accredited FREE Brochure. Call NOW! 1-800-532-6546 Ext. 97 http://www.continentalacademy.com (AAN CAN)

PART TIME



Children are our future. Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-5:45 p.m. M-F. Starting pay \$9.00-\$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at over 70 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org, or call 472-9929 x408.

entertainment/casting

DANCERS Needed for Holiday parties and events! Hiring male and female dancers. All styles. Call for immediate audition and work (512) 743-4568 or send pic/bio to keito1@hotmail.com

MODELS \$300-\$500. Glamour figure models needed 18-50. Call (512) 257-0484.

MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED. Earn \$150 to \$300 Per Day. All Looks, Types and Ages. Feature Films, Television, Commercials, and Print. No Experience Necessary. 1-800-340-8404 x2001 (AAN CAN)

general

AGRICULTURE

Tractor Driver. Temporary position. 1 opening. Orchard exp. necessary. Spray, harvest, disk, fertilize, irrigate & basic repairs. March 1-Dec 10. \$10.30/hr 54 hr/wk. 3/4 employment period guarantee. Tools provided. Housing if cannot reasonably return to work at end of work day. Transportation & subsistence expenses to worksite. Apply at nearest SWA using job listing CA10446136. Employer Ferrari Farms. Linden, CA

ASSEMBLY \$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$ Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 ext. 2450 http://www.easywork-greatpay.com (AAN CAN)

DOG GROOMING

Very busy dog grooming shop looking for experienced dryer & brusher. Must be able to dry and brush out dogs in a fast paced environment. Great working conditions and hours. Serious, hard-working please call 323-5745

DOMESTIC HELP

Clean, file and organize. 3-6 hours per week, \$10/hr. Call 609-8334.

MYSTERY SHOPPERS

Earn up to \$100 per day. Undercover shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. No Exp req. Call 1-800-721-8435

ONLINE GUIDES

Are you open minded, coachable and looking for a business from home online?

www.PlaceOfFreedom.com

POSITION WANTED

Former Protection Specialist seeks a position as a, "Personal Driver, Personal Assistant, Protection Specialist". I have provided protection for entertainers, VIP's, CEO's, Politicians. Contact S.A. 214-957-6378. I now reside in Austin. Will relocate. dignitary.protection@yahoo.com

SALES Make \$\$ helping others save \$\$ on everyday needs. Training and support provided. 800-693-3084.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD for accuracy the first time it runs. *The Austin Chronicle* is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. *The Austin Chronicle's* liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

healthcare

HEALTHCARE VARIOUS

CommUnityCare is hiring for: Billing and Coding Chart Auditor, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Medical Assistant, Medical Social Worker, Nurse Manager, Pharmacy Assistant I, Pharmacy Assistant II, Regional Practice Administrator, Registered Charge Nurse, Registered Nurse. Please check the display ad for specifics/locations regarding each position. We are always seeking Registered Nurses and Medical Assistants who are looking for PRN positions! Visit www.communitycaretx.org to apply and for more information, or call 512-978-9000

hospitality

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

WAITERS

If you share your tips with cooks, dishwashers, managers or pay for walked tabs or breakage - Call us for a free evaluation. 1-877-TIP-POOL (847-7665) Debes Law Firm Robert R Debes, Jr. www.877tippool.com

non-profit

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- \$375/wk + Bonuses
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The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Online sales experience a plus. Candidates must have strong customer service and organizational skills. Basic computer and typing skills required. In return you will be rewarded with a fast and fun work environment and paid vacation and holidays.

The *Chronicle* offers health insurance and a 401(k) program. First year earning potential between \$25K and \$30K.

Please fax résumé to 512/458-6910

or e-mail:

cassidy@austinchronicle.com.

No phone calls please.



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91 HOUSING

94 BUY/SELL/TRADE

94 SERVICES

96 NEIGHBORHOOD

100 MOTOR

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Enjoy the Austin lifestyle while earning competitive salaries and receiving generous benefits and paid time-off. Visit our web site at www.communitycaretx.org to see our current openings and to learn more about CommUnityCare. EOE

Clinical Pharmacist	(East Austin)
Dental Assistant	(RBJ Dental: this is a part-time opportunity at 20 hours/week (Oak Hill))
Licensed Vocational Nurse	(RBJ: must travel to all locations)
Maintenance Worker	(PRN pool without benefits)
Medical Admitting Clerk	(Rosewood, South Austin)
Medical Assistant	(PRN Pool w/o benefits)
Medical Assistant	(Northeast Austin, Rosewood)
Nurse Manager	(Del Valle, East Austin, Northeast and Rosewood)
Registered Charge Nurse	(East Austin)
Registered Nurse, Triage	(PRN Pool w/o benefits)
Registered Nurse, Staff	



512-978-9000

continued non-profit

NATIONAL MEDIA DIR Looking to fill position of National Media Director for Campus Renewal Ministries, a Christian non-profit organization. Requirements: bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, 3.5 GPA, 3 years exp. in film and television production. Speak Mandarin and English. Must be of the Christian faith. Interested parties fax resume to 512-331-5991, Position code 1431, ATTN: Kimberly Chung.

DEADLINE A reminder that the deadline for placing a classified line ad is Tuesday, noon. Call 512-454-5765 for more information.

professional

SURROGATE CARRIER Professional couple seeking healthy 20 to 35 year old female as a gestational surrogate carrier for their child. Must have previously had a child, live in the Austin area, prefer married with supportive family. \$20K+ and generous benefits. Please email AustinTxFamily@gmail.com

RESEARCH You've given blood for money. Donated plasma for money. We won't even mention all the other things you've done for a little extra cash. Make it easy on yourself and check out The Austin Chronicle's Clinical Studies Page.

research study

CHILDFREE COUPLES Participate in a study and earn \$50! If you and your spouse are older than 18 (wife between 30-55), married for more than 5 years, and don't want to have kids, please contact Kay Lee, a doctoral student at TTU, at childlessstudy@gmail.com to talk about how you two decided not to have kids.

DONOR PROGRAM SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at <http://www.123donate.com>.

EYE ALLERGIES DO YOU HAVE ITCHY, RED, INFLAMED EYES?

Dr. Thomas Henderson of the Eye Clinic of Austin in Austin, TX will be conducting an allergy eye drop clinical research study starting on

February 6, 2010.

If you are allergic to Mountain Cedar, you may qualify to participate and may earn up to \$450 compensation.

Please call Bonita Mueller at **(512) 427-1100** or email at bmueller@eyeclinic2020@aol.com

for more information and to schedule an appointment. The study consists of 3 office visits over a 2 week period and participants will need an allergy test prior to enrollment in the study. Allergy skin tests will be provided at no cost.

SMOKING

Want to QUIT SMOKING? Turn your New Year's resolutions into reality!

* **Get FREE ***
* **Nicotine Patches ***
* **And... \$50 ***
UT -12 wk clinical research study.
You are eligible if:

- You are ready to quit
 - Smoke 5+ cigs a day
 - Are 18-65, M or F
 - Do not regularly exercise
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- strengthtoquit.org
CALL Joe: 512-775-8115

sales/marketing/advertising

TELEMARKETERS

Seeking sales winners! Must have positive attitude and good personality. Can earn \$8-\$15 per hour or more. Call today. Quick hire. Evenings & weekends. Call 512-452-7400

WANT TO QUIT SMOKING IN 2010?

Get FREE nicotine patches and \$50. UT Clinical Research Study: 2 sessions/week for 12 weeks

You must be ready to quit, smoke 5+ cigarettes a day, 18-65 years old, do not exercise regularly, and be generally healthy.

Call Joe: 512-775-8115
strengthtoquit.org

aching
tingly
twitchy
fidgety

Restless Legs

robbing you of sleep?

Jerking. Twitching. Fidgeting. That's how your legs may feel if you have Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) - a condition that makes your legs very uncomfortable when sitting or lying down. The condition can interfere with both sleep and daily activities.

Call Today To Learn More
512-380-9595

CLINICAL STUDY NOW ENROLLING PATIENTS
This research study is evaluating an investigational medication for Restless Leg Syndrome.

IF YOU PARTICIPATE, YOU'LL GET:

- Monitoring of your health as it relates to the clinical study.
- Study related medical care and study medication provided at no cost to you.

Compensation for time and travel may be provided

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 60.
- Be diagnosed with RLS or experiencing RLS symptoms.
- Have trouble sleeping due to RLS.

Other eligibility requirements apply.

FUTURE SEARCH TRIALS

Do you have itchy, red, inflamed eyes?

Dr. Thomas Henderson of the **Eye Clinic of Austin** in Austin, TX will be conducting an allergy eye drop clinical research study starting on

February 6, 2010.

If you are allergic to Mountain Cedar, you may qualify to participate and may earn up to \$450 compensation. The study consists of 3 office visits over a 2 week period and participants will need an allergy test prior to enrollment in the study. Allergy skin tests will be provided at no cost.

Please call **Bonita Mueller** at **(512) 427-1100** or email at bmueller@eyeclinic2020@aol.com for more information and to schedule an appointment.

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b15th and Rio Grande: \$550 Studio apartment. Small complex. Walk to ACC Campus on Rio Grande. Water paid. 6 month leases available. Apologizes to all dog owners, cats only at this property. Gated community! Contact Phillip, 512.619.0657 or email phillip@greenlightlocating.com



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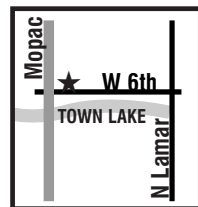
• Swisher: 1/1 remodeled unit, walk to UT \$695.00
• 1620 Waterston: 1/1 in small Clarksville complex, walk to shopping \$725.00
• 10807 Barnhill: large upgraded 3/2 w/ extra lg fenced yard, \$1195.00
• 2602 Penny Lane: large 1/1 near shopping & transportation, \$595.00
• 1307 Norwalk: large remodeled 2/2 in Tarrytown, \$1195.00

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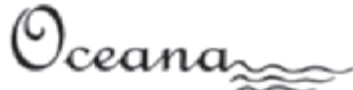


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legal notices

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001719 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JUNE VIRGINIA DUCKER
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of June Virginia Ducker, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001719, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to:

CLAIRE DUCKER

The residence of such
Independent Executor is in
Travis County, Texas. The
address

5112 Lansing Drive
Austin, Texas 78745

All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
to Claire Louise Ducker,
Independent Executor of the
Estate of June Virginia
Ducker, at the office of Joel
B. Bennett, P.C., 316 W. 12th
Street, Suite 101, Austin,
Texas 78701.

Dated the 21st day of
January, 2010.

By: /s/ Joel B. Bennett
Attorney for Claire Ducker

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001720 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM LYON DUCKER
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Lyon Ducker, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001720, pending in the Pro-

bate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: CLAIRES LOUISE DUCKER The residence of such Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas. The address 5112 Lansing Drive Austin, Texas 78745

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to Claire Louise Ducker, Independent Executor of the Estate of William Lyon Ducker, at the office of Joel B. Bennett, P.C., 316 W. 12th Street, Suite 101, Austin, Tex-as 78701.

Dated the 21st day of January, 2010.

By: /s/ Joel B. Bennett Attorney for Claire Louise Ducker

CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: 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 of this citation, the same being MONDAY

02/02/10 a default judgment may be taken against you.

CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-09-007421, filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1 CARROLL, T VS. HERNANDEZ, E

Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1 (Travis County Court-house, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on July 10, 2009.

STYLED: CARROLL, T VS. HERNANDEZ, E

NATURE OF SUIT: PERSONAL INJURY NEGLIGENCE

Given under my hand and the seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on December 18, 2009.

County Clerk, Travis County, Texas PO. BOX 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ C. MADDOX Plaintiff Attorney: TONY NGUYEN 9800 N. LAMAR BLVD. SUITE 120 AUSTIN, TX 78753

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ROBERT A KUGLE Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000106 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JENSEN E KUGLE joined by her siblings, TATE R KUGLE, PARKS W KUGLE, ROBERT A KUGLE, JR and her mother LEE M KUGLE and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 20, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship and Ancillary Petition for Declaratory Judgment in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ROBERT A KUGLE, 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 January 20, 2010.

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 TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF SANDRA KAY STURGEON Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000090 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

RAYMOND STURGEON, JR The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 19, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said SANDRA KAY STURGEON, 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 January 19, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ M. C. ARZOLA

Notice is hereby given that Atlanta Grill, LLC has filed an Application for a sexually oriented business license to be located at 14106 N. IH 35 Austin, TX 78728, lot 4 Block "B" Wells Branch PHS U Travis County Texas. Behzad Bahrami is required to obtain an operator's license to operate the sexually oriented business. Behzad Bahrami, Member-Manager.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 15300 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1999 Dodge, no LP, VIN: 1B7FL26PXXS219774, #1818.75 owed as of 12/28/09

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES K & S TOWING- 2000 CHEVY BLAZER LL WHITE FL VIN# 1GNCS13W2Y23236192 AU- THORIZED BY DPS UNIT LO-CATION K & S TOWING 11740-B MANCHACA RD AUSTIN TX 78748 512-291-3672 TOTAL \$ 554.50 AS OF 01/18/2010 \$20.00 PER DAY + TAX VSF# 0628258

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 herein-after 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, 2-16-2010 @ 9:00AM

531 Herbert Patridge: household goods, boxes, office equip

612 Rafaela Leal: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, TV's or stereo equip

6623 Ella Dyson: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

8823 David Holmes: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78753

(512) 833-0855

Tuesday, 2-16-2010 @ 9:00AM

337 Winston Michael Ray: boxes

336 Michael Jordan: hshld gds, sprng gds, TV/stereo equip, other

910 Bludworth, Jed: furn, boxes, off equip

1028 Conrad Heide: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sprng gds, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach

1200 Ed Williamsen: hshld gds, boxes, tools

7736 Jeff Burleson: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

7748 Andrew V. Fielder: other: music equip

9976 Fred Purcell: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #276

2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664

(512) 310-0279

Tuesday, 2-16-2010 @ 9:00AM

407 Natalie Morgan: hshld gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, acct records

417 Rosemary Lopez: furn, boxes

1120 Steve D. Orsborn: boxes, furn,

2118 Bruce Blackwell: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

2120 Carmen Velasquez: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sportng gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip, landscaping equip

2126 Bruce Blackwell: hshld boxes, furn

2132 Sylvia Rodriguez: furn 2135 Michael Gloria: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip

3124 Greater Austin Moving: hshld gds

3126 Greater Austin Moving: hshld gds

3325 Joe Moreland: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip, off equip, off mach, landscaping equip, acct records

4222 Belinda Trevino: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip

5119 Lee Ann Mezzles: hshld gds, furn, boxes, tools, TV/ stereo equip

5201 Mirna Muniz: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds 5223 Billy Roming: boxes, appliances

5403 Mark Dupree: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip 5409 Wilbur Abramson, Jr.: hshld gds

5431 David Madrid: hshld gds, furn, TV/stereo equip

6116 Maria Andrade: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip, off furn, off mach/ equip

6215 John Aadain: hshld gds, furn, boxes

6309 Linna M. Shuler: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

6313 Slide-Lok of Texas: tool boxes

6410 Sallie Foster: hshld gds, furn

7108 Nicole Jaimes: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

7219 Paulette Dural: furn, boxes

7405 Rosalyn Kelly: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting goods

8426 Kathleen Guin: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances

9116 Kelli DAgostino: hshld gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances

9120 Carol Dancer: hshld gds, boxes, tools

9501 Nichole Millett: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off equip, off mach, acct records

9648 Christina Sperry: hshld gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach, acct records

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr.

Austin, TX 78729

(512) 336-8390

Tuesday, 2-16-2010 @ 9:00 a.m.

209 Scott Lyngaas: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/ stereo equip

428 Lindsay Grivich: hshld gds, furn boxes, sporting gds, appliances, TV/stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South First Street

Austin, TX 78745

(512) 326-9696

Tuesday, 2-16-2010 @ 9AM

127 Amber Montalvo: hshld gds, furn

213 Sunny Fernandez: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

365 Ernest Gonzalez: hshld gds, boxes, tools

2228 Sandy Rosales: hshld gds, boxes, TV/stereo equip 2337 Tom A. Gamboa: hshld gds

2446 Erica Fonseca: furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip 3312 Oren Horner: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances

3409 Sara Hardwick: hshld gds, furn, boxes

3420 Nayel De Los Santos: hshld gds, furn

3508 Clara Mendez: hshld gds, furn, boxes

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON FARMHOUSE ROAD IN PRECINCT ONE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources De-

partment, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A Public Auction will be held to satisfy landlords lien pursuant to chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. Sales will be held on February 20, 2010. A sale will be held at 9:00am at A-A-A Storage 227 Park 35 Cove North Buda, phone 512-312-2227. A sale will be held at 11:00am at A-A-A Storage 4405 IH 71 E. Del Valle, phone 512-247-9708. All Units will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid. Sales include items from the following tenants' storage spaces. #310 Thomas & Stewart Nancy, HHG. #3323 Christine Flores, HHG. #4411 Oscar Torres, HHG. #217 San Good, tools. #3345 Jason Walker, misc. #438 Robert Arguellez, boxes, misc. #3312 Jason Cole, misc., boxes, speakers. #3317 LeRoy Saucedo, misc., boxes, bedroom items.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ABI Storage, pursuant to Ch. 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives notice of a public sale. On **February 6, 2010**, ABI Storage located at 7320 E. Ben White Blvd. Austin, TX 78741 will conduct a sale. Delinquent rental space will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at **10 a.m.** on the premises. The public is invited to attend. Total of 10 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: B19/50 Abandoned, B22 Abandoned, B24 Abandoned, B26 Abandoned, B37 Kelly Ryan Ross, C04 David Parr, C09 Abandoned, C70 Marisol Flores, C74 Gerard R. Figueroa, D22/23 Ruby Ann Pinon.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE to be held at AusTex Towing 201 E. Braker Ln., Austin, TX 78753 on 1/29/10 at 9AM.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 17th of February 2010 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Wednesday, February 17th 2010.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0035 ANGELA SHELF MED- EARS, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

0053 JOSEPH AVALON, HAND DOLLY, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

0086 MARK SMITH, BOXES, FURNITURE, COMPUTER

0223 HERBERT GONZALES, STOVE, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

0401 SALVADOR VASQUEZ, TABLE, BEDDING

0406 MELISSA BRADSHAW, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

0447 ADRIAN ALARCON, TOOL BOX, LADDER, LAWN-MOWER

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

B025 MARGRET SMITH, FURNITURE, BOXES, BIKE D099 MARISOL POZAS, BAGS, CLOTHING

F179 YOLANDA CAMPOS PEREZ, SCOOTER, BOXES, BAGS

G204 CATHERINA MARTINEZ, FURNITURE, BIKE, TV

G213 VERONICA LUNA, SPEAKERS, FILING CABINET, FURNITURE

I249 ARNOLD JIMENEZ, TOOL BOX, FURNITURE, BOXES

K310 DEBRA WATTS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

N412 SEAN MATHIS, FURNITURE

N434 MICHAEL CAIN GARCIA, CLOTHING, TABLE, CHAIRS

Q502 LORENZO HERRERA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

R555 JAMES LAWLER. TOOL BOX, FLOOR JACK, TOOLS

T606 TYLER WHITE, HAND DOLLY, BOXES, TRUCK TOOL BOX

10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

B2 CHRISTINA MORALES, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, BAGS

C20 ANGELA DEANGELO, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

C39 KEN SMITH, BOXES, BAGS, CLOTHING

D9 RAYMOND KING, DESK, FILING CABINETS, BOXES

E27 LOUIS R CASTRO, BOXES

F23 JIMMIE BROCKINGTON, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

G30 JAMIE DONNELL THOMAS, FURNITURE, BEDDING

J62 RAYMOND GRIFFIS, BOXES, COMPUTER, TOYS

K16 RITA ADAMI, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, STOVE

K19 GINGER FLORES, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

L24 ANGIE BARRIENTOS, BOXES, TOTES, BOOKS

M37 JOHN ROBINSON, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

M60 JOHNNY ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, WASHER, DRYER, FURNITURE

10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

697 PATRICK CASTRO, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

698 DANIEL NORTON, BOXES, BEDDING

102 YVETTE MADRID, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

134 MICHAELA VILLENEUVE, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

1072 PAMELA HARRELLSON, BEDDING, CLOTHING

1099 GORDON PEARSALL, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, COUCH, BED, STOVE

2066 FABIAN SOTO, BOXES, FURNITURE

2206 NUVIA CHARLES, BEDDING, BOOKS, BOXES,

3015 ALICE COLLINS, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

3097 NATHANIEL SMITH, BEDDING, BOXES

3148 REGINALD LAWSON, BEDDING, BOXES, FURNITURE

11:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

C156 ROBERT MACHADO, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C202 JOE LONGORIA, FURNITURE

C257 NATASHA MCALISTER, BOXES, STROLLER, MICRO-WAVE

C326 XAVIER JULIEN, BAGS, TOTES, FURNITURE

D009 GERALD GERHARDT, TOYOTA SCION

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1096 RICHARD SANCHEZ, LADDER, BOXES, BAGS

1100 JENNIFER ANDRADA, BOXES, FURNITURE

2046 BRANDON KING, BOXES, BEDDING, FURNITURE

3098 ELIZABETH PURCELL, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

4021 CAREN JOSLIN, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

4057 ERNESTO SAENZ, BOXES, BEDDING, FURNITURE

4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, LADDER, FURNITURE, WASHER

4110 LEAH LATANE, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

11:45 a.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US HWY 290W, Austin, TX 78735

1306 STACY FULMER, HAND DOLLY, LADDERS, BOXES

3248 HARPER FERGUSON, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

1034 ANDREA MAY, TV, CHAIRS, CAR SEAT

2094 CHRIS SAUNDERS, BOXES, COMPUTER, TOTES

3050 CORNERSTONE PRODUCTIONS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

3121 JOSEPH DRIGGERS, ELECTRIC ORGAN, KEYBOARD, FURNITURE

5087 MICHAEL NEELY, BOXES

<

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

IN EXTREME COLD, BLOCK HEATERS SHOULD BE USED REGULARLY

Dear Tom and Ray:

I live in interior Alaska, and it gets cold. How cold, you ask? It's been -40°F (that's negative 40) for the past week or so. My husband and I go back and forth as to whether to keep the car's block heater plugged in all the time or whether to use a timer and run it only some of the time. I've heard that too much heat is bad for the oil. This morning I used the timer, and my car decided it was too cold for the transmission to engage. I was stuck. At -45°F, I don't have to go to work. At -40°F, I do (administrative policy). I want to use this as leverage to get my husband to let me keep my car plugged in more of the time. What do you think? — Christie

RAY: I'd use the timer, Christie — a timer that turns the block heater on around Oct. 1 and turns it off around June 30.

TOM: In fact, you may want buy a trailer with a diesel generator bolted onto it, so you can stay plugged in while you drive around, too.

RAY: When it's that cold out, just leave it plugged in all the time if that's what the car needs. The only cost is electricity. You won't do any harm to your oil.

TOM: Right. When people talk about heat being an enemy of motor oil, they're talking about oil that's being overworked under hard driving conditions — like driving a car at high speeds for long distances in the heat of the summer, or pulling a trailer up the Rockies.

RAY: When you subject your engine to extreme conditions like that, it can run hotter than it's supposed to. That can shorten the life of the oil. That's why manufacturers recommend that people who use their vehicles for such severe duty change the oil more frequently.

TOM: But in your block heater's wildest dreams, it never could get the engine oil hot enough to do it any damage. Not even close. In your case, it's just warming it up to the point where it's no longer cement.

RAY: So for weeks like the one you just had, you can run the block heater as much as you need to. And when it gets so cold that the block heater needs its own block heater to get started, it's time to move to San Juan, Puerto Rico, Christie.

Used cars can be a great bargain and reliable, too! Find out why by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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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Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

Ayuda a Identificar las Necesidades Comunitarias del Condado de Travis

El Condado de Travis invita al público a participar en foros comunitarios donde residentes tendrán la oportunidad de identificar necesidades comunitarias y de recomendar proyectos para el uso de los fondos del Programa de Subsidios Globales de Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) que se enfoca en las áreas no incorporadas del condado. La información recaudada en los foros guiará la selección de proyectos CDBG para el Año Programático 2010 (de Octubre 2010 a Septiembre 2011) y ayudará a determinar la prioridades de los fondos para los próximos tres Años Programáticos (de Octubre 2011 a Septiembre 2014).

El Programa de Subsidios Globales de Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) recibe fondos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE.UU. para beneficiar a residentes de bajos y medianos ingresos que viven en las áreas no incorporadas del condado. El programa apoya actividades de desarrollo comunitarias que tienen como propósito revitalizar comunidades, mejorar opciones de viviendas asequibles y proporcionar servicios e instalaciones comunitarias mejoradas. Para el Año Programático 2010, el Condado de Travis anticipa recibir aproximadamente \$866,380 en fondos CDBG.

Los foros públicos se llevarán a cabo de acuerdo al siguiente horario:

Martes, Febrero 16, 2010 a las 9:00 am	Lunes, Febrero 22, 2010 a las 6:30 pm	Miércoles, Febrero 24, 2010 a las 6:30 pm	Miércoles, Febrero 24, 2010 a las 6:30 pm	Jueves, Febrero 25, 2010 a las 6:30 pm
Edificio Granger de la Corte Comisionada del Condado 314 W. 11th St. Austin, Texas, 78701	Centro Comunitario Rural del Este: 600 W. Carrie Manor St. Manor, Texas, 78653	Centro Comunitario del Condado de Travis: 15822 Foothill Farm Loop, Bldg D Pflugerville, Texas, 78660	Centro Comunitario Rural del Oeste: 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A Oak Hill, Texas, 78735	Centro Comunitario Rural del Sur: 3518 FM 973 Del Valle, Texas, 78617

Si no puedes asistir a los foros, puedes participar llenando una Planilla de Participación ubicada en la página web www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG/, en uno de los siete Centros Comunitarios del Condado de Travis, o puede solicitarse para ser enviado por correo llamando al (512) 854-3460.

Para mayor información comuníquese con Christy Moffett a través del e-mail christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us o llamando al 512-854-3460. Para solicitar que haya un intérprete en español o de lenguaje americano de señas en alguna de estas reuniones, por favor contacte al personal por lo menos con cinco días hábiles de anterioridad.



Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

Help Identify Community Needs in Travis County

Travis County invites the public to participate in community forums where residents will have an opportunity to present community needs and recommend projects for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for usage in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The information collected in the forums will guide the selection of CDBG projects for the Program Year 2010 (October 2010 – September 2011) and help determine the priorities for the funding of the next three program years (October 2011 – September 2014).

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit Travis County low- to moderate-income residents who live outside any city limit. The program supports community development activities aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods, improving affordable housing options, and providing improved community facilities and services. For program year 2010, Travis County anticipates to receive approximately \$866,380.

The forums will be held according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 @ 9:00 am	Monday, February 22, 2010 @ 6:30 pm	Wednesday, February 24, 2010 @ 6:30 pm	Wednesday, February 24, 2010 @ 6:30 pm	Thursday, February 25, 2010 @ 6:30 pm
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom: 314 W. 11th St. Austin, Texas, 78701	East Rural Community Center: 600 W. Carrie Manor St. Manor, Texas, 78653	Travis County Community Center: 15822 Foothill Farm Loop, Bldg D Pflugerville, Texas, 78660	West Rural Community Center: 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A Oak Hill, Texas, 78735	South Rural Community Center: 3518 FM 973 Del Valle, Texas, 78617

If you cannot attend any of the forums, you can participate by filling out a Participation Form found at the Travis County Website at www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG/, at one of the seven Travis County Community Centers or by requesting that it be mailed to you by calling 512-854-3460.

For additional information contact Christy Moffett, at christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us or call 512-854-3460. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at any of the public hearings, please contact staff at least five business days in advance.

continued

legal notices

5139 JASON KENNEDY, BOXES, TOTES, COMPUTER

5186 JONNY CONAWAY, BOXES, BAGS, CLOTHING

9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

1007 COREY MACK, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

1059 ANTOINE BROWN, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

2004 CRISTOPHER STANFORD, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

2077 JASON HERRERA, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE, TOYS

3010 COREY SMITH, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3037 VERONICA LEE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3054 VICKIE ANDREWS, BAGS, BOXES, TOTES

4004 PAM HAUSMANN, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

5071 TIFFANY SUTTON, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

6014 RENEE E ROPP, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

6020 IRENE CASTANEDA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

8016 TONJUA COLEMAN, BOOKS, BOXES, FURNITURE

8060 ERIN TAYLOR, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

B002 JEANETTE BARREIRO, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

B009 YOLANDA TREJO, APPLIANCES, BOXES, FURNITURE

B131 GUILLERMO GOMEZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C006 ANTONIO DUNCAN, BEDDING, BOXES, FURNITURE

C019 PATRICIA PEREZ, BEDDING, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

C024 JOHN ALTON SAILORS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C029 STEVE SCHWARTZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C100 UNDREDA WALKER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D031 SHANDELL BENTLEY, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

D038 ORGETTA WILSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D074 KEVIN BEAN, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

D087 PAULA MENDOZA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D106 BRITTANY ANIONETTE SMITH, BEDDING, BOXES, FURNITURE

D148 VERONICA DELACRUZ, BEDDING, BOOKS, FURNITURE

E068 ANTHONY WILKINS, APPLIANCES, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

F001 SONYA LYNN BELVIN, APPLIANCES, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

G014 NEAL NEUNHOFFER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

H010 JAMES WILLIE 3RD MERCER, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reini, Austin, TX., 78751

184 ETHEL HARRIS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

188 C/O Dr. NAIM SIPRA, SONIA BAWA SIPRA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

418 BILLIE CAVANAUGH, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

473 ADGAR MEZA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

633 ANTHONY GRIGGS, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

914 JEFFREY PAYNE, TOOLS

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

120 PERRY HEMPHILL, BOXES, TOYS, BAGS

140 ERIC DUBE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

237 DANE JASKINIA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

251 JACORI VIENS, APPLIANCES, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

464 ERIC HARVEY, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS

510 HELBERT OSORIO, FURNITURE, TOOLS, TOYS

1114 DAVID VALENTA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1118 JEFFREY WILLIAMS, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

1137 CALVIN LEWIS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1223 MARY LUNA, BOXES, BOOKS, ELECTRONICS

1229 MARY MENDEZ, FURNITURE

1325 RAY MENN, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, BAGS

1336 DAT SOLUTIONS, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

1404 MARIA MELENDEZ-SANCHEZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

2002 RUSSELL SOLOWAY, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3111 DEKKO REALTY CORP, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

N1285 MAILING WILLIAMS-DAVIS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

N1298 JOY MAXWELL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

N1304 HIEP WONG, BEDDING, BOXES, TOYS

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A046 RONALD KEITH GREESS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

A059 CYNTHIA JOHNS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C033 MELISSA MCKINLEY, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D016 LEVON COOPER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

G005 EDUARDO RAMIREZ, BEDDING, CLOTHING, FURNITURE

H045 ISAAC AVALOS, 1987 MERCEDES 560SEL VIN#CA39D2HA314***

J003 CHRISTIAN B MANGONGUI, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

B040 TERRANCE BELL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C004 MARIO MOODY, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

E038 LATRICE BOWIE, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

E055 YVETTE JOHNSON, APPLIANCES, BEDDING, BOXES

E080 DOROTHY AGUILAR, BOOKS, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

E114 JOSE FLORES, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E122 SHANNON SANDERS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E123 MELVIN BELL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E133 JONATHAN LEE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

F031 NETTIE KELLOUGH, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING

1:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

A215 NAOMI ONYEBUCHI, BAGS, FURNITURE

A216 JONATHAN LEE, BOXES, TOTES

B025 HUGH JONES, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

B074 STEPHANIE CUELLAS, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

C097 MONIKA LOW, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

D061 JAMES ORTEGO, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

E060 KYLA WILHITE, BOXES, FURNITURE

F029 DAYDON HARVEY, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

1:30pm Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

B191 HERBERT (BRANDON) CAMPBELL, BOXES, FURNITURE

D656 PRINCESS KENNEY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D482 ADAM GARNER, BOXES, FURNITURE

2:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2267 JOHN HENDERSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

A056G ADRIAN CLARK, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C010 NETWORKS MIRAGE, 2000 DODGE STRATUSVIN# 1B3EJ56HXYN25****

C031 RAYMOND BARRON, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

D029 MGR & COMPANY, BOXES, BAGS, TOOLS

2:30pm Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

2078 CHRIS MARSCHNER, BOXES, FURNITURE, BAGS
3098 RICHARD TOVAR, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3100 MICHELE DOUGLASS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

4074 BETRICE POLLARD, BEDDING, BOXES, FURNITURE

A008 ROBERT MONROE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D011 JOANNA RUSSELL-DYSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:00pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0104 JAMES HELM, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, BOOKS

0110 CHRIS DAUW, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

0124 OLLIE LITTLE, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

0205 CRUZITA VEGA, BOXES, TOTES, ELECTRONICS

0206 TRISHA BREITBARTH, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

0214 MISTY BAUER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

0339 MICHELLE LITZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

0407 BODIE OSTRANDER, BOXES, TOTES, ELECTRONICS

0442 MEGAN PLANT, FURNITURE, BEDDING, BAGS

0517 JOHN BUENTELLO, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

0522 MICHELLE ROSASCHI, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

1176 MICHELLE ROSASCHI, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

2187 GREG NEFF, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:30pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

1117 MARVIN HARRIS, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

1170 LLOYD HALL, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

3101 LINDSEY B. MILLER, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

3105 VICTOR TRUAN, FURNITURE

3113 RANDI MARTINEZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3139 JOHN BUENTELLO, BOXES, TOTES, TOYS

8182 ASUQWO EKENE, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

9106 LARRY HATZFELD, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DIANNE WARDER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001770, styled Estate of Dianne Warder, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 21, 2010, to Lawrence A. Warder.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of his attorneys at the following address: c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY a Professional Corporation Attn: Kevin Holcomb P.O. Box 98 401 Congress, Suite 2200 Austin, Texas 78767-0098 All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner

prescribed by law. DATED the 22nd day of January, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY, A Professional Corporation P.O. Box 98 401 Congress, Suite 2200 Austin, Texas 78767-0098 512.480.5627 Telephone 512.480.5827 Fax

By: /s/ Kevin Holcomb State Bar ID No.: 09824000 ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JEAN ROSALYN CORNELIUS Administration of the Estate of Jean Rosalyn Cornelius, Deceased, has been commenced by issuance of original Letters Testamentary to Gregory Cornelius McElreath on November 9, 2009 by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. C-PB-09-00-1407, styled IN RE: ESTATE OF JEAN ROSALYN CORNELIUS, in which Court the cause is pending. All persons having claims against said estate are notified to present claims to Gregory Cornelius McElreath at the address shown below within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: 25 January 2010 /s/ GREGORY CORNELIUS McELREATH INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JEAN ROSALYN CORNELIUS ADDRESS: 244 Porterville Street Pismo Beach, California 93449

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MILDRED EARLINE MITCHELL, aka, MILDRED ERLINE MITCHELL, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of MILDRED EARLINE

MITCHELL, aka, MILDRED ERLINE MITCHELL, were issued December 29, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-1595, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: DAVID JOE MITCHELL.

The principal place of residence of such Independent Executor is Austin, Texas.

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 to the Independent Executor and may be delivered to the following address c/o Everett S. Stovall, P.O. Box 1476, Lake Jackson, TX 77566.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES RANDOLPH MOTT, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 09-0695-CP4, styled Estate of James Randolph Mott, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the County Court at Law Number 4 of Williamson County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 19, 2010, to Samantha Beth Mott.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent executor of the estate in care of Nancy Rice Hudson at the following address: c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY a Professional Corporation Attn: Nancy Rice Hudson Post Office Box 98 Austin, Texas 78767 All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 20th day of January, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY, A Professional Corporation By: /s/ Nancy R. Hudson

State Bar No. 16832500 (512) 480-5755 (512) 480-5855 (fax) ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Carl Gans, Deceased, were issued on January 21 in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001746, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to: Leo Gans.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Mr. Leo Gans

Independent Executor, Estate of Carl Gans, Deceased c/o Robert D. Fowler Robert D. Fowler, P.C.

1301 West 25th Street, Suite 320 Austin, Texas 78705

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 21st day of January, 2010.

/s/ Robert D. Fowler Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALAN B. MARCUS, Deceased, were issued on January 26, 2010, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001606, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: ANDREW B. MARCUS, Independent Executor.

The residence of the Independent Executor, ANDREW B. MARCUS, is in Travis County, Texas. The post office address for mailing of claims is:

Estate of Alan B. Marcus c/o Richard L. Welch 8140 Mopac Expressway

North Westpark 4, Suite 260 Austin, Texas 78759

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 26th day of January, 2010.

Andrew B. Marcus Independent Executor Estate of Alan B. Marcus, Deceased By: /s/ RICHARD L. WELCH

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On January 21, 2010, Neimath Rani Arni qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Faiz M. Arni, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001711, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Independent Executor is: c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Neimath Rani Arni Independent Executor of the Estate of Faiz M. Arni

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sarah D. Tooke, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2010, under Docket No. 09-0669-CP4, pending in the County Court of Williamson County, Texas, in Matters Probate, to Margaret L. Tooke.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Margaret L. Tooke, Representative

Estate of Sarah D. Tooke, Deceased c/o Wayne A. Langham 9501 N. Capital of Texas

Highway, Ste. 102 Austin, TX 78759-6606

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 January 22, 2010.

Wayne A. Langham, Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of Gary Gayle Parker AKA Gary Lee Parker, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000780, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Erica Good.

The notice to the Dependent Administrator 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 26th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Ellen P. Stewart Attorney for Dependent Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters testamentary for the ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN BARKER BALL, deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001744, ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN BARKER BALL, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Mat-

ters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to ANN B. SCHROEDER and HELYN CARPENTER, Independent Co-Executors Without Bond, c/o **Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law**, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Texas 78750-1832. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED January 22, 2010.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of CHRISTINE AMMONS, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010, under Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001771, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to CHARLOTTE DORA DARDEN.

The post office address is: Representative, Estate of CHRISTINE AMMONS, Deceased

c/o Charlotte Darden 12904 Scofield Farms Dr Austin, Texas 78727

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2010.

/s/ Jeanette K. Schaefer, Attorney at Law Attorney for Applicant

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. Demolition Services, B100098-LD

Opens: February 8, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County

THE AUTO DEPOT

WE SPECIALIZE IN AFFORDABLE HONDAS!

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)**



VOTED BEST IN AUSTIN 7 TIMES BY THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE AND CITYSEARCH



NEW VEHICLES FOR SALE THIS WEEK:

ALL WITH OUR FAMOUS WARRANTY

2008 Hyundai Accent GS 3 dr hatchback, 5 spd., it's my personal vehicle, but my needs have changed with a baby and big dog! :-), 14K miles, FULL WARRANTY for six years! - \$8,500

2003 Honda S2000 54K (ready in one month) beautiful car in the process of getting perfect! LOW MILES - \$12,900

1998 Lexus SC300 coupe. 115K. Wow, what a car. Just a gorgeous classic. \$5,900.

1993 BMW 850ci - 153K, 30 day warranty VERY RARE! \$85,000 new - \$6,900

2000 Volvo S40 - 74K miles, black on black, leather, new engine rebuild... - \$4,995

1999 Mercedes C230 Kompressor Sport- 168K miles, one-owner, all records, silver, 4 DR, looks and runs beautiful \$4,995

2007 VW Rabbit - 3 Dr. Hatchback, 56K Miles, Full Warranty, 5 speed, 35 MPG, beautiful - \$8,900

2006 Ford Mustang GT - Silver, auto, fast car, RUMBLES! 102K miles, beautiful, charcoal interior - \$11,950

1937 [yes, 1937] Ford rumble seat convertible. Needs total restoration [we can do it for you!], but very, very rare. Being brought back to life - \$14,750

2001 Civic, 4dr., auto, clean, nice, looks, drives perfectly, warranty. 105k. \$5,350

2001 Civic 2dr., 5 sp., 80k, runs, drives, looks super, warranty, \$5,750

1997 Civic 2dr. EX, 5 sp., full warranty, \$4,250

continued

legal notices

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 web-site: 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.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Park Concession Operations, RFS S100096-RG
Opens: February 8, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2010 @ 2:00 P.M.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems will conduct an accreditation site visit of: TravisCountySTAR Flight on February 8 and 9, 2010
The purpose of the site visit will be to evaluate the pro-

gram's compliance with nationally established medical transport standards. The site visit results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded to the program.

CAMTS accreditation standards deal with issues of patient care and safety of the transport environment. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent or valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the CAMTS site surveyors at the time of the site visit. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for public information interviews must be made in writing and sent to CAMTS no later than 5 business days before the site survey begins. The request should also indicate the nature of the information to be provided during the interview. Such request should be addressed to:

Office of the Executive Director
Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems
PO Box 130
Anderson, SC 29677

The Commission will acknowledge such written requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the program of the request for an interview. The program will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

This notice is posted in accordance with the CAMTS requirements and may not be removed until the site visit is completed.

January 8, 2010

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2007 VW Rabbit- 3 dr hatchback, 56k miles, full warranty, stick shift, beautiful, \$8850. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotAustin.com

2008 HYUNDAI Accent GS 3 dr hatchback, 5 spd, it's my personal vehicle, brand new AC system (never had it new) 14k miles, FULL WARRANTY for 6 years! \$8500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotAustin.com

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WARM APPLE PIE

lets see what happens.. **jade99**, 30,  **#132306**

WET AND HORNY

looking for dominate much much oloder 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**, 24, **#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. **kinkykendra69**, 26,  **#131116**

ELMO LOVER

I'm a girl who just wants a lot of fun and wild things into my life. **lovablelibra12**, 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. **burlyqgirl**, 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. **litred**, 32,  **#128782**

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. **austinparitygirl1985**, 24,  **#119045**

TRADE PICS

We like to trade pics and videos with other couples and bi-females. **Trade_Pics**, 47,  **#132372**

DOMS SEEK PLAYMATES

We are a Dom couple who are looking for a sub female or a sub couple. We are bi switch and prefer to Dom. **Atdomx2**, 34,  **#132366**

PLAY WITH US

Married Couple looking for women 41(her) 44(him). We are hwp, attractive, ddf,drama free. We like to watch and be watched. Seeking woman to share erotic adventures. Age 25-50 HWP Caucasian, Latin. **seekingfun1**, 45,  **#132126**

CUTIE = 3

We are looking for a cutie to come play for some laughs and naughtiness. we are attractive, very easy going and really know how to have a good time! **MrDestructo_and_CatastropheGirl**, 29,  **#132001**

NO CLOTHES NECESSARY

Itis not that hard. Weill either want to have sex with you or not. Turning down someone and being turned down by someone is not that big of deal. **Velo_sexy**, 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**

NAUGHTY PLAYMATES WANTED

we are an attractive bi-couple(both) seeking playmates for erotic encounters of the close kind! we are seeking a bi-couple or single bi guy or girl for naughty sultry times. **playfullpair**, 31,  **#131360**

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 safe, sane, fun, and drama-free. If you're both bi (or at least curious) that's a plus. **PairofAces**, 29,  **#131110**

AHHHHITSYOURFACE!

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**

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**

HOLD NOTHING BACK

Couple (F/27 M/30) searching for another female to get down & dirty with us. We enjoy watching and participating in all ways. Always willing & open to ideas & experiments. **TRDW**, 28,  **#130241**

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**

BE OUR GIRLFRIEND

Hispanic couple needs some fun with a bi-female. Wife is ready to make you feel good, husband ready to watch. You, sexy and ready for pleasure. **txphcpl**, 34,  **#129554**

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**

GIRL PLAYMATES

Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 32,  **#119900**

FEMALE SEEKING COUPLE

Single female looking to add adventure in my life & definitely try new things! Have always been curious/ interested in doing naughty things with a hot couple. Any takers?! **browneyedgrl85**, 25,  **#132264**

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 STD-Free. **Asian-Orchid**, 24,  **#131487**

YOUNGTIGHT

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. **bossgur145**, 19,  **#129789**

SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Day-time encounters might be necessary. **volcano**, 49,  **#127424**

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 45,  **#118402**

PANTYHOSE LOVER

Pantyhose enthusiast loves playing with others while wearing pantyhose, stockings, and other silky lingerie. Very clean, safe, sane, ddf. If you're interested in some discreet play let me know! **houhoseluvr**, 38,  **#132269**

LOOKING FOR FUN

Looking for no strings fun and wanting to explore. Am a little bi-curious. **Tgun**, 38,  **#131470**

READY TO PLAY

I ready to do some exploration but not alone. Who wants to play? **Stiff_Breez**, 37,  **#131318**

BOTTOMSUP

No STD's, Bi-Shaved male/Cross-dresser/Bottom, I am fun and love to be with others that will not judge me for what I like. I am willing to try anything once. **BottomsUp**, 29,  **#131298**

HI ALL MEN

Im looking for a man who would love tpo have a crossdresser for dinner and desert. **roxytail23**, 32,  **#132238**

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**

HOT AND HORNY

Toned hard body cross dresser and exhibitionist. Do you have somewhere I can perform for you? **jackie69**, 45,  **#101254**

HUNGORTH512

I am looking for sexy, uninhibited people who want to explore their desires and fantasies. into all kinds of kinky SAFE fun I am attached and looking for discreet encounters. **sandsagendsage**, 31,  **#132375**

POLYAMOROUS PARTNER

Are open minded and willing to try new things? Are you an experienced swinger or looking to try it out? Are you attracted to men, women or both? **docaustin**, 39,  **#132373**

PARTY AT MOONTOWER!

I love Austin but I love the women of Austin even more. You know who you are! The girls you-can find on a hot summer day down at the green-belt. **liquidtech**, 23,  **#132304**

TALL DARK HANDSOME

Young man looking for fun time with cute and attractive woman between the ages of 18-30. Easy going and up for anything. **MickeyMouse44**, 20,  **#132274**

SEXUALLY INTENSIVE ROMANTIC

I need a real woman to satisfy my manly urges. Please be: not shy, non-smoker, D&D free, fit, open minded, a great ass, pretty smile, and sweet personality. **aguedeney**, 34,  **#132248**

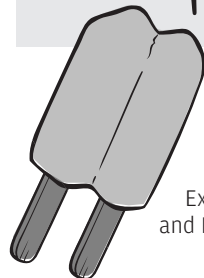
LATINO IN AUSTIN

Hi, I'm a clean, healthy, in shape, latino male in Austin. I'm 5'8", 160lbs, short black hair, brown eyes,laid back, and looking for friends in the Austin area. **markaustin**, 34,  **#114857**

free!

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AsianOrchid Age: 24

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That breathtaking pinkish sunrise is not a good sign. Yes, it's pretty – the kind of daybreak that appears in all your better Southwestern tourist brochures – but it also can be the harbinger of an ugly day for allergy sufferers. Cedar pollen is a sure sign that Adam and Eve really screwed the pooch with the whole forbidden fruit incident. The realization that they were naked was only a very small portion of the package of affliction and misery the Old Testament God had in store. There is so much bewilderingly evil and nasty shit in nature it can only be explained by a malevolent and vengeful God. No doubt cedar pollen is solidly on the list, but there are plenty of other menacing phenomena that top it by far. For instance: porcupines. Jesus, what the fucking fuck? A varmint entirely covered in needles. It's like an animal designed by prank-store employees. Really, God? Is that some sort of sick payback for the apple? Then of course you have skunks, which look exactly

like something you might want to pet ... right up to the point when they lift their cute bushy tails. Piranha? Piranhas would maybe make a little sense if Eve had been caught strangling puppies or gerbilbing or something, but even still, piranhas seem like a gross over-reaction.

The Luv Doc
Hope for Haiti Benefit
Sun., Jan. 31, 7pm • Antone's
213 W. Fifth , www.antones.net

earwig or some bot flies or maybe an ugly case of herpes. Yes, it could be argued that the Lord was acting on principal when he cast A&E out of the garden. In fact, the real punishment for eating from the tree of knowledge is knowing that your God thought it was OK to create a menagerie of other creatures that can eat you, maul you, sting you, strangle you, clobber you, maim you, and hurt you in ways too bizarre for any mentally healthy person to imagine. Crocodiles? Why? Imaginative, yes, but couldn't all those fish, varmints, waterbucks, zebras, and the like just have died of old age? Most baby lawns be torn to pieces by packs of wolves? Is that really necessary? A world with so much violence and treachery makes a strong argument for either a maniacally sadistic micromanager or a scatterbrained absentee landlord – somebody who drunkenly jizzed in a tide pool then flew off to another galaxy in his silver spaceship. Neither of these models is entirely satisfying, but the latter is much more comforting. Knowing that God was actually pulling the levers when more than 150,000 Haitians were crushed in an earthquake two weeks ago doesn't really bode well for the afterlife. Would you want to eat at the same Taco Bell where a bunch of people died from E. coli the week before? Even though it's on a comically smaller scale, the whole cedar pollen problem raises similar questions. Isn't there a less obnoxious way for trees to mate? Do we have to be covered in a monthlong toxic pink pollen money shot? Do we even need cedar (aka mountain cedar, *Juniperus Mexicana*)? All it's ever brought us is nasty pollen, brush fires (proof of a benevolent God?), and shitty bases for glass-topped coffee tables. If you stay awake trying to answer these questions, you probably can't sleep because your head is pounding with sinus pressure – either that or you're going insane. Same difference. Trying to understand why cedar trees exist is a pointless exercise – sort of like trying to understand why Taco Bell chose the Beefy 5-Layer Burrito for its 89-cent special. You will never understand that type of insanity unless you're insane yourself, and the juice probably isn't worth the squeeze. All you can really do is react to it in a way that seems sane and responsible. That's exactly what some generous musicians will be doing this Sunday at Antone's when they perform for the Hope for Haiti Benefit, a fundraiser for victims of the Haitian earthquake. \$15 gets you a night of music from Love at War, Johnny Goudie, Suzanna Choffel, Nina Singh, Kathy Valentine, and Savannah Welch, and it might at least help ease someone else's misery.

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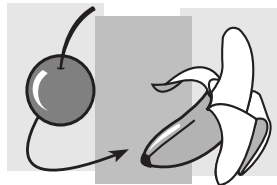
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FOREIGNER IN AUSTIN

Just looking for some fun people to hang out with. I like going to live shows and 6th street. I'm real easy going and am always up for anything. **sagirl**, 21, #132349

CAMPING

Typical woman needs camping buddy. Someone, who won't nag me when I am connecting to a tree and yet is there when I need to be rescued. **iamevil**, 28, #132267

PARTNER IN CRIME

Want to meet someone who shares my interests: hiking, biking, live music, traveling, cooking, reading, etc. Looking for someone who knows what they want and how to ask for it. **hablinka**, 26, #132257

DON'T LOOK BACK

I live my life so that I have as few regrets as possible. I think before I act, mean what I say and embrace the life I've been given. **motherpoet**, 49, #115833

STRIKING, PROVOCATIVE, CHEEKY

Porcelain skinned educator looking for a welcomed diversion. Any Joe Strummers/Lloyd Dobblers out there? I'm into intelligence, debate, obscure film references, music, and quality humans. **Red-Betty**, 35, #127053

NEWYORKER

Short latinredhead, with one child, native NewYorker...love romance, movies, reading, cooking and hate writing about myslef. **jusalady**, 53, #132221

CREATIVE INTELLIGENT WOMAN

I am an intelligent, funny, romantic who likes to travel, I love my job and have a good life. I would like to find a gentleman who also loves life. **austinsberry**, 52, #132200

GOOD GIRL

I am open minded, thoughtful, easy to talk to and have a sarcastic raunchy sense of humor. I am low maintenance but can get all gussied up. **Purplegirl**, 30, #132161

ETERNAL STUDENT

I'm a laid back gal who loves to learn about the world whether it be through reading, interacting with others, or traveling. **German_Longhorn**, 21, #131999

FOXY TALENTED CHIC

I like men and enjoy a fun adventure, guys who are sure of themselves, good with fixing things, are compassionate, sexy, and that appreciate a real woman. I am still looking! **foxychic2day**, 49, #132134

I CAN

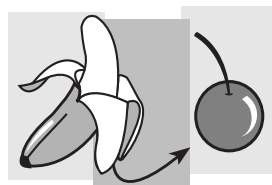
Animal and nature loving girl, who would like to meet somebody to spend some time with. No Drama, BS and Stress needed. Just be yourself and say what you mean. That's all. **oktoberkiki**, 37, #132129

OPTIMISTIC AND ATYPICAL

I'm a single mom with a full time job that I love. My favorite things are music and movies (hard rock and just about any good film). **TXgirl2282**, 27, #132062

OUTGOING, RANDOM, FUN

I really enjoy meeting new people and where they come from. I love the outdoors, good food, and random adventures! **wmartinez**, 25, #132009



TOTAL MUSIC NERD

I'm a laid back guy who's been around the block a few times, so I don't take life too seriously. If that sounds like you, maybe we'll hit it off? **silencekit**, 20, #132387

EXPLORER BEATNIK FILMMAKER

I love literature, museums, wine, film, and a wide variety of music. I part own two companies one which does design work and one which does commercial construction. **Offbeatnik**, 23, #132378

KEEP AUSTIN READING

I guess we're all supposed to just go to 6th street to meet people? Everyone there is either way too drunk or way too dressed up.. **Caramel_cod**, 26, #132371

COFFEE??

I'd say I am mature for my age, I hope you like music cause its my life. 6'0 slender and looking for something long term. **thepianist07**, 20, #132369

LOOKINFORFUN

Ok well I am a great guy. I am divorced, no kids, full time military, some college, good country dancer, learning to play guitar, just moved to Austin in September. **SGTinAustin**, 37, #132365

RETIREEE SEEKS TRAVELER

I am a UT Grad, who has just retired. I have lived in Germany, Spain, Hawaii, Alaska. Need a lady with a retirement check so we can travel. **Retired1**, 65, #132364

HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!!!

A+++++ I've a good head on my shoulders, and aspire to do a great many things. I wish to share my adventures with someone. Owning a passport is a plus. **havetravelwilllearn**, 26, #132358

MR. FRIENDLY

I was voted most friendliest in high school and I feel that I am still friendly. I am planing to move to bastrop county in november of 2010 when I retire. **gld1948**, 61, #132347

PRO STUDENT

I love honesty, integrity, and optimism with a side of good jokes. **blue_skies**, 26, #132289

EASYGOING, OPEN-FINDED, ADVENTUROUS

I am going to keep it simple. Just looking to meet new people and have some good times! Open to everyone as long we keep things interesting and not boring! **bebold12**, 28, #132344

1234

Just got into town, looking for a fun-time female companion who likes to rock'n'roll, stroll around, drink it down, eat it up, sit back, take it off, shake it up. **BUB76**, 39, #132339

I'M ROMEO ROSE

I'm new to Austin TX and am looking to meet someone. I'm a Blues guitarist/singer and abstract painter. **romeorose**, 35, #132334

TALL, PUNK, HANDSOME

Young cook looking for someone special to help me cause mischief all over this town. Looking to have fun minus insanity. Spend the night in bed or in the pit? **yankeeintx04**, 21, #132315

PINK FLOYD

Philip Glass Flametrick Subs David Bowie Original Sinners Frank Zappa The Cramps Dmitri Shostakovich John Cage The Residents Diamanda Galas Kraftwerk Ute Lemper Paul Hindemith Ravi Shankar Metallica Dino Lee. **schnick808**, 48, #132293

COUNTRY BOY

Im the kind of guy that likes spontaneous things. I like fishing, snow boarding, pretty much anything that has to do with the outdoors. You wanna know more email me. **Liquorman**, 24, #132272

SUPER CHILL ROCKER

I'm a engineer and musician. just moved to town Im looking to meet people to hang out and party with or chill with a good movie and some good tunes. **00Deven**, 22, #132282

KINKY, SEXY, ARTISTIC,

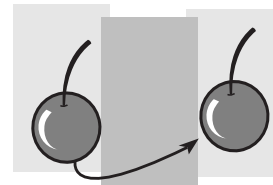
Just looking for a good woman to be with and enjoy each others company. I am a good guy who needs someone special I love music, would perform for you. **kalidascope**, 43, #132278

TO THE VEDGE

My biggest passion is the beautiful universal language of music. i play a few instruments, but bass is my love. i pretty much am either playing music, or have it blasting thru speakers every 2ndi' mawake. **RaulDuke**, 24, #132270

LET'S HANG OUT

Looking for someone to hangout and getting know. **CeeJaiRun**, 25, #132260



WANNA BE FRIENDS?

I haven't dated in a while and I'm ready for a change. Looking for someone fun and funny, independent and drama free who enjoys the fine art of hanging out. **NiceGirl78**, 30, #132097

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. looove walks. really laid back. **AceOfSpades**, 20, #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**, 23, #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

I LIKE QUESO

i don't really know what i am looking for, but i'm sure i will when i find it. **allietea**, 24, #131071

many more ads online!
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MAUDE SEEKS HAROLD

me: artist/librarian/student/teacher. 34 year old maude seeks similar-aged/emotionally-available harold/ marcel duchamp/bill hicks/beck/ andrew bird/vonnegut/ with buddy holly glasses. meet me in montauk. **craftylibrarian**, 34, #132186

DANCING SPINNING MADNESS

I am constantly spinning staff or dancing, not so good for meeting up cute boys. LEO! I have been totally deprived of snuggles cuddles all winter! it is driving me insane! **RoboLove**, 22, #132158

INTELLIGENT RED HAIR

Looking for good conversation and close encounters. Drug/Disease free seeking same. 37 yo, needing friendly relationship with single, divorced, widowed non commitment seeking intelligent gentleman. **strawberryddd**, 38, #132165

FREE SPIRITED HIPPY

I'm a peace loving hippy, and I love having a good time. I love meeting new people, and trying new things. I just want to experience an adventurous life. **Funlovinghippy**, 19, #131981

SILLY ARTSY AUSTINATIVE

Creative, easy-going, likes to laugh. Passionate about the arts, design, learning new things, the environment/"saving the world", traveling to new places... Looking for somebody appreciating and wanting the same. **shellebelle**, 34, #132112

ANOTHER MULTI-STATE TRANSPLANT.

Loves: music, movies, baking, reading, magazines, making mixes of all the same songs, family, friends, job. Dislikes: organized religion, not having TV, traffic, cleaning the tub, purple, war, liars, fakes. **ladyfriend**, 29, #132109

ADVENTUROUS LOVEABLE CUTIE

I love spending all my time outside, photography, music, good movies, art, discovering new places and new people. Looking for a guy who's adventurous, spontaneous, and genuine. **em194**, 20, #131959

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. **truthor-consequences**, 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



CeeJaiRun Age: 25

Let's kick it old school.

Making people laugh and having fun is the way I live my life. I am a social butterfly and try to see the glass half way full. I like learning things everyday and if someone can show me new things. That would be great. Take me out for a spin, then you be the judge.

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SEEKING MR RIGHT

GWM, 40,blond, stout and lonely looking for someone who likes to travel, try new things. Looking for a mans man, no fems or drama. HWP, good sense of humor. **msellis69**, 40, **IC**, **#132385**

ATXGUY SEEKS ATXGUY

Typical Austin guy and then some. I like to be close enough to whisper ... **jonwayne**, 20, **IC**, **#132177**

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, **IC**, **#131890**

SMART, LOVING, LOYAL.

I am honest and very blunt. Love cuddling. Love being outdoors. Love animals and nature. If you want to know something about me ask it. **Gabe7373**, 22, **IC**, **#131975**

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, **IC**, **#131728**

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Originally from Boston. I enjoy going back east to visit family. I'm looking for someone with the same interests, cooking, taking walks, talking about the important things in life. **It-Takes20**, 47, **IC**, **#131616**

LONELY ROMANTIC

38yo,Hispanic male , 5'6",200,br/br,very easy going and affectionate ,romantic,spontaneous,ambitious, love the outdoors,travel,would like to find a guy i can spend time with and get to know and see what happens from there. **sthaustin78704**, 38, **IC**, **#130019**



LOVE TO LAUGH!

I love to laugh but who doesn't. I am told I have a great smile and love showing it.I enjoy watching sports, playing pool, and watching all kinds of movies. **nayzia**, 28, **IC**, **#132138**

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

Hoping to move back to Austin. Looking to move back there. Let's have coffee and see what we like to do. Not looking for sex/dating. **hip-pyatheart**, 56, **IC**, **#131994**

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, **IC**, **#131826**

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC, OUTGOING

I am a major of dance and Spanish. My passions include dance, writing, & music. I enjoy riding my bike, running/jogging, and swimming. I have a crazy sense of humor. **dancer28**, 28, **IC**, **#131739**

LOOKING FORWARD TO....

Grad student looking to experience the art, live music, and culture of the Austin area. Interested in finding people who enjoy spontaneity, exploring, simplicity and just "being". **SG728**, 25, **IC**, **#131303**



KURT MENSINGER AND/OR CARL STARKEY "Rocket" Riley is looking for y'all or ANYONE with info please contact me at: planorocket@aol.com

STARBUCKS (DOMAIN) 1/21

Me: outside business meeting. white shirt and tie. You: beautiful smile - Reddish top summerish, revealing enough to make my mind wander. w/ a guy our eyes connected several times... **When: Thursday, January 21. Where: Starbucks (Domain). You: Woman. Me: Man. #904609**

CHRISTMAS CONTINENTAL CLUB

Lindsay Kerrville...thanks for being friendly. Worst pick-up-line ever, "Last time I was in this club you weren't even born!" Care to be "pen pal"? I visit Austin from Vegas often. **When: Thursday, December 24, 2009. Where: Continental Club. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904603**

MAYOR OF HOUSTON

You in a home made dress.With your coat over it I couldn't help looking into your eyes.Asked you about it and then was interrupted then you were gone.Chat about politics? **When: Saturday, January 16. Where: 13th st.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904602**

LADY IN RED

You wearing a red top dancing w/ some guy at Donn's.I just sat there w/ friends watching you wanting to cut in. Our eyes met more then once. Another time? **When: Thursday, January 7. Where: Donn's Depot. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904601**

BEAUTIFUL BRUNETTE SKATER you,white shorts gorgeous body,sunday afternoon at wahoos fish taco, me,brown hair black shirt blue jeans with long board.... teaching u how to longboard and left b4 i got ur number **When: Sunday, January 10. Where: wahoos fish taco. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904599**

I'MLOOKINGFOR JAMES...PT.1 James, I knew you about 3 years ago. You took me out to lunch@ Z-tejas, you gave me a beautiful blue topaz pendant & we drove over to Pure Austin... **When: Monday, January 1, 2007. Where: Bath Junkie south austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904596**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsný for Jan. 29-Feb. 4

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the coming week, I predict that you will *not* experience disgusting fascinations, smiling-faced failures, sensationalized accounts of useless developments, or bizarre fantasies in the middle of the night.You may, on the other hand, have encounters with uplifting disappointments, incendiary offers of assistance, mysterious declarations of interdependence, and uproars that provoke your awe and humility in healing ways. In other words, Aquarius, it'll be an uncanny, perhaps controversial time for you – but always leading in the direction of greater freedom.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Congrats on your growing ability to do more floating and less thrashing as you cascade down the stream of consciousness. I think you're finally understanding that a little bit of chaos isn't a sign that *everything's falling apart forever omigod the entire planet's crashing and evil is in ascension* ... but rather that a healthy amount of bewildering unpredictability keeps things fresh and clean. My advice is to learn to relax even more as you glide with serene amusement through the bubbling and churning waters of life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Shakespeare got modest respect while he was alive, but his reputation as a brilliant bard didn't jell right away. It wasn't until almost 50 years after he died that anyone thought his life and work were notable enough to write about. By then, all his colleagues and compatriots were gone, unable to testify. He himself left little information to build a biography around.That's why next to nothing is known about the person who made such a dramatic impact on the English language and literature. I suggest you take this as a metaphorical prod that will inspire you not to be blasé about the greatness that is in your vicinity. Don't take superlative intelligence, talent, or love for granted. Recognize it; bless it; be influenced by it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are the lord of all you survey! I swear to God! I'm almost tempted to say that you now have the power to command whirlwinds and alter the course of mighty rivers! At the very least you will be able to mobilize the ambition of everyone you encounter and brighten the future of every group you're part of! Act with confident precision, Taurus! Speak with crisp authority! Your realm waits expectantly for the transformative decisions that will issue from the fresh depths of your emotional intelligence!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time for you to fly away – to flee the safe pleasures that comfort you as well as the outmoded fixations that haunt you, to escape at least one of the galling compromises that twists your spirit as well as a familiar groove that numbs your intelligence. In my astrological opinion, Gemini, you need to get excited by stimuli that come from outside your known universe.You need fertile surprises that motivate you to resort to unpredictable solutions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "I never meet anyone who admits to having had a happy childhood," said writer Jessamyn West."Everyone appears to think happiness betokens a lack of sensitivity." I agree, and go further. Many creative people I know actually brag about how messed up their early life was, as if that was a crucial ingredient in turning them into the geniuses they are today. Well, excuse me for breaking the taboo, but I, Rob Brezsný, had a happy childhood, and it did not prevent me from becoming a sensitive artist. In fact, it helped. Now I ask you, my fellow Cancerian, whether you're brave enough to go against the grain and confess that your early years had some wonderful moments? You're in a phase of your cycle when recalling the beauty and joy of the past could be profoundly invigorating.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Usually I overflow with advice about how to access your soul's code. I love to help you express the unique blueprint that sets you apart from everyone else. Every now and then, though, it's a healing balm to take a sabbatical from exploring the intricacies of your core truths.This is one of those times. For the next 10 days, I invite you to enjoy the privilege of being absolutely nobody. Revel in the pure emptiness of having no clue about your deep identity. If anyone asks you, "Who are you?" relish the bubbly freedom that comes from cheerfully saying, "I have no freaking idea!"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): French novelist Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880) is generally regarded as one of the greats. His book *Madame Bovary* appears on many lists of the greatest novels of all time. And yet writing didn't come especially easy for him. He worked as hard as a ditchdigger. It wasn't uncommon for him to spend several agonizing days in squeezing out a single page. On some occasions he literally beat his head against a wall, as if trying to dislodge the right words from his hiding place in his brain. He's your role model in the coming week, Virgo. You *can* create something of value, although it may require hard labor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): My theory is that right now the whole world is in love with you. In some places, this simmering adoration is bordering on infatuation. Creatures great and small are more apt than usual to recognize what's beautiful and original about you. As a result, wonders and marvels are likely to coalesce in your vicinity. Is there anything you can do to ensure that events unfold in ways that will yield maximum benefits for everyone concerned? Yes. Be yourself with as much tender intensity as you can muster.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I hope that you saw the horoscope I wrote for you last week. And I hope that you acted on my advice and refrained from all sweating and striving and struggling. These past seven days were designed by the universe to be a time for you to recharge your psychic battery. Assuming that you took advantage of the opportunity, you should now be ready to shift gears. In this new phase, your assignment is to work extra hard and extra sweet on yourself. By that I mean you should make your way down into your depths and change around everything that isn't functioning with grace and power. Tweak your attitudes. Rearrange your emotional flow. Be an introspective master of self-refinement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This horoscope borrows from one of my favorite Sagittarian visionaries, Jonathan Zap. The advice he gives below, which is in accordance with your astrological omens, is designed to help you avoid the fate he warns against. Here it is: "Many of the significant problems in our lives are more about recognizing the obvious rather than discovering the mysterious or hidden. One of the classic ways we deceive and hide from ourselves is by refusing to recognize the obvious and shrouding what is right before us in rationalization and false complexity. We often delay and deny necessary transformation by claiming that there is a mysterious answer hidden from us, when actually we know the answers but have various reasons to pretend that we don't." (More at bit.ly/ZapOracle and Zaporacle.com.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's a good time to take inventory of all the stories you allow to pour into your beautiful head. Do you absorb a relentless stream of fear-inducing news reports and violent movies and gossip tales of decline and degeneration? Well, then, guess what: It's the equivalent, for your psyche, of eating rotting bear intestines and crud scraped off a Dumpster wall and pitchers full of trans fats from partially hydrogenated oil. But maybe, on the other hand, you tend to expose yourself to comedies that loosen your fixations and poems that stretch your understanding of the human condition and conversations about all the things that are working pretty well. If so, you're taking good care of your precious insides; you're fostering your mental health. Now please drink in this fresh truth from Nigerian writer Ben Okri: "Beware of the stories you read or tell; subtly, at night, beneath the waters of consciousness, they are altering your world."

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsný'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

HANDSOME IN GLASSES

Monday5pm. WholeFoods. Crossed paths near front door, shared a smile. Me:Red plaid shirt, dark hair and bangs, glasses. You:tall, dark hair, handsome, dark shirt, glasses too. Here goes nothing... **When: Monday, January 25. Where: Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904620**

CENTRAL MARKET GRAPEFRUIT

We met at the grapefruit display at Central Market south Sunday. Gee-golly-gosh,—I'd-love-to-meet-up-with-you—again. First time so easy. I'll be there, same time(1:30), same day of week, same place. Come meet me. **When: Sunday, January 24. Where: Central Market south. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904619**

SISTERS EDGE SATURDAY

glance and a dance at Seil Saturday. You: Latina wearing a silky red blouse & black vest drinking red drink. I was butch in maroon shirt. Care to dance again? **When: Saturday, January 23. Where: Sisters Edge II. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #904618**

RED'S AUBURN CUTIE

You: two-tone "long" hair and infectious smile. I sat next to you at bar. We talked chili, movies, books, your driving. Can't forget your good-bye. Jalapeno poppers next time? **When: Sunday, January 24. Where: Red's on South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904617**

YOGA @ RUTA

You: Kind,attractive,golden blonde hair,big smile Me: Brown hair, white shirt, very shy, a little younger. Eyes have locked but i choked up too easily.Dinner at a moderately priced restaurant sometime? **When: Tuesday, January 19. Where: Ruta Maya Coffeehouse. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904616**

WONDERFUL SMILE.

You, beautiful smile, heading into Wal-Mart, wearing glasses. You gave me the most wonderful hello and smile on Saturday. You, WF, glasses, Me: BM, leaving as you were heading inside. **When: Saturday, January 23. Where: Wal-Mart 183 & 620. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904615**

MIDDLE EASTERN LOVER

You:middle eastern beauty white shorts nice top me: black guy blue shirt jeans glasses in line waiting for club rain. Fri.23,2010 about 12 ish can we have lunch? **When: Saturday, January 23. Where: in line waiting for club rain. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904614**

DREAMS AND DARKNESS

Elaine: we talked about dreams, darkness, and New Orleans. I'd love to chat again, if you're available. Coffee? **When: Thursday, January 21. Where: Kiss and Fly. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #904610**



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SOBER SEAN DYLAN

you're a bit more entertaining when you're drunk, but you're just so sweet when you're sober! can we find a happy medium and make out? **When: Saturday, January 16. Where: The Liberty. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904611**

TARGET -BEDDING AISLE

Saw you shopping at Target (1/23/10) in bedding aisles. Spoke to you briefly about some of the sheets. You were wearing a hat. Wanted to ask your name. **When: Saturday, January 23. Where: Target. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904613**

BLUE MOON- LUNCH

"Mary Beth" that's what the bartender said at noon. Beautiful. Hair pulled back revealing bright blue eyes not thrilled with your lunch date. I'm lunch available. Me: content, daft, happy. **When: Friday, January 22. Where: Crown & Anchor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904612**

TERRY 1991

Terry last we met was in 1991, we made love in the grass.Please contact me **When: Tuesday, November 16. Where: North Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904600**

SPIDERHOUSE SERVER

Sat at the bar outside with my laptop. You brought me an iced coffee. I mentioned you were extremely nice and needed to come more often when you worked. **When: Tuesday, January 19. Where: Spiderhouse Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904608**

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE WAITER

You were our curly haired waiter. You had a beautiful smile and when you asked if we needed anything else and I wish I had said yes. Thinking of you. **When: Monday, January 18. Where: Alamo Drafthouse. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904605**

YESTERDAY RUTA MAYA'S

You and your friend sat next to me. Figured you were interested in talking but decided not to since there was a performance going. Would love to show you Austin. **When: Tuesday, January 19. Where: Open mic night @ Ruta Maya's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904607**

BUS STOP MAN

You corner Northcross and Foster Lane waiting for bus. I walked by and said, "good morning." You in bluejeans, wearing glasses and had a briefcase, Coffee? you man; me man. **When: Wednesday, January 20. Where: Northcross Drive & Foster Lane. You: Man. Me: Man. #904606**

SUNDAY-NAT GROCERY

you looking, me looking...your my density **When: Sunday, January 10. Where: In store. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904594**

HALF PRICE BOOKS?

We exchanged light conversation and a few laughs in the Health/ Psychology section, would love to talk more. You game? **When: Monday, January 18. Where: Half Price Books, South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904604**

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