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AUSTIN

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Supernatural

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CALENDAR	
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ASST. LISTINGS Anne Ha	
STAFF WRITER	
	el Proctor May, Marc Savlov, Amy Smith,
Jordan Smith	
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VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Jac	queline May
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MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. LETTERS AT 3AM Michael	
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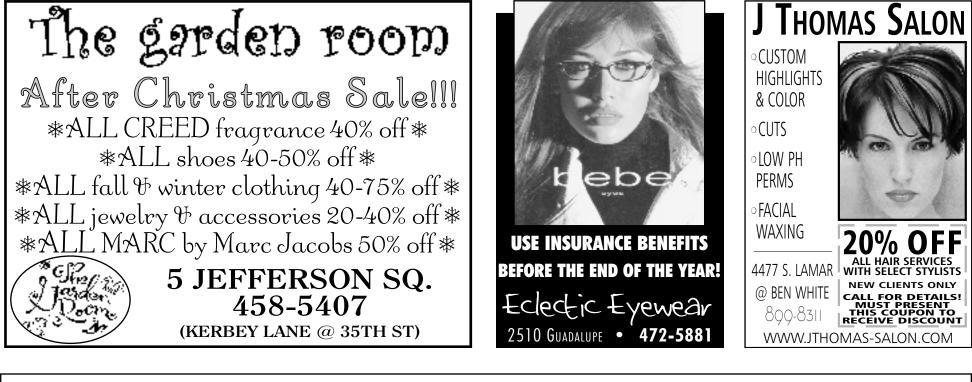
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Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.





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page two

Something of a prayer for this holiday season. Not exactly a prayer; it is a given that, coming from someone who voted Democrat, our prayers will never reach the ears of God (so to speak). The government may run the post office, but evidently the hard right has taken over the heavenly appointment office. Not only is God taking increasingly partisan bookings, but in addition, certain large groups are simply excluded from contact. One might find this whole attitude – that God is intimately involved in partisan politics and strutting your religion is the major way of affirming faith – more than a little too much mixing of the secular with the purity of religious belief. But if one does feel that way, and one is running for office in modern America, then one probably won't be elected.

Conformity; militant, evidenced faith; and parochial, exclusionary Christianity are back in prominence. Only a fool (and there does seem to be an army of them out there) would argue the Christian right has been overwhelmed as this country has witnessed a triumph of the secular. A few court victories, including keeping prayer out of the schools, and a few overzealous public officials trying to avoid promoting specific religious beliefs have been magnified from anecdotes into a triumph of the nonbelievers.

The United States is a strongly Christian country, more devout and practicing than most of the European countries we might think of as hotbeds of religious devotion. This is also a politically conservative country that occasionally drifts toward the moderate. The ridiculousness of depicting Democrats as red-hot Bolsheviks is underscored by the fact that, during most of the decades of their political dominance, one of the most powerful factions in that party was made up of aggressively conservative, pro-segregation Dixiecrats. The United States is and has long been a moderate-conservative, Christian nation. It is one under President George W. Bush, it was one under President Clinton, and it was one (though one trying some unique, massive, widespread public projects in response to the failures of an underregulated economy) even under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the same way that the right, ignoring its decadelong record of comprehensive electoral wins, keeps declaring that its revolution is now beginning, it's managed to ignore as well the fact that when the Democrats ran the country, outside of a number of outstanding progressives, that party was far more conservative. Only after the Johnson-era civil rights legislation, when Southerners' long-held hatred toward the Republican Party was overwhelmed by their even deeper racial and social prejudices, did party allegiances change. But the same mostly male, mostly white power groups that have long run this country still do.

by Louis Black

The right, not as a solid entity but in its many manifestations, has really grasped the concept that if you repeat something enough times, it comes to be accepted as a truth. Again, though this country is overwhelmingly Christian, we are being told how the Christian-hating secular forces are winning everywhere. Although this country is traditionally moderate-conservative, we are being told that the America-hating liberals who somehow stole their way to power are finally being beaten back. Mainstream media's already disturbing blandness was further diluted by the widespread acceptance that it is aggressively liberal and overtly partisan. But the most ridiculous charge, the absolute triumph of Humpty Dumpty over the diction, the greatest triumph of those who assume the American people really are fools, is the transformation of the meaning of the word "elites."

In the "we're mad-dog new-right Republicans and proud of it" book of meanings, "elites" is shorthand for media, entertainment, political, and public figures who speak out on politics, arguing positions with which the right disagrees. Thus, Alec Baldwin, Richard Gere, Bruce Springsteen, Frank Rich, and Ted Kennedy would be "elites." Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Charlie Daniels, Ted Nugent, and Ann Coulter would not be so regarded. A member of the "elite" is not simply a public figure speaking out; that status is entirely determined by what he or she says. One of the scariest aspects of the new right is that what they are really targeting is public debate, free speech, and the traditionally accepted balance of powers.

Now, here are excerpts from some recent *Chronicle* letters, which note that the writers are longtime Democrats who voted for Kerry but are still happy Bush won. I've seen a number of similar letters in other publications. In my experience, when many different letters share similar language, there may well be something going on, though of course it could also be coincidence:

Letter 1: "And yet, I find myself delighted with the outcome because it is clear that the 'silent majority' living in 'flyover country' have found their voice. Though I despise Christian fundamentalism, I abhor the elitist disdain expressed by the liberal media, by Hollywood, and by the academic intelligentsia of those core values quietly held in Middle America."

Letter 2: "Multiculturalism and political correctness are divisive tools of limo-libbies. This abominable double standard is racist. By holding 'disadvantaged' groups to a lower standard of behavior than that of the mainstream, we are saying that these persons are incapable of succeeding in the predominant culture. However, complain about the adverse effects of this misbehavior, and you are branded a racist. All reasonable discourse gets handcuffed by identity politics.

Holiday Schedule

In order to ensure proper ringing in of the new year, the *Chronicle* office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 30 and 31. We will return to our regular business hours on Monday, Jan. 3.

"The left's own elitism has made it irrelevant. ..." Ignoring the preposterous notion that the same moderate-conservative "silent majority" that has long been in charge just came back into power, think about this: "elitist disdain," "limo-libbies." Again and again, the "elitist" label is laid at the liberals' doorstep.

The real American elites are the ones whose names you mostly don't know. Their extended and extensive families have long run or owned significant interest in major American businesses. They belong to the country clubs and go to the private schools. Their wealth is so vast that tax cuts in stock dividends actually make a difference to them. They continue to run this country as they always have run it. This is not meant to imply they are conspiratorial; I don't think that they gather in locked rooms to plan a detailed future, but this is the elite class that owns more of America than do most other Americans combined. They have been in power for generations; they continue to be in power. They usually don't appear on television; they don't have an official spokesperson; they are not organized. Still, the overwhelming determinant in terms of one's economic status is family. Most of these people were born to power and money. They are overwhelmingly Republican.

Meanwhile, the much-derided liberal elites rarely inherited their positions. For the most part, coming from all economic classes, they earned their positions, as movie stars, rock performers, TV news people, media faces, writers, college professors. Once they achieved prominence, they chose to speak out. Despite the slinging around of the term "politically correct," it has always been a lot more dangerous in America to express progressive ideas than conservative or even reactionary ones. The so-called elites are anything but; they're simply expressing themselves, which has become something about which the right is leading the rest of the country in becoming increasingly disdainful.

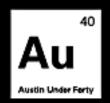
Then there are the cheerleaders, the common folk who are sick to death of hearing opinions with which they disagree. They are delighted that the liberal elites have been shown their place. These people, who often speak out against policies that would economically benefit them and who champion unpopular beliefs even though it may damage their careers, have been shut up.

The real elites – the elites that get richer off Bush's economic policies and still richer from the Iraqi war – are more solidly in *continued on p.8*

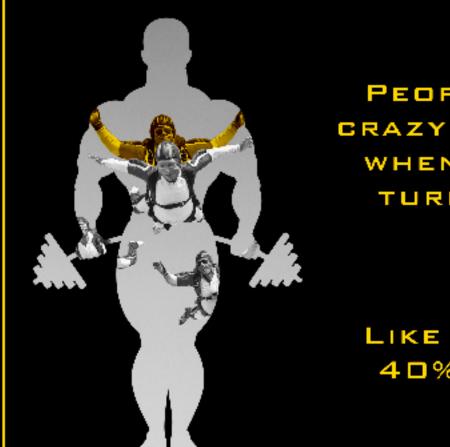
is bestowed upon the future by the actions of those with

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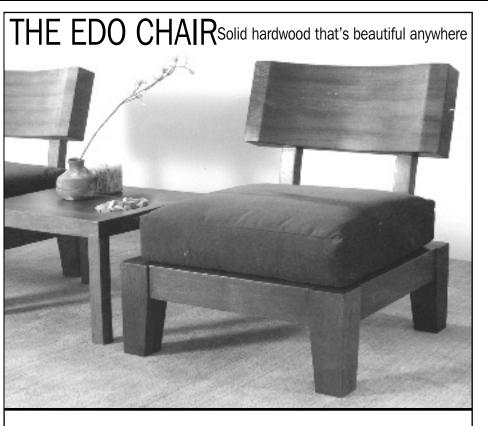
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power than ever. For the most part, they did not earn their positions but inherited them; they are neither entertainers nor very much in the public eye. They mostly shut up, participating in American politics only by making large financial contributions. They haven't been put in their place by this election. They have been in their place for years; they are in control and are staying there. It's what God and, evidently, the American people want, and so shall it be.

This year I experienced two near-miracles. There was a time when the culture blew my mind on a regular basis. I would discover Lynd Ward, Isaac Babel, Dashiell Hammett, Maya Deren, Francois Truffaut, Diane Arbus, Bob Dylan, D.W. Griffith, Sam Peckinpah, Lizzie Borden, Walt Whitman, Susan Sontag, Woody Guthrie, Will Eisner, Joni Mitchell, Jonathan Richman, to name just a few. My ears would bleed, my eyes bulge, my brain overheat. I would leave movies running, listen to records over and over, and stay up reading until dawn. I was so much younger, more optimistic, and there was so much to discover. Lately, though the pleasures experienced are rich and varied, it's rare that my mind explodes.

It happened twice this year. Both times completely unexpectedly.

The first was when Brian Wilson performed *Smile* at the Backyard. Usually unfinished legendary masterpieces should stay unfinished and legendary. The recording released before the tour certainly didn't suggest anything too special. The performance was stunning, the piece encompassing and extraordinary. Resurrected, *Smile* proved more brilliant than had long been supposed (which, before the show, I would have argued was impossible).

The second was reading Bob Dylan's *Chronicles*. Yes, I had read the mostly rave reviews, but I had also read Dylan's "novel," *Tarantula*, seen his movies, and read his liner notes. I figure the critics were being unusually kind to Dylan because, after all, he is Dylan. Then producer Bob Johnston gave me a copy of the book. I stayed up until 4am reading. It is the most explicit visit with a notoriously reclusive genius I've ever encountered. Amazingly, Dylan details things he's almost never even talked about before: how he came to be a songwriter, when he fell back in love with performing.

So here's my tainted prayer for this season: May you all have an outstanding 2005. May the truly spiritual light that drives great art and great belief shine more brightly and powerfully then ever, illuminating the darkness while bringing us all closer together under the most inclusive heading "humanity," rather than the more proudly trumpeted exclusionary ones.

This is the last *Chronicle*, then, until next year (next week). Welcoming in 2005, all of us here wish all of you the very best.

POSTMARKS

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

Keep Austin Indie Dear Editor,

It's frightening how much the local media landscape has transformed in the last few years. As reported in "Dialing for Dollar\$" [News, Dec. 17], currently 23 of 27 radio stations are owned by just five chains! In a community with a tradition of grassroots support for cultural uniqueness, it's sad to observe the consequences from FCC media ownership deregulation and neglect of its localism mandate. With the shutdown of Radio Free Austin, uncertainty over Austin Music Network's future, and the deaths of many indie publications, how can we "keep Austin weird"?

What Clear Channel doesn't understand is that the amount of advertising on our airwaves isn't what turns listeners away – it's the prepackaged formats programmed without considering why Austinites chose to live here. All the changes in the local media landscape should be the clearest signal that Austin media is failing to satisfy this market.

Austinites should remember that dissatisfaction inspired an outside proposal to KAZZ to experiment with a pioneering radio concept a couple of decades ago as KOKE's signal echoed across the national media landscape. Radio owners should also take note that Besley Corporation turned the table years later by guaranteeing creative control in order to attract an innovative program director to make over KGSR. Granted, corporate radio has its limitations, but noncommercial stations like KVRX can step up by giving more support to our local music scene.

Maybe the *Chronicle* should bring back the Biggest Waste of the Airwaves category. But since that award would be shared by too many, perhaps the *Chronicle* can spotlight what's still worth tuning in to on our airwaves instead, once the media landscape settles down a bit. *James Lee*

'Chronicle' Excludes Hispanics!! Editor,

Your story about Austin radio managed to exclude more than 25% of the market ["Dialing for Dollar\$," News, Dec. 17]. Mr. Brass overlooked the eight Hispanic stations that rank among the Top 25 stations ... foremost among them KHHL ("Exitos"), a Top 5 station in every important demographic. Our company, BMP Radio, operates seven of these stations (Univision Radio also has a minor presence) targeting the nearly 300,000 Hispanic Austinites, and garnering a more than proportionate share of the advertising dollars. We're disappointed that the *Chronicle* seems oblivious to this vital and rapidly growing segment. *Bob Proud*

Vice-president/operations BMP Radio Dallas

Place 1: Too Early to Call

DECEMBER 11, 2004 - FEBRUARY 20, 2005

To the editor,

In reference to the Mike Clark-Madison "Naked City" article printed Dec. 17 [News], I believe the paper should print a retraction and Mr. Madison should conduct some research before succumbing to the political machine rolling over him. I believe since I am a candidate for Place 1 and

continued on p.10

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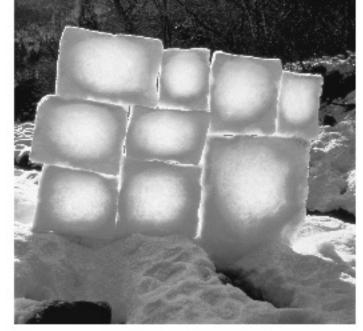
HOUDAY HOURS New Year's Eve 10 am - 2 pm New Year's Day 12 - 5 pm

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Addy Beldsenetty: Mountain and Code, Administration Witten is countery of Haines Gallery, San Fitancisco, — Calibratia, and the Arcist.

The Austin presentation is made possible through the generate support of Excelede Construction LR The Austin Placeum of Art 2004 2006 Exhibition Supports an ENC Software, Borman Family Fundation, Dol, Rise and any Report Vargina Family Foundation, Deas Somersion on the Arts, Yoe Austin Chewhait, News Situatio and Time Womer Cable.

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY

British souldtor Andy Goldsworthy collaborates with nature, creating aculptures that are both in and of a particular place. After spending time in a selected natural site, he collects materials from that landscape and creates temporary soulptural arrangements, leaving the forces of nature to finish them. Before they dissipate, he documents them in stunning color photographs. This exhibition consists of three components:

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Thirly four photographs and four sculptural installations made in Japan in 1987.

WEB DRAWINGS: AUSTIN, TEXAS

A small series of chotographs created by the artist on a recent trip to Austin.

RIVERS AND TIDES: ANDY GOLDSWORTHY WORKING WITH TIME, 2001

A 90-minute film by Thomas Riede sheimer.

SCREENINGS:

Tuesday–Sunday: 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1:30 pm, 3 pm, and 4:30 pm. **Thursday:** Additional showing at 6 pm

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postmarks, FROM P.8

my name is listed first on the sequence I should be declared winner of the race five months before the election and before even one candidates' forum has been held. Please consider the following before crowning the Austin Place 1 progressive candidate. I have attended an HBC (historically black college), been a single father raising my son, and conducted grassroots organizing on affordable housing, APD community police relations, and the Travis County Democratic Party. I have been a small-business owner, involved with neighborhood zoning and planning, sustainable housing, and community empowerment. Building bridges for one community, one Austin.

Progressively yours

Andrew Bucknall Candidate for City Council Place 1 [Editor's note: See "Austin@Large" p.15 for more.]

Aggressive Corrections

Dear Chronicle

So how much Christmas cheer did your reporter have before filing his alleged story on the homeless ["No Homeless in Our Time?," News, Dec. 17]? Here's a sampling of what wasn't reported:

* There are 20,000 homeless people in Austin and its surrounding environs;

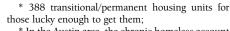
* 6,709 of these meet the new federal criteria for chronic homeless;

* 1,917 meet the criteria but are turned away due to lack of resources.

* To be "chronically homeless" one must be an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or one who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years;

* Disabling condition is a diagnosable substance disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including two or more of these conditions;

* 755 shelter beds available for 90 days to those lucky enough to get them;



* In the Austin area, the chronic homeless account for about 33.5% of the homeless population and receive about 32.6% of the available funding, which completely screws up the "New York" reform model; Ratio of staff to chronic homeless - 1-to-86;

* Homeless funding: \$17,960,000/20,000 homeless

= \$809.30 per capita, \$67.45/month, or \$2.25/day; * Chronic homeless funding: \$5,067,000/6,709

chronic homeless = about \$756.74/capita, \$63.06/month, or \$2.10/day; and * Implementation of "reforms" by DAA executive

that seem openly hostile suggests less than optimum outcome of aid for chronically homeless. Merry Christmas to the "value laden,"

Ricky Bird

[News Editor Michael King responds: Bastrop's Ricky Bird, self-appointed authority on all matters homeless, finds it amusing to insult anyone else who presumes to discuss the subject without his permission. In a previous letter on another subject, he condemns those whose "politics is to spit on your allies and imply that those disagreeing with you are fools or corrupted." Yet that is the only style of argument he employs. For the record, his figure of 20,000 area homeless depends on counting "20,378 duplicated homeless individuals" who were provided services (in the Homeless Task Force survey he attached) as each an independent case of homelessness. That initial incorrect presumption undermines all his subsequent arithmetic. Certainly the local problem of homelessness is serious and the survey represents an important step in addressing the specific problem of chronic homelessness. Wild and hostile exaggerations of either the numbers or other people's motives are not much help.]

An Average American Dear Editor

It's time for me to leave the closet. I've been a registered Democrat for 22 years. I marched in two protests against the latest Iraqi war. I voted for Kerry in November

However, I am now happy to say, "I am glad Bush won.



I have three reasons for my new Dubyaism Europe is not our friend. They have been stabbing

Israel and the U.S. in the back for more than 30 years under the Euro-Arab dialogue; with this Faustian pact, the continent sold its soul for oil. The continent is now rife with violence and bloodshed at the hands of Islamic radicals welcomed by this pact. It is the original "blood for oil." Couple this with the EU's unapologetic financial support of the Palestinian authority and Hamas and it is obvious that Bush was right to ignore Europe in regard to Iraq. They declared a quasi-war against us in 1973.

Multiculturalism and political correctness are divisive tools of limo-libbies. This abominable double standard is racist. By holding "disadvantaged" groups to a lower standard of behavior than that of the mainstream, we are saying that these persons are incapable of succeeding in the predominant culture. However, complain about the adverse effects of this misbehavior, and you are branded a racist. All reasonable discourse gets handcuffed by identity politics.

The left's own elitism has made it irrelevant. In fits of childish narcissism, they blame red-state ignorance rather than their own ineptitude for their loss in this latest election. They are way out of touch with the average American, and their whining just distances them even more.

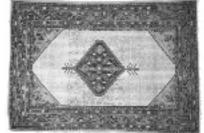
Lefties are crying about moving to Europe to get away from red-state dominance. Go ahead. I suggest Spain. There's lots of sangria and Real Madrid on telly. Just don't cry to me when you can't hear the match over the loudspeaker of the mosque next door. Joe Mitchell

continued on p.12





The Magic Carpet Old Persian Rugs



Hamadan, West Iran, 4'4"x6'2" c. 1920

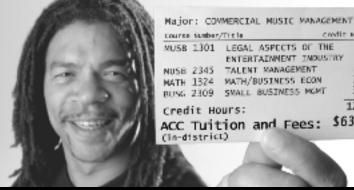
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12



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postmarks, FROM P.10

Time to Stop Dreaming

Dear Editor,

Some liberal-conservative arguments are anything but black and white. The Trans Texas Corridor is not black to the exclusion of white. The fact is, truck traffic from the border among other places certainly seems to be eating I-35's lunch. I'm no fan of Perry, but the corridor is an honest admission that this is and will be for decades a truck-based economy. The corridor fires through beautiful Texas land in the process of this admission, but at least it deals with the facts at hand. To sit back and pretend that the world's (and along with it, Texas') population isn't growing and that free trade and traffic with Mexico is irrelevant will land us where poor planning always lands you: mired in mistakes. At this stage in history, Texas environmentalists need to focus on the real issue, and that's the oil-based economy. Instead of coaxing I-35 corridor cities into a no-corridor frenzy, wouldn't our greater interests be served by riling everyone who is tired of dealing with Mideast turf battles, Exxon's price gouging, melting ice caps, and their kid's asthma into a frenzy over a product that is doing a hell of a lot more damage than a 1,300-foot-wide swatch of concrete would ever hope to? Liberals, we need to start wising up. We're losing elections because we dream old dreams with old allies instead of producing new solutions with broader coalitions.

Rowland Williams

Different Take on 'Kinsey' Dear Editor,

It's not surprising that *Kinsey* will not be everyone's cup of tea, or that a male's reaction to the movie might differ significantly from a female's. I do not take exception to critic Kimberley Jones' rating the movie with three stars [Film, Nov. 26]. I would disagree that John Lithgow overacted; his character was pathetic, and ultimately poignant. Jones mentions the ambiguously gay scene between Boy Scout Kinsey and a fellow camper as "uninspired." Like Clara's pronouncement that she found Kinsey "churchy" (when he proposed), I found the scene of the two scouts praying in response to their mutual sexual attraction to be "a howl," as well as beautifully photographed. When Kinsey finally does explore his bisexuality, he immediately confesses to his wife, for not to do so would be "hypocritical." Kinsey does not "bully" Clara into accepting "an open relationship," he pleads with her not to abandon him. He clearly cherishes her throughout the story and never physically or psychologically abuses her. I really cannot think of the movie, however, without remembering Lynn Redgrave's stellar performance, which provides a catharsis to Kinsey's flagging career and self-esteem. And how can Jones say the movie "never thrills" when we are introduced to a character who starts out as hilarious but soon turns very creepy with his proud revelations of prolific pedophilia? The intersection of Kinsey's revolution with McCarthyism was also touched upon. It is truly ironic and thought provoking that Americans are in the grip of a new Puritanism, after we were given such enlightenment about human sexuality in the middle of the 20th century. Oh my God! The children saw an African-American breast during halftime of the testosterone-driven Super Bowl!

> Sincerely, Kenney C. Kennedy

Ventura's Tribute Moving Michael Ventura,

It was a moving tribute to your brother ["Letters @ 3am," Dec. 10]. I cried a little at the end. Thank you for sharing.

Blessings, David White Milwaukee, Wis.

Hightower Brings Hope

Every morning when my alarm clock goes off, I have about five minutes to lie in bed and wake up before KALW airs the Jim Hightower segment.

It is always the highlight of my morning.

I do think it's interesting and very very sad that even in the progressive Bay area, during the fundraising drive, the stupid announcer repeatedly apologized for the "inflammatory" words of Mr. Hightower.

This should just show us all how far out of touch even NPR has become as it's been dragged right by the FOX News Channel along with everyone else, though less severely.

Mr. Hightower, I don't know what I would have done without the acknowledgement I gained for my views by listening to you. We all know the truth when we hear it. Even Republicans who prefer denial.

Excellence in journalism is still possible. Mr. Hightower is proof.

Love and peace be with us all.

Ken Daves San Francisco, Calif.

Terror Starts at Home Editor,

The tragic story of the Ukrainian opposition candidate's poisoning should rattle people's brains. This most deadly toxin used in Kiev is the same chemical named as a key ingredient of Agent Orange, the product developed by DuPont chemicals during the Vietnam War to defoliate the jungles, thus revealing the enemy hiding therein.

Only recently has the U.S. government even acknowledged that the ailments being reported by the thousands of U.S. servicemen who came in contact with Agent Orange might possibly be related to the defoliant's ingredients. The international reports of thousands of Vietnamese people who were sprayed by Agent Orange developing cancers and other serious ailments have been largely ignored by U.S. government officials.

Think about it, folks! Using the criteria being applied today to such international monsters as Saddam Hussein, who used chemical weapons of mass destruction against his own people, then added to the world's list of individuals who committed crimes against humanity must be presidents Lyndon Johnson and Nixon, Defense Secretary McNamara, and generals LeMay and Westmoreland, all of whom either authorized or ordered the use of WMD against Vietnam. Is the USA a terrorist state? Think about it!

Bob Farnsworth

Murder Is Murder

As a lesbian survivor of gay-bashing, I ask my Austin community and all people, especially those who are hated by white supremacists, to visibly and vocally oppose the execution of James Porter on Jan. 5, 2005. Whether a white supremacist is killing a gay man, or whether the state of Texas is killing a prisoner, murder is murder.

James Porter is an acknowledged white supremacist. He will be executed for murdering Rudy Delgado, a Latino prisoner, because he believed Delgado was gay. Homosexuals are vulnerable "members" of U.S. society, even when they are in the custody of the state. A current example of this is the current case of gay Texan Roderick Johnson, who [allegedly] was "horrifically" subjected to being a sex slave in a Texas prison with the full complicity of the prison authorities. The state needs to protect gay people. But not by murdering our murderers.

As a lesbian in this world of neo-Nazis and gay-bashers, I call for a full moratorium of all executions, even the execution of neo-Nazis. Especially when it seems most difficult, Americans with "moral values" must be champions in the fight against state-sponsored murder.

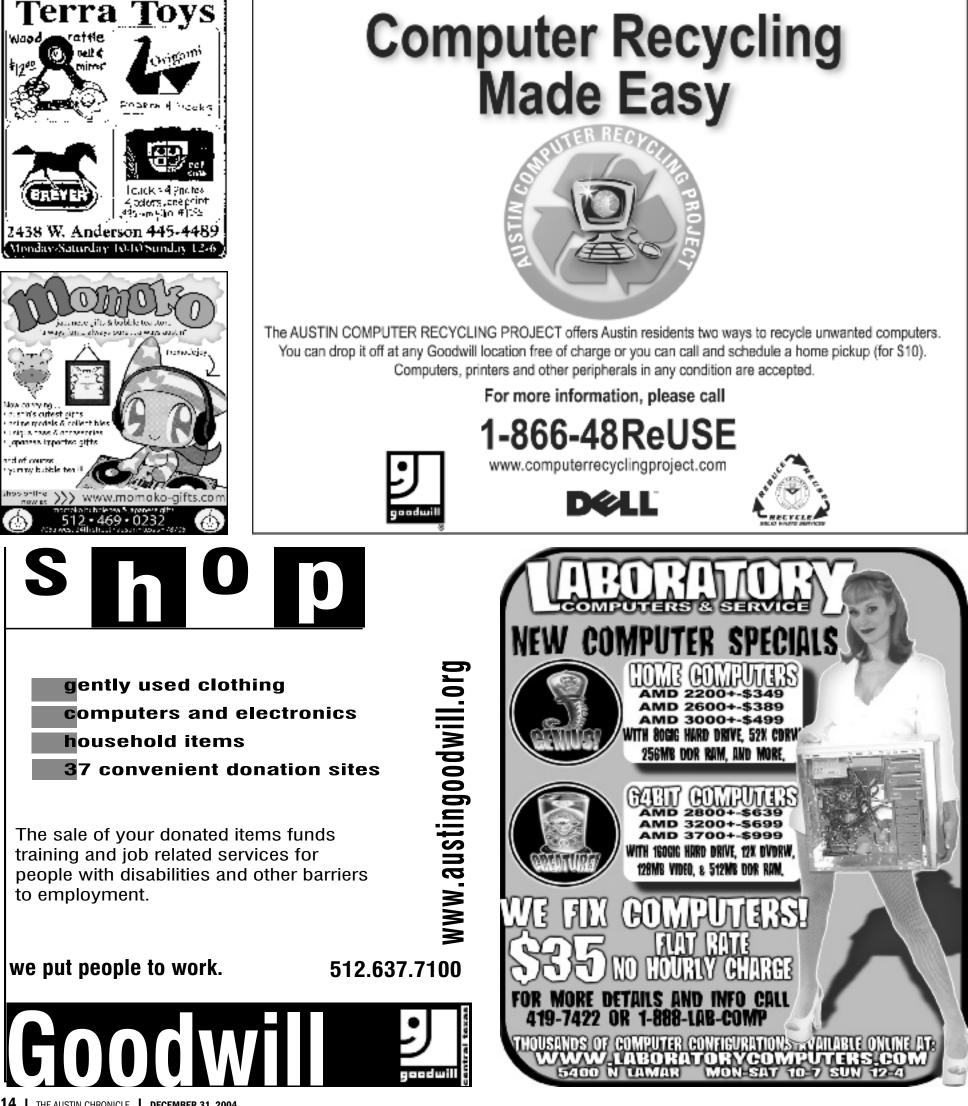
Jeanette Popp is chairperson of Texas Moratorium Network. Jeanette's daughter Nancy was murdered in Austin in 1988. Jeanette became intimately familiar with the many flaws of the Texas criminal justice system after two innocent men were wrongfully convicted of her daughter's murder and spent 12 years in prison. They were exonerated and released in 2001. The real killer was convicted in December 2001. Jeanette successfully pressured the district attorney not to seek the death penalty for her daughter's murderer. Jeanette's riveting testimony in 2001 helped convince two Texas legislative committees to vote in favor of moratorium legislation. She frequently travels across the nation speaking out against the death penalty. She is a Texan.

Coretta Scott King says, "Justice is never advanced in the taking of human life. Morality is never upheld by legalized murder."

Respectfully, Krissy Mahan







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NAKET

edited by Mike Clark-Madison

Headlines

- Quote of the Week: "We try to create a house that reflects the city that we're in. Coming to Austin, we'll want to have a sense of Austin as a young, hip city. There's some great design there, but there's also this wonderful kitschy thing on South Congress. They will have very cool digs." - Jon Murray, executive producer of MTV's The Real World, as quoted in the Statesman.
- Yes, MTV is bringing its venerable reality show to Austin for its 16th season. (Just in time for South by Southwest!) Where the seven new Real Worlders will live, and what they'll do, are of course closely guarded secrets. Presumably, the affordability of those "cool digs" is not an issue. We know it's a slow news week and all, but considering that MTV already ran an entire series set and shot in Austin, why is "Real World" such a big deal?
- > On to real news: APD has upped the ante in its probe into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Shauna and Kurt Jacobson, but it's still unclear whether an independent investigation will really give the public answers. See p.19.
- ▶ The White House announced over the holiday that all its favorite wannabe federal judges - including Texas' beloved Priscilla Owen - will get another date with the battle-weakened Senate Democrats.
- ▶ More reporters hanging up their notebooks: Statesman eminence **Dave McNeely** is retiring from the Capitol beat after 26 years. It must be a trend.

Austin Stories

- For the second time this school year, the East Side Action Coalition has called on Austin ISD administrators to remedy a "dangerous" and "hostile" environment at Reagan High School - meaning, this time, tense relations between teachers and principal John Gonzalez, who took over the school at the beginning of the year. 'Teachers are experiencing very hostile treatment and rudeness," said Pastor Sterling Lands, who leads the group. He described, for example, teachers being berated by the principal in front of students. "That creates an environment of intimidation. Teachers are spending time covering their backs rather than teaching." Lands said he didn't have a specific answer for the problems, but "I'm not suggesting another dagblasted task force. I'm definitely not suggesting that." Such a task force, on which Lands served, was appointed after Reagan student Ortralla Mosely was murdered by fellow student Marcus McTear in 2003, and the ESAC leader charges that panel's purpose was not to enact change, but to defuse criticism and divide the community. District offices are closed for the winter break, so officials did not respond to the - Rachel Proctor May group's concerns.
- Travis Co. Sheriff's Office deputies found an inmate, housed at the Travis Co. Correction Complex in Del Valle, hanging in his cell just before 11pm on Dec. 24. Corrections officers, medical staff, and EMS tried to revive Jerry Rene Dokes, but after nearly an hour were unsuccessful. Dokes, 22, was in jail on several charges, including aggravated sexual assault of a child. – Jordan Smith
- An organized effort to stop Lowe's Home Centers Inc. from building two big-box stores in environmentally sensitive locations will close out the year with a bang (more than 5,265 opponents have added their names to the list) and a whimper (one of the developments is still going great guns on the banks of Little Barton Creek). The other project, on a tree-cleared barren spread along Brodie Lane in Southwest Austin, remains in a legal holding pattern while a lawsuit wends its way through the courts. Construction on the project stalled out in June after District Judge Lora Livingston issued a temporary restraining order against Lowe's in the case brought by the Save Our Springs Alliance, the city of Sunset Valley, and the Save Barton Creek Association. While that case plays out, Lowe's plows ahead on its new store in the village of Bee Cave, west of Austin. That project has already come under the glare of state environ-

continued on p.17



ON YOUR MARKS! IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY (OR TOO LATE?) FOR A COUNCIL-**RACE PREGAME SHOW BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON**

Just so you know: No, this isn't the last one. My last Chronicle column runs in two weeks. (I may just borrow Dave McNeely's and change a few names and details. Or not.)

But this is the last time in these pages where I get to kibitz and color-commentate on an upcoming municipal election. (The timing of my departure, before both a legislative session and a council race, is not accidental.) Now, more than five months before said election - and more than a month before candidates can even file for the bal-

lot - may seem too early to start handicapping, amidst the fumes of our holiday hangovers and all. Thank Austin's campaign finance ordinance; the real opening day of Wabbit Season is now six months out, when candidates can start raising money.

Plus, you know, Austin's a big city now, and running for its City Council has become kind of a big-time deal not the Super Bowl, but more impor-

tant than, say, the Holiday Bowl, especially with all these candidates having to run citywide, to represent more people than did, oh, Howard Dean or Tom Daschle. (OK, almost as many as Tom Daschle.) So we get longer pregame shows now. Later will come the wardrobe malfunctions.

Indeed, the outrage - directed at my hide - has already begun. Two different candidates for Place 1, the seat being vacated by Daryl Slusher, have written the Chronicle to take issue, in no uncertain terms, with a phrase I wrote in "Naked City" two weeks ago: "While [Lee] Leffingwell has done a good job clearing the field in Place 1"

Doing the Math

I apologize to James Paine and Andrew Bucknall for the implication that Leffingwell is running unopposed - or, more precisely, that he's the only candidate worth talking about. My point was simply that, unlike in the Place 3 race to succeed Jackie Goodman - where all the declared (or selfdeclared) "leading candidates" are still heading for a demolition derby - in Place 1 at least two formidable members of the Future Council Club, Chris Riley and Robin Cravey, have opted not to run, and

that Leffingwell's early success in rounding up backing has had some bearing on those decisions.

Right now, the only other firm candidate I know of in Place 1 is Steven Adams, the Libertarian who challenged Raul Alvarez in 2003. (He has not yet complained about not being mentioned in "Naked City," though he probably isn't reading the Chronicle, since last time he accused me of "slandering" him.) Up-

and-comer Gregg Knaupe has yet to declare which race he intends to run in, which in my humble opinion is not helping his chances.

That's not the same as saying Leffingwell can start measuring the drapes (he'll need 'em) in his new City Hall office. And yet, my job description here (and in life) calls for honesty, and so we have to keep Paine and Bucknall's claims in perspective. To be frank, I have never heard of Paine, which I don't think is solely a testament to my laziness and ineptitude. His letter to the Chronicle was, in fact, handwritten, which is charming, but only a little.

AUSTIN'S A BIG CITY NOW, AND RUNNING FOR ITS CITY COUNCIL HAS BECOME KIND OF A **BIG-TIME DEAL – NOT THE SUPER BOWL, BUT MORE** IMPORTANT THAN, SAY, THE HOLIDAY BOWL.

AUSTIN

AT LARGE

continued on p.16

PWS

Bucknall I do know, because he's a fellow Eastside neighborhood leader and we've been active on many of the same issues, and I have a lot of respect for him in that role. But if voters agree that Bucknall is, as he calls himself, "the true progressive in the race," he will, by historical precedent, earn at most 25% of the vote. Running against Leffingwell, who has widely accepted green bona fides as former chair of the city Environmental Board, Bucknall is likely looking at a lower starting point. Which means his most likely outcome is as spoiler - forcing the Place 1 race into a run-off between Leffingwell and Adams, or maybe Knaupe, both of whom would be running to Leffingwell's right, and both of whom Leffingwell would probably beat. To do better than that, Bucknall needs to either drive bunches of occasional voters to the polls, which requires money I don't think he has, or peel off big chunks of Leffingwell's base, which requires Leffingwell to display flaws or liabilities he hasn't yet shown.

Dharma vs. Greg, Again?

Though the Place 3 race is currently more fervent, it actually boils down more simply - it's a contest between

Margot and the Non-Margot. In 2003, the latter role was played by Brewster McCracken, who had really never stopped running after his solid third-place 2002 finish, and who despite early fears of recount-worthy closeness ended up beating Margot Clarke handily. This time, it's Clarke who's never stopped running and who enters the race as the heir apparent, particularly to succeed Goodman in what has been for all eternity a "woman's seat." (The last man to be elected to Place 3 was Ron Mullen, in 1981.)

There are at least two other women, Jennifer Kim and Mandy Dealey, angling to be the Non-Margot this time. Kim is certainly energetic and persistent, which are good things for a rookie candidate, but Dealey is much better known and better connected, even though she's had a slow start to her campaign due to family concerns. That makes Dealey, who has a previous run for Texas House under her belt, somewhat of a wild card in the Place 3 race; in a straight head-to-head with Clarke, her chances would be very good, but in a four-way or five-way race, she may have trouble getting traction. (Even more so if it ends up being a six-way race featuring Betty Baker, but that buzz seems to have died down a bit.)

"Five-way" would include the aforementioned Gregg Knaupe, if he throws his hat into this ring, but my gut feeling is that, like McCracken and Clarke before them, both Knaupe and Kim are one race away from having a solid shot at a City Council seat. That leaves Jeff Trigger, who in the space of the last month has filled up a lot of Non-Margot space that Dealey will now have to wrestle back. Given Austin voters' usual habit of making elections more bipolar than the candidates themselves may justify, I'd have to put my bet on Clarke vs. Trigger in the run-off. Who wins that run-off depends on the zeitgeist and, oh yes, on how well the two run their campaigns.

That's the pound of salt here, after all - right now, we only know these folks' messages in the barest terms (most of which sound the same tried and true Austin themes), and as an electorate, we have yet to really decide what the issues are going to be in this race. Pending that little agenda item, all predictions are by definition vague. But that, of course, won't stop me from leaving this lovely parting gift to you.



mental inspectors after an onsite silt fence failed to prevent construction runoff from spilling into Little Barton Creek. More on the Lowe's saga can be found at **www.stoplowes.com**. – *Amy Smith*

CAPCO is now CAPCOG: The former Capital Area Planning Council has changed its name to the Capital Area Council of Governments. This reflects the fact that CAPCO always was a COG – one of the 24 councils created by state law back in 1970, based in the state's metro areas and including nearby rural counties, and given almost no power or authority except what they can claim for themselves. CAPCOG, which includes the Austin metro area and surrounding counties from Llano to La Grange, offers services including GIS), coordinating solid-waste management, and overseeing regional 911 service. Other than the new name (and a new logo) – and the resulting Web site change to www.capcog.org – the group's vital statistics remain the same.

Beyond City Limits

- On Dec. 22, the Texas Civil Rights Project filed a civil rights lawsuit against several law enforcement agencies and the city of Crawford on behalf of five activists arrested near President George W. Bush's ranchette in Crawford in May 2003. In their suit, the so-called "Crawford Five" allege that the Texas Department of Public Safety, Crawford Police Chief Donnie Tidmore, and McLennan Co. Sheriff Larry Lynch and his chief deputy Randy Plemons violated the activists' free speech rights, as well as their right to be free from unlawful arrest, when they refused to allow the five to protest in Crawford and near the ranchette during a Bush visit there. The C5 were charged with violating the city's parade and procession ordinance and were tossed in the clink - even though the charges were mere class C misdemeanors, ultimately punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In July, McLennan Co. District Judge Tom Ragland dismissed all charges against them, ruling that the city's ordinance was "overly broad on its face" and that the manner in which the ordinance was enforced "contravened" the First Amendment. The Five are seeking a permanent injunction against the defendants, to keep them from threatening free speech rights in the city and near Bush's pad, and seek unspecified damages for each of the five plaintiffs. – 1.S.
- State Rep. Will Hartnett, R-Dallas, appointed by House Speaker Tom Craddick as the "master of discovery" for the committee charged with investigating the three challenges to November House election results, last week directed committee members to avoid all discussion of the challenges with the parties involved, while they are under investigation. The three challenges are all by Republican candidates defeated by Democratic opponents - two incumbents, Houston's Talmadge Heflin (defeated by Hubert Vo) and Austin's Jack Stick (defeated by Mark Strama), and Eric Opiela, who lost to Yvonne Gonzalez-Toureilles in District 35 in South Texas. After two recounts, Vo was declared the winner over Heflin by a mere 33 votes, while the other two races were decided by larger margins. Hartnett said he sent a letter to committee members - who are to act as "jurors" in the challenge review before the House in January - after hearing rumors of contacts among the various parties. He said that while he did not "order" members not to consult with the candidates or their campaigns, he "highly recommended" against such contacts. Michael King

- ▶ The *Houston Chronicle* reports that Houston homebuilder **Bob Perry** has become the biggest Republican political donor in the U.S., contributing \$9.6 million to candidates, political action committees and independent advocacy groups, like the so-called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that mounted a devastating personal attack on John Kerry's Vietnam-era military service. Although previously known for his donations to state and local GOP candidates and his enthusiastic support for "tort reform" (limiting consumer lawsuits against corporate defendants, including homebuilders), in the 2004 election cycle Perry and his wife Doylene gave considerably more money to independent "527 groups" like the Swift Boat campaign. According to Campaigns for People, Perry also donated at least \$5 million to Republican legislative and judicial candidates. *M.K.*
- Weed Watch: The board of directors of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws has voted to appoint Allen St. Pierre as their next executive director. St. Pierre has worked for NORML since 1991, serving as communications director, deputy national director, and most recently as head of the NORML Foundation – the sister organization established to educate the public and aid "victims" of draconian dope laws. St. Pierre is replacing NORML founder Keith Stroup, who announced his retirement in September. For more "Weed Watch," see p.21. – J.S.
- California reporter Gary Webb, 49, whose career in journalism was nearly torpedoed in the wake of his groundbreaking reporting on the involvement of U.S.-supported Nicaraguan contras in the international drug trade, died Dec. 10 at his home near Sacramento, apparently by suicide. In a 1996 series, "Dark Alliance," written for the San Jose Mercury News, Webb described the alliance of convenience during the Eighties between Central American cocaine traffickers, who were transporting drugs for sale in Los Angeles, and the Central Intelligence Agency, which turned a blind eye to the drug trade as long as a large share of the money was returning to the counterrevolutionary war effort against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. Although other newspapers have attempted to discredit his reporting (even in their obituaries), and his editors at the Mercury News disavowed the stories and demoted Webb, the CIA itself eventually confirmed many of his revelations. In recent months Webb had reportedly been despondent over his circumstances and the dissolution of his marriage, but "whatever the details of Webb's death, American history owes him a huge debt," wrote Robert Parry, editor of the Web-based investigative reporting site Consortium News. "He - along with angry African-American citizens forced the government to admit some of the worst crimes ever condoned by any American administration: the protection of drug smuggling into the United States as part of a covert war against a country, Nicaragua, that represented no real threat to Americans." - M.K.
- Political football will come into play Saturday as supporters of City Council candidate **Margot Clarke** and Longhorn fans converge for a campaign fundraiser/Rose Bowl watching party. The event will be 3-8pm in the home of Rosemary Merriam and George Warmingham. (Call 791-9874 for location and other details.) Clarke is running for the Place 3 seat occupied by outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman.
- The documentary **Monumental**, about the life and work of Sierra Club founder David Brower ("arguably the greatest environmentalist of the 20th century"), will be shown Jan. 5-6 at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Downtown, 409 Colorado. More info at www.originalalamo.com.



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Happenings

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HIGH TECH SCHOOLS: THE FUTURE, OR THE LATEST FAD?

The **University of Texas Elementary School** in East Austin is what those in the field of educational technology like to call "fully integrated." Students learn reading, for example, through online sites with names like Imagination Station or through a library of LeapFrog storybooks. Students place them on electronic LeapPads and read along with recordings of sentences, words, or phonetic elements which the students control by touching their Leap pens to different hot spots on the book's pages. Meanwhile, their teachers use the LeapTrack assessment system to identify individual weaknesses and specific LeapFrog storybooks designed to remedy them.

The idea, principal **Ramona Treviño** says, is to teach technology not as a separate class but to incorporate it into all areas of learning. She proudly points out that Microsoft has called the UT Elementary a "school of the future," and believes that the sooner that future comes to all schools, the better. "I think it's a tragedy the way technology is being presented in the schools," she said. "The digital divide is very real, especially in East Austin, as technology gets put on the back burner because of the focus on the TAKS tests."

That future may well be on its way. The **House Committee** on **Public Education** recently held a public hearing on educational technology in conjunction with an expo for technology vendors. Chairman **Kent Grusendorf**, R-Arlington, eagerly pressed witnesses to weigh in on the recommendation of an **eLearning task force** Grusendorf convened last year, which suggested phasing in an increased technology allotment of \$300 per pupil per year. The current allotment is about \$30 per student.

While the report isn't itself a legislative proposal, the question of how much to spend on educational technology in a tightbudget era will doubtless be on the legislative agenda come spring. But while no one disagrees that today's students need technology skills, the experiences of UT Elementary, and other Austin-area schools, suggest that meeting schools' technology needs is not so simple as buying the right program and flipping a switch. "I hope the purpose is not that we have 100 kids in a gymnasium and you stand there and push a button and assume the kids are going to learn from the machines," said Rep. **Scott Hochberg**, D-Houston, a member of the Public Education committee. At UT Elementary, instructional technology specialist and second-grade teacher **Jessica Gribble** raves about the way the LeapPads, Palm Pilots, and other tools help her do her job. Technology, she says, can be used for three basic areas. First, it can be used to teach the technology itself, such as a class in word processing. Second, it helps teachers track students' progress and preparedness for statewide TAKS tests.

But the most interesting, and widely debated, area is the extent to which technology can help teach other skills such as reading. Gribble says the programs UT Elementary is using make a world of difference. "The thing I've seen technology be the most important for is bringing individualized instruction to the kids," she said – LeapFrog's plethora of storybooks, for example, allows her 20 second-graders to simultaneously work on 20 different language elements, depending on their needs.

But while it's clear that programs do a good job teaching skills that can be drilled and whose mastery can be measured – either you know how to subtract or you don't – the value of digital content for a topic like English or social studies is harder to determine. This is something that just came up in **Round Rock ISD**, as the board declined to include funds to give all high schoolers laptops in its bond proposal, in part because trustees were unconvinced that incorporating digital content into *all* subject areas would improve learning enough to justify the cost. This concern is not limited to RRISD; the **Texas Education Agency** is currently running a pilot program comparing student performance at 30 "highly integrated" middle schools with 30 nonintegrated ones.

However, **Ed Zointz**, RRISD's director of information services, argues that the pilot project may not measure technology's true impact. "When you talk about the skills that come from integration of technology, those are not things that are measured on achievement tests," he said. "You get students who are actively involved in learning, who are learning how to work together or stand in front of a group to do a [PowerPoint] presentation. These are 21st-century skills, critical skills students need to have when they join the work force."

Nevertheless, UT Elementary's Gribble says that in the rush to see all that technology can do, it's important to also remember what it can't do. "It's that human interaction, the things a good



teacher does, that a computer can't do," she said. "It doesn't build relations. If a student doesn't understand something, a computer can't say it another way." She expresses concern about a rhetoric that emerged in the technology hearing – that if you just find the right digital content and push "play," teachers become "co-learners," or even students, of *their* students.

It's dangerous rhetoric – Treviño calls it "a joke" – when many schools say that in the rush to buy electronic resources, nonelectronic ones like professional training or technical support are being left behind. "We've got an impossible job trying to maintain what we've got," said **Jeff Meyer**, AISD's director of instructional technology. "We certainly need computers and 'stuff' but we need people to help run it. That's always the hardest thing to do. And traditionally, you can't use state monies to pay for people."

The solution to that dilemma – whether technology allotments will go toward empowering teachers with skills or be specifically earmarked for buying more stuff – will demonstrate the state's ultimate motives. Is the rush to spend more educational dollars on technology, at a time when districts are already squeezed, really about providing the very best education for Texas students, or is it about providing the very best boost to vendors' bottom lines? – Rachel Proctor May

SPEAK YOUR PIECE ON THE WEB

A former Austinite and now California-based friend of Naked City reports the founding of a new anti-censorship Web site intended "to help people be politically active in a 21st-century sort of way." In the wake of the postelection "moral values" hysteria as well as continuing assaults on freedom of expression (notably at the **Federal Communications Commission**), the **SpeakSpeak.org** site hopes to use "the tools that we have right now" to provide an outlet for contemporary activism, initially on First Amendment issues. "The tool we have right now is the Web."

"We live in a 'representative democracy," notes the site founder, **Amanda Toering**, "but most of us act like the height of representation is November voting. There's much more we could do. The radical right has been astonishingly effective in writing governmental agencies, lobbying their reps, etc. Progressives haven't made as big of a dent."

The site is operational and collecting e-mail contacts, but Toering plans to expand its scope in the new year. The initial postings note the growing influence of the rightwing **Parents Television Council** on the FCC, amid news reports that 99% of the broadcast "indecency" complaints received by the FCC in the past year have in fact been generated by PTC campaigns. Accordingly, SpeakSpeak "will have a module that generates letters to public reps. Initially, we will concentrate on writing the FCC when the Parents Television Council activates their membership about a ho-hum indecency. However, whereas the PTC's site allows members to send – or, if they're ambitious, personally edit – a boilerplate complaint letter, ours will be more customized to the user. Sort of like *Mad Libs*, actually."

In time, after the site gets going, the hope is to expand on other issues of interest to members. The site currently features a "PTC Quote of the Week," reflecting the PTC's über-earnest outrage at the recent ABC *Monday Night Football* locker-room sketch featuring Philadelphia Eagle **Terrell Owens** and a seminude **Nicollette Sheridan**: "The second offense is the social message this adult skit sends to satire-impaired youngsters. If the desperate-slut wagon ever pulls into town, then your job and your workmates can irresponsibly be tossed aside for your own personal fulfillment. It's a message boys all too often get from their role models: become a star, score some big sex, and life is good." And who's "satire-impaired"? For more info, visit **www.speakspeak.org**.

TEXAS AIR - OH, SO FINE?

Dec. 17 saw the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency**'s initial release of **fine particle pollution** air quality standards, with Texas getting a clean bill of health. Claiming that FPP levels are the lowest since nationwide monitoring began in 1999, the report says Texas skies are in attainment – but are the results a bunch of hot air?

The EPA's "Particle Pollution Report: Current Understanding of Air Quality and Emissions Through 2003," says Texas is one of 30 states to make the cut under the agency's "**PM(2.5)**" standard. "I am especially pleased Texas joins the elite group of 30 states whose early action has been effective in bringing clean air to all of its communities," said EPA Regional Administrator **Richard E. Greene** in a glowing press release felicitating Texas' infallible air.

First instituted in 1997, yet held up in court for years by lawsuits from polluters, the recently implemented PM(2.5) rules regulate the microscopic "particulate matter" produced in soot from coal-burning power plants and combustion engines. Smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (hence the name), PM(2.5) particles stay airborne, where they can lodge in lungs, leading to heart attacks, decreased life expectancy, and death. Information from the advocacy coalition **Clear the Air** suggests fine-particle pollution may cause more than 1,100 preventable deaths in Texas annually.

Clear the Air's **Frank O'Donnell** fails to share the EPA's enthusiasm. The agency's conclusion "is accurate, based on the current monitoring info," O'Donnell says, but "that doesn't necessarily mean the air is safe to breathe." He points to, among other things, the delayed implementation of the EPA's own standards. "They've only now gone into effect," he said, yet "what's happened since [1997] are further scientific developments." Back then, FPP was thought simply to affect breathing, but since the threat of cardiac arrest and early death has been better documented. Public health groups like the American Heart Association and American Lung Association are "reviewing the science right now," and "are going to be arguing that the standards need to be even tighter" according to O'Donnell. "If emissions have dropped, they're still far too high."

Additionally, in his estimation, 30 or more power plants "get a break" by being in compliance with the designations. Yet due to their location on the fringes of metropolitan areas, such plants still contribute to the pollution in bigger cities like Houston. "Even though Texas is in compliance, it doesn't mean the air is safe to breathe."

– Wells Dunbar

OUTSIDE PROBE IN JACOBSON CASE

On Dec. 20, Austin Police Chief **Stan Knee** announced that the department has changed its own investigation into the motorcycle wreck deaths of APD Cmdr. **Shauna Jacobson** and her husband, retired Det. **Malcolm "Kurt**"

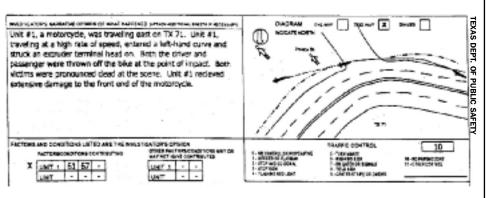
Jacobson from an "administrative inquiry" to an "independent investigation," undertaken by a private law firm at a cost of approximately \$50,000. In less than a week, the original APD inquiry – one that spokesman **Kevin Buchman** had said was intended merely to dispel rumors circulating in the wake of the Dec. **11** accident – became a probe crafted to assure the public that APD takes seriously its responsibility to police its own. The APD probe is one of three ongoing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the Jacobsons' deaths.

During a press conference, Knee told reporters he was responding to public concern that any internal APD investigation of the accident might be tainted by bias. "With all of the public pressure and public concern," he said, the question has been "could we, in fact, conduct an unbiased investigation?"

Shauna and Kurt Jacobson were killed shortly after leaving the **Cedars Bar and Grill** on Texas 71 near Spicewood, in western Travis Co., just after 7pm on Dec. 11, when their motorcycle crashed into a guard rail, apparently charges against two of Bailey's employees for the same reason. Meanwhile, the APD is investigating which of its officers were at Cedars, what those folks saw, and what they did or did not do.

In the wake of the deaths, Knee said, he "noted a genuine concern" as he "moved about in the community" that the Jacobsons' deaths "involved much more than just a single couple drinking and driving and could possibly have involved multitudes of police officers involved in acts that were inappropriate," he told reporters. That, of course, is the rumor Buchman was referring to – that dozens of offduty cops, including ranking members of the force, were at Cedars, drinking with the Jacobsons just before they died. This rumor appears to now merit something more serious than an "administrative inquiry."

But whether this independent probe will in fact answer the public's questions remains to be seen. APD has turned to outside investigators in two recent high-profile cases – the shooting death of **Sophia King** by APD Officer John Coffey in 2002, and allegations of potential perjury last year against retired APD Assistant Chief **Jimmy Chapman**. In the King case, even though Coffey was exonerated – which would normally mean the case file was



From the DPS accident report on the wreck that killed Shauna and Kurt Jacobson. The codes "61" and "67" refer to excessive speed and driving while intoxicated, respectively.

at high speed. Cedars was the fifth of five stops in a charity **poker run** – in which players retrieve a card at each stop and aim to build the best poker hand – organized by APD officers to benefit a colleague suffering with multiple sclerosis. Jacobson, who retired from the department in 2002, also had MS, with which he'd been diagnosed in the early Nineties. Preliminary toxicology reports revealed that Kurt Jacobson's blood alcohol content was 0.24, three times the legal limit of 0.08, and that Shauna Jacobson's BAC was 0.33, just over four times the legal limit. Neither was wearing a helmet.

The **Texas Department of Public Safety** is investigating the wreck and on Monday released its completed accident report. And the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** has filed an administrative action against Cedars' owner **Bobby Joe Bailey**. The TABC seeks to revoke Bailey's liquor license for selling alcohol to intoxicated patrons and has asked Travis County attorney **David Escamilla**'s office to file criminal sealed – the city released (eventually) reams of information. But in the Chapman case, which the outside investigator ruled "inconclusive," the details have been kept secret.

The difference can be traced to certain provisions in the city's contract with the **Austin Police Association**, which says normally confidential information in an indie inquiry can't be released unless the officers involved agree, which Coffey did and Chapman did not. So, unless the still-to-be-chosen investigator of the Jacobson case uncovers infractions that are then sustained against individual officers – which would, by default, make the information public – or unless the officers at Cedars speak publicly or authorize the release of information, the probe may produce another \$50,000 press release.

Nonetheless, Knee assured reporters that the indie inquiry is the only way to go: "The results of that investigation *can* be made public. My officers will know [and] the community will know that it was a thorough investigation and what the findings were." – Jordan Smith



WILLIAMSON DA PUTS THE QUEEZE ON DEFENSE BAR

On Dec. 16, local defense attorneys packed Williamson Co. District Judge Burt Carnes' courtroom in support of one of their own, Georgetown-based lawyer Robert **Phillips**, who was in court to fight a grand jury subpoena issued by the office of District Attorney John Bradley. The state was aiming to force Phillips to testify about the content of a June interview he conducted with a client's daughter - a client that the state was asking the same grand jury to indict for sexual assault of the daughter Phillips interviewed. Although the DA's office pursued the Phillips subpoena for more than four months, prosecutors backed down in court and agreed to withdraw it. "The state agreed to withdraw their subpoena and we agreed to withdraw our motion to quash [the subpoena]," said Phillips' attorney Gerald Goldstein, a member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association strike force team. "I'd say it was a good standoff - or a stand-down.'

Although seemingly minor, if the state's bid to force Phillips into the witness chair had been successful, it would have a potentially devastating impact on the ability of defense attorneys to investigate their clients cases and to provide their clients a zealous defense. Indeed, the content of the interview in guestion was Phillips' confidential work product - ordinarily safe from the state's reach - and forcing Phillips to turn state witness could render him incapable of defending his client. Hence the concerns of the defense bar that, if Phillips and other attorneys were forced to testify, the state's powers would border on invincible and effective defense could be rendered meaningless.

On June 7, Phillips had a client in jail. The man (whom Phillips declined to name) was picked up by Williamson Co. sheriff's deputies and plunked behind bars that day based on an "outcry" of sexual abuse made by his 9-year-old stepdaughter. During a therapy session two days before, the girl revealed that on a recent evening her stepfather had touched her genitals after she'd climbed into bed with her parents, seeking refuge from a stormy evening and nightmares. When sheriff's deputies arrived at the house two days later, they asked the

The latest news from the Department of

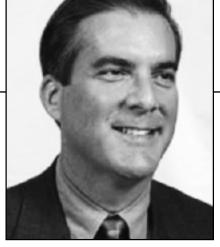
girl's mother to call the stepfather and ask him about the girl's allegation (a conversation that Phillips alleges was recorded illegally).

Phillips said his client told the girl's mother that he couldn't imagine that the girl would lie about being assaulted, but that he didn't do anything and that he didn't know why she'd say he had. It was a troubling allegation, at least in part because it had happened before - the girl had been sexually abused by the mother's prior husband, who was subsequently prosecuted in Williamson Co. and sent to prison. Still, armed with the recording of his client's telephone conversation, but without ever talking to the girl, the deputies arrested Phillips' client.

Within 24 hours of the arrest, the girl's story began to change. She wasn't sure if he'd really touched her, she told her mother, "because she'd been having dreams all the time about the other fellow," Phillips said. And the mother was "not sure at all that her new husband had done this because the child was a mess therapeutically," he said. The mother told Phillips what was happening and brought the girl to Phillips' office to talk. On June 10, Phillips set up a tape recorder and interviewed the girl in the presence of her mother, witnessed by one of Phillips' employees. During the interview, he said, the girl said she wasn't sure whether she'd actually been assaulted or whether she'd been having another nightmare. The information, of course, would be integral to defending his client, if the man was ever indicted on a charge of child sexual assault.

For whatever reason, at the time Phillips interviewed the girl she had not yet been interviewed by anyone from the state - even though she would be their most important witness. During his 25-year career - seven of them spent as a prosecutor, two with the Williamson Co. DA's office - Phillips said he'd never seen a case where the state had put off an interview with the complaining witness. "It was striking in my mind how slowly they went about the process." he said.

But the fact that Phillips talked to the girl before they did, so early in the case, ticked off the Williamson Co. prosecutors, who, in August, issued Phillips a grand jury subpoena. The state withdrew the original subpoe-



na after Phillips' lawyers agreed to provide a copy of the tape recording of the interview with the girl, but because there were problems with the quality of the recording the state reissued the subpoena in early December, again trying to secure Phillips' live testimony. Phillips resisted and instead offered the testimony of his employee who witnessed the interview. To date, the DA's office has not issued her a subpoena.

In part, the offer suggested that there were - and are - other avenues available to the DA's office to secure evidence without taking the treacherous step of subpoenaing Phillips and placing in jeopardy his role as advocate. But Bradley said he doesn't see things that way and doesn't think that there's anything particularly unique or threatening about his office's attempt to secure Phillips' testimony. "The grand jury subpoena process is pretty standard," he said. His office has subpoenaed defense attorneys in the past and has "always been successful" in getting from them the evidence prosecutors need, "sometimes through testimony, sometimes through written statements."

According to Bradley, Phillips made himself a material witness in the case when he "grabbed up" the girl for an interview before the police had a chance to question her. When asked why the state hadn't interviewed her either prior to her stepfather's arrest or in the days following it, Bradley backtracked, saying that law enforcement officials had interviewed her. The problem, he said, was that Phillips interviewed her before she'd been taken to the Child Advocacy Center, whose employees are trained in the art of conducting a "neutral" interview.

Williamson Co. District Attorney John Bradlev

When dealing with a child victim, the goal is to "reduce the amount of stress the child has to go through when reporting abuse," Bradley said, and to avoid the child having to tell their story to people, like Phillips, who don't have the "training or skills to conduct an interview of this type." It becomes "very awkward" when "defense attorneys get involved," he said. Nonetheless, he said he doesn't see anything "unique" or contentious about his office's bid to force Phillips in front of the grand jury. Instead, it is Phillips' "resistance to the natural criminal justice process that makes [the situation] contentious," he said. "It seems like you're saying there's some sacred thing that we're intervening in."

Bradley's position on the Phillips subpoena - and its implications - disturbs Austin attorney and TCDLA legislative director Keith Hampton, who said that trying to force Phillips to testify shows Bradley's fundamental lack of respect for the justice system's adversarial process. Phillips has a sworn duty to investigate his client's case, which means talking to witnesses "including the accusers." Bradley is presuming that every defense lawyer that acts in a case does so unethically and "in bad faith," he said. "That would violate our oath and violate criminal law, all in an effort to do what?'

The point of subpoenaing Phillips is clear to Hampton, he said - and to the other members of the defense bar who showed up to support Phillips in court. "They're just beating him up to tell him, 'Don't you dare interview a witness unless we say it's okay." And let me tell you, nobody has ownership rights over witnesses. Witnesses are people, and they don't have to talk to the cops, to the prosecutors, or to us," Hampton said. "All this is government as bully, which is what you get in Williamson County. They don't want an aggressive defense bar, they don't want attorneys like Phillips."

On Dec. 15, the term of the grand jury hearing the case against Phillips' client expired without their handing down an indictment, but the investigation, Bradley said, "hasn't concluded."

– Jordan Smith

Bob Jensen's New Best Friends

Diverse Opinions: Radical UT professor Bob Jensen awoke recently to find his in-box full of helpful suggestions for how he should spend his day. These included "kill yourself," "join your fellow Islamofascists in Paris," and other vulgarities that even we won't touch but that involved sodomy and Arabs. Why the sudden attention? It seems journalism professor Mike Adams in North Carolina had written a column calling for a "Robert Jensen deportation fund" on the conservative Web site www.townhall.com (a project of the Heritage Foundation) and that some of his readers - 277 of them, all told -

wanted to drive the point home with a little shock and awe of their own.

Adams' column was responding to one by Jensen, initially published in the Austin American-Statesman, and later in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where he argued that losing Iraq is a good thing: It makes empirebuilding seem less like a jolly little romp in the park and more like the deadly undertaking it is. Adams, for his part, wrote that if Jensen wanted the U.S. to lose, he should demonstrate the courage of his convictions by joining the insurgents battling U.S. troops. Ergo the deportation fund: It would pay Jensen's way there.

Lest you think Adams is intolerant of dissent, he makes it clear that Jensen has every right to make radical leftist arguments - the argument that dissenters should leave, he says, is "stupid." But he says that even if Jensen has the right, he should know better than to use that right. "It is such irresponsible speech. It does encourage insurgents, and there's no doubt in my mind that this, or the overblown coverage of Abu Ghraib, does increase casualties," he said. "So these are things people can say, but ought not to."

Adams admits that the logical extension of his argument that Jensen should back up his words with (military) action is that anyone for the war should be willing to fight as well. But sadly, he has vision problems and

an unhealed surgery, plus at 40 he's too old, so he simply can't.

For his part, Jensen has been a public radical long enough to be used to being called a commie pinko faggot. He simply files away the choice zingers into an insult file and gets on with the never-ending task of corrupting impressionable journalism students. "People are looking for simple answers, but the questions we have to work through are not simple," he said. "That's something you see on all sides of the political spectrum. I get the same sense from some of the positive/liberal/left mail I get: the idea that, 'How can people who voted for Bush be so dumb?' That doesn't lead to understanding why people take the actions they take." Rachel Proctor May

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BUSTING THE PAIN DOCTORS

On Dec. 16, Virginia pain doctor **William Hurwitz** was found guilty in federal court of drug trafficking and was sentenced to 63 years in prison in connection with his prescribing of **opioid drugs** to chronic pain patients. The feds say that Hurwitz – who is controversial within the medical profession for prescribing large doses of narcotics – was nothing more than a licensed drug dealer who used his pain clinic to prescribe federally controlled substances that were then diverted onto the black market. Hurwitz's case is the feds' first big spoil in their ongoing attack against pain doctors.

Opioids – found in drugs like morphine, opium, and heroin – mimic the body's natural endorphins and are used in **endorphin replacement therapy** for patients suffering chronic pain. According to the **Pain Relief Network**, at least 50 million Americans suffer with chronic pain disorders. Federal prosecutors went after Hurwitz after busting a group of patients for illegally dealing the pain drugs prescribed by Hurwitz, reports the Drug Reform Coordination Network.

The patients made a deal with the feds to avoid prosecution and testified that they'd tricked Hurwitz into prescribing large amounts of opioid drugs, which were then diverted to the

black market. That was apparently enough to convict Hurwitz on 50 counts of trafficking and related activities. "This sends a major message to anyone who would use the treatment of pain as a cover for being a drug trafficker," said U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty.

Hurwitz's lawyers will appeal, in part because they say the court did not allow Hurwitz to raise a "good faith defense," said attorney Ken Wine. "No doctor in his right mind would prescribe for chronic pain patients now, knowing that their misuse of the drugs could be tied back to the doctor and he could be accused of being a drug dealer," he said.

The news of Hurwitz's conviction was a blow to patient advocate Siobhan Reynolds, director

of the Pain Relief Network (www.painreliefnet work.org), who called Hurwitz's prosecution just another misguided blow in the ongoing war on drugs. "It is really frightening to see this whole federal drug apparatus go into high gear to destroy that which it has targeted," she told DRCNet. "We are letting federal law enforcement regulate medicine through the criminal courts, and allowing the opinions of prosecutors to override the medical judgments of highly trained physicians." – Jordan Smith

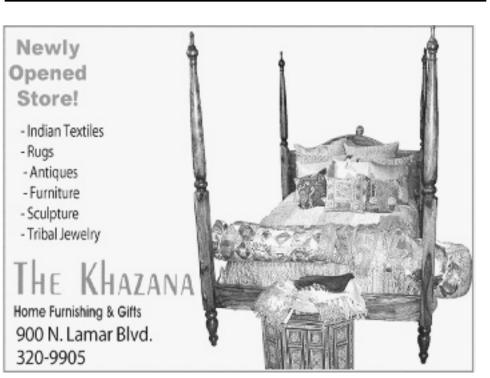
LET THE AYAHUASCA FLOW

Federal drug warriors took a hit on Dec. 8 when the full U.S. **Supreme Court** voted to lift a temporary stay that Justice Stephen Breyer had granted against the U.S. branch of the Brazilian **Union of the Vegetable Beneficent Spiritist Center** (or, in Portuguese, the *Uniao do Vegetal* or UDV) congregation based in Santa Fe, N.M. The court relief means that for the first time in six years UDV church members will be able to use **ayahuasca**, a hallucinogenic substance derived from the Amazonian vine *Banisteriopsis caapi*, which church members take as sacrament.

In 1998, fed narcos raided the Santa Fe church - one of three branches of the Amazonian Santo Daime faith – and seized 30 gallons of ayahuasca tea, which they assert they had the right to seize since it contains diemethyltryptamine or DMT, which the feds regulate under the Controlled Substances Act. The head of the UDV's U.S. branch, Seagram's whisky heir Jeffrey Bronfman, cried foul and sued. His church's use of the drug is akin to the legal use of peyote by members of the Native American Church, he argues, and so far the courts have agreed. The feds have lost their case against the UDV twice - in federal district court and then on appeal before a three-judge panel of the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals - before asking Breyer to impose a stay pending a review of the case by the full bench of the Denver-based 10th Circuit. That stay has now been lifted, meaning the ayahuasca will flow while the appeals court reviews the government's request.

– Jordan Smith

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SUCKING, SPEWING, AND BURNING – LNG AND THE TEXAS GULF

Following the latest recommendations of the governor's **Texas Energy Planning Council**, Texas is poised to become the nation's largest handler and supplier of imported natural gas, hoping to take on the role of "The Natural Gas State." Plans are in progress for as many as eight new onshore and deep-water Gulf of Mexico facilities, designed to receive and process **liquified natural gas**. While the energy industry considers imported LNG as simply another form of exploitable hydrocarbon, critics point to several fundamental problems, including safety, long-term availability, and potentially broad environmental consequences.

The safety issues include the explosive volatility of LNG terminals, compounded by their close proximity to residential populations and their vulnerability to terrorist attacks - an LNG explosion could create a fireball as much as a mile wide. Others object to increasing U.S. dependence on the OPEC nations (source of much LNG), a trend directly contradicting the EPC's declared objective of "energy independence for Texas." Most recently, concerns are being raised regarding the environmental impact of the terminals' massive use of Gulf waters. In the course of a day's processing operations, LNG terminals would gulp up to 200 million gallons of seawater (along with all its living inhabitants), and then spew it back out chlorinated and 18 degrees cooler - with consequences yet to be determined.

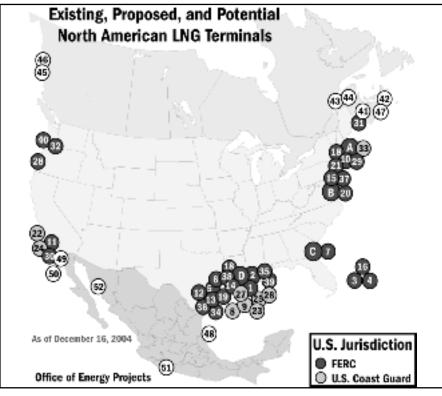
At the point of origin (e.g., Nigeria or Qatar), gathered natural gas is cooled to -260F, liquifying it and shrinking it to a fraction of its gaseous size, to enable economical transportation. At its destination port, the LNG must be returned to a gaseous state by reheating. There are three standard heating methods: air (effective only in warmer weather); gas (burning small amounts of the LNG); and various watercooling methods, including the versatile and cost-effective industry favorite, Open Rack Vaporization. The ORV method pumps chemically treated Gulf water over a network of piping that houses the LNG, then discharges the chlorinated water back to the Gulf. Gas heating - apparently less threatening to the Gulf ecosystem - can cost up to

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10 times more than ORV in operating expenses, burning around 1.5% of the overall LNG shipment.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates coastal projects, and the U.S. Coast Guard has jurisdiction over the licensing of deep-water LNG ports outside state waters. The Guard's role in the licensing process is to ensure that the Environmental Impact Statement for each proposed LNG terminal is prepared properly, including scientific studies and public comment on ecological impacts. "We act as a middleman on the playground, coordinating the public with state and federal agencies," said Lt. Ken Kusano of the Coast Guard's deepwater ports division. "We're neither for or against the projects. Our job is to report the facts in the EIS." But that process is often viewed with disdain by the gas industry, as interfering with both energy development and profits.

But the effects on Gulf habitats look to be as real as the profits. Kusano says the Guard is concerned about potential "impacts to the fisheries" from ORV. The National **Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** found a "100 percent mortality rate of all organisms entrained by the vaporizer.' Environmental Defense, Greenpeace, and the Sierra Club cited the NOAA data in letters to the Maritime Administration, the agency that actually issues the offshore facilities' licenses. "The LNG terminal requires the intake, disinfection, and discharge of 100-200 million gallons of chlorinated sea water per day, causing toxic and mutagenic effects that damage the processes of reproduction, feeding, and respiration in marine life," said the letter from Greenpeace. Referencing National Marine Fisheries Service data, Greenpeace said one proposed site "infringes upon areas identified as essential fish habitats for a variety of fish and shrimp species, serving as a nursery and foraging habitat for many economically and ecologically important species. ... clearly, the number of jobs lost due to the devastation of the fishing industry would be greater than the number of jobs created by the LNG facilities, and would therefore have an overall negative impact on the state's



Currently, there are only four LNG terminals in all of North America, but eight different projects have been proposed or approved for the Texas Gulf Coast alone.

economy." **John Hocevar**, an oceans specialist with Greenpeace, told the *Chronicle*, "The projects currently under consideration jeopardize National Wildlife Refuges on a coastline already largely given over to the oil and gas industry."

All but one of the eight proposed LNG terminals near Texas plan to use ORV, although all four existing LNG regasification terminals in the U.S. use the gas heating method (also known as submerged combustion vaporization, or SCV). A letter drafted by the Border Power Plant Working Group, advocates of environmentally sustainable energy facilities in the U.S.-Mexico border region, stated that "the use of SCV would result in no adverse environmental impacts to marine life. Clearly if every existing LNG regasification terminal in the U.S. is using SCV it is economically practical to do so." Hocevar framed a larger argument against LNG development altogether. "Texas leads the nation in potential solutions to global warming," he said, "and these expensive and highly dangerous LNG projects take us down the wrong track. Instead of further increasing our dependence on energy from

the Middle East, we need to develop the wind and solar resources we have right here in Texas."

Cheniere Freeport LNG's Quintana Island onshore terminal is the closest to operation of all the new Gulf facilities, and is the lone exception to the ORV trend. Chevron Texaco's Port Pelican and El Paso Energy's Energy Bridge, both deep-water ports, are already licensed and plan to use ORV. Their licenses do require the operators to "monitor impacts of operations on essential fish habitats, coordinate with NOAA Fisheries throughout development and implementation, and provide ... a NOAA-approved monitoring plan." Kusano says the licenses are by no means without restrictions, and that the terminals must meet several requirements to earn permanent approval. But he also acknowledged that neither the Coast Guard, NOAA, nor EPA currently impose formal rules or regulations for the vaporization process, although work on their implementation is now in progress. Environmentalists say they hope those rules arrive early and effectively enough to have some effect in protecting the living Gulf waters. - Daniel Mottola



THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

GOING FROM HUMMER TO HUMONGOUS

The Hummer – it's not just for driving anymore. Indeed, you can now splash the essence of Hummer all over your body! General Motors, the maker of this massive symbol of automotive machismo, has now licensed a new Hummer cologne, calling it "The Essence of Adventure" and pricing it as high as \$52 for a Hummer-shaped bottle of the stuff. The scent is advertised as being "masculine with rugged and adventurous attributes." They go further, promising that this new fragrance "embodies all that Hummer is."

Hmmm. The Hummer is an absurdly expensive, gas-guzzling, low-performance, high-polluting, gussied-up chunk of automotive junk. What would that smell like? Besides, these days I see many more women driving these behemoths than men. Forget the masculinity pitch; this thing has turned into a girlie car! I suggest they'd do better with a perfume than a cologne – preferably one with the alluring scent of money.

If it's a real man's car you're after, you want the International CXT pickup truck. Weighing 14,500 pounds, reaching 9 feet tall, and stretching 21 and a half feet long, you could put a Hummer in the pickup bed of this honker! In fact, this beast will tow 20 tons and has to have air brakes to make it stop.

Yet, it has the luxuries you need, too – leather seats, wood-grain trim, a drop-down DVD player, and whatnot. Speaking of luxury, it gets only seven miles per gallon, requiring about \$130 each time you fill up its 70-gallon diesel tank. Then there's the price tag – up to \$115,000 with all the options.

That's pricey, but think of all the Hummer men you can intimidate. That's priceless. As CXT's marketing director says, "This is not a soccer mom's vehicle. I can't see the wife picking up groceries with it."

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A NATION OF CATTLE?

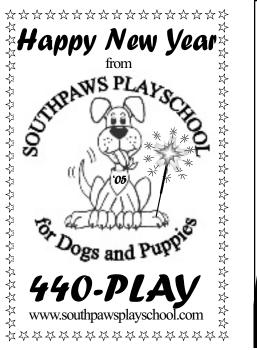
Have you been chipped, yet? You could be soon, for the Food & Drug Administration has now cleared the way for a Florida corporation, Applied Digital Solutions, to market a tiny electronic device called VeriChip that is surgically implanted under the skin of your arm or hand.

Don't worry, says the corporation soothingly, being chipped doesn't hurt you, and it's really for your own good. For example, they say, if you have an accident, your implanted chip could contain vital medical information that could be accessed by an ambulance crew (assuming the crew has bought a hand-held, chip-reading scanner, which Applied Digital also happens to sell).

Besides, coo the corporate hawkers, being chipped is a matter of great personal convenience for you. No longer would you have to carry cumbersome ID cards to get into your workplace – you could have all the required ID stored on your chip, right inside your body. And think of the convenience of not having to fumble with credit cards! Instead, your credit numbers literally are implanted in you, so rather than running your cards through a scanner, a retailer can simply scan you. Talk about consumer progress, VeriChip turns your own body – your very own self – into a barcoded payment system.

After all, says Applied Digital, our country has been implanting such devices in millions of cattle and pets, and it has worked beautifully, so why not humans? For you fussy libertarians who see Big Brother looming behind every scientific breakthrough like VeriChip, the company says that being implanted is voluntary, so where's the worry?

The worry, of course, is that being chipped will not stay voluntary. Corporations and government will soon insist that their employees, frequent travelers, protesters, and others be tagged for security reasons. To rebel against this effort to turn us into a nation of cattle, call the Electronic Privacy Information Center: 202/483-1140.





SXSW²⁰⁰⁵

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Welcome to the Real World

Thursdays are busy nights at the Rhizome Collective, a three-warehouse complex at the dead end of Allen Street in an industrial corner of East Austin. Collective members live in one of the warehouses; they have dinner, hang out, and relax. A second warehouse is full of the rattle and clank of Bikes Across Borders volunteers truing wheels and tuning brakes, or climbing ladders to choose from among the frames and wheels that hang from the ceiling like an arbor ripe with bike parts. The third warehouse is cozier, with a stage at one end and a kitchen at the other, and a colorful crowd of young activists hard at work in between.

Scott Odierno is perched on the stage, addressing packages of books for prisoners as part of the Inside Books Project. Squatting on the floor, a group of bikers prepares for an upcoming trip to Mexico: They construct homemade tents from Tyvek house wrap (which builders use to protect half-finished constructions) and cut and fold 4-foot-by-8-foot political signs into side-bags that will hold their gear as they ride. Several munch off plates of food cooked from scavenged produce by Food Not Bombs chefs.

Outside, in the courtyard formed by the warehouses' U-shaped arrangement, Emerick Huber test-rides a side-bag whose previous role in the universe was to advertise judicial candidate Stephen Yelenosky. He stands on the pedals and coasts along the wood-mulch trail, between the herb garden and the stack of gravel- and plantfilled bathtubs that work like a wetland to filter the group's graywater. The side-bag, clearly too big for Huber's bike frame, jumps around violently, and eventually falls to the ground.

"Minor adjustments needed," he says enthusiastically, and rolls back into the warehouse to make them.

On the one hand, the scene represents exactly what gives suburban mothers nightmares when their young'uns start talking about a "collective"; all-natural hair and thrift-store clothes and people eating Dumpster-dive stir-fry off mismatched china. On the other hand, it's a picture of discipline, industry, and resourcefulness to make John Calvin proud.

The Rhizome Collective is hard to describe, so let's start with what it's not. It's not a laid-back place to hang out, read a little Chomsky, and grow a few alfalfa sprouts when the mood strikes. It's not a commune, a co-op, or a crash pad. The simplest description is that it's a consensus-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in which some of the members happen to live in the office. That "office" is part of a larger space, sometimes called the "Rhizosphere," where the group practices its urban-sustainability techniques, and which a potpourri of radical groups calls home. But most importantly, the Rhizome Collective is a force that gets stuff done.



Rhizome Collective co-founder Scott Kellogg, with one of the Rhizosphere's feathered citizens

Rhizome members aren't "getting back" to anything. They see themselves as moving *forward* to a simpler time, simply because it's inevitable: Cities won't stop growing, but resources won't always be as plentiful as they are today.

Perhaps nothing illustrates this better than the \$100,000 grant the collective just received from the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up a debris-covered brownfield adjacent to the Colorado River Park in Montopolis. Once the site is clean, the group will turn it into an environmental education park. At the same time, the group just got 30 180-volt solar panels 80% paid for by the city, and their installation donated by Meridian Solar Company. These successes demonstrate the collective is not just a happy hydra of benevolent idealism. Rather,



Inside Books' Scott Odierno addresses packages to prisoners at the Rhizosphere on Allen Street.

it's a surprisingly effective model for connecting people with dreams to the resources they need – whether those are grant dollars or bike parts, volunteers or earthworms, or just a cool space to build puppets for your anarchist theatre troupe. Forward to a Simpler Time

The Rhizosphere is not a huge space. It's about a third of an acre, much of it covered by the 10,000 feet of warehouse that over the last 50 years has served as a bingo hall, auto repair shop, and even a church. In

news

Welcome to Rhizomia

The Rhizome Collective is located at 300 Allen St. and is open for public tours Sundays at 2pm, and virtual tours at www. rhizomecollective.org. Contact at rhizome collective@earthlink.net, or 385-3695. The tour focuses on the group's permaculture projects, but there's more to the Rhizome than compost and fowl. Get involved without getting your hands (too) dirty with these affiliated organizations. The Inside Books Project sends reading materials to prisoners in Texas. Help out on Thursdays from 6 to 10pm and Sundays from 7pm to midnight. More info at 647-4803 or insidebooksproject@yahoo.com. Austin Independent Media Center produces independent news, opinion, and documentaries. www.austin.indymedia.org. **Bikes Across Borders fixes up donated** bikes and matches them with folks who will ride them. Get vourself a bike. or iust learn some skills. on Tuesdavs and Thursdays from 6-10pm. The group also organizes an annual ride to Mexico to deliver bikes to maguiladora workers. The collective is also home to a Food Not Bombs kitchen, a "free store," the Austin Zine Library, and Art in Revolution (i.e., space to build your puppets). A holistic health center is also in the works. - R.P.M.

December, the courtyard garden is verdant with winter-hardy greens and root crops. Four years ago, that garden was an asphalt slab; volunteers pickaxed it to pieces, carted off the remains, and started rebuilding the soil. The mulch underfoot is donated by a neighborhood tree shop, which otherwise would have to pay for its disposal. The group has also planted fruit trees, herbs, and vegetables, but the goal is not so much to "live off the land" as it is to demonstrate the many ways it's possible to provide for some of your needs in an urban setting.

"The idea was to create a space where people can come to learn about things like food production, water sustainability, autonomous energy, and waste management," said member Scott Kellogg, who leads public tours Sunday afternoons. "We want to figure out the techniques and simplify them so they're useful to people without a lot of money."

Kellogg, a compact 30-year-old with long blond hair, stands beside the collective's "polyculture pond" - a bunch of buried 55-gallon drums - and points out the aquatic plants. There's rice. Duckweed, a tiny, fast-growing, high-protein plant that floats on the surface like green confetti. And water hyacinth; it's inedible, but it breaks down quickly for compost or methane production. Flitting beneath the surface are gambusia minnows, which eat mosquito larvae. In one corner is a 3,000-gallon rainwater collection barrel, and propped up against it are a couple of tree branches. They may look like mild-mannered logs, Kellogg explains, but beneath their barky exterior lurk spores of edible mushrooms. The group has another mushroom project in the works; they continued on p.26



◀ 25 NEWS ★ RHIZOME

want to see how well different varieties remediate contaminated urban soil.

"Mushrooms can actually rip apart molecular chains," he said. "If you grow mushrooms on soil contaminated by hydrocarbons, they don't absorb it like plants do. They break it down into hydrogen and carbon molecules."

The mushrooms illustrate another of the group's goals: to play guinea pig with little-tested permaculture techniques. For example, they have an indoor worm-composting system – they basically feed their kitchen scraps to a tub of red wriggler earthworms, who break it down into superfertile worm poo faster than a traditional compost heap. And they've set up a simple methane-production system that makes natural gas from the hyacinths. It's not useful, yet (other than to show off a cool 6-inch flame shooting out of a tube hooked up to a tub of rotting greenery) – but it could be.

This willingness to experiment was one of the things that impressed the EPA about the group's application. "They had a really great idea of where they're going with the site," said Amber Perry, who manages their grant for the EPA. "It was so sustainable, and the practices they're using are very innovative. We didn't see them anywhere else."

For example, the group plans to reuse most of the construction debris on the 9.8acre site to build the infrastructure of the park, by mounding abandoned tires, for example, into informational kiosks. Most other applicants planned to send their trash to the landfill. Perry was also impressed by plans to fuel their tractor and wood-chipper with vegetable oil.

Kellogg's tour ends in a shady lot behind one of the buildings, where heaps of compost gently rot and a flock of ducks and chickens scratches around in the mulch. The lot extends about 30 feet or so before a standing row of dead ragweed separates the site from rows of cars on the neighboring salvage lot. It's a very unnatural view, but oddly appropriate.

While many attempts to live a simpler, communal life take a romantic view of the land – the idea that you could leave society behind and move "back" to a simpler time – Kellogg and his cohorts aren't "getting back" to anything. They see themselves as moving *forward* to a simpler time, simply because it's inevitable: Cities won't stop growing, but resources won't always be as plentiful as they are today.

"It's estimated that within the next 20 years, 50 percent of the world's population will live in cities," he said. "Whether you think that's a good thing or a bad thing, we need to figure out ways we can provide for more of our own needs." And that means embracing trash not as an eyesore, but



The Rhizome Collective has received a \$100,000 federal grant to clean up this brownfield (donated to the group) in Montopolis.



A Tony Sanchez for Governor sign enjoys a second life as a homemade bicycle side-bag.

as a resource – gates and trellises around the warehouse, for example, are built from warped bicycle wheels. "When you talk about using locally available, low-energy resources, in cities that means trash," he said.

Perry, of the EPA, said their philosophy reminded her of villages she had visited in Costa Rica, where – out of necessity – people reuse everything. She was impressed that collective members do the same voluntarily. "Not only professionally, but on a personal level I really enjoyed seeing how they try to reuse everything they can," she said. "They're really going against the societal norm of consumptiveness and trying to take it back to …"

She pauses a moment before finding the right word.

"Reality," she said.

Community Connections

The Rhizomians began building their reality in 2000. Several of the founding members met each other in such radical



The Rhizosphere's permaculture projects include an artificial wetland.

hot spots as Chiapas, World Bank protests, or traveling anarchist circus shows. As they discussed their activism and dreams, many came to the conclusion that protesting wasn't the answer.

"We started talking about how we could most effectively use our energies to create the world we want to live in," said Stacy Pettigrew, one of four founding members who still live in Austin. "We decided that rather than protests and speaking out against things, we would work to build an alternative now."

Pettigrew, Kellogg, and other friends ended up in Austin and started spending time with some activist friends who were renting the Allen Street warehouses. When a fire gutted one of the buildings and the owner decided to sell, the group decided to buy. Or rather, Kellogg decided to buy. At the time of the fire, he had just gotten an inheritance that allowed him to buy the \$175,000 property outright, and move the group's vision further than they could in short-term, rented quarters.

"I'd been working for years on projects in rented or squatted space, and it was always heartbreaking when something would happen and groups lost the space," he said. "People were always saying, 'Wouldn't it be amazing if we had our own space?' We talk about 'another world is possible,' but what if we actually had a working model of what that could look like?" Kellogg still owns the Rhizosphere, mostly because of legal complications that can happen when nonprofit

news

organizations own property. But while this makes good financial sense, it torments his egalitarian soul. "I try very hard to dissociate myself as the owner," he said. "We're trying to create nonhierarchical structures where no one is in charge. I don't have any more power than anyone else in the group."

Member Linden Seltz says the ownership issue is unimportant. "It's a reality that land has to be bought, and the [Rhizosphere] would end up as some other stupid warehouse if it wasn't bought," he said. "I think if you looked at a lot of communities around the world, someone, or a small group, had to purchase the land. Does that mean that that small group has control over what happens? No." Seltz adds that the whole collective owns the brownfield, which the group received as a donation.

After the purchase of the Rhizosphere, Kellogg, Pettigrew, and the other founding members "put out a call" that they were building a community. The response was overwhelming, in more ways than one. "We went through a period of transition when we were kind of figuring out who we were," said Pettigrew. "There was a divergence between people who saw this as an activist project, versus just a cool place to live." Kellogg puts it more bluntly. "We call those the circus years," he said. "It was great to have people juggling in the courtyard all day, but they weren't really helping out."

Over time, the slackers drifted away. The group now has about a dozen members. Membership confers an equal voice in the collective's consensus-based management process. In exchange, members offer a long-term (but not permanent) commitment and some combination of labor and low rent to help buy, say, earthworms, plus an activist vision, which may or may not have much to do with permaculture. Founding member Bracken Firecracker was devoted to bicycling, so she founded Bikes Across Borders, which fixes up abandoned bikes and gives them to people who need them in Austin and Mexico. Member Scott Odierno runs the Inside Books Project, which mails books to prisoners.

But many more people are affiliated with the collective than its members. Groups like Austin Indymedia, the Austin Zine Library, Food Not Bombs, and others rent cheaply or are given space in the warehouse, creating a kind of activist hub. For example, Simon Sedillo used to run Indymedia out of an apartment. Now its precarious stacks of computers and electronics, sometimes topped off by an orange cat named Lucy, occupy a walled-off corner of the warehouse. He welcomes the change. "It's been incredible," he said. "What Rhizome has done is given value and worth to the work I'm doing by making it easier to do it."

Having so many groups share the space means there's a constant stream of friends and volunteers wandering through, especially on official volunteer nights like Tuesdays and Thursdays. Member Sachi Decou says that although this can be stressful for people living in the warehouse, it's great for the activist groups. "Each project attracts different people to the space, so many different people get exposed to all the different projects," she said. Linden Seltz agrees that "space issues" are

Linden Seltz agrees that "space issues" are the biggest challenges of a group-living experience that is otherwise very positive. "It's a more fair, egalitarian way of living," he said. "And there's always something going on here. I don't participate in the bike thing, but I'm really glad it's there, and that I can just look out my window and see it going on."

But if the first years of the collective were dominated by building the physical and social infrastructure of the Rhizosphere, some members feel the group is now moving into a different phase. "A huge focus of ours right now is ways to make the work we do more accessible to the community," said Decou. She cites as an example a Bikes Across Borders project to connect Pickle Elementary kids with donated bikes and the skills to repair them; other collective members teach afterschool art projects at Allen Elementary.

Engaging with the community helps members who struggle with the whiff of hierarchy inherent in suggesting "another way" to neighbors whose poverty is not voluntary. After all, it's one thing to spend your free time in the hard physical labor of activism when you're a youngish single with time to spare; it's another thing entirely when you're working multiple jobs to support a family. Kellogg admits it's a

"Before we were just a community of activists, and now we're negotiating this bureaucracy. That can be hard. It really helps to be able to just come out and sit with the chickens, or go stick your hands in the worm shit." – Rhizome Collective co-founder Scott Kellogg

concern. "We're not telling anyone they have to be like us," says Kellogg. "We're just here as a resource, and if people see something that inspires them, great."

In that way, the EPA grant opens a valuable opportunity for the collective to raise their profile, and give the Montopolis neighborhood something all can enjoy, no matter their opinions about compost or puppets. But like anything, that comes with challenges of its own. While the EPA dollars will fund five paid positions, it also brings significant government paperwork and oversight. That's in addition to the two square acres of trash to be reused and recycled before the park's neighbors can stroll amidst educational kiosks, or use the trails to get from Montopolis to the Colorado River Park.

Sitting on a hay bale in the chicken yard, and blinking into a fast-falling afternoon sun, Kellogg reflected on the new challenges of turning from career anarchist to federal contractor. "Before we were just a community of activists, and now we're negotiating this bureaucracy," he said. "That can be hard. It really helps to be able to just come out and sit with the chickens, or go stick your hands in the worm shit."





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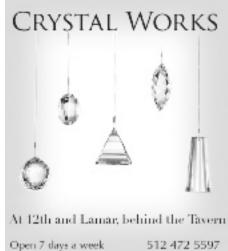
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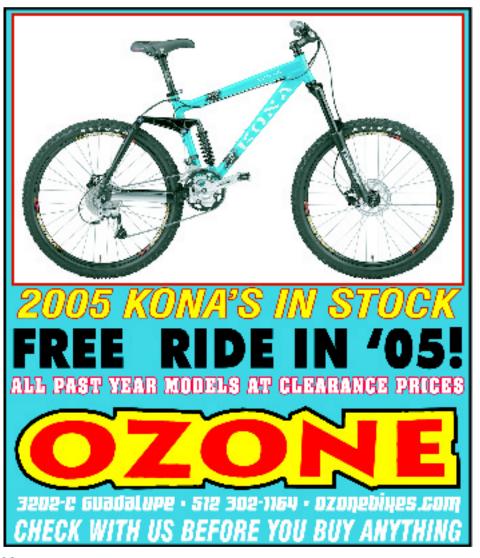


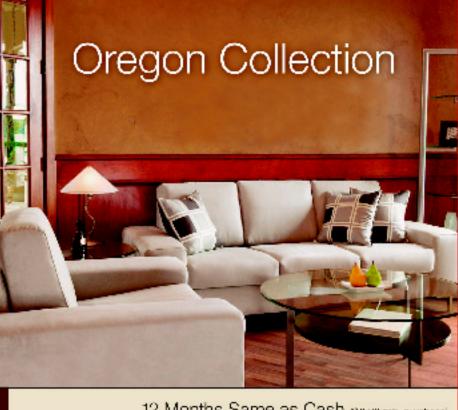


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I'D LIKE TO BE UNDER THE SEA HANA HILLEROVA EXPLAINS HOW SHE GREW HER 'OCTOPUS'S GARDEN' BY JACOUELINE MAY

In addition to being an artist and allaround cool human, Hana Hillerova is director of the Creative Research Laboratory and a lecturer at the Department of Art and Art History at UT. In connection with her latest installation, *Octopus's Garden*, currently on display at Fresh Up Club, the *Chronicle* corresponded with Hillerova, who was visiting family in her native Prague. Here are excerpts from that dialogue:

Austin Chronicle: What is the role of science in Octopus's Garden and in your work in general?

Hana Hillerova: Both my parents are chemical engineers, [so I] grew up with that mindset. You can read a lot about this in my statement. "My creative work incorporates ideas, images, and spaces from biology, architecture, and physics. My work has evolved from an initial investigation of growth patterns in nature to related concepts in architecture that introduce non-inert models of organization." [There's lots more.]

AC: I see a visual dialogue with popular culture motifs from the Sixties. Are there any ideals from that era that you admire, or is it just the visual character of the era?

HH: [I see in that era] a sense of freedom, like anything is possible. [It was] super exciting for sure; I got a whiff of that culture when I lived in Northern California with a bunch of hippies. ... Those were my second formative years. In my early 20s, I lived with a couple that were the same age as my parents, and they were like my second parents.

AC: What would you like people looking at your art to be thinking about?

HH: It should be an experience, seeing something that they haven't imagined before. I like to create a "surround" experience – something you can't see all at the same time. Also, [I'd like them to] get a sense of energy floating through the whole piece and also see how much fun it was to make. I am getting more into this lately; leaving the traces of the process there ... the duct tape and so on.

AC: There's a lot of audience participation, with this comfortable, funky, vintage brown sofa positioned so the viewer can actually sit right in the middle of this environment. Also, Dave Bryant said you guys had a food fight at the opening. I like the bright-colored candles on the smaller raised platform area. It's like some of the community altars you see, but more like an altar to the spirit of fun, if you



know what I mean. To what extent is your art about play?

HH: It is a [form of] play for me to make it all not fall apart, like making a [house] of cards stand or something; it's all about making it happen from nothing, from cardboard and bags and balloons.

AC: What does an "Octopus's Garden" mean to you, apart from the obvious reference to the song? **HH:** An octopus theme has been popping up everywhere for me. I saw some shunga prints of the Fisherman's Wife [having creative relations with] an octopus. ... Maybe the octopus is Kali – eight-handed destroyer. AC: That one by Katsushika Hokusai? Holy smokes! I looked it up on the Web after you wrote me that, and it is really something to behold. Gorgeous! Uh, for adults only, kids.

HH: In my older artwork there is always a sense of weightlessness, no gravity, things flowing freely – underwater perhaps. Also,

the theme of abundance, of a garden of Eden. So I thought, yeah, "Octopus's Garden." The one thing I still don't know what to think of is the colors. Whoa, I have never made anything that colorful.

AC: What's up with all those little sphere forms you made with the balloons and white garbage bags?

HH: I'm interested in the beginning of things – eggs – fecund – but it also may be some kind of infestation. It's the growth, but also the overgrowth; things getting out of hand and going terribly wrong, suffocation by balloons.

AC: I guess I wasn't the only one whose mom was freaked out by that. That whole suffocation and fertility thing has got to be somehow related to the whole female experience.

Octopus's Garden continues through Jan. 5 at the Fresh Up Club, 916 Springdale. The closing party for the installation will be Wednesday, Jan. 5, 6-9pm. **INSIDE ...** 30 FOUR PAINTERS 33 BOOK REVIEWS 34 AFTER A FASHION

THE YEAR IN REVULSION COMIC J.R. BROW CHARTS THE LOWS AND LOWERS OF 2004 BY ROBERT FAIRES

At Cap City Comedy Club this Dec. 31, local comic J.R. Brow is the main man in charge of ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. With that in mind, the *Chronicle* asked him for a postmortem on the past 12 months.

Austin Chronicle: 2004: A bad year or a soul-sucking, mind-rotting black hole of a year?

J.R. Brow: I'm alive, so it wasn't all that bad. I can't find my soul since we moved to Williamson County, but my neighbors are willing to help me find a replacement. (Throwing dice against a wall.) Come on, 2008!

AC: Who wore out their welcome in 2004? JR: Howard Dean. "EE-E-YAAAAAA-A-AAGH!" That'll wear out any welcome. AC: All year long, it was election this, election that. What was the moment when the election finally made your head explode? JR: When I found out that P. Diddy didn't even vote. This after he went on television wearing a "Vote Or Die" shirt. Here's the gun, P, now do it!

AC: TIME says you get to name the Person of the Year. Who's your pick?

JR: Rick James, bitch. I will miss him. Cocaine is a terrible drug.

AC: And the Loser of the Year?

JR: Three losers. Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, and Pantera's Dimebag Darrell. This marks the first year that sex, drugs, and rock & roll were equally bad ideas. **AC:** Who would you put on the bus going off a cliff?

JR: That's easy. I'd strap Rupert Murdoch, Ann Coulter, and Karl Rove to their seats and make Sean Hannity drive the bus over a cliff. That would be fair and balanced to me. **AC:** The year in fashion. Any thoughts?

JR: Corduroys, the color brown, and Chuck Taylors. "Now available in every flavor!" at a mall nearest you. All fashion faux pas, IMO.

AC: What image from this year are you working the hardest to erase from your memory?



JR: Another plural. Image(s) of those hideous women who got makeovers on *The Swan*, only to come out looking even more jacked up. Nightmares, I'm tellin' ya. **AC:** Future historians will remember 2004 as the year that humankind finally ...?

JR: ... convinced Calvin (the bad boy on the window sticker) to stop peeing on everything and to get on his knees and pray for forgiveness. Seriously, peeing isn't sinful! How about a sticker of Calvin mopping a puddle and showing remorse? ■

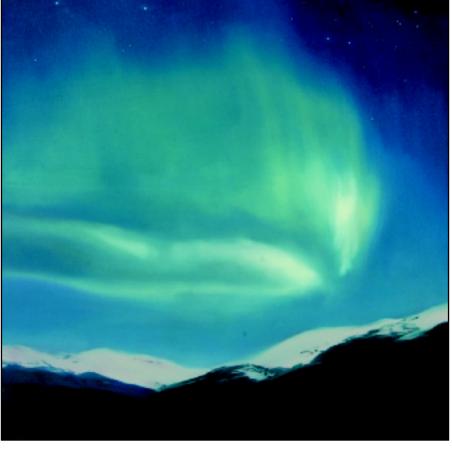
J.R. Brow headlines the New Year's Eve gala and performs through Jan. 2 at the Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research. For more information, call 467-2333 or visit www.capcitycomedy.com.

CULTURE **FLASH**?

Want a piece of Bernadette Peters? How about Reba McEntire? Arts on Real can't help you get a pound of flesh from either of those celebs, but if you'll settle for an item that's been in contact with their flesh, the Eastside theatre is ready to help. On New Year's Eve, Arts on Real will auction off a pair of red cowgal boots in which Ms. Peters strode sassily across the stage in Annie Get Your Gun and earrings that decorated the lobes of Ms. McEntire, who followed her as Annie in that very production. They're among the more exotic items being sold in the theatre's silent auction, which includes items for both the nice (round-trip tickets on Southwest, getaways at assorted Central Texas Marriotts and Hiltons) and naughty (sensual gift baskets from Falcon Videos, to help you, um, get up for Naughty Austin's upcoming End of the World Party, starring porn superstar Matthew Rush). Speaking of Naughty Austin, the night includes a performance of its hit show Pageant, an hour of cabaret-style entertainment, and food and champagne. All proceeds benefit Arts on Real. For more information, call 472-2787 or visit www.artsonreal.com.

CONSTRUCTING THE ILLUSION OF DEPTH FOUR OF AUSTIN'S MASTER PAINTERS REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THEIR CRAFT BY RACHEL KOPER





Aurora Borealis, by Will Klemm

hen a person decides to spend hundreds of hours painting, they want the end result to be complicated and not foolish. This article is about one geeky painter approaching four other Austin painters with a pepper spray of oddball technical questions about how they get that desired result. All four - John Cobb, Roi James, Will Klemm, and Mark Silva - work in realism: Cobb and James make portraits of recognizable people; Klemm paints landscapes with shimmering beauty; Silva portrays believable still-life contraptions, figures, and buildings. They work differently, but all clearly care about craftsmanship, naturalism, illusion, and beauty. All minimize the evidence of their own strokes, blending layers meticulously. And all share an obsessive-compulsive work ethic. You don't really have to ask these guys how they spend their time; the work hours ooze out of their paintings. Their materials vary. Three of the four use

commercial oil paints, drying agents such as Liquin, and a series of varnishes. John Cobb prefers egg tempera paint, a delicate waterbased medium that's completely different materially from oil-based paint but shares a viscosity that makes it act somewhat like oil paint. Cobb mixes his own egg tempera paint and when he's finishing a piece, uses a blended wax to reduce gloss.

Woman With Blue Butterfly, by Roi James

Since Cobb has worked feeding cattle, I ask him if he raises his own chickens for the egg in his egg tempera paint. "No," he laughs, but he does mix the paint fresh each time. Cobb likes the old ways of painting, the craftsmanship of building each part of the work. He uses an earth red chalk, graphite, and homemade carbon paper to make the underdrawing. None of the three drawing tools contain wax of any kind. This is important because the wax of a colored pencil or conté crayon would resist and deflect the absorption of the egg later. Cobb speaks of "getting really lost" looking at pieces of wood on an old barn door for the piece Madonna on the Farm. The wood itself was so complicated that he had to "get away from it, go into the studio to make sense of it." He takes his time, sometimes a whole year, putting details into the darkest shadows in a piece. The way Cobb draws includes every berry on every vine; his only way to work is full-on tight. It's a process that demands a lot of patience, but his mellow temperament seems well-suited to his medium of choice. He has to use the three different colors to simplify the layers of the composition, because his drawing never gets generalized. It's born complicated.

oil paint. Cobb mixes his own egg tempera paint and when he's finishing a piece, uses a blended wax to reduce gloss. Similarities may be found in Silva, whose calculated strokes stay small and precise in *continued on p.32*



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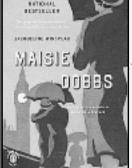
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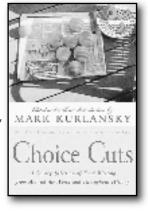
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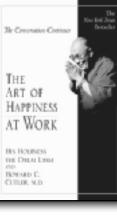
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◀ 30 VISUAL ART ★ PAINTING

even the earliest stages of creating an image. Silva insists on "making it look right," or he just doesn't want to look at it. "I underdraw with paint washes – Naples yellow if I'm feeling timid or burnt sienna," he says. "Sometimes I'll lay in some cerulean blue or something darker for contrast. Sometimes I'll go into a color wash or rough painted sketch and paint with turpentine, lifting out highlights or lines, making corrections."

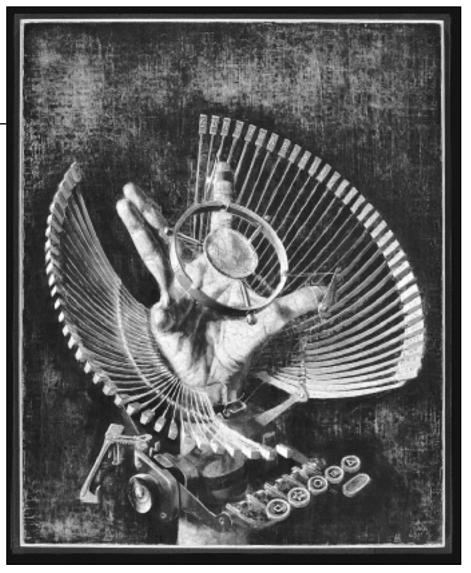
Silva practically draws with the paint using small brushes. Typically each shape in the final composition exists in the early stages. "I tend to work thin; the work dries faster and allows me to go back in and rework things obsessively. I like erasing any evidence of earlier incarnations." So if he paints his hand as a saxophone, he will combine the live model with the still-life object both realistically portrayed. The trick is in the combinations, making the juxtaposition seem natural. Silva talks about doing "rate tracking" in his compositions. Once he's chosen a source of light, he pretends he's following a light beam as it bounces around a real environment. If he can't imagine a particular shadow or reflection, he has a lamp and clump of clay in his studio and will test it on the model, then use that in his painting. For a minute, I think about the programmed "physics" of video games. Silva wants to achieve an obvious realism, to trick the eye into believing the physicality of the new object environment in his painting. He wants it to look like a real thing - not paint strokes, but the texture of the real objects.

Roi James shares this lack of emphasis on the "hand of the artist." When he started painting figures, he copied Renaissance works from books he had. The images were printed so small that all evidence of the painter's strokes was invisible. James assumed that this utter smoothness was humanly achievable and started painting very soft edges. Over time James saw some of the actual pieces he had copied and realized they were rougher than he'd imagined.

His process is very controlled; he uses a projector for the initial blocking-in of forms. He uses more modern gadgets than the other artists. I ask him how much underdrawing he does before painting something.

"None on my figurative work. I hire a model and shoot about 150 images, four or five of which will be good enough to use. Then I work my compositions out in Photoshop, output them as slides and project them onto the canvas, and outline the important areas of the painting." This allows James to get straight into the painting, avoiding the perils of life drawing. He will often leave dark areas transparent with three or so layers. In contrast, the face will be opaque and have 15-20 layers of paint.

Will Klemm, best known for his pastel drawings, which he's made for 11 years, recently began oil painting again. "Variations in paint thickness and viscosity is the chief





The Device for Summoning the Muses, by Mark Silva

reason to use oil paint in the first place," he says. His sensitivity of palette and economy of form give the work a relaxing efficiency. He can imagine backlighting on anything and make you believe it really is sunset.

Austin Chronicle: What do you add to the oil paint? Are you particular about your brand of paint?

James: My medium is something I've come up with myself. I mostly use a combination of linseed oil and Galkyd (an alkyd medium by Gamblin). I premix jars in the ratios of 1-to-1, 1-to-1.5, 1-to-2 respectively. The 1-to-1 dries slowest, and the 1-to-2 dries quickest. I usually use the 1-to-2 for the underpainting and the 1:1 for glazing. Never put a faster-drying medium on top of a slower-drying medium, or you'll end up with cracking. In terms of paints, lately I've been using Gamblin paints except for my white, which is an Old Holland Cremnitz White (lead white). I strongly advise to get good paints, and especially do not go cheap on the white.

Klemm: Turpentine, Liquin, linseed oil, stand oil, poppy oil, wax medium – I've used them all. I do like the paint to be more liquid than straight out of the tube. The only brand that's remarkably different in a good way is Upsari, which is handmade by some cranky guy in New York. His earth tones are beyond belief.

Cobb: In pure egg tempera, using the yolk of the egg, only pure dry pigments are used.

They are ground upon a slate with a portion of egg as medium and mixed. Egg tempera is an obligate and elaborate process of form building in hatchwork and the avoidance of checking (the result of a too thick layer) and the development of naturalistic surfaces.

Silva: Depleted uranium. It's perfectly safe, according to the Pentagon, and will theoretically make my work scratch-resistant. And that half-life thing – 4.5 billion years, I think – insures a certain longevity to the work. It's becoming increasingly plentiful, too. I prefer the American brand over the British ... more trace plutonium in the mix for that extra je ne sais quoi.

AC: Do you prefer lots of small strokes or several large ones?

James: Both. I use mostly sable or synthetic sable brushes. I prefer the softness to the bristles. The reason for this is my layers are so thin that a stiff brush will actually remove paint rather than set it down. The sables are much less likely to disturb the surface. When I'm initially laying paint down I will use large brushes to create basic shapes of tone. Then I'll change to smaller brushes and define the shapes more clearly.

Klemm: I use the biggest brush I can possible get away with, but I'm not after some sort of "signature" stroke. I just like speed and efficiency.

Cobb: The methods which separate and enlarge the traditional use of egg tempera include application of the paint using a palThe Presbyterian, by John Cobb

ette knife; thin/thick; tiny and large brushwork; sealed resin coated surfaces to congeal and reduce fracturing; the reduction to previous layers using cheesecloth; and finally a great deal of small laborious cross-hatching in the traditional grisaille method. **Silva:** Small strokes are better. Losing significant brain function all at once scares me. For the record, though, I'd prefer no strokes at all ... Is this a trick question?

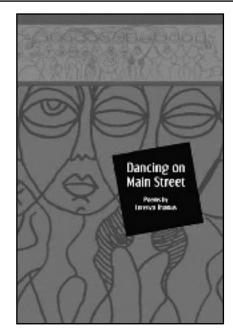
Most folks know that oil and water don't mix. Painters like these guys will really break it down for you. Cobb admits to having imported lead white from France. James even recommends his favorite brand of lead white. Why is the poisonous paint still around after all this time? It's just so darn smooth. The paint rolls off the brush. In addition to texture, painters look for mixing qualities. What does the pigment do in combination? How much pigment is in the oil? How finely ground is hard mineral pigment? These guys really know their materials and their craft. They spend their time constructing the illusion of depth; this is not a foolish endeavor. They have helped inspire me to slow down and get crafty this holiday season.

John Cobb has shown around the state but is not currently represented by an Austin gallery. Roi James and Marc Silva each have a Web site with their work on it: www.roijames.com and www.marcsilva.com. Will Klemm currently has a solo show running through Jan. 4 at Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth.

BOOKS

Dancing on Main Street by Lorenzo Thomas

Coffee House Press, 116 pp., \$15 (paper) Lorenzo Thomas of Houston is a thinking-man's writer. His critical studies of folklore, modernism, and music are substantial works, and in both prose and poetry he always addresses the difficult issues. In "God Sends Love Disguised as Ordinary People," he asserts that "We never quite could tell/strength from stupidity/Pride in perseverance/The point where stubbornness/Purchased a harvest of futility." In a prose passage, he is as concise, cutting, and full of telling sound as in his poetry: "For a population addicted to entertainment, demented leaders have invented real war presented as games." Laced with unusual metaphors ("Mocking as sunrise/To insomniacs"), jazzy language ("It's tough being enough"), and witty love-talk ("Still/If we have nothing left/But carnal beauty//Well, I can live with that"), Thomas' book is more than the sum of its varied parts, since individual poems rise above even the best of his jivey, swinging pieces. "Dirge for Amadou Diallo" is a masterful elegy developed from a simple but poignant opening: "It is hard to have your son die/In a distant land." Here Thomas asks hard questions with no justifiable answers, but along the way offers his unabashed moral philosophy: "We'd understand/If someone said he was ... a prodigal://The kind of man who desperately/Needs the vise of suffering/And hurt and desolation/Some eccentricity to



hold him firm/To help him shape his heart/ Into an instrument of praise." Repeatedly Thomas calls into question our so-called values, as in "Dangerous Doubts," where he declares "That maybe exercise shows on TV/Are really harmful/That sound bodies just/Amplify our empty minds." Thomas' poetry brims with "dangerous" thoughts, expressed in phrases and images that are his alone. His latest book will satisfy discriminating readers long after the run-ofthe-mill type has been quickly and rightly forgotten. – Dave Oliphant

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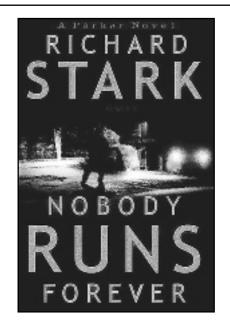


This project is funded by the City of Austin through the Cultural Art Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Nobody Runs Forever by Richard Stark

Mysterious Press, 304 pp., \$23.95

Was it ever really a man's, man's, man's world, as James Brown so convincingly sang back in his heyday? James Bond and Jack Kennedy – who had a lot in common when you think about it - made a damn good case for it in the Sixties. So did Parker, the professional thief created by Richard Stark, a pseudonym of Donald Westlake, and, although that's hardly the point (OK, we lost that battle), in a life of crime and/ or noir, Stark and Parker can still make you believe it over the course of 300 blazingly written pages (comparatively long for a Parker novel) in Nobody Runs Forever, the 26th caper in the series since Parker's debut in The Hunter (also published as Point Blank, after the brilliant 1967 film adaptation starring Lee Marvin). In this latest installment, Parker joins a poker game with a circle of crooks about to discuss a potential new heist, but realizes one of them is wearing a wire and, with the mute approval of the others at the table, promptly dispatches the pigeon with his necktie. On to a new scheme, Parker and his chief accomplice must deal with the wimp-out factors and other human failings of various straight stiffs and ickies found in average America, plus greed and malfeasance of people guilty not only of those sins but one thing of which Parker is not: hypocrisy. And then, of



course, there's a caravan of armored cars to deal with, as well as one badass female bounty hunter. From the necktie party beginning to the flap-flap of police helicopters on his trail at the end, it's another thrill ride worth staying up all night and calling in sick tomorrow morning for, you nine-tofive bandit, you. By the way, did I mention the Richard Stark/Parker series debuted in 1962, same year as James Bond? Same year Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to the First Stud? - Jesse Sublett

after a fashion by stephen macmillan moser

WORDS OF THE WEEK "He who goes against the fashion is himself its slave."

– British essayist Logan Pearsall Smith (1865-1946)

WHO? Why on earth would anyone be interested in opening an e-mail from a sender named Repulsive G. Lodi? Or Ernestine R. Philistine? Frankly, if Mr. (Ms.?) Lodi or Ms. Philistine were folks I was interested in hearing from, then their ludicrous names would already be familiar - if I were interested in having friends named Repulsive or Philistine ... which is so not likely. I just couldn't get past those names. I'd never be able to look at them or listen to what they had to say. We'd never really be able to be friends because of that – you know, trying different hairstyles on each other and making prank phone calls or whatnot. That's a shame. But I imagine that someone named Repulsive doesn't try different hairstyles or make prank calls. I mean, I hate the idea of prejudging someone based on their name, but if your name is Repulsive, sorry ... that's what nicknames are for. Can you imagine what Ms. Ernestine R. Philistine is like? For one thing, she's probably a "Miss" and surely she's a plus-sized Amazon - all harsh angles and really bad kinky hair. I imagine she likes to wear old-school nurses' shoes because they're comfortable, and has furnished her modest abode completely from Wal-Mart. She's got a genuinely good heart,

but expresses herself poorly in a series of fits of ungainly behavior. Poor Ernestine – she's just never really gotten a handle on personal interaction ... and that's just one more reason why I'm not interested in hearing from her.

NURSING A STRONG ONE Now that we've brought up the subject of **nurses**, it's time for some hard talk, so pull your little chairs in a little bit closer and let's discuss: First off, nurses don't look like nurses anymore. They look more like children's activity organizers. When did hospitals allow nurses to stop looking like nurses? There was a time when nurses received utmost respect simply because of their authoritarian uniforms - the starched white dress (I'm focusing on lady nurses, here, so bear with me ...), a charming array of white hats, the opaque white stockings, and those ever-so-serviceable white shoes. You see, nurses have the special privilege of being able to wear white shoes all year long, when the rest of us would be cast into fashion hell for it. And since they're lucky enough to do that, you'd think they'd be wearing a plethora of stunning white footwear - but no. They wear athletic shoes. Because they're more "comfortable." But honestly, what could be more wonderful and comfortable than, say, a pair of white Ferragamo slip-ons with some beguiling little detail that makes your heart jump every time you see them? And the stiff, intimidating white uniforms? Gone with the wind. Those clever folded or pleated hats?

Unavailable. Now nurses wear scrubs printed with little fishies and colorful bears. This may be comforting to toddlers, but I am an adult and as such am not swayed by such ploys. I want to be handled by someone named **Ratched** whose very presence underscores the gravity of my malady. Of course, this is not to say that nurses are no longer respected or respectable – dear god, I put myself in the skilled hands of dozens of nurses every year and receive excellent care and am deeply grateful for it. But I was just really fond of those caregivers who scared the pants off of you; they always made you think twice about getting sick.

PONDERING Exactly how did the term "**Drama Queen**" – a decades-old gay phrase – come to be co-opted by heterosexuals? Probably the same way the song "YMCA" – a song about anonymous sex in a gay bathhouse – came to be played at every suburban wedding reception and sports event.

JET SETTING If you *still* don't know what you're doing on New Year's Eve, then make your little fingers *fly* to **www.jetsetnewyears.com** and book your reservation *now* for a flight to a planet of music, food, entertainment, and a helluva good time – without ever leaving Austin. And you can even sleep it off at the Omni. Our friends from StrangeTribe and Burn the Box are presenting the second annual JetSet New Year's Eve Party, and it is *not* to be missed.



Rachel Loy and Spencer Gibb as children's toy icons Strawberry Shortcake and G.I. Joe at Dec. 18's Miracle on 34th and Guadalupe, hosted by Avant, Shiki, and their neighbors at Toys for Tots. The annual event is excellent for shopping, sharing, and good ol' holiday spirit.

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





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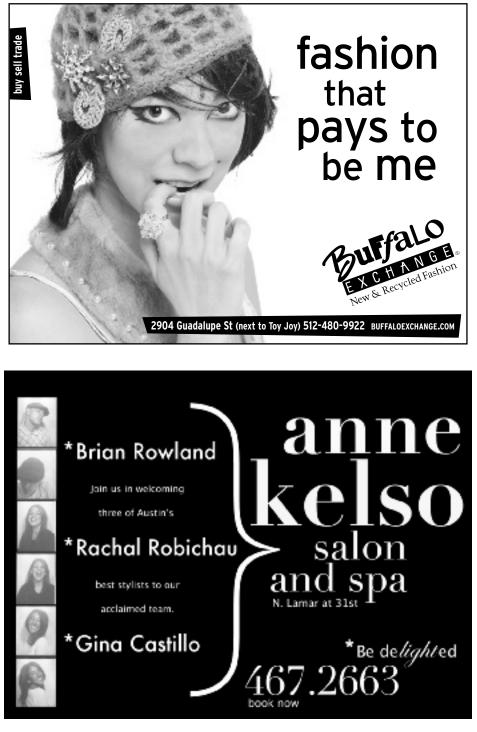


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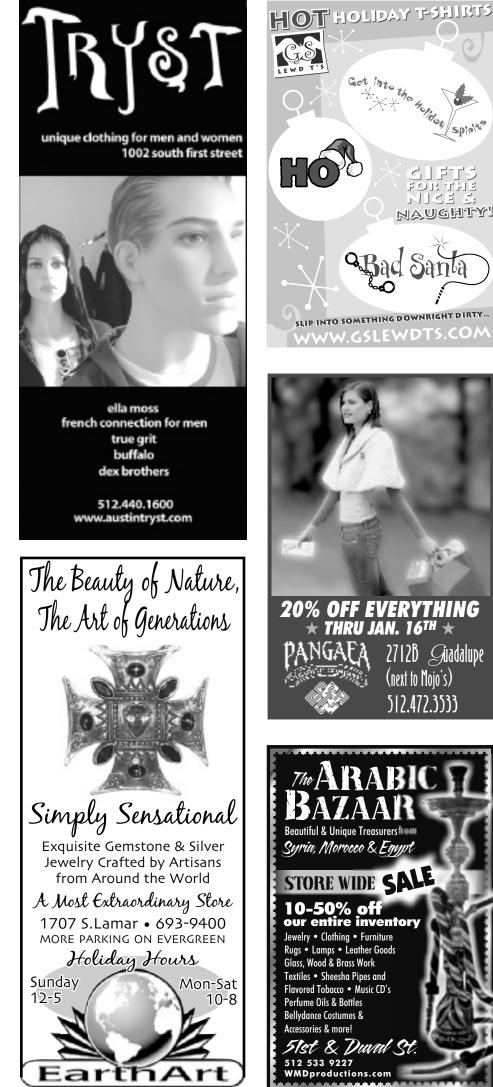


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FOOD

INSIDE ... 40 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Tasting the Stars CHAMPAGNE: AN APPRECIATION AND PRIMER

BY WES MARSHALL

It's time again for the annual ritual of popping a bottle of bubbly wine to celebrate the new year. While we're all for any rite that includes wine, we wanted to take a step back from the rush of the holiday season and ponder what goes into making the wine that caused the old monk Dom Perignon to exclaim, "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars!"

I've had the opportunity to taste a lot of Champagnes and sparkling wines this year, and later I'll share my favorites, but for the newcomers, let's cover a few basics. First and dearest to the heart of the folks who live in France is the fact that for a wine to be Champagne, it should come from Champagne, the area around Reims and Epernay in the eastern part of the country. Any other bubbly wine should be called a sparkling wine. There is no disgrace in being a sparkling wine, and frequently they cost a good deal less than Champagnes. But the microclimates make a world of difference in the flavors of wines, and the microclimate (what the French call terroir) of Champagne is ideally suited for sparkling wine.

Still, the key issues are how the wine is made to sparkle, and what grapes are used to make it. Have you ever been to a wedding where they are serving some off-brand of sparkling wine and woken up the next day with an elephant sitting on your head and the flames of hell billowing out of your belly? You can probably thank one of the cheaper ways of making wine bubble. Sadly, most of what is sold this New Year's will be made by taking sweet wine and carbonating it. Wine conglomerates use this process because it is dirt-cheap, but please, avoid the stuff. How do you tell if it is carbonated? If it is not, it will say either Charmat, Methode Champenoise, or Champagne on the label. Charmat is a process whereby the winemaker puts grape juice in large tanks and lets the carbon dioxide from fermentation produce the bubbles. It is a little better than carbonated (occasionally much better, but trust your salesperson), but for just a little more money you can step up to the gold standard, Methode Champenoise.

This is the method used in Champagne, and anyone claiming to make a good sparkling wine generally adheres to the basic tenets the French use. Grape juice is fermented into wine, then a combo of sugar, wine, occasionally brandy, and sometimes a couple of other secret ingredients (altogether called the dosage) are added to the wine, along with more yeast, and the whole blend is bottled and corked. The yeast and dosage create a second fermentation, which throws off carbon dioxide. Since the gas has no place to go, it mixes with the wine and creates the luxurious bubbles we associate with Champagne. During this phase, the wine throws some sediment, so the winemakers developed an Occupational Safety & Health Administration inspector's nightmare wherein each bottle is angled, neck down, at about 45 degrees from the ground, and some poor person who is trying to learn how to make wine gets stuck with the job of going into the cellar and twisting each bottle a fraction of a turn each day to encourage the sediment to go down into the neck.

When the winemaker is satisfied that the wine is ready to drink, he brings the bottles out, pops the tops, puts in another dosage to bring the wine to the sweetness he is searching for, and reseals them *immédiatement*. Note that I glossed over two important points: First, any wine made using Methode Champenoise is ready to drink when it hits the store shelves; you don't have to worry about saving a wine. Second, these wines come in different levels of sweetness and, just to make things nice and confusing, of the two levels you'll see most often, extra-dry is the sweeter and brut is the dryer.

Besides how the wine is made, the other key issue is which grapes are used. In Champagne, the classic combination is Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, though you'll sometimes see Blanc de Blanc (made only from Chardonnay) or Blanc de Noir (made from Pinot Noir). In the United States, most sparkling wines use the same grapes, but the wines from Italy and Spain, the two other dominant producers we see here in Texas, use local grapes like Prosecco or Macabeo. These aren't necessarily worse than using Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, except for one issue: They don't age as well, so if you want to buy a sparkling wine from Italy or Spain, go to a reputable wine merchant and ask for something fresh.

That being said, you can find some wonderful wines from either country here in Central Texas. Spain makes the less expensive wines, and the ubiquitous Freixenet Brut Cordon Negro is a perfectly serviceable wine made using the Methode Champenoise; it's often available for less than \$8. A little bit harder to find, but worth the



search, is Cristalino Brut, which will cost about a dollar more. Both wines have a biscuits-and-citrus flavor that goes nicely with food.

The Italians have been letting the cost of their Proseccos drift up with the Euro, and they aren't quite the bargain they once were. Still, there are a few bargains around. Mionetto is the hot brand right now, and my favorite of their wines is 1l, which comes with, no kidding, a beer bottle style crown cap. The wine is delicately bubbled, what the Italians call *frizante*, and goes down so nicely that you'll want to either nurse your glass or buy a lot. It should run about \$12. Another great low-cost Italian wine available locally, and only in Texas, is Balestri Valda Soave Brut Spumante, a delicious wine with light almond and green apple aromas that costs about \$16.

We produce a number of tasty sparkling wines in the United States, also. Over the years, I've recommended Gruet Blanc de Noirs several times, but it bears saying again: At \$12, this is the best sparkling wine per dollar made anywhere in the world. And it's from New Mexico! If you would rather feed the Schwarzenegger economy, Domaine Chandon is making reliably great wines, espe-

continued on p.38

FOOD-O-FILE by virginia b. wood

2005 Curiosities

The coming year looks to be a busy one, and I've made a list of some emerging stories that have already piqued my interest. Here are some things I'll be curious about in 2005, in no particular order of importance:

How will the recent fire sale of the homegrown **Schlotzsky's** chain manifest itself on the menu? Will we see sweeping changes locally at both the corporate and store levels? Will they abandon the upscale Bread Alone bakery/cafe concept? Will they re-create the original sourdough sandwich buns?... The **Saveur Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival** saw plenty of upheaval in 2004. In fact, the many-faceted story was so complex I could never quite get a handle on where to start reporting on it. The festival did lose its third director in

three years, plus several board members over the summer, so it should be interesting to experience all of the exciting new features planned now that the event has entered into a production agreement with local powerhouse Capital Sports & **Entertainment**. We hear they're bringing back the original founding chefs in addition to Wolfgang Puck, Todd English, and Claudine Pepin, just to name a few, and will be hosting two days of outdoor events on Auditorium Shores, replacing the Sunday Fair. Talk about embracing Austin!... The upcoming downtown development near the dynamic new City Hall is generating lots of buzz. Will some distinctively local restaurants brave the sky-high rents on the prime properties, or will the chic new spaces have to be filled by national chain outfits?... The Westlake Farmers Market appears to be flourishing in Sunset Valley, and is set to reopen on Saturday, Jan. 8. We're betting that their first full year there attracts even more vendors and greater expansion. The Downtown Farmers' Market reopens at Fourth and Guadalupe on Saturday, Feb. 5, and we'll keep an eye out to see if they are able to bring in more new growers for the extended 2005 season... The clos-

ing year brought several new international culinary delights to our city, especially from Latin America. Is it possible there's a churrascaria (Argentine steak house) in our future? Wouldn't that be great? We're also hearing more and more about good new restaurants in area towns such as Bastrop, Niederwald, Kyle, and Buda, which means road trips are in the offing... After watching local confectioner Miles Compton's Miles of Chocolate explode on the national scene this fall with mentions in the major food magazines and network TV programs, plus placement in an upscale holiday food catalog, I can't wait to see what Austin's next breakout product will be. I'm betting on Rick Bristow's SXUL Chocolates and Tom Pedersen's Cocoa Pura Pure Whole Bean Chocolates based on what I've heard about how they sold during the Christmas holidays. And I'm also eager to see which small Austin food businesses chose this year to make the transition from wholesale to retail and which, if any, decide to close up shop. Looking into these things should keep us busy around here for months to come, but if there's some other food story you're curious about, please let me know. Happy new year!

FOOL

cially the lusty Blanc de Noirs. A bottle will cost about \$16, which means that, for \$28, you can try two great American Blanc de Noirs and find out for yourself what effect climate has on the taste of wine.

Best for last, and sadly, in spite of the efforts of winemakers worldwide, the finest stuff still comes from Champagne. I say sadly because the prices skyrocket when that magic word appears on the bottle. Oh, you can find a bargain here and there for \$25 (see "Choice Champagnes Around Town," below), but to get a really good bottle of Champagne, be prepared to spend some money. Well, there is one exception. One of my favorite Champagnes, Pommery, comes in a cute little .187 liter bottle (that's oneOver the years, I've recommended Gruet Blanc de Noirs several times, but it bears saying again: At \$12, this is the best sparkling wine per dollar made anywhere in the world. And it's from New Mexico!

fourth of a bottle), and it even comes with a straw. Apparently the bars are selling these things by the gazillions, and I have to admit, they are cute. Look for a little bottle with POP blazed across, and plan on paying about \$11. In the regular-sized bottles, I'm nuts over Nicolas Feuillatte Rosé (\$36), a robust Champagne with dark berry aromas and the most gorgeous salmon color. Or, if you really want to make a splash at your next tête-àtête, pop open a bottle of Perrier Jouet Fleur de Champagne Rosé. Be sure to carry your platinum card as you search it out – it runs more than \$150, but the taste is celestial. Thankfully, my favorite Champagne of 2004 was a little less. Champagne Bollinger Special Cuvée has been around since 1911, when the makers decided that the term "nonvintage" wasn't good enough for their, uh, nonvintage. A rose by any other name, and all that, but, after all, it doesn't really matter what they call it, it matters how it massages your senses. Bollinger's cuvée is mostly Pinot Noir, lending a rich dark berry flavor, and they use a very small dosage, which allows the subtle characteristics of the Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier grapes to come through. What you get is an explosion of complex flavor that keeps giving joy to your world for several minutes after each delicious sip. Given the fact that the prices of some of the Champagnes I tasted this year ran into the stratosphere, the fact that Bollinger's Special Cuveé costs \$60 seems like a miracle.

Whatever your drink of choice, have a happy new year. I'll leave you with my favorite quip about Champagne from the ever-hip Dorothy Parker:

Three be the things I shall never attain: envy, content and sufficient champagne.

CHOICE CHAMPAGNES AROUND TOWN

I asked a few utterly trustworthy shop people around town two questions: What is the best bargain you have in your shop, and what will you be drinking on New Year's Eve? Here are the answers with the stores in alphabetical order - W.M.

Store	Person to talk to	Bargain	Personal Choice
Austin Wine Merchant	John Roegnik	Gruet Blanc de Noirs \$11.25	Gaston Chiquet Premier Cru Brut Tradition \$37.50
Central Market North	Seth Pollard	Nicolas Feuillatte Brut \$25.99	Delamotte Brut \$37.99
Grape Vine Market	Steve Savina	Domaine Collin Brut \$15.99	1990 Salon \$184.00
Twin Liquors on Bee Caves Road	Russell Smith	Duval-Leroy 1996	Blanc de Chardonnay \$37.99, Duval-Leroy 1996 Blanc de Chardonnay \$37.99
Wiggy's on Sixth Street	Al Gilhousen	Monmousseau Brut \$9.99	Gaston Chiquet Blanc de Blanc d'Ay \$39.99
World Market on Brodie	Tim Martin	Veuve Clicquot Brut \$29.99	Moët et Chandon Nectar \$32.99



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DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: 15TH STREET CAFE Located inside the Doubletree Guest Suites, the cafe serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Try the Sunday buffet. 303 W. 15th, 478-7000 \$\$\$ TEX-MEX: ANGIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT This

homev restaurant serves up Tex-Mex breakfasts and huge \$6 lunch specials. Their incredible homemade corn tortillas are one of their many claims to fame. 900 E. Seventh, 476-5413 \$\$ CAIUN/CREOLE: THE BOILING POT Fresh boiled seafood of every variety: shrimp, blue crabs, oysters on the half shell, crawfish (in season),

boudin, gumbo, and red beans & rice. 700 E. Sixth, 472-0985 \$\$ FRENCH: CHEZ NOUS Find classic bistro fare such as a rustic homemade paté, croque mon-

sieur, escargot, and steak frites, served to a dedicated downtown lunch crowd. 510 Neches, 473-2413 \$\$\$ INDIAN: CLAY PIT Best described as "contemporary Indian cuisine," pairing traditional Indian tech

niques and flavors with items such as mussel and salmon. 1601 Guadalupe. 322-5131 \$\$\$ FINE DINING: FINN & PORTER Don't let the fact that it's in a hotel scare you off. Finn & Porter is a gorgeous place with top-notch sushi, inventive

food, and perfectly cooked prime beef. 500 E. Fourth, 493-4900 \$\$\$\$ STEAKHOUSE: G&M STEAKHOUSE This is the

closest thing that Austin has to a real diner. You'll find fresh coffee, some gree-z steak and

MEDITERRANEAN: ATHENIAN

GRILL Tasty traditional Greek cui-sine. Spit-roasted lamb, chicken, and gyros; an outstanding avgole mono soup; and tangy, creamy feta cheese dressing are among the highlights. 705 Colorado, 482-8988 \$\$ TEX-MEX: SANTA RITA CANTINA Fresh sauces, rotisserie meats,

and a friendly atmosphere make this a welcome new addition to \geq Austin Tex-Mex. 1206 W. 38th, 419-7482 \$\$ X FINE DINING ITALIAN' SIENA

RISTORANTE TOSCANA Loyal cus tomers from the Loop 360 set eniov hearty roast meats, home made pastas, a liberal use of truf-fle oil, and the glow of a crackling fire. 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Bldg. B, 349-7667 \$\$\$\$

VIETNAMESE: TÂM DELI & CAFE Authentic and exquisitely crafted Viet noodle house fare: particular ly strong on appetizers, *bun*, *pho*, and desserts. Nice portions, good service, low prices. 8222 N. Lamar. 834-6458 \$

2 For full reviews and more, see istinchronicle.com/guides/

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5308 Balcones Dr. (off 2222) www.peonyasiancuisine.com

eggs, and plenty of atmospher 626 N. Lamar, 236-9887 \$\$ BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: HAI CYON You'll find all

- kinds of espresso and coffee drinks, wines, scotches, and even a Chocolate Espresso Martini, Snack on their sandwiches and desserts in comfy lounge chairs. 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637 \$
- AMERICAN CAFE: IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and interior-Mexican spices. 606 Trinity, 472-9240 \$\$

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

- Seriously, really, really good fish and chips, and we love the bargain-priced shepherd's pie. Folks rave about the Bluegrass Gospel Brunch at noon on Sundays. **715** W. Sixth, 478-7747 \$\$
- MEDITERRANEAN: MÁLAGA Austin's only full-time tapas bar offers a good core selection of the real thing, along with an excellent list of fairly priced wines and sherries. 208 W. Fourth, 236-8020 \$\$ STEAKHOUSE: ORIGINAL HOFFBRAU STEAK
- HOUSE Slinging steaks since 1934, the Hoffbrau is still the same as it ever was, though all kinds of trendy new places have grown up around it. 613 W. Sixth. 472-0822 \$\$
- DELIVERY, PIZZA: ROPPOLO'S PIZZERIA Roppolo's offers a variety of pies at their down town location. Whether you're a vegetarian or a carnivore, they know how to pile on the toppings. 316 E. Sixth, 476-1490 \$
- THAI: THAI PASSION The sun-lit atrium is the per fect setting to enjoy the light, fresh rendering of the cuisine of Northeastern Thailand. 620 Congress, 472-1244 \$\$
- THAI: THAI TARA This fashionable West Sixth Street outpost continues to be the destination for downtown Thai food and atmosphere. 601 W. Sixth. 236-0856 \$\$

EAST

- TEX-MEX: ARTURO'S TAQUERIA The sister restau rant to the one on Cameron Road with seafood specials on weekends; the soul of the sea is ident in their atmos 3306 Oak Springs, 926-8474 \$\$
- TEX-MEX: BEJUCO'S RESTAURANT Cabrito, enchi ladas, tamales, and chile rellenos. Not open 24 hours, like the sign outside says, but you can get three squares a day there. 2711-A E. Cesar Chavez, 476-7878 \$\$
- AMERICAN CAFE: CISCO'S BAKERY & LIAR'S CLUB In the breakfast business for 50 years. they still serve good migas, huevo srancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. 1511 E. Sixth, 472-4720, 478-2420 \$

TEX-MEX: DARIO'S RESTAURANT Try the faiita omelet with grilled peppers, onions, p and beans. Que rico! 1800 E. Sixth, 479-8105 \$\$ AMERICAN CAFE: EASTSIDE CAFE The only

restaurant in town with its own enormous gar den. That means they serve the freshest salads and vegetables in every season 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858 \$\$\$

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

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING Discover the delights of the catfish po'boy: pip-ing-hot fried catfish fillets on a baguette dressed with mayonnaise, lettuce, and tangy pickles. Just delicious. 2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006 \$\$

TEX-MEX: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo, then to the pastry counter for piedras, novias, cemitas, y capirotada. 2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017 \$

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA MORELIA Great faiita specia on Wednesdays, 11am-3pm, served in a quiet, relaxing environment. 105 Tillery, 385-8002 \$

LAKE

ITALIAN: HILL COUNTRY PASTA HOUSE We loved the pizza with sun-dried tomatoes and melting gobs of Texas chèvre. The food here is worth drive from town. 3519 RR 620 N., 266-9445 \$\$

TEX-MEX: ROSIE'S TAMALE HOUSE With a quarfailtas, they also boast homemade pralines. 13436 Hwy. 71 W., 263-5245 \$

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

NORTH

THAI: BANGKOK CUISINE They boast a clientele loyal to the array of stellar vegetarian dishes, and their pad thai (with or without meat) is said to be memorable. 9041 Research. 832-9722 \$\$

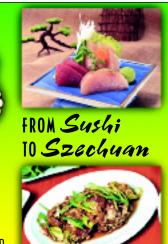
JAPANESE: BENIHANA The cuisine has been infiltrated by its surroundings, producing the Texas roll, made with smoked salmon, avocado, cucumber, cream cheese, and jalapeño 9070 Research, 451-7505 \$\$\$

JAPANESE: BLUE FIN SUSHI & ROBATA BAR This small, comfortable restaurant offers good-quality sushi at great prices, grilled robata specialties, and a variety of bento boxes for lunch and dinner. 661 Louis Henna Blvd. #300, 716-1688 \$\$\$

PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT Serves home style, thin-crust pizzas - some of the best in town - with a personal touch. 10710 Research, 345-6181 \$\$

CHINESE: GOLDEN BAY Top-notch dim sum served daily is already attracting customers to this new Cantonese-style restaurant. Steamed whole fish and other seafood are what they do best at lunch and dinner. 8828 Research, 377-2869 \$\$

continued on p.42



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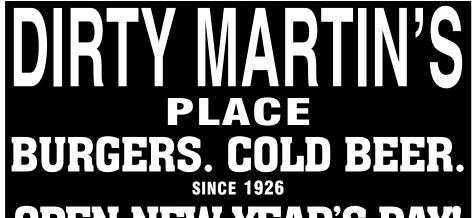


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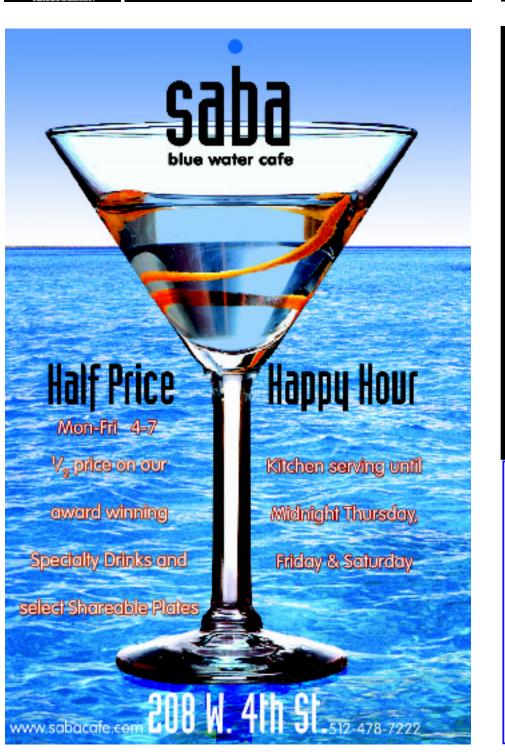




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40 FOOD * RESTAURANT ROULETTE

JAPANESE, STEAKHOUSE: KOBE JAPANESE

STEAKHOUSE Steak, seafood, and chicken come in a variety of freshly prepared grilling combinations with generous servings of appe tizers and soup. 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #380, 288-7333 \$\$\$\$

- KOREAN: KOREANA GRILL & SUSHI BAR Very reasonable lunch specials highlight this pretty restaurant. The Koreana lunch features a California roll and *inari sushi* (fried tofu stuffed with tuna, corn, carrots, and beef). **12196** *MoPac N.*, 835-8888 \$\$\$\$
- SEAFOOD: PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR An even mix of fried vs. broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun lilt. 13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373 \$\$
- VIETNAMESE: PHO CONG LY This location has quickly become a staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. Where else can you slurp down a bowl of pho and listen to Abba? 8557 Research, 832-5595 \$
- BURGER JOINT: PLUCKERS WING FACTORY & GRILL Who ya gonna call when you're craving good wings in the wee hours? These folks are frying and flying until 2am on weekdays and 3am on weekends. 9070 Research, Ste. 201C, 533-WING \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

- BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this long-time, no-frills restaurant. 5420 Airport Blvd., 453-8772 \$
- BURGER JOINT: DAN'S HAMBURGERS One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's Hamburger King, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friend good, fresh food and friendly service. 5602 N. Lamar, 459-3239 \$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: DOLCE VITA GELATO 8 ESPRESSO BAR Offers a delicious of handmade Italian ice creams and fruit sorbets, along with a variety of coffee drinks, spir its, and cordials. 4222 Duval St., 323-2686 \$
- DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DELIVERY: FOODHEADS Mornings consist 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 \$
- 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. 4230 Duval St., 452-1040 \$ JAPANESE, KOREAN: KIMCHI SUSHI Simply dec-
- orated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features a enu of Korean favorites. 6406 N. I-35 #2343, 453-4111 \$\$ PIZZA: THE PARLOR Fine pizza, flowing pitchers
- and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. **100-B E. North Loop**, 454-8965 \$\$
- SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Great for lunch or an early dinner. 5621 Airport, 454-5827 \$
- SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1 Fried-catfish dinners at Threadgill's have been a popular menu item as long as the restaurants have been open in Austin. 6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440 \$\$

SOUTH

- BARBECUE: ARTZ RIB HOUSE A rib joint with a lush courtyard, music most nights, and some the best barbecue in town. 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283 \$\$
- CAFETERIA/BUFFET: BUFFET PALACE At least eight types of sushi rolls are offered here, including the classic California roll and a

Korean kimbab roll. 2601 S. I-35 Ste. B-200, 388-9600 \$\$



- TEX-MEX: EL NOPALITO Hefty breakfast tacos and exemplary migas. Also known as a quiet weekend spot in which to consume a credible ver sion of the well-known Mexican hangover cure, menudo. 2809 S. First, 326-2026 \$
- INTERIOR MEXICAN: EL SOL Y LA LUNA Their menu of breakfast specialties is available all day. Try the Omelette del Sol or the Omelet de la Luna. 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770 \$\$ TEX-MEX: EVITA'S BOTANITAS MEXICAN
- **RESTAURANT** Home of the famous chip tower surrounded by veggie escabeche and five dif-ferent salsas. Many seafood items, excellent breakfast, great mole, and homemade tamales 6400 S. First, 441-2424 \$\$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: JO'S HOT COFFEE The best people-watching spot in the 78704 ZIP code. Find the usual coffees and lattes, as well as a selection of baked goods that make perfect midday nibbles. 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800 \$
- TEX-MEX: JOVITA'S Part community center, part restaurant, part music venue, and all fun Honest Tex-Mex and ice-cold beer. 1619 S. First, 447-7825 \$\$
- AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. 2700 S. Lamar, 445-4451 \$\$
- TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S SOUTH A wide range of Tex-Mex with a contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The
- half-pound burgers are massive, and they also offer chicken-fried steaks. 4141 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 326-9899 \$\$ JAPANESE: ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST The menu is selective, but most categories are covered, from sushi to salads, from rice bowls with toppings

to teriyaki. 1303 S. Congress, 444-8081 \$ UT

- BARBECUE: BONGO BBQ & BEER BARN Sit down barbecue and drive-through beer! Life doesn't et much sweeter or mor 1004 W. 24th, 478-7427 \$\$
- BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this long-time, no-frills restaurant. 2912 Guadalupe, 477-8433 \$
- PIZZA: CONANS PIZZA Thick, cheesy Chicago deep-dish by the slice or pie. The lunch buffet will fill your stomach without emptying your wallet. 603 W. 29th, 478-5712 \$\$
- DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: LONGHORN PO-BOYS & FALAFEL It seems unlikely, but this tasty and unassuming sandwich shop makes some of the city's best and cheapest falafel. Famous for their stuffed grape leaves. 2901-B Medical Arts, 495-9228 \$
- THAI: MADAM MAM'S Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai homestyle dishes served in this popular cam-pus-area spot are "Mam's" family recipes. 2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306 \$\$
- BURGER JOINT: ROCKETS Burgers, chicken sand-wiches, and "planet-sized spuds." They claim it's their burgers you see in fast-food commercials. 118 W. Fifth, 482-0621 \$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Still the perfect places to duck in for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. Check out the sand-wich menu for light lunch fare. 3213 Red River. 478-8794 \$
- THAI: THAI NOODLES ETC. HOUSE A good selec-tion of Thai street foods, including Thai noodle soups, dry noodle bowls, and stir-fry noodles. 2602 Guadalupe. 494-1011 \$

- TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S A wide range of Tex-Mex with a slightly contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The half-pound burgers are tasty and massive, and the also offer chicken-fried steaks. 409 W. 30th, 477-2935 \$\$
- VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: VEGGIE HEAVEN The menu is heavy on Asian dishes but also offers meatand dairy-free pastas, sandwiches, and desserts. 1914-A Guadalupe, 457-1013 \$

WEST

- CAFETERIA/BUFFET: BUFFET PALACE At least eight types of sushi rolls are offered here, including the classic California roll, and a Korean kimbab roll. 1012 W. Anderson, 458-2999 \$
- PIZZA: CONAN'S PIZZA Thick, cheesy Chicago deep-dish by the slice or pie. The lunch buffet will fill your stomach without emptying your wallet. 2438 W. Anderson, 459-3222 \$\$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, CAJUN/CREOLE: **CRESCENT CITY BEIGNETS** Address that class sic Big Easy culinary craving: chicory coffee and hot beignets. Muffulettas, red beans and rice, and étoufée fill the lunch and dinner menus which vary daily. 1211 W. Sixth, 472-9622 \$
- INTERIOR MEXICAN: CURRA'S GRILL The wizards whip up handmade corn tortillas while you sip margaritas. Don't miss the chile rellenos with pecan cream sauce, or for breakfast, the huevos machacado. 6801 Burnet Rd., 451-2560 \$\$
- DELIVERY, TAKEOUT: EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS Eighteen flavors of steamed bagels; 11 varieties of schmears: a host of sandwiches server on bagels, challah, or sourdough baguettes; and salads, soups, and roll-ups. 3022 W.
- Anderson 374-9666 \$ INTERIOR MEXICAN: ELSI'S RESTAURANT Pupusas and masa cortida, the Salvadoran national dish of masa gorditas filled with spiced pork or cheese alongside spicy cabbag slaw, often appear as lunch specials.
- 6601 Burnet Rd., 454-0747 \$ TEX-MEX: ENCHILADAS Y MAS Hundreds of satis fied customers will testify that the chorizo migas are worth a drive across town. 1911 W Anderson 467-7100 \$
- AMERICAN CAFE: EZ'S Although the hamburgers are very good, they also serve up a plethora of chicken dishes from battered and fried tender to oven-roasted rosemary chicken plates 3918 N. Lamar, 302-1800 \$
- DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sand wich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids choices. 3300 Bee Caves Rd., 328-0200 \$
- FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 3418 N. Lamar. 302-1486 \$\$
- THAI: THAI KITCHEN This family of restaurants remains a perennial favorite among Thai-food lovers. 3437 Bee Caves Rd., 328-3538 \$\$
- THAI: THAI SPICE CAFE Owned and operated by female chefs Vicki Vicha and Orasinee Ratana Apron, both locations have similar menus. offering fresh, fast, reliable versions of tradition al Thai dishes. **701 Capital of TX Hwy. S.**, 330-0203 \$\$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: UPPER CRUST BAKERY Cinnamon-roll aficionados should try their ver sion, a refined-taste treat that refuses to overwhelm the cinnamon with stickness. Stop by at lunchtime for soups, salads, and sandwiches. 4508 Burnet Rd., 467-0102 \$







THE UP SERIES First Run Features, \$99.95

At age 22, as a researcher for Granada Television, Michael Apted was charged with finding participants for a documentary project that, unbeknownst to him, would become his life's work. The project, Seven Up, was originally meant to stand alone, with its

subjects – 7-year-old children from upper-, middle-, and lower-class areas of England, both urban and rural – offering opinions on education, marriage, fighting, playing, and, most noticeably, money. "When you look at *Seven Up*, you can see that it's a barely disguised political diatribe against the class system," says Apted, who produced and directed the 1964 documentary's five (so far) follow-up films, 7 *Plus Seven, 21 Up, 28 Up*, and so forth. Apted goes on to explain in *42 Up*'s commentary track (the only especially special special feature of the *Up* Series box set) how he has realized that the series' power comes from its "humanistic" value rather than any commentary on class. And he's right. If there's anything bad at all about the *Up* Series, it's the feeling

you get that an agenda was imposed upon these children when they were 7 and has caught up with them again every

seven years since. Yet, however sympathetic you might feel toward people who, for the greater good, repeatedly allow themselves to be held accountable for the things they said when they were kids ("I don't know anybody who's colored, and I don't want to know anybody who's colored, thank you very much") or, perhaps worse, for the things they wore in 1985, the result is worth it. Simply put, it's just mesmerizing to watch people age – especially in dog years, which is why the Up films make a particularly good box set. Each new disc provides such alarming juxtapositions (the confident, engaging child is suddenly a sullen, contemptuous teenager, or a bright, articulate 14-year-old slides into homelessness by 28) that it's difficult to resist devouring all five in one sitting, not to mention rewatching your favorites. There is just no limit to the number of times you can listen to a 7-year-old explain, in his distinctly upper-class accent, why he reads The Observer and The Financial Times. Thanks to reality TV, we've all grown accustomed to watching ordinary people talk about themselves on camera, but the refreshing innocence of the Up Series subjects, interviewed since the much less media-savvv time of the Sixties, makes this familiar formula new again. – Nora Ankrum

ALSO OUT NOW

The Office: The Complete Collection: For more musings on class in British society, this popular faux-documentary series is now available in full, featuring both seasons as well as *The Office Special*, which picks up three years after the last episode leaves off – sort of like a mock *Three Up*.

Quantum Leap: The Complete Second Season: Forget the Brits altogether, leave their pesky time constraints behind, and join Scott Bakula in correcting history's grievous mistakes.

UPCOMING

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: Collector's Edition: Would that you could forget life's more painful episodes. Michel Gondry's meditation on literally erasing them from the mind is out on two extras-heavy discs on Jan. 4.

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason: Bridget Jones tips the scales toward the British female perspective, com-



pensating for the Sixties-rooted *Up* Series' lack thereof, and instead of aging its hero by seven years, *The Edge of Reason*, coming out March 22, finds Bridget merely four weeks older than in her last cinematic outing. -N.A.

LA DOLCE VITA Koch Lorber Films, \$34.99

Decadence, perhaps inevitably, dates itself:

Fellini's much-censored *La Dolce Vita* – his eighth film and the one that shot the filmmaker and his star/alter ego, Marcello Mastroianni, to international fame – no longer shocks in its depiction of upper-class excess and listless living the way it did upon release in 1960, but it's a gorgeous artifact,



nonetheless. Fellini's sprawling (three-plus hours) masterwork charts seven crazy nights and bleaker dawns in the life of celebrity journo Marcello Rubini (Mastroianni, in a part that was originally intended for Paul Newman). Impotent and smirking, Marcello sleepwalks through showgirl nightclub acts, a devastating murder/suicide, and the film's final, debauched party. Film scholar

> Richard Schickel, in the audio commentary, relates the story of how Fellini realized he had no idea how to stage the orgy, having no personal experi-

ence with one; he then turned for advice to filmmaker friend Pier Paolo Pasolini - he of the magnificently depraved Salò - who admitted to having no experience with orgies, either. It's a funny, revealing anecdote; one wishes there were more like it from the stilted-sounding Schickel, who too often summarizes what's happening onscreen or falls into long stretches of silence. That's indicative of the overall remainder-bin feel of the DVD's extras. There's a stiff-backed intro from Alexander Payne, who somehow manages to keep a straight face while reading off cue-card bon mots like "the empty lives of moneyed people of our modern world, adrift without moral reference point in a sea of dissatisfaction and alienation." Worse yet are the second disc's offerings: recycled interviews (with poor sound quality) with an aged Mastrojanni and his co-star Anita Ekberg (still the bombshell, her larger-than-life proportions now bizarrely swathed in a bath towel); unilluminating bits on the restoration; and an incongruous collection of "never-before-seen!" deleted scenes from Fellini's 1986 film Ginger and Fred. Slim pickings that do nothing to further the cause of the film, but no matter: La Dolce Vita and its iconic images – the Christ statue swinging from a helicopter, the dead sea monster, Ekberg's oversexed stomp through the Trevi fountain - are monument enough. Kimberley Jones

ALSO OUT NOW

Sex and the City: Season Six, Part Two: Fifty bucks is a lot to shell out for the final eight episodes that capped the run of the HBO series, but it just might be worth it for the disc's three never-before-seen alternate series endings (surely one is preferable to the lamebrained original).

Garden State: Writer/director/star Zach Braff provides multiple commentary tracks to his funny, tender debut about the loneliest little boy from New Jersey. Websavvy fans will recognize some of the extras, including outtakes and bloopers, from the film's official site.

Shaun of the Dead: Edgar Wright's zombie sleeper hit from across the pond debuts on DVD with its mordant humor very much intact: "Missing Bits" include extended scenes, deleted scenes, and outtakes, while "Raw Meat" compiles casting tapes and the filmmakers' pitch to the suits. -K.J.

CREW STORIES GLEN MOORMAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

"People will ask me if I'm a production assistant or an assistant director, and I always tell them, if you have a \$50,000 budget, I'm your first assistant director, and, if you have a \$50 million budget, I'm the last production assistant hired." That's Glen Moorman, late of LSU, who, like a lot of people these days, moved to Austin eight years ago with zero film experience and ended up catching River

City Fever, or as it's called in the trenches, working long hours for low pay on any film production he could manage to attach himself to.

"I actually started off on Secondhand Lions as Robert Duvall's standin," Moorman explains. "Being a stand-in is a great training tool, but it's not something you'd want to do as a career because you only work 10 minutes out of every hour while you're sitting near the camera and watching what goes on in the scene. But, as a way to learn about filmmaking, it's great, because I got to watch all the departments for a month and just figure out how films are made from the inside out."

From there, it was only a vertical hop up to the

level of production assistant on such films as *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over, The Alamo,* and the Tommy Lee Jones UT cheerleader comedy *Man of the House* before Moorman moved on to the position of assistant director on Jason S. Dennis' indie feature *McCartney's Genes* and on fellow *Secondhand Lions* alum Paul Alvarado-Dykstra's short "Termination."

"I like to refer to the assistant director's job as being the on-set manager," Moorman says. "They're the people that make the shooting schedules, the daily call sheet schedules to get the crew there on time and working, they watch the clock all day to make sure that everything's getting filmed and getting filmed on time, and they just generally handle the various logistics of the dayto-day shooting. Once the director's on the set, you primarily want him dealing with the actors and the director of photography to figure out what the shot should look like, and the assistant director is responsible for getting all the other departments in line so that when the director calls 'action,' the magic can happen."

Like most freelancing crew members in Austin, Moorman divides his time between working on big-budget incoming Hollywood productions and smaller (okay, *way* smaller) locally produced indies, but unlike a lot of crew stories we've heard, he's not in any rush to pull up stakes and head out to the left coast: "My goal is to AD bigbudget, \$100 million-\$200 million films but never leave Austin. And the great thing about Austin is that there's enough film work here that you can get really good training and accrue experience and then get on bigger and bigger jobs here or elsewhere. It's the ideal training ground." – *Marc Savlov*

"Crew Stories" is a sporadic series that spotlights the Austinites whose work behind the scenes on locally shot productions often goes unrecognized off the set. For past interviews, see **austinchronicle.com**. If you have an idea for a future "Crew Stories" subject, e-mail **sbadgley@austinchronicle.com**.



INSIDE . 46 TV EYE

A RETURN TO SANITY, SORT OF

Had your fill of frothy TV holiday fare? Weary of bowl games? Lost your buzz from all those holiday sweets? Well, then, *The Territory* comes just in time. The Austin Museum of Art partners with Houston's Southwest Alternate Media Project and KUHT-TV/Houston to bring the 29th season of provocative and experimental documentaries, narratives, and animated

shorts from around the world. No longer than 30 minutes each (some much shorter), the selected films feature subjects and techniques that would be prohibitive in a longer format. This year's series includes films by



Austinites Kat Candler, Rene Pinnell, and Bob Sabiston.

The Territory premieres on Friday, Jan. 7, at 10pm on PBS and continues on consecutive Fridays through Feb. 11. Unless otherwise noted, two programs air each Friday. Films are in English or subtitled in English. Check www.klru.org or local listings for up-to-date show dates and times.

Jan. 7

Program One: "Yo Lo Vi (I Saw It)," Germany – The works of Spanish artist Francisco Goya are animated, creating a fresh perspective and new poignancy; "Quienes Son? (Who Are They?)," New York – Extraterrestrials, fears of an American invasion, and the hollowness of Hollywood are revealed in this contemporary portrait of Cuba; "A Brief History of Voting," North Carolina – Animated, nonpartisan animal characters star in this topical film.

Program Two: "Nosferatu Tango," Switzerland – A lovelorn mosquito falls for the prince of vampires in this tragic tale of desire; "Compromis," France – A self-proclaimed French artist struggles to make a good film.

Jan. 14

Program Three: "Soar," Australia – Life is unfair yet humorous in this small film about destiny. "V Kocke (In the Box)," Slovak Republic – A wooden puppet, a box, and the quest for freedom.

Program Four: "Tram Stop," Australia – Roleplaying in a virtual relationship with a stranger can't be all bad, can it?; "The Second Memory," Czechoslovakia/Germany – A former photographer's model ponders the past and the present through portraits of her youth.

Jan. 21

Program Five: "Archipelago," Spain – A bride's past catches up with her on her honeymoon; "The Pool," United Kingdom – A couple re-experiences the first stages of their love affair; "Nummer Twee (Number Two) (Just Because I'm Standing Here, Doesn't Mean I Want To)," The Netherlands – An ode to spring set in a desolate provincial suburb.



"Roberta Wells"

Program Six: "Neptune's Choice," Brazil – The filmmaker's impressions of Amsterdam poetically rendered in image, sound, and text; "Sentinelles," Canada – Two gargoyles come to life!; "Adopted," Texas – Filmmaker Linda Stogner shares her unexpected revelations regarding her adoption.

Jan. 28

Program Seven: "Grasshopper," Texas – The filmmaker's chance encounter with a philosopher in a New York City park; "Roberta Wells," Texas – A wry look at a dysfunctional family. "Love Ya Like," Texas – A trio of evil artists, an unavailable muse, and an obsessed lover create violence.

Program Eight: "Remembrance," Canada – Cursed and blessed with total recall, a man confronts espionage and romance in a 1942 Toronto train station; "The Heart of the World," Canada – A hilarious parody of silent Soviet propaganda films; "Next," Ukraine – The quirkiness of being human is examined in this animated satire.

Feb. 4

Program Nine: "Nada Que Perder (Nothing to Lose)," Spain – A cab driver and an actress cross paths; "Unravelling," Australia – A metaphoric journey through a woman's mental breakdown in a cardboard cutout world.

Program 10: "5 A.M.," The Netherlands – Photography and video are used with digital animation to show viewers the overlooked details of life; "Up," California – An isolated prisoner relies on his imagination to stay alive; "Nummer Drie (Number Three)," The Netherlands – A ballerina dances oblivious to the world around her in a dark, frozen park after a series of inexplicable events.

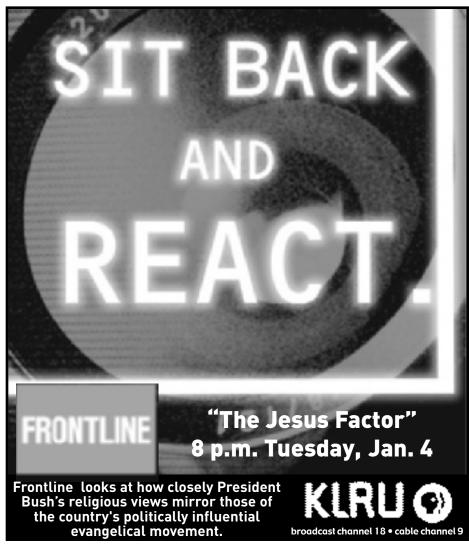
Feb. 11

Program 11: "Einstein's Playground," California – A playful look at one of the most brilliant minds of the 20th century; "Zinc Garden," The Netherlands – A celebration of nature in image and music.

Program 12: "The Most of My Worries," France – A family finds humor and relief as they endure the illness of a loved one; "The Shooting Gallery," Ukraine – A homeless boy, an unobtainable ballerina, and the game of life; "Mockingbird," California – Imagination becomes reality at the brink of madness in this animated work.

Program 13: "Gowanus, Brooklyn," New York – The life of a 12-year-old girl is revealed in life's little dramas; "A Woman Reported," California – A look inside a young woman's mind before her life irrevocably changes; "Roeien (Rowing)," the Netherlands – A river voyage is uniquely documented with a homemade pinhole camera.

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



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-2005 MUSIC POLL BALLOT save a stamp! vote on the web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll. KID BAND (majority of members under 18): It's baaaack. That's right, your annual chance to sit in the critic's

chair and have your say about the year in Austin music. Not sure who to vote for? Tune in to AMN, turn on the radio, or drop into the local record store. Your favorite band is probably playing tonight.

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

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METAL:
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DJ:
POP:
JAZZ:
BLUES:
HIP-HOP:
JAM:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

NOVELTY:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

BEST AUSTIN MUSICIANS FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS:

KEYBOARDS:

HORNS:

STRINGS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

RECORD PRODUCER (producer name, CD title):

RELATED CATEGORIES NEW CLUB:

LIVE MUSIC VENUE: ACOUSTIC VENUE: ALL-AGES VENUE:

RECORD STORE:

INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:

RADIO STATION:

RADIO PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO PERSONALITY (show, deejay, station):

BAND WEB SITE (band, URL):

LOCAL MUSIC TV SERIES (local program, local acts):

MUSIC VIDEO/DVD:

CONCERT POSTER (band, club, date, artist):

JOURNALIST/CRITIC/WRITER:

COVER ART (title, band, artist):

CONCERT BY A TOURING BAND (band, venue, date):

TEXAS MUSIC HALL OF FAME Nominations

Due to the huge list of names in the Hall of Fame, previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OR FILL IN THE BLANK*:

Alex Coke "Blues Boy" Hubbard, the Jets Bohhie Nelson, Willie Nelson Buxf Parrot, Dicks Chris Gates, Big Boys **Cindy Cashdollar Conni and Traci Hancock Cornell Hurd** CRICKETS Sonny Curtis J.I. Allison Joe B. Maudlin Niki Sullivan Dale Watson **David Holt** George Kinnev Freddy Krc Jeff Pinkus, Butthole Surfers

Jesse Taylor John X Reed Larry Seaman Lisa Pankrantz Monte Warden Rick Broussard, Two Hoots & a Holler Spencer and Susan Perskin Stephen Barber Steve Marsh, Terminal Mind **13TH FLOOR ELEVATORS** Tommy Hall Stacy Sutherland John Ike Walton Danny Thomas Danny Galindo Ronnie Leatherman **Benny Thurman Clementine Hall** Powell St. John

Who are these people and why should you vote for them? Visit the poll ballot online at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll for more information!

OTHER NOMINEE*

Required	INFORMATION
NAME	

ADDRESS		
CITY		STATE
ZIP		
AGE	PHONE	

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED! Please mail to: Music Poll The Austin Chronicle PO Box 49066 Austin, TX 78765

• ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, JAN. 28, 2005. • YOU CAN VOTE EITHER BY THIS MAIL-IN BALLOT OR ON THE WEB AT austinchronicle.com/musicpoll. • BALLOT MUST BE MAILED IN; NO HAND DELIVERIES ACCEPTED. • ABSOLUTELY NO MORE THAN ONE (1) BALLOT TO AN ENVELOPE. • PHOTOCOPIED BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. • BALLOT STUFFERS WILL BE DEALT WITH ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THIS COULD GET UGLY, SO DON'T DO IT.



THANKS TO SHINER BOCK FOR PROMOTING OUR **«TEXAS TOP 10» IN THE** CHRONICLE EVERY WEEK!

OUR TOP 25 BEST-SELLING CDS BY OR INCLUDING TEXAS ARTISTS IN 2004

- 1. VARIOUS KGSR Broadcasts V.12
- 2. LOS LONELY BOYS **Los Lonely Boys**
- 3. BOB SCHNEIDER I'm Good Now



- 4. PATTY GRIFFIN Impossible Dream
- 5. NORAH JONES Feels Like Home
- 6. VARIOUS ACL Music Festival Live 2003
- 7. VARIOUS Por Vida: A Tribute to Alejandro Escovedo
- 8. BOB SCHNEIDER Lonelyland
- 9. WILLIE NELSON It Always Will Be
- 10. DEL CASTILLO Vida
- 11. SLAID CLEAVES Wishbones

12. ELIZA GILKYSON Land of Milk & Honey



- 13. GRUPO FANTASMA
 - Movimiento Popular
- 14. LYLE LOVETT My Baby Don't Tolerate
- 15. THE FLATLANDERS Wheels of Fortune
- 16. TONI PRICE Born to Be Blue
- 17. PAT GREEN Lucky Ones
- 18. JAMES McMURTRY Live in Aught Three
- 19. CHARLIE ROBISON Good Times
- 20. VARIOUS Robert Rodriguez' Mexico and Mariachis
- 21. VARIOUS KVET Genuine Texas Christmas
- 22. THE GREENCARDS Movin' On
- 23. CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED Soul Gravy
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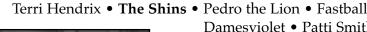
Maytals • Gomez • Josh Rouse • Ray Lamontagne • Old 97s The Holmes Brothers • G. Love • Abra Moore Los Amigos Invisibles • Monte Montgomery • Marcia Ball Rachael Yamagata • Calexico • Mindy Smith • Shelby Lynne

Ben Kweller • Antibalas • Drive By Truckers • Ollabelle Donavon Frankenreiter • Wilco • Dirty Dozen Brass Band Medeski Martin & Wood



The Holmes Brothers • The Cooper Temple Clause Nellie McKay • Josh Rouse • Dengue Fever • Apollo Sunshine Snow Patrol • Murs, The Perceptionists, & El-P Coachwhips • Frank Jordan • Sleepy Jackson • The Stills Joss Stone • Iron & Wine • Alexi Murdoch • James McMurtry Ian McLagan • Abra Moore • Aaron Watson • Bob Schneider Jeff Plankenhorn • Mindy Smith • Ben Kweller Grupo Fantasma • T.A.O. - The Adventures Of ... • Spymob

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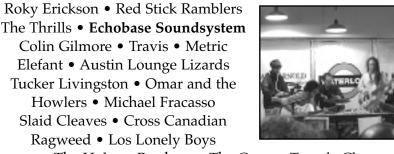
Richard Linklater • Buddy Miller • Tommy Alverson Drew Womack • Kaki King • Vienna Teng • Richie Havens Trashcan Sinatra • The Gourds • Peter Case • The Fiery Furnaces Mix Master Mike • The Court & Spark • Wan Santo Condo Robyn Hitchcock • John Cale • Jesse Dayton

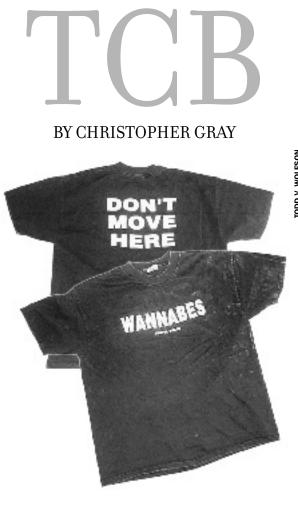
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2003 ACL FESTIVAL SIGNINGS

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Embarrassment of Riches

Several years ago, one of Austin's premier bar bands, the **Wannabes**, printed up a T-shirt during SXSW that starkly admonished visitors: "Don't Move Here." Since then, the only advice more egregiously ignored was the U.N. weapons inspectors' conclusions in Iraq. Maybe the results haven't been as disastrous as our commander in chief's Mesopotamian folly, but by relentlessly branding itself as the so-called Live Music Capital of the World, Austin isn't doing itself any favors.

Not that our music scene isn't something to be supremely proud of. People come from different continents just to hang out at the Continental Club and Antone's. Likewise, bands from **Guided by Voices** (adios) to **Turbonegro** specifically route their tours through Stubb's and Emo's. We must be doing something right. The Austin City Limits Music Festival, all of 3 years old, is well on its way to becoming as much a signature event as Jazzfest or Coachella, while its namesake TV program is an essential



component of modern American folklore. Happy 30th, *ACL*! Where it counts, though, in the clubs, the scene stalled a little this year. Neither Oslo, Jackalope, nor the Side Bar, three of Austin's hippest new hangouts, offer regular live music. Among local bands, there was never a lack of quality shows – some nights in a half-dozen rooms at once – but there was a lot of regrouping and retrenching. No one had a breakthrough year like **Fastball** in 1998, **Spoon** in 2001, ... **Trail of Dead** in 2002, or **Los Lonely Boys** last year. But watch out for **Sound Team** in 2005. Austin's answer to the **Walkmen** could well be the next name on the lips of *The OC*'s **Seth Cohen**.

The highest concentration of live-music activity remains on Red River, where the scene's central dilemma plays out nightly: too many bands, not enough fans. On the right Friday or Saturday night, when the street's half-dozen or so clubs are doing brisk business at the bar and the bands are as loud as they are heavy, as passionate as they are unique, the local scene is a musical experience unlike any other. It's empowering. A good night on Red River is a persuasive argument that rock & roll still might rule the world one day, and even if it doesn't, we'll all go out with a bang. But this blocks-long blowout happens less often than it should, maybe once or twice a month at most.

Far more common are the nights when even regulars are rare, bands play to near-empty rooms, and the street assumes an entirely different cast: abandoned, forgotten, forlorn, seedy. Not exactly the sort of thing you design a tourism brochure around, and yet Red River has reached an interesting equilibrium. The area live music venues probably won't get rich, but as long as they share proximity to the Salvation Army and new ARCH center, clubs should be reasonably protected from developers and suburbanites alike. A more nurturing environment for the sort of freewheeling, limit-testing, frequently confrontational music already flourishing there is hard to imagine.

Of course, it would be nice if the city itself were more hospitable to these people, both musicians and clubs, who create and sustain one of its most valuable commodities. Officially, City Hall's attitude toward the music scene

TRAFFIC JAMS

Yes, it's all about iPods now, but good old radio still has its uses. When **Chad & Kevin** on the Zone can get carried away with athletic arcana, and *All Things Considered* begins inducing drowsiness, often the only thing that makes the evening I-35 slog tolerable is something in *Billboard* with a bullet. A few "TCB" drive-time favorites from 2004:

Bad Religion, "Los Angeles Is Burning"

Big & Rich, "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)"

Black Eyed Peas, "Hey Mama" Dashboard Confessional, "Vindicated"

Sara Evans, "Suds in the Bucket"

Green Day, "American Idiot" Jay-Z, "99 Problems" Jimmy Eat World, "Pain" Alicia Keys, "If I Can't Have You" The Killers, "Somebody Told Me" Avril Lavigne, "My Happy Ending" Christina Milian, "Dip It Low" Modest Mouse, "Float On" Prince, "Cinnamon Girl" Petey Pablo, "Freek-a-Leek" Brad Paisley & Alison Krauss, "Whiskey Lullaby" Social Distortion, "Reach for the Sky" Snoop Dogg with Pharrell, "Drop

Franz Ferdinand, "Take Me Out"

It Like It's Hot" Gwen Stefani, "What U Waiting For" Terror Squad, "Lean Back" Twista featuring Jaime Foxx & Kanye West, "Slow Jamz" U2, "Vertigo" The Used, "Take It Away" Usher with Ludacris & Lil Jon, "Yeah!"

Velvet Revolver, "Slither" Kanye West, "Jesus Walks" Gretchen Wilson, "Redneck Woman"



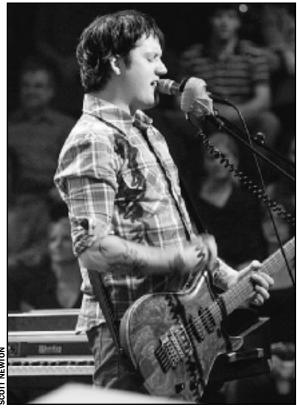
"Naughty Girl" Bowling for Soup, "1985"

Destiny's Child, "Lose My Breath" Kevin Fowler, "Ain't Drinkin' Anymore"

Lil' Flip, "Game Over" Lil' Flip featuring Lea, "Sunshine" Los Lonely Boys, "Real Emotions" Willie Nelson, "Big Booty" Pauline Reese, "One Less Honky Tonk" continues to consist mostly of sunny slogans and empty promises. It's fine to invite a few local musicians for a photo op at the new City Hall, but maybe not so fine to leave music-related social-service matters in the private sector's domain. Finding room in the budget to give even \$10,000 toward sponsoring safe-ride cab vouchers, free flu shots for musicians and club workers, or just a blanket donation to the SIMS Foundation, would send a message that the city cares about the music scene beyond how much money it can bring in. Considering that figure is routinely estimated to be in the double-digit million, \$10,000 seems like a pittance.

Only some of the scene's difficulties can be laid at City Hall's doorstep. A fundamental issue facing local clubs right now is that there are many, many more bands here than crowds to go see them. That means bands have to play more gigs to make the same money as somewhere they might face less competition. Or it means that it may take six to eight months for a brand-new act to get its first club show. They might be around a year or two before someone at the paper even notices them. Their early gigs will most likely come on a dead night like Monday, when there'll still be easily two dozen other live music options. Not helping matters is the fact that going out once or twice a week is a lot for most people, and plenty more don't even go out that much. Inevitably, this adds up to a lot of near-empty rooms, paltry bar receipts, and frustrated musicians. Not exactly a great selling point either.

But those deserted nights, when hardly anybody seems to care about live music, also bring out the people who care the most. It's a great chance to catch up with local perennials like **Dale Watson**. A band you stumble across by accident might profoundly alter your musical perspective or just plain blow your ever-lovin' mind. Perhaps a beloved favorite you haven't seen in a while is playing somewhere simply because they can, and all your friends will be there. What makes Austin such a fascinating musical oasis isn't the blockbuster festivals, world-class roadshows, or abundantly gifted local talent pool. All that is nice, but the city's real magic is that people move here all the time perfectly willing to play for an empty house, if that's the first step to saying they're from Austin.



Good News for People Who Love Bad News: Isaac Brock's Modest Mouse was the last taping of ACL's 30th season, Dec. 7.

WE LOST ONE ELECTION, LET'S NOT LOSE ANOTHER. Vote! Music Poll Ballot p.47

INSIDE ... 50 HANCOCK FAMILY 56 GREATEST HITS

Røadside Playbøys and Texana Dames

THE SUPERNATURAL SAGA OF THE HANCOCK FAMILY BY MARGARET MOSER

The young, tall black man careens through the dance floor, slapping his broad pink palms against his smoky gray suit jacket. It's his best suit and he feels like a million bucks, says the crooked, ear-to-ear grin on his face. He claps a friendly hand on the shoulder of a woman contorted in her wheelchair as he lurches past. Someone's pinned a sparkly Christmas tree brooch on the woman's red wool sweater; her clenched hands and crabbed fingers haven't the motor facility for so simple a task. Her freckled cheek presses against a padded headrest, glasses slightly askew, her gaze fixed at one position on the stage.

Amid the onlookers crowding before the bandstand, a squat, broad-shouldered man stands slack jawed. He nods, rocking to and fro as the band plays "Feliz Navidad." His faded blue eyes shine bright with joy, and the labored droop of his mouth curves slowly upward as the song progresses. Behind him, a woman with Down syndrome holds hands with another DS man. They dance herky-jerky little steps, smiles splayed across their sweet, childlike faces. Join us, they invite, holding their hands out to a visitor. Who could resist this invitation to dance? Not Tommy Hancock.

At 75, the eldest of the Lubbock-bred musical clan performing for this unusual audience, Hancock can't play fiddle like he used to, so he's content to sit on the sidelines, dressed in a festive red shirt. He gets onstage a few numbers later, but right now, his children, grandchildren, family, and friends pack the stage to play "Jingle Bell Rock." As his 66-year-old wife Charlene Hancock steps down from the stage to sit out the song, Tommy catches her by her shapely waist and glides with her onto the dance floor.

Lining the stage like a string of Christmas lights are three generations of Hancocks, gathered to perform for this annual occasion. There are 10 musicians at the moment, though that number increases for the next song, then decreases for the one after that. The faces bear strong familial resemblance – luminous blue or deep smoky eyes, and thick, dark hair.

Charlene, Conni Hancock, and Traci Lamar are the most recognizable, from Austin's Texana Dames, though sharp eyes will recognize Joaquin Hancock. Louie Morris, Tommy's eldest, and his son Zack are on one side of the stage while Joaquin's daughter Avalon slides into Charlene's vacated spot at the piano. Avalon's mother, Marty, plays percussion and sings as Charlene's brother Norm, Traci's son Nastasi, and her boyfriend David Gonzales fill out the lineup. No matter what the song, the message is clear: We are family.

All across Austin, the clear December Friday night crackles with holiday celebration, seasonal reflection, spiritual meditation. Yet nowhere is life more precious, more alive and grateful for the Supernatural



Family Band than here, under balloons and crepe paper in the painted cinder block recreation center of the Austin State School.

Father Knows Best

"I am the patriarch of a large family."

Tommy Hancock's blue eyes twinkle in understatement as his chair squeals when he leans back. Those eyes have watched threequarters of a century from an extraordinarily enlightened perch, and they're sharp as ever. His thinning hair is braided into silver cornrows, much to his family's amusement, and he is – typically – barefoot.

With a deep and abiding love for music and family, Hancock lives alone in a senior housing complex on the shores of Town Lake. Wife Charlene lives out at the lake in an arrangement agreeable to both. His daily life is enriched by a never-ending quest for greater experience and the meaning of existence. That sounds more profound than the way Hancock himself speaks, in a flat, West Texas twang, using words devoid of artifice.

"We've been here almost 25 years, and I have no regrets," he says, gazing out the window of his apartment on the ever-chang-

WE ARE FAMILY

Kneeling (I-r): Louie Hancock, Conni Hancock, Zack Morris, Nastasi Hancock

Standing (I-r): Marty Hancock, Joaquin Hancock, Jewel Hancock, Norman Condray, Charlene Hancock, Avalon Hancock, Tommy Hancock, Traci Lamar, David Gonzales

ing Austin skyline. "I can honestly say that life gets better the older I get. The pleasures change, sex being such an important pleasure and aspect in life. I still feel like I'm going to live forever, like I'm invincible and I have the iron will to not die if I don't want to.

"All things are possible. I've got a direct connection to the universe. I can meditate anytime and get my life straightened out no matter how screwed up it is. I feel real enthusiastic about life. I don't know whether that caused me to live a good life or vice versa. It probably boils down to being saved by Charlene. I didn't really know what love was until I met Charlene."

Tommy Hancock grew up in Lubbock, raised playing classical violin and switched to popular fiddle tunes while in the military. When he got out of the Army in the mid-Forties, the fiddle-playing bandleader of Lubbock's Roadside Playboys took up residence as house band at the town's famous Cotton Club.

In the early Fifties, Charlene Condray was "the sweetheart of Lubbock." A cheerleader at Lubbock High School, where classmates included Buddy Holly and fellow Cricket J.I. Allison, she sang weekly on *The Circle 13 Dude Ranch* show on local TV. Charlene was already a veteran performer and regional star at age 15 when the Roadside Playboys called. Their girl singer had ran off with the piano player. Might Charlene be interested in the job?

"I fell in love with Tommy when I was 16," says Charlene, breaking into a smile.



Come on, get happy (I-r): Holli, Conni, Charlene, Joaquin, Tommy, Traci, the Seventies. All archival photos courtesy of www.texanadames.com.

"To see pictures of him back then, he was so gorgeous. The thing that got me, though, was his interest in people and life and all things. I'd never known anyone like that – so curious, so interested in everything."

Tommy and Charlene married and kept on performing, even as the children came. Conni was the firstborn, then Traci. Joaquin was next and Holli, the youngest. Tommy had four children from a previous marriage, including son Louie Morris.

"I count them, too," says Charlene. "I hadn't planned on raising babies. I wanted to be a beauty operator or a movie star. That's what young women aspired to in those days."

Life was good for the young performers, even in the conservative confines of Lubbock. Tommy Hancock and the Roadside Playboys ruled as house band at the Cotton Club, and it's there that the Hancock saga really begins.

The Cotton Club

Dance halls are the lifeblood of rural life in Texas, country cousins to roadhouses and juke joints. Like church on Sundays and county fairs, they're the social center of the community and draw people from all walks of country life to dance their cares away. In Lubbock during the Forties and Fifties, the Cotton Club was the most sizable stopover in the Panhandle for touring musicians driving coast to coast. Hank Williams. Harry James. Little Richard. Benny Goodman. Bob Wills. Elvis Presley. *Elvis Presley*. All played the Cotton Club.

The original Cotton Club of the Forties was a huge, 1,600-seat venue that sat outside town. It fell victim to fire more than once, and after one devastating blaze, Conni recalls, "The only thing left was the sign. So my dad said, 'Do you mind if I take this sign and build a new Cotton Club?' The new Cotton Club was a bit smaller -1,400 people – and picked up where the old one left off."

Tommy and his band often backed up name acts like Porter Wagoner and Tennessee Ernie Ford. Others, such as Hank Thompson & His Brazos Valley Boys and Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys, had full touring bands. Occasionally, a show could be a lesson in the realities of the music business. D

С

"I was at the Cotton Club to see Hank Williams, and all kinds of politicians were trying to get in," remembers Tommy. "My guitar player had a beer under each arm inside his coat, and the guy at the door told us, 'Don't give him no beer, don't take nothing in there.' He let us in because we were the house band, but he wasn't letting the politicians in. If you were important, he had no use for you. But the house band, he'd let ya in. So we got in, and my guitar player gave Hank the two cans of beer. Hank sat back and played 'Kaw-Liga' and 'I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive.' That was his last song.

LOUIE BELIEVES THE IMPETUS TO FORM THE SUPERNATURAL FAMILY BAND CAME FROM TRACI'S CRUSH ON DAVID CASSIDY WHILE WATCHING THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY.

"In the good ol' boy department, Hank was just what you'd expect from some white trash Southern guy a lot of folks liked. Seeing him helped take the edge off my ambition. Ambition seems to be a horrible thing sometimes. I was never troubled a lot by ambition because I've been around those guys who've made enough to see the reward wasn't all that great."

The dance hall provided the Hancock children with their taste for the music business. For Louie Morris, who took his mother's surname, growing up as the son of a club-owning musician father had its star-studded moments. *continued on p.52*



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"It was different from the culture I experienced as a teenager with the Rolling Stones and Beatles. I wasn't into country music, but I'd go see Ray Price perform then go home, and Ray would be sitting there at our dining room table having coffee. I walked in one night, and Waylon [Jennings] was there after his show. I listened to him and Tommy talk about the old days. Waylon was cool, your basic roadside playboy, an outlaw musician trying to make a living and doing a great job of it."

Even more than the stellar names that passed through were the people who got their start thanks to Tommy's encouragement. He was an early fan of Buddy Holly, writing him postcards and letters of encouragement. The week before his wedding, Buddy lost his wallet and glasses during an outing at a local lake. Decades later, the lake was drained and Buddy's glasses and wallet were found intact and returned to the family. In the wallet, along with Buddy's driver license was a membership card to "The Club for Unappreciated Musicians." Buddy was member No. 4. The card was issued and signed by Tommy Hancock.

"We were a bunch of burr-head kids – me, my two brothers, and a couple of friends," chuckles producer, musician and Dixie Chick dad Lloyd Maines. "Tommy gave us a gig and we played every Sunday afternoon for about two years straight. Willie Nelson played there when he still had his crewcut and leisure suit, and the opener was always Johnny Bush. I was starting to dabble in steel guitar. Willie and Johnny both used Jimmy Day on steel. He was the greatest inspiration to me. He didn't talk to me much, but I would sit on the side of the stage and watch every move he made."

Owning a club is hard business, and to Tommy it became a burden. It drew country folk from such a wide radius that individuality was hard-won. Cowboys from one town creased their hats in a certain way while cowboys from another town wore one pant leg tucked into a boot. Along with the ganglike community pride came macho attitude.

"Fourteen hundred cowboys is a big number to handle," admits Tommy. "I've been playing for those West Texas cowboys my whole life. I've played the game, but it's hard to get 'em to stop fighting and start drinking. The cops wouldn't set foot in those Lubbock clubs in those days. I didn't like running the club, but my mother and stepfather liked it. They'd backed me with money on it, so we stayed in business at the Cotton Club way longer than I wanted to."

By the end of the Sixties, the Cotton Club had done its job. Buddy Holly was 10 years dead, the Crickets dispersed, and Waylon Jennings on his way to fame while a younger generation of Lubbock musicians struggled. Joe Ely, Butch Hancock, and Jimmie Gilmore formed the Flatlanders. Musicians such as Jesse Taylor, John X Reed, Ponty Bone, the Maines Brothers, and Terry Allen looked beyond Lubbock's broad horizon at their prospects.

In the late Sixties, Lubbock was also quite segregated. The Cotton Club was one of the few venues to book black performers like Little Richard and Ray Charles for mostly white audiences. The town's hip cognoscenti

The Lifeblood of Rural Texas (clockwise from top): "The cops wouldn't set foot in those Lubbock clubs in those days"; Charlene Condray, "the sweetheart of Lubbock," age 12; the Roadside Playboys, 1955. Charlene, center; Tommy stands second from right.

didn't fare much better. The occasional coffeehouse would pop up and disappear, but not until a health food store called the Supernatural Market opened did the restless souls find a kindred spirit and a place to gather. That wasn't enough for Tommy Hancock, so he applied to and was accepted into Texas Tech law school. Around that time, the innate curiosity that so attracted Charlene to her husband brought Tommy to LSD's doorstep.

"I decided I was tired of the music game – been doing it 25, 30 years at the time – and when I came back, I decided I didn't want to be a lawyer taking LSD. Dress up and argue with people. Bad vibes and stuff." So Tommy Hancock, his own sort of Lone Star Timothy Leary, tuned in, turned on, dropped out.

New Mexico and Everything After

"It wasn't until we left Lubbock and moved to New Mexico that I got into music," explains Traci Lamar. The second of Tommy and Charlene's four children, her parents' decision to leave Lubbock and move to New Mexico in 1972 was "an adventure. I loved it."

"The timing couldn't have been better for me," agrees Conni. "I was 15, the oldest, and already facing conflict within myself about the politics of Lubbock. We lived in a nice part of town, and we went to school with doctors' and lawyers' kids. My dad even went to law school for a year, but he sat me down at one point and said, 'I can't be a musician and a lawyer. Which would you rather I do?' I said 'I'd rather have a musician dad!'"

For Joaquin, Tommy and Charlene's only son, there was hesitation about the move.

"I felt like I was leaving behind everything I knew, and I think it was a bit of a stretch for my mom. But I could relate to what was happening to them. They had been in Lubbock a long time.



"I liken Lubbock to a deprivation tank, devoid of a lot of culture, especially then. I think my parents were really thirsty for something, and it created a drive to be creative, but they also wanted something to stimulate them. To put them on the path."

"The path" was one to enlightenment, the desire to find meaning. Tommy had long found spiritual company with the other musicians of Lubbock, but he and Charlene broadened their horizons through LSD and making sure their children were properly guided through their own experimentation. The kids were educated about drug use, experimented on their own, then put the drugs aside to move on with their lives and playing music.

"It all went together," thinks Joaquin, "dropping out, alternative lifestyle, family band – all the trappings that went with that. It was more of a gypsy lifestyle and pretty experimental in that way."

"We didn't have electricity in New Mexico," says Conni, describing the change from urban to rural living. "We went from having the TV in the center of the house to no television at all, so playing music was a real natural way for us to entertain ourselves."

Tommy and Charlene made a point of providing an array of instruments for their children to try. Louie believes the impetus to form the Supernatural Family Band came from Traci's crush on David Cassidy via *The Partridge Family*. Traci, who was 12 when the band started, laughs about its genesis.

"They got us all up onstage during a regular weekend job, taught us a few chords, and said 'Follow us.' We didn't really know anything, but we were onstage, and we learned that way."

"A lot of people in Lubbock come from musical families," pinpoints Charlene. "I did.

show us the real thing and experience what we'd been hearing about. That's had a lot to do with keeping our family together. Six out of eight still practice meditation. It's a great relief when your children know how to contact God correctly without help. They're okay under any circumstances. They don't all have it, but each time one of them gets it, it's a great relief."

Around 1974, the Hancocks left New Mexico, traveled to California, then settled in the guru's hometown of Denver, Colo., where they continued to perform. Tommy remembers Conni started putting pressure on him after a while to move the family to a warmer climate, "someplace south." In late 1980, they packed up and headed east to Florida. The plan was to stay for the winter, then move to California. During the journey to the West Coast that spring, the Supernatural Family stopped in Austin to play a gig. That's as far as they got.

The Family That Plays Together

"My dad taught us when an obstacle is in the way or changes happen, there's usually a reason. If you relax and wait a minute, you'll realize what the reason is."

Conni isn't talking about the family settling in Austin, but she might as well be. The confluence of circumstances that met the Hancocks when they played their first auspicious gig at Soap Creek Saloon was astonishing.

"It felt like home," she remembers. "I said, 'This is where I'm going to stay.'"

Traci found the capital city equally appealing. "I was blown away at all the live music avail-

able. I loved it all. I didn't have any knowledge of the blues, but it was happening here. We were at Antone's a lot.

"Daddy wanted us to get a regular weekly gig, so we got the Shorthorn on Thursdays.

"I FELL IN LOVE WITH TOMMY WHEN I WAS 16," SAYS CHARLENE, BREAKING INTO A SMILE. "TO SEE PICTURES OF HIM BACK THEN, HE WAS SO GORGEOUS."

Buddy did, Lloyd did. Putting a band together came naturally for us."

The Supernatural Family Band found a regular gig near the Texas/New Mexico border, where they honed their musical skills.

"Thanks to Tommy and Charlene, we were learning our instruments," relates Louie. "Tourists would pour in, Red River skiers, families on vacation. We had a great life, playing every Friday and Saturday night and then going back to our cabin. A fabulous experience."

The spiritual flame still flickered in Tommy's heart, however. He discovered the teachings of the Guru Maharaj Ji and led his family to them.

"When my son Louie came to live with us, he said, 'You've done a good job raising all these kids, but none of them know about God.' I said to him, 'I don't either, Louie, what can I teach them?' He said, 'Seems like you'd be the one to lead them.'

"So I started going around to the churches in Lubbock. I wasn't finding anything, so we started chasing gurus. We started following them and found one who could hit the spot. He was a young kid named Guru Maharaj Ji. The Bible says, 'Seek first the kingdom of heaven and there's a light within.' Intellectually, we knew that stuff, but he was the first one to There were a bunch of state school people that went there on a regular basis. Daddy recognized that having that state school element in this working class bar could turn into something interesting."

"Something interesting" is an understatement. The Shorthorn Lounge on North Lamar near Koenig was not a hip nightspot like the Continental Club or Soap Creek. Even Tommy Hancock, who'd been playing dance halls all his life, had second thoughts.

"When I walked into the Shorthorn and saw what it was, it was the nearest I ever come to backing out of a deal," affirms Tommy. "You go into a place like that in the afternoon, it's pretty hard to imagine anything joyous happening. The building was slanted and the floor slanted, everything was wrong about it. Clientele was hookers, bikers, and crazy people. But I knew from years of playing there's an outside chance that if you can fill it up with music, you can change it. That really worked there. People were just so glad to hear something happy in there."

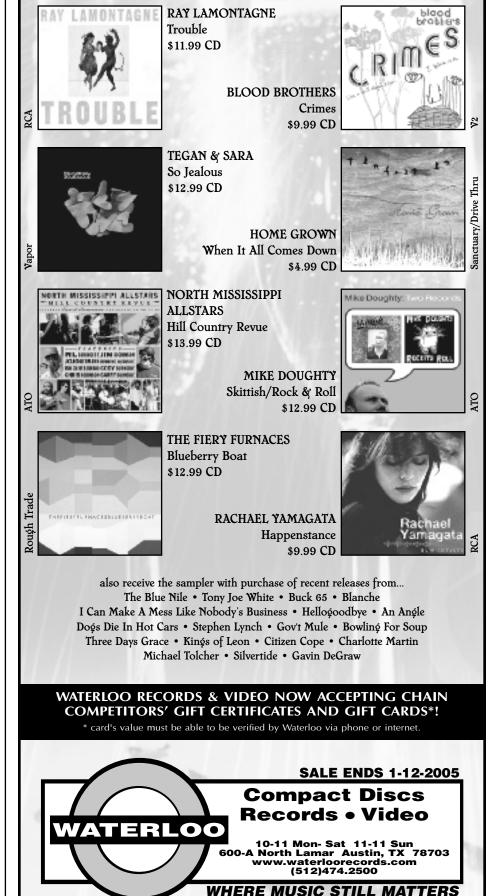
Thursdays at the Shorthorn with the Supernatural Family Band became a hot gig. Paddy Maloney of the Chieftains sat in once.

continued on p.54

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◀ 53 MUSIC ★ HANCOCK FAMILY

"It was the unofficial clubhouse for the Joe Ely Band and other displaced Lubbockites," Monte Warden raves. Warden, who just received a platinum album for his song "Desperately" on George Strait's *Honkytonkville*, got his first stage exposure at age 14 through those Shorthorn Thursdays.

"I'd met Niki Sullivan of the Crickets, who told me to call Tommy Hancock, who invited me to the Shorthorn," continues Warden. "Tommy was sweet and asked what I wanted to sing. The bug bit me. I was there every Thursday my grades would allow. That was the deal I cut with my parents. If I stayed on the honor roll, I could go to the Shorthorn. I'd show up with my little guitar and wait for him to bring me onstage."

Tommy's assessment of the Supernatural Family Band is that, ultimately, it got too big to support. Besides, the children had reached the age where they wanted to do their own thing.

"It just played itself out," he says. "Conni, Traci, and Charlene essentially fired me and Joaquin. Joaquin was anxious to do something else himself, but the girls wanted to do original music, and rehearse and play tight, like serious musicians do. Anyone that goes off and does something, we all back them, like Louie and his band."

In 1988, Conni, Traci, and Charlene formed the Texana Dames. It was easy to establish themselves with a regular gig at La Zona Rosa, then a Sunday residency at Güero's during the following decade. The girls' charm and distinct personalities are evident on their four recordings. After the Güero's gig ended recently, the entire family stopped and took a collective deep breath.

The Dames are still an active band. Traci's son Nastasi is a drummer in the family band. Joaquin, who plays with Deer in the Headlights, and his wife Marty – first cousin to another scion of a musical family, Eliza Gilkyson – encourages the musical education of their daughters,



Jewel and Avalon. Holli, the most enigmatic of Tommy and Charlene's four children, remains in Lubbock, where she married the son of Tommy's Roadside Playboys drummer. Louie plays with his own band, Alien Hounddog. Louie notes with pride that his granddaughter just got a piano. That's a fourth living generation Hancock making music in a musical dynasty.

"Joaquin's daughter, Avalon," nods Louie with a sly smile. "She's going to be the superstar of the family."

When the nimbleness left his fingers, Tommy Hancock put down his fiddle and took up dancing. He'd dabbled in acting and made plenty of albums, but dancing took him to a different level. He embraced it with a love and affection that goes beyond describing the art," writes Hancock at the beginning of the book. "Exercise my Divinity by being a dimension changer: bring an energy consciousness from the here-now Oneness of within myself outward into duality in the form of music and dancing.

"I found that it integrated so perfectly with the other concepts of my life, that it sometimes seems the dance is in everything. So I can describe my larger self using dance as a center."

On a Clear Day

"I'm not one to look back, and I'm not one to look forward, either. I'm really one to try and stay with where I am right now."

The matriarch, the main Dame, Charlene Hancock is philosophical about the past

THAT'S A FOURTH LIVING GENERATION HANCOCK MAKING MUSIC IN A MUSICAL DYNASTY.

a whirl on the dance floor and, determined that others should know of his discovery, wrote a book called *Zen and the Art of Texas Two-Step.* Politically incorrect but brimming with heartfelt wit, it's a priceless guide to his guirky, back-porch philosophy.

"Dancing was such a nice surprising revelation for me I thought I'd take a try at and what lies ahead. Her current interest is in the archive project Conni has undertaken. It includes assembling not only the Hancock family photographs and memorabilia, but also the many recordings over the years, including those by Tommy, the Supernatural Family Band, Texana Dames, a retrospective of Charlene's career, and even the recent release of Traci's deeply romantic CD *Apasionada*, a literal labor of love.

Traci Lamar

"The archives project makes me feel real good about myself," attests Charlene. "We're getting more organized as we go. Tommy's mother died last year at 96. She kept coloring her hair and doing her nails. She was the one that inspired me to be healthy and live a healthy life. I had her pictures after she died. With the grandkids, we gotta do something for them. That's what started this whole thing."

Tommy the patriarch focuses on a different aspect of the future.

"I realized I'd done everything I think I wanted to do and I've got everything I need to live a good life. So what else is there? It puts me in the position of surrendering to the forces of the universe and saying, 'I'm gonna have to think up something to do.' I quit worrying about, 'What am I going to do when I get old?' Me and Charlene used to have an ongoing joke about stuff. We'd say, 'Aw, we'll do that when we're old.'"

The waltz of the West Texas wind still whips around the plains and across the flat Lubbock landscape though the Hancocks left it behind decades ago. Tommy Hancock lifts his gaze and sets it on a distant cloud in the pewter Austin sky.

"It still looks like infinity from here."

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COUNTRY MILE

Think the VIBE Awards got rowdy? Remember Charlie Rich burning the envelope when John Denver won CMA Entertainer of the Year in 1975? It was always a mistake to think of Denver's Colorado hippie sunshine, collected yet again on RCA's hyperbolic, 2-CD Definitive All-Time Greatest Hits, as country, because he was a folkie all the way. Nothing got him going like some girl whose beauty reminded him of the great outdoors. Real country, however, concerns feminine treachery and neon, and finally re-emerged as a commercial force in 1986. Alongside Steve Earle and Lyle Lovett, Randy Travis' and Dwight Yoakam's debuts that year secured the traditionalist flag planted by George Strait a few years earlier with time-tested sounds and top-notch songwriting. Travis was the straight arrow of the bunch, with an aw-shucks charm and an otherworldly tenor, Yoakam the hillbilly rabble-rouser who grew enamored of Phil Spector. For both, Rhino's elegant single-disc Very Best ofs are wellchosen and well-mixed. 1988's Diamonds & Dirt gave him five straight No. 1s, but many of Rodney Crowell's unshaven, literate songs are better-known as others' hits.

THE ANIMALS Retrospective (Abkco)

"House of the Rising Sun," "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood, "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" easy, right? Go ahead, try and find a decent Animals comp. With the catalog in shambles since its Sixties heyday, a decent hits collection has been as illusive as a snipe hunt. Uniting latter Eric Burdon FM staples ("San Franciscan Nights," "Monterey," "Sky Pilot," "Spill the Wine") with early essentials, this single disc Retrospective is worth the taxidermy.

- Raoul Hernandez

BEE GEES Number Ones (Universal)

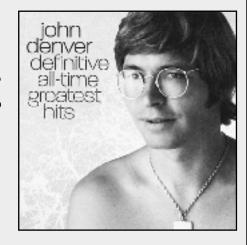
Long before Madonna was the mother of reinvention, Brisbane, Australia's brothers Gibb engineered a dramatic move from

the dreamy Sixties pop that broke them to the disco inferno that made them legends. Number Ones ensures that Bee Gees neophytes and fans alike get the whole spectrum of the triocs output, though the high point remains "Stayin' Alive." ***

- Melanie Haupt

BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE Tepid Peppermint Wonderland: A Retrospective (Tee Pee)

Interest in Brian Jonestown Massacre no longer stems from the music, but rather from the antics of frontman Anton Newcombe via documentary Dig!, which chronicles Newcombe's rivalry with Dandy Warhols singer Courtney Taylor. Tee Pee's 2-CD retrospective follows BJM's psychedelic Brit popistry through 10 years, and despite the band's reputation for fisticuffs, there is a bit of bliss here ("Wisdom," "Prozac vs. Heroin"). From chaos, comes beauty. ★★ - Audra Schroeder



Columbia's The Essential Rodney Crowell lets him reclaim "I Ain't Livin' Long Like This" and "Please Remember Me," closing with three songs from 2003's scary-good Fate's Right Hand. Johnny Paycheck's '66-'68 jukebox gold, The Real Mr. Heartache: The Little Darlin' Years (Country Music Foundation), brilliantly confines itself to three subjects: loneliness, despair, jealousy. Hard to picture John Denver doing "Pardon Me, I've Got Someone to Kill." Christopher Gray

PETER CASE Who's Gonna Go Your Crooked **Mile? Selected** Tracks 1994-2004 (Vanguard)

This decade-spanning compilation makes a case for Peter Case's being one of America's

best working songwriters. From country-hits-inwaiting like "Coulda Shoulda Woulda" to melancholy lamentations like "On the Way Downtown," Case's songs stick to your soul. In addition to highlights from his Vanguard tenure, Crooked Mile features two new songs ("Wake Up Call," "My Generation's Golden Handcuff Blues") and a fiery live version of the title track. ****

- Greg Beets

HALL & OATES Ultimate Daryl Hall & John Oates (BMG)

Admit it: There's at least one Hall & Oates song you like, and chances are it's on this 2-CD comp. The duo's genre-blending mash of Motown soul and New Wave thump is all over "Private Eyes," "One on One," high school prom favorite "I Can't Go for That (No Can Do)," and "Maneater." There's no denying their timelessness. Why else are we still dying to sing "Kiss on My List" at karaoke night? ***1

– Audra Schroeder

KMD

The Best of KMD (Nature Sounds)

Long before donning the Metal Face and monikers like Viktor Vaughn and King Geedorah, MF Doom, then named Zev Love X, fronted a duo called KMD along with his brother DJ Sub-Roc. Culled from two studio releases, 1991-1994, during which time Sub-Roc died in an automobile accident, The Best of KMD captures the cartoonish sarcasm of a group equally inspired by racism, Five Percent theory, and swooping upright bass. $\star\star$ - Robert Gabriel

MARILYN MANSON

Lest We Forget: The Best of Marilyn Manson (Interscope)

Almost lost in the pre- and post-Columbine uproar over the former Mr. Warner is the fact that his best songs - "The Beautiful People," "The Dope Show," "Disposable Teens" - mirror modern rock's craven, bloated, strung-out countenance. Good ear for covers too, of which Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" is the latest (and reportedly last). God of Fuck, we hardly knew ye. ★★★ - Christopher Gray

BLIND WILLIE MCTELL The Best of Blind

Willie McTell (Yazoo) Ever wonder about the origins of one of Bob Dylan's late-period aces, "Blind Willie McTell"? If so, begin with these 71

hallowed minutes of translucent rural blues from the Twenties and Thirties, sonically restored to lullaby-like heaven. The Jimmy Scott-like vocal delicacy of this Georgia peach (1898-1959) eases the purgatory croak of his era peers. Like the Man sang, "Nobody can sing the blues like Blind Willie McTell."

- Raoul Hernandez

MEKONS

Heaven & Hell (Cooking Vinyl)

As bits (Fear and Whiskey) and pieces (So Good It Hurts) of the Mekons' mutinous catalog get reissued, 2-CD overview Heaven & Hell makes a damning case for these Class '77 UK lads/lasses' being the Band of their generation. The musical world-view of "Olde Trip to Jerusalem," ballroom swoon of "(Sometimes I Feel Like) Fletcher Christian" – Sally Timms' rich "Millionaire" and "Brutal" reverie. The proletariat rock of "Johnny Miner." From primitive pissings of debut "Never Been in a Riot" to the dollhouse skank of "Work All Week," via 2004's Punk Rock racket. Righteous. ★★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

JOHN MELLENCAMP

Words & Music: John Mellencamp's Greatest Hits (UTV)

Better than Bob Seger with PC politics, John Mellencamp never let his farm-bred ideas of social justice get in the way of a catchy tune, and vice versa. This 2-CD set doesn't stop when the hits did, giving equal weight to later work both rootsier and more indignant. For those who just wanna rock, he does that quite well on "Crumblin' Down," "Pink Houses," and "Authority Song." Ain't that America. $\star \star \star$ Christopher Gray

PEARL JAM Rearviewmirror: Greatest Hits

1991-2003 (Epic)

There are, essentially, two PJs: the epic grunge pioneer and the folk-inflected jam band. Evidenced on Rearviewmirror, the Seattle group shifted gears in the Nineties and never looked back. Two discs cover the spectrum, from MTV anthems ("Jeremy") to fluke hits (their cover of "Last Kiss"). It may take 33 tracks, but this collection proves that grunge can grow older even if it grows quieter. $\star \star \star$ - Matt Dentler

SEAL Best: 1991-2004 (Warner Bros.)

Like the Cure, Britpop soul singer Seal gives his singles the acoustic treatment on this 2-CD

Greatest HITS

of classics like "Crazy" with rearranged and reimagined unplugged versions, sprinkling covers of varying success (great "Lips Like Sugar," timid "Walk On By"). Programmed or acoustic, Seal managed hits with heart. $\star \star \star$ – Matt Dentler

TALKING HEADS Best Of (Rhino) **TALKING HEADS** The Name of This Band Is Talking Heads (Rhino) With 18 of the

punk/funk band's

best tunes on one

disc, the first-ever

Talking Heads Best Of is a perfect place to start if you have none of their LPs. TNOTBITH, now expanded to two discs, is one of the reissues of the year. A live chronicle of their first four years, 1977-1981, it travels from jittery to massive, with 13 previously unreleased tracks, three rarities from a 1979 promo disc, and righteously tracing the Head's evolution into a stage monster. (Both) ★★★★ – lim Caligiuri

TRAVIS Singles (Epic)

This collection is a treat for the fan who hasn't splashed out for B-sides and imports, with the added bonus of fleshing out the early years of the Scottish act's career. Singles runs the gamut from the melancholy of The Man Who to the cheeky cynicism of 12 Memories, maturation underscored by juxtaposing early rock ("All I Wanna Do Is Rock") with recent polish ("The Beautiful Occupation"). ***

Melanie Haupt

THE VERVE

This Is Music: The Singles 92-98 (Virgin/EMI)

The Verve's American legacy will forever be "Bittersweet Symphony," a post-Britpop fusion of orchestral rock twinned alongside a soaring sample from the Rolling Stones' "The Last Time." It's one of 12 essentials here (including a pair of newly excavated surprises), featuring standouts "Lucky Man," "The Drugs Don't Work," and "Sonnet," which frankly makes you puzzle why the Stone Roses' Ian Brown is still in top solo form whilst Verve's Ashcroft continues releasing self-indulgent drivel every time the rent comes due. $\star \star \star \star$ - Marc Savlov

Х

 $\star\star$

The Best: Make the Music Go Bang! (Elektra/Rhino)

Parented by John Doe and Exene Cervenka, Los Angeles birthed art-punk's favorite child, X. The top-heavy, 2-CD Make the Music Go Bang! covers '77-'92, with the grit of early X and the sheen of later X creating a magnetized effort that, while enjoyable, doesn't give the L.A. band their due. $\star\star$ - Darcie Stevens

NEIL YOUNG Greatest Hits (Reprise)

Boiling the hide off Neil Young for a 77-minute bowl of roots stew according to the bottom line: "Inclusion based on original record sales, airplay, and known download history. - N.Y." Twenty opening minutes of "Down by the River" and "Cowgirl in the Sand" later - bookended by "Rockin in the Free World" and "Harvest Moon" on the backside - and you'll jones for N.Y.'s long-fabled, 927-disc archive.

 $\star \star \star \star$ Perfect $\star \star \star \star$ Great $\star \star \star$ Good $\star \star$ Mediocre \star Coaster comp. Best: 1991-2004 marries the synth-pop



SCENES OF THE SURREAL

1) Following an October worker compensation fine levied against a ranch in Australia's outback, after a cowboy fell off a horse and hit his head, the losing ranch owner said he would require all his wranglers to wear helmets instead of the classic cowboy hats (and other ranch owners may follow along). 2) In November, the school district in Spurger, Texas, ended its decades-old Homecoming Week reverse-roles day (in which girls dress as boys and vice versa) after one parent complained that the tradition promoted a homosexual lifestyle; in its place, the school urged kids to dress in military camouflage.

CHUTZPAH!

1) In July, Winnetka, Ill., investment promoter Charles Harris made a last-ditch effort to get his clients' support, hoping they would not cooperate with authorities who were about to arrest him for fraud. Harris sent each a DVD in which he begged them to give his investments more time, but federal agents, after arresting Harris in September, said Harris had probably shot that DVD from the Caribbean Sea, on the 62-foot yacht he had bought with clients' money. 2) In Cleveland, Tenn., Rob Smitty gained media attention in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his daughter "proud"; however, Smitty was at the time 24 months behind on child support, and his daughter, Amber, sighed to reporters that Smitty had a poor record of visiting or calling, even on her birthday.

INJUDICIOUS JUDGES

• According to a female bailiff in Tampa, Fla., County Judge Gasper Ficarrota (during a hotel-room tryst with the bailiff) laid out his robe on their bed for her to wear so that she could "feel the power that his black robe possessed." "Why do you think successful attorneys strive to become judges?" he asked. (The bailiff's remarks were written in her private diary, introduced by her husband at their divorce trial in November.) [*St. Petersburg Times*, Nov. 18, 2004]

• In September, District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Judith Retchin ordered Jonathan Magbie, 27, to jail for 10 days for first-offense marijuana possession (a virtually unheard-of sentence in D.C.), despite the fact that Magbie was a quadriplegic with permanent tracheal, urinary, and stomach tubes and was often ventilator-dependent, in addition to having various other infirmities. (Magbie died four days later, after what the D.C. Health Department concluded in December was severely inadequate care in jail and in an emergency room.)

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

• America's Creative Class: Farmer Randy Valicoff (of Yakima Valley in Washington) sold designer apples (at \$6) this autumn, created by laying tiny, artistic stickers of "cougars" or "huskies" on ripening apples, leaving on the otherwise red skin yellow images of either the Washington State University cougar or the University of Washington husky. And in November, Rice University MBA student Beau Carpenter introduced his battery-operated, glowing thong for strippers, with a two-hour charge, in neon colors, at about \$50.

• *New Scientist* magazine reported in September that Chris Melhuish (University of the West of England, at Bristol) was readying



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



University of Florida professor Thomas DeMarse revealed in December that he has constructed a primitive "brain" ("live computation device") out of 25,000 rat neurons and has taught it to maneuver an F-22 fighter jet simulation in a straight trajectory. The brain had to be "taught," he said, because at first, the plane kept crashing. DeMarse said an organic brain is potentially much more flexible than even the highest-tech computer. The National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health are funding his work, as models for controlling otherwise-risky unmanned aircraft and for developing epilepsyfighting drugs.

his EcoBot II, a self-powered robot that runs on energy produced by catching and digesting houseflies (and breaking down their sugars to release electrons). The major downside: The most efficient way to attract flies is with sewage, which makes EcoBot II unfriendly to humans.

AWESOME ANIMALS

• In Ruthin, Wales, the owners of the bull Picston Shottle said in November that they believe that piped-in Mozart music helped develop his amazing productivity as a stud; his semen is sold out until April, with enough output to create about 500 "doses" a day (at a price of about \$65 a dose). And sheep farmer Barry Walker touted his flock's production of superfine Australian merino wool at his operation in New South Wales, helped along, he said, by a secret diet of grains and the piped-in music of Italian singer Andrea Bocelli.

• In November, BBC News previewed an upcoming story for its wildlife TV magazine show *Spy in the Woods*, derived from film footage from a stationary hidden camera in the Quingling mountains in northwest China. Featured on the show was a panda doing a handstand against a tree, apparently for the purpose of extending the vertical reach of his urine, to more dominantly mark his territory.

<u>CRÈME DE LA WEIRD</u>

The super-reclusive, 280-person German cult Villa Baviera, holed up in Chile since 1961 and worshipping of former army nurse Paul Schaefer (now age 81, with whereabouts unknown), broke into the public eye in a

November Reuters dispatch describing how most members have finally, after four decades, come to realize that they were mistaken in their belief that Schaefer is God's messenger on Earth. The cult lived frozen in time, with few modern conveniences, wearing clothing from the Thirties, and in total obedience to Schaefer, who had imposed many idiosyncratic policies, including an ironclad no-intimacy rule.

READERS' CHOICE

In November, a 46-year-old man climbed into an enclosed area at the Taipei (Taiwan) Zoo, apparently to attempt to convert a pride of lions to Christianity by informing them that Jesus is their savior. According to witnesses, the lion king sauntered over and briefly sank his teeth into the man's leg, but then, according to one account, "got bored" and returned to his previous state of lounging, as zoo personnel hustled the intruder away.

RECURRING THEMES

The Sacramento (Calif.) Fire Department reported in November that a resident had dropped by the fire station on Granada Way in order to turn in a grenade he had found in his garage. It was later safely detonated. (As in many previous such episodes nationwide, Sacramento authorities requested that anyone who comes across a bomb or grenade should simply report its whereabouts, and not pick it up and, especially, not bring it to them.)

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnews@earthlink.net ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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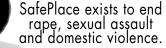
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calendar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6



this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS (PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY DIANA WEICH

Thursday **30**

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP 6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS is offered courtesy of Manos de Christo, a faith-based nonprofit. Call for specific times. Manos de Christo. 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-7454. Free.

SCHIZOPHRENICS ANONYMOUS 825-8371.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film listings) Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music listings)

Ka-Nives, the Lottie Collins Beerland Tia Carrera, Rubble, Black Mayonnaise Room 710

Burden Brothers Stubb's

Friday

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH CLASSES 1pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

CRITICAL MASS Tired of huffing the fumes from giant pickups and getting menaced by those pushy SUVs? Take back the streets, friend! Free yourself from the shackles of petrol! Go for a ride with a gang of 100 or so cyclists and feel the power of intimidation! It feels good, we swear. (See Sports for more.) 5pm. The UT West Mall where it meets Guadalupe (between 22nd and 23rd streets). www.criticalmassrides.info/austin.html.

MUSIC (See Music Listings) New Year's Eve Everywhere



MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS BRUNCH BENEFIT Our

favorite all-volunteer, nonprofit, radical community bookstore wants to cure what ails you (which, we assume, is a wicked champagne hangover) with a vegetarian feast of pancakes, breakfast scramble, fresh fruit, muffins, juice, and plenty of coffee. All that, and knowing that you've played a small part in keeping the store alive, should make for a good start to the new year. 10am-3pm. Austin Music Co-op, 5413 Guadalupe, \$7. 407-6925.

MUSIC (See Music Listings) Free Week Emo's Gary Clark Jr. Hole in the Wall



CHESS FORUM 377-3334. Free.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM holds two weekly meditation meetings. Sundays, 7pm. 2600 Penny Lane #123; Tuesdays, 8pm. Student Union, UT campus 371-9803. www.diamondway.org/austin.

ESPERANTO CLUB MEETING 3pm. Texpresso, 2700 W. Anderson Ln., 467-9898. www.esperantoaustin.org.

INSIDE BOOKS NIGHT Help answer the 600 requests for books received each month from Texas' incarcerated. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.

LIVING A YOGA LIFESTYLE: AN INTRODUCTION FOR THE DEAF Noon-2:30pm. Yoga Yoga South, 1700 S. Lamar, 326-3900.

RHIZOSPHERE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY TOUR 2pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.



A Tuna Christmas [SEE ARTS LISTINGS]



CASA OPEN HOUSE Find out how you can make a difference in a kid's life by simply speaking up for them. No previous experience or education is necessary. 11am-7pm. CASA of Travis County, 6330 Hwy. 290 E. #350, 459-2272. www.casatravis.org.

CENTRAL AUSTIN TOASTMASTERS is a nonprofit group devoted to teaching communication and leadership skills through public speaking and speechcraft.

the **GAY** place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

TACT Transgender Advocates of Central Texas is an advocacy group dedicated to furthering the cause of Gender Diverse people in Central Texas through education in both private and public forums. TACT meets on the first Tuesday of the month. 448-6354

THE CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS is now accepting new singing members for its sweet 16th season. Tenors, baritones, and basses are welcome to round out the sound of this proud, highly acclaimed fixture of Austin's gay community. Rehearsals: Mondays, 7:15pm; Open rehearsal for the spring concert: Jan. 10. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th, 477-7464. www.ccmcaustin.org.

BLACK & WHITE BASH Time to whip out the penguin suits, ladies ... and gentlemen ... and whatever permutation you inhabit. The Black & White in this case means "attire." Come revel in live music with Nancy Scott, Therapy Sisters, Susan Colton, Wishing Chair, and Melissa Sigler. Plus special surprise performances! Party includes live music, dancing, party favors, cash bar, door prizes and 50/50 raffles, a contest for best black-and-white getup, appetizer and dessert buffet, champagne toast, and midnight brunch. Whew. See you there. (Also, see the MCC Web site for info on Christmas services.) Fri., Dec. 31, 8pm. MCC Austin at Freedom Oaks, 601 S. First, julie_hart@sbcglobal.net. \$30 (\$25, before Dec. 28). www.mccaustin.com.

NEW YEAR'S MUSIC Ring in the new year with some sizzlin' sisters: End the annum with the smooth croons of local fave Ginger Leigh Band, then rock into the next with the sensational sounds of Patrice Pike. Toast to that. kids. Fri., Dec. 31, 9pm. Momos, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. www.gleigh.com, www.patricepike.com, www.momosclub.com

THE BALL DROP Hot party. Infinite buzz. Balls. Where will Austin's well-heeled Q-set have at getting down? Why at the elegant downtown home of Jack Sanders, of course, dancing to the rhythms of Houston's DJ Mark Goebel, and yeeeeeeehawin' with local out country music singer-songwriter Michael Clay. There's a cash bar, a complimentary midnight champagne toast, and light hors d'oeuvres with all benefits going to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, whose work, my friends, is cut out for us in 2005. Think of it as one last "Huzzah!" before this year's depressing Lege begins sharpening its fangs. Fri., Dec. 31, 9pm. 600 Harthan at Sixth Street, 474-5475. \$40, advance; \$50, door. www.lgrl.com.

7 IN HEAVEN: LESBIAN SPEED DATING Meet 10 delectable women in 70 minutes! Enjoy equally delectable finger food, delicious drinks, and a groovy atmosphere at Progress Coffee. E-mail ultraultra@gmail.com to signup. \$24 through Jan. 10; \$27, after. Thursday, Jan. 27, 7pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos, 493-0963.

FOODIES GOES EASTSIDE Foodies, the meet-up group for all womyn who luv the womyn goes EastSiiiidddeeee! Oooooooh! Margariiiiitas! Get your eat on at Nuevo Leon. E-mail Kitty at beatsagogo@aol.com for more info. Wednesday, Jan. 5th, 7pm. Nuevo Leon Restaurant, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097.

A PAGEANT NEW YEAR'S Because we all want to spend New Year's in the company of drag queens (who wouldn't?), Naughty Austin (being on that naughty list has its perks, kids) and Arts on Real are hosting a special performance of this season's hit musical beauty contest gone drag, Pageant. It's a night of cross-dressing, side-splitting humor, and, get this, an hour of cabaret-style per-formances to get that goose a bit cooked. Keep the buzz going with food and champagne, and win yourself something nice in the silent auction and other fundraising contests. Old acquaintances shouldn't be forgotten, especially if it's a man with a beehive. Get in where you fit in, go on and shine. *Fri.*, *Dec.* 31, 9pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$40.

HAPPY NEW YEARIII ... from Kate & Kate and your pals here at "The Gay Place." Blessings, everybody.

6-7pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin. www.tmd55.org/centralaustin.

m USIC listings p.78

FREE YOGA! Attention all broke-ass yogis! Austin Yoga School is offering free classes to new and old students alike, so grab your mats and get down there as fast as you can – while paying close attention to your posture and breath, of course. Don't rob yourself of the full potential of any posture, even if it's just knocking over old ladies who happen to be in your path: Plant your feet on the sidewalk while keeping your shoulders down and your neck extended. Bring your hands to center and push the energy away from your chest, palms out. Through Jan. 8. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 440-1269. Free. www.austinyoga.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MEETING 327-2802. Free. www.oa.org.

PILATES AT RUTA MAYA Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS Manos de Christo, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-7454. Free.



YOUNG EPIDEMIOLOGY SCHOLARS

COMPETITION Do you ever find yourself going on and on to your friends about things like, say, germ warfare and outbreaks and the like? Well, here's your chance to really show your stuff, by conducting original research on the subject of your choice (last year's winner researched the health issues surrounding body piercing), and compete! Check the Web site for guidelines. Submissions due: Feb. 1. www.collegeboard.com/ves/index.html.

PETERSON'S PERSUASIVE ESSAY WRITING **CONTEST** Attention high school sophomores and juniors: Here's a way to hone your writing skills in preparation for the ACT and the new version of the SAT tests and possibly win a \$5,000

scholarship! Check the Web site for more info.

Submission deadline: Fri., Dec. 31.

www.petersons.com/essaycontest.

For more gay stuff, see Calendar online: austinchronicle.com. Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.







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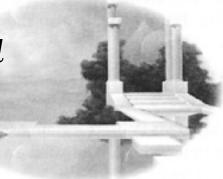


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EMILYANN TREE LIGHTING & TRAIL OF

LIGHTS lets visitors wander among the lighted vignette displays at the outdoor theatre. *Through Jan. 1. EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 RR 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969.* www.emilyAnn.org.

FAMILY FISHING CELEBRATION continues for another year with free fishing in state parks. In addition to regular fishing, the state parks departs ment will be stocking area waters with rainbow trout this winter. Check their Web site for a complete list of trout stockings and dates. *Through Aug.* 31. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/familyfish.

HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL LIGHTING TRAIL winds through Boerne, Bulverde, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, Round Mountain, and Wimberley. *Through Jan. 1.* 830/997-8515 or 866/839-3378. www.tex-fest.com.

HISTORIC COURTHOUSES are the theme of the Preservation Texas 2005 calendar. To purchase one of the \$13.50 calendars, call or check online. 472-0102. www.preservationtexas.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE at the oldest dance hall in Texas features Gary P. Nunn. Make reservations to Gruene Hall at 830/629-5077. www.gruenehall.com.

AMERICAN MUSIC IN THE HILL COUNTRY The Gillespie County Historical Society is offering season tickets to the seven jazz, bluegrass, gospel, Western, Cajun, and Zydeco concerts they'll host in 2005. The first show features the Beaumont LaGrange Variety Hour and includes a gourmet meal. Season passes or individual show tickets can be purchased. *First show, Jan 14*. 830(997-2835. www.ploneermuseum.com

HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL winds through colorful displays in Blanco, Boerne, Bulverde, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, Round Mountain, and Wimberley. *Through Dec.* 31. 866/839-3378. www.tex-fest.com.



Fort Belknap, northwest of Graham, has gone from being the center of frontier defenses to being a favorite reunion spot for families and scouts. Overnight guests get to sleep in the barracks and eat their meals in the old mess hall. Day visitors can explore the large museum and wander the 15 acres of scenic lawn.

"We have the largest grape arbor in the state," says James Mitchell, the caretaker of Young County's only park. "Our arrowhead collection is one of the most extensive collections in the state."

It is not surprising that area residents would find a wide assortment of Indian artifacts. The prairies and wood thickets along the Brazos River were a favorite hunting ground of the Plains tribes. The abundant grass and natural springs attracted wildlife and migrating herds of buffalo.

It was the fertile valleys and reliable water sources that also attracted white settlers after Texas was granted statehood in 1845. Beginning in the early 1850s, the U.S. built and maintained a line of forts in west-central Texas to separate the Comanche and the Americans.

Fort Belknap began in June 1851 as a camp of stick huts and grew to be what one visitor at the time described as the prettiest of the frontier forts. The availability of timber and locally quarried stone gave the soldiers ample material for the fort's buildings.

Within a short time all roads ran past the gate of Fort Belknap. The federal government contracted with Butterfield Overland Mail for twiceweekly service between St. Louis and San Francisco with a stop at the fort. The 2,800-mile trip was probably the longest stagecoach route in the country's history. For 10 cents citizens could send a letter or for \$200 buy a one-way ticket on the five-passenger stagecoach for the 25-day journey.

With all of the traffic, the town of Belknap grew up half a mile east of the fort. The saloons and general stores became a magnet for drifters, gamblers, and adventurers traveling across Texas.

In 1854, the experiment with the Indian reservation system in Texas began in earnest 12 miles south of the fort. The Brazos Indian Reservation covered 18,576 acres stretching south and east toward Waco. With more than 2,000 individuals from several, mostly peaceful tribes, the reservation seemed on track to be an agricultural success. Caught between hostile white settlers and wild Indians, the reservation Indians were eventually forced to Oklahoma after only five years.

By the time the Civil War began and federal troops surrendered in San Antonio in 1861, the number of soldiers at Fort Belknap was being



reduced. The rock buildings were used by state troops of the Frontier Regiment for a time, but after the war the army returned just long enough in 1867 to lock the doors and move on to Fort Griffin near Albany.

The fort might have faded into obscurity if not for a group of local citizens who, using Work Projects Administration labor and the original War Department plans, restored and rebuilt eight of the buildings for the state's centennial in 1936. Eight of the buildings are much like they were 150 years ago.

Mitchell says that only the powder magazine and corn house are the original structures. The red sandstone floor of the commissary building was part of the original structure, but the two barracks, dining hall, and auditorium were built for the centennial.

Maintained by the Fort Belknap Society and Young County, the old fort serves now as a cultural and recreational center for local residents and visitors. Shaded by giant pecan and oak trees, the grounds look more like a quiet college campus than a military outpost. The stories preserved in the museum tell of the hardships of settling the Western frontier.

Fort Belknap is 12 miles northeast of Graham on FM 61. The gate is open 9am-5pm weekdays, 1:30-5pm on Sunday, and closed on Wednesday. The museum closes noon to 1:30pm for lunch. For more information, call 940/846-3222. While you're in the area, Mitchell recommends stopping by the Bob Cat Cafe in Newcastle for good home cooking.

707th 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.

Tuesday 04

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING with Susan Cashin talking about "South Africa, People, Places, and Plants." 9:30am. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 936-1190. \$3 (Free. members). www.austinherbsocietv.org.

FREE HEPATITIS C SCREENINGS These things usually cost a Benjamin, so get in line, kids. LifeWorks' Street Outreach program (partnered with the Liver Foundation of Central Texas) is offering them free to homeless youth. Come and get 'em. It could save your life. University Baptist Church, 2200 San Antonio. 478-8559. Free. www.lfct.org.

JEWISH ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE presents a viewing and discussion of *Promises*, a documentary that follows seven Israeli and Palestinian children living in and around Jerusalem. *Tpm. St.* Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr., 251-0698. Free. www.btvshalom.org/chapters/austin.

MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. 8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 507-B Pressler, 458-6336. \$10. www.tapestry.org.

PAST LIVES, DREAMS AND SOUL TRAVEL WORKSHOP Recall past life lessons for help today, interpret your dreams via Soul Travel. 7-8:30pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 111 W. Anderson, Ste. E-349A, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

REIKI EXCHANGE 7:15-8:45pm. 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

TOUR OF MEDITATION PRACTICES Participants will explore one new approach to meditation each meeting. 6:15-7pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org. BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM 371-9803. www.diamondway.org/austin.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS Manos de Christo, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-7454. Free.

FREE YOGAI Through Jan. 8. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 440-1269. Free. www.austinyoga.org. (See Monday)

THEATRE (See Arts Listings) The Dionysium The Ritz

MUSIC (See Music Listings) Cowboy Johnson Broken Spoke



METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: GET FIT FOR BUSINESS 7-8:30am. UT Club, sixth floor, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, 2108 E. Robert Dedman,

479-9460. \$15-25. www.mbcaustin.org. NO KIDDING! GAME NIGHT Sick of hanging around with your breeder friends and their squalling brats? Come check out this social club for couples and singles who, for whatever reasons, are not parents. No drool on the Huggermugger! 7-9pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 294-7930.

Free. www.austinnokidding.org. ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS Manos de Christo, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-7454. Free.

FREE YOGAI Through Jan. 8. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 440-1269. Free. www.austinyoga.org. (See Monday)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts) Butridge Gallery, Cafe Josie

MUSIC (See Music Listings) Things That Go Pop Red Eyed Fly Karaoke Apocalypse: The Dead Motley Sex Maidens Beerland



CASA VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE TRAINING

SESSION Even if you mised the CASA open house, (see Monday) you can still help child victims by being a powerful voice in their lives. No previous experience or education is necessary to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate. 9:30am-noon. CASA of *Travis County, 6330 Hwy 290 E. #350, 459-2272.* www.casatravis.org.

CREATIVITY WITH CLAY 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$20. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOY DIET Regular columnist for the magazine O, Martha Beck outlines daily practices she thinks will make your life more joyful, resulting in physical health, peace of mind, and healthy relationships. 7:30-9pm. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 258-7243. Free.

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS Manos de Christo, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-7454. Free.

FREE YOGA! Through Jan. 8. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 440-1269. Free. www.austinyoga.org. (See Monday) INSIDE BOOKS NIGHT Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.

SCHIZOPHRENICS ANONYMOUS 825-8371. Free.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts) D Berman Gallery

MUSIC (See Music Listings) Ethan Azarian Hole in the Wall

Ongoing Events

FREE ADMISSION AT LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER Through Jan. 31. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES Free. www.claimandsave.org.

INAUGURATE THIS! encourages participation in a campaign leading up to events here and in D.C. on the Big Day. The recipe is something like this: 1) Host, or encourage organizations you are a part of to host, educational activities like teachins, panel discussions, or salons regarding issues that are important to you. 2) Promote the event by spreading the information everywhere you can think of, including the Web sites listed here. www.thirdcoastactivist.org/groups.html, www.progressiveaustin.org/orgs.htm.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS The John Henry Faulk Central Library and the Austin History Center of the Austin Public Library will be closed through Sat.. Jan 1. Austin Public Library, various locations.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: THE ROAD TO THE PROMISED LAND Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

THE AUSTIN LONESTARS RUGBY FOOTBALL

CLUB is Austin's inclusive men's rugby team, welcoming new players regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, athletic experience, or rugby experience. Want to learn rugby, get fit, and have lots of fun in the process? Stop by practice and see what you think. Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30pm, Zilker Park, www.lonestarsrugby.org

THE AUSTIN VALKYRIES WOMEN'S RUGBY

CLUB invites all interested players to come and check out their practices, which are held at Burnet Middle School. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, www.austinvalkyries.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. UNLV: Mon., Jan. 2, 7pm. Vs. Memphis: Thu., Jan. 6, 8pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Women's Basketball Vs. Rutgers: Mon., Jan. 2, 1pm. Vs. Kansas: Wed., Jan. 5, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Frank Erwin Center, 1701

Red River, 471-7744. www.texassports.com

AUSTIN ICE BATS Vs. Laredo: Sat., Jan. 1, 7:35pm. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln., 977-PUCK. \$10-35. www.icebats.com.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. University of Mary Hardin-Baylor: Tue., Jan. 4, 7pm. Women's Basketball Vs. Wheaton College: Mon., Jan. 3, 5:30pm. athletics.concordia.edu/athletics.htm.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Texas Woman's University:

Thu., Dec. 30, 5:30pm. Men's Basketball Vs. Concordia University: Thu., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Southwestern Classic: Thu., Dec. 30. www.southwestern.edu/athletics.

RECREATION & FITNESS

CASTLE HILL FITNESS FREE CLASSES Cardio Kickboxing, Tuesdays, 7am & Saturdays, 11:30am; Circuit Training, Thursdays, noon; Cardiocycling, Saturdays, 9:30am; and Beginner Yoga, Sundays, 11:30am. No membership required. Join their free weekly training ride on varying terrain, typi-cally about 30 or 40 miles with a varied menu of workouts held each Sunday at various locations in Austin. Rides are safe, on roads with a wide shoulder. Experienced cyclists share their knowledge and love of the sport. All levels are welcome. Sundays, 8:45am. For locations and dates, call 478-4567. www.castlehillfitness.com

REI LECTURES & CLINICS Climb Like a Girl Some of the top rock and mountain climbers in the world are female. In the spirit of women and adventure, REI will host a women-only climbing day every Tuesday. If you're a veteran or a beginner, come meet other women who enjoy Austin's most popular sport. It's free if you have your own shoes. The first two Tuesdays of every month are for women 18 and older, the second two Tuesdays are for those 18 and younger. Tue., Jan. 4, 6pm. Free, unless noted. REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 343-5550 or 467-7421. www.rei.com/stores/ austin/index.html.

HOOPZONE is a nonprofit organization committed to providing the best basketball training experience for Austin's youth. Come by and check out their facility, which consists of 23,000 square feet of gym space, 11 basketball hoops, a strength and conditioning center, two regulation-sized courts, and much more. Improve your fundamental skills and have fun learning the game. HoopZone, 826 Rutland, 837-5553. www.hoopzone.net.

AUSTIN FLOORBALL CLUB Described as a safe version of floor hockey, floorball is a fast-paced, coed team sport that is played indoors on foot using lightweight plastic sticks and a Wiffle ball. The rules are easy to learn, and there is no physical contact. A basic floorball stick is provided; all you need to bring is a pair of sneakers. Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45pm. Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman. \$8, Free, first time. www.austinfloorball.com

10-WEEK FITNESS KICKBOXING BOOT CAMP Register now to get in shape by bathing suit sea-son. Professional martial artists will help you reach your goals. Create your own class schedule from 14 different training times a week. Begins Jan. 8.

Austin Martial Arts Academy, 327-2900. \$295. www.austinmartialarts.com

FREE WORKOUT DAYS AT 24 HOUR FITNESS Time to work off the extra poundage packed on during the holidays with a little good ol' fashioned exercise. 24 Hour Fitness is offering their gym free of charge for this brief introductory period. Thu.-Sat., Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Any location. www.24hourfitness.com.

ACC GOLF CLASSES Find your swing and possibly a new hobby. Classes focus on swing set-up, including proper grip and alignment. The last class takes place on a golf course. No experience necessary. A self-paced course. Saturday and evening classes forming for January through March. 223-7542. www.austincc.edu/ce.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

THE AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION has plenty of bicycling activities to offer this bikeloving city. Check their Web site for details. www.austincycling.org/rides.html.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. Check their Web site for details. www.wildbasin.org.

AUSTIN CRITICAL MASS is a monthly bicycle ride to celebrate cycling and to take back the streets It began in San Francisco in 1992 and quickly spread to cities all over the world. Critical Mass first appeared in Austin in October 1993. Every last Friday of the month. Fri., Dec. 31, 5pm. The UT West Mall where it meets Guadalupe (between 22nd and 23rd streets). www.criticalmassrides.info/austin.html

RESOLUTION RUN 5K The party is over. Enforce those resolutions while they are still fresh. Check Web site for details. Sat., Jan. 1, 11am. 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock, 512/736-4973. \$20. www.resolution5k.com

MEALS ON WHEELS has been delivering hot meals to the homebound for more than 30 years, a tireless feat made possible only by the donated time of good-hearted people like ... you! And, even if you don't have time aplenty, you can still help: Donations for Meals on Wheels are being accepted at all Girling Health Care locations through the end of the year. Girling Health Care, 3410 Far West Blvd., 342-0331; 3307 Northland Dr. #260, 454-3581; Meals on Wheels and More, 3227 E. Fifth, 476-6325. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org.

SANTA'S RANCH Whoa, what's that we hear? Roll down the window, it's a Christmas lights tour. Texas-style! Drive through 10 acres of glowing elves, rocking reindeer, and the like. Get your yule tied-on early. Through Jan. 2, Sun.-Thu., 6-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 6-11pm. South I-35, exit 199. 830/743-1293. \$12, vehicle (\$32, season pass). www.santasranch.net.

VICTORY GRILL'S KWANZAA CELEBRATION Through Jan. 1. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 542-0098.

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT is a place where amateur cyclists can learn how to fix their own set of wheels and old pros can utilize the well-stocked shop.

Hours: Mondays, 6-10pm; Tuesdays, 5-8pm (familyfocus); Wednesdays, 6-10pm; Thursdays, 6-10pm; Fridays, 7-10pm. Yellow Bike Project, 2013 E. 51st, 457-9880. Free.

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 Jan. 13 issue is Monday, Jan. 3. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

The Gav Place: Kate X Messer or Kate Getty gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Sports: Mark Fagan, gameplans@austinchronicle.com Everything else: Diana Welch, commpage@austinchronicle.com Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com

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THE SCULPTURE ACADEMY OF AUSTIN CLASSES START IN JANUARY

> STONE CARVING CERAMIC SCULPTURE WOODCARVING SCULPTURAL WELDING FIGURE SCULPTURE BRONZE CASTING FIGURE DRAWING MANY MORE

GIVE THE GIFT OF ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS www.sculptureacademy.com (512) 419-7373 4910 BURNET RD

New Year's Eve Events * by Wells Dunbar

As the new year prepares to supplant the past twelve months in our regimented pageant of recorded history – although, let's face it, there's really nothing more than an eternal *now*, and all the rest is an illusion fomented by our meat-bound perceptions, an illusion we've thoroughly bought into and amplified through calendars and datebooks and always the deepest treachery of clocks, clocks, clocks – as the annum's final numeral starts its shift from a 4 to a 5 (thank you very much, Pope Gregory) we present a gathering of party options to help you celebrate the blessed event.

As with our offerings last year, this compilation was rendered by the sharp research and skillful prose of our man Wells Dunbar, who's lately wishing he were cloned so as to enjoy a greater possibility of attendance for himself (or, rather, himselves), since so many of these party ops are truly tempting with all the fun and drunken camaraderie they promise. Aw yeah, check 'em and see ...

- Wayne Alan Brenner

* Lotels & Resorts =

AUSTIN SOCIAL SCENE This singles and couples consortium has been at it for 14 years, hosting its share of memorable evenings. This year is no different, with the action starting at the DoubleTree Inn at 7pm. Enjoy four bands, several cash bars, and quality people and professionals. *Austin Social Scene*, 331-7890. \$35 (\$229 and up, hotel packages). www.austinsocialscene.com.

BARTON CREEK RESORT Home to exceptional golf greens, this luxurious spa is hosting one heck of a New Year's bash. Along with all of the amenities a luxurious spa has to offer, there is a breakfast buffet and a New Year's gala (with martinis!), a three-course meal (with dessert!) and, but of course, the obligatory midnight toast. Gala, *7pm-1am. Barton Creek Resort, 8212 Barton Club, 329-4616. From \$214. www.bartoncreek.com.*

BED & BREAKFAST POOL & SPA offers a lovely way to let go of the old and welcome the new – with a private hot tub, fireplaces, in-room champagne & chocolate strawberries, and massage, that is. On a night that can be filled with stress, this place offers a go-out-and-sleep-in respite spelled c-o-m-f-o-r-t. *Bed & Breakfast Pool & Spa*, 1309 *Meriden*, 499-0081. \$300, couple for two-night package. www.bnbspa.com.

CARRIAGE HOUSE INN The bed & breakfast experts at Carriage House are ready to whisk 2004 away. Reserve one of their whirlpool (yes, whirlpool!) suites for the weekend and enjoy in-room snacks and appetizers, complimentary wine or champagne, and a brunch buffet Saturday, before watching Texas duke it out in the Rose Bowl at the Carriage's catered party. Sleep it off, then enjoy their fantastic, full-service country breakfast come Sunday. *472-2333*. \$379, couple. www.carriagehouseinn.org.

THE DRISKILL Austin's historic Driskill Hotel is offering two to-die-for dinners for the foodie in your family. Their first seating, starting at 5:30, contains five courses of haute cuisine, while their late seating offers seven. Both meals at Driskill's renowned Grill come with a bottle of bubbly for two. *The Driskill, 604 Brazos,* 474-5911. \$95, five-course seating; \$185, seven-course seating; an additional \$270-355, hotel accommodations. www.driskillhotel.com.

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Once again, the Intercontinental serves up enticing options: a fancy dinner in their lovely Cafe Julienne, and a more informal affair in their Stephen F. bar, with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a midnight toast, and pianist Margaret White. Dinner, 6-9pm; Party, 8pm-2am. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8880. \$99, dinner; \$44.95, party. www.austin.intercontinental.com.

JET SET NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Fresh from their success last year, the party people at Strangetribe Productions and Burn the Box Movement are hosting their second Jet Set New Year's Eve, an inclusive 24-hour experience at the downtown Omni Hotel. Revelers check in the 31st and enjoy a sumptuous dinner before grooving to the likes of JahMighty, DJ Manny, DJ Trey Lopez, and breakbeat bruisers Thunderball. *Omni Hotel Downtown, 700 San Jacinto, 476-3700.* \$90-250. www.jetsetnewyears.com.

LAKE AUSTIN SPA RESORT is offering serious comfort for its overnight guests. That's nothing new, really, but *tonight*, after taking part in any of the usual 17 activities (yoga, dance, water work, or incredible spa treatments, just to name a few), you can mellow out to pianist-singer-songwriter Daniele Alexander or ceremonially immolate all 2004's regrets in their symbolic Fire Pit ritual. Great Rumi, it's a panoply of pampering for your body and your soul. *Lake Austin Spa Resort*, 1705 S. *Quinlan Park*, 372-7300. \$550.

RADISSON HOTEL & SUITES In the heart of downtown, the ultraconvenient, remodeled Radisson has packages to send off '04. Along with a one-bedroom suite, overlooking Town Lake and bat-colony Congress Avenue bridge, party people partake of free parking and a full breakfast buffet at downstairs' TGI Friday's. We can't think of better hangover food. *Radisson, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 478-9611.* \$189, one-bedroom suite. www.radisson.com/austintx.

RENAISSANCE AUSTIN HOTEL Want to get away from it all without leaving town? The luxurious, recently renovated Renaissance has the answer with their brunch packages. Accommodations, valet service, champagne, and, yes, brunch are all included at the lovely Arboretum-area hotel. *Renaissance Hotel*, 9721 *Arboretum*, 343-2626. \$199-239.

aleries

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AN EVENING WITH THE GOURDS The beery-eyed Americana of the Gourds is taking center stage at Stubb's. Rock out and hunker down on a buffet of Stubb's rightly famous and righteously tasty BBQ, then wash it down with gratis champagne come midnight. *Stubb's Bar-B-Q, 801 Red River, 480-8341.* \$30. www.frontgatetickets.com.

ANCHOVIES is the spot for adventurous couples to swing into the new year. The theme is "formal party with lingerie," so plan on undressing to the nines as the evening proceeds. Hot hors d'oeuvres are available, as are setups, so bring your own bottle. Additionally, lodging at the Four Points by Sheraton is being organized, so book your room now. Nonmembers must join at the door before entry. Anchovies, 7804 Springdale, 928-9876. \$60, couples (\$20, single women. Membership starts at \$50, couples; \$25, women. No single male memberships). www.anchoviesaustin.com.

BALL DROP BENEFITING LESBIAN GAY RIGHTS LOBBY OF TEXAS The LGRL invites all to groove to Houston's DJ Mark Goebe and queer country troubadour Michael Clay. Admission comes with two drink tickets, plentiful hors d'oeuvres, and a flute of the bubbly, so who are we to say no? Additional patronage levels come with extra goodies. 9pm-1am. 600 Harthan at Sixth, 474-5475. From \$40. www.lgrl.org.

BROWN BAR The swanksters at the Brown Bar are hosting a sexy, Studio 54-themed evening with party favors, a midnight champagne toast, and DJ Steven Ripley spinning the hits of the era. Appropriate attire is encouraged, so dust off that shock-white Warhol wig and come on down. *Brown Bar*, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330. \$10 (\$30-75, reserved table).

CAROUSEL LOUNGE This Eastside institution has a free toast at midnight, party favors, and the Greatest American Heroes rocking you into '05. Be sure to pick up a bottle from the liquor store on your way in, as the Carousel is a setup bar, friend. *Carousel Lounge*, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. \$5.

CEDAR STREET COURTYARD For your listening pleasure, the Atlantics perform vintage soul and R&B standards along with newer favorites. Sip on one of the Courtyard's plentiful martinis, and enjoy. 9pm. Cedar Street, 208 W. Fourth, 236-8776. \$30 (\$20, advance).

www.cedarstreetaustin.com

CHARLIE'S The stalwart gay bar keeps doing what it does best – hosting good times at a great price, with some of the best service in Austin. \$1 drinks, free champagne, five stories of free parking, and three balloon drops make for a very happy New Year's. *Charlie's*, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. \$10. www.charliesaustin.com.

COMMON INTEREST KARAOKE BAR For a paltry sum, you're in on Austin's bestkept secret. The Interest is a karaoke bar unparalleled, a place where pros and newbies alike hone their skills. This year, cover includes the traditional Southern supper of combread & black-eyed peas, along with a countdown toast. *Common Interest*, 8440 *Burnet Rd.*, 453-6796. \$5.



CONTINENTAL CLUB is putting on the ritz down SoCo way this eve with those rockin' Iguanas and Gary Clark Jr. Also included is a midnight flute of champagne. *Continental Club*, 1315 S. *Congress*, 441-2444. \$20. www.continentalclub.com/Austin.html.

CUBA LIBRE is hosting a fantastic salsafueled evening. Partake of a prix-fixe dinner menu, before taking it to the Cuba Lounge, where the DJ oversees a balloon drop and midnight toast. *Caliente!* 6pm. *Cuba Libre*, 409 *Colorado*, 472-2822. \$20-30.

DALLAS The country-tinged partygoers are hosting a hoedown! Reserved seating includes champagne, a midnight breakfast buffet, and a limo to nearby Summerfield Suites by Wyndham, where you're encouraged to book. And noisemakers! Yeehaw! Dallas, 7113 Burnet Rd., 452-2801. \$10 (\$15, reserved seats). www.dallasnightclub.net

ELEPHANT ROOM Getcher placement in the basement as this Congress Avenue home of jazz features the scorching sounds of Blaze, noisemakers, and a champagne toast. *Elephant Room*, 315 Congress, 473-2279. \$15.

FLAMINGO CANTINA The home to all things reggae and hardcore on Sixth Street is gearing up for an *irie* holiday. Tribal Nation and Mau Mau Chaplains kick out the jams, and Flamingo drops the midnight balloons and homestyle Jamaican jerk chicken. 8pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. \$8.

GLITTER PARTY AT SIDEKICKS New kid on the gay-bar block, Sidekicks antes up with a \$1,000 balloon drop, complimentary champagne, male and female dancers, floor shows, DJs on both dance floors, and more – all for a paltry tenner. No wonder we already love them. *Sidekicks/Xtreme*, 110 *E. Riverside*, 804-2707, 947-2594. \$10.

HOLIDAY POPS WITH BJ THOMAS Performer of timeless standards like "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," "I Just Can't Help Believin'," and "Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song," the seemingly timeless Thomas swings into the Palmer Events Center in time to croon adieu to 2004. Can I get an ooga-chaka, people? Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$20. www.austinsymphony.org.

LOVEJOY'S The brewpub in which to "celebrate your vices" is cleaning up real nice

for the holidays, with chef Garrick Ogburn preparing delicacies from across the globe, and DJ Bill Bradley soundtracking the proceedings. Along with a toast, two drinks are included in the low cover price. As it will sel out, make reservations over the phone or in person. Cheers! *Lovejoy*'s, 604 Neches, 477-1268, \$25.

MÁLAGA Austin's authentic tapas bar invites you to partake in the "grape tradition" – an old-world superstition where eating 12 grapes after midnight brings luck and prosperity for the new year. Also included are those grapes' bubbly liquid cousin and party favors. 9pm. Málaga Tapas & Bar, 208 W. Fourth, 236-8020. \$15.

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL

Living up to its mantra of "no bad days," this Spicewood smokehouse has Billy Joe Shaver, Stiffy Williams, and Michael Klein twangin' in the new year. Cover also includes a full buffet from Poodie's and a toast come midnight. *Poodie's Hilltop Bar* & Grill, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318. \$45.

poodieshilltop.homestead.com

SABA This warehouse district favorite is making for an inexpensive, unforgettable evening. With admission comes party favors, the toast, a DJ, and some of the best people-watching in downtown Austin. *9pm. Saba Blue Water Cafe, 208-D W. Fourth, 478-7222.* \$10.

SAXON PUB South Austin favorite the Saxon is hosting a soiree far away from all that Sixth Street hubbub. Jon Dee Graham and Guy Forsyth hold court for the evening, cover includes party favors and a glass of bub, and you know *their* blues will chase any of your blues away. Saxon Pub, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552. \$20.

SPEAKEASY Hidden in plain sight, the swingin' Speakeasy is hosting their annual gala, this year with Dysfunkshun Junkshun. Expect party favors, an insane balloon drop, and a midnight toast. *Tpm-2am.* Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 476-8017. \$40 (\$30, advance; \$60, reserved table seating).

TAMBALEO brings in the funk with the soulful jazz of Topaz and special guest DJ Resinthol spinning your favorite old-school jams. You'll get some free champizzle and party favors, too. 8:30. Tambaleo, 302 Bowie, 472-3213. \$12.

I heatre, (omedy, and More

BLACK & WHITE BASH With live music from Nancy Scott, Therapy Sisters, Susan Colton, Wishing Chair, and Melissa Sigler, this party will have you dancing well into the night in your black and/or white finest. Plus, there will be party favors, a cash bar, door prizes and 50/50 raffles, a contest for best black-and-white getup, appetizer and dessert buffet, champagne toast, and midnight brunch. Whew. See you there. 8pm. MCC Austin at Freedom Oaks, 601 S. First, 291-8601.

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB The late show at Cap City promises to have you guffawing into '05, with the very funny J.R. Brow, Austin's own Jimmy Roulette, and host Chris Allan. Also included is a buffet, the bubbly, and a free pass to any Cap City show in the new year. Now that's no laughing matter. *10:30pm. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research, 467-2333.* \$40. www.capcitycomedy.com.

GAG REFLEX Local laugh collective Gag Reflex is ready to satirically skewer '04 in a two-hour performance titled "The Bipolar Express" at the Drafthouse's Lake Creek locale. Door prizes, libations, and food (from the Alamo's awesome kitchen) abound postshow, as you count down with the crew to 2005. 9pm. Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-5408. \$40 (\$75, couple).

THE HEROES OF COMEDY Austin's beloved microconsortium of improvisers bids adieu to the old year and gives the new year a roiling welcome with a roomful of kinetic, off-the-cuff shenanigans for your comedy pleasure. It's live, fast, funny, and capped by a champagne toast when the fateful digits click 2004 into history. *Fri., Dec.* 31, 10:30pm. The *Hideout Theater,* 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$15. www.hideouttheatre.com.

KEITH & MARGO'S MURDER MYSTERY DINNER & DANCE They're back! Keith & Margo's Murder Mystery is an interactive dinner theatre where the audience must determine whodunit between gournet eats, DJs, dancing, and a New Year's toast. But with luxe Omni Southpark as the locale, we see few rushing to leave the scene of the crime. Head to the Web site for reservation info. 8:30pm. Omni Austin Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 488-2222. \$267, couple for show & dinner, \$327, couple for show, dinner, and Omni accommodations.

www.murdermysterytexas.com/austinNYE.html

LAUGH OUT LOUD DINNER THEATRE gives you a chance for some out-of-town (but still damn close to home) partying as they present a music-filled celebration, in which Father Time and Baby New Year compare and contrast the pop music styles of the past century-and-a-twentieth, out in Georgetown, oh yes, with delicious edibles, bountiful bubbly, and karaoke-spiced shenanigans. Whether you're a wizened geezer or a wet-behind-the-ears punk, LOL will give you a chance to party like it's, er, 2005. *Tpm. The Gardens, 109 W. Seventh, Georgetown, 512/763-1147.* \$30 (\$25, *in advance*). www.thegardens.biz.

PAGEANT FUNDRASIER This New Year's event has it all: entertainment, comedy, music, food, prizes, and a good cause. The audience will be treated to the much-talked-about drag musical, followed by an hour of cabaret-style performances, food and champagne, a silent auction (boasting Bernadette Peters' red cowboy boots and Reba McEntire's earrings, among other things), and other fundraising contests to support the East Austin theatre. *Arts on Real,* 2826 *Real (behind Flatbed Press),* 472-2787. \$40.

ZACHARY SCOTT THEATRE With two stages of theatrical goodness, who could choose? Perennial favorite *The Santaland Diaries* now features Rob Williams, late of the beloved *Flaming Idiots* as the Little Macy's Elf, while the Kleberg Stage features *Rockin' Christmas Party*, "the Rock-n-Soul Holiday Family Musical." Both feel-good performaces come with champagne. (See our Theatre listings, p.64, for more.) 9pm. Call for prices. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. www.zachscott.com.

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AMERICAN YELLOW CHECKER CAB makes for a safe celebration once again with their Sober Ride program. Passengers must be 21 or older, with the fare under \$30 – otherwise be prepared to pay the difference. And, hey you! This ain't no party train, just a ride home. *11pm-3am. American Yellow Checker Cab* Co., *452-9999*.

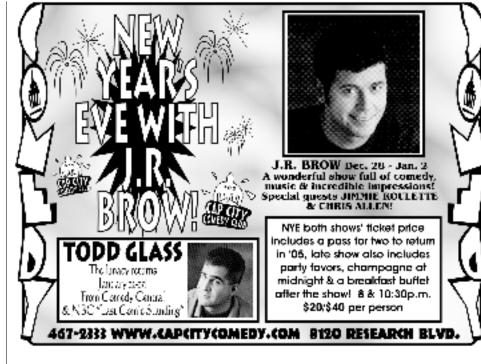


helping to keep the streets safe with free rides after 6pm on all its routes – including their newly added Night Owl lines that run into the wee first hours of 2005. Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2910 E. Fifth, 389-7400.

CAPITAL METRO Austin's transportation authority is

AUSTIN ROCK GYM Kick-start your kids' fitness resolutions with this overnight lock-in that'll have them literally climbing the walls. The indoor climbing facility is offering unlimited trips to their well-appointed verticals, plus (at their south location) food and drink. Give 'em enough rope, as they say, and they'll *enjoy* themselves! Check the ARG Web site for requirements. *8pm*-*7am. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. \$30.* www.austinrockgym.com







arts listings

Theatre

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

OPENING

THE DIONYSIUM kicks off the new year in roaring fine style. L.B. Deyo & Buzz Moran's monthly turbosalon of arts and declaiming features, this time 'round, the cogent insights of linguist Cheryl Moran on "American English," a stirring rendition of JFK's inaugural speech by (*Chronicle* Arts editor) Robert Faires, a wine ritual 'n' prayer to Dionysus, a series of 10-minute stories corralled on the spot by *Two-Note* Solo's Henri Mazza, and – by no means least – a debate (Resolved: The Government Should Fund the Arts) between Salvage Vanguard Theater's Jason Neulander and the *Austin American-Statesman*'s own Michael Barnes. As ever, the dynamo of musical innovation named Graham Reynolds will provide the live soundtrack to these heady doings. *Tue., Jan. 4*, 9pm. *The Ritz*, 320 *E. Sixth*, 708-0831. www.dionysium.com.

SONNY'S LAST SHOT is Lawrence Wright's raucous, ribald, and thoroughly bipartisan skewering of Texas politics, and it's back (triumphantly, as they say) for another go at stirring up your joy of theatre and disgust of government. It's a comedy, of course, which is just as well: With the state of things in our country today, if we weren't laughing, we'd be bawling our eyes out, *nu*? Directed by Marco Perella. *Jan. 6-Feb. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. The State Theater, 719 Congress, 472-7134.* www.sonnyslastshot.com.

CLOSING

A TUNA CHRISTMAS It's 24 hours before Christmas, and all your favorite *Tuna* characters are driving one another nuts trying to cope with the seasonal trauma. Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, reprising their original roles (all the many of them), will drive you nuts with laughter in this down-home comedy classic. *Through Jan. 5. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$23-43.25.* www.austintheatrealliance.org.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL ROASTING ON AN OPEN

FIRE Now this is different. Mind-boggling in its execution, too, probably, as it's the creation of Austin's favorite multiple personality, Rob Nash, who interprets Dickens' story through impersonations of classic dead movie stars – cross-genderedly, even. Which means, for instance, that "Bette Davis" will play Scrooge, "Joan Crawford" will play Marley's Ghost, "Humphrey Bogart" will play Belle, "Cary Grant" will play Mrs. Crachit, and so on. Such an ambitious gambit (which also includes W.C. Fields, Clara Bow, the Three Stooges, Ingrid Bergman, and more) would likely result in dull failure, except that it's Rob Nash. We know he'll work this one-man performative miracle to side-splitting effect, which is why we're making our reservations early, and why we recommend that you do the same. Through Jan. 2. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. No performance Christmas Eve. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$5-25. www.vortexrep.org.

ZACH SCOTT'S ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY It's the dozenth year for this annual Zach tradition of "MoTown in YoTown for the Ho-Ho-Holidays," directed, as always, by Dave "Hard Workin'' Steakley and featuring a bevy of *Beehivers* knocking out the standards and raising high the reindeer-laden rooftop.

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 Jan. 13 issue is Monday, Jan. 3**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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



Shake, rattle, and roll down Santa Claus Lane with new sights, sounds, and songs sure to provide one helluva jingle-bellin', snowballin', booty-shakin' yuletide extravaganza. Through Jan. 2. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Special New Year's Eve performance: Fri. Dec. 31, 9pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$25-45.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES Former Flaming Idiot Rob Williams takes over the torch, so to speak, from former elf Martin Burke this year, bringing his own particular shade of wisecrackery to the role of (possibly) the world's most bitter Macy's elf, in David Sedaris' hilarious hit show, directed by Dave Steakley and featuring the dulcet tones of Meredith McCall. With Jason Conner on piano. *Through Jan.* 2. Wed.-Sat., Bpm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-40. www.zachscott.com.

PAGEANT The drag show to end all drag shows returns to Austin to brighten your cross-dressing holidays like a festive pink triangle in a world of drab gray squares. Who will be the winner in this parody of beauty pageants penned by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly? Will it be Miss Bible Belt? Will it be Miss Industrial Northeast? Will it be Miss Small Town? Or will it be one of the other queenly contestants giving it their unmitigated, sequin-spangled all under the direction of Stuart Moulton? You'll have to be there to find out, because you, the audience, get to vote on who gives best evidence of superlative fabulosity. *Through Jan. 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$25.*

ONGOING

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy,

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

brenner@austinchronicle.com

film@austinchronicle.com.

Marc Savlov, film classes, instruction, events.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical,

dance-classical@austinchronicle.com

Ric Williams, litera, litera@austinchronicle.com

Jacqueline May, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com

Ouestions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor,

MY SHOW has former Flaming Idiot Rob Williams, currently appearing in Zach Scott's Santaland Diaries and thus having ever so much time on his talented hands (?), using his Monday nights off to host a live variety/talk show of his very own, featuring local comedians, celebrities, politicians, and a few of the local characters who really do keep Austin weird. *Mondays, 8pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey,* 476-0541 x1. \$10. www.tendollarmonkey.com.

 What's a Dionysium?
 Well, sometimes, when it's outside, it
 looks like this; but the lively salon's latest incarnation – at the Ritz on Tuesday – will let you see for yourself.

AUDITIONS

WAITING ... is the latest script from Shanon Weaver, to be directed by Melissa Livingston for a chick & a dude productions in February and March. It's about "what happens when you die and what you can take with you and what you must leave behind." They're looking for two males (ages 25-45) and a female (age 20-30). Prepare two contrasting monologues (no more than five minutes total). Call for appt. Sat., Jan. 8, 10am-2pm; Tue., Jan. 11, 6:30-9:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 444-6920. chickanddude@hotmail.com.

GYPSY BABY: THE SILENT TREATMENT Gypsy Baby's looking for actors for their April 2005 production of this new play by Lindsay Kayser; it's an extension of their ongoing New Bob Project. The play, to be workshopped in January and rehearsed in February, will alternate from a "black and white, silent film world and a real color world." They're looking for circa 1920 silent-film stereotypes: a big daddy, a female journalist, a tall leading lady, a Mary Pickford, a glib gay guy, a dashing leading man, a wise older woman, a stagehand, a mysterious drug dealer, a mousy never-the-star girl, and performers to play multiple chorus parts such as film producers, stage hands, and dancers. Prepare a monologue or a side. E-mail for more information or appt. Mon., Jan. 10, 6:30-9:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. susie@gypsybaby.com.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

MI CASA ES SU TEATRO is the part of FronteraFest that happens in private homes and public spaces around Austin. The events range from site-specific theatre, film screenings, improv comedy, dance pieces among the living room furniture, oh, you name it. Actually, you can present it (on Sat., Feb. 5) if you've got what it takes. Got a performance idea you'd like to put into action? Contact *Mi Casa* coordinator Greg Romero via e-mail, and he'll hook you up. Quickly, though: He's under a scheduling deadline of Sat., Jan. 15, so you'd do well to get in touch way before then. gregmero@mail.utexas.edu.

ACTING III: WILLIE THE SHAKE Austin Community College has acting classes available in January from Guy Roberts and W.T. Bryant, focusing on Shakespeare and culminating in a workshop production. They're also offering a Stage Make-Up class on Saturdays around that time. Check the ACC Web site for course schedules and registration information. Registration deadline: Jan. 5. www.austin.cc.tx.us.

Comedy

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

J.R. Brow You want comedy? This guy's got it. Local boy makes good better, local man makes better best. Why, this kooky palooka nukes the cold numb doldrums of Christmastime to a warm rummy glow, chum. With Jimmy Roulette, too. Dec. 29-Jan. 2. Wed.-Thu. & Sun., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

Ron Morey is coming to town so you can get a chance to see him when he's naughty and when he's nouring his effervescent comedy juice into that big funnel of microphone onstage. And the opener? It's Mario DiGiorgio, ladies & gentlemen! Jan. 4-8. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies Well, they've got one of the best, maybe the best, New Year's shows in town, folks. But that's likely why it's already sold out. You'll want to catch them a tad later in January, though: The riotous troupe will be back soon, and more spectacular than ever.

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.heroescomedy.com.

The Heroes of Comedy are also taking a wee breakie, mon, although you can probably still catch their year-end show this very Friday (See our New Year's listings, p.60 for more).

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

Comedy Open Mic Do you dare enter ... the house of (putative) mirth? More than a dozen comics will be going up and giving it their three minutes' worth for your joy or their embarrassment on this last Cheese Palace show of 2004. *Thu., Dec. 30, 10pm.*

Doug Mellard comes from Plano, but don't hold that against him, and he'll make you laugh your ass off with skewed bits on Ford Truck Month and sea monkeys and especially his familar-to-us-all alter-ego, "Drunk Doug." With Carlos Ibanez and Jeremy Neal. Sat., Jan. 1, 9:30 & 11:30pm.

Dance

BY ROBI POLGAR

1,001 NIGHTS

GREEN MUSE CAFE Join Eshta! for spirited belly dancing with live music. All ages, no cover. *Every* second Friday, 8-10pm. Green Muse Cafe, 503 E. Oltorf, 912-7789.

ALBORZ PERSIAN CUISINE Also hosting a regular dance night of the *rak sharki* variety, Alborz invites patrons to sup on fine Persian delicacies and stare at talented dancers. Saturdays, 8pm. Alborz Persian Cuisine, 3300 W. Anderson, 420-2222. Free.

EAST MEETS TEXAS Zerehade and her friends perform, and O'Dell Bishop emcees. Plus, you can sample the free Mediterranean delicacies. Saturdays, 7-9:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 360-4387 or 474-7091. \$6. www.egoslounge.com.

PYRAMIDS MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT More weekend shimmying in the northern/central part of town. *Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm. Pyramids,* 6019 N. I-35, 302-9600.

PYRAMID'S CLEOPATRA LOUNGE It's an ongoing Mediterranean night party with the "hottest" belly dancers around, including Elena Klara and Melissa Amira, and added Arabic ambience – both musical and other (sheesha anyone?). *Fridays & Saturdays*, 10pm. The Pyramids, 709 E. Sixth, 494-8400. \$5.



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.....

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD invites you to this standing weekly dance. Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, and all ages welcome. Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. \$6 (\$4, members, students). www.austinballroomdancers.org.

DANCE CLASSES AT AUSTIN COMMUNITY COL-LEGE Study dance with some of Austin's finest choreographers and dancers at ACC. Classes are offered in modern, improvisation, ballet, jazz, and choreography, as well as our favorite: Anatomy for Dancers. Performance opportunities available. *Registration for the spring semester continues until Jan. 5. Classes* start Jan. 10. 223-3384. www.austincc.edu.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE

Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet

every Saturday night to kick their heels up, traditional style. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Frequent live music. Saturdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765. \$3. www.yastreb.com/tifd/alfd.html.

CONTEMPLATIVE DANCE PRACTICE Donna

Starnes leads a space and time and movement workshop conducted without music, where individuals alternate between stillness and meditation, personal movement and community dance. No experience required, just a willingness to play. Sun. Jan. 2, 4-7pm. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. By donation. www.niaspace.com.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Listen and groove to great Celtic music at this weekly social dance. Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet. First session free. www.austinscd.org.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE WEEKLY DANCE This is one (Lindy) hoppin' regular event, as a couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. Admission includes a beginner's lesson at the start of the evening. Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.

MORE ON THE FLOOR Think there's more going on here than meets the feet? Phone the danceline to see what can set your body in motion: presentations, workshops, master classes, and more. *416-5700 x3262*. Or check out the Movin' Easy calendar online. www.movineasy.com.

Classical Music

BY ROBI POLGAR

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY POPS: B.J. THOMAS Multi-Grammy winner Thomas sings songs you know, as well as a slew of songs you know you know, in this festive welcoming of the new year. Peter Bay conducts. Thu.-Fri., Dec. 30-31, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$20 general admission (table seating available, please call). www.austinsymphony.org.

NOTES & ENCORES

CHORUS AUSTIN AUDITIONS Audition for either or both of the upcoming CA concerts: Beethoven's *Symphony No.* 9 with the Austin Symphony Orchestra on March 18-19, and/or Handel's *Israel in Egypt* on May 21. Dr. Kenneth Sheppard, artistic director for Chorus Austin, will hold individual 15- to 20-minute auditions, call or e-mail Kenny Sheppard for additional information or to schedule an audition. Sat.-Sun., Jan. 8-9. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 512/863-1358. sheppark@southwestern.edu.

CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS ACCEPTING NEW SINGERS The CCMC has achieved a reputation for musical excellence and is a proud part of Austin's gay community. Now the group is looking for new voices for its Sweet Sixteen season. Tenors, baritones, and basses are welcome. Rehearsals are Monday nights. Open rehearsal for the spring concert: Mon., Jan. 10, 7:15pm. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th. 477-SING. www.cmcaustin.org.

UT CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY AUDITIONS

Experienced choral singers are invited to audition for the 2005 season, which includes the Fauré Requiem and the Vierne Messe Solennelle in February, and the Beethoven Choral Fantasy and the Mozart "Great" C Minor Mass in May. Auditions will include vocalizing, rhythm and pitch exercises, sight-reading, and a brief written assessment of basic music theory. Auditioners are asked to prepare one classical solo. An accompanist will be provided; please bring a copy of the music. Call for appt. Thursday evenings, Jan. 6 & 13. 471-0806. choirs@mail.music.utexas.edu.

CONSPIRARE: SEEKING SINGERS Conspirare is holding auditions for a June performance of Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* and Mahler's *Symphony No.* 2. Experienced singers may schedule an audition time by phone or e-mail. Audition dates: *Jan.* 10-12, 14, 18. Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition, 476-5775. yrojas@conspirare.org.

Litera

BY RIC WILLIAMS

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

TEXAS NAFAS ON TV Bryce Milligan of Wings Press and Roberto Bonazzi of Latitudes Press, who as publishers, critics, and editors have so generously supported the work of countless writers, finally take center stage in a rare reading of their own poetry at La Revolucion in San Antonio. *Saturdays, 11am & 10pm, Channel 16.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

WRITERS' LEAGUE WINTER CLASSES Register

today for the following classes and more. E-mail class: From Memory to Memoir With Paula Stallings Yost; six weeks, beginning Mon., Jan. 10; \$180 (\$135 members). Workshop: So You Want to Get Published With Russ Hall; Sat., Jan. 22, 9am-noon; \$90 (\$45 members). Class: Novel in Progress With Karen Stolz; eight weeks, beginning Wed., Jan. 26, 10am-noon; \$240 (\$195 members). Workshop: The Nuts, Bolts, and Designer Shoes of Chick Lit With Nina Foxx; Sat., Feb. 12, 9am-noon; \$90 (\$45, members). Writers' League of Texas, 1501 W. Fifth Ste. E-2. 499-8914.

www.writersleague.org/classes.htm.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE BALCONES POETRY PRIZE This award of \$1,000 recognizes an outstanding book of poetry published during a given year. Books of poetry in English of 42 pages or more may be submitted by author or publisher; send three copies; books must bear a publication date between Jan. 1, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2004. Reading fee: \$20, checks payable to Austin Community College. Address: John Herndon, Balcones Center for Creative Writing, Austin, 78701. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2005. 223-3376. www.austincc.edu/crw/balcones_prize.htm.

OPEN MICS

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091.* www.austinslam.com.

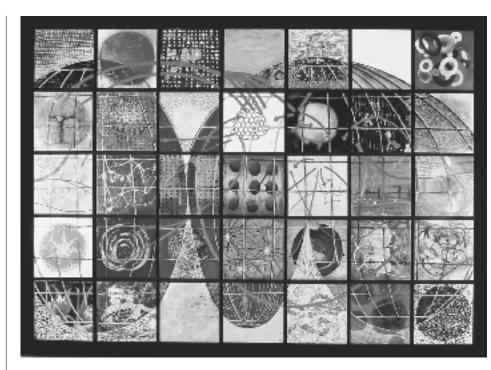
HIDEOUT MIC Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry. www.thehideout.org.

POETRY KARAOKE The Poetry Karaoke Orchestra will back your poetry on the porch, all kicked off by your host, Ivanho. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays*, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

RUTA MAYA OPEN MIC POETRY is the longest running weekly open mic in Austin. *Every Tuesday from* 6-8pm. Round Robin, 6-7pm; sign-up list, 7-8pm.

Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE South Flavas Entertainment presents a midweek open mic hosted by Love Robinson. Doors open at 7:30pm with the hottest sounds of Neo-Soul. *Wednesdays*, *9pm. Sahara Nightclub*, 900 E. Braker #170, 228-1940.



▲ Joseph Janson's complex *Migration* is among his oil-on-tin paintings on display (with works by Janet Kastner and Brad Ellis) in D Berman Gallery's newest exhibit.

WORLD BEAT CAFE Poetry round table hosted now by Kathleen Romana, in an African restaurant where Eden is always waiting in your heart. *Wednesdays*, 7-9pm. WorldBeat Cafe, 600 W. MLK, 236-0197.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

AUSTIN ZINE LIBRARY LOOKING FOR VOLUN-TEERS Come down to the Austin Zine Library on the Eastside and help look after 2,000 zines. Volunteers will help organize zines, facilitate check-ins (and outs), and generally watch over the place. They also need help passing out fliers and pamphlets around town. E-mail Josh for more: austinzinelibrary@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRYI & you have HUGE DRAGONS surrounding your castle with hugely thick protective walls & these dragons love you deeply. you found them long ago though you forgot as children are wont to when there are giants about, but the dragons didn't. they can't & they guard you always. (sometimes they even take the shape of a poet or a stranger) but they are there for you, for you alone are their heart & if you call upon them (for they can only act if you command) no one can do you any harm: no harm to you if you but call & they will obey you though mostly they sleep, just sleep (some say cats are dragonish) & the best use of them is simply to remind yourself they are there. it is their presence alone that has the real magic. dragons huge & loyal; dragons as old as stars & they are there for you alone. their presence the presence of the deepest love: the love creating you, this moment, & all things beloved. remember these dragons. know they have the strength of stars. know your heart is their beloved. welcome the new year. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

There was no doubt of who I am only I was to travel these pages of life, alone. Many tears of sadness and triumphs witnessed only by me in the gentle folds of a human nature made strong and weak. A patch worked blanket of silk and cotton threads covers me.

– judith

Visual Arts

BY JACQUELINE MAY

OPENING

BUTRIDGE GALLERY "Premeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment" features prints, paintings, and text by Malaquias Montoya dealing with the death penalty and penal institutions. Reception & lecture: *Fri., Jan.* 14, 6-8pm. Exhibit: Jan. 5-30. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.

D BERMAN GALLERY begins its sixth year with a trio of Austin artists who share the use of abstract imagery and vivid coloration: Brad Ellis, Joseph Janson, and Janet Kastner. Reception: *Thu., Jan. 6, 6-8pm.* Exhibit: *Through Feb.* 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

CLOSING

CAMP FIG'S POTLUCK 04 will feature too many artists to list, but you can bet that many of your favorite Figgy regulars will be among them, with each piece of art priced at \$100 or less. *Through Dec.* 31. 305-B E. Fifth, 698-0327. www.campfig.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM The works of guest artist Arturo Rivera are featured in "Collecting Latino Art," along with prints by 13 other very fine artists, produced in cooperation with Coronado Studios. In the back gallery is "Nacimentos," a display of folk nativity scenes from local collections. *Through Jan. 2.* 419 *Congress, 480-9373.*

ART ON 5TH now has "The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss" and "Rockwell's Americana" on display in their colorful gallery. Through Dec. 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

THE ESCAPIST BOOKSTORE presents full-color carnival photographs just the way they should be photographed and a blotter paper art collection called "Tripatorium," flown in from Chicago and featuring images by Alex Gray, the Melvins, Frank Kozik, and other artists of the underground. *Through Dec.* 31. 2209 S. First Ste. D, 912-1777. www.escapistbookstore.com.

BASS CONCERT HALL is hosting a display by the Creative Arts Society of Austin. *Through Jan. 3.* 301-6966. UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 471-1444. www.creativeartssociety.org.

STUDIO 107 presents "Holiday Punch," and, wow, with names like these, the punch is going to knock you out. Bennie Flores Ansel, Derek Boshier, Brian Bowers, Candace Briceno, Minh Carrico, Heyd Fontenot, Clair Gaston, Leona-Scull Hons, Elizabeth Joblin, Young-Min Kang, Rachel Koper, Shea Little, Andrew Long, Jamie Pettit, Joseph Phillips, Mel

Sotos, Amanda Stahl, and Jana Swec. Through Dec. 31. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092. www.studio107.com.

FRESH UP CLUB presents "Octopus's Garden," a large-scale installation by the fabulous Hana Hillerova. Closing reception: Jan. 5, 6-9pm. Exhibit: Through Jan. 5, 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater.

GALLERY SOCO currently has new works by all of their featured artists, including sensual fruit paintings by Sylvia Angeli, abstract horizons by Cheryl Tamborello, the second Nocturnal Journey series by Jeff Scott, abstract mixed media by Kevin Greer, and realism by blind artist Lisa Fittipaldi, whose new book A Brush With Darkness was just released. Through Dec. 31. 1714-A S. Congress, 442-5144. www.gallerysoco.com.

STEPHEN L. CLARK GALLERY "Keith Carter: New Work" is the latest in this photography-oriented venue. Through December. 1101 W. Sixth, 477-0828

OUTLAW PRINTMAKERS Some of the world's most talented printmakers – among them: Randy Bolton, Sue Coe, Tom Huck, David Sandlin – have their work displayed at the fierce printshop gallery called Slugfest. *Through Dec.* 31. 1906 *Miriam*, 477-7204

LINDA RUSSELL FINE ART GALLERY is a new space dedicated to a variety of visual art, including wildlife and domestic animal artwork by some of the city's most talented artists. *Through Dec.* 31. 2915 *Medical Arts*, 293-1263. www.lindarussell.net.

OSWALD GALLERY Photographer Ken Rosenthal explores the nature of memory and the imagery of the past throughout "Seen and Not Seen," a series of abstract black-and-white photos that are profound in their simplicity. *Through Jan. 8. 714 Congress* #200. 494-9440.

ONGOING

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. 701 *Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.* www.decola-eusebi.com.

AMOA "Andy Goldsworthy: Mountain and Coast, Autumn Into Winter," a series from a pivotal period in the artist's career, will be shown alongside "Web Drawings: Austin, Texas," a group of new photos created in Austin this past September. The artist uses primal elements from the landscape to capture the essence of nature. *Through Feb. 20. 823 Congress*, 495-9224.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru: paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos*, 457-0171.

ARTHOUSE presents "Lounge!" This show features a temporary, multipurpose lounge designed by NY-based artist Matthew Geller. *Through Jan.* 16. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

BETH MCELHANEY GALLERY New works of original handmade beaded jewelry by Beth McElhaney, created from freshwater pearls, contemporary glass, semi-precious stones, vintage glass, and sterling beads. 1705 Guadalupe, 477-5355.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Featuring unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. 5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSE-

DW The history museum is now collaborating with the Blanton to present "Go West: Selections From the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, C.R. Smith Collection," a display of more than 50 artworks showing how the events, landscapes, and people of the new frontier captured the imagination of such artists as Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Charles Russell, Henry Farny, and Maynard Dixon. *Through Jan.* 9. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.storvoftexas.com.

CALZADILLA STUDIO GALLERY is now open for viewing by appointment, featuring the colorful works of, yes, Rick Calzadilla. 801 W. 17th, 567-3361.

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 Ave.*, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY At this university-oriented venue, "Return to the Mothership" has alumni artists returning from all over the galaxy,



The haunting photo manipulations of Eduardo Muñoz Ordoqui are currently on view at Gallery 106.

including Albert Bosquez (in memorium), Andy Coolquitt, Christine Catsifas, Jonathan Faber, Martha Gannon, David Schafer, Jason Singleton, Kal Spelletich, Kyle Reidel, Jill Thrasher, and others. Through Jan. 15. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.

DIAZ GALLERY presents "Autumn Expressions," sculptures by A. Ebbesen Davis and paintings by Christopher Fitzgerald. Closing reception: *Friday, Jan.* 28, 7-10pm. Exhibit: *Through Jan.* 31. 3507 S. *First, 444-0013.* www.diazgallery.com.

DIBONA STUDIO Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a recently completed sculptural tattoo series. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO Specializing in functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: Saturdays, 9amnoon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.

FRANÇOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim François. 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

GALLERY 106 showcases seven works from "Portable Worlds," the newest series by acclaimed Cuban photographer Eduardo Muñoz Ordoqui, and some never-before-seen works from the series "Low Tide." *Through February. 2832 E. MLK, 472-1219.* www.medaid.org/art.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. 411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com. LA PEÑA has "The Goddess of America, Jefitas de los Barrios: Manifestations of the Virgen de Guadalupe," a photography exhibit by Douglas Rhodenbaugh. *Through Jan.* 10. A few doors down at Las Manitas, La Peña is presenting the "Rug Hooking Project," an exhibit that features the rugs of the women of Agustin Gonzalez in the Central Mexican Highlands. *Through Dec.* 31. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610.

LBJ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM "Signs of the Times: Life in the Swingin' Sixties" is a history exhibit capturing the excitement of the Sixties in American popular culture. 2313 *Red River,* 721-0216.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. 6406 *N. I*-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA is astounding us yet again, with further displays of odd artifacts, including – but not limited to – cat X-rays, a double-bodied duckling, removed tonsils, a Victorian pygmy kangaroo, and several sets of wisdom teeth. Welcome to the "Skin and Bones" show. *Tours by appt. 3405-A Cedar*, 533-9906, www.mnae.org.

BOLM STUDIOS In his series "The Generosity of Women," Robert Szot explores the enigmatic nature of the feminine. Reception: *Through Jan. 8.* 5305 Bolm #10, 385-1670.

PHOTOGECKO STUDIOS presents an array of film/digital artist John Campbell's black-and-white photographs. Monthly First Thursday events debut new images along with live music. 1413 S. First, 797-9375. www.photogecko.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS This is a vintage-neon gallery and studio located in the heart of Austin's art district. Artist Todd Sanders creates vintage-style neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. *1720 S. First, 442*-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

ROBERT ELLIS PATTERSON ART GALLERY

Patterson, former owner of Austin Modern Art Gallery, has created a space to exhibit his work and the work of other spirited Austin artists. *3520 S. Lamar*, 731-0945.

ROSEMINN GALLERY This gallery's "Winter Show" is featuring paintings, charcoals, and prints by Elgin artists Bill Montgomery, David Brock, and Margie Crisp and intricately stitched and beaded fiber pieces by Arlene Wagenhalter. *116 Depot, Elgin, 285-3478.* www.roseminn.com.

WALLY WORKMAN Will Klemm's annual show of numinous pastel landscapes is here. *Through Jan.* 31. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.

SPACES

Naked Singularity New works by Trent Tate are now featured in a residential salon called the Looking Room. *Through Feb. 7.* www.thelookingroom.50megs.com.

Austin Java celebrates the grand opening of its new location with an opening reception of the work of photographer/fine artist Rama Tiru. *Through Feb. 5.* 1206 Parkway, 476-1829; 1608 Barton Springs Rd., 482-9450. www.ramatiru.com.

Cafe Josie is showing photographs from Costa Rica by Steve Hopson. *1200-B W. Sixth*, 322-9226.

Curra's Grill Curra's Grill on Oltorf is hosting a small retrospective by artist Polly Jackson. Polly's diverse subject matter includes shoes, classic automobiles, landscapes, and figurative works. *Through December*. 614 E. Oltorf, 444-0012. www.currasgrill.com.

The Green Muse Chris Johnson's "Paintings of Austin" is now on display. These plein air oils of Austin from Auditorium Shores were painted in different years of the city's history. *Through Dec.* 31. 519 Oltorf, 912-7789.

Halcyon presents works by Oscar Riquelme, a very fine local painter worthy of more attention than he has received to date. *Jan.* 16. 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637. www.halcyonaustin.com.

Hickory Street Bar & Grill is showing the artwork of Jeremy Osborne. Finely detailed drawing is mixed with ornate handmade frames to make this an interesting show. 800 Congress, 477-8968.

The Hideout Visitors to this fine establishment will be privileged to view the utterly superlative paintings of David Leonard. *Through Dec.* 31. 617 Congress, 476-0473.

Hyde Park Bar and Grill Kala Fine Art presents a glimpse into the world of East Indian Contemporary Art with the beautiful oil abstractions of A. Viswam as well as the figurative work of G. Subramanian and many others. *Through Jan.* 24. 4206 Duval St., 458-3168.

Quattro Gallery This venue has been established in the new Roger Beasley Audi dealership as an art gallery. Twenty percent of sales benefit AMOA; the remainder goes to the artist. The space currently features local sports artist Robert Hurst. *Through Dec.* 31. 12971 Pond Springs Rd.

Texas French Bread "Nature's Pleasures," a display of lush landscape and still-life paintings by Manny Chapa, now graces Texas French Bread's South Congress location. *Through Jan.* 3. 1722 S. Congress, 440-1122. www.texasfrenchbread.com.

The Space Don ye now your gay apparel and head over to the Space for their fourth show: "Flannel & Glitter: Fabulous Art for Fabulous People." This show features artwork by gay artists from Texas and California, including Lee Vanderpool, Randy "Biscuit" Turner, Gery Henderson, Gardiner Rhoderick, Paige Dearman, Kevin Parks Hauser, Ron Rendon, Phillip Avila, Ben Aqua, Jil Emery, and Heyd Fontenot. *Through Dec. 30. 4804 Airport Blvd., 740-7352.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS BIENNIAL CALL FOR ENTRIES This statewide juried exhibit, opening in March 2005, aims to feature a broad scope of contemporary work created throughout Texas. Check their Web site for entry forms and more. Deadline: *Dec. 31.* www.texasbiennial.com.

tistings



New Reviews

BEYOND THE SEA

D: Kevin Spacey; with Spacey, Kate Bosworth, John Goodman, Bob Hoskins, Brenda Blethyn, Greta Scacchi, Caroline Aaron, Peter Cincotti, William Ullrich. (PG-13, 121 min.)

The movie based on the meteoric life of pop singer Bobby Darin, Beyond the Sea, is a Kevin Spacey rush: Not only does Spacey star in, direct, and write this show-biz biopic, he also does all his own singing (an impeccable Darin impersonation) and dancing (game but kind of stiff). This near-total Spaceyness is both the movie's strength and weakness. At first, when Spacey as Darin is singing and swinging (in that Rat Pack nightclub style so out of date today). Beyond the Sea is vibrant and razor-sharp. However, as the film progresses through virtually every song in the Darin catalog, the mimicry phenomenon becomes worn and repetitive. That's because the film's narrative structure - a flashback structure in which the artist revisits key moments of his life as re-created in the fictional screen biography within the film - is unnecessarily convoluted and unwisely selective. Beyond the Sea focuses only on the dramatic highlights of Darin's life: the rheumatic fever that haunted his childhood and left him with a weakened heart that finally gave out on him at the ripe old age of 37 (an age decades beyond any that he was medically expected to reach), the resulting drive instilled in him by his star-struck mother (Blethyn) to become bigger than Sinatra and do it before his failing ticker finally tocked, Darin's tumultuous courtship and marriage to that era's reigning pop princess Sandra Dee (stunningly captured by Bosworth), the family skeletons that tumble from the closet and complicate the

skeins of Darin's lineage, and his Sixties shift first to acting (he was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award) and later to singer-songwriter protest music which fell, mostly, on deaf ears. What's missing from all this is the sense of why any of it matters. Even though Beyond the Sea ostensibly performs a service by reviving Darin's career for future generations, the movie fails miserably to make the case for his importance. It soon becomes apparent that this is the all-Spacey show, and instead of getting swept up in the life of Darin all we are ultimately watching is the Spacey impersonation show. It's as if the filmmaker got so caught up in proving that he could perform all the individual tasks that he forgot about the big one: telling a good story well. The film's direction is lackluster, and its sprawling, old-school musical sequences do the film little service: They are game but unconvincing. Furthermore, the movie's strategy of having the childhood Darin appear in the flesh and talk to the adult Darin as he hits narrative road bumps in the telling of his life story in the film within the film is awkward and annoying. Most likely, the ill-advised strategy was concocted in response to Spacev's naysayers, who argued that at 45 he was too old to play the part of a young pop idol who died at the age of 37. Admittedly, the age discrepancy is disconcerting at times, but Spacey so inhabits the body of Darin that his fidelity and commitment to the feat makes the sale. (Like Cate Blanchett has already demonstrated with her lifelike impersonation of Katharine Hepburn in The Aviator this season, it is not absolutely necessary to embody a perfect visual likeness of a famous person if the actor has the more subtle cues to the model's identity down pat.) Spacey indeed crawls inside the body of Bobby Darin to reveal the sound and the presence of a man now dead for more than 30 years, but he never

captures Darin's soul and human drive. Beyond the Sea is much more "Splish" than "Splash." – Marjorie Baumgarten ★J Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway

DARKNESS

D: Jaume Balagueró; with Anna Paquin, Lena Olin, Iain Glen, Giancarlo Giannini, Fele Martínez, Stephan Enquist, Fermín Reixach, Craig Stevenson. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Eurotrash for the new millennium, Darkness is produced by Re-Animator's Brian Yuzna for the Spanish outfit Fantastic Factory, which also made pal Stuart Gordon's underrated H.P. Lovecraft pastiche Dagon three years ago. This time, however, there's nary a shoggoth in sight, although there are naked geriatrics crawling on the ceiling and spooky kids straight out of the Overlook Hotel. Despite the very occasional shock, though, Darkness is a god-awful mess, the kind of monstrous misfire that makes your mind ache and your teeth grind. By all reports, it's been sitting on Miramax's shelf for the better part of two years, and the version the Weinstein brothers have so graciously chosen to release has been editorially hung, drawn, and guartered to the point that the story makes no sense whatsoever. To make matters worse, the recutting (necessary to bring the film down to a PG-13 level from its previous hard R) seems to have been performed by a blind marionette-operator on crack, but no, it's actually by the highly competent Luis De La Madrid of the recent, excellent The Machinist. So what gives? Balagueró's direction, for one thing, is just plain bad, sporting as it does a foul wad of cinematic tricks that were already outdated by the time Sam Raimi conjured his first soul sucker. Multiple scenes of alleged tension are shot using a Raimi-esque shakycam technique, but here it only results in the suspicion that the camera operator was undergoing some sort of seizure. The story, which involves (and this is a best guess, people) a haunted house, which may or may not be a portal to hell, and the family that moves into it, is straight out of the late, lamented Lucio Fulci's bag of whatthe-fuckery, but even that horror maestro leavened his strangely obtuse films with enough grue and lunatic humor to sate his core base of Fangoria fans. Darkness, denuded of the red stuff and, for much of its abbreviated running time, quite literally as dark as the inside of a grave at twilight, lacks even the most basic shocks inherent to the genre: It's recycled bits from The Beyond, The Sixth Sense, Dario Argento's Inferno, and whatever else director/screenwriter Balagueró could fit in. Paquin (X2's Rogue) is onboard as the archetypal Voice of Reason character, but even she can't seem to find her way around a plot as gaudily serpentine as a garter snake in a Cuisinart. Why Lena (Chocolat, The Unbearable Lightness of Being) should also find herself trapped in this monstrosity - in lockstep with the always fine Giannini - is an enigma that will stand beside that of the Sphinx and how all those big clowns got in that little bitty car for ages to come. Marc Savlov 际 Tinseltown North, Gateway, Highland, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown South

Openings

Beyond the Sea (PG-13)

Ratings

*****	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
5	La bomba

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

D: Joel Schumacher; with Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum, Patrick Wilson, Miranda Richardson, Minnie Driver, Simon Callow, Ciarán Hinds. (PG-13, 143 min.)

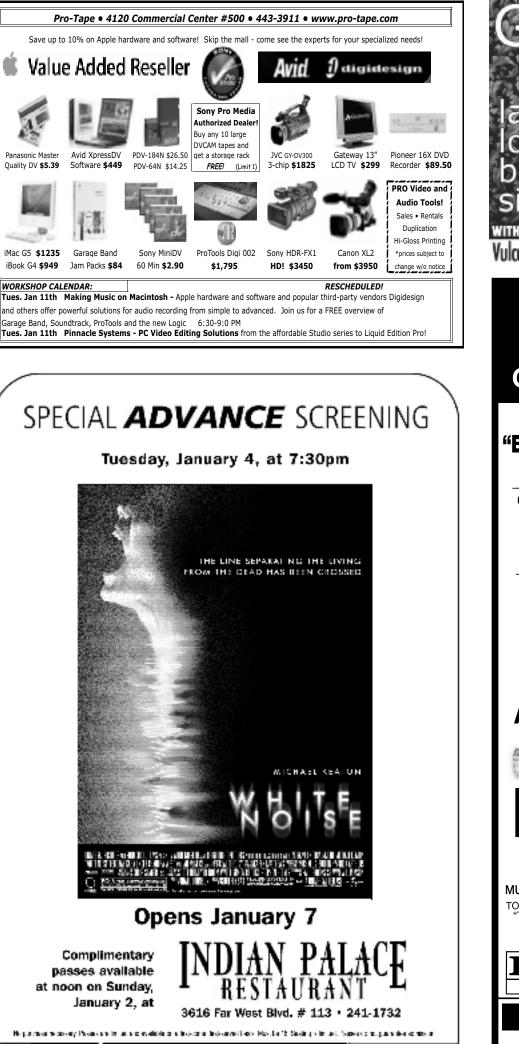
Webber's plodding stage musical comes to the big screen, its relentlessly bombastic score intact with a vengeance. Given the polarizing effect of Webber's work, it is unlikely that the film adaptation will affect any existing opinions about the artistic merits of The Phantom of the Opera. It must be said, however, that the screen version is an improvement over the stage production, largely because the grandiose emotions of the latter are now on a more human scale, thanks to the power of the close-up. As far as production values go, it looks like a hundred million bucks: Cinematographer John Mathieson (along with Schumacher, a so-so director with a good eye) gives the movie a bold, painterly look that is often ethereal in its beauty. But then again, there's that infernal music to bring you down to earth and below. Even Rossum's excellent performance can't salvage the film from Webber's influence. (12/24/04) - Števe Davis ** Arbor, Tinseltown North, CM Barton Creek

THE AVIATOR

D: Martin Scorsese; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, John C. Reilly, Kate Beckinsale, Alec Baldwin, Alan Alda, Ian Holm. (PG-13, 166 min.)

Scorsese's exhilarating rocket of a biopic focuses not on the decline of Howard Hughes (although the twitches and tics that finally brought him fully into the grip of lunacy escalate throughout), but on the man's rise and eventual plateau, his loves won, lost, and discarded, and the indomitable blue-steel drive that made Hughes Aircraft the flawed juggernaut that it was. The film has the glossy look and dynamic feel of one of Hughes' hyper-aerodynamic aviation prototypes. When Scorsese opens up and fires on all cylinders, *The Aviator* captures the seat-of-yourpants thrills of a true pioneer. DiCaprio is clearly at the top of his game as Hughes. John Logan's script makes much of Hughes' mother's-milk fixation, but the pop psychology takes a back seat to Hughes' far more palatable will to power. This isn't Scorsese's best work, but it's a clear return to form after the last decade's occasionally self-indulgent stumbles. The Aviator is bravura, classic Hollywood filmmaking. (12/24/04)Marc Savlov

★★★★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Highland, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Westgate



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. Showtimes FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie

Mall, second floor), 472-FILM. Closer: Fri, 4:20, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00;

Finling Neverland: Fri, 4:30, 7:20; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 7:20, 9:40 Kinsey: Fri, 4:00, 6:50; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 10:10; Mon, 6:50, 10:10; Tue, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu, 6:50, 10:10

Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu, 7:00, 9:50

*Par Andert: 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40 #Filght of the Phoenix: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm The Incredibles: 12:00, 2:20, 4:45 *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 11:15am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30pm *Meet the Fockers: 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Nutrient Traverse 7:05 4:05

Ocean's Twelve: 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm **The Polar Express:** 11:00am ***Spanglish:** 11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm

of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.

* The Aviator: 11:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 4:15, 7:30, Beyond the Sea: 12:40, 3:40, 7:30, 10:30 Blade: Trinity: 7:00, 9:45 Dark ness: 11:55am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:35pm * Fat Albert: 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05 Flight of the Phoenix: 7:55, 10:50

10:10, 10:40pm National Treasure: 11:40am, 3:00, 6:55, 9:50pm

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N.

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183

nd RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Vednesday. **Closer:** 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30

*Spanglish: 12:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: 11:50am, 2:00pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney 447-0101

*Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 11:40am. *Lemony Snickers A series of Unfortunate Events: 11:44, 12:40, 2:20, 4:30, 5:00, 7:10, 7:40, 9:55, 10:25pm *Meet the Fockers: 11:30am, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 4:50, 6:40, 7:30, 9:35, 10:15pm National Treasure: 4:10, 7:00, 10:00 The Polar Express: 12:10, 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:10

MAA I HEAIRE leads State History Museum [1800 N. longress), 336-IMAX. Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure: 1:00, 6:00 The Polar Express: Fin-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm

Cocan's Twelve: 12:15, 3:15, 7:00, 10:00 **The Polar Express:** 11:45am, 2:10, 4:30pm **Spanglish:** 12:25, 3:25, 7:10, 10:20

Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Thu, 10:00am

The Incredibles: 12:50, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital

*The Aviator: 11:30am. 12:30. 3:30. 4:15. 7:30. 9:15pm

The Incredibles: 12:45, 3:45 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 11:50am, 12:35, 2:30, 3:35, 5:10, 7:20, 7:50, 10:15, 10:45pm *Meet the Fockers: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 12:00, 12:50, 2:05, 3:10, 4:00, 4:55, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:35, 10:10, 10:40pm; Mon, 11:20am, 12:00, 12:50, 2:05, 3:10, 4:00, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 9:35, 10:10, 10:40pm; Tue-Thu, 11:20am, 12:00, 12:50, 2:05, 3:10, 4:00, 4:55, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:35, 10:10, 10:40pm

The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri. 4:10, 7:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville. 467-7305. Discounts daily before 6pm. *The Aviator: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 Blade: Trinity: 12:30, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15 *Darkness: 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:45, 10:25

*Fat Albert: 12:20.2:40.5:00.7:15.9:40

National Treasure: 7:25, 10:05

The Incredibles: 12:45 3:45

Mon-Thu, 7:10, 10:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN 409-B Colorado, 474-1510. Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages. Hong Kong Cinema & Cuisine: Drunken Wutang: Mon, 7:00pm

Ultimate Garlic Exp.: "Garlic Is as Good as Ten Mothers' and "Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe": Wed, 7:00pm Weird Wednesday: *Hitchhikers:* Wed, 12mid The In Sound From Way Out: Aural Oddities From Musical

Madmen: Mon, 9:45pm The Jerk: Thu (1/6), 12mid The Machinist: Sat-Sun, Tue, 9:45pm

Memacunist: David Brower's Fight for Wild America: Wed, 9:30pm; Thu (1/6), 7:00pm The Motorcycle Diaries: Sat-Sun, Tue, 7:00pm A Tribute to Bill Hicks: Thu (1/6), 9:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, The Aviator: Fri, 11:20am, 3:05, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu, 11:20am, 3:05, 7:00, 10:45pm Blade: Trinity: Fri, 12:50pm; Sat-Thu, 10:35pm

Christmas With the Kranks: Fri, 2:05, 4:50; Sat-Thu, 2:05,

4.50 7.45 Fat Albert: Fri, 1:45, 4:25, 7:15; Sat-Thu, 1:45, 4:25, 7:15,

Flight of the Phoenix: Fri, 7:45pm; Sat-Thu, 10:15pm

The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissour: Fri, 12:45, 3:55, 4:00, 7:05; Sat-Thu, 12:45, 12:50, 3:55, 4:00, 7:05, 7:10, 10:15 Ocean's Twelve: Fri, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30; Sat-Thu, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:40

Sideways: Fri, 12:30, 3:45, 7:20; Sat-Thu, 12:30, 3:45, 7:20, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years

old. AFS events are all ages. Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 1:30, 3:50, 7:00, 9:35 3:50, 7:00, 9:35 The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:35, 3:30, 7:05, 10:15

Meet the Fockers: 12:55, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55

Ocean's Twelve: 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10 The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day

Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:10 Closer: 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15

Closer: 12:50, 2:49, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15 Finding Neverland: 11:55am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05pm Kinsey: 12:50, 4:00, 7:40, 10:20 *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:00, 3:15, 7:10, 9:50

Sideways: 12:40, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00 A Very Long Engagement: 11:45am, 3:00, 6:45, 9:40pm

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688, Discounts daily before 6ph

nd Walsh lariton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm. *Andrew Loyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40; Tue-Thu, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40 Blade: Trinity: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55pm; Tue-Thu, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Closer: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45pm;

Tue-Thu, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Tue-Thu, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 *Darkness: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu, 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10 *Finding Neverland: Fri-Mon, 11:125am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu, 2:00, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50 Filight of the Phoenix: Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05 *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri-Mon, 11:100am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu, 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10 National Treasure: Fri-Mon, 11:50am, 3:00, 6:45, 9:35pm; Tue-Thu, 3:00, 6:45, 9:35pm;

Tue-Thu, 3:00, 6:45, 9:35

Sanglish: Fri-Mon, 11:35am, 2:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu, 2:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:00pm; Tue-Thu, 1:40, 4:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm

*The Aviator: Fri-Sun. 11:00am. 1:00. 2:30. 4:50. 6:15. *Ine Aviator: Fh-Sun, 11:00am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:50, 5:15, 8:30, 9:55, 99m; Mon, 12:15, 1:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:30, 8:30; Tue-Thu, 2:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:35, 9:00
 *Beyond the Sea: Fi-Mon, 11:15am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
 Christmas With the Kranks: 2:35, 7:40

Consumas with the Aranss 2:35, 7:40 *Fat Albert: Fin-Sun, 11:45am, 12:55, 2:00, 3:10, 4:30, 5:25, 7:05, 7:50, 9:20, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:45am, 12:55, 2:00, 3:10, 4:30, 5:25, 7:05, 7:50, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu, 2:20, 3:10, 4:30, 5:25, 7:05, 7:45, 9:20, 10:00 The Incredibles: Fri-Mon, 12:05, 2:45, 5:30; Tue-Thu, 2:45,

5:20

¹² Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 12:00, 1:50, 2:40, 4:25, 5:10, 7:15, 7:50, 9:40, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:25am, 12:00, 1:50, 2:40, 4:25, 5:10, 7:15, 7:50, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu, 2:00, 2:40, 4:25, 5:10, 7:15, 7:50, 9:40

*Meet the Fockers: Fri-Sun 11:35am 1:30 2:15 4:15 5:00, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45, 10:25pm; Mon, 11:35an, 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45, 5:02, 5:00, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45

***Ocean's Twelve:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 8:05, 10:20pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 8:05, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu, 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 8:05, 10:05

The Polar Express: Fri-Mon, 12:10, 5:00, 9:50 9:50

Sideways: Fri-Mon, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00; Tue-Thu, 2:25, 5:05.8:00

*A Very Long Engagement: Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15; Mon, 1:15, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55; Tue-Thu, 2:25, 5:15, 8:10

 Meet the Fockers: Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
 9:40pm; Sun-Mon, 0:20am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00pm; Tue-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
 National Treasure: Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15pm; Sun-Mon, 10:25am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20pm; Tue-Thu, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20
 Ocean's Twelve: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30pm; Sun-Mon, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40pm; Tue-Thu, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40
 The Polar Express: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:20, 4:45pm; Tue-Thu, 2:20, 4:45
 Spanglish: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pr Spanglish: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Sun-Mon, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:10pm; Tue-Thu, 1:10, 4:15, 7:10

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and FM 1825

(Pflugerville), 512/989-8540. Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: 11:50am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50pm The Aviator: 12:00, 4:00, 8:00 Beyond the Sea: Fri-Mon, 10:55am, 1:50, 4:4 10:35pm; Tue-Thu, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, Blade: Trinity: Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu, 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 10:10

Christmas With the Kranks: 6:40, 9:40 *Closer:* 9:40pm **Darkness:* Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm;

Darmess: Physical 11.20an, 2100, 4.40, 7.20, 10.00pm, Tue-Thu, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 ***fatAlbert:** Fri-Mon, 9:10am, 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25pm ***Fight of the Phoenix:** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu, 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 7:45, 4:40, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, 7:45, The Incredibles: Fri-Mon, 9:25am, 12:20, 3:25pm

Tue-Thu, 12:20, 3:25 Tue-Thu, 12:20, 3:25 *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Mon, 9:30am, 10:40, 12:30, 1:30, 3:35, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:05, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu, 12:30, 1:30, 3:35, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:05, 10:30 *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu, 1:25, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15 *Meet the Fockers: Fri-Mon, 10:02am, 10:15, 10:30, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30 National Treasure: Fri-Tue, 9:35am, 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 10:100m; Wed-Thu, 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10

10:10pm; Wed-Thu 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10 Ocean's Twelve: Fri-Mon, 9:55am, 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55pm; Tue-Thu, 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55 The Polar Express: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:05, 6:55pm;

Tue-Thu. 1:10, 4:05, 6:55 Spanglish: Fri-Mon. 9:55am. 1:05. 4:10. 7:15. 10:20pm:

Spangush: Fil-Wolf, 9:35am, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20pm, Tue-Thu, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20
The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: Fri-Mon, 9:20am, 11:40, 2:15, 4:35pm; Tue-Thu, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:35pm

TINSELTOWN SOUTH South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800. Closer: Fri-Mon, 10:15am, 11:15, 12:45, 2:00, 3:40, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu, 12:45, 2:00, 3:40, 5:00,

7:00.8:00.9:30 *Darkness: Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05pm

Darkness: Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu, 1:35, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05
 Fat Albert: Fri-Mon, 10:20am, 11:15, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:40, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:40, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:00
 Finding Neverland: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
 The Grudge: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:55, 8:50, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu, 1:55, 4:55, 8:00, 10:10

The Incredibles: Fri-Mon, 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35pm; Tue-Thu, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35

1:00, 7:30, 9:35 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 10:45, 11:10, 12:45, 11:15, 1:45, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:35, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15,

7.45 9.35 9.50

1.45, 9.55, 9.50
The Polar Express: Fri-Mon, 10:20am, 10:55, 12:50, 1:25, 3:30, 4:15, 7:10, 7:55, 9:25pm; Tue-Thu, 12:50, 1:25, 3:30, 4:15, 7:10, 7:55, 9:25

Ray: Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 1:40, 5:05, 8:30pm; Tue-Thu, 1:40, 5:05.8:30

Saw: 10:10pm Spanglish: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:05, 4:00, 5:05, 6:45, 8:05, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu, 1:00, 2:05, 4:00, 5:05, 6:45, 0:05, 8:05, 9:30

WESTGATE 11 South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.

Discounts daily before 6pm. *The Aviator: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu, 12:15, 4:30, 8:15

Iue-Inu, 12:15, 4:30, 8:15 **Fat Albert:** Fri-Mon, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu, 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40 ***Flight of the Phoenix:** Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu, 11:45am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm **The Incredibles:** Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:50pm;

Tue-Thu, 11:35am, 2:20, 5:00pm

Leemory Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50pm *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri-Mon, 11:15am,

2:10, 4:55, 7:50, 10:40pm; Tue-Thu, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 8.00 10.45pm *Meet the Fockers: 11:30am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:40, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30pm

National Treasure: Fri-Mon, 7:35, 10:35; Tue-Thu, 7:40, 10:35 Ocean's Twelve: Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30pm The Polar Express: 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55

*Spanglish: 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:45

An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

BLADE: TRINITY

D: David S. Goyer; with Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Parker Posey, Dominic Purcell, Eric Bogosian, Natasha Lyonne. (R, 113 min.)

There are many reasons to dislike this third and hopefully final entry in the Marvel Comics-adapted series about Wesley Snipes' high tech vampire slayer, but of all the missteps made and absurdities offered, the most glaring is the casting of what appears to be a steroidal Eurotrash pimp as no less than Dracula (Purcell). With his chiseled jaw, wide-set eyes, and prominent brow, Purcell is hopelessly miscast, exuding none of the iconic fear and loathing the prime exsanguinator should. When Blade (Snipes) finds himself framed by his nemeses for offing innocent humans, the fearless vampire killer is drawn into an elaborate plot mainlined by indie film icon Parker Posey. Director Goyer strips down this sequel to the bare bones as far as style and substance, result ing in a choppy mélange of straight-to-video editing and a surfeit of disintegra tion effects. Even Blade looks more pissed-off than usual, which is saying a lot. (12/10/04) - Marc Savlov

Round Rock, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown North, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

D: Joe Roth; with Tim Allen, Jamie Lee Curtis, Dan Avkrovd, M. Emmet Walsh, Jake Busey, Cheech Marin, Austin Pendleton, Felicity Huffman. (PG, 98 min.)

Christmas With the Kranks is a film so utterly denuded of genuine holiday charm that it ranks with Santa Claus Conquers the Martians as one of the most jaw-droppingly abysmal seasonal efforts yet released. (It's an unfair comparison, really, as Santa Claus Conquers the Martians was and is a psy-chotronic miniclassic of sad, bad moviemaking.) Is that ambrosia you smell? No, sorry, it's the cloying rank of filthy lucre lining the accursed pockets of the unholy three: director Joe Roth, screenwriter Christopher Columbus, and attorney-turned-cottage-industry John Grisham, upon whose novel (Skipping Christmas) this film is based. Egregiously mediocre and flagrantly ill-conceived in every department, this is, truly, the cinematic equivalent of finding a single solitary Saltine in your stocking and a pair of old tube socks beneath the tree. Humbug! (11/26/04) Marc Savlov

🐞 Tinseltown North, AMC Barton Creek Square, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Metropolitan

CLOSER

D: Mike Nichols; with Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Clive Owen. (R, 100 min.) War is hell, but it's nothing compared to what we do to others and ourselves in the name of love. That's the premise of Closer, a relentlessly nasty film adapted from Patrick Marber's play that manages to win you over despite the fact that all four of its characters are clearly marked "damaged goods." Thanks to the immensely talented cast, Marber's excruciatingly accurate poison pen, and Nichols' assured directorial hand, however, the film sucks you in and sends you reeling. Recriminations and duplicities, both minor and major, pepper the script like saltpeter buckshot, and there you have it: Relationships for the Damned 101. Love's fractured fairy tale writ small and petty and almost too real to bear without flinching, Closer is an unlove story as honest and naked as Cupid in the devil's dock, the whole truth, and nothing but. (12/03/04)Marc Savlov

★★★★ CM Barton Creek, Arbor, Tinseltown North, Dobie, Tinseltown South, Lakeline

FAT ALBERT

D: Joel Zwick; with Kenan Thompson, Dania Ramirez, Omari Grandberry, Margues Houston, Keith Robinson, Jermaine Williams, Bill Cosby. (PG, 93 min.)

If Bill Cosby really wants to challenge the rough edges of young black hiphop culture, he's going to have to come up with more appealing films than the toothless and uninspired Fat Albert, whose direction by Zwick is also disgracefully shoddy. The most surprising thing about Fat Albert is that Cosby's animated TV show has been transposed into a mostly live-action film. It begins when Fat Albert's gang (a motley group of playmates modeled on characters established in Cosby's stand-up act) travel from their animated junkyard haunts through a TV set and into the North Philadelphia living room of Doris (Kyla Pratt), a lonely adolescent girl whom Albert (Thompson) wants to help. Thompson's performance is the one decent aspect of the movie. In his fat sui and primary-colored wardrobe, it is almost possible to believe in Albert as a cartoon come to life. However, nothing about the rest of the movie has a shree of believability, style, or heart. (12/24/04) – Marjorie Baumgarten

✓ Tinseltown North, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Round Rock, Highland, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South, Gateway, Westgate

G FINDING NEVERLAND

D: Marc Forster; with Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie, Freddie Highmore, Dustin Hoffman, Radha Mitchell, Nick Roud. (PG, 106 min.)

Based on actual events, the film focuses on the special relationship between British playwright J.M. Barrie and the Llewelyn Davies family, imagining how they inspired Barrie to create the stage work for which he is best known today, Peter Pan. Like his most famous character, the Barrie presented here refuses to fully join the world of adults: he would much rather play cowboys and Indians with the four fatherless Llewelyn Davies boys than deal with his loveless marriage or mull over his latest theatrical flop. While the melodramatic elements of Finding Neverland are interesting but predictable (be forewarned: This really isn't a film for kids, but rather one for the kids in adults), its artistic merit and entertainment value derive from how the film links its narrative to Barrie's imagining of a world in which sprinkled fairy dust empowers children to fly and live out an adventure beyond their wildest dreams. (12/10/04)Steve Davis

★★★★ Dobie, Tinseltown South, CM Barton Creek, Arbor

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

D: John Moore; with Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi, Miranda Otto, Hugh Laurie, Tyrese Gibson, Jared Padalecki, Tony Curran, Jacob Vargas. (PG-13, 114 min.) While this remake of Robert Aldrich's 1965 adventure film of the same

name lacks both the hoary tang of the original and late-career Jimmy Stewart, it still manages to stick surprisingly close to its predecessor in both

for updated showtimes, see austinchronicle.com/film

*The Aviator: 12:00, 12:30, 4:00, 4:30, 8:00, 8:30 Beyond the Sea: 12:50, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10 Blade: Trinity: 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:45 Christmas With the Kranks: 12:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45 Flight of the Phoenix: 1:10, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10 The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15 Meet the Fockers: 11:45am, 12:15, 12:40, 2:00, 3:10, 3:40, 4:20, 4:50, 6:30, 7:00, 7:25, 7:40, 9:30, 9:55, 10:30, 10:45pm National Treasure: 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:20

*Ocean's Twelve: 12:15, 3:20, 7:05, 7:30, 10:05, 10:35 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: 2:05, 4:25

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. Shark Tale: Tue-Thu, 4:00pm Taxi: Tue-Thu, 7:00pm

ROUND ROCK 8 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm. Blade: Trinity: Fri-Sat, 7:45, 10:20; Sun-Thu, 7:45pm

Bade: Innity: Fir-Sat, 17:45, 10:20; Suli-Inu, 7:49pm *FarAlbert: Fir-Sat, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45pm; Sun-Mon, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30pm; Tue-Thu, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 Flight of the Phoenix: Fir-Sat, 7:15, 9:50; Sun-Thu, 7:15pm The Incredibles: Fir-Mon, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:30pm;

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events

Enony Snicker's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30pm; Sun-Mon, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:00pm; Tue-Thu, 1:15, 4:10, 7:00

*Meet the Fockers: Fri-Sat. 10:20am. 1:00. 4:00. 7:00.

Tue-Thu, 1:40, 4:30

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tone and tenor. Quaid plays the pilot of an aging cargo plane sent to pick up a small group of oil-rig workers in Outer Mongolia. On their way back to civilization, they encounter a monstrously large CGI sandstorm, which results in a disastrous ditching in the Gobi Desert and strands them 300 miles off course. No one mutters the requisite, "That's so crazy it just might work!" line, but nearly every other cliché in the Boy's Big Book o' Adventure is mined for all its worth. Moore's film feels like a grueling episode of a reality TV show - Survivor in the Gobi, maybe, or Worst Case Scenario goes Mongol. (12/17/04) – Marc Savlov ★★ CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan, Highland, Alamo

Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North, Round Rock, Gateway, Westgate

THE GRUDGE

D: Takashi Shimizu; with Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jason Behr, Clea Duvall, Bill Pullman, Grace Zabriskie, Yuya Ozeki, Ted Raimi, William Mapother. (PG-13, 96 min.)

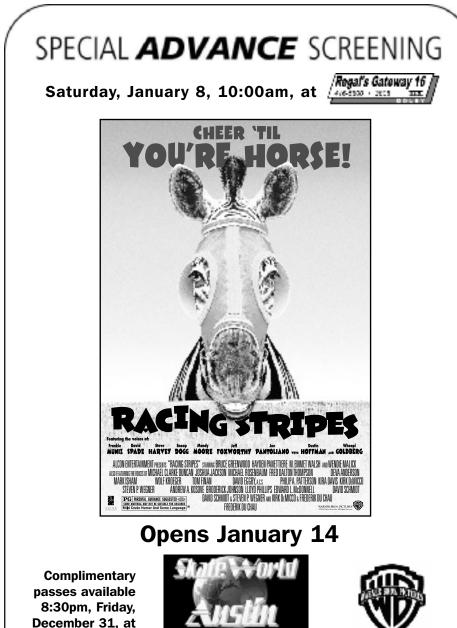
What to make of this inexplicably unfrighten-ing American remake of Takashi Shimizu's 2003 Japanese haunted-house yarn, which not only employs the same director and part of the same cast as his original, but also stays put in Japan and utilizes the same house and neighborhoods as its predecessor? An American cast led by former Buffy the Vampire Slayer Gellar has been brought in to make the film, one suspects, less threatening to American

audiences who might otherwise assume subtitles could be involved, but the changes to the storyline are for the most part negligible. The bottom line with this new version is that something, somewhere, has been lost in translation. This new version feels strangely neutered by its infusion of blond American actresses. Only Bill Pullman manages to muster the brooding, dissociative malaise of the original. - Marc Savlov (10/22/04)★★↓ Tinseltown South

🖸 THE INCREDIBLES

D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Jason Lee, Spencer Fox, Sarah Vowell, Elizabeth Peña. (PG, 115 min.)

An order-of-magnitude leap forward in animated storytelling, this seriocomic take on the superhero genre overflows with slapstick and more gentle strains of humor. This is Pixar all grown up, but still, at times, wonderfully silly. As comedies go, *The Incredibles* is like mainlining a snappy, heady mix of comic-book shenanigans and modern parenting, and the end result is a film that will likely impress parents even more than it does their offspring. The Incredibles is more than just another masterpiece of computer-generated animation (although Pixar's skill with the form is unassailable); it's an animated film that flows and feels - despite the bizarre comicbook proportionalities of its characters - just like



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calendar → COMMUNITY → ARTS → FILM → MUSIC

a live-action one. Too often in modern animation the story takes a back seat to either the comedy or the imagery, but here, via Bird's more-than-capable directorial and screenwriting skills, it runs to the front of the frame and stays there throughout. (11/05/04) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Highland, Lakeline, AMC Barton Creek Square, Westgate

KINSEY

D: Bill Condon; with Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Peter Sarsgaard, Chris O'Donnell, Timothy Hutton, John Lithgow, Oliver Platt, Tim Curry, Dylan Baker. (R, 118 min.)

Bill Condon's biopic about Alfred Kinsey, the con-troversial sex researcher whose 1949 book, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, significantly raised the nation's blood pressure, is vaguely "churchy" (as Kinsey's wife describes him) - not in a religious sense, but in a decorous, starched-collar sort of way. Kinsey, as envisioned by Neeson and writer/director Condon, is kept at a remove, and the film tends to enshrine the scientist and his life's work at the expense of a more rigorous - and therefore more profound - scrutiny. A case could be made that Kinsey's dedication to his research bordered on mania - at one point, he pricks his own foreskin just to see how it feels - and that is exactly the kind of knotty, nonglossy detail the film could use more of. Alas, *Kinsey* is too tasteful by half, and while it may have its gentle charms, it never thrills. Kimberley Jones (11/26/04)

★★★ Dobie, Arbor

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

D: Brad Silberling; with Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Jude Law, Emily Browning, Liam Aiken, Kara Hoffman, Shelby Hoffman, Timothy Spall, Billy Connolly, Cedric the Entertainer, Luis Guzmán, Jennifer Coolidge, Jane Adams, Craig Ferguson, Jamie Harris. (PG, 113 min.)

Along with screenwriter Robert Gordon (who wisely preserves whole chunks of Daniel Handler's sly, prunefaced text), director Silberling mostly succeeds in re-

creating the novels' distinct tone of dark, darker, darkest. There's no sunnying up the grim premise of the Snicket series: It begins with a fire that destrovs the home and parents of the three exceptional Baudelaire children, who are quickly willed over to the sinister Count Olaf (Carrey). Carrey is a bit of a conundrum: He's the best and worst thing about Lemony Snicket. His physical-comedy prowess produces moments of shocking hilarity, but this manic flailing for a laugh - a laugh that, more often than not, Carrey will nail - also means that Olaf has lost much of his menace. He still does extremely bad deeds, but we all know that's Jim Carrey under the prosthetic nose. The biggest huzzahs must go to the production and art design. There, in the visuals, is the real menace, while Count Olaf, defanged, pops in for blessed bits of comic relief. (12/17/04) – Kimberley Jo Kimberley Jones ★★★★ Tinseltown South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Highland, Tinseltown North, Round Rock, Gateway, Westgate, Lakeline, AMC Barton Creek Square

W THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU

D: Wes Anderson; with Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Huston, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Michael Gambon, Naah Taylor, Bud Cort, Seu Jorge, Robyn Cohen, Waris Ahluwalia, Niels Koizumi. (R, 118 min.)

Even Anderson's most ardent fan's might scratch their heads at his latest picture, wondering just how to process this fantastical tale of the Jacques Cousteau-like oceanographer Steve Zissou (Murray). But I think Anderson and his co-writer Noah Baumbach have left little signposts for the audience about the sublime silliness of the thing. What we're dealing with is Anderson's purest comedy to date. *The Life Aquatic* can't tightrope comedy and tragedy, hilarity and pathos like *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Rushmore* do – but I'm not sure that's even Anderson's aim. His primary concern appears to be the funneling of his biggest budget to date into eye-popping imagery, and sacrificing the story to whatever new gadget or cheeky sight gag he has on hand. The film itself is, quite charmingly, something of a pop-eyed boy's fantasy of adventure on the high seas. Out of this gosh-wow cast, Murray is, as ever, the standout, fully committing to Zissou's little Speedo trunks and alarming egomania. (12/24/04) – Kimberley Jones ★★★↓ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Dobie, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Westgate

THE MACHINIST

D: Brad Anderson; with Christian Bale, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, John Sharian, Michael Ironside, Anna Massey. (R, 102 min.)

Trevor Reznik (Bale) is an industrial worker who hasn't slept in a year. He's also haunted by certain images and patterns, and the copy of Dostoyevsky's The Idiot lying on a table in his apartment provides a solid clue that Trevor's feeling guilty about something. Through the first half of the movie, Anderson skillfully creates an unsettling mood. Despite Trevor's pathological appearance and his sleepless mind, he seems basically normal. The film tosses us into a world desaturated of color in which it's unclear where the lines between sanity and insanity reside. Yet by the time blood starts oozing from Trevor's refrigerator somewhere around the movie's midway mark, it's clear that this story cannot end well. Anderson definitely has a flair for creating a diffuse sense of fear, paranoia, and mental illness onscreen. However, his film never gives us the nuts and bolts of mental illness and guilt, just the sight of cooped-up steam escaping from a valve that's about to blow. (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday only.) (11/26/04) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

MEET THE FOCKERS

D: Jay Roach; with Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Blythe Danner, Teri Polo, Owen Wilson, Spencer Pickren, Bradley Pickren. (PG-13, 114 min.)

You can Fockerize Meet the Parents all you want, but this new movie is nothing more than a lame sequel to the comic hit of 2000. Meet the Fockers is rife with potty humor and dozens of permutations on the obvious word-play jokes derived from the name Focker. Everyone performs reliably, and the film has several amusing moments, but the script by Jim Herzfeld and John Hamburg is unimaginative and predictable. It's great to see Streisand on the screen again after so long an absence, and it's doubly great to see her return in blowsy comic mode rather than dramatic diva demeanor. However, the abundance of talent gathered for *Meet the Fockers* is sadly shortchanged by the complacent script and directorial laissez faire. It's more like the audience has been snookered rather than Fockered. $(12/24/04) - Marjorie Baumgarten \star Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Gateway, Metropolitan, Westqate, Tinseltown North$

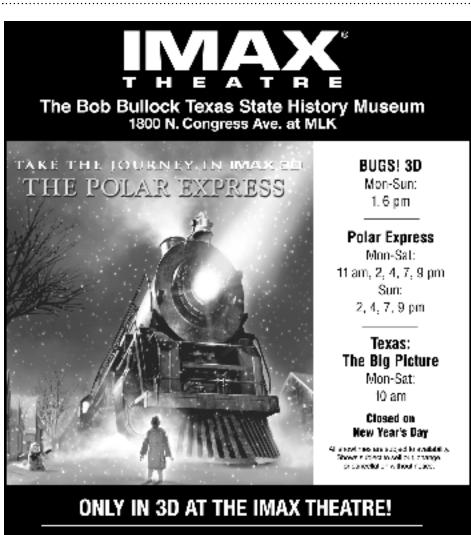
THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES

D: Walter Salles; with Gael García Bernal, Rodrigo de la Serna, Mia Maestro, Mercedes Morán, Jorge Chiarella, Jaime Azócar. (R, 128 min.) Dr. Goodlove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying

and Love the Proletariat might have been a better title for this ingratiatingly loopy origin story about prerevolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara (Bernal), pal Alberto Granado (de la Serna), and their historic, hysteric 8,000-mile sojourn from Buenos Aires to northernmost Venezuela astride a rickety 1939 Norton 500 motorcycle in 1952. Che's awakening is seen as a series of improbable encounters on the road, with the disenfranchised poor, with the displaced of the rainforest, with lepers, and with his own inner struggles. Movie heartthrob Bernal makes for an arrestingly lovely Guevara he's the sex symbol for la revolución. Salles, along with cinematographer Eric Gautier, has an eye for the crazy beauty of youth on the road. The road, after all, is the third co-star of this film, and at times it rivals Bernal's chiseled handsomeness for sheer intractable magnetism. (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday only.) (10/08/04) – Marc Savlov ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

NATIONAL TREASURE D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Sean Bean, Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel, Christopher Plummer. (PG, 131 min.)

Absurdism taken to a new extreme, this Disney/ Michael Bay co-production is loaded with that producer's innate love of car chases and errant



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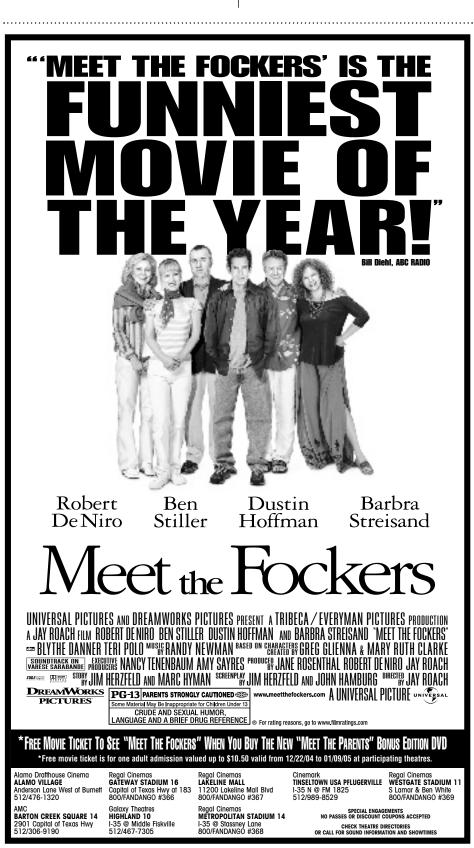
gunpowder, while maintaining a very Disneyfied (and virtually nonexistent) body count and a gravely silly respect for off-kilter Americana. In the end, it's the odd casting and unimaginative, workmanlike direction that make the painfully overlong National Treasure the exercise in mediocrity it is. Toss in a slice of a conspiracy-minded bestseller and one of the most bombastic scores of the year and you've got a recipe for cinematic malaise that leaves your head aching from all the improbabilities, explicit and otherwise, that clutter the exposition-heavy storyline at every hairpin turn. For all its emphatic national-history glee (Cage routinely dispenses nuggets of historical wisdom like he's spitting pumpkin seeds), National Treasure is an underdone pastiche of Raiders of the Lost Ark and a really tedious high school history class. (11/19/04) Marc Savlov

★ Metropolitan, Gateway, Round Rock, Westgate, Lakeline, Highland, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown North

OCEAN'S TWELVE

D: Steven Soderbergh; with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Julia Roberts, Bernie Mac, Don Cheadle, Andy Garcia, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Carl Reiner, Elliott Gould, Vincent Cassel, Shaobo Qin, Eddie Izzard. (PG-13, 120 min.)

Let's be honest: With a cast like this, it doesn't matter too much what the characters are doing onscreen, or if it makes about as much sense as a monochrome rainbow. Soderbergh knows this, and it's to his credit that *Ocean's Twelve*'s convoluted plotting makes as much sense as it does. Even more than in the original, Soderbergh here revels in the funky, retro-cool of both early Sixties' machismo mythologizing (as perfected by Frank, Dino, Sammy, and Peter) and Seventies-era societal and cinematic laissez-faire (no one's getting bent out of shape that they're forever on the wrong side of the law or that they may be dead in two week's time). Soderbergh's



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film is at least as much a movie lover's wet dream as anything Ouentin Tarantino's done lately. It may be fluff, but it's some of the best fluff you're ever going to get. (12/10/04) - Marc Savlov ★★★↓ Gateway, Westgate, Alamo Drafthouse Village,

Round Rock, Highland, Metropolitan, AMC Barton Creek Square, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North

THE POLAR EXPRESS

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolari, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen, Charles Fleischer. (G, 100 min.)

Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent teetering on the brink of disbelief gets a multimilliondollar makeover via CGI and a revolutionary new filming process that allows Hanks to "act" five different roles. There's Christmas magic in Zemeckis' film, but there's also a bizarre, palpable sense of unease lurking just below the surface. Nearly all of that is due to the animation style, which faithfully replicates Van Allsburg's painterly compositions, but doesn't translate all that successfully to the screen. If the human characters give you the willies, they're nothing compared to Santa's elfin minions (believe me, the word fits), who, with their big ears and pug faces, look like micronaut Bowery Boys on a snowblowing bender. William Broyles' script is faithful to the spirit of the original 30-page text while adding various hair-raising events at every turn, but Zemeckis and DreamWorks' legions of animators have sorely goofed with this new animation style. (11/12/04) - Marc Savlov ★★ IMAX Theatre, Tinseltown South, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Lakeline, Highland, Westgate, Round

Rock, AMC Barton Creek Square

🖸 RAY

D: Taylor Hackford; with Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, Regina King, Clifton Powell, Harry J. Lennix, Bokeem Woodbine, Aunjanue Ellis, Sharon Warren, C.J. Sanders, Curtis Armstrong, Richard Schiff, Larenz Tate.

(PG-13, 152 min.) The music of Ray Charles is a national treasure, as is the artist's legacy. The same can't be said for Ray, the movie of his life, although the transcendent performance of Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles kicks this otherwise ordinary biopic into the realm of the extraordinary. The movie follows a pedestrian biopic path, recounting the early struggles of the artist, his dual addictions to heroin and women, and his ultimate redemption and embrace as a beloved American icon. Despite the movie's 2¹/₂-hour running time, Ray concludes well before Charles death this past summer, making it seem like the movie's almost fairy-tale episode of Charles kicking heroin is the real end of this story: It's the kind of rise, fall, and redemption pattern that has become familiar to any casual watcher of television's Behind the Music-type shows. Nevertheless, no matter the movie's pitfalls, Ray, we can't stop loving you. (10/29/04)Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Tinseltown South

SAW

D: James Wan; with Cary Elwes, Leigh Whannell, Danny Glover, Ken Keung, Dina Meyer, Monica Potter, Makenzie Vega. (R, 100 min.)

Wan's directorial debut arrives with so much hype surrounding it that nothing in this horror film could ever be as shocking as the realization of just how undeserved that buzz actually is. Not only is this serial-killer tale far from original (for starters, it borrows bits from David Fincher's Seven and any number of Danny Glover's trademark cop films), but it also contains some of the most abysmal acting courtesy of the Dread Pirate Roberts himself, Cary Elwes - this side of a Herschell Gordon Lewis gag fest. The film, decidedly ambitious though it may well be, is hardly the opening salvo on a new, harder, more ghastly stream of horror filmmaking. Saw has its moments, and most of them are brutal in the extreme, but ultimately it's one tremendous misfire that will either leave you laughing or, possibly, gagging. (10/29/04) Marc Savlov ★ Tinseltown South

SHARK TALE

D: Vicky Jenson, Bibo Bergeron, Rob Letterman; with the voices of Will Smith, Robert De Niro, Renée Zellweger, Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Martin Scorsese, Ziggy Marley, Doug E. Doug, Michael Imperioli, Vincent Pastore, Peter Falk, Katie Couric. (PG, 90 min.)

There's a surprising lack of surprises in DreamWorks' answer to Disney/Pixar's runaway smash Finding Nemo. It's not that Shark Tale is a bad film - kids will bask in the underwater eye-candy colors - it's just that there's so little that feels fresh to adult eyes that it may as well have come out back in the ancient days of Toy Story. Shark Tale's problems stem from a dearth of fresh jokes and a corresponding surfeit of obvious ones. Much of the film's genuine humor, what there is of it, comes from the secondary characters, including Ziggy Marley and Doug E. Doug as Rastafarian fish Ernie and Bernie, a running gag on Michael Schultz's bicentennial classic Car Wash (now a whale wash), and some of the most bizarre product placement ever to (dis-)grace the screen, à la Kelpy Kreme and, yeesh, Old Navy. (10/08/04) Marc Savlov Millennium **

SIDEWAYS

D: Alexander Payne; with Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen, Sandra Oh. (R, 123 min.) Who knows what might happen when men become uncorked? Sideways is a smart and delightful romantic comedy, yet in the course of creating his new charmer Alexander Payne has sheared off some of the rambunctious edges that made his previous films, About Schmidt, Election, and Citizen Ruth, such marvelous studies in social parody. Adapting from Rex Pickett's novel with his writing partner, Jim Taylor, Payne has created a sophisticated date movie about male midlife malcontents and the women who love them. And there is nothing wrong with Sideways

Darkness

that the inclusion of a few unimagined unpredictabilities wouldn't have improved. Sideways pleases but it does not surprise. The note-perfect ensemble cast is the key to Sideways' abiding charm, and it makes us recognize that Payne's work with actors may be his greatest talent. Payne has fun mocking the rituals of wine-snobbery and the many pitfalls of men behaving badly. (11/05/04) – Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

SPANGLISH

D: James L. Brooks; with Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni, Paz Vega, Cloris Leachman, Shelbie Bruce, Sarah Steele. (PG-13, 131 min.)

For an astute comic appreciation of the culture clashes among the Los Angeles minions, almost any movie would be better than this misguided effort from the usually dependable James L. Brooks This time out, the acclaimed writer-director of As Good as It Gets, Broadcast News, and Terms of Endearment loses his way and can't see the forest of L.A. through the individual trees of his characters - each of whom stops making sense early in the game. Additionally, the film's cryptic characters, mundane visual look, and minimal drama make the two-hour-plus running length of Spanglish seem positively brutal. It's unclear what Brooks is trying to say about our melting-pot culture, if anything. So much attention is put into scapegoating the the lady of the house (Leoni) that it's hard to belive that Brooks is the same man who coaxed award-winning performances from a host of TV and film actresses. . (12/17/04) – Marjorie Baumgarten ★ ★ CM Barton Creek, Round Rock, Tinseltown South, Highland, Tinseltown North, Gateway, Westgate, Lakeline

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE

D: Stephen Hillenburg; with the voices of Tom Kenny, Rodger Bumpass, Bill Fagerbakke, Alec Baldwin, Scarlett Johansson. (PG, 88 min.)

Once again the title pretty much says it all. There's nothing you wouldn't expect (with the possible exception of live-action Hasselhoff) and everything you would: pernicious meddling by next-door nemesis Squidward (Bumpass); musical hijinks at Goofy Goober's Ice Cream Party Boat; and little bits of wry wit (and a decent soundtrack, with Wilco, Ween, the Flaming Lips, and much more). Is it good? Is it bad? Does it matter either way? Parents, prepare to be steamrolled by the SpongeBob merchandising juggernaut. Movies like this defy comment. They just soak up box-office clams as powerfully as our "absorbent and yellow and porous" hero. It's all relatively painless, and you may well appreciate the occasional yuks, but the experience will evaporate entirely on the ride home. Terribly young viewers will

probably balk at some of the content, yet schoolaged kids will probably eat up this SpongeBob like a Goofy Goober Triple Gooberberry Sunrise. (11/19/04) – Marrit Ingman ★★ Metropolitan, CM Barton Creek, Lakeline,

TAXI

Tinseltown North

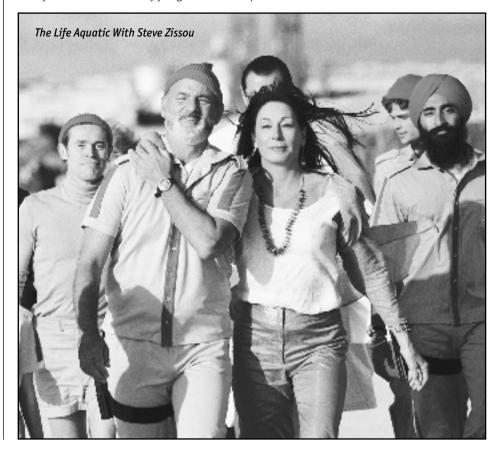
D: Tim Story; with Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon, Gisele Bündchen, Jennifer Esposito, Ann-Margret, Henry Simmons. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Very nearly as entertaining as watching a potato bake, this clueless remake of the 1998 Gerard Piresdirected/Luc Besson-produced French action comedy has precious little of either man's talent (although Besson, to his presumed woe, is saddled with an "original screenplay" credit). It proves, yet again, that comics (such as indie hipster Jimmy Fallon) who may be hilarious behind Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update desk, tend to fare poorly when transposed to the big screen. Taxi's only saving grace is its automotive mayhem, of which there is far too little. Any time taken up by the inane bantering of mismatched buddies Latifah and Fallon (who display a bizarre nonchemistry that borders on the toxic) is time wasted, and even easy-on-the-eyes Bündchen is given little to do other than strut around and make BMW 700s look even better than they do on the showroom floor. (10/15/04) Marc Savlov Millennium 猗

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet: with Audrey Tautou, Gaspard Ulliel, Jean-Pierre Becker, Dominique Bettenfeld, Clovis Cornillac, Marion Cotillard, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Julie Depardieu. (R, 134 min., subtitled)

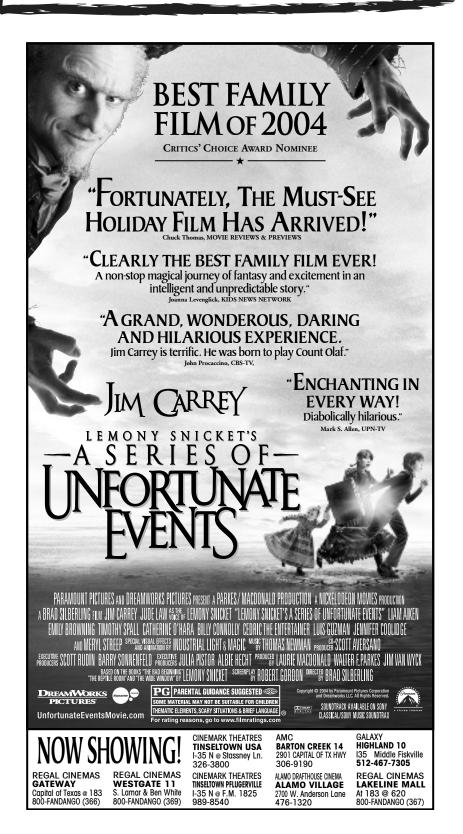
Jeunet labored for years to bring this adaptation of Sébastien Japrisot's World War I novel to the screen, but only after the international success of his last film Amélie were the necessary doors flung open to him. Pity that: I wonder what kind of film A Very Long Engagement might have been had Jeunet tackled it on the heels of his deliciously macabre Nineties collaborations with Marc Caro. Instead, Jeunet has misguidedly carried over some of Amélie's sensibilities (its glibness, its manic pace) to A Very Long Engagement. He's also brought over that film's star, Audrey Tautou, she of the irresistibly impish grin. The scenes of warfare are realistically awful and bloodcaked, but the power of these scenes is besmirched by Jeunet's tendency toward ... cutesiness, frankly. The elements are all here for something spectacular - and in brilliant bursts, Jeunet really gets it - but in the end, all that potential is sunk by a terminally confused tone and milquetoast pairing of lovers. (12/24/04) – Kimberley Jones ★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Arbor



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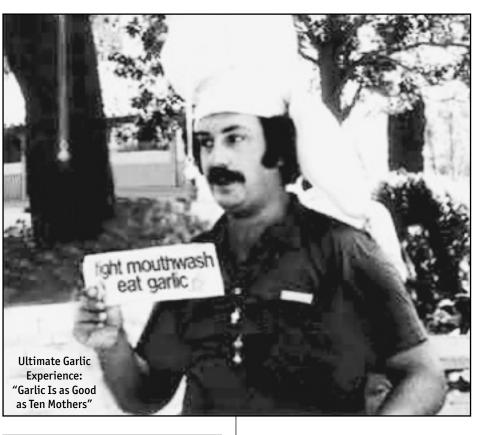
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Special Screenings by Marjorie Baumgarten

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



WEDNESDAY 20

Big Trouble in Little China (1986) D: John Carpenter; with Kurt Russell, Kim Cattrall. (PG-13, 99 min.) Carpenter's jokey adventure tale is modest fun. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Blood Freak (1971) D: Steve Hawkes and Brad F. Grinter; with Steve Hawkes, Brad F. Grinter. (NR, 86 min.) Weird Wednesdays. A guy who becomes a marijuana addict and then gets a job at a poultry farm where some pesticide-contaminated meat he eats turns him into a giant bloodsucking turkey. (For more on Weird Wednesdays series see **austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-02-16/ screens_feature.html** or www.drafthouse.com.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Half-Baked (1998) D: Tamra Davis; with David Chappelle, Jim Breuer, Guillermo Diaz, Rachel True, Harland Williams. (R, 83 min.) High for the Holidays. Cameos from Steven Wright, Willie Nelson, Tommy Chong, and Janeane Garofalo help stoke this addled comic premise about selling pot to raise a buddy's bail. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés, David Krumholtz, Eddie Kaye Thomas, Neil Patrick Harris, Christopher Meloni. (R, 87 min.) High for the Holidays. Dopey, multiculti fun. Ticket includes all-you-can-eat White Castle-style burgers, and joint-rolling contest before each screening. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Rivers and Tides (2003) *D: Thomas Riedelsheimer. (NR, 90 min.)* **Austin Museum of Art.** The German-made *Rivers and Tides* documents the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a Scottish sculptor of sorts who specializes in the art of the ephemeral. Goldsworthy's peculiar brand of art, in which the art-

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SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): screens@austinchronicle.com.

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

ist creates, then allows (or even encourages) nature to destroy it, seems more than a little perverse – or at least in defiance of man's inherent desire to leave lasting monuments. – *Kimberley Jones* (*) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/ students; Tuesday, \$1.

THURSDAY **30**

Drunken Wutang (1983) D: Yuen Cheung-Yan; with Yuen Siu-Tien, Yuen Shun-Yee. (NR, 90 min.) **High for the Holidays**. Wild chopsocky picture with crazy-sounding characters and a plot too wacky to encapsulate. Be prepared for turtle men, watermelon monsters – and lots and lots of wire work. Booze scavenger hunt takes place before the film. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Wed., 12/29)

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Wed., 12/29)

Strange Days D: Kathryn Bigelow; with Ralph Fiennes, Angela Bassett, Juliette Lewis, Tom Sizemore, Michael Wincott, Richard Edson, Glenn Plummer. (R, 145 min.) Get ready for an apocalyptic New Year's with this futuristic thriller. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

FRIDAY **60**

New Year's Eve Party Films, music, festive folk. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/ students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Wed., 12/29)

SATURDAY **00**

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (*R*, 95 min.) Austin Rocky Horror fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 28 years straight. Now, since the Discount Cinema 8 has closed, they'll be doing it in a new location. For more info see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

MONDAY **OB**

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Drunken Wutang (1983) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Thu., 12/30)

The In Sound From Way Out: Aural Oddities From Musical Madmen (2004) D: Lars Nilsson, Anne Heller and Kier-La Janisse. (NR) Music Mondays. This Alamo in-house production is an homage to the world's musical outsiders and features performances by Kevin Ayers of Soft Machine, the Silver Apples, Captain Beefheart, the Screamers, Tiny Tim, Scott Walker, C.W. McCall, Hasil Adkins, Os Mutantes, Costes, and more. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$1.

TUESDAY 04

Promises (2001) D: Carlos Bolado, B.Z. Goldberg, and Justine Shapiro. (NR, 106 min.) **Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace**. The Middle East conflict is viewed through the eyes of children in this Oscar-nominated film that follows seven local Jerusalem kids between the years 1995-98. @St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (14311 Wells Port Dr.), 7pm.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/ students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Wed., 12/29)

WEDNESDAY **06**

"Garlic Is as Good as Ten Mothers" and "Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe" (1980) D: Les Blank. (NR) Ultimate Garlic Experience. This double bill of Les Blank films will be accompanied by a multicourse, garlic-laden feast, which will be overseen by John Bullington (the longtime chef at Mars restaurant, who has left to oversee the Alamo South Lamar kitchen, scheduled to open in February). "Garlic Is as Good as Ten Mothers" (1980, 51 min.) is a celebratory, life-affirming tribute to the stinking rose, filmed by Blank at the annual California garlic festival. "Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe" (1980, 20 min.) documents the results of a bet Herzog made with young, untried documentarian Errol Morris, to whom he promised that he would eat his shoe if Morris ever actually completed a movie. Herzog converses with the audience while dining and being filmed. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Casshern (2004) D: Kazuaki Kiriya; with Yusuke Iseya, Kumiko Aso, Akira Terao. (NR, 141 min.) One of the latest Japanese anime sensations, Casshern is the story of a warrior who defends humanity against the robotic enemies of the future. Actors were filmed against a green screen, and the animated backgrounds were added in postproduction. It's due to be released on U.S. screens later this year. @Beerland, 7pm. **Hitchhikers (1971)** D: Ferd Sebastian and Beverly Sebastian; with Misty Rowe, Norman Klar. (R, 92 min.) **Weird Wednesdays**. Classic drive-in fare showcases Hee-Haw's Misty Rowe as the sexy shill for a band of Manson-like highway robbers. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America (2004) D: Kelly Duane. (NR, 77 min.) David Brower, one of the most important environmentalists of the 20th century, was the founder of the Sierra Club, and also largely responsible for moving the organization from a regional hiking group to a national political force. The film uses much of Bower's handheld wildnerness footage filmed between 1930 and 1970, as well as a contemporary soundtrack that features music by the Beachwood Sparks, Fruit Bats, the American Analog Set, Yo La Tengo, and more. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:30pm.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/ students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Wed., 12/29)

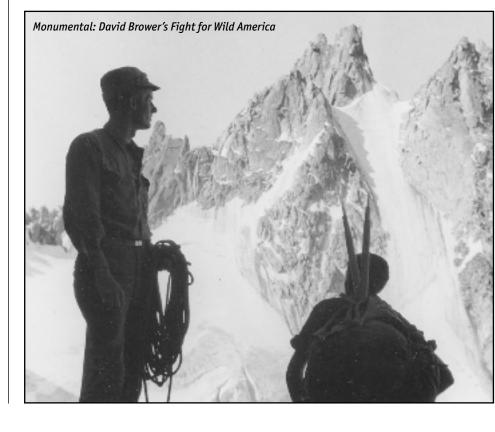
THURSDAY 06

A Tribute to Bill Hicks (NR, 90 min.) BookPeople, Ryko, & The Show With No Name. This event celebrates the release of the new Hicks book, Love All People, which gathers together the comic's fearless observations culled from his standup routines and various writings. Rare footage of Hicks from his early years (15 years old!) and several other television appearances will be shown by Charlie Sotelo. Also included is an awkward show for families at Disney World, Hicks doing his rudest porn material for porn stars at the Adult Video Awards, and more. Copies of the book will be on hand for purchase, and DVD giveaway contests will be held before the show. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$6.50, \$5 students/senior/AFS.

Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Wed., 1/05)

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Wed., 12/29)

The Jerk (1979) *D: Carl Reiner; with Steve Martin, Bernadette Peters, Catlin Adams, Mabel King, Bill Macy, Jackie Mason. (R, 94 min.)* Remember when Steve Martin was really funny? Back before Martin's comedies and most of the other stuff out there just became dumb and dumberer, *The Jerk* reigned supreme in the movies-aboutreally-stupid-men department. Perhaps Martin was just ahead of his time, because his dumb-guy schtick here is just hilarious. Special menu includes tuna fish in cellophane, pizza in a cup, Twinkies, and Tab. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid.



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Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure (2003) D: Mike Slee; narrated by Judi Dench.

(NR, 40 min.) Little Borneo bugs become big, three-dimensional insects through the powers of this IMAX spectacle. The sight of these minuscule creatures blown up to some 250,000 times their normal size is quite amazing to witness. However, the film anthropomorphizes a green mantis and a butterfly to show viewers their life cycles, and winds up turning the movie into a kid-friendly animal story rather than a more scientific or artistically rooted film. Wed.(Dec. 29)-Thu.(Jan. 6), 10am, 1, 6. (Closed Saturday.)

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson.

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CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD NOMINEE

BEST PICTURE

(NR. 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. The film won't do anything to bust the tried-and-true stereotypes about native Texans or the state's history, but here in Texas we tend to like it that way. Wed.(Dec. 29)-Thu.(Jan. 6), 10am. (Closed Saturday.)

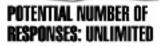
The Polar Express (2004) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolari. Nona Gave. Eddie Deezen. Charles Fleischer. (G, 100 min.) In IMAX 3-D. See First Runs for review. (*) Wed.(Dec. 29)-Fri., 11am, 2, 4, 7, 9pm; Sun, 2, 4, 7, 9; Mon-Thu.(Jan. 6), 11am, 2, 4, 7, 9pm.

TAKE A SHOT IN THE DARK THAT'S NOT SO MUCH OF A SHOT IN THE DARK

YOU: CURLY HAIRED GUY IN INTERPOL SHIRT drinking apple margarita at Poivos last Saturday. Me: brunete in ponytai) and Yankees cap, eating late lunch with friend. Next time, join me for margs?

POTENTIAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES: 1

SWF, 29, BRUNETTE, 5'4", EDITOR. Likes Interpol, Spoon, Shins, and Neil Diamond cover banus, drinking marganitas at Polyo's, watching baseball In bed with dog, lazy weekend lunches. Seeking culturally astuto, intelligent, artsy type with good sense of humor and a deep, abiding love of Mexican food. Bonus points if you play an instrument.



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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR DEC. 30-JAN. 6 | EDITED BY DARCIE STEVENS

music listings

Ka-Nives, the Lottie Collins BEERLAND, THURSDAY 30

This couldn't get any better if you were a 16-year-old shredder in a garage with Steve Rodgers singing lead. Houston's Ka-Nives define lo-fi garage punk better than any well-dressed Swede ever could. Their track on Licorice Tree's rockin' comp Shakin' in My Boots has fiberglass and sheetrock splayed all over it. Just before, Tokyo's the Lottie Collins pay a visit. Their garage might be a little less organized and full of party favors, but who can resist Japanese punks singing in broken English? Austin's Camp X-Ray and ex-Jeww Washington Westcott open. - Darcie Stevens

Tia Carrera, Rubble, Black Mayonnaise ROOM 710, THURSDAY 30

Despite having the best condiment-themed name ever, the easy categorizations of Akron, Ohio's Black Mayonnaise are few. One-man band Mike Duncan creates wily, throbbing orchestrations that sound dark and thick, hence the name. On his latest album, Ttssattsr (Emperor Jones), Duncan assaults with a guitar-drum machine punch of frazzled fuzz and syrupy vocals that sound like a slo-mo fever dream. Adding to this somnolent screed, 710 fixtures Tia Carrera headline with a sludge hammer beatdown, locals Rubble administer a dose of noisy space rock, and Houston's Rotten Piece hands you your ass for supper. - Audra Schroeder

Burden **Brothers** STUBB'S, **THURSDAY 30**

There was a moment in the mid-Nineties when young Dallas rock bands had national radio in the palm of their hand. The Burden Brothers are a reflection of those golden years, uniting former members of the Toadies and the Rev. Horton Heat. Thanks to a catchy hit single ("Beautiful Night") and a groundswell of local fans, the band found a label to record its dark Southern gothic punk and released Buried in Your Black Heart last year. This is a holiday



- Matt Dentler

Gary Clark Jr. HOLE IN THE WALL, SATURDAY 1

How appropriate that the first night of the new year features the rocketing sounds of Austin bluesman Gary Clark Jr., who turns 21 in February. It's a short eight years since the 1996 Christmas he got his first guitar. His reward for following in the footsteps of not just locals like Jimmie Vaughan but also legendary masters Albert King and Elmore James was being voted Best Blues Band at last year's Austin Music Awards. Clark's style is tough, cool - smoking – and he's here to stay. - Margaret Moser

IN-STORES

Friday: Fucked up Mess, End Me, Sound on Sound, 3pm Tuesday: Machine Gun Romantics, Coldera, Dropout, Sound on Sound, 5pm

live music VENUES ▶ p.82 CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows > p.86

New Year's Eve **EVERYWHERE, FRIDAY 31**

The war, the election, the weather. This year might not go down in the books as banner, but dammit if we're not going to celebrate its closure. There's a veritable cornucopia of entertainment to help along those lines, with some talent screaming for attention. Speaking of the screaming department, recent Austin transplants the **Riverboat Gamblers** bask in the chaos at Emo's along with local riot grrrls the Applicators, rockers the Good Looks, and Red River stalwarts Ritchie Whites. If metal gets you off quicker than punk, head to the Back Room. Jason McMaster's Young ones in Broken Teeth headline after thrashers Backlit Revolver, dirty rockers Charter Bulldogs, and pillagers Jolly Garogers. Ray Wylie Hubbard eases the tension a bit at the Alligator Grill, while the platinum-selling Los Lonely Boys bring down the Austin Music Hall. Don't forget the Champagne Chicken Roast at the Hole in the Wall with truck-stop rocker Scott H. Biram. If four more years of W. make you nervous, put that energy

FREE WEEK

EMO'S, SATURDAY 1-THURSDAY 6

(AND THEN SOME)

Good lord! How Emo's can put together nine days of shows

this good without charging a cover is beyond me. The first six

Drum roll, please. Free week begins Saturday night with River

City rockers the Arm, whose '04 debut should make Mark E.

Smith jealous. Electro-rockers Single Frame, the quirky Oh,

Beast!, and jam metal of Tia Carrera open. Sunday follows

on the right foot (or two of them) with Monday's post-purch port.

Tide push the envelope after the similar Fall Collection, pop

SpaceTruck. Tuesday brings a metal edge with Back Room reg-

Midgetmen, plus Corruption Is King and the Kirby. Thrash

These Men Are Liars. Prepare for the weekend on Thursday

with Ben Webster's offshoot the Attak (iN) Formation, heavy

hitters the Sword, San Antonio youngsters Animals of the

Bible, and the off-beat Old Tymerz. Whoa! Only three days

– Darcie Stevens

WOLFSON

ulars FireKills, Rubberhed's punk-core, and the fun-loving

on Wednesday with the psych rock of Gorch Fock, Storm

the Tower's grindcore, pop-punkers Ignorance Park, and

Monday's post-punk party. Out of hibernation, Dead Whale

mavens Masonic, and Vacation Gold, formerly known as

rock with experimentalism as local freaks Aurora Plastics

Co. differentiate sound from noise. Iron Kite, Spelunker,

and Lung Lunch challenge the sens-

left. Keep the fuel coming.

Dead Whale Tide

are gentle reminders of how lucky we are to live in this city.



to good use with DJ Mel's Rock the Casbah at the Parish. And there's always the Austin Symphony Orchestra with guest B.J. Thomas at the Palmer Events Center for more of a highbrow evening. If none of these fits in your cup of tea, check out the Chronicle's full Club Listings, p.86, for Iguanas, Gourds, and other year-end creatures. Here's to learning from our mistakes in '05. I'm looking at you, George. Darcie Stevens

Cowboy Johnson BROKEN SPOKE, TUESDAY 4

Cowboy Johnson's A Grain of Sand was one of the top Austin debuts of 2004. A tribute to esteemed Texas songwriter Mickey Newbury, it showed off Johnson's smooth-aswhiskey vocals and gave Newbury's engaging lyrics and melodies a remarkable read as tight as a new pair of straight-leg Wranglers. His disc is strong enough to suggest that this will be a night of straight-up honky-tonk.



– Jim Caligiuri

Karaoke Apocalypse: The Dead Motley Sex Maidens **BEERLAND**, WEDNESDAY 5

Why act like a fool alone onstage when you can rock out to your favorite punk and metal tunes of the Eighties with a full band? Chepo Peña of the Sexy Finger Champs formed the Dead Motley Sex Maidens with some like-minded entertainers to give you a chance to live like a rock star. According to their Web site: "You always wanted to be in the band but didn't have the time. the energy, or the talent. You wanted the chicks, the drugs, the booze, but you just couldn't get it together." Here's your chance. www.karaokeapocalypse.com. - Darcie Stevens

Things That Go Pop RED EYED FLY, WEDNESDAY 5

When synth-heavy pop crosses with rhythm-loving funk, you get Austin's Things That Go Pop. Progressing from awkward to groovy in less than a year, TTGP's talent warrants attention. While frontman Jerad Kolarik hypnotizes with quivering vocals, keyboardist and ruler of all things tech Andy Klier builds walls around the chaotic droning of the band. One rule: Shake that thang. Klier also part-times in opening band Halley, whose dynamic 2002 release complicated space rock. Waco's Loxsly stuffs the middle slot with bubble gum and candy canes. - Darcie Stevens

Ethan Azarian HOLE IN THE WALL, THURSDAY 6

Like his band the Orange Mothers, Ethan Azarian as a solo artist is tough to pin down. There's pop, folk, a dash of psychedelia, and some old-fashioned angst, all delivered in an off-beat yet charming manner. As songwriters go, Azarian is closer to Jonathan Richman than Slaid Cleaves, and will have you grinning and laughing even if his heart is bleeding. If fellow Mother Jeff Johnston brings along his bag of tricks, the new year will be off to a fine start. Jim Caligiuri



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San Marcos, 512/353-3777 CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666 CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST, 454-2666

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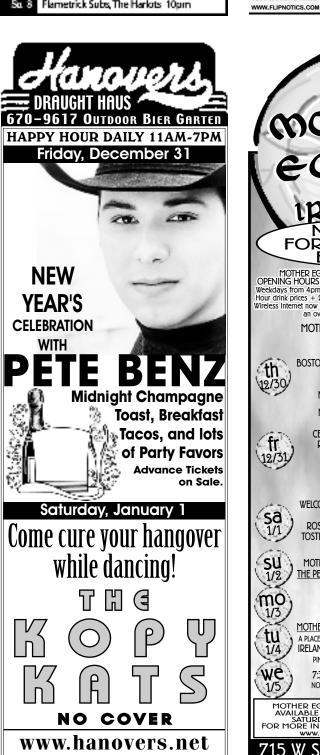
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club listings

Thu **30**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY ALL ETHICAL BIZ PROSPER!

Thur 30 David Newbould / Johnny Goudie 8pm

Fri 31

Happy New Year!

Oren's Rash Bash

Sat 1

Happy New Year!

Tucker Livingston 9pm

FUNK /HUI

thurs 6 - One Armed Giants / Will Barbee

sat 8 - Elvis Tribute w/ Travis Kings / the Hudson's

fri 7 - Nathan Hamilton / the Sapphires

Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory 8p Combo Mahalo / El Orbits 7pm

DJ Tomas

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8pn

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2004

Sun Barton Springs

1601 BARTON SPRINGS

Tues

Wed 5

PNO ICS

CAFE

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30) 311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe

Valentine & Lynn (8:30) ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Karaoke w/ Storm

ANTONE'S Fractious, the Illustrated Band, I Am August

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Stuart Adamsor

BEERLAND Washington Westcott, Camp X-Ray, the

Lottie Collins, Ka-Nives BOOMERZ Jamie

BOOTS NIGHT CLUB Karaoke

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes BROWN BAR Trey Lopez (10:00) **CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke **CEDAR STREET** Gaila Trickey

CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY **GHOST** Spirit of Natfield Littlecourt, Coco Foofaroo (8:00)

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Denny Freeman (6:30), Gary Primich & the Cry Babies, Barfield (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Mark Richey **D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE**

Myra Spector DALE'S ESSENHAUS Karaoke

(7:00)DALLAS Jessica Shepard (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Bobby Doyle (7:30)

EGO'S Braless Night, 2 Hoots & a Holler w/ Jesse Dayton (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jacinta (6:00)

EMO'S The Bricks ATX, the Residuals, the Texas Thieves, the Krumbums FLAMINGO CANTINA Bee vs.

Moth, Echosquad, Navin's Thermos

roadshows

THU 30

Fractious, Antone's Ka-Nives, the Lottie Collins, Beerland

The Visitors, Ninja Death

Accessory,, Redrum **Black Mayonnaise, Rotten** Piece, Murderous Vision,

Room 710

FRI 31 This Damn Town, Catholic Boys. Beerland The Iguanas, Continental Club THE FOUNDATION Cov West FOX & HOUND Bo Reynolds & Woody Russell

GIDDY UP'S Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Tomás Ramírez

GRUENE HALL Rob Roy Parnell, Two Tons of Steel (8:00) HANOVER'S Karaoke (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Jane Bond (10:00)

LONGBRANCH INN Mark Rubin & His Ridgetop Syncopators, Hollis Webb (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Dragonfly Jones (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Slim Richey's Dream Band (7:00) MOON RIVER Acoustic Night

(7:00)MOTHER'S CAFE Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham

NUNO'S NIGHTCLUB Open Mic w/ Greg Kettler

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Jay Thomas

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Big Al

ONE 2 ONE John Napier (9:00) PALMER EVENTS CENTER Austin Symphony Orchestra w/ B.J. Thomas

PLUSH DJ Phyfteen **POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Bear &

the Essentials (10:00) THE PUB Karaoke w/ Al

RANDY'S ICE HOUSE Karaoke w/ WCM

REDRUM Ninja Death Accessory, Red Pill Scene, Breaking Autumn, the Visitors

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)ROOM 710 Murderous Vision

Rotten Piece, Rubble, Black Mayonnaise, Tia Carrera

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Cotton Inks

Roger Creager, Midnight Rodeo

Billy Joe Shaver, Stiffy Williams, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill Funk Brazil, Ruta Maya

Cross Canadian Ragweed, Saengerhalle Fucked Up Mess, End Me,

Mind Eraser, Sound on Sound

JANUARY

MON 3 Hayes Carll, Saxon Pub

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is generally Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

RUTA MAYA Sally Semrad, Claire Hamilton, Sarah Glynn Band

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)

SAENGERHALLE Doug Moreland, Randy Rogers Band

SALT LICK 360 Jazz Squares (6:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Doug Moreland, Bonnie Bishop, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays

w/ DJ Def M STUBB'S The Guest, the Cutaway, Burden Brothers

(10:00)T.C.'S LOUNGE Moving Blues

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Herschel Moody (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN McKay Bros., Erickson, Mars Hall

TROPHY'S Sunspot

VUE DJ AM WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Fri BO

219 WEST DI Trace 311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn

(9:00)**ALLIGATOR GRILL** Ray Wylie Hubbard

WED 5 Loxsly, Red Eyed Fly Power & the Glory, Die Young, Redrum

THU 6

Strung Out, Evergreen Terrace, Back Room Animals of the Bible, Emo's The Prids, Thanks to Chalman, Flamingo Cantina Baby Grant Johnson, Hole in the Wall

Castle Danger, the Philosophers, Animal Paw, MonkeyWrench Books

DECEMBER



Austin Music Commission Meeting Announcement Monday, January 3, 6pm at the new City Hall 301 West 2nd St. #1101

Topics and Speakers – Smoking Ordinance Enforcement: Vince Delisi of Travis County Health and Human Services Network for Young Artists: Fito Kahn

Public is welcome!





Wed., Dec. 29

Fri., Dec. 31

Sat..

Sun.

0

Jan. 2

Mon., Jan. 3

Tues., Jan. 4

Wed., Jan. 5

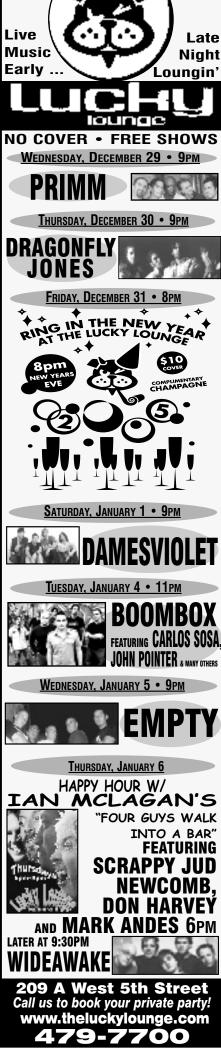








86 | THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE | DECEMBER 31, 2004



calendar → COMMUNITY → ARTS → FILM → MUSIC

club listings **I** FROM FRIDAY

Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ

Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)

APPLE BAR Jazztronica &

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL LOS Lonely Boys (9:30)

B.D. RILEY'S PUB Dr. Zog

BACK ROOM Jolly Garogers,

Charter Bulldogs, Backlit Revolver, Broken Teeth

BEERLAND Catholic Boys, This

Damn Town, Kodiaks

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Greatest

CEDAR STREET John Pointer

w/ the Atlantics (9:30)

HOUSE Ponty Bone

CHEATHAM STREET WARE-

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gary Clark

Jr., the Iguanas, (10:00)

(6:00), New Year's Eve Bash

BROWN BAR DJ Gray, Steven

BOOMERZ DHL

Riplev (9:00)

American Heroes

BIG DAVE'S The Buzz (9:15)

Starsign (10:00)

- ANTONE'S Jake Andrews, Bob Schneider (10:00)

 - HANOVER'S Pete Benz
 - Necessary, Oklahomos, Brewtality Inc., Ignitor, Methods of Destruction
 - Erik Berglund (8:00)
 - Eve Party w/ Black Joe, Scott H. Biram (10:00)
 - Travis. Sound Team
 - (7:00)
 - (9:00)
 - LA ZONA ROSA DJ Shook.
 - Lanaya, Brownout!, Grupo Fantasma
 - Premise, the Harlots (TX), Attention Spaniards
 - Atherton (6:30)
 - **OAKS** Black & White Bash: Nancy Scott, Therapy Sisters, Susan Colton, Wishing Chair, Melissa Sigler (8:00)
 - Creager (9:00)

COTTON CLUB The Cotton Pickers

- D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE Jon Emery (8:00)
- DAN MCKLUSKY'S Bobby Doyle (7:00)DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
 - Station Masters THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
 - **EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL**
 - Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
 - EGO'S The Recliners (10:45)
 - ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
 - ELEPHANT ROOM Trés (6:00) ELYSIUM New Year's Eve w/ DJ Gothfather, DJ Roger Wilson
 - EMO'S The Ritchie Whites, the Good Looks, the Applicators, Riverboat Gamblers

 - FADÓ The Onion
 - FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains, Tribal Nation

- FLORES MEXICAN RESTAU RANT Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
- GIDDY UP'S Rockin' New Year's Eve w/ Memphis T & the HooDoo Lovers
- **GRUENE HALL** Gary P. Nunn
- **HEADHUNTERS** By Any Means
- THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE
- HOLE IN THE WALL New Year's
- HOTEL SAN JOSÉ Li'l Cap'n
- JOHNNY FINS DJ Your Way
- JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band
- LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
- MCC AUSTIN AT FREEDOM
- MIDNIGHT RODEO Roger

Greatest American Heroes New Year's Eve Partv

Live at the **Carousel Lounge**

An evening of all-TV theme

songs

Dec. 31 **9pm to Midnight \$5** Cover

- MOMOS New Year's Eve Party w/ Ginger Leigh, Patrice Pike MOON RIVER New Year's Eve
- Massacre Party w/ Doc Pointer NASTY'S Three Pot Offy, Basin
- Street, the Nematoads NAT'S PUB Ray Holland Band

NUTTY BROWN CAFE W.T. Specia

THE OFFICE LOUNGE DJ Woody

OMNI HOTEL DOWNTOWN JetSet New Year's Eve w/

Thunderball

OSLO DJ Kurv

- THE PALLADIUM Vibe
- PALMER EVENTS CENTER Austin Symphony Orchestra w/ B.J. Thomas

PARDNERS DJ Dancin' Don (7:00)

THE PARISH Rock the Casbah w/ DJ Mel, Masquerade Ball PLUSH BLAKK w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N.

- (10:00)POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & **GRILL** Stiffy Williams, Michael Klein, Billy Joe Shaver
- RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- **RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke**
- **REDRUM** Vermicious Canids, Dryline, Born to Lose, Rubberhed, the Stummies
- **REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Blue Mist (8:30)
- RILEY'S TAVERN Fender & the Skirt Chasers
- ROOM 710 Tia Carrera (7:00), Awesome Cool Dudes, Kissinger, Hobble (10:00)
- RUTA MAYA New Year's Eve Party w/ New Cycle, Funk Brazil, Sambaxe (9:00)

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)

SAENGERHALLE West 84 Wade Bowen, Stoney LaRue, Cross Canadian Ragweed

SAMPAIO'S Joel Shuler (7:15)

- SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Jon Dee Graham, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
- SHENANIGANS American Thighs
- Party w/ Dysfunkshun Junkshun (7:00)



SOUND ON SOUND Mind Eraser, End Me, Fucked Up Mess (3:00) SPEAKEASY New Year's Eve

STUBB'S The Gourds





thurs Nuthin' New All Stars 10:00-2:00 fri New Year's Eve (call for details) sat D] Kurv 11:00-2:00

sun D] Kurupt 9:00-2:00

mon D] In/Verse motown and funk

tues DJ Manny TWIST UP mixing past, present and future party mixes

wed D] Shane and D] Linda rotate weeks



bling-bling

new year's eve at

OSIO food drink dancing

Now taking reservations. For more information call 512.480.9433.

301 west 6th street www.oslo-austin.com



Behaving Ifalian with bartender Joshua Jefferson



Years bartending

Favorite part of the job

Meeting new people and providing an upbeart atmosphere to my patrons and co-workers.

Favorite time of day to

drink Tuaca NIGHTTIME. Is there any other way?

What was your greatest moment as a bartender?

Competing at the Bartending Championship (flair contest). Lots of people were screaming and yelling for myself and my fellow bartenders.

Your defining "Behaving Italian" moment?

Having the entire bar take a Tuaca Bomb simultaneously.

Favorite Tuaca

drink recipe Tuaca Bomb Shot of Tuaca dropped in Red Bull.





calendar → COMMUNITY → ARTS → FILM → MUSIC

club listings •• FROM FRIDAY

SWERVE COFFEE LOUNGE Get It On! w/ Jeff Strange (6:00)

- TEXAS BAR & GRILL New Year's Eve Party w/ Lee Person THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/
- R.J. TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Horenhol Moody (7:20)
- Herschel Moody (7:30) TRIPLE CROWN Wasted Youth,
 - RIPLE CROWN Wasted Youth, Songs for the Dead, Molly & the Hatchets, the Spiders (6:00)
- TUT'S BAR & GRILL Travis Cherry (8:30)

THE VIBE New Year's Eve Bash w/ Velvet Brick, Podunk, Dirty

Wormz, Pushmonkey, Vallejo VUE DJ AM

YOGI'S Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (8:00)

<u>Sat</u> 00

219 WEST DJ Trace

311 CLUB Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

APPLE BAR Jazztronica & Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ

Starsign (10:00) ARTZ RIB HOUSE Greg Klyma

(7:00) BEERLAND Maltoro, Flametrick

Subs
BIG DAVE'S Murray Woods and

Tangled Blues (9:15) **'BOUT TIME** DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)

BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson (8:00)

BROWN BAR David Miranda (10:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

COLE'S ICEHOUSE Rachel Lynn, Kyle Rhodes, James Rider (1:30)

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Jane Bond, ARC Welders, Mystic Knights of the Sea (9:30)

D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)

THE DRISKILL Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00) EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL

Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00) EGO'S George Jenkins, the

Outriders, Shane Bartell (7:00) ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)

ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00) ELEPHANT ROOM Tomás

Ramírez (9:00)

ELYSIUM Haven: Goth Night w/ DJ Gothfather, DJ Void

EMO'S Tia Carrera, Oh, Beast!, Single Frame, the Arm

FADÓ The Onion

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Buckley

FLAMINGO CANTINA III Spent Youth, Los Bones

FLIP'S SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00) FRIENDS Texcellorators (7:30) GALAXY CAFE Paul White

Quartet (7:00) GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN

SALOON Billy Dee & Redd Volkaert (9:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic DJ HOLE IN THE WALL Gary Clark Jr. (10:00)

JOHNNY FINS DJ Your Way (7:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim LUCKY LOUNGE Damesviolet (9:00)

MOMOS Tyrone Vaughn, Rock Bottom Choir, Warren Hood All Star Band (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mr. K

OSLO DJ Chicken George (10:00)

PLUSH DJ Phyfteen

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Chili Cold Blood

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Billy D. REDRUM The Formaldyhydes, Capt. Bringdown & the Buzzkillers, Phantom Rockers

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB The SG Project (6:00), Marc Devine Quartet (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Raab y los Killa Hawgs

ROOM 710 Full Stride, Pudding, Hognose, Super Heavy Goat Ass, Speedloader

RUTA MAYA Lee Simmons Band, Andrew Walker (8:00)

SAMPAIO'S Bem Brazil (7:30)



"Il mio ragazzo voleva che togliessi. Peccato, mi manchera"

("My boyfriend wanted me to remove it. I'll miss that man.")

Tuaca Behave Tralian

> Deceptively smooth. Daringly Bold. Tuaca Italian Liqueur. Life is an adventure. Behave accordingly.

> > You also have friends at Tuaca. They remind you to drink responsibly. Tuaca Italian Liqueur, Livorno, Italy, 35% Alc. by Volume. Imported by Brown-Forman Spirits Americas, Louisville KY ©2004



 $calendar \mathrel{\scriptsize\blacktriangleright} \mathsf{COMMUNITY} \mathrel{\scriptsize\blacktriangleright} \mathsf{ARTS} \mathrel{\scriptsize\blacktriangleright} \mathsf{FILM} \mathrel{\scriptsize\blacktriangleright} \mathsf{MUSIC}$

club listings •• FROM SATURDAY

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Omar & the Howlers (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karma Dogs

Conrad, Nick Matthews

SKY LOUNGE DJ Craig Brunkenhoefer

Sun 02

219 WEST DJ Trace

R.J

VUE DJ AM

SIDEKICKS/XTREME DJ Bryan

THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/

ALICE'S RESTAURANT P.J. the

Cowboy Poet's Gospel Project (11:30 am)

Bluegrass Assoc. Jam (2:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Central Texas

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Jazz

Brunch (11:00 am)

B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits Open Mic w/ Bourland, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Brian Shirk (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Disco Hospital w/ DJ Rachel Goldstar, Woozy Helmet, Bring Back the Guns, So Many Dynamos, Attack Formation

BIG DAVE'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (8:00)

BOOMERZ Raquel

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Steve

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! w/ Redd Volkaert & Earl Poole Ball (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00) THE DRINK SHU (9:00) EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Mac Bynum (7:00)

EGO'S The Aquaholics, 3 Balls of Fire (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Doug Hall Trio (9:00)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Sliver Cyber Slut, DJ Spider Lily

EMO'S Long Lunch, Spelunker, Iron Kite, Aurora Plastics Company

FADÓ Prize Mic

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Headtrip w/ DJ Ali Elwakhi & DJ Josh Sweet

FRIENDS Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Ted Hall's Blues Jam (7:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL James Bullard, Matt Hubbard (10:00)





TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED SUPPOR JB & SANDY'S 8TH ANNUAL BIKES FOR KIDS!









Tuesdays \$2 Pints & Free Pool Wednesdavs \$6 Domestic Pitchers 8-11

Thursdays \$1.75 Anheuser-Busch Bottles (Bud Lt., Bud Ice, Busch)

Fridays Great Happy Hour

🔛 Full Liquor Bar & Beer Garden 🔛

Happy	Hour	M-	·F•	6-8

Happy Hour M-F • 6-8				
Open Mon-Sat 6pm-2am			^	
Pool Tables • Dart Boards			+ North	
9 Margarita Flavors				
52 Import and Domestic Bottles		-₩*	606	
453-4349			606 Maiden Lane	



Marley's Gnarley Barleywine **Bourbon Barrel Black Experiment Ale Saison De Luxe** Vanilla Porter **Edel Weisse**



4112 Medical Pkwy × 452.MALT× draughthouse.com

calendar > COMMUNITY > ARTS > FILM > MUSIC

club listings **I** FROM SUNDAY

JOHNNY FINS DJ Your Way

JOVITA'S Pop Stars: Dads Who

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Gospel

MOMOS Chicks w/ Picks, Warren

Hood & the Hoodlums, Brewster McKracken (7:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB

Honkytonk Brunch w/ the

NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT

Pedernales Playboys (noon)

Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/

Robert Wagner (10:00)

SAXON PUB Bruce Smith &

Daniel McKeever, the

ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh

Resentments, Walter Tragert

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

TAZ COUNTRY Karaoke w/ Big Al

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Tony Fant

THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song

Andy Lemaster

Session (2:00)

MOON RIVER Karaoke

w/ Mrs. K

(7:00)

Sweeney (9:00)

Harmonizers (11:00 am)

Proiect. Imperial Golden Crown

(7:00)

Rock (6:00)

Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken (9:00) JO'S HOT COFFEE Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)

<u>Mon</u> 03

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/

ANTONE'S Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 w/ Bill Maddox; Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty (11:00)

BEERLAND Karaoke (6:00) 'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Steve

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Trent Durham Band (9:30)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco **COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49 (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL

Mac Bynum (7:15) EGO'S Beth Garner & Tucker

Livingston, Black Joe Lewis & the Cool Breeze, Michael Shane Borden (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Jam w/ Freddie Mendoza (9:00)

EMO'S Vacation Gold, Masonic, the Fall Collection, Dead Whale Tide

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ AM FLAMINGO CANTINA Capt.

Bringdown & the Buzzkillers, Westbound Train, the Stingers ATX (7:30)

FRIENDS Catherine Denise, Eric Tessmer (7:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Billy Dee & Redd Volkaert (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Marvin Boterra & Friends

HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Corey Michael

HARD ROCK CAFE DJ LL **HICKORY STREET BAR &**

GRILLE Karaoke (7:30) THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE

Edward Vasquez (11:30 am) HOLE IN THE WALL Amanda

Cunningham, Kevin Brown, Tucker Livingston (9:00)

JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)

LONGBRANCH INN Singer-Songwriter Night

MOMOS Deejer, Blowing Trees, Joseph King & the Acoustic Indulgence (8:30)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROAST-ERS John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce

NASTY'S DJ Mel, Baby G

THE OFFICE LOUNGE DJ Woody **REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Erickson

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Ray Frushay

SAXON PUB Hayes Carll, Rock & Roll Vaudeville w/ Guy Fantasy, Lost Coast (7:00)

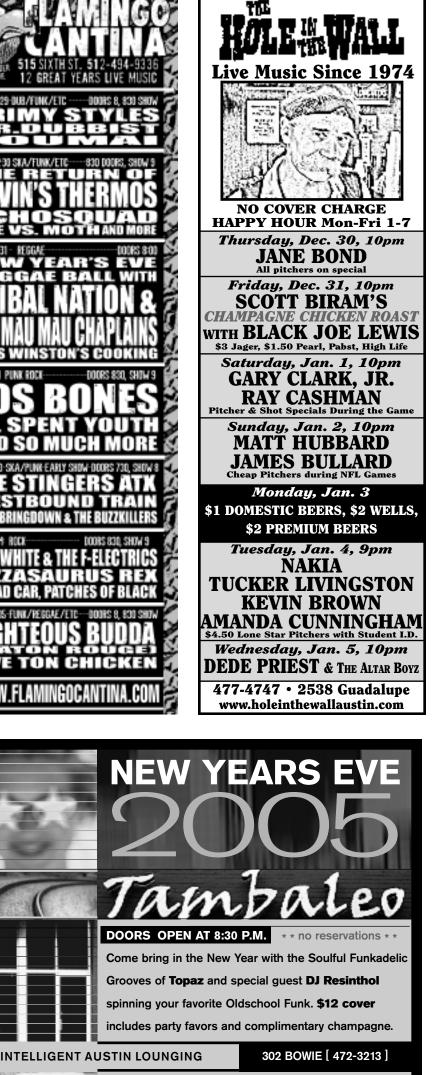
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dwn Maracle











calendar > COMMUNITY > ARTS > FILM > MUSIC

club listings **I** FROM MONDAY

Open Mic w/ Tony Fant

Tue **04**

ARARAT Sergev

219 WEST Crucial Prophet

311 CLUB Alan Haynes (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER

BEERLAND Happy Hour w/

The Kitchen Pickers (6:30

Time Fiddlers Jam

THE VIBE Dancin' Bare (10:00)

(8:30), the Outriders (11:00) EL MERCADO'S MUSIC THE WATER TANK Acoustic Jam

LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock' Songwriters Night w/ Christine Young, Melissa Mullins (7:00)

EGO'S Redd Volkaert & Billy Dee

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Tony Campise's Big Band (9:00)

ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah

EMO'S The Kirby, Corruption Is King, the Midgetmen,

Rubberhed, FireKills FADÓ Tea Merchants (8:00)

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Toddy B, DJ J.A.M.O.N.

- FLAMINGO CANTINA Patches of Black, Squad Car, Pizzasaurus Rex, Bob White & the F-Electrics
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
- FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Alan Haynes (7:30)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Stop the Truck

- GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Felix the Kid (8:00)
- JOE'S GENERIC The Mighty Orq, Alan Haynes
- JOVITA'S The Leghounds (8:00) LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox w/
- Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00) MOMOS Patrice Pike, Gordy
- Quist, Psychedelic Drums w/ Ron Dryer (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billv D

OSLO Hedda Layne **POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin

RED EYED FLY The Hat Madder **REDRUM** Same Day Service,

Single File **REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Denia Ridley (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Bo Carter & Adam Lamar

ROADHOUSE Meter Peakers

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE T.R. Sterzing

RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAHARA NIGHTCLUB Improv Jazz

SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Denim (5:00), Phillip Gibbs, Downliners, Will Sexton's All Star Band (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Mr. K

SOUND ON SOUND Dropout, Coldera, Machine Gun Romantics (5:00)

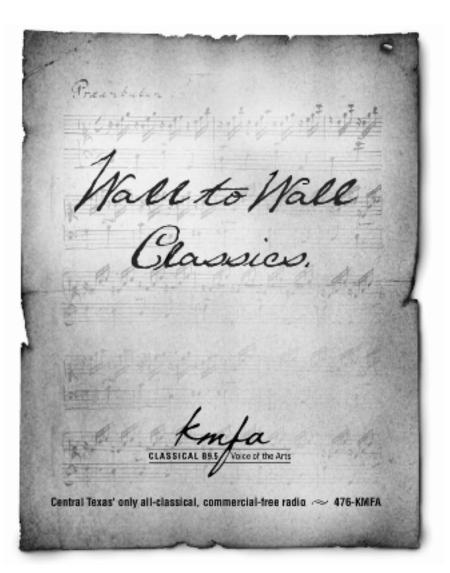
SPEAKEASY KKQ (9:30)

TAMBALEO Laura Scarborough, Ohn (10:00)

TAVERN ON THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dawn Maracle

THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.L



Charlie & Spot (7:00) **BROKEN SPOKE** Cowboy Johnson BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00) CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke **CEDAR STREET** Texas Eastside

Kings (9:30) CHARLIE'S Margaret Wright

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), Grady (11:00)

CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL

Bobby Doyle (7:00)









VOLUNTEER CALL

FILM • INTERACTIVE • MUSIC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2005 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. 4th St. 4th Floor, Governor's Ballroom

Interested in volunteering for SXSW 2005?

() Film

• Interactive

- Submit an application online.
- Attend our Volunteer Call.

Please visit the volunteer website for more information about crews, time requirements, and to fill out the online volunteer application. After completing the application, print out your confirmation form and bring it with you to the Volunteer Call.

http://www.sxsw.com/volunteer

If you don't have internet access, we will have application forms available for you when you arrive at the Hilton. During the call, you will watch a brief informational video, have your photo taken for the volunteer database, and meet with SXSW crew chiefs and staff to indicate your crew interest and availability. Plan to spend at least an hour at the call.

If you are interested in volunteering, but are not able to attend the call, contact a Volunteer Coordinator as soon as possible. We will accept applications as long as we have space available, but the crews will fill up quickly!

Please call the SXSW office or e-mail vol@sxsw.com and ask to speak to a Volunteer Coordinator if you have any questions about the volunteer application process.

A limited number of paid positions are available from March 11-20. Interested parties should attend the VOLUNTEER CALL. Please bring a resumé, and a copy of your valid driver's license.

SXSW HEADQUARTERS • PO BOX 4999 • AUSTIN TX 78765 • 512/467-7979

club listings **I** FROM TUESDAY

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems,

Jason Freed, Bill Davis WHISKY BAR Troy Dillinger & Taxi (9:00)

Wed **05**

219 WEST The SG Project (10:00)

311 CLUB Dewayne Davis (8:30) AGAVE Eli Jackson, Eric Tessmer

- (10:00)ARARAT Laura Scarborough
- (8:00)ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King
- AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S PUB Eric Tessmer
- **BEERLAND** Karaoke Apocalypse: Dead Motley Sex Maidens

BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin Band

BROWN BAR DJ Manny CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones,

Bruce Hughes (8:00) CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave (6:00), Juice (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WARE-HOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle

- **CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB** Karaoke (8:00
- **COFFEE CREATOR** Je Renee, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)
 - **COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)
 - **CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), Jon Dee Graham (10:00), James McMurtry
 - (12mid) CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/
 - the Cadaques (8:00) CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
 - DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Bobby Doyle (7:00)

- EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam Shane Bartell's Love Seat (8:00)
- **ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ephraim
- ELYSIUM Resurrection w/ DJ Argo, DJ Spider Lily
- EMO'S These Men Are Liars,
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Centro w/
- FLAMINGO CANTINA 5 Ton
- FRIENDS Texcellorators (7:30), John McVey & the Stumble
- GIDDY UP'S Gaby Brown & Mike Cross
- **GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN** SALOON Justin Trevino
- **GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL**
- **GUADALAJARA RESTAURANT** & CANTINA El Mariachi y la
- THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Woode Wood, Burton & the Freefallers (7:00)
- HILLTOP TAVERN Open Mic
- HOLE IN THE WALL Dede Priest & the Altar Boyz (10:00)
- Pride & Joy
- LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art
- LUCKY LOUNGE Empty (9:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
- MIDTOWN LIVE Karaoke w/ Ro' Black (8:00)
- MOMOS Jade Day, Wendy Colonna, Brian Keane, Joy
- MOON RIVER Karaoke (7:00)
- (9:00)

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SATURDAY JAN 1 P. HINNESS ALL THE BOWL GAMES Every Wednesday- 8 pm XOU CAN STAND PUB QUIZ \$\$ Trivia! Prizes! Thursday December 30 We Are Open EVERY Day JOIN US FOR Zak Perry Band NEW YEAR'S EVE ! CD RELEASE PARTY! PARTY WITH dr Zog Band Every Sunday - 8 pm Irish Tune Session 204 East 6th (at Brazos)

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- Owens Quartet (9:00)

Ignorance Park, Storm the Tower, Gorch Fock

Richard Henry, Luis Ramirez

- Chicken, Righteous Buddha
- (10:30)

- Karaoke w/ Steve & Ian (8:00)
- Compania (6:00)

JOE'S GENERIC Swamp Sauce. JOVITA'S Grassy Knoll Boys

(8:00)

Kidd (6:30)

Davis w/ Wayne Sutton (8:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Mr. K

That Go Pop **REDRUM** Die Young, Power & the Glory, Sea of Thousand **REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB**

NORTH BY NORTHWEST

(6:00)

OSLO DJ Avatar

(10:00)

Jones

(8:00)

Natalie Zoe & Beth Garner

THE OFFICE LOUNGE DJ Woody

PLUSH Get Broke: DJ Merrick

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &

RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke

RED EYED FLY Loxsly, Things

Brown, DJ Tyler, DJ Will B.

GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee

Marc Devine Trio (7:00) RILEY'S TAVERN Dan McCoy, Songwriters Open Mic w/ Stephanie & Matt

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D **ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Glenn Collins

ROY'S AUSTIN Lucky Strikes

RUTA MAYA Jimmy George Band

SAHARA NIGHTCLUB Neo-Soul

SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke

Lounge & Poetry Reading Open Mic (7:30)

Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown

AND EMPORIUM Blazt (7:00)

SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE

SAXON PUB Leo Stokes, Brian

Hankins, Patty David, Love

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke

w/ Shawn the Kid (8:00)

SPEAKEASY The Brew, Salsa

TAMBALEO Hip Hop Karaoke

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dawn

Herschel Moody (7:30)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL

Z'TEJAS GRILL Stephen Doster

County (8:00)

Lessons (9:30)

Maracle

VUE DJ AM

(6:00)

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<u>Thu</u> 06

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30)311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe

Valentine & Lynn (8:30) ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Karaoke w/ Stormy

B.D. RILEY'S PUB Dealers

BACK ROOM Evergreen Terrace, Strung Out

BOOMERZ Jamie

BOOTS NIGHT CLUB Karaoke

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR Trey Lopez (10:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Denny Freeman (6:30), Barfield, Waxploitation! (10:00)

D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE Dallas Wayne (8:00)

DALE'S ESSENHAUS Karaoke (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale

EGO'S Small Stars Revue. 2

Hoots & a Holler w/ Jesse Dayton (8:30) ELEPHANT ROOM Kris Kimura

Trio (6:00), Glenn Rexach Quartet (9:00)

EMO'S Old Tymerz, Animals of the Bible, the Sword, Attak (in) Formation

FLAMINGO CANTINA Thanks to Chalman, Cassette, the Prids

THE FOUNDATION Coy West FOX & HOUND Bo Reynolds & Woody Russell

GIDDY UP'S Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson

HANOVER'S Karaoke (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Baby Grant Johnson, Ethan Azarian (10:00)

LONGBRANCH INN Mark Rubin & His Ridgetop Syncopators, Hollis Webb (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan w/ Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Don Harvey, and Mark Andes (6:00), Wideawake (9:30)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Slim Richey's Dream Band (7:00)

MOMOS Nick Smith, Stephen Clarke, Ryan Desiato, Dreamt the End (8:00)

MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS Animal Paw, the Philosophers, Toru Okada, Castle Danger (7:00)

MOON RIVER Acoustic Night (7:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham

NUNO'S NIGHTCLUB Open Mic w/ Greg Kettler

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Big Al

ONE 2 ONE John Napier (9:00)

PLUSH DJ Phyfteen POODLE DOG LOUNGE Bear &

the Essentials (10:00) **THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Al

RANDY'S ICE HOUSE Karaoke w/ WCM

REDRUM Laughing Stock, Sluggard, More Fire

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Austin Daze w/ the Big Orange, Collect All Five

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)

SAENGERHALLE Open Mic w/ Gerald Dennison & Sean Palen

SALT LICK 360 Jazz Squares (6:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Keith Sykes & Richard Leigh, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

STUBB'S Cooper's Uncle (6:30) T.C.'S LOUNGE Moving Blues

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ

Dimestore Poets (8:00) **TROPHY'S** Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers

VUE DJ AM

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Z'TEJAS GRILL Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

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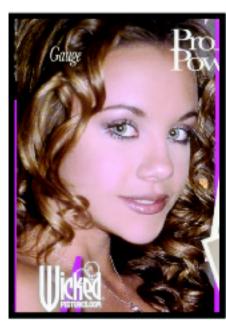


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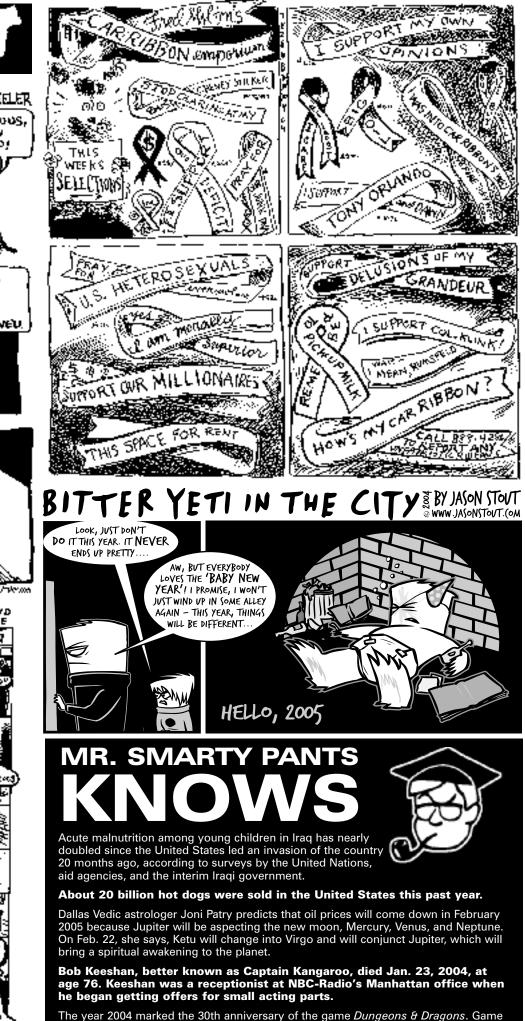
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publisher Wizards of the Coast estimates some four million people currently play D&D at least once a month.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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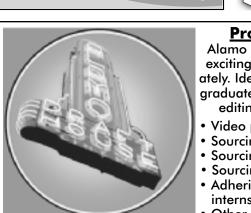
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ROOMMATES

CENTRAL \$350 Airport blvd/ Crestwood. 1940's 2br duplex. Spacious sunny kitchen, Ig yard. Early 30's UT student, cat. Storage, available Jan 1. Chay 374-9174 chaybly@yahoo.com

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CENTRAL \$366+bills. Share big 3/1. Fenced yard, en-closed patio w/ hottub, outdoor shower, bar. Cable+hi-speed. Furnished or not. 495-4185

CENTRAL \$350 Apt 3Bdr/ 2Ba. WD/DW, Storage, Pool, Room Furnished, Private Bath, Closet, Student wel-come. Jeff. To contact me, save my listing ID=H041227131558762 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http:// www.easyroommate.com/

CENTRAL \$420 abp w/lease, deposit. cable/internet incl. CACH. Quiet, private w/bath for N/S female. we compost/

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CENTRAL \$450 4-plex: 2 bed 1 1/2 bath Feb. 1st. w /d, stylish tile floors, berber car-pet, private patio, off Barton Sprgs behind Zilker. cat; gay friendly Angela@barnettgarcia.com

CENTRAL \$415/mo..short term lease, no deposit, one month free. High speed inter-net, wd, pool, hot tub, fur-nished, gated, covered park-ing, close to ACC and the UT bus line. 915-274-7883

CENTRAL \$450. Apartment 2bdr/2Ba. Balcony, WD/DW, AC, Closet, Private Bath and Pation Colored, Invale Bahr and pation Quiet Neighbors in Fantastic Location. Angela. To contact me, save my list-ing ID=H041221131532273 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://

CENTRAL not looking for a saint, but does need to have

CENTRAL Room for rent. Art-

sy Condo for Lease Near Hyde Park. Cable/Internet Free \$500 791-7462

CENTRAL Roomie needed

mid Jan--end of May for spa-cious 4/2 in French Place (38

1/2 & Cherrywood) with 3 oth-er male student roomies.

high speed internet, digital cable, \$375 + 1/4 bills, 773 0810

CENTRAL Roommate need-ed ASAP for a cool 50's style apartment near 38th and 135,

with hardwood floors, cov-

ered parking, AC, backyard, and a balcony. 294-0380

CENTRAL Will be out of Aus-

tin, 2/2. 5 min. walk to UT. Rent 425/mo negotionable w/ 1/2 bills. Huge room/bath-room. 512-587-7567.

EAST 3/br 2/bath house built

EAS 1 3/bf 2/bath house built in 1955 - only one room is left! Wood floors, big kitchen, formal dining, game room, huge backyard. Free high-speed internet. \$400/month + 1/3 utils. 563-8304

EAST F Roommate wanted.

ok, close to campus. Avail Jan 1st. 351-2071

EAST Funky new house to share, \$400 NICE clean col-

roommate. 832.498.4176

EAST Room for rent in clean. queer-friendly home. \$250/ mo+ \$60/mo bills. \$250 dep. Available JAn 15. Internet,

hardwood, fireplace, long-distance. Angela or Billy 474 0399. No pets please

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month + bills 374 9056

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www.easyroommate.com/ CENTRAL \$400, House Bdr/2Ba, Private Bath, Near

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CENTRAL Young couple CENTRAL 1 bd/ba in a beau-(78704). Wood floor, upstairs balcony w/view, broadband, 2 miles from downtown, lake & ACC, 4 from UT. \$500.00 seeking nice female to rent room in 2/2 condo. \$500 ALL BILLS PAID Call for more info 480-9949

ABP. 799-3771. CENTRAL 1800 sq ft duplex 2/1/2 plus DR, W/D, hard-wood floors, nice kitchen, fenced yard, pets OK (I have cat and two parrots). \$500 - 1/2 bills. 636-9738

CENTRAL 2-2 House near Cameron Rd UT Shuttle for mid-Jan to mid-May. Warn-ing: I have two dogs and one is old and stinky (and two cats). But, I'll make you a good deal on the rent. Laid back/open minded. 560-1064

CENTRAL A gay male seeks male for 2-1 condo, ceiling fans, fireplace, W/D, cable, pool, hot tub. \$375+elec, de-posit, references. 419-4171

CENTRAL Cool Austin girl iso Female Roommate,\$400
 + utilities,Includes use of all house and HUGE backyard. Preferred ages 25-35. 422-0878

CENTRAL Female roommate 3/2 townhouse on UT shuttle. W/D, pool, tennis courts, gar-age, furnished. \$450, per electric \$350. deposit 512-577-2384

CENTRAL Large room (15 x 12) in 2/1 duplex near 32nd and Red River (walk to UT). Hardwoods, high ceilings, fireplace, character, Share with 22 year-old female UT senior, \$475, Call 294-4005

CENTRAL Laid back Hyde Park 2/1. \$475/month + 1/2 utilities for easygoing person. W/D, CACH, Blocks from #7 bus and Flightpath Cafe. Looking to fill by January. 420-0821 or spongo@io.com

CENTRAL MOVE IN FREE \$500/\$550 (parking), walk t campus/at WC stop; HUGE ROOM, 2 fun female roomies. W/D IN apt, balcony/Fire-place/Dishwasher, Furnished. utbrowneyez@hotmail.com

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CENTRAL NICE Private Room-Share home with male, \$422.55 + bills. DW, W/D, Yard Maint. CHCA/ Fans/FP, Bus--UT Access. 220.0823 220-0833

NORTH \$400 ABP EREE Wifi/IntntRR/Cab home, near IBM, Cable. 4/2/2 BM, safe, q well extablished nghbrhood Large lot with trees, hammock, grill, kayak, W/ 2Dryers. \$200 dep. Tobin 775-4728

NORTH \$450. House 3Bdr/ 2Ba. WD/DW, Storage, Pool, AC, Private ABth, Closet. Laid Back welcome. April To contact me, save my listing ID=H041225231261942 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://

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NORTH 620/183 area. Large sunny room in nice happy house, walk-in closet, built-in basks have a superstructure of the set of the s bookshelves, areenhouse, woodshop, newly carpeted many amenities. \$49 Art at 512/335-2783 \$495 Call

NORTH Available Dec 1st! 2/ 1.5 \$380/\$250 deposit Near 360 183 & Mopac. Two-story duplex. Responsible easy going female roommate needed. 512-565-9014

NORTH Beautiful, large mas ter bedroom, large bathroom, walk-in closet. Large backyard, trees, garage, fireplace, kitchen with bar. \$565. Available immediately. 657-6606

NORTH Condo for rent with 31 year old male. 1100 square feet. 2 story, fp, w/d, ac/h, 836-7858 after 9 pm. 836-7858

NORTH E Parmer (near Dell, Samsung), Mandalay luxury apts; upgrading to 2/2 10/1, \$400 1/2 utils. Gated, cvrd prkng. Prefer opposite shift, mature, gay friendly male; you-evenings. Refs please. 415-7599 Avail 12/1

NORTH roommate wanted for 1 duplex with w/d. No pets Must be clean and somewhat quiet, I'm a massage thera-pist. I have a dog who is good and loves everyone. Call 512-220-5242

home with male naturist. No drugs, smoking or pets. \$300 plus util. 836-7901 after 6 pm

NORTH: /Central. Cool, Pro-fessional, GWM Homeowner, Seeking Clean, Quiet, Em-ployed Housemate. 2-2 Townhome, Garage, Pool, W&D, Fenced Yard. \$350+1/ 2 Utilities. Dean @626-0754 AFTER2PM

NORTHEAST \$425 for pri-vate rooms and utilities in-cluding digital cable and cable modem. Share 3/2 home in Northeast Austin. Non-smoker. 272-4095

NORTHEAST 1 mile east of Bartholomew Park, need housemate to share a large 4/2/2 for \$600 + 1/2 bills. Me: easygoing, female. You: ea-sygoing & employed; prefer female. Avail. Feb 1. Call 350,896 350-8086

NORTHEAST \$275 all bills paid including high speed internet. washer/dryer. nice home in nice NE austin neighborhood. gregory gklein@austin.rr.com 512.422.9435

Roomie. Furnished (or not) room in big house, NE Cen-tral. \$370 & bills. Nice extras. roommate@whoever.com

NORTHEAST 2 small bed-

house at 183/Ohlen Rd.. 2 bed. 1 .5 bath, W/D, fireplace, high speed, digital

NORTHWEST NW Hills Duplex Female, \$250, \$100 de-posit, references, light house keeping - 10X10 bed-room,pool view. Share, RR, Kitchen, pool, jacuzzi, W/2. Liz 418-0029

NORTHWEST Share 4/2 nouse, by AndersonMill & 183. Nice location, all amenities, large room, private NoSmoking, \$350 Call: 249-6211

NORTHWEST Room avail able in 2/2 NW Austin apt. Private bath, washer/dryer, \$300 + bills. Seeking 20something male, clean/quiet/ nonsmoker/straight. 409-543-3120

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SOUTH \$700 2 Single gay males seek reliable, profes-sional roommate(s). 2Brms available in large house. Rent includes internet, W/D, utilities

austinbill 04@vahoo.com SOUTH BiWM seeks House-

SOUTH BIWM seeks House-mate. No alcohol, drugs or convicted felons \$360 month .3b-2b manufactured home with fireplace, W/D,Direct TV, Near Bus route. Off Oltorf near Lamar. 512-785-8638.

SOUTH Central. Male(female) for Huge room in Huge house, 1/1/05 \$300 Jan rent then \$350. Share a bath w/1 guy never home. W&D/Cac/h 851-9411/422-9971

SOUTH for rent. \$400. Well lit with office space and storage. Cool laid back roomates. No ciggies inside. Call 462-0572

SOUTH Great roommate South Great roommate wanted: 22-42, outside or non smoker, pets nego, to share a new house. Private bed, bath, loft area, w/d,1/2 garage for 600\$/month. Wm Cannon and 135. lilkimmybac@aol

SOUTH Female or couple for nice house. Private bath, pri-vate phone, private room, pri-vacy fence, deck. \$345 ABP \$150 dep. 912-8839 Clothing optional environment.

SOUTH Share 2bed-1bath duplex- \$390 ABP. Near Ol-torf & South 1st. torf & South 1st. Me:professional male. You:easy-going, friendly, de-pendable.NO: smoking, drugs, pets. Michael 636-4200

SOUTH/Central off Lamar and Oltorf. Roommate wanted for 3 bedroom house. \$300 rent and 1/3 utilities Must be neat and clean. De-posit of last month's rent in advance. Matthew 699-7828

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SOUTHWEST Mature, con-genial, honest female room-mate for 4 bd/2.5ba house in SW Austin, \$400 mo. + 1/2 utilities, 280-5256

SOUTHWEST Looking for someone to sublease my apartment in Jan, and live with my female roommate Southwest Austin- The Hills at Lantanna. 294-3437

SOUTHWEST GWM seeks See narrated video tours and male(s) for Housemate \$450 + 1/3 bills. 3b-2b large home with fireplace, W/D, CACH, thousands of pictures & floor plans to hundreds of properties at: Cable, large pvt backyard. Near Bus route 512-656-2677

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2Bdr/1Ba. WD/DW, Storage, Pool, Gym, Room Furnished AC, Closet. Mark To contact me, save my listing ID=H04122794811374 and

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WANTED Shared housing, \$400-600, with progressive, stable, mature, NS, cat CENTRAL description. Email: Apartment) dz8@sbcglobal.net

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rooms and private bathroom in large house. I'm 30/F and I have 2 cats. \$450 ABP - basic cable, internet, no phone month to month. Avail. near end of Dec. 731-5363

NORTHWEST share towncable and phone. \$350/ mon. plus \$150 dep. Yo 31 years old Hisp. mexvega@aol.com or 512-300-0666 Carlos

orful house, yard/deck, share with SWF writer/rocker. Near downtown, east. Laundry, etc. Beky 220-7733. NORTH Share 4 bedroom EAST Furn room for less than \$500 Private room and bath-M-F all day weekends room in 2-2 on Riverside, UT Shuttle Route, Straight female with 2 cats . Desire female EAST Happy Family Combo. Converted duplex, now 5/2 with 2 kitchens, living rooms... 1.5 miles East of UT, \$410 abp, 762-5592

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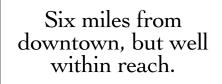
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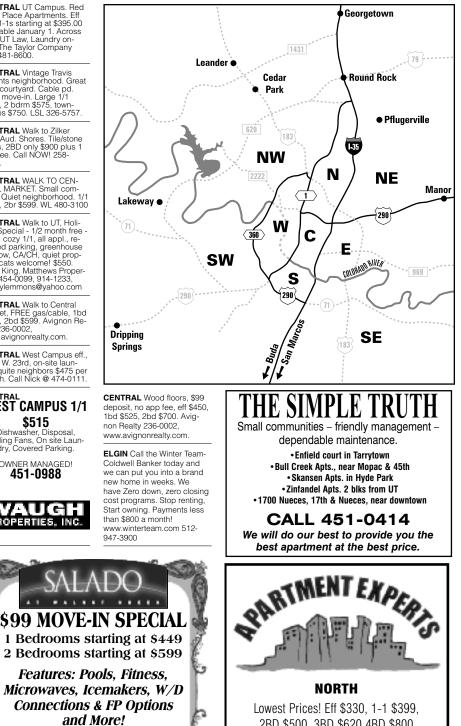
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the common law

by Luke Ellis

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Annoying Telemarketing Calls? – Try the National Do Not Call Registry

A friend forwarded me an e-mail from a company that says if I sign up my phone with them, they can stop me from receiving any more telemarketing phone calls. Is this for real?

Probably not. The Federal Trade Commission has created the National Do Not Call Registry (see below). The FTC does not, however, allow private companies or third parties to register consumers for the Do Not Call Registry. According to the FTC, "websites or phone solicitations that claim they can or will register a consumer's name or phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry - especially those that charge a fee - are almost certainly a scam." So chances are the e-mail you received isn't worth your time (or money).

Anyone interested in avoiding more of those annoying telemarketing calls should consider registering their phones with the FTC's National Do Not Call Registry (the "Registry"). The Registry allows consumers to register their phones, which makes it easier and more efficient to block unwanted calls because telemarketers are required to search the Registry every 31 days (starting Jan. 1, 2005) and delete from their call lists any numbers that are in the Registry. An early Harris Interactive poll suggests the Registry is successful - 78% of people who reported placing a number on the Registry said they are getting "far fewer calls" or none at all.

Consumers can register home phone numbers as well as cell phones. There is no deadline to register a home or cell phone number on the Registry, and once submitted, the phone number will remain on the Registry for five years.

Consumers who want to register a phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry should visit ww.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222.

Consumers registering a phone number online will be asked to provide a valid e-mail address (confirmation of the registration will be sent there). Consumers who register by phone must call from the phone they want to register. Anyone who wants more information should check out the FTC's Questions and Answers regarding the National Do Not Call Registry (www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/alerts/dncalrt.htm).

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

NORTH \$99 move-in, Artist Loft with skylights \$439, effs from \$349, 1-1 \$419, 2 bed-room \$599. APARTMENT EX-PERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

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NORTH Bad Credit OK, eff \$340, 1-1 \$370, 2 bed \$550, 3 bed \$650. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTH Bad credit. 1st time renters, large dogs ok, w/d con, pools, fitness center, balconies, \$125 deposit/app balconies, \$125 deposit/app fee, 1bd \$425, 2bd \$599. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH CENTRAL 14 days FREE rent! \$99 deposit, close to Highland Mall, w/d con, 1bd \$425, 2bd \$605, 2bd townhome \$645. Chris Bee 236-1116,

www.avignonrealty.com

www.avignonrealty.com

NORTH CENTRAL Instant ap-NORTH CENTRAL Instant ap-proval, wood floors, access to downtown, near Highland mall, pools/hot tubs, covered parking, 1bd \$450, 2bd \$600. Avignon Realty 236-0002, NORTH Enormous 2-story 2br townhome w/screened porch. 1200 sf \$635, 1/1 \$425 - 231-1400 Broker

NORTH EZ Dwntwn access! \$0dep,\$0app. 1-1 \$400 W/D conn. 231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

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NORTH Great location, on 14 acres of wooded property, low deposit, 1bd \$415, 2bd \$580. Avignon Realty 236-0002

www.avignonrealty.com NORTH Lowest Prices, eff's \$299, 1-1 \$350, 2 bed \$500, 3 bedroom \$620, 4 bedrooms \$800. APARTMENT EXPERTS

North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent NORTH Luxury apts, fitness

center, pool, garages, low deposit, 1bd \$535, 2bd \$650, 3bd \$885. Avignon Realty 236-0002. www.avignonrealty.com

NORTH Pay rent w/credit cards! 2 bed \$485. Big dogs welcome. 692-4525 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

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NORTH Resort style apts. NOR IT Resort style apts, near tech employers, pools, fitness center, \$199 move-in special, 1bd \$530, 2bd \$715, 3bd \$895. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Victorian style town-homes. Low Move-In. 1/1 \$450; 2/1 \$550; 2/1.5 \$650. 231-1400 Agent

NORTH W/D in all units, access to Mopac/I-35, 1-1 \$499 plus \$199 move-in special, 2-2 \$705 plus \$299 move-in special. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com

NORTH Wells Branch Bar-gain. 1-1 \$390, 2-2 \$599. W/ D connections. 231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH 1 Mo. Free! No de-posit/app fees, Great deal off N. Mopac, w/d included, pool, eff \$470, 1-1 \$499, 2-2 \$699. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

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Reserve your new home today! Call (888) 734-7254

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5th & Lamar. Modern art-deco, lofts, stained concrete floors/hardwoods. \$740 and up.

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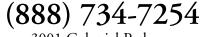
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NORTHWEST 1 Mo. Free, no deposit, secluded paradise, heated spa, big closets, ten-nis court, 1bd \$449, 1bd w/ study \$579, 2bd \$639. Avia non Realty 236-0002 www.avignonrealty.com

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home \$599. Avignon Realty 236-0002 www.avignonrealty.com. NORTHWEST ARBORETUM,

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www.avignonrealty.com.

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SOUTH Barton Hills Lofts &

SOUTH

HISTORIC

TRAVIS HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD

1BDRM...\$500

HUGE PRIVATE DECK 2/1 FLAT \$550 (\$99 FIRST MONTH)

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HUGE 15FT DECK!

Heavily wooded community Studio, \$385. 1BDRM w/

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Completely remodeled

Completely remodeled 1BDRM, huge 700sqft! Free cable, \$400! HUGE 2BDRM Townhouse... \$495! (Over 1,000sqft!) TEAM LEASING 14 C 0222

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SOUTH #1 Deal! \$415, cable

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SOUTH \$129 total move-in.

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SOUTH



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SOUTH



12412 A Deer Falls, 3/2 \$795, 1028 Strickland \$1250. 3114 West Terrace 3/ 1 \$750, 6726 Lancret Hill 2/ 1.5 \$895,2617 Riddle Road 2/1 \$745. 6501 Great North

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1-1s, Nice complex, big dogs OK. Gimme Shelter, 512-567-Deposit on all units required. Broker, Castle Hill Invest-4276. http:// www.gimmeshelterlocators.c



with Garage, \$1,049

CENTRAL

' Mopac Townhome, \$750 * Hardwoods from \$590

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SOUTH \$299 move-in special! Beautiful landscap-ing, spacious floorplans, sparkling pool, w/d con, 24hr sparkling pool, w/d con, 24hi fitness center, convenient lo-cation, 1-1 \$582, 2-1 \$649, 3-2 \$725. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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Completely remodeled LARGE 700SQFT 1BDRM.... \$475 HUGE 1,000SQFT 2BDRM... \$545

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SOUTH 1,000 sq ft town-homes. \$495. Easy access to Hwy 71, 135 & MoPac. Studi-os \$450. LSL 326-5757.

SOUTH ALL BILLS PAID, South Austin Convenience, Bus line, Shopping, Hike and Bike Trails, UT Shuttle avail-

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www.avignonrealty.com. SOUTH Central, small complex, 2 bedroom starting at \$600...Location Realty Call 512-499-0402

SOUTH CENTRAL \$49 move



SALES

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SOUTH Big and cheap 1BDRM, \$365! Small courtyard, free gas cooking, vault-ed ceiling and back porch! Call Team Leasing 825-6635

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Austin1 1bd \$399, 2bd \$499, pools, basketball court, water paid. Avignon Realty 236-0002, SOUTH Best Deal in South www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTH Brand new apts, close to downtown, Town Lake hike/bike trails, dining, entertainment, shopping & major employers,2bd \$720, 3bd \$1000. Chris Bee 236-

1116 www.avianonrealtv.com.



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SOUTH CENTRAL 2 weeks FREE, lakefront, city skyline views, no app fee, enjoy downtown living at its best, eff \$575, 1bd \$625, 2bd \$725, 3bd \$925. Chris Bee 236-1116.

in South Austin! Near shops,

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www.avignonrealty.com SOUTH CENTRAL Best Deal

eateries, small dogs wel-

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SOUTH SoCo Flats- \$410, Lofts- \$535, 2/1s- \$595, low dep. pets ok, Agent 694-3899 http:// www.urbanaustinliving.com

SOUTH SOCO 1 bedroom

loftstyle townhome, w/tile floors, privately fenced patio yard, CACH, good pets con-sidered, 1/2 mo FREE. \$650. Agent Wendy, 916-0018

Southern Comfort in a small community. 1-1, \$399. 2-2, \$549. water/gas pd. Nice courtyard. 326-5757.

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Leasing

SOUTH

SOUTH CENTRAL Small quiet community. Efficiencies \$395mo. \$99 total move-in!

Giant Oaks, 515 Krebs. MRG

SOUTH CENTRAL Travis Heights across from Stacy Park. 2/1 1/2 townhouse

SOUTH Desperate south-

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SOUTH Sunny loft Apt. hrd flrs. SOCO location, near Ruta Maya, \$345/mo. Month-to-month. Call 443-9224

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. W/D incl.

Travis Hts, 2 B/Rm. W/D in Most bills paid including cable. \$875. Call

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OUTH/CENTRAE'S. 5th St./ Oltorf, 1/1- \$499(\$200 dep. 2/ 1 hardwood firs- \$599(\$200 dep. 2/ 1 hardwood firs- \$599(\$200 dep. 2/ 1920's style. Close to St. Ed-wards, trees galore, well maintained, free cable, bus

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Travis Heights

across from Stacy

Park. 2/1.5 town-

Hurry they will go fast!

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SOUTH Townhome, 2-1.5.

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PRICE DROP 1 BDRM, W/D included. 50ft. from hike & bike trail, \$520! TEAM LEASING 416-8333



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Tilker park/major employers/ Barton Creek Mall, hike and bike trail, Eanes School Dis-trict, Metro bus, big dogs ok, eff \$450, 1bd \$550, 2bd \$625. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

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SOUTHWEST Dec/Jan Free! Greenbelt views, w/d con, fit-ness center, tennis court, hike/bike trails 1-1 newly remodeled \$749, 2-2 \$759 Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com

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CENTRAL 2/1, CACH, 7 blks to downtown, hardwoods, \$775/mo. 785-7058

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Japanese soaking tub & stainless steel appliances. Pets OK & water paid! \$850 **5010 EILERS-** Hyde Park-4/2 house, approx. 1346 sq ft., near UT shuttle route with CACH, gas appliances, hard-wood living, new paint, new floor in kitchen/dining, lots of windows, deck, porch

6493 HART- near Far West Shuttle route- large 2/1.5 duplex, large living/dining with FP, garage, W/D conns., & yard maintained by owner!

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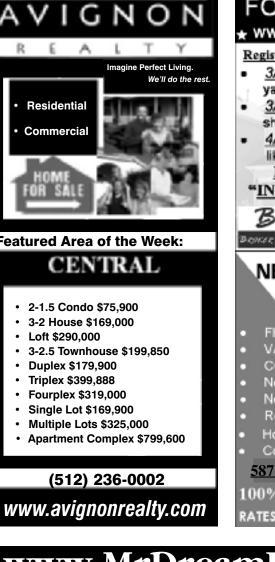


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SOUTH 908 Plateau Circle in Hilltop. Recently remodeled 2/1 (workshop can be 3rd BD), approx 2,000 sq.ft per owner, gallery style kitchen w/ new white cabinets w/ lighting, Pergo & ceramic floors, FP, close to South Austin Hospital & IH 35. Call Evelyn at Lanier Realty: 917-3386 or 302-3910.

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gic Febi. Hollies available from \$235k-\$275k. Come feel the elegant charm of the Old South, where lamp lit lanterns adorn spacious homes. High ceilings, granite counter tops, wood floors, designer colors, private gated community with pool. Oak trees shade mani-cured lawns. Landscaping maintenance included for each home. 10 minutes to downtown, 5 minutes to Cen-tral Market, theaters, and shopping. Financing Avail-able. For pictures and virtual tour go to ww.tourfactory.com/200478 or call Elieen at 289-1985. Or Berry Cox @ 784-0337

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SOUTHEAST 5504 Ponciana, SOUTHEAST 5504 Ponciana, Area 11, ML# 7605124. Du-plex for sale! 2/1 and 2/2 mix. \$99,900. Live in one and rent the other. Call Cristina, Keller Williams Realty, 512 700 0000 512-789-0309.

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WRITERS DIVERSITY IN JOURNALISM: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, es-tablished by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and stu-dents (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern Uni-versity's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 19 - August 14, 2005) aims to recruit tal-ented candidates from di-verse backgrounds and train for Alternative Journalism, es verse backgrounds and train them in magazine-style fea-ture writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For infor-mation visit the Web site at the web site at the site at http://aan.org/aajhttp:// aan.org/aaj or write for an ap-plication: Academy for Alter-native Journalism, North-western University, Medill Ochean of Lournesitiem 1045 School of Journalism, 1845 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL

Sheridan Hoad, Evanston, IL 60208. Email altacademy@northwestern.e du. Application deadline Feb-ruary 11, 2005. Northwestern University is an equal oppor-tunity educator and employ-er. (AAN CAN)

LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS Cause No. GN401279 To: SERGIO CORONADO GARCIA Defendant(s), in the bereinafter styled and To: SERGIO CORONADO GARCIA Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 17th day of January, 2005, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 35ard Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 23rd day of April, 2004, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GN401279, in which OAK BROOK COUNTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY Plaintiff(s), and SERGIO CORONADO GARCIA Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS Cause No. GV303766 To: JOSE ESTRADA Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU

GANCIA Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: BEING AN ACTION AND PRAYER FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AGAINST SERGIO CORONADO GARCIA. GARCIA WAS LISTED AS THE NAMED INSURED IN A TEXAS PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE POLICY NUMBER, WITH EFFECTIVE DATES FOR THE PERIOD FROM 091696 TO 102496. PUBSUANT TO THAT POLICY, GARCIA HAD LIABILITY FOR BODILY INJURY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20.035 EACH PERSON. THE INSURANCE POLICY REQUIRES AN INSURED

cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 17th day of January 2005, and answer the ORIG. NOTICE OF SEI-ZURE & FORFEITURE of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 147th Judicial District Court of Tra-vis County, Texas, on the 9th day of September, 2003, a default judgment may be tak-en against you. Said suit be-ing number GV303766, in







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may employ an attorney. In you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o clock A.M. of Monday the 17th day of January, 2005, and answer the ORIG. NOTICE OF SEI-ZURE & FORFEITURE of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 390th Judicial District Court of Tra-vis County, Texas, on the 2nd day of July, 2003, a de-fault judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GV302697, in which against you. Said suit being number GV302697, in which U.S. CURRENCY Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as foi-lows: ON OR ABOUT THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2003, USED OR INTENDED TO BE PARTMENT, LOCATED AT. TIS E. 8TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS, SEIZED THE ABOVE CONTRABAND, WHICH WAS USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED IN THE COMMESION OF A FELONY PURSUANT TO ART 59.01 OF TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC ALL OF WHICH MORE FUL-LY APPEARS FROM PLAIN-TIFS ORIGINAL PETITION ON FLE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin Texas this

AND POHPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, this the 30th day of November, 2004.

2004. AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA Travis County District Clerk 1000 Guadalupe P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 By /s/ Samuel Martinez,

Deputy REQUESTED BY: DANIEL C. ANDREWS 10100 REUNION PLACE, STE. 600 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216 (210) 344-3900

(210) 344-3500 CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS Cause No. CV302697 To: ANTOINE WATSON Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation

TENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin. Texas, this the 3rd day of December, 2004. AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA Travis County District Clerk 1000 Guadalupe, PO. Box 1748 Austin. Texas 78767 By /s/ Stacey Rosen, Deputy REQUESTED BY: ROBERT 90/1748 SMITH, ASST. DIST. ATTY PO. BOX 1748 AUSTIN. TEXAS 78767

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which THE STATE OF TEXAS Plaintiff(s), and \$1,816.00 U.S. CURRENCY Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as fol-lows: ON OR ABOUT THE 22nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2003, THE AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT, LOCATED AT 715 E. 81TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS, SEIZED THE ABOVE CONTRABAND, WHICH WAS USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED IN THE COMMISSION OF A FELONY PURSUANT Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 By Deputy: /s/ Marie Clark NOTICE

USED IN THE COMMISSION OF A FELONY PURSUANT TO ART. 59.01 OF TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ALL OF WHICH MORE FUL-LY APPEARS FROM PLAIN-TIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE. AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL IN-TENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said

court at Austin, Texas, this the 3rd day of December, 2004.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA Travis County District Clerk 1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 By /s/ Stacey Rosen, Deputy REQUESTED BY: ROBERT SMITH, ASST. DIST. ATTY P.O. BOX 1748 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767 (512) 854-9400

(512) 854-9400 CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL D BORMAN, De-ceased, No. 81948 in Pro-bate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. DONALD F CARNES alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled es-tate, filed on the 17th day of DECEMBER, 2004, an Appli-cation to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court defermine who are the heirs and only, heirs of the said

determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MICHAEL D BORMAN, De-ceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. Said application will be heard

Said application Will be near 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 ci-tation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Tex-ray

its issuance, it shall be re-turned unserved. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis COURT at office in Travis COURT at office in Travis COURT (Travis County, Texas PO, Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 By Deputy: /s/ Marie Clark

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the fol-lowing items:

1. Transmission Repair Ser-vices, IFB B050024-LD Opens: January 10, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.

2. Doors and Insulations, IFB B050040-DR Opens: January 18, 2005 @ 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box. 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be ob-tained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Of-fice at no charge. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appro-priate. Payments may be made by check. The suc-cessful bidder shall be re-quired to furnish a Perfor-mance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable. NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the pro-visions of Chapter 59 of the In accordance with the pro-visions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charg-es for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an own-er's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at the following addresses; And, due notice having been giv-ent, to the owner of said prop-erty and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such no-tice for payment of such hav-ing expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on Monday, Jan-uary 10, 2005 at 2:30 PM. No one under 16 allowed. Auctioneer: Luther Davis, TX. Lic. #8325. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #197 5547 McNeil Drive Austin, TX 78729 (512) 336-8390 #311 Melinda Reyes - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV, stereo, landscaping court

as. All persons interested in said All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above men-tioned time and place by fil-ing a written answer contest-ing 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 re-turned unserved.

equip. #707 Schannen Pearson household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools appliances, office equip., of-fice machines, acct records,

fice machines, acct records, sales samples. #1011 Nancy Davis - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes #2221 Brandon Rekemdyer -household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tolls, appliances, TV, stereo equip, office equip., acct records #2222 Matthew Farris - roof-ing material

ing material

By Deputy: /s/ Marie Clark CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE SATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY NELSON BROWN, Deceased, No. 82288 in Pro-bate Court Number One of Travis County. Texas. BEVERLY J GUNTHER al-leged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 27th day of DECEMBER, 2004, an Ap-plication for Determination of Heirship and for Letters of Administration for an Inde-pendent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs, and only Uncle Bob's #231 8227 North Lamar Austin, TX 78753 (512) 833-0855 #708 Eunilynn Thomas -household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, ap-pliances. TV or stereo equip. #330 Manuel Trujilo - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, H107 Tierra Ernul - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, TV or stereo equip. #1110 Remae Tweeten -household goods, furniture, boxes, TV or stereo equip. #11319 Lakeisha Blakely - fur-niture, boxes #1506 Wayne Young - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV or stereo equip. #1511 Eric Polson - house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, appliances #1520 Lawrence Ogbonna -hospital beds #7735 Meilissa Romero-Wil-

who are the heirs and only heirs of the said TIMOTHY NELSON BROWN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. Said application will be heard Said application will be hear 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 ci-tation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Tex-as

house in Travis County, Tex-as. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above men-tioned time and place by fil-ing a written answer contest-ing 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 re-turned unserved. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 27th day of December, 2004. DANA DEBEAUVOIR County Clerk

ally described below is be-ing sold to satisfy a land-lord's lien pursuant to Chap-ter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the times and plac-es indicated below, and on the following terms: All prop-erty generally described be-low will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for **CASH**, with payment to be made at the time of sale. Seller re-serves the right to refuse any bid and to with-draw any liems or item from the sale. The property will be sold on **Tuesday, January**

#7735 Melissa Romero-Wil-liams - household goods, fur-niture, boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE PS TX HOLDINGS, serves no

tice that the property gener-ally described below is be-

18, 2005, at each self-stor-age facility at which it is lo-cated, as described below: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

NO CHILDREN PLEASE. January 18, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 7200 S. 1st, Austin, TX. 78745 10:00 AM B042 - John Frias - Misc. Household goods C068 - Shannon Velva -Washer, dryer, E. Center K298 - Albert Lucio - Fridge, V4298 - Albert Lucio - Fridge, V4298 - Albert Lucio - Fridge, V4298 - Albert Lucio - Fridge, V453 - Shirley Behlen - W. chair, table, cloths U637 - Eugene Vrana -Cloths, boxes U6390 - Jannifer Canchola -Leather couch, washer, dryer V703 - Andrew Ortiz - Misc. Household goods V754 - Melissa Sheridan - Mi-crowave, table, boxes

January 18, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 7112 S. Congress, Austin TX. 78745 11:00 AM G23 - Joseph Landreneau -Fridge, washer, dryer G29 - Pauline Henderson -Luggage, clothes, boxes J73 - Peter Cummins - Misc. household goods K15 - Rebecca Hembree Washer, dryer, smoker L3 - Juana Sotelo - Misc. household goods household goods

January 18, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, Tx. 78745 12:00 p.m. 215 - Amy Cranfill - Misc. household goods 348 - Clifford Hatch - Boxes, elette

cloths 723 - Amy Cranfill - Misc. household goods

January 18, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 5016 Ben White, Austin, Tx. 78745

78745 1:00 p.m. B025 - Celestina Anwuta -Misc. Household Goods C185 - Ignacio Trevino -Bike, Couch, Love seat C246 - Diana Garza - Wide screen tv, couch, dresser C249 - Charles Alba - Couch, C291 - Shirley Garcia - Coder, boxes, kids toy C291 - Shirley Garcia - Coke Memorabilia, boxes, furniture C341 - Guadalupe Molina -Microwave, Dresser, V. cleaner C348 - Lisa Davis - TV, E.

Center, furniture D002 - Eleanor Thompson -Hutch, D. Table, Desk

January 18, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 1213 W. 6th St. & Lamar

2:00 p.m. 4136 - William Dyson - Paintings, chairs, boxes 5124 - Kristen Kirks - D. room

table, desk, love seat

table, desk, love seat **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR- ING** Notice is hereby given that the Board of Adjustment, City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Zon-ing Variance: An application submitted by Triple Gem Properties, dba Holiday Inn Express, owner of a 6,202 acre tract of land being all of Block A, Vir Singh Subdivision, requesting approval of a variance from the off-street parking require-ments under Section 10.102 of the current zoning regula-tions to allow a proposed res-taurant to share buely (12) tions to allow a proposed res-taurant to share twelve (12) off street parking spaces designated for the Holiday

All interested for the Holiday Inn. All interested persons are in-vited to attend and partici-pate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All writ-ten comments must be re-ceived by 5:00 p.m., on Fri-day, January 14, 2005. The application for the zoning variance request may be ex-amined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Val-ley, Texas at 3205 Jones Road during regular office hours.

hours. s/ Shanna Neubauer s/ Shanna Neu City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-ING Notice is hereby given that the Board of Adjustment, City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas

to consider the following Zon-ing Variance: An application submitted by Molly Murray, owner of a 0.47-acre tract of land being all of Abstract 3. Theodore Bissell Survey No. 18, also known as 2909 Jones Road, requesting approval of a var-iance from the side setback requirements of the current zoning regulations to reduce the side setback requirement of twenty feet (20) to five feet (5).

the side setDack requirement of twenty feet (20') to five feet (5). All interested persons are in-vited to attend and partici-pate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All writ-ten comments must be re-ceived by 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 13, 2005. The application for the zon-ing variance request may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Val-ley, Texas during regular of-fice hours. s/ Shanna Neubauer City Secretary NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-

City Secretary NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-ING Notice is hereby given that the City Council and Zoning Commission for the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 18th day of January, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Proposed Zoning Change Request: An application submitted by JD Weaver Family Limited Partnership owner of 35.27 acres known as Block B Sun-set Valley Village requesting a change of zoning as fol-lows: From: SF - Single Family Planned Unit Development All interested persons are in-vited to attend and partici-pate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 2005. The application on the Zoning Change Request may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours. s/ Shanna Neubauer City Secretary.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-ING Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Sun-set Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 18th day of January, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Pro-posed Preliminary Plat Appli-cation:

cation

In the consider inclusion processed preliminary Plat Application: An application submitted by JD Weaver Family Limited Partnership (Owner) for pre-liminary plat approval of Block B, Sunset Valley, Vil-lage. Said property consist-ing of 35.27-acre tract of land located at the intersection of Ernest Robles Way and Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas more particularly de-scribed in deeds recorded in Volume 12345, Page 1715 of the Real Property Records of Travis County, Texas. All interested persons are in-vited to attend and partici-pate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All writ-ten comments must be re-ceived by 3:00 p.m., on or before Thursday, January 13, 2005. The application on the Subdivision request may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Val-ley, Texas during regular of-fice hours. s/ Shanna Neubauer City Secretary

NOTICE to All Persons Having Claims Against the Es-tate of Marie Elizabeth

Gentry, Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marie Elizafor the Estate of Marie Eliza-beth Gentry, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2004, in Cause No. 82,195 in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The post office address fo

mailing of claims is: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Executor c/o Rash, Chapman, Schrei-ber & Porter, L.P. 2112 Rio Grande Austin, TX 78705 512/477-7543 (PHONE) 512/477-7543 (PHONE) 512/474-0954 (FAX) 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 December 21, 2004. By: Mark B. Schreiber Attorney for the Estate MOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William E. Brewer, Deceased, were is-sued on December 14, 2004, in Cause No. 82,178, pend-ing in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Marjorie Collegen Neil.

Colleen Nell. Claims may be addressed in care of the representative, as follows: Marjorie Colleen Neil, Independent Executor

Independent Executor 408 Bubbling Brook Hutto, Texas 78634 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 20th day of De-cember, 2004. (s/ John J. Migl ATTORNEY FOR THE REP-RESENTATIVE

RESENTATIVE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARJO-RIE H. THIELEMANN, DE-CEASED NOTICE is hereby given that Letters Testamen-tary in the Estate of MARJORIE H. THIELEMANN, DECEASED, were granted to ALAN HOUGHTON THIELE-MANN on December 21, 2004, by Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. 82, 191. All persons having claims against said estate are here-by required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and before said estate is closed, in care of ATTORNEY RICHARD W. CHOTE, 3305 Northland Drive #500, Austin,

AV0113 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

JANUARY 13, 2005 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANEDO, ALISTIN TY 78748

	AUSTIN, IX 70740						
1.	045033847	1984	GMC	LL	5YWR14	ТΧ	1G5CT18B9E0508451
2.	045058062	1993	PLYM	4DR	YFD50F	ТΧ	1P3XA463XPR519407
3.	045059263	1975	LASE	CT	5XX340	ТΧ	9589
4.	045060149	1978	BUIC	4DR	N74NPP	ТΧ	4X69K8H562947
5.	045060204	1990	BUIC	4DR	N51NMB	ТΧ	1G4NV54U7LM045723
6.	045060489	1991	MAZD	4DR	C49SRL	ТΧ	1YVGD11B0M5102334
7.	045060500	1994	CHEV	4DR	M61XJD	ТΧ	1G1LD55M6RY120502
8.	045060502	1984	BUIC	4DR	S96JNP	ТΧ	1G4AU69YXEH901076
9.	045060504	1986	PLYM	4DR	2PUU500	CA	1P3BJ36E8GC177298
10.	045060505	1995	FORD	SW	J85LGY	ТΧ	3FASP15J8SR178128
11.	045060507	1976	WINN	MH	B24ZSX	ТΧ	F34BFV080718
12.	045060910	1989	TOYT	4DR	X09CXN	ТΧ	4T1SV22E2KU003309
13.	045060913	1987	TOYT	4DR	RRS59R	ТΧ	JT2AE82E4H3476395
14.	045060919	1988	NISS	4DR	TYG80M	ТΧ	1N4PB21SXJC828020
15.	045060921	1990	MAZD	4DR	CHZ57T	ТΧ	JM1HC2226L0310226
16.	045060922	1986	FORD	LL	25B952Y	AL	1FMCU14T8GUB57169
17.	045060924	1988	AUDI	4DR	V62CNX	ТΧ	WAUGB0892JA206103
	045060926		CHEV	LL	7YGR26	ТΧ	1G8CS18B8E8163226
	045060927		GMC	PK	7FJF59	ТΧ	1GTDC14N9GS523861
-	045060932		VOLV	2DR	LXC39B	ТΧ	183451P
	045060943		TOYT	SW	W97MLS	ТΧ	JT2AL35W1F0178396
	045060945	1970		4DR	P64YTJ	ТΧ	0Y82A816168
	045061155		TOYT	2DR	Y58DVL	ТΧ	JT2ST66C5J7251182
	045061168		CHRY	2DR	ZPD04T	ТΧ	1C3BJ45K9JG348948
	045061170		VOLK	4DR	S75ZZS	ТΧ	3VWFB81HXSM014167
26.	045061273	1992	PONT	4DR	HHX40G	ТΧ	1G2HX53L0N1214767

Austin, Texas 78703 Dated the 21st day of De-cember, 2004. /s/ Jay Wataha, Attorney for Independent Executor

Texas 78731-4962. ALAN HOUGHTON THIELE-MANN, Independent Executor Estate of MARJORIE H. THIELEMANN, DECEASED By: RICHARD W. CHOTE Attorney at Law

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BEN O. DAVID, DECEASED. Notice is

DAVID, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that the original letters testamentary for the estate of Ben O. David, de-ceased, were issued on De-cember 21, 2004, in Cause No. 82136 pending in Pro-bate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Mildred David, as independent co-ex-ecutors.

ecutors. All persons having claims

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. All claims are to be present-ed to the independent exec-utor through her attorney at the following address: Estate of Ben O. David, De-ceased, c/o Jay Wataha, Attorney at Law, 1717 West Sixth Street, Suite 370 Austin, Texas 78703 Dated the 21st day of De-cember, 2004, SI Jay Wataha, Attorney for Mildred David, Independent Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HAROLD D. HENDERSON, DECEASED.

THENVERSUN, DECEASED, Notice is hereby given that the original letters testamen-tary for the estate of Harold D. Henderson, deceased, were issued on December 21, 2004, in Cause No. 82137 pending in Probate Court No.

82137 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Frances Ann Fer-

guson, as independent co-

executors. 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

manner prescribed by law. All claims are to be present-ed to the independent exec-utor through her attorney at the following address: Estate of Harold D. Hender-son, Deceased, c/o Jay Wa-taha, Attorney at Law, 1717 West Sixth Street, Suite 370

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID WILLIAM HARTMAN

WILLIAM HARI MAN Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David William Hartman, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2004, in Cause No. 82145, pending in the Pro-bate Court of Travis County bate Court of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's repre-sentative, Christine Mary Hartman, Independent Exec-utor. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be ad-dressed in care of the repre-sentative's attorney, Gary A. Calabrese, 808 Nueces Street, Austin, Texas 78701, telephone no. (512) 472-9394. Dated this the 21st day of December, 2004.

or December, 2004. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RAYMOND LEON GODINE, J.R., De-ceased, were issued to Ruth Lenora Godine on December 8, 2004, in Cause No. 82033, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas.

Number One, Iravis County, Texas. 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 pre-scribed by law. Ruth L. Godine, c/o Ellen P. Stewart, Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner, L.L.P., 7804 Bell Mountain Drive, P. O. Box 26300, Austin, Texas 78755. DATED this 27th day of De-cember, 2004. ELLEN P. STEWART State Bar No. 00797499



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Attorney for Applicant BURNS ANDERSON JURY & BRENNER, L. P. 7804 Bell Mountain Drive P. O. Box 26300 Austin, Texas 78755-6300 Telephone;(512) 338-5322 Facsimile:(512) 338-5363 PANTS, COATS AND SHOES" "PALLETS OF OLD OFFICE TRAYS AND SUPPLIES" "PALLETS OF MISCELLANE-OUS SHELVING" "PALLETS OF MISCELLANEOUS BELTS AND HOLSTERS" "PALLETS OF MISCELLANEOUS SUP-MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUP-PLIES, MUCH MORE...

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TION, ALL PURCHASES MUST BE SETTLED AT END OF SALE, BUYER IS RE-SPONSIBLE FOR THE RE-MOVAL OF PROPERTY FROM AUCTION SIGHT. TRAVIS COUNTY EMPLOY-EES AND FAMILY ARE PER-MITTED TO BID

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Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request

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PUBLIC AUCTION: SURPLUS PROPERTY

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TRAVIS COUNTY WAREHOUSE 7811 BURLESON-MANOR ROAD, MANOR, TEXAS *ASSORTED TYPEWRITERS'

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CHAIR Beautiful wooden rocking chair, I'm guessing from the 1960's. Has a fruit basket motif painted on back. Excellent condition Call 799-9760 if interested

CHAIR Jet 2 Power Chair, 2 Vears old, like new, \$1800.00 O.B.O by 12/29/04 at 6:00PM Contact Steve @ 512-996-8751. Orig cost \$5000.00.

CHEST 5-drawer chest. light oak stain. 4-drawer hutch with two shelves. Dark oak stain. Both in very good con-dition. \$100 each. 2-drawer metal file cabinet. Tan color. \$20. Call 630-5683 for more info.

COUCH Comfortable, attractive, 2 seat couch in south austin. Color is brown/offwhite, great condition. \$65 Call 512-567-9150

DINETTE Set - Country French, distressed hardwood Pine and White table and 4 chairs. Hamilton & Spill -\$150. 512-291-2191.

DINING Brand new DR Set. Fable, China Cabinet, 8 Chairs. List \$6000, Sacrifice \$1500. 491-0414.

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DINING SET Brand New Lrg Set. 10 chrs. GORGEOUS! List 7500 Sacrifice. \$2200. Can Deliver. 491-0273

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DINING Table - Pottery Barn DINING lable - Pottery Barn Ashford (Black)Asking \$400. Like new table, retails for \$699. Purchased with minor scratch and in storage since then. TABLE ONLY - no basis 612 589.8712 chairs. 512-589-8712

DINING Walnut colored table with an oval top. Seats four chairs. Entire set for \$50. Call Toni @ 484-1423.

DINNETTE New Cherry Din-ing Rm Set. Table, China Cabinet, Chairs. List \$3000, Now \$750. (512) 491-5239.

DRYER GE 4cycle dryer heavy duty large capacity, electric, works good, \$75. You pick up. North Austin. 825-0580

DRYER Works great, \$100 220-4741

ENT CENTER Large solid dark wood 6 piece set. 2 bookcases, 3 cabinet pieces, overhead light. use together or separately. \$500 obo. 422-3695

ENT CENTER Black with gold trim it has a 57 inch width and a 46 inch height. Fits up to a 32 inch TV. \$50 Please call Anthony 461-9092 for more information.

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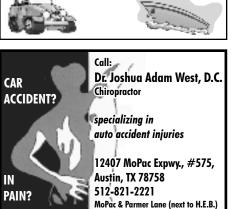


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TOM: Yeah, this is ridiculous. We believe you that your son didn't whack the window. Windows do shatter from time to time without any obvious cause, and it's usually because of some unseen defect in the glass.

> RAY: It might have come that way from the factory, or it might have had a small crack in it from being hit by a stone during its first 600 miles. In either case, the hidden defect would have made the window vulnerable. And then all it would take is some stress on the window to cause it to shatter.

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Break Was Fault of Defect in

Window, Not Employee

My 19-year-old son works for a rental-car com-

Chrysler Sebring convertible, the rear window shat-

tered as the roof came down in back, breaking into

says this problem is "not under warranty" and insin-

uates that my son smashed the windshield by hit-

ridiculous. They say it is not their problem, and they

will not cover the damages. The car-rental place is

making my son foot the bill, to the tune of \$700.

This can't be legal; this could have happened to a

the back seat at the time. Chrysler should own up

to this defect, which is obviously very dangerous.

- Dawn

Whom can I contact for help?

RAY: Your lawyer.

customer or an owner. Luckily, no one was sitting in

hundreds of pieces and falling into the back seat.

This was a brand-new car (600 miles). Chrysler

ting it with something, which is just absolutely

pany. Recently when he put the top down on a

Dear Tom and Ray:

TOM: The stress can come from being twisted slightly - as it might be when the convertible top goes down - or from being hit by something, even lightly. We've even heard of a case where a stream of water from a hose caused a windshield

RAY: So, Chrysler is right that these things don't "just happen." But when glass does appear to shatter for little or no reason, it's because of some sort of pre-existing stress or defect in the glass, and it's not necessarily the fault of the guy who happens to be standing there when the glass breaks.

TOM: And of course the rental-car company wants your son to pay for it. It'd do the same thing to a customer. Have you ever known a rental-car company to say, "Ah, don't worry about the damage, these things happen?"

RAY: So, if the rental-car company won't be reasonable and put in an insurance claim to fix the window, as I see it, your son has three options: Have a lawyer take it up with the company, quit the job and walk away, or both. Good luck, Dawn.

What's the best way to warm up your engine in the morning? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.50 (check or money order) to Ruin, 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 Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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- 18 ----

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In the second

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David 423-5593

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to your health

by James Heffley

Q. I'm really miserable in wintertime. My face and hands get dry and itchy every winter. My face turns red and if I'm really cold my fingers turn white. What is going on when this happens, and what can help?

A. It is possible to be allergic to the cold. The same histamines that are released by cedar pollen or any other substance that you are allergic to can be released by exposure to cold temperature. People can develop allergies to a wide variety of things, including pollen, dust, animal dander, foods, and viruses. Some individuals have an allergic response to being cold.

This allergic response can be anything from rashes to wheezing, and even includes fatigue. If the response involves hives, it is called coldinduced urticaria. For people with cold-induced urticaria, swimming in very cold water is quite dangerous, so you should not participate in "polar bear club" activities. Cold sensitivity is usually heightened by infection, so be especially careful about cold-temperature exposure if you have a cold.

Another adverse response to cold is the formation of abnormal proteins in the blood called agglutinins. Cold agglutinins can slow the blood flow by stopping up the blood vessels. Normally, most people have low levels of cold agglutinins, but high levels can lead to anemia if red blood cells are destroyed faster than bone marrow can replace them.

The conventional medical approaches to allergy relief may have side effects that are as bad as the problem, and natural remedies are available. Supplements of vitamin C and pantothenic acid are often helpful in relieving allergy symptoms. Vitamin E and fish-oil supplements tend to prevent the agglutination of blood. Some people have found that supplements of magnesium with the amino acid taurine taken during the winter season increase their tolerance to cold.

In addition to these supplements, avoid smoking, which will constrict the blood vessels and lead to vascular spasms that further hinder circulation. And although alcohol may seem to make you warm, it actually lowers your body temperature and should be avoided. Drinks containing caffeine also tend to constrict blood vessels.

Drink plenty of water. You may think you don't need to drink as much water in cold weather as you do in warm weather because you don't sweat as much. But cold air has low humidity and can dry out your body, making it hard to keep up blood volume. The lower blood volume contributes to poorer circulation.

U.S. Army researchers in Alaska found that your hands can be trained to stay warm in cold temperatures. You soak your hands in warm water for three to five minutes in a room where the temperature is comfortable. Next, you go into a cold room and soak your hands in warm water once again, this time for 10 minutes. The move to the cold temperature would ordinarily cause your arteries in your hand to constrict, but the warm water keeps them open. After a month or so they will remain open even without warm water. It is best to simply avoid getting chilled,

but since that may not always be possible, be

prepared by finding some remedies that work

James Heffley, Ph.D., is a certified clinical nutritionist.

The information he provides is for educational use only. If

you believe you have a medical problem, see your physician.

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free will astrology

by Rob Brezsny

for the week of Jan. 1 - Jan. 8

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The coming year will be a perfect time for you to write your autobiography, or even your autohagiography. You will also attract cosmic favors if you create a new mission statement and an updated manifesto summing up your philosophy of life. Re-examine and revise your life story in 2005, Capricorn. Get in the habit of imagining yourself as the star of a hero's journey. For extra credit, heed the advice of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Make your own Bible. Collect all the words and sentences that in your reading have been like a blast of triumph?

AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Irregularity and unpredictability are important features of health," wrote John R. Van Eenwyk in his Quest magazine article "The Chaotic Dynamics of Everyday Life." "On the other hand," he continued, "decreased variability and accentuated peri-odicities are associated with disease. Healthy systems don't want homeostasis. They want chaos." Do you dare act as if this is true, Aquarius? Do you have the courage to live with greater uncertainty, knowing that it's good for you? The coming year will be a perfect time to figure out how to change your mind in such a way so as to accomplish this noble trick.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A study at McGill University concluded that moms and dads who launch screaming fights in front of their kids may actually be helping them. Listening to their parents yelling often makes children more imaginative because it forces them into a fantasy world to escape. Can you think of similar reversals in your own life, Pisces - difficult events that have ultimately served you? The coming year will be an ideal time to redeem these gifts from the past. Be constantly on the lookout for ways you can use old traumas and setbacks as sources of inspirational power.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Machismo is a term that refers to the aggressive demonstration of stereotypically masculine qualities. Feminismo, on the other hand, signifies a potent expression of what are usually thought of as feminine traits. These include sensitivity, receptivity, emotional intelligence, a knack for nurturing others, a drive to create beauty, and a skill for building relationships. This will be important for you to keep in mind in the coming months, because 2005 will be the Year of Feminismo for both Aries men and women. Are you ready to supercharge your feminine qualities?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): All of us have a dark side - a part of our psyches that is unripe, a bit crazed, and out of sync with our highest values. If you try to suppress it or deny its exis-tence, it controls you surreptitiously. If you acknowledge its presence and cultivate a relationship with it, you may be able to harness some of its raw power for good causes. You've got to love it without overindulging it, give it voice without allowing it to possess you. I mention all of this, Taurus, because 2005 should be the year you dramatically upgrade and refine the role that your dark side plays in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): To guide your journey in 2005, I've selected two quotes. I suggest you write them out and keep them in your wallet or under your pillow for the next 10 months. The first is from mythologist Joseph Campbell: "The goal of life is to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe, to match your nature with Nature."Your second keynote comes from the ancient Chinese sage Lao Tzu: "Stop leaving and you will arrive. Stop searching and you will see. Stop running away and you will be found." Now here's your homework, Gemini: Meditate on how these themes articulate two angles of approach to the same joyful work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Since 1991, my Cancerian friend Jared has donated blood to a local blood bank 105 times. He volunteers as a big brother to fatherless kids and donates 20% of his salary to charity. Yet I've never once heard him ask anyone for help. Vanessa, another Cancerian friend, compulsively takes care of all her friends, bringing them homecooked meals and thoughtful gifts whenever they're down. I know she suffers bouts of depression herself sometimes, but as far as I'm aware, no one brings her treats. Jared and Vanessa are going to be the poster children for my crusade to bring balance to your life in 2005. You simply must stop giving more than you receive; you've got to expand your capacity to accept assistance and blessings from other people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This should be the year you devote yourself to the maddening and glorious details, Leo. I encourage you to dive into the mysteries of intricacy as you master the thousand and one practical matters that will ultimately make your dreams come true. You might want to memorize the following quote from philosopher William James: "I am done with great things and big plans, great institutions and big success. I am for those tiny, invisible lov-ing human forces that work from individual to individual, creeping through the crannies of the world like so many rootlets, or like the capillaries."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I'm not given to extravagant tastes, but I do allow myself one unreasonable habit: a craving for organic grapes in the wintertime. If they're available in the stores at all, two bunches of pesticide-free Concords can set me back as much as a threecourse meal at my favorite Thai restaurant. But they're good for me, and I'm pretty self-controlled the rest of the time, so I regard my appetite for the grapes as an acceptable form of self-indulgence. I mention this, Virgo, because I believe you have cosmic permission in 2005 to raise your quota of healthy greed. In fact, I suggest you brainstorm right now about the salubrious pleasures you plan to demand more of in the coming months.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Curiosity did not kill the cat," reports John Olson in Free Stream Velocity, his book of prose poems. "Boredom killed the cat." Let that be your rallying cry in 2005, Libra. In the coming months you will have a sacred duty to elude all situations that make your eyes glaze over. To meet your dates with destiny, you must not tolerate blah or ho-hum in any form. "Curiosity was born with the universe," Olson reminds you. "It redeems and is erotic."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Srinivasa Ramanujan was one of India's greatest mathematical geniuses. He lacked formal training and his work was thought peculiar by his fellow mathe maticians, but he made dramatic breakthroughs that are highly regarded. He attributed his success to the Hindu goddess Namakkal. She appeared regularly in his dreams, where she revealed innovative formulas he had only to verify when he awoke. I hereby appoint Ramanujan to be your official role model for 2005. May he inspire you in your quest to estab lish a practical alliance with a benevolent deity, imaginary friend, or guardian angel. If I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, this ally will provide you with a steady stream of use ful clues about how to fulfill the mission you came to earth to carry out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Before the U.S. election a few weeks ago. What Is Enlightenment? magazine posed the following query to five religious leaders: "Many people argue that the upcoming presidential election is the most important in our lifetime. Do you agree?" Four respondents said, in effect, "Yes, because Bush is bad for America and the world." But the fifth, Zen Buddhist Jan Chozen Roshi, replied, "I don't know. Our existence is so short, it's like a dust mote in the eye of God. To say that the time in which my dust mote exist-ed was the most important is a self-centered view." Roshi's wisdom reminded me of an anecdote told by Henry Kissinger. Kissinger once asked Chinese premier Zhou Enlai what he thought of the French Revolution, which had happened two centuries earlier. "Too soon to tell." Chou answered. Keep these stories in mind in 2005, Sagittarius. Think often of long-term processes. Focus on the very big picture.

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based musician requires mu-sicians of ANY instrument for various projects from funk to rock. Email me and tell me what you play. ross@Geraghty.com

MUSICIANS Looking for oth-er mellow Christian artists who love making solid music Prefer working with amateurs who are clean and sober. 653-1967 or Travelend@Hotmail.com

MUSICIANS Bassist Violinist, and FM Bkup-Lead Vo-calist avail for solid contem-porary country radio cover band w/ tight sound. thatmalibucat@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS "DENTED" lookwubicIANS "DENIED" look-ing for bass, drums and sec-ond guitarist. Just moved back from LA. Looking for tal-ent, look, and drive. Check website and email Mike if interpreted unsure lockinterested. www.dented-mu-

sic.com MUSICIANS Seeking like minded, PROFESSIONAL mu-sicians, guitarists, bassist & frontman for new project. SOUND = Coldplay, U2, Ra-diohead, Buckley, more. Sscholwinski@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS guitar, folk, banjo, duo You: acoustic guitar. Me: clawhammer banjo and guitar and vocals. Object: Old time folk and fun. austin@austinfocus.com.

MUSICIANS baddest rhythm section in town looking for vocalists, songwriters/keys/ MC's of all styles. Have con-nections, pro's only. erbamate2002@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Seasoned MUSICIANS Seasoned players, voc & progear wntd 70-80 cvrs summer rck prjct, Aero, BdCo, Bstn, Egls, GFRR, UH, Hgr, Mny, Lzy, Qn, Sbth, Sknrd, Stv, Zep, ZZ, more. 282-6792

MUSICIANS Unsigned band sought. RnR, P-funk, mini-malism, folk, tejano, punk. For recording, concerts with established artist. established artist. hxproductions@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Guitarist into starting new rock project in vein of Velvet Revolver, The Sweet, Green Day, Backyard babies, U2, BTO, Hendrix. seeks Bassist and Drummer no flakes, serious rockers only Lintnpoket@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS needed Guitar-ist, Bass, and Vox, I have a place to jam, serious or not dosent matter. typeo_462@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Seeking 2nd gtr, bass, vox, drummer & DJ (samples etc) Melodic/Hardcore/group. deftones to slip-knot w/ ministry & NIN over-tones. Drop C. Over 24 w/ pro gear. Email pic & mp3. alien13@gmail.com Forrest 791-9485

MUSICIANS in san antonio looking for creative jangly rockin drivin sounds to rock it to the people. got house and drums 210 821 7122.

MUSICIANS Big band musi-cians. Looking for a drum-mer, trumpet, guitar, stand up bass player. Must read mu-sic. Sinatra style music. 16-22age 819-7632

MUSICIANS Celtic Band KELION seeking musi cians for gigs & recordings. Experience plus "multi-instru mentality" required. Founder Director plays Irish whistle Celtic harp, piano, cello & sings. Emrys 264-9171.

MUSICIANS Needed to build MUSICIANS Needed to bui a Baby Mothership so we can quit our day jobs and have fun making a living. Ol Soul, Funk. JB/Aretha/Red-ding/SIy/Green/Clinton, any other classics , DIQ funkentelecty@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS guitar player looking for other musicians. be serious to play, genre-infl wilco, radiohead, faces, blackcrowes, deathcabf.c., strokes, hives, bethorton, rstones atc. r.stones, etc. tortex10@yahoo.com, 323-2208

MUSICIANS wanted by quitarist 36 for cohesive ses-sions. \$ for rehearsal room. Rock and Roll, Alternative. Floyd, Beatles, Nirvana etc. 373-5269

MUSICIANS keyboardist, guitarist(s), drummer, bassist, & male backup vocals need-ed. band will play hip-hop/ soul/r&b/reggae music. con-tact khristine (512) 619-3730. **MUSICIANS** Saetia

wordsinblood@vahoo.com PEDAL STEEL Expd Nashville Pedal Steel player seeks working bands. Toured and recorded live album with Gram Parsons & EmmyLou Harris. Toured and recorded with Joe Sun and several Opry artists. Google: NEIL FLANZ 512-383-0842

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PERCUSSIONIST World, VOCALIST Successful Sara-Jazz, Flamenco group needs professional percussionist. 2 CDs. Paid classy gigs. Worked with Grammy winner. Ottmar. Greg 512-497-4328 sota Florida band seeks ex perienced jazz/blues vocal ist. Upscale gigs, good pay. Beautiful, small artsy city. contact polkat57@msn.com /ww.acousticjungle.com/ VOCALIST Veteran musicians seek dynamic, yet ver-satile classic-rock front man for club & private \$\$ party

Thorne 246-6695, M 255-4653 or portrait-rocks@austin.rr.com

VOCALIST Working Variety band needs dedicated adult pro vocalist. Male(tenor)/Fe-

Instrument a plus. 873-7287

VOCALIST Wanted. Female.

Must play instrument, have experience and be willing to rehearse. Country and some bluegrass. We're a four piece. Chris, 459-0941

gammalight6000@yahoo.com

VOCALS Funk cover band needs singer. Visit austin-jazz.net forums for full de-scription of band. 468-3477

VOCALS singer songwriter looking for estb country band, Infl are Ronnie Mllsap Alan Jackson John Denver Conway Twitty Alabama Merle Haggard George Strait. Eddie In Taylor 512-352-3935

VOCALS singer wanted for

classic rock outfit.serious in-

quiries only,and stage pres-ence a must....Plant

Jagger, Trower 419-0062

VOCALS/SONGWRITER

Looking 2 form pop rock/soul band. Influences Sheryl Crow, Prince, Nikka Costa, Incubus, Beck, No Doubt. E-mail

mail CaramelDreamScicle@excite

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VOCALS Austin band is looking for a front man. Seri-ous people please. Inf. Tool,APC, Pink floyd. contact: J 512-832-5955 or

male with range and coi

PIANO/KEYS Professional piano/keyboard player looking for New Year's gig(s). Sings, gigs. Contact Mark. leadguitar55@sbcglobal.net especially jazz, latin, r&b. 326.3285 **VOCALIST** Vocalist wanted for Yes, Genesis, Rush, Styx, Journey type cover band. Thorne 246-6695, Murray

PRODUCER Looking for talented singer/songwriters (all-styles) in need of a prod-uct to shop themselves to labels, management, club own-ers, or potential band mates. can help you with your dream. Visit: dream.

www.jbsproductions.net or call 512-238-0612

SAX Players. Tenor and so-prano for CD project. David Sanborn style. Dan, 278-1735 SONGWRITER/VOCALS

have a 7 song demo I will send to any interested bands. If you sound good I'll play. iamtheky@gmail.com

VOCALIST Established Aus-VOCALIS I Established Aus-tin show band accepting de-mos for female vocalist. Send audio and/or video demo, photo, resume to 603 West 13th St. Suite 2A, Austin, Texas, 78701. 479-9372

VOCALIST Looking for awe-some band to front, for more info go to

www.myspace.com/christin-eblack or email me @ www.roxxyroxs@verizon.net

VOCALIST power vocalist

512-916-4886

project. infl: alford, cornell, belladonna, patton. call scott marker or leave message 512.016.4886

VOCALIST Still looking. Seri-ous, PROFESSIONAL, origi-nal projects only. Roots based in classical piano training and range to hard-core/metal. Not big on screaming..Daniel 512-426-5795.

daniel@dbmusicprod.com

VOCALIST Pro needed, es-tablished giging classic rock blues band. Phone, transpor-tation necessary. SRV, Sky-nyrd. Hendrix, Seager, Kings. Minimal rehearsal Harmonica+, 569-7374

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* webaustinchronicle.com/personals

a shot in the dark

CHIPOTLE DOWNTOWN 12/21 11:30am You: tan suede jacket Me

glasses and red blouse; wanted to say hello. #4976

12/17 CHRISTMAS PARTY. You were Heath: an amazing, very cute guy. Bumped my friend and spilled drink. I regret being too shy to talk to you. Call •4977

DART BOWL, WEDNESDAY night. You: blonde ponytail, brown shirt, nice smile. Me: Black t-shirt, brown hair, bad bowler. We smiled, but I missed my chance. Grab a beer? =4978

BASTROP WALMART 12/24. You. blond. Bought a sleeping bag for your dog. Me, guy you stood next to in line. We talked a bit. Interested in talking some more? \mathbf{r} 4979

12/22 POST OFFICE 35th/Lamar. You: woman with baseball bat in red sweater. I couldn't deliver my letter to Ireland, but should have asked you out for coffee. \$\$4980

ZACH SCOTT, 12/18, Rockin' Christmas Party.. You: Mariah (E33), sweet, beautiful. Me: Greg, (E34). Should've asked for your number! How about another show? Happy Holidays! Call me! #4981

GUY SITTING, FAR table with black shirt, khaki pants, glasses, tall, sitting with two others. Me- cute Black girl, silver jacket, long hair, Little City. Coffee- two of us? **a**4972

12/21 FEDEX HOTTIE: Me: Volunteer at the Town Lake Animal Center with scribble signature. You: Working New Year's eve. Call! **¤**4973

12/16 EVENING TRUDY'S South "Here's to meeting new friends and hanging out." You- Sarah, reading the Personals. Thanks for the goodbye hug. Like to hang out again? Call #4970

COMMENTED ON MY "nice boots" at KGSR anniv. party. Available for fun and adventurous pursuits? \$\$4974

11/19 GAL IN pink shoes at Gossip on South Congress. I was stunned stupid. Wish I had said more than "hi" You're lovely! \$\$4968

YOU: HOT BRUNETTE in red Buick with Muppletone sticker. Me: sexy geek with big glasses. If you play the Tuba, I'll bring the Fork. 24950

YOU CAUGHT ME reading your food diary at El Chile Cafe. I laughed, you ran. A glass of Johnny Walker Red someday? =4951

11/24 ABIA DELTA flight delayed. We drank beer, talked about Auburn. You were headed to WPB to golf. Let's arab a drink. **a**4952

POLAR EXPRESS 12/10. You were A 40 and 41 with your son; my son and I were A 1 and 2. We spoke. Hot chocolate sometime? **a**4953

YOU: BETTE DAVIS Eves. Me: Overeager and understated. I can't stop thinking about you, and I'd desperately like to share my nachos with you. Call me \mathbf{r} 4956

JOHN, YOU WERE 43, bhotographer/landscaper. Answered my ad, and I was very interested, but evidently wrote down the wrong number! Please call me again if you see this. $\mathbf{\pi}4958$

12/15 7PM RYAN'S Steakhouse Parmer. You: Tall handsome man with red sweater. I said hello at desserts and nodded on the way out. Still need something sweet? $\mathbf{e}4959$

RIDING YOUR BIKE home from work for the first time. We rode through my neighborhood. I was on a mountain bike. Is it Ryan? You really turned my gears! Lisa **a**4961

HEB BRODIE LANE late Mon evening, you were buying apple butter to make some cookies, wanted to talk to you more but let you walk out. Call me =4962

"ANGEL" FROM LOUISIANA 12/03 San Marcos after hours. Talked about ass shakin' music, arm wrestled. You disappeared. Let's hang out. =4911

perschals

FRIDAY 12/10 SOUTH Congress Cafe. Lunch. You were at second booth facing door, blue eyes, fair skin, freckles. I have brown eyes/hair, wore black shirt. Couldn't believe my eyes. **☎**4948

KENICHI 12/10.YOU: stunning brunette denim jacket with blonde at bar. Me: dark hair, navy shirt, ordered drinks, stood right behind you before dinner. Should have said hello. Drink? **☎**4946

AROUND HALLOWEEN. BOY with Skeleton on wheels at T.H elementary, Robert's roommate? Should have said something but was too shy. You're cute! Wanna get coffee/beer and talk? Call jen. **¤**4947

YOU: HOLE IN the back of your pants at Dobie Mall. Me: Loving it. Why'd you cover it up, cutie? With or without holes, call me. m4912

MIKE AT QUEENSRYCHE: Saw you again at Chevelle. I commented on your Polo Blue, you said "I hope I see you again." I should have given you my number. **a**4914

ACC 12/8: ME: tall, brown hair, black shirt. You: short, dark red hair. Told me you were from Kileen during the false fire alarm was set off. Call Me r4915

UPS DRIVER: FRIDAY 12/10 9:15AM Montopolis. We had to detour because of accident off 183. I was in the blue car. Nice Legs! What can I do for Brown? **a**4919

CAROUSEL SATURDAY. YOU: Strawberry blonde having too much fun with friends to interrupt. Me: Tall, short hair, glasses, black sweater, enjoying music and your dancing from across room. Coffee? **a**4906

11/25 THANKSGIVING, ZILKER, Youcutie with goatee pulling up in white Xterra with PA plates. Me: redhead with camera leaving trail. I think hiking with you would have been more fun. **☎**4907

SUNDAY 11/28, YOU: stunning dress with black boots. Eating with grand parent? I was too busy to talk. **\$\$**4904

WEDNESDAY, EGO'S BAR. You: big, bald Black man who talks to homeless people. Me: small blonde in front row. You looked at me and smiled. Want to see more? 24900

LAKELINE MALL 11/29 Blackfly 3pm. You said I was cute. Too shy to respond. Let's talk. **a**4896

ANTHEA! HOLE IN the Wall 12/4/04. Your beauty was breathtaking and your radiant smile left me speechless! Another tequila shot? Kenny \mathbf{r} 4903

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{MARLA, YOU MADE} \text{ my night with the} \\ \text{dancing and conversation. Make my} \\ \text{year with the calling, more dancing} \\ \text{and conversation. } \textbf{$$^{4}885$} \end{array}$

LUBY'S STECK/MOPAC 11/25. We spoke in line and afterwards. You were with your son, Jayden. Desirae, left without giving you my number. Please contact me. - Derek **a**4887

11/28 BASTROP WALMART. You offered to pay for my soup. I would like to repay the kindness. **a**4889

GEBAUER 2ND FLOOR - you have glasses and dark hair. You checked me in, but I also saw you checking me out. Did we share a moment? \$\approx 4890

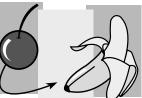
HEB 183/BRAKER 12/02 red hair, specs, cream top, skirt, anklets, onyx ring. Me: scruffy guy in sweats with excuse to stay in frozen section, frozen by your beauty. Coffee? \$\$4891

KINNEY AND LAMAR, Monday. You, walking down Kinney, me, sitting on tailgate of truck getting car inspected. Mutual inspections! Lets get a drink. **☎**4894

#3 BUS EVENING 11/29. You grey shirt, black converse, drawing a heart. Me black T-shirt across from you. Wanna kick it? **a**4895

CAMILLE, THE NATIVE Austinite I met at First Thursday on S. Congress. Missed you at Red-Eyed Fly. Wanna meet for a Dos? =4899

DOG ALMIGHTY ON Burnet. Me: chili-cheese dogs with frito pie chaser. You: Veggie corn dog and veggie chili-fries. Lookin' for a tree-huggin' cutie to ride shotgun in my 4X4. Call ∞4881



EXOTIC. ECCENTRIC SWF. thin, 37. Seeks adventurous, attractive, fun guy. Come hang with the wild things and how with my pack #4000 howl with my pack. \$\$4909

VIVACIOUS, SHAPELY REDHEAD, SWF, emerald eyes, 5'7." Seeking youthful SWM, 40's, who is financially secure, cute/attractive, loyal, affectionate, passionate, just like me. I working out, traveling, movies, dancing, candles, thunderstorms and romantic evenings. \$\$4965

PETITE, ORIGINAL JEWEL seeks

man with heart of gold for mixing metaphors and entwining dreams. Me: attractive, vivacious, funny, bright, joyous, adventurous, supportive xenophile. You: younger man who appreciates older women (no one believes I'm 53), prosperous, quest-ing, honest, passionate music and arts lover who has travelled outside the U.S. 24963

ENERGETIC, MODERN LIBRAN, 46 likes quantum physics, gourme

cooking, nature, spirituality, cats brutal honesty, open communication, personal freedom, monogamous passion. Gwen Stefani to Buxtehude financial stability, non-addicts. 24975

NAUGHTY AND NICE. Great Xmas Stocking Stuffer. Product Details: Beautiful blue-eyed blonde, sharp mind, super body. Features include mischievous thoughts, coffee at Flip's, dinner at Uchi's, dancin' to Dale, Elephant Room Jazz. System Requirements: Playful, handsome, funny, sexy SWM, 32-42, to take my breath away. Handle with care. =4964

BLONDE RAPUNZEL, 41, will let hair down for the right suitor. Left the ivory tower for 96 acres on the Colorado, but even more isolated. Need prince

conversant in countries, country estates, and estate planning, or equally broad topics. Interest in building castles, designing gardens, and orchestrating salons all plusses. \$\$4922

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE, SMALL in

structure big on talent and inspirations, 55+. Seeking a mature intellectual gentleman for friendship Christian and drug/disease free, non smoking. •4908

OUT OF THE BOX. Attractive alternative, liberal, organic, slim, smart, sane, spiritual, non smoking/drinking baby boomer seeks friendly, wise witty man with un-common sense. **a**4902

HEARTFELT CONNECTIONS! WE savor each moment whether walking trails, camping, watching movies, or listening to live music. Qi-gongster woman seeks mature man for friend-

ship--then the universe decides. \$\$4888

ATTRACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL SWM, Round Rock gentleman, 51, 6', 185lbs., likes lake, hill country,

Naughty and nice.

Great Xmas Stocking Stuffer. Product Details: Beautiful blue-eyed blonde, sharp mind, super body. Features include mischievous thoughts, coffee at Flip's, dinner at Uchi's, dancin' to Dale, Elephant Room jazz. System Requirements: Playful, handsome, funny, sexy SWM, 32-42, to take my breath away. Handle with care.



the Luv //

Grupo Fantasma New Year's Party Friday, Dec. 31 • La Zona Rosa 612 W. Fourth St. • www.lazonarosa.com ****** Questions? Suggestions? email: luvdoc@austinchronicle.com

This Friday is New Year's Eve. If you don't already have a pretty decent idea of where and how you plan to work your stuff, it's time to drag yourself out of your hidey hole, Osama. There's plenty going on. Sure, you could argue that New Year's Eve is just an arbitrary point in the space-time continuum made special and unique only because of the phenomenal pigheadedness of Western European culture. You'd be right, but you wouldn't be rogered - certainly not with that atti-tude. Seems a little arrogant anyway to suck all the fun out of an evening just because you paid attention in eighth grade science. Why scramble the minds and break the hearts of all those 'tards out in middle America still intent on putting creationism back into textbooks? How do you think they're going to feel when they find out they're floating aimlessly in an ever-expanding existential ether? Do you think that's going to haul the hogs to market? Do you think that's going to bring the bumpkins to boot camp? No sir, the best way to conduct a civilized slaughter is to nurse the masses on the comfort-ing tit of ignorance. So, if you've got a beef with the Gregorian calendar, keep it to yourself, and thank your lucky stars (the In grid and spin and the second and if you plan on getting a hotel room. Regardless of what you might think, tonsil hockey is not a spectator sport. So ... the agenda is set, where to get it on? The choices are infinite, but since you probably won't be dragging along a date, you're going to want to kick if at a place with some groove. Yes, you'll want to dance because it's unlikely you're going to impress someone with your drinking, no matter how attractive that sounds. Try La Zona Rosa with Grupo Fantasma. People love them ... and not for the lyrics. They have about a dozen musicians on stage beating, banging, and blowing on stuff in sweaty syncopation. It's like a huge aerobics class for drunk, horny people, but in a good way. Remember: Dancing and drinking, not sitting and thinking. Oh yeah, and get a cab or D a D who will drive to arrive alive in the '05.



Seeks nice looking female for friendship possibly long term relationship. **a**4971

CUTE GUY LOOKING, 5'10, 40's, fit, educated, happy, loving, nurturing, funny, adventurous. Lover of outdoors and music. Seeks WF to hang out with and who knows, maybe love. **a**4960

FINANCIALLY SECURE. FIT. healthy. 6'0" tall, trim, handsome, active, professional, SWM, young 58. Seeking attractive, fit, non-smoking, healthy, adventuresome lady for extraordinarily expressive, long-term relationship. Age unimportant. **=**4949

STARVING ARTIST LOOKING for a muse. SWM 28 in search of 35+ woman for passion and excitement in life. My world feeds on beauty, let me show you. \$\$4921

NATURE LOVING, NON-smoking, cy-cling, hiking, entrepreneur seeks lady 45-60 for monogamous relationship. Let's contemplate the Milky Way and our navels, rural setting far from Rome and its coliseums. **a**4913

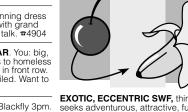
GENTLE, FUNNY, WARM, kind hearted, open minded, honest, willing, strong, safe, secure, musical, positive, spiritual, hopeful, loving, balanced, free, happy, non smoker, drug/disease free. You too. **¤**4916

PSWM, NON-SMOKING, 54, seeks non-smoking woman under 50 to share Christmas season, and more

Holidays are better when shared with a friend. Let's talk. \$\$4920 LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY? SWM, 5'9'

27, 150 pounds. Seeking female 21-32 who likes photography, road trips, Alamo Drafthouse, and exploring Austin 24901

movies, dining out, dogs, and smiley faces. Seeks same in SWF, 45-55. **a**4884



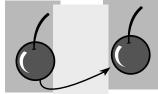
PABLO PICASSO, CHARLES Bukowski, Lenonard Cohen, The Doors. are some of my heros. SWM. 46, atheltic body, serious artist, romantic imagination. Seeking interesting, adventureous woman for friendship... **a**4886

DWM, 64, WOULD like to share interests in classical music, history interesting discussions, good food and walking in parks with intelligent, mature woman with liberal political views. **\$\array\$4897**

SWM, 40, 6'2", 200 lbs. I am nice, friendly and clean. Seeking a female for fun/friendship. \$\vec{1}{9}4898

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP OR relationship with woman, any race/ethnicity. Companionship and conversation. Enjoys walking/biking to the park, dancing, sports, and gardening. I'm a Black male, 29. •4882

IN SHAPE MALE, 43, 5'10", 160, former model- White/Italian/Spanish mix. Never married, no children, seeks very feminine female for possible relationship. The real bachelor is waiting. **\$\$**4883



THE NIGHTS ARE longer and colder Makes a woman want to snuggle up on the couch, roaring fire in the fireplace and watch movies..Interested? = 4969



I'M FUN. SWEET. and smart. Are you?

BROWN HAIRED BEAR, 40, seeks partner for hibernation, carnivorous activity and serious affection. Seeking a partner in the wilderness of life. Not handsome, but true of heart. #4966

DID SANTA BRING you what you wanted? I have white hair, no beard but have all my own teeth. Looking for an Asian or Hispanic elf to wrap. **☎**4955



HEY YOU! LET'S hang out, go to shows, Alamo Drafthouse, art parties free stuff, or just listen to music all day- F, 22. 24954

SEEKING TRAVEL COMPANION to New Zealand for 10 days next year and to experience the country's adventures. \$\$4957



DID YOU LOSE your passion or someone to enjoy it with? Sexy, handsome, clean, professional 40s WM seeks exciting, easy going, discreet female for fantasy, friendship, fun, and passion. **\$**9760

GORGEOUS BLONDE SHEMALE. 30, fun transsexual to play with, for in-shape playful men. "take a walk on the wild side" no strings **a**9822

ATTRACTIVE MARRIED MALE, 49 seeks mature, fit, attractive married female with great legs, 35-50, for discreet, long term friendship and intimate relationship. Let's make each other feel special again. **1**9754

SUBS ONLY WHO dare to kneel before me. Men 35-65. 29747

MALE, 28, LOOKING for fun females. Nothing serious, just good times. You won't be disappointed. See ya soon. **☎**9823

SEEKING WELL ENDOWED top for regular encounters. I am 30, slim, attractive Caucasian, bottom, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'9", 155 pounds Drug/disease free - you too. 29756

BLACK MALE SEEKS young males for first gay experience. 18-25, no fakes... \$\mathbf{s}\\$9824

MATURE WM SEEKING daytime princess for pampering, pleasure, fun and fantasy. You will not be disappointed. **a**9825

SWM, 38, HEALTHY mind and body seeks female top, sub or switch into spanking and light bondage. Fully equipped play space in and outdoors Possible relationship. **2**9766

DWM, 54, SEEKS D/SWF, 50+, who enjoys seamed stockings, stiletto heels. Looks unimportant; attitude essential. You know how naughty you are; show me. **☎**9759 / Box #60422, PO Box 49066, Austin TX 78765

WANT TO WATCH your wife having Take pictures, make a video? WM, 52, seeks couple 45+ fo interesting afternoons. 29752

VERY ATTRACTIVE, BLACK married couple (he's 31; she's 29) seeks sexy lesbian/bisexual female, age 21 to 40, to help bring excitement to our daily routine. No racial preference. 29826

SWM. 35. PROFESSIONAL. handsome and sexy seeks open minded sexy straight or bi female for dating/relationship. 29828

SEXY COUPLE SEEKS female third wheel. He - 6', blue eyed blonde, muscular. She - 5', brown hair and eyes, fit. We find beauty in all ethnicities and ages. **\$9817**

DOMINANT. SANE MWM. attractive. straight, imaginative, 40's seeks height-weight proportionate submissive WF into role-playing, toys, bondage, spanking, etc. as powerful erotic tools. Friendship, discretion, trust important. 29816

ENDOWED BIMHM, 48, looking for stress relief/satisfaction from male or couple. I'm drug/disease free, and open to just about anything. All calls answered. Call 29749

SWM SEEKING SAME or SBM for private rendezvous looking for first male experience. Recent college grad looking for 20 to 30 year old with patience and experience. =9819

INTENSE AND CREATIVE prelude, prolonged gratifying crescendo, sensual and relaxing intermission offered by 40's MWM for one height-weight proportionate MWF. Friendship, mutual trust, discretion important. No pros. **2**9753

NYX. IF U R out there. I've missed you

SWEET TALKER. 2 Hearts in Middle

rattlesnake. A proper date!!!! -Mink

America. Always, Sweet Pea

TOY, CAN'T WAIT for NY's

don't shave either

STRAIGHT LIVING, DISCREET, bisexual Biker wants to meet the hairiest man around. No B.S. No drama. Just discreet fun. Unshaved Longhairs Welcome!! Extremely hairy back a must. Happy Holidays!! ☎9761

MID 40S WM/HF couple. drug/disease free seeking petite W/H female for fun. He's outgoing, energetic. She wants to watch maybe participate. Let's meet for drinks and see... Be discreet. \$\approx 9758

MARRIED MALE LOOKING for a married female for a physical, discrete relationship. I am 30, 5'11", 165 lbs, attractive, fit. Seeking female also lacking intensity and passion in her relationship. 29751

DOMINANT MALE EXECUTIVE seeks female trainee for submissive/slave position. To apply, get on your knees, call, and tell me why you are the right candidate. **☎**9767

GWM. HEALTHY. 6'. 175. black/brown, playful and adventurous otter. Looking for mature, husky, hairy man for fun and games. Some limits, but not many. **∞**9818

SEXY BI COUPLE looking for mature couple or select singles for weekend fun. We just want to have fun, answer if that's what you want too. How far will you go? ☎9830

WM, 41, VERY discreet. Looking for Black or Hispanic top men for fun -married ok, just looking for good time. I'm passive- you're not! You can bring a buddy. **¤**9757 PAMMERS, YOU'RE THE cream filling of my Twinkie of love-Steve

AETHON-THE BEST gift ever given me! Merry Christmas! Eromena

I'M PAYING ATTENTION. Want help designing, reconstructing everything? -greenshoes

DEB: YOU DIDN'T hafta break it again. -Shamrock

BLUEJEAN BABY, L.A. lady, seamstress for the band. Happy Birthday!!!

DANNICA: PLEASE CALL James. A.G. USTED NADA en mis ojos siempre. K.G.

STINKY, I WILL wait till its our turn to dance. Óscar AARON, THE STOCKER at

Wholefoods Downtown, you are adorable!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND Happy New Year to Tina and Madison. -Jim GEMINI. KARMA'S A bitch. aint it?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JORDAN! We love you! LS, BJ, & TW

LET'S GO TO the PARK soon scorpion, love, your alien

SAUSAGE IS BORING Just like youre games

HAAPPY BIRTHDAAY FDL rocks the best forty in AAustin

REAGAN. DO HIM. I did - RN

TRACY, VALERIE, DEIDRA, Merry Freaking Christmas! I Love you! TLVH

DNIGHT, U NEED to pay DPS B4 01/03. PS O misses U. Friends? WHOLE FOODS! NEAR Granola! I

LOGATRAZ: I'M RETARDED for you.

Happy Festivus - Cheeks

ARE YOU H/W Female, 21-41, who wants to be with me and my guy? Let's give him an experience he'll never forget. We're drug/disease free, sexy, ready for fun! \$\$9829

SBM, WELL ENDOWED, nice guy with big appetite seeks single females and couples M/F and F/F for adult fun. **☎**9821

NEED SEXUAL HEALING! SWM abandoned by wife and in need of romantic evenings, play or wild fun. Looking for open minded female to heal my wounds. 29827

MWM, 30, LOOKING for MWF or SWF 25-40 to share exciting but discreet relationship. I'm friendly, funny, and very playful. Guaranteed Great Time! **☎**9763

VERY DISCREET BIM, married, late 50s, drug/disease free. Looking for male needing stress relief. **2**9764

A MAN, 55, Healthy, fit, good mind and body; attractive, unencumbered well endowed; enjoys sports, jazz, travel. Seeking male friend, 40-60, similar type for intimacy and quality time. **=**9750

MARRIED COUPLE, SHE'S 28 "straight", looking for clean well endowed males to help fulfill a fantasy! No strings, 25 to 50, any race ok! \$\alpha\$9762

HEY YOU READING this! Get off your butt, pick up the phone and call this hot, sexy, play-toy transsexual for hot adult fun. I'll go where they won't go! **☎**9765

SUBMISSIVE SWM LOOKING to explore service to a mistress Beginner or experienced. Let me please you any day of the week.

a9748

YOU: HORNY, OPEN minded, 50's+ female in need of some real attention. Me-single, 40, in shape, looking to please. Remember the Playboy magazine cartoons? This bachelor won't run away. 🕿 9755

placing a personals or variations ad ***********

Placing an Austin Chronicle personal ad is fun and simple! You can submit a free 30 word personal ad (10 words free for "Messages" ads) Monday through Friday the following ways: BY FAX: 458-6910 * ON THE WEB: austinchronicle.com/personals/form.html * if all else fails: BY PHONE: 454-5765 x137 * IN PERSON: 4000 N. IH-35 REQUIRED INFO: name, address, phone number (all ads may be edited for content). One ad at a time. Instructions on how to retrieve messages will be sent to you by mail. We reserve the right to refuse any ad for any reason.

****** responding to personals ads

Responding to an ad by phone: To listen and respond to Austin Chronicle Personal ads, call 1-800-284-0865 (Visa, MC, AmEx) or 1-900-226-0242 (\$1.99/minute, 18+). You will have the opportunity to browse through ads by category or to respond to specific ads using the four digit voice-mail box number that follows each ad. Responding to an ad with Mail Forwarding: Write the five digit Mail Forwarding Number in the center of a regular envelope and then write the following address beneath it: P.O. Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765. Ads with mail forwarding have a five digit number and this symbol: 🖉

I UNDERSTAND you have to go. Your VAL, LET'S START this New Year with Destiny awaits you. a bang! Terri HANORA MONKEY ROBOT! YES! AGONY, LOVE KNOWS no bounds, if you love-forgive. PINKY, I'M ELUSIVE and you're reclusive. What's a grrl to do? LOVES JUST FORBIDDEN fruit-c FREE PEACH FROM the unfair geminicedream. WILLCO Countie Jail.!! **B, I MISS** having you around. Please keep in touch. -W SPECIAL ED, MERRY Christmas, happy 8 months. Love, Puddle S: MERRY CHRISTMAS, lover - U are JAMIE, YOU MAKE my life worth the perfect present. ILU C living. Love always, Scott

> EYES OF LOVE bestow grace forever you I face GOD.

listening and responding to ********************** variations ads

RRM: IT'S ALMOST 2005: I still have

1-888-829-9137 with Visa, MC or AmEx or call 1-900-226-0274 \$1.99 PER MINUTE • 18 or over • See the "Personals" for instructions on placing a variations ad



Happy New Year ... and Thanks!

Even the op-ed page pundits are complaining this year about the overwhelming commercialism and phony sentiment of the holiday season. Yet, serving people suffering from HIV/AIDS is a daily reminder of what Christmas is supposed to be about, and we are moved always by the genuine outpouring of concern and help from the Central Texas community. It is truly humbling, and we – and our clients – are deeply grateful.

Despite tremendous advances in treatment (and the resulting misperceptions of the public), HIV still causes great suffering among those infected and makes significant demands on those who actively care. Nonetheless, our clients, volunteers, and caregivers demonstrate such courage, commitment, faith, love, and good humor that only a rock could remain unmoved when witnessing it. For your example, we are grateful, for it is from you that we draw strength. Thank you.

In today's challenging political and economic atmosphere, we are fortunate to be in Austin, where members of the community encourage us in our work, whether with kind words or with financial support. Thank you.

We hope that things will be improved in 2005. We hope that your kind support of AIDS care and prevention will continue. And we hope for further significant progress in treatment and in prevention effectiveness. We thank Austin for caring and wish all a Happy New Year.

> - Sandy Bartlett, Community Information/Education Coordinator AIDS Services of Austin

Have questions about HIV or AIDS? Call the ASA Info-Line at 458-AIDS or e-mail Sandy.Bartlett@ASAustin.org



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4 yrs--O

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