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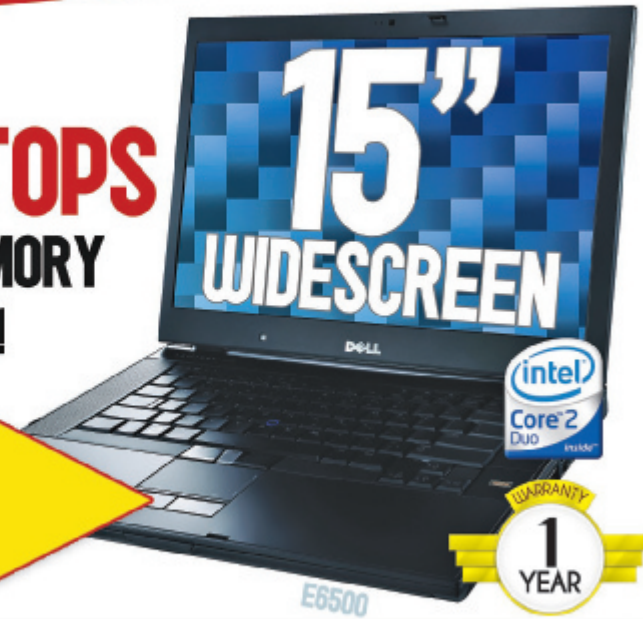
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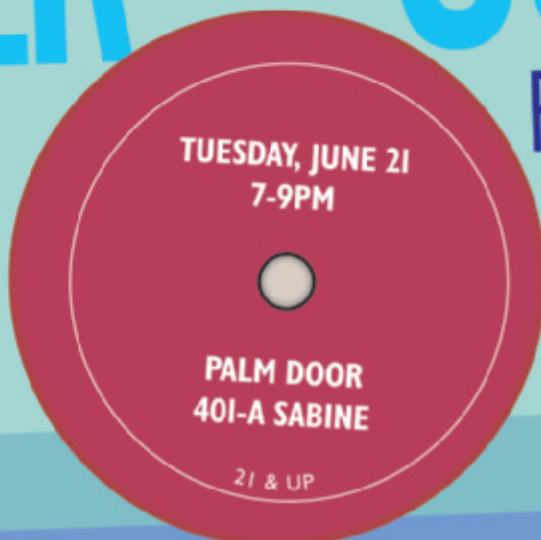
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Don't Move Here

Who loves ya, H-town?

BY LOUIS BLACK

And the Beat Goes On ...

Any regular reader of British music magazines will see the names of Austin-based acts pop up regularly. I think this is very cool and serves as a tribute to the bands mentioned as well as to the music scene as a whole. More new acts are breaking internationally while older acts keep earning more respect for the evolving quality of their music.

The first part of this column is a brief, incomplete index of editorial content devoted to Austin bands in four of these magazines in the first half of this year. In some weird but consistent way, enterprises such as this one are always jinxed; it was seeing Explosions in the Sky getting coverage everywhere that got me to thinking about doing a list like this. But, having finally decided it was time, when I began cataloging references, I found only a couple of items featuring the band.

What follows is the most haphazard of indexes. It includes only four magazines and is limited to 2011 issues that I have on hand, which is about half of those that were published. Beyond arbitrary and not even close to comprehensive, this just seems like interesting information. Annotations about bands included on complimentary CDs and long lists of bands in editorial were not included.

After I thought about it, for various reasons, it seemed too strange to include Bill Callahan and Iron and Wine. As I understand it, Hot Club of Cowtown and Spoon have moved out of town. Deciding to look at only contemporary performers means artists like the 13th Floor Elevators and Doug Sahm were out. Any articles on or references to South by Southwest were ignored for obvious reasons.

page
two

The magazines I looked at were **MOJO** (four of seven issues), **Q** (three of seven), **UNCUT** (five of seven), and **WORD** (three of seven).

... And You Will Know Us by the **Trail of Dead** (review, ★★★ **MOJO**, March 2011; review, ★★★ **UNCUT**, May 2011)

The Band of Heathens (roundup column mention, **UNCUT**, June 2011)

Explosions in the Sky (review, ★★★ **UNCUT**, May 2011; review, ★★ **MOJO**, May 2011)

Colin Gilmore (review, ★★★★★ **UNCUT**, February 2011)

Sarah Jarosz (mention in Kate Mossman's column in **WORD**, May 2011; review, ★★★ **UNCUT**, July 2011; review, ★★★★★ **MOJO**, July 2011)

Gurf Morlix (review, ★★★★★ **MOJO**, June 2011)

Okkervil River (50 Best Albums of 2010, No. 35, Roky Erickson & Okkervil River, **UNCUT**, January 2011; feature review, ★★★★★ **Q**, June 2011; feature review, ★★★★★ **UNCUT**, June 2011; review, ★★★★★ **MOJO**, July 2011)

Kimmie Rhodes (roundup column mention, **UNCUT**, February 2011; roundup column mention, **UNCUT**, May 2011)

Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez (review, ★★★ **UNCUT**, January 2011)

Patricia Vonne (review, ★★★ **Q**, March 2011)

White Denim (album preview, **UNCUT**, February 2011; top hit list, **Q**, June 2011; major feature article, **UNCUT**, June 2011; feature review, ★★★★★ **UNCUT**, July 2011; feature review, ★★★★★ **MOJO**, July 2011)

... And On and On

The above list came about as I was looking through magazines. The following excerpts are from an article that I found while cruising online. In a long piece in the *Houston Press* (June 8), writer John Nova Lomax performs a full-body takedown on Austin. Lomax does not feign innocence; knowing what he is after, he doesn't pretend that he is without a target. In a strange way, my list and his article work as companion pieces.

Lomax is cagey enough to understand that he is dealing with a layered situation, with a real city and the myth of that city. In looking at both, he provides the ample proof that he knows is there: that these emperors wear no clothes and that, rather signifying a hip, creative community, the idea of "Austin" is simply a lie. The main point of his argument is that the only really unique things about Austin have to do with a population where most are addicted to pretension and blissfully lacking self-awareness, boasting instead a willfully nurtured self-deception.

He reports that Austin used to be cooler (though never that cool), but, at an event I missed, "Austin officially decided to barter its imagination for a bid at Houston- and Dallas-sized stacks of cash."

Lomax bulletproofs this takedown by garnering agreement from two longtime Austin icons – Eddie Wilson and Joe Nick Patoski – who both viciously attack present-day Austin, having almost nothing kind to say about the city. As do many of the folks reading this, I love both Wilson and Patoski. But how do I say this exactly? Well, imagine that something major happens – like, say, Jesus Christ makes his return on the UT campus. If the media decided it needed some truly curmudgeonly reactions, the first two phone calls made would be to Patoski and Wilson.

Without too much more comment – I'll leave that up to the readers – here are a few other highlights.

There are problems with Austin. Lomax quotes a 28-year-old accountant who says that Austin is not only a city "with tons of prob-

lems – segregation, gentrification, problems with affordable housing," but, worse is that "most people ... tend to ignore them."

He quotes a Houston blogger's argument that "much of what Austin touts as being weird is actually ordinary. Bats under bridges? Houston has those. A large population of panhandlers, or 'dragworms,' as they are called in Austin? Both Houston and Dallas have them."

Lomax, of the famed Lomax clan (his father, John Lomax III, posts a comment to make this relationship clear) practices the family tradition of inclusive scholarship by first reminding us that "oddly enough, Austin has the shortest musical history of any big city in Texas. As late as 1963, Austin's pop music scene consisted of touring old-school country bands and cover bands working the frat-house circuit."

Lomax doesn't even pause: "[T]here's no Austin music that 'sounds like Austin' the way the cosmic cowboys, retro-blues folks, and even the Austin punks and new-wavers did. The bands that have created national buzz out of Austin in the last five or ten years – Ghostland Observatory, Spoon, Okkervil River, the Octopus Project – could just as easily be from Portland, Brooklyn, Toronto, or San Francisco.

"Likewise, today's *Austin City Limits* could as easily be called *Indie City Limits*."

He brings it all home by quoting an ex-Austinite: "And there's nothing unique going on in Austin. 'Tell me what the cool venue is in Austin right now. ... There's not one.'"

In the comments following the piece, there are many from Houston-dwellers that sing the piece's praises. The irony here is that if just such a piece attacking Austin ran in a local paper, probably just as many, if not more would be quick to agree with it.

Lomax didn't mention that another advantage of Houston is that there you could find a 6,000-to-7,000-word piece attacking Austin. You would never find a piece at that length attacking another Texas city in the Austin press. There's just too much other stuff to do here. ■



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'Chronicle' Endorsement

Place 3 City Council run-off, June 18:
Kathie Tovo

The *Chronicle* editorial board narrowly endorsed Kathie Tovo over incumbent Randi Shade in the general election, and nothing has happened since then to cause us to reverse that opinion for the run-off. While – as tends to be inevitable – the intervening campaigns have not been particularly edifying, that has not dampened turnout. Tovo continues to run against Formula One and rude emails instead of against her opponent, and after promising a campaign of “stark differences,” Shade has drifted sideways into apparently unwinnable ethics complaints and “no growth” scare tactics. The narrowly targeted messages, alas, reflect the steady shrinkage of the Austin electorate; if you’re shooting for 51% of 3% of the registered voters, there’s not much need for you (or your consultants) to stretch your ideological wings to include the whole city.

To reprise: We’ve found Shade to be an energetic and wide-ranging council member, doing good and necessary work on social services, on clean energy, and on reforming the city’s troubled historic zoning program. We were disappointed with her approach (with Chris Riley) to the Nathaniel Sanders II settlement, and we were split on her support for a new water treatment plant

– just as voters are likely to split on whether it’s a necessary infrastructure investment or a wasteful boondoggle. Regarding emailgate: Some of us found Shade’s public and private personas at odds and occasionally misleading; others felt that the controversy has been overblown and is largely irrelevant to policy matters.

All of us applaud Tovo’s dedicated public service on projects both official (Planning Commission, Austin ISD task forces) and unofficial, and we anticipate that if elected, she will bring much beneficial experience to council. Her ongoing efforts to keep open central city schools would be important council assets, as would her interest in inner-city development via affordable, family-friendly neighborhood initiatives. Some of us are concerned that her approach to neighborhood issues would grant too much power to traditional neighborhood groups that tend to see any urbanizing or densifying change as a threat to homeowners; others believe that city policy defaults too readily to developer interests and that Tovo’s presence will be a bulwark against such encroachment.

In short, to repeat our original recommendation (posted in full online): While as a group we remain somewhat split on our judgments of both Shade and Tovo, our consensus remains that Tovo is narrowly the best choice in this race. ■



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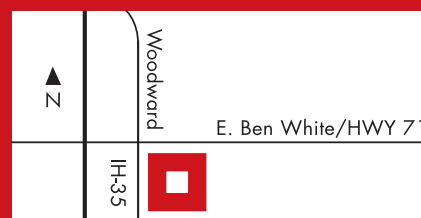
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STATING THE SIERRA CLUB'S POSITION

Dear Editor,

It's discouraging that the *Chronicle* and Randi Shade continue to mischaracterize the Austin Sierra Club water policy position, particularly regarding Water Treatment Plant No. 4 ["An Independent Person," News, June 3]. It is unclear if this is through intent or misunderstanding. If Council Member Shade had been truly listening the last three years, she should know that the Austin Sierra Club is not a "no growth" organization. To say our policy is based on "If you don't build it, they won't come" is a blatant misrepresentation. We know that people are coming to Austin and Central Texas; in fact, that is what guides our position. Increased density in appropriate areas (which we do support) will further the already downward trend of usage reported by Austin Water.

We cannot "treat" our way out of the water shortage problems; WTP4 does not manufacture water. It will not give an additional supply of water. We must work on conservation *now* while we have the existing treatment capacity. The issue is not about treatment capacity but the resource itself ... the dwindling supply of water. We are now experiencing the most severe drought in years. This cycle is projected to become the norm by most climatologists. We must have a complete shift in our approaches and methods to solve our new water challenges – 20th century solutions will not solve 21st century problems.

What we do advocate is rebuilding our water infrastructure, i.e., pipelines and delivery systems, i.e., pump stations (projects that have to be done anyway), in the same way we've updated and modernized our current treatment facilities.



This in conjunction with expanding our water conservation programs, including onsite wastewater capture and reuse in new construction, will save water; create hundreds of new, permanent jobs; and keep the community safe – and the money will stay in the community. Sure, the money may go to different contractors than those supporting Shade, but the economic benefits will be the same for Austin. Meanwhile ratepayers don't have to watch their bills go out of sight.

We can put off WTP4 for years this way. Will we still need it later? Maybe. I might need knee replacement surgery in 20 years, but I'm not going to do it now no matter what kind of "special" they're trying to sell me.

Roy Waley

Vice chair, Sierra Club-Austin Regional Group
 Co-chair, Conservation Committee

HOW ABOUT REPAIRING WHAT WE HAVE FIRST

Dear Editor,

One consequence of the in-process City Council run-off election has been a revival of the Water Treatment Plant No. 4 debate. This back-and-forth blather inspired me to take a closer look at Paul Robbins' Austin Water report My reading of this report indicates that we are losing about 15 million gallons a day due to leaky water

pipes, and that there are 1,050 miles of old cast iron city water pipes which need to be replaced to prevent these leaks.

I ain't no mathematical genius or nuthin', but it seems to me the money spent on WTP4 would have been much better spent massively accelerating the replacement of these cast iron pipes, all of which are more than 50 years old. One would think the first priority should be fixing leaky pipes before adding additional capacity. Now I can understand that City Council members are far too busy to think about mundane issues like the water supply, but no one at the water utility thought of this either? Really? Does this help to explain why water is more expensive in Austin than it is in any other major city in Texas?

Patrick Goetz

[Editor's note: Read Paul Robbins' report posted online with "Water Fall," News, p.22.]

TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSES BAD LEGISLATION

Dear Editor,

I just wanted you to know that I have sent pages about redistricting ["Five Districts, No Representation?," and "Reviving Bipartisanship," News] and Planned Parenthood ["The State's Planned Parenthood Trap," News] in the June 10 issue to both the attorney general and the sec-

retary of health and human services. Hopefully the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice will now start the preclearance investigation of congressional districts and all districts redistricting with a view toward *not* approving them. Also hopefully, the Department of Health and Human Services will do to the Texas Planned Parenthood state funding ban what they did to Indiana's: Kill it.

Kudos to the reporters who wrote those stories.
 Thom Prentice

WHERE DOES ALL THAT WATER GO?

Dear Editor,

I agree with Bill Bunch ["Postmarks," June 10] that we don't need Water Treatment Plant No. 4. However, let's just suspend rational thought and assume that we do indeed need the plant. Then we'd have to ask ourselves just where all this water is going. All too often it's to water St. Augustine grass, on public as well as private lands. The \$1 billion price tag for WTP4 is a big, fat St. Augustine subsidy. Money spent reducing St. Augustine acreage would be a much better investment than a new treatment plant.

Philip Russell

CONTINUED ON P.10



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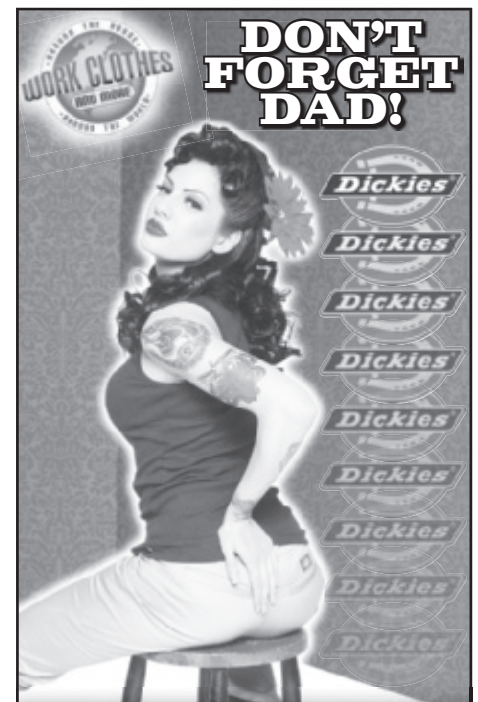
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8711 N.Lamar

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SHADE LIKES TO PLAY IT BOTH WAYS

Dear Editor,
While City Council races are nonpartisan, Randi Shade made her Democratic credentials an issue when she took out an ad in the *Chronicle* saying she'd given more money to Democrats than Kathie Tovo.

However, Shade likes to play it both ways. Her recent campaign and expenditure report shows she hired Lucas Sheffield, Mike McCaul's former campaign manager and the Texas coordinator for the American Majority, a political training organization for conservative candidates and activists. Even worse, she hired Mike Basalice, Rick Perry's pollster. Undoubtedly, Shade wants them to whip up Republicans to vote for her.

So, while many of us are working our tails off fighting Republican redistricting plans and union-busting, trying to keep schools funded, and fighting the passage of anti-choice legislation, Shade is using developer money to fight our causes.

So who's the better Democrat?

Ann Denkler

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IS NOT TO SUBSIDIZE BIG BUSINESSES

Dear Editor,
The role of local government is *not* to subsidize billion-dollar businesses like Formula One racing; this is the function of Wall Street and should be accomplished by selling stock to investors who wish to take these risks. I suggest the \$4 million would be better invested in our local education system, investing in highly qualified educators to educate our next generation of children. Alternatively, if the City

Council doesn't find that a worthy cause (somehow I doubt they do), maybe they could pay residents to xeriscape their properties and address the business of water conservation. Providing education and clean water to current and future Austinites is the primary responsibility of local government, not subsidizing professional auto racing. In fact, I believe that doing so is a breach of the council's fiduciary responsibility to all residents of Austin. Aren't you ever angry with how our elected officials spend/waste our tax dollars, too? If so, please take three minutes and email or call the City Council today and tell them you oppose funding Formula One racing.

Sincerely,
Peter Denby

THE CHRONICLE 30 THINGS
THE HIGHS, THE LOWS, THE LISTS

In celebration of our 30th year of publication, we're posting ongoing installments of "30 Things": lists of 30 notable (or laughable or lamentable) takes on the *Chronicle's* coverage, culture, and commentary from the past three decades. This week, look for "30 Sites Around Austin That Were Transformed Into Stages," Robert Faires' nod to the city's seemingly constant state of performance, and Audra Schroeder's "30 Band Names," which very much speaks for itself.

You can find it all on our website: austinchronicle.com/year30.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER--IT'S THE LATEST STUPID MEDIA DISTRACTION--

THE POLITICIAN'S PENIS

THE MOST SHOCKING SEX SCANDAL WITH NO APPARENT SEX EVER

IT'S A SCANDAL BOILED DOWN TO THE MOST BASIC POSSIBLE COMPONENTS: (1) A PENIS, AND (2) A POLITICIAN LYING ABOUT IT.

MY ACCOUNT WAS HACKED! I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT PENIS BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

AS FAR AS I KNOW. I MEAN, WHO CAN EVER BE CERTAIN OF ANYTHING?

THE POLITICIAN'S SUPPORTERS TRY TO EXPLAIN THE PENIS AWAY.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF PENISES ON THE INTERNET! HOW CAN YOU PROVE THIS ONE IS HIS?

IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A PENIS AT ALL--BUT RATHER, A PHOTOSHOPPED CUCUMBER, OR POSSIBLY A BANANA.

OR A BABY'S ARM HOLDING AN APPLE! WHAT?

BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, THE RIGHT WING PROVOCATEUR WHO BROKE THE STORY WAS TELLING THE TRUTH FOR ONCE.

HAH! FORGET ABOUT THE ACORN VIDEOS AND THAT SHIRLEY SHERROD BUSINESS!

FROM NOW ON, WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF ANDREW BREITBART--THEY WILL THINK ONLY OF A PENIS!

PSST--WANNA SEE AN EVEN BETTER SHOT?

CENSORED

ULTIMATELY THE POLITICIAN ACKNOWLEDGES OWNERSHIP OF THE PENIS... AND LEADERS OF HIS OWN PARTY CALL ON HIM TO RESIGN!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? SPECULATION IS RAMPANT AMONG JOURNALISTS THRILLED TO GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF PENISGATE!

NOT TO MENTION CARTOONISTS LOOKING FOR CHEAP LAUGHS!

TALK ABOUT BOTTOM FEEDERS!

COMING UP--THE SEASON'S NEXT STUPID MEDIA DISTRACTION!

WILL IT BE KILLER SHARKS? A DRUG-ABUSING CELEBRITY? MORE PENISES?

WE WON'T KNOW 'TIL IT GETS HERE--WHICH SHOULD BE ANY MINUTE NOW!

BUT FIRST, THESE MESSAGES!

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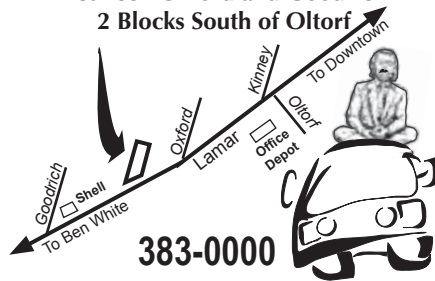
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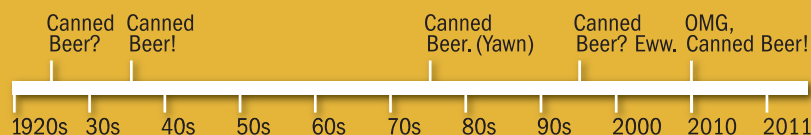
Dad Knows CANS are COOL

IT'S A CANNED BEER COMEBACK!

Grab your inner tube and a cooler! The recent craft beer explosion has led to a resurgence in canned beer's popularity. Forget what you think about canned quality, some of the best brewers around are packaging their beers in aluminum cans.



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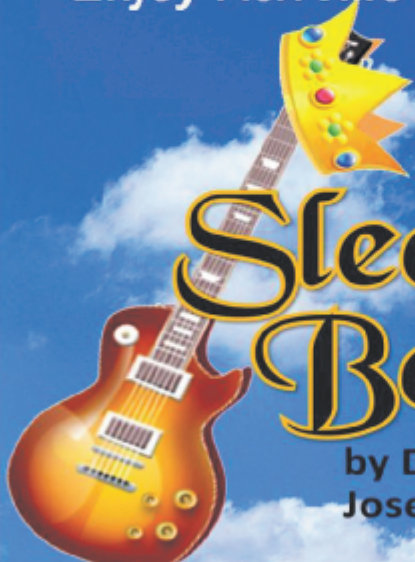
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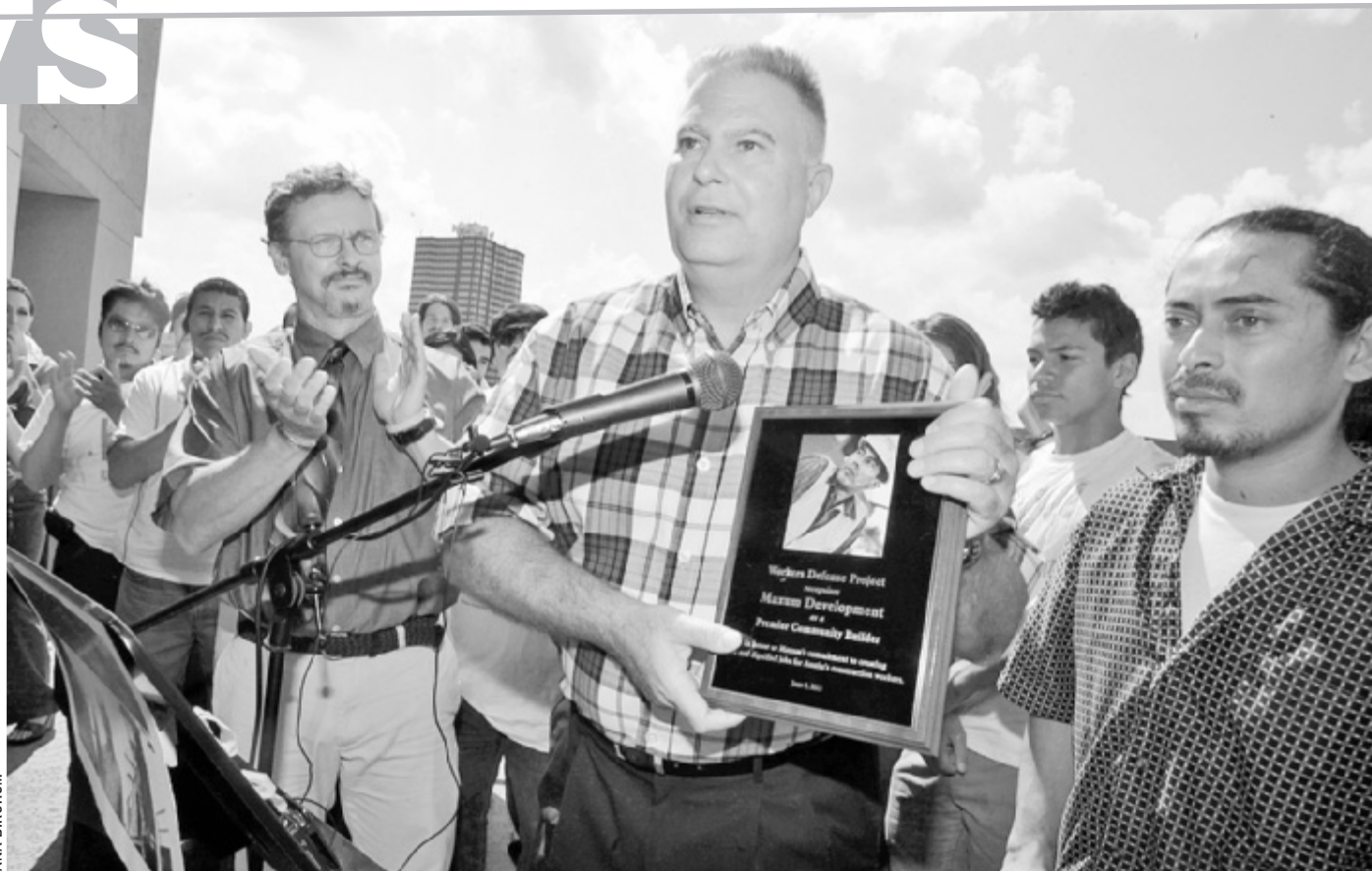


LOCATION
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news

Headlines

- ▶ **City Council** is off this week; its next meeting, Thursday, June 23, will be the last for a month, and the last before the winner of Saturday's Place 3 run-off election officially takes office. Council's still tentatively set for action this week on entering into the state's **Formula One** trust fund, but with dozens of outstanding issues, that may well be postponed. See "Point Austin," right, and "City Hall Hustle," p.14.
- ▶ The avalanche of TV ads, direct mailers, and flame-wars incinerating inboxes across town will simmer down after the Saturday, June 18, **Place 3 run-off** between incumbent **Randi Shade** and **Kathie Tovo**. See our campaign roundup, p.16.
- ▶ All that attention, negative and otherwise, has paid off: **Early voting totals** have skyrocketed, with a total of 24,427 early ballots cast at local polls – up from 14,386 in the first round in May. Austinites will have to wait until election day to find out if this represents extra voter interest, or if everyone voted before the weekend.
- ▶ City Council got a tantalizing glimpse at **urban rail** Tuesday, as staff presented four routes with price tags ranging from \$250 million to \$680 million. That most expensive route combines the three others, connecting at a **MetroRail** stop, heading Downtown, and crossing Lady Bird Lake before turning onto Riverside and Pleasant Valley. Although crossing the water is the most expensive option, Cap Metro board chair and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez argued that since the whole city would have to pay for rail via bonds (in addition to other funding mechanisms, including federal assistance), the whole city should be able to access it.
- ▶ *Chronicle* staff writer **Jordan Smith** has been awarded a **2011 Maggie Award for Media Excellence** by the **Planned Parenthood Federation of America** for her story "The War on Women's Health," April 22. The national organization will recognize Smith at its annual awards ceremony next month in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ The special session continues: As the House and Senate begin to wrap up bills on **school finance**, congressional **redistricting**, and **Medicaid** reimbursements, their next major tasks – **sanctuary city** legislation and the **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association** – hit committees. See *Lege* coverage, p.18.
- ▶ For a man who says he's not running for president, Gov. **Rick Perry** is certainly acting like a candidate. After refusing to attend newspaper endorsement meetings in his 2010 run for governor, he petitioned the editorial board of *The Wall Street Journal* for a sit-down meeting during a recent trip to New York. Meanwhile, **Americans for Job Security**, a conservative Astroturf group run by Perry's former campaign consultant Dave Carney, is running pro-Perry Web ads in New Hampshire.
- ▶ A new poll by the nonpartisan **Texas Lyceum** shows that education is the No. 1 concern among likely voters in Texas; 33% of respondents called it the state's most important problem, leading immigration (11%) and the economy (6%).
- ▶ Confirming one of the worst-kept secrets in Austin politics, former District Judge **Charlie Baird** told the *Austin-American Statesman* this week that he's considering a challenge to Travis County District Attorney **Rosemary Lehmborg** in 2012.
- ▶ Two-time unsuccessful City Council candidate and former Travis GOP Chair **Rebecca Motal** has been named general manager of the **Lower Colorado River Authority**, as voted unanimously by the LCRA board on June 14, effective July 1. She takes over from current general manager and former environmental attorney **Tom Mason**.



JANA BIRCHUM

Gary Perkins of Maxum Development, center, joined Workers Defense Project's Ely Rodriguez (r) last week to announce an agreement to improve working conditions on all of Maxum's projects. The event took place at 21 Rio, a Maxum condo project where in 2009 faulty scaffolding caused the deaths of three construction workers.

Grackle Eaten Here

There's a bitter taste accompanying any Formula One deal – good or bad

BY MICHAEL KING

A few weeks ago, I promised my boss Nick Barbaro that I would cheerfully eat crow if what I had written (see "Race-Off," May 6) about Austin's pending Formula One deal – essentially, that as I understood it, the deal would not qualify as a city subsidy of the Grand Prix race – was proven wrong. The test was to be whether, in the following weeks, F1 attorney (and Barbaro's *bête noire*) Richard Suttle would come to City Council and request \$4 million to help support the first 2012 event (and potentially also contract for similar support for 10 years).

Well, last week Suttle came before the council, but he didn't request the \$4 million; indeed, he *offered* the city \$4 million – to be raised from private sources (i.e., a "Local Organizing Committee") – that would become a revolving fund, reimbursed annually from the incremental city taxes raised from the event itself. But there's a catch, of course – with Suttle there's always a catch, Nick would say. The real money at issue is the \$25 million state contribution to the Major Events Trust Fund, for which F1 only becomes eligible at the

instigation of an official local sponsor – in this case, the city of Austin. Comptroller Susan Combs has long since earmarked \$25 million for the franchise fee payable to English F1 owner Bernie Ecclestone,

but in legal fact, the process can't even begin until a local entity – e.g., the city of Austin – makes the request.

Where does that leave me? I don't think I'm bound to eat crow, but for Nick's sake, it's arguable I should be a little peckish for oh, grackle, or maybe mockingbird. Because as this F1 deal is taking shape – and most especially in light of the still ongoing public disaster at the Capitol – what looks like a potentially great deal for Austin increasingly looks like a bad deal for Texas.

Put simply: If the current political leaders of Texas adamantly refuse to invest in education or in health care for Texans, what possible business do they have investing in sporting events like road racing – no matter how much money those events might recoup for local businesses and taxing entities?

point
austin

QUOTE of the WEEK



JOHN ANDERSON

"You could erect a sign at the ballot box that says 'blacks need not vote'"

– Austin Rep. Dawnna Dukes on a proposed GOP map splitting Travis County into five congressional districts

CONTINUED ON P.15



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Whose side is Randi Shade on?



Shade voted to charge more for Downtown parking.

Shade's biggest funder is the F1 track law firm.



Shade has taken \$150,000 from developers.

Shade hired Rick Perry's pollster for her campaign.



This campaign has agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Chapter. Political ad paid by Kathie Tovo Campaign, P. O. Box 301464, Austin, TX, 78703, Joe Pinnelli, Treasurer.

DOWN THE LONG ROAD TO SMDs

Council takes another step toward districting ... and other stuff

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The firestorm over the **Place 3 run-off** and its stalking horse in **Formula One** is making the Hustle pine for simpler, less controversial issues. Like **single-member districts**.

We kid, we kid. But compared to all the newfangled assortment of crud in F1, what with its dubious comptroller estimates, obtuse state funding mechanisms, and classist tribal hatreds, the shopworn issues surrounding SMDs are reassuring perennials, like a worn pair of blue jeans – ones that only ride up your ass just so.

The discussion at City Council's last regular meeting (June 9) caught a few hall watchers off guard, thanks in part to the inclusion of maps. Presented by **Sidney Falk**, a partner with outside legal staff retained by the city, they came in four varieties, although all the permutations split the city into six districts (touted by Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** as his preferred scenario, and criticized by some community activists as too few). But more importantly, all maps contained similar lines for districts 1 and 2, aka the African-American and Latino opportunity districts (where, in the terms of the federal Voting Rights Act, minority voters have an "opportunity" to elect candidates of their choice).

Falk said he began by drafting "a strong Hispanic district and as strong an African-American district as could be constructed." The resulting Hispanic ward, District 2, grazing the waterfront east of Downtown and crossing the lake to Southeast Austin, achieves that goal, with 67% total Hispanic population and 61% Hispanic voting-age population. The challenges of black representation on council, in the face of a dwindling and dispersed African-American population, were illustrated in District 1, which would start in Central East Austin and stretch north to the exurbs, with both its overall and voting-age populations coming in at around 22%.

A specific district does not necessarily need to be majority-minority in order to work: African-American geographic representation on the Travis County Commissioners Court and at Austin ISD attest to that; moreover, that's why they're called opportunity districts, in that the minority residents of a given area have a reasonable *opportunity* to elect a candidate.

But it puts Austin in the odd place of navigating the "gentlemen's agreement," that unenforceable, decades-old arrangement "reserving" two seats on council for a black and Latino candidate. What was once maligned by activists as a way for bad, old Austin to circumvent Department of Justice scrutiny (and, so the argument went/goes, true self-determination for minority communities) has worked so well that now, any potential switch to SMDs – the preferred sce-

nario for said activists – runs the risk of disenfranchising the black vote, as drawing any district more densely African-American would necessitate more than our current six seats, likewise diminishing current African-American voting strength. And with a relative explosion in the Latino population, conversely, one out of six seats doesn't seem like *enough* representation.

These are the considerations council is making, although they'll have time to mull it over. One of the reasons for the presentation, maps and all, was the possibility at the time of the study's commission that the citizenry – most likely in the form of ChangeAustin.org, with an assist from other like-minded SMD proponents – might force the issue to the ballot this November with a petition drive. But with that likelihood dwindling, it now looks like SMDs won't appear on a ballot until the next general election – which may in fact fall in November 2012, as a consequence of recent state legislation rearranging election dates (see "So Many Elections, So Little Time," June 10).

Should that occur – and it looks increasingly possible that it might – 2012 may be even bigger than the "mother of all charter elections" Leffingwell initially proposed: In addition to voting on SMDs, additional charter changes, and urban rail, to say nothing of the presidential race, we might also have a mayoral election and three council races to contend with, too. (Senate Bill 100, the legislation in question, allows for the extension of terms to the next scheduled election.) And should voters adopt an SMD proposal, we'd turn around the following year and elect an all-new council.

It's enough to make you long for the simplicity of the **Major Events Trust Fund**. □

As for Formula One, the city has put consideration of entry into the trust fund on blocks until the next council meeting on June 23, at least. That's still the tentative date for consideration, although with Assistant City Manager **Sue Edwards** tallying some 21 items flagged by council members for further consideration, it seems only responsible to stretch that artificially narrow timeline. (Formula One's initial franchise sanction fee is reportedly due in July – that's the only consideration there.) Council Member **Sheryl Cole** offered several intriguing suggestions to hold the city harmless, most prominently that the local organizing committee that's coughing up the \$4 million match in the first year keep doing so through the sixth.

And if it's such a sure shot, why not? ■

The Hustle has your SMD maps online. See our blog entry today, "TDH: 6/16/11," at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.



► **CHASING RAIL** When we last left the **urban rail** discussion (see "Why Rail?" April 8), Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** had a list of 30 questions he wanted answered before moving forward with the major transportation project. City Council heard a presentation from the city's Transportation Department Tuesday that really clarified only one thing: that questions still remain. One question looms over all others: how to pay for it. City staff outlined possible sources of money from the federal government's **New Starts Project Planning and Development** program, and said that while Austin is a good candidate for such funding due to stable employment centers such as UT, the Capitol, and our vibrant Downtown, money couldn't be guaranteed. However, Leffingwell said the project won't work without it: "[General obligation] bonds alone are not going to fund this project," he said, concluding that the city would need a 50-50 match. Also, he said, it's not enough to simply build the thing – after that, where does the operational money come from? "We have to identify a funding stream." Transportation Director Rob Spillar presented multiple scenarios regarding which phase to build first – some going north to Mueller or the Hancock Center, others crossing the river and going to Riverside. Council members Mike Martinez and Bill Spelman both advocated crossing the river first, because of the dense population of potential riders already living on Riverside, but how to cross is still uncertain – and the most costly segment. "I know it's expensive," Martinez said, "and we may not do that." – *Lee Nichols*

► **GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO SKATE ... AND BIKE** Strap on your elbow pads: Austin's long-awaited **BMX and skate park** finally opens today, Thursday, June 16. Unlike the city's other, smaller action parks, this one is designed for use by bikers, skaters, and skateboarders alike. It features bowls, ramps, and jumps, plus the skateable *Iron Wave* designed by local artist **Chris Levack**. He also designed a trilobite-inspired area of shade designed to evoke the numerous fossils found in nearby Shoal Creek; both the wave and the arbor were commissioned through the city's **Art in Public Places Program**. The city had been planning for a large skate park for almost a decade, and voters backed the \$1.7 million project as part of the 2006 bond package. However, it was only last year that the city settled on the location at the old, underused tennis courts across from the Austin Rec Center and House Park, at 12th Street & Shoal Creek Boulevard. (See "New 'Action' Park Rolls Closer to Reality," June 25, 2010.) – *Richard Whittaker*

► **PRAISE FOR POND SCUM** On Wednesday, the city celebrated the completion of the new **Lundelius-McDaniels Water Quality Pond**, marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located in South Austin just off the Paisano Trail, the pond uses "state-of-the-art biofiltration technology" to help purify storm water before it makes its way to the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs. According to the city, the \$3.9 million project will enable the removal of 35,000 pounds of pollution a year from storm water. Notably, that water originates from a neighborhood built before the Save Our Springs Ordinance tightened up water quality regulations. Wednesday's ceremony also provided an occasion for officials to share news of the city's newest accolade: The **Environmental Protection Agency** has designated Austin one of 10 "model cities" for green infrastructure, an announcement that should please people and salamanders alike. – *Nora Ankrum*

res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.54.

THURSDAY 16

FILMS FOR THE FOREST BLOCK PARTY Do some rainforests a favor and watch the winning films of the **Rainforest Partnership's** 3-Minute Film Challenge. 6-10pm. *Rainforest Partnership Headquarters, 505 Willow, 420-0101. Free.*

FRIDAY 17

GROUND BREAKING: AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND HERITAGE FACILITY The launch of this historic renovation project doubles as a Juneteenth celebration that looks forward as much as it looks back. 9:30am. 912 E. 11th, 974-2240.

TEXAS EMANCIPATION DAY Join Travis County Judge **Sam Biscoe** and Precinct 1 Commissioner

Ron Davis for a Juneteenth celebration in the park. 11am-2pm. *Wooldridge Park Plaza, 10th & Guadalupe.*

SATURDAY 18

ELECTION DAY The perfect followup to Saturday morning cartoon-watching: Go vote. Check out our endorsement, p.7; campaign coverage, p.16; and in-depth stories on the candidates (plus links to voting precinct info, in case you don't know where to go) at austinchronicle.com/elections.

MEN RALLY FOR CHANGE Take a stand against domestic violence, sexism, homophobia, and racism. Meet at City Hall to join the march to the Mexican American Cultural Center, where there will be music, speeches, and more. 4-9pm. *MACC, 600 River.*

HYDE PARK HISTORIC HOMES TOUR A little bit of local history is alive and well today. Sat., June 18, 10am-5pm; Sun., June 19, 1-5pm. *Tour begins at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 627-0813. Sat., \$15; Sun., \$18; free for kids 10 and younger.*

WORLD REFUGEE DAY begins with a naturalization ceremony, after which you can join Austin's newest citizens for a celebration with multicultural dance, fashion, and music performances. Noon-3pm. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free.*

MONDAY 20

AI SD REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING Austin ISD is planning to rejigger the trustee districts to ensure that the population is equally divided. Visit

archive.austinisd.org/inside/board for proposed maps, and share your input at today's meeting or through the online form. 6pm. 1111 W. Sixth.

KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL CONFERENCE Before Austin was keeping it weird, these folks were keeping it worth keeping weird. Join them in their 44th year for a day of rainwater harvesting and other delights. Mon.-Thu., June 20-23. *AT&T Conference Center, 1900 University Ave. \$145-325.*

TUESDAY 21

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS meets to hash out a plan to line the commercial streets of North-Central Austin with 100 freshly planted trees. 6:30-8pm. *Village Christian Apartments Activity Room, 7925 Rockwood.*

Race to Nowhere

I'm hardly the first person to have second thoughts on this deal. State Sen. Kirk Watson, who sponsored the 2009 bill that added F1 to the Major Events Trust Fund, recently voted to strip the funding (the vote failed). On the Senate floor, he praised the F1 project as a "great opportunity" for Central Texas, but – pointing specifically to the more than \$25 million in budget cuts anticipated for Austin ISD – he continued, "I'm really troubled that we should be prioritizing funding to an annual sporting event, no matter how exciting it might be and how much it might do, when we're not funding basic necessities."

For me, there's the rub, and it's a considerable one.

I haven't yet been convinced either by the glowing economic predictions of the event supporters ("free money!") or by the glowering portents of disaster ("no hotel rooms!") from the opponents. Despite all the histrionics, this is not a morality play; this is a business deal, and like every business deal, it holds advantages and disadvantages for the city. If council can get the financial guarantees it requested last week, it likely makes purely economic sense. The backers are already sinking \$250 million (representing hundreds of jobs) into the facility, and if the event performs like this year's Super Bowl for the Metroplex, the return in taxes alone will more than cover the trust fund set-aside, as it did there – and that's before the millions in economic activity generated by the event itself and then (more importantly in the long run) the subsequent southeast development. If the event doesn't perform, the \$4 million ante is the local organizing committee's problem.

It sticks in my craw that the comptroller promised what she couldn't deliver and provided a sloppy generic revenue estimate that was rightly torn apart by opponents at last week's council session. If the actual economic study – and the contractual guarantees of no liability for Austin – are not sufficiently convincing, the city can and should walk away and let Combs figure out how to make good on her sweet talk.

Photo Finish

I spoke with Assistant City Manager Sue Edwards about the proposed arrangements and asked her repeatedly if there's some way the city is going to be on the hook for anticipated or unanticipated costs for F1. She said she believes the anticipated \$4 million return will be enough to cover any of the city's eligible event expenses, but she also went considerably beyond that in describing the city's posture in negotiating its contracts with F1 and the state. "What we've said is: If there are eligible expenses more than what we can get covered [by the fund]," Edwards said, "then Formula One has to cover those."

While the specific form of that guarantee is still being discussed, Edwards reiterated: "We could say, 'Formula One, you cover any eligible expenses that we don't get reimbursed the first year.' There's a number of ways we could do that. But what we have said is: Any way that we do it, we're going to be held harmless."

So whatever council finally decides, it appears to be doing its level best to confirm Mayor Lee Leffingwell's assurances that no up-front city money will be put into a project that represents potentially major economic (and other) returns for Austin, and that the city will be guaranteed against loss. That's not to say the city should do the deal. As Watson said, under the state's current financial priorities and decision-making, it's difficult to justify even good economic development investments if the consequent return is not going to be reinvested in the state's basic necessities, like education and health care or even infrastructure.

The state's legislative actions have made the F1 deal much less palatable for Austin, and pending negotiations and more information, it's not yet clear that the city's participation makes sense. But whatever the final decision, the caricatures we've been offered so far by supporters or opponents will not be much help in making it. Unlike those caricatures, it's become a really tough call, and council should perform a complete and thorough due diligence on the tangible and intangible consequences of entering the game, before it decides to make a play or fold its cards. ■

"I'm really troubled that we should be prioritizing funding to an annual sporting event ... when we're not funding basic necessities."

– Sen. Kirk Watson

BEYOND DIVERSITY: RETHINKING EQUALITY
A talk by UT professor **Robert Jensen** is hosted by the **Greater Austin Forum on Diversity**. 11:30am-1pm. 5604 Manor Rd., 391-2305. Free.

THURSDAY 23

TEXAS GREEN NETWORK This month's eco-friendly schmooze fest is hosted by Morsco Solar. 5:30pm-8:30pm. Morsco Solar, 8210 Springdale Rd. Let 'em know you're coming: rsvpaustin@texasgreennetwork.org.

ONGOING

ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH Some cats are free this



month, others are discounted, and all are happy to go home with you and be your new best friend. 11:30am-7pm. Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez.

AUSTIN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME Nominate your favorite kickass lady. Call: City of Austin Commission for Women, 374-9723. Deadline: July 15.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE See this city department's plans for 2012 and share your thoughts on needs and priorities for housing, community and economic development, and public services in Austin: www.cityofaustin.org/housing/publications.htm. Through July 11.

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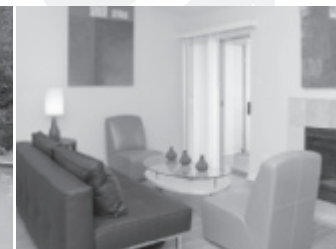


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Decisions, Decisions

Austin City Council, F1 development hang in the balance

Austin city government faces two massive decisions in the next week; it's no exaggeration to say that much of the direction of city government for the next decade will be determined here by the City Council run-off election this Saturday and a possible decision on a Formula One agreement next Thursday.

First things first: The biggest disappointment of the campaign season has been that incumbent **Randi Shade** has allowed herself to be pushed so far to the right in her run against **Kathie Tovo**. A woman who came into the public eye as a lesbian mom with respectable Democratic credentials, Shade became the darling of the development lobby during her first term, and now, buoyed by their dollars, has turned to both the tactics and the operatives of the GOP hard right to try and save her political life in this run-off.

With **Rick Perry** pollster **Mike Baselice** and **tea party** organizer **Lucas Sheffield** both on the payroll, the Shade campaign has gone increasingly negative, and the whisper campaign against Tovo has been intense.

The worst of the grunt work has been done by unaffiliated (and separately funded) PACs and allies such as the Home Builders Association of Greater Austin, who sent out a call to arms early in the run-off campaign noting that

"nothing motivates people more than fear, and our Association does not want Randi Shade to lose ... HBA staff has been directed to make the election our number one priority over the next two weeks." But the Shade campaign itself jumped all over the panic button last week with a TV ad that tried to blame recent wildfires on Tovo's opposition to

Water Treatment Plant No. 4. Water experts on all sides of the issue were quick to call bullshit on that (see Nora Ankrum's "Water Fall," p.22, for more), but the point is that Shade seems desperate and has willingly made herself beholden to some people who do not always have the city's best welfare at heart.

FUNDING FORMULA?

Which brings us to the second big decision of the week: whether to dedicate **\$40 million in local tax money** to Formula One organizers over 10 years in order to enable the state to give another **quarter-billion dollars in tax money** to the enterprise.

Of course, there's so much procedural malfeasance afoot that we shouldn't even be considering this issue at this time, but, hey, laws are made to be broken, right, if you're **Rick Perry** or **Susan Combs**? And so, faced with the possibility of losing Randi Shade's seat –

and with it any likelihood of four council votes for this bizarre scheme – local F1 organizers along with strategist **Richard Suttle** have pushed this into emergency status, and Suttle was predicting Tuesday that he has the votes to approve the two 10-year contracts next Thursday, sight unseen. (He hasn't yet finished drafting them.)

There's not enough room here – or in this entire paper – to detail all the arguments pro and con. So let me leave you this one thought: If someone tells you they've got a great deal for you and then lies about what that deal is, it's probably not a good idea. The F1 development may indeed be a boon for Austin's economy, and it may or may not be an investment we want to make. But what's being peddled here is the promise that it's not really an investment at all, that our \$40 million (well, okay, *maybe* \$36 million) will somehow be reimbursed – which is absolutely, unequivocally, and completely untrue. If we sign this contract to allow the state to give our tax money to F1, that's precisely what they will do, and the best that could possibly happen after that is that any *additional* money we spend on F1 events could theoretically be reimbursed after the fact, at the sole discretion of Comptroller Combs, after all other obligations under the as-yet-unwritten contracts are paid off.

That's crazy, and it's crazy that we're even considering something like this. Until we know clearly what we're being sold, we shouldn't be buying. – *Nick Barbaro*



The Donors Behind the Dough

Campaign finance reports are in for the Place 3 run-off between **Randi Shade** and **Kathie Tovo**, with results mirroring fundraising matters in general: Shade rakes in cash with assistance from a bevy of bundlers, while Tovo remains competitive thanks to some major windfalls.

In reports submitted June 10, Shade announced nearly \$148,000 raised. As in earlier reports, many contributions came bundled by benefactors, largely from the development and business communities. The eight bundlers named include attorney **David Armbrust** with \$25,000, attorney **Nikelle Meade**, **Jeff Newberg** of **Endeavor Real Estate Group**, and **Laurie Swan** of **Stratus Properties**. Austin Yellow Cab General Manager **Ed Kargbo** also solicited contributions on Shade's behalf.

The filing also notes contributions to Shade's campaign on behalf of the public safety unions and direct campaign expenditures made "without the candidate's prior consent or approval" from several **West Sixth Street bars**, including Little Woodrow's and Opal Divines, which briefly offered happy hour pricing and poll rides in a get-out-the-vote campaign designed to benefit Shade. Individual contributors include Oak Hill neighborhood activist **Sandy Baldrige**, **Balcones Resources** CEO **Kerry Getter**, and Planning Commission Chair **Dave Sullivan**, a Shade appointee.

Tovo tallied more than \$128,000 in campaign funds. But like the self-loans that bolstered her campaign in the primary, half of that amount – \$64,157 – came in one large chunk as a distribution of cash from the **Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund**. (As the only Place 3 candidate to sign the "fair campaign" finance pledge, Tovo was eligible to receive the funding for her run-off despite exceeding the limitation on self-loans that

Candidate	Money In	Money Out	Notable Expenditures
Randi Shade	\$147,886	\$169,076	\$14,900 to Rick Perry pollster Mike Baselice; \$3,500 to Republican organizer and anti-Obama tweeter Lucas Sheffield
Kathie Tovo	\$128,248*	\$127,768	\$9,040 to Fort Worth polling firm the Tyson Organization; \$3,000 to consultant Mark Yznaga

*\$64,157 from Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund

would have been in place had another candidate signed the same pledge.)

The other half of Tovo's take – \$64,092 – came in contributions. Prominent contributors include Save Our Springs Alliance attorney **Bill Bunch**, ChangeAustin.org co-founder **Brian Rodgers**, and Texas Campaign for the Environment's **Robin Schneider**. Tovo also listed two bundlers: Meade, who also solicited for Shade, and **Danette Chimenti**, past Austin Neighborhoods Council president and Tovo's former colleague on the Planning Commission. – *Wells Dunbar*



Randi Shade



Kathie Tovo

Nothing Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum

As early voting in the Place 3 City Council run-off blazed last week, there was time for a few more public forums between incumbent **Randi Shade** and challenger **Kathie Tovo**. On June 9, Time Warner news channel YNN held a council episode of *Capital Tonight* featuring the candidates, and the next evening, the **Austin League of Women Voters** held a Shade/Tovo forum at City Hall.

There was nothing dramatically new in the exchanges (which can be viewed online), though the LWV occasion drilled a little deeper into specific questions about the candidates' histories and positions. YNN newsman **Paul Brown** led with a question on public safety; Tovo insisted she does not wish to cut public safety directly but the city needs to plan better going forward as public safety costs demand an increasing proportion of the overall city budget. Shade noted that Tovo has said that current public safety spending is "unsustainable," and that that means "cutting people on the street" despite strong public support for such spending.

Questions followed on **Water Treatment Plant No. 4**, **Formula One**, and the **historic preservation** (tax rebate) program. The candidates' answers generally followed familiar ground. Tovo thinks the city could have waited on WTP4; Shade said she'd "rather be early than late." Tovo judged F1 as "not the right priority" for the city; Shade said "the devil is in the details," and while major events can help fund the city, we still don't know enough about this project's costs. Shade said the historic preservation program needs more objective criteria and abatement caps; Tovo emphasized the value of the program in raising a neighborhood's property values. (Additional questions, posted on the YNN website, addressed **single-member districts** and **comprehensive planning**.)

The LWV forum touched on several of the same subjects, with a somewhat more precise focus. Asked to describe "signature leadership" initiatives, Shade pointed to her work on the **Waller Creek Tunnel Project**, in particular her outreach to private sources to sustain the Waller Creek Conservancy, a strategy she said she has extended to other city parks. Tovo recounted her work for the **Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association**, initiating tuition-based pre-K at **Becker Elementary**, now to be adopted as an AISD program at 22 elementaries. Other questions covered the specific value of public hearings in policy decisions, approaches to comprehensive planning, strategies for economic development, historic preservation, and traffic solutions.

The entire YNN forum is posted online at austin.ynn.com/content/austin_city_council; the LWV forum, televised on the city's Channel 6, is at www.cityofaustin.org/channel6.

– *Michael King*

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM



“I’m running to serve a second term on the City Council to help **protect Austin’s special quality of life** – for us, and for the **next generation of Austinites**. I ask for your vote this Saturday.”



www.RandiShade.com
PLEASE VOTE this Saturday!

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Capital City Argus
 North By Northwest Democrats
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 Stonewall Democrats
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Political advertisement paid for by Re-Elect Randi Shade for City Council Campaign, PO Box 301479, Austin, Texas, 78703, Beverly G. Reeves, Treasurer. This campaign has not agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Ordinance. **No other candidate in this race is complying with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Ordinance.**

Republicans Search for New Normal

Texas schools know that they will be short roughly \$4 billion in state money for their upcoming budgets. Now the next big battle is over how long those cuts will last. On one side are fiscal conservatives, who – with the mantra of “Texas must live within its means” – want these cuts to be the new normal. On the other side are Democrats, moderate Republicans, and pro-education conservatives who see the current funding crisis as regrettable and fixable.

During the last two weeks, the House and Senate passed two key pieces of school finance legislation: the funding reforms in Senate Bill 1 and the 2012-13 school finance appropriation in SB 2. Combined, these have come to be known as the **Eissler-Shapiro plan**. In the first year it applies the 6% across-the-board cut proposed by House Public Education Committee Chair **Rob Eissler**, R-The Woodlands. In the second, it transitions to the formula-funding revisions authored by Senate Education Committee Chair **Florence Shapiro**, R-Plano. During floor debates, rival amendments were batted around but rejected: first, a proposal for two years of Eissler (rejected because it was too damaging to smaller, poorer school districts) and then one for Shapiro-Shapiro (rejected



because it hurt the property-wealthy districts with high needs). Though legislators worked on the Eissler-Shapiro model in the regular session, the new legislation is not the same text that passed the House and flunked the Senate in May as SB 1811. Between the Senate debate on June 3 and the House third reading seven days later, a total of 188 amendments were offered. Many had nothing to do with school finance (SB 1 is

a broad and sweeping fiscal matters bill, of which education finance is only a small part), but Rep. **Diane Patrick**, R-Arlington, made a major change for smaller, more cash-starved districts. Under Eissler-Shapiro, they would see a bigger cut in the first year than in the second; the Patrick proposal smooths out the difference, meaning they would no longer have to fire teachers and staff only to rehire them and rebuild programs a year later.

More astonishingly, the Democrats got a partial win in their push to tap the **Rainy Day Fund**. If Republicans were hell-bent on defending the predicted \$6.5 billion unexpended fund balance, what about any unexpended excess? Austin Rep. **Donna Howard** authored an amendment to SB 2 that takes the comptroller's current estimates of the



Austin Rep. Donna Howard authored an amendment that could send more dollars to the Foundation School Program

JOHN ANDERSON

Rainy Day Fund from mid-May as the baseline. Next year, any cash over that forecast gets transferred straight to the **Foundation School Program** – up to the estimated \$2.2 billion per year required to cover enrollment growth. Howard said the bipartisan backing for the bill materialized because her amendment is “a true compromise.”

Cue the ire from the fervent right. **Andrew Kerr**, executive director of radical tort reform mavens **Empower Texans**, fired off a mis-

sive that “right-thinking lawmakers still have a chance to undo” the plan to redirect extra funds by pulling it out at third reading. Rep. **Phil King**, R-Weatherford, dutifully obliged, filing an amendment to kill Howard's proposal. Unfortunately for King and Kerr, passage of the amendment would require a two-thirds majority, and they could only pull in 79 Republicans. Significantly, 17 GOPers – including Eissler – sided with the Democrats to derail the conservative plan.

New Assaults in War on Women's Health Care

On Thursday, June 9, members of the state **Health and Human Services Commission's** Medical Care Advisory Committee voted to approve a new agency rule that would ban **Planned Parenthood** from participation in the successful **Women's Health Program**.

The 15-member committee, a federally mandated body that reviews and makes recommendations regarding agency rules that affect **Medicaid** programs, voted unanimously (with one abstention and one absence) to allow the agency to go forward with redefining the word “affiliate” in an effort to squeeze the state's Planned Parenthood clinics out of state-funded reproductive health care services for low-income women.

At issue is which providers will be able to serve the clients of the WHP, a Medicaid-waiver program created by lawmakers in 2005. Last year, Sen. **Robert Deuell**, R-Greenville, requested an opinion from Attorney General **Greg Abbott** about whether it would be legal to ban PP from providing any services through the program – under the theory that because some PP clinics provide legal abortion services (none funded with public money), even those clinics that don't would be banned because, essentially, they're part of the same parent nonprofit. Abbott signed off on that, saying he didn't see that it would violate federal law governing Medicaid funding; that prompted the HHSC to draft its new rule. **Kay Ghahremani**, deputy director of policy development for the HHSC, told members the new definition is simply a way to “implement the existing statutory prohibition against [funding] abortion providers ... or their affiliates.” The agency's legal arm had been concerned about the affiliate provision passing legal muster, but with the nod from Abbott, the agency was empowered to move it through, she said.

The WHP serves low-income women, ages 18-44, who wouldn't be poor enough to qualify for Medicaid services unless they were pregnant – it's an attempt to reduce the

number of Medicaid-paid births by providing family-planning and preventative health services to those women. This is no small matter: Texas has one of the highest percentages of Medicaid-paid births, costing the state \$2.7 billion in 2009 alone. The program has been successful so far, reducing the number of program-paid births by more than 10,000 in 2008; currently, the program averages about 120,000 clients per month, according to the HHSC.

According to Ghahremani, almost 30% of current clients are served at PP clinics. That means a large number of clients would have to find a new provider. But Ghahremani told the committee that HHSC doesn't foresee any problems with provider availability: 98% of clients will live within 10 miles of another provider. Whether those providers will actually be in a position to pick up those clients remains to be seen – the assessment that dumping PP would cause “very little drop in access,” Ghahremani said, “doesn't address the capacity of those providers” that would remain. Indeed, with the massive cuts to the family-planning budget, women's health care advocates are concerned that smaller providers – including those family-planning clinics that HHSC does not believe will be directly affected by the new affiliate rule – won't be able to keep their doors open without the infusion of federal funds traditionally allocated to providing family-planning and preventative health services. Lawmakers have so far approved a plan that would cut some \$62 million from the \$99 million biennial budget that provided health care to more than 250,000 women last year.

Although several committee members had pointed questions, they seemed convinced by Ghahremani's assurance that the agency would keep an eye out for any gaps in coverage created by adoption of the rule.

Meanwhile, the House last week amended the big **Medicaid and health “collaboratives” bill** (Senate Bill 7) to include a new round of amendments that seek to further

reduce access to legally protected abortion care and women's health services. The most onerous of the amendments was offered by Rep. Bill Zedler, R-Arlington, which would require a woman seeking abortion to provide a host of personal information about her background, educational attainment, marital status, methods of birth control used, and the reasons she is seeking to terminate her pregnancy – including whether she was “coerced or forced to have the abortion.” The information would be collected and submitted to the Department of State Health Services and posted publicly (in aggregate form) “in order to assess the quality and efficiency of health care.” Such content, when offered in bill form in previous sessions, had died because of privacy concerns.

Also adopted last week was an amendment to SB 7 by Rep. Wayne Christian, R-Center, that would withhold state funding for any public hospital district that uses funds to support abortion care. This is a new version of a bill Christian filed this session that took specific aim at Travis County's **Medical Assistance Program**, which is administered by **Central Health**. The program, which has been around since the 1970s, seeks to provide the same access to health services for low-income clients that paying clients can access – including counseling, family planning, birth control, and pregnancy termination. It's the fact that Austin's MAP provides abortion care assistance that has Christian up in arms. His bill would have banned any local taxpayer funds from supporting abortion services; the new amendment doesn't directly attack local control of tax funds but provides that any hospital district which chooses to spend its money that way is barred from receiving any state funds. How this might affect Central Health isn't yet entirely clear.

In other women's health news, on Monday, the **Center for Reproductive Rights** filed suit in federal court in Austin, challenging the new ultrasound-before-abortion law less than a month after Gov. **Rick Perry** signed it. For more, see the *Chronicle* Newsdesk blog at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.

– Jordan Smith

Such philosophical divisions are not restricted to the House. Senate Education Committee Vice Chair **Dan Patrick**, R-Houston, called public schools “an entitlement,” and called the cuts a long-overdue spending reform. Earlier in the regular session, Shapiro seemed to be singing from the same hymn book when she called the cuts “the new normal.” But while Sen. Dan Patrick remains as dogmatic as ever, Shapiro’s bleak long-term outlook seems to have softened. On June 7, after the Senate passed teacher furlough reforms in SB 8, Shapiro quickly issued an official statement. Rather than “the new normal,” she called the reforms a temporary response to the “current funding crisis.”

Now SB 1 (with Rep. Diane Patrick’s smoothing measure) and SB 2 (complete with the Howard Rainy Day amendment) head to a conference committee for final negotiations between the two chambers. However, the Legislature knows that it will have to come back for a real fix when it returns in 2013, and Rep. Diane Patrick is working to set that in statute. The real meat of her amendment was a sunset clause phasing out the changes to formula funding – technically known as the Regular Program Adjustment Factor – after the current biennium. If this survives the conference committee, then when lawmakers return in 2013 they will be using the 2010-11 figures as their baseline, not the reduced spending figures they are currently finalizing. – Richard Whittaker

Redistricting: ‘Purposeful Discrimination’

The Republican **congressional redistricting** plan continues its march through the special session, trampling Travis County along the way. Senate Bill 4 easily passed the House Wednesday with a few amendments, but nothing substantially affecting Travis, which will be split among five districts – possibly threatening Austin Democrat **Lloyd Doggett**’s tenure in Washington, D.C., and providing no districts in which Travis residents constitute a majority of the population. In debate on Tuesday, Austin Rep. **Dawnna Dukes** and other Dems offered alternative maps that would largely keep Austin whole, but they were swatted down like so many flies. “They have purposefully gone so far in their attempts to eliminate one person,” Dukes said, referring to Doggett, “that they have eliminated the voice of 688,000 people in Travis County” – perhaps a reference to the ideal district size of 698,488 people. Democrats warned that the map will simply end up in court for violating minority rights under the Voting Rights Act. Dukes said SB 4 is “purposeful discrimination,” and that public hearings on the map simply went “in one ear and out the other” for Republicans. “You could erect a sign at the ballot box that says ‘blacks need not vote,’ and it wouldn’t be as effective at eliminating their ability to meaningfully participate as this map,” Dukes said. If minor differences between the House and Senate versions can be worked out, it will head to the governor’s desk. – Lee Nichols

Tide Turns on ‘Titty Tax’

Have lawmakers conceded that the infamous “titty tax” is dead? During June 9 debate on Senate Bill 1, Reps. **Harold Dutton**, D-Houston, and **Doug Miller**, R-New Braunfels, told the House that the surcharge on alcohol-serving, adult-oriented businesses is likely to fail in the courts. Authored in 2007 by Dutton’s fellow Houston Democrat – former state Rep. **Ellen Cohen** – the \$5 collected per customer has been sitting in a suspense account unspent, as the state has lost two successive lawsuits over the tax’s constitutionality. The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments on its latest appeal more than a year ago (see “Texas Supremes Ponder ‘Pole Tax,’” April 2, 2010) and has yet to render a decision. However, Dutton proposed an amendment to SB 1 ending its collection. He argued that if the Texas Supremes follow the lead of both lower courts, then the state will have to return the cash to the bars. Better not to collect, he said, “rather than collect it and give it back.” Dutton’s motion failed, but he had unexpected support from Miller, who had a similar amendment attached to SB 23 in the regular session. Miller said it was “a prudent fiscal decision to wait until we find out just whose money it is.” – R.W.

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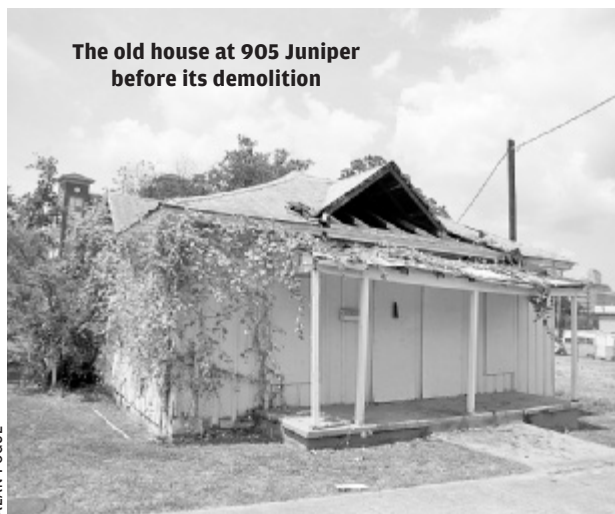
Loss of Old Homes Fuels East Austin Debate

Central East Austin neighborhood residents are decrying the city's recent demolition of an older home at 905 Juniper, the first of four homes slated for the wrecking ball to make way for affordable housing developments in this once-thriving African-American enclave. The city's efforts to revitalize the East 11th and 12th street corridors has brought some success stories, but a sticking point for residents is the program's spotty record on rehabilitating its inventory of homes, many built a century ago, which were acquired in the early Nineties with federal dollars. Several homes have been lost to fire or demolition by neglect; urban renewal has never been the city's strong suit.

With the tri-party agreement ended between the city, the **Urban Renewal Agency**, and the **Austin Revitalization Authority** – the latter group charged with rehabilitating the structures – the remaining projects on ARA's to-do list transferred to the city's housing operations. After assessing the boarded-up and battered homes, housing officials determined that a rehab effort would be cost-prohibitive. Rather than allowing the structures to continue to languish, the city wants to tear them down to build new homes to sell to eligible homeowners. "Our goal is to build smaller homes that have similar characteristics to the older structures," said Gina Copic, real estate development manager with the **Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department**.

Residents who have witnessed the slow deterioration of the city's real estate holdings in the neighborhood question why the city is choosing to bulldoze the homes instead of rehabilitating them or offering them up for others to relocate at their own expense. Copic says the homes are in such disrepair, with floors missing and chunks of roofs wiped out, that there is little left to salvage, and the funding isn't there to finance what would be a huge undertaking. And the homes likely wouldn't survive a move, she said.

Nevertheless, neighborhood leaders have vowed to try to salvage the tiny houses that were once home to Austin's earliest African-American residents. "The small size, frame construction, and prominent front porch typify the defining features of housing for working-class families at the turn of the century," said **Stanton Strickland**, president of the Robertson Hill Neighborhood Association and the new president of the **Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods**. While the battered structures lack the



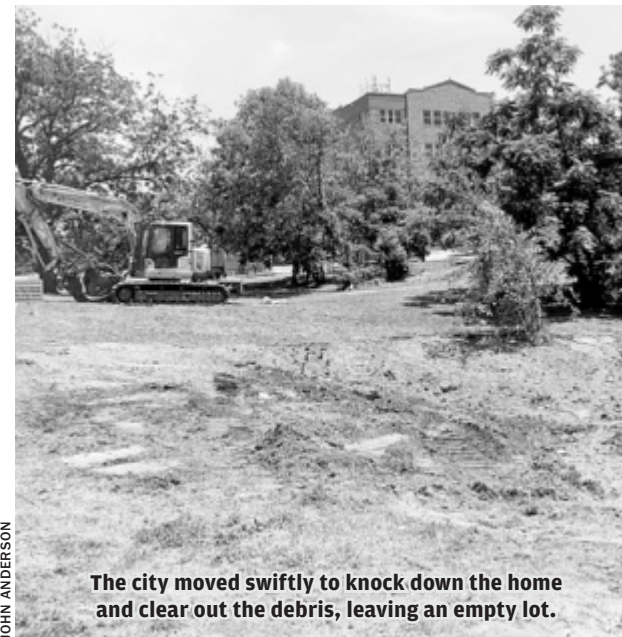
The old house at 905 Juniper before its demolition

ALAN POGUE

architectural significance to gain historical designation, they're about all that remains of first-generation freed slaves who worked as porters, waiters, maids, and cooks, according to city records.

As neighborhood residents tell it, the city dragged its feet for more than two decades in the **Robertson Hill** neighborhood, then moved with uncharacteristic swiftness to obtain a demolition permit on the home at 905 Juniper. A heavy equipment operator arrived, steered the bulldozer toward the aged structure, and commenced to nudge the house into submission. The walls bowed inward and collapsed into a pile of splinters. Only the home's front gable was deemed architecturally significant enough to salvage for preservation.

"Structurally the house was so unstable, it was bowing at the bottom; there was no floor," said Copic. "With these old single-walled houses – the walls are literally what holds it together. The boards [at 905 Juniper] were all rotted around the bottom, so moving it would have collapsed it inward. We thought we could try to salvage something of the wood, but it was so brittle and so unstable it just immediately collapsed onto itself."



The city moved swiftly to knock down the home and clear out the debris, leaving an empty lot.

JOHN ANDERSON

Next on the demolition list are homes at 905 and 909 Olive Street, as well as 1164 Curve Street (formerly of 1009 Juniper). Another home, at 907 Olive, will be restored. (See a city-provided map with photo insets of the homes with this story online at austinchronicle.com.) Also, federal stimulus funds and 2006 bond money will help preserve the Dedrick-Hamilton house at 912 E. 11th; it will become the **African American Cultural and Heritage Facility**, with groundbreaking set for 9:30am Friday.

While the empty homes have changed hands many times – from city-sanctioned nonprofit corporations to city departments and housing agencies – the city is ultimately responsible for its own failings on the restoration of the homes, says **Eric Stanridge**, an architect who moved to a home on Juniper Street about seven years ago. This isn't to say the revitalization effort hasn't paid off: The program has had several successes, as evidenced by neat rows of colorful houses along Juniper. But it's the ailing, vacant homes and empty lots that tend to dominate the landscape, as well as the ongoing debate between neighbors and city officials. "I'm tired of living around empty lots," says Stanridge.

– Amy Smith

BPP Retreats on 'Special Condition X'

The rules committee of the **Board of Pardons and Paroles** met on Wednesday, June 8, to consider immediate implementation of new "emergency rules" for determining when parolees can be saddled with release conditions – known as Special Condition X – normally reserved for **sex offenders**. At issue is the agency's imposing of very restrictive sex-offender parole conditions on inmates not actually convicted of sex offenses. In several high-profile cases – including that of **Raul Meza**, who was convicted of the 1982 murder of 8-year-old **Kendra Page** in Southeast Austin – federal courts have ruled that the BPP procedures imposing those restrictions without a hearing violate a parolee's due process rights.

The board only recently adopted rules to address the due process issues, but it did not act until this week to make those rules universal for all Texas parolees who have not committed a sex offense. The changes

were prompted, lawyers say, by a unanimous decision from the Texas **Court of Criminal Appeals** last month in an unrelated case involving **Johnathan Evans**, who was saddled with the conditions even though both prosecutors and the judge on his case agreed that his was not a sexually motivated crime.

On May 4, the Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that Evans be released, that the sex offender provisions of his parole be removed, and that the BPP has not provided due process to offenders in Texas before imposing the extremely onerous requirements of Special Condition X. The board may deny parole if there's evidence that the inmate is still a threat, and when parole is being considered under normal circumstances, notice of that consideration and "an opportunity to be heard is sufficient due process." But when "highly invasive" or "stigmatizing" conditions – such as those of Special Condition X –

might be applied, a parolee must be afforded greater due process, the court wrote.

One of the reasons behind BPP's resistance to making the rules universal has been its interpretation of the Meza ruling. The parole board argued that only inmates released under the same circumstances as Meza should be afforded the due process consideration. Meza was discharged on "mandatory release" parole (having fulfilled his sentence with time served and "good time" credit for good behavior), which was the situation explicitly addressed by the previous court decisions. Until last week, the BPP was loathe to apply the standard to all other parolees. Lawyers say the Evans decision has finally forced the board to unify the interests of all inmates facing imposition of



Raul Meza

Special Condition X provisions when their convictions were not for sexual offenses.

"They finally got dumped in the grease," says veteran parole attorney **Bill Habern**. He and his colleagues – **David O'Neil** and **Scott Pawgan** (who litigated Evans' case pro bono) – have handled a number of these kinds of cases and are pleased that the court has finally pushed the board to act.

Referring to notoriously prosecution-friendly Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge **Sharon Keller**, Habern said, "When you can't get Judge Keller to rule in favor of a state law enforcement agency [like the BPP], you know it's pretty bad."

For more, see the Newsdesk blog at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.

– Jordan Smith

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THREE WRONGS DON'T MAKE BIG OIL RIGHT

Reaping extravagant profits from \$4-a-gallon gasoline, **Big Oil** has been pumping out the company line in an effort to deflect public anger. "We don't set prices at the pump," the executives lecture to us. "The price of gasoline is determined by the cost of crude oil, and that price is set by the free market."

Wrong, wrong, and wrong.

First, the market for crude is hardly "free." Production of crude oil is controlled by an oligarchy, plus the price of crude is being manipulated by high-flying, unregulated speculators. Second, the price of gasoline is not only determined by the cost of the oil, but also by add-on costs attached by the handful of corporations that refine oil into gasoline. Third, these few refiners also constitute a price-setting oligarchy (otherwise known as Big Oil) that rips us off at the pump with \$4-a-gallon gasoline.

Note that crude oil prices have fallen lately and consumer demand has also fallen, yet the price we consumers pay for gasoline has remained high. Curious, huh?

This perversion of the law of supply and demand comes courtesy of **BP, Exxon Mobil, Shell, Chevron,** and **ConocoPhillips** – the chief oligarchs of Big Oil. To keep our prices high, they simply squeeze back the amount of gasoline produced in their refineries. They are now operating at only 81% of their processing capacity, an artificial manipulation that has cut the supply of gasoline by 900,000 barrels a day from last year's numbers. By squeezing supply, they keep pump prices from falling, thus squeezing more money out of our wallets. With this squeeze play, refinery profits doubled in the last year.

Big Oil could easily process more gasoline, lower our prices at the pump, and still make a big profit. But that's not enough for these masters of greed – they're out to make a killing.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

WHO'S GETTING FACE TIME WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS?

Do you know Alec? You probably do, even though you've never heard of it.

Yes, "it." Not a person, **ALEC** is the acronym for a secretive, corporate-funded, state policy front group: **American Legislative Exchange Council**. ALEC's "exchange" is very straightforward – it takes about \$6 million a year from corporate powers in exchange for linking them directly to hundreds of right-wing state legislators. Like a speed-dating service, ALEC convenes two to three dozen private confabs each year, putting corporate executives face-to-face with lawmakers. In these closed-door sessions, the special needs of corporations are matched with eager-to-please legislators who go back home to push the corporate agenda into state law.

If your legislature is suddenly trying to take away workers' bargaining rights, outlaw citizen lawsuits against abusive corporations, privatize public schools, reduce corporate income taxes while raising taxes on retirees, or otherwise advance extremist, special-interest notions that go against the public will and the common good, chances are you have lawmakers who are carrying bills handed to them in one of ALEC's backroom tête-à-têtes.

The organization brags that it has some 2,000 state legislators on its membership rolls and that members introduce about 1,000 ALEC bills each legislative session, passing about 200 of them a year. ALEC's insidious agenda is driven by a "private enterprise board" made up of such giants as **AT&T, Exxon Mobil, Koch Industries, Pfizer,** and **Wal-Mart**.

Meanwhile, don't bother asking ALEC for a list of the legislators who play in its corporate bawdy house. That's a secret, it says. But it's only kept secret from you. The corporate powers know all of ALEC's members intimately. Is your own legislator one of them? Ask him or her – and see if they have the integrity to blush.

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On the Sunday afternoon this past April when Paul Robbins heard his neighbor pounding insistently on his front door, Robbins happened to be – as those who know him would surely guess – working on his water report: a critical analysis, characteristically unsparing in detail, of Austin Water’s conservation programs. He was laboring over the last fine points, intending finally to release the report the following week. It would bear a title – “Read It and Leak” – well-suited to his particular brand of humor, an oftentimes discomfiting combination of the silly and the deadpan, and it would charge that a misallocation of resources and priorities was undermining the Water Conservation Division’s achievements, building an impenetrable wall between the utility and the community, and threatening its fiscal health. But the report’s debut would have to wait. On this particular day, when Robbins answered his door, the neighbor implored him to leave his house immediately because, just up the street, a wall of flame and smoke could be seen crashing down on his neighbors’ homes.

The April 17 Oak Hill brush fire swallowed 100 acres of land and destroyed 11 homes, including the one directly next door to Robbins, but firefighters were able to protect his house, save for his backyard, deck, and part of his front lawn. The wildfire was but one of dozens burning across the state that day, in a year that, only halfway gone, has now seen 2.7 million acres of land scorched, more than double the annual average of the previous five years. Unlike rural Texans, Austinites don’t usually experience drought this way. Here, where messages about water come from folksy radio jingles and animated dandelions, nature doesn’t show up raging at your doorstep. She tends instead, even at her cruelest, toward drying up all the best swimming holes for the summer, and even then she is politely preceded by a press release – much like the one released May 18 by the Lower Colorado River Authority, announcing that the months since October have been “among the driest in our basin’s history” and that the current drought “may be one of the most severe we’ve seen in decades.”

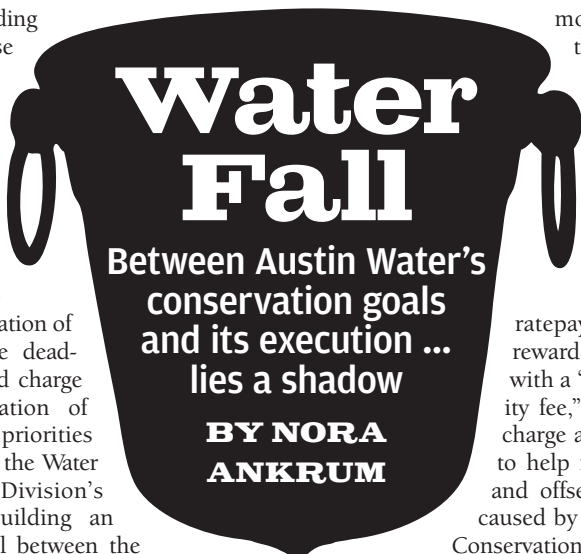
The timing of Robbins’ report, delayed till May 4 by the fire, couldn’t be more fitting, as Austin faces yet another long, hot, already record-breaking summer,

and the city’s municipally owned water utility faces budget season. Despite eight years of consecutive rate hikes, Austin Water struggles with waning revenues it attributes to an inconvenient combination of “extreme weather patterns,” a down economy, and successful conservation efforts. When rates rise because of conservation, of course, monthly bills for those doing the conserving stay roughly the same if not go down – this “revenue neutrality,” as the utility puts it, is the beauty of using less water. But now, ratepayers look to be rewarded for their efforts with a “water sustainability fee,” a proposed fixed charge added to every bill to help fund conservation and offset “rate volatility” caused by that triple punch.

Conservation is doing what it’s supposed to do, says the utility: encouraging the heaviest water users to use less. But “those users pay the highest per-gallon rates,” notes AW Assistant Director Daryl Slusher. “So it is not sustainable to depend on these customers for an increasing share of the budget at the same time the utility is seeking to cut their use.”

Varying by meter size, the fee would apply to all ratepayers (except qualifying low-income customers), with most residential customers paying an estimated \$6. An official proposal will go before council during budget discussions in July. Reaction to the fee has been mixed. Leo Dielmann, chair of the Resource Management Commission, says he’s “supportive of the concept.” Robbins, on the other hand, is critical, charging that “decoupling” consumption from cost obscures the relationship between how you use water and what you pay on your bill (use more, pay more, or vice versa), taking away the “price signal” – i.e., the inherent motivation to conserve. But Slusher says the measure will help protect AW’s “financial health” by stabilizing revenue on “an ongoing basis.” The sustainability fee is *not*, insists the utility, a punishment for good behavior. Those who use less water will still reap financial benefit, and AW’s tiered rate structure – which charges heavier users more per gallon, specifically to encourage conservation – will continue to ensure that those heavier users pay disproportionately more.

Still, it’s clear that conservation requires more of Austin ratepayers than simply conserving.



Addition by Subtraction

During his hasty evacuation from the Oak Hill fire, Robbins took the time to grab one thing – the computer with his report on it. He did hesitate briefly, intending to spray down his house with water, but, hose in hand, with thick smoke and debris rushing in, he realized he was essentially fighting a fire with a “squirt gun,” and abandoned the endeavor. It was a rare concession for Robbins, whose three decades of environmental advocacy have generally inured him to such long odds.

Robbins is probably best known for his Austin Environmental Directory (a sort of green Yellow Pages with wonky policy papers thrown in) as well as his regular Citizen Communications appearances prodding City Council toward better environmental stewardship. But his activism curriculum vitae begins with the dawn of an idea that is now largely institutionalized in Austin: the concept that resource conservation is actually more affordable than waste. In the late Seventies, he was among a handful of locals using this philosophy to fight the South Texas Nuclear Project, arguing that saving energy could actually save money if it freed the utility from the burden of building expensive new power plants. The nuke won that early battle, but today, Austin Energy reflexively promotes efficiency as its lowest-cost resource.

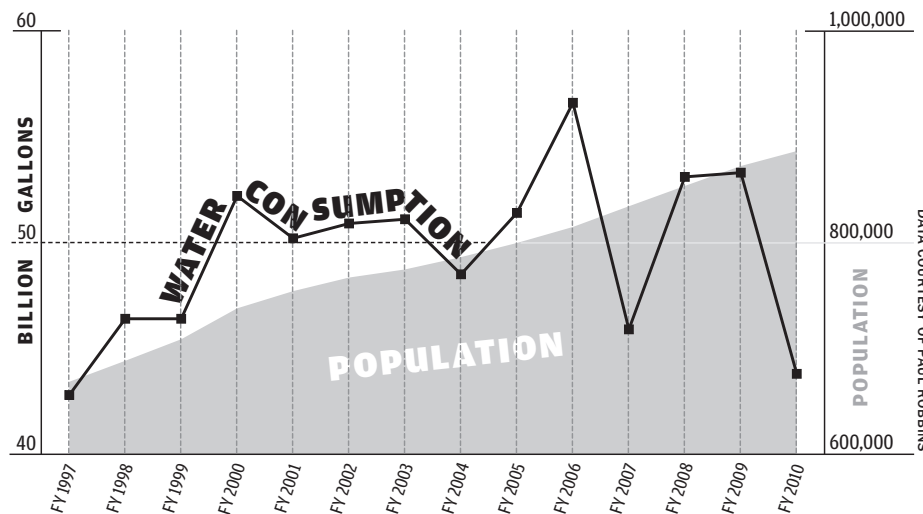
Not so with the city’s other municipally owned utility, charge critics, who regularly compare AW unfavorably to Austin Energy in a “why can’t you be more like your big sister?” kind of way – especially since City Council’s decision in fall 2009 to move forward with construction of Water Treatment Plant No. 4. As AW officials point out, that decision was made only after 25 years in which the utility was able to postpone construction, largely through conservation. But WTP4 critics – chief among them the Save Our Springs Alliance – believed that the strategy would continue to work, arguing that despite population growth (the “real driv-

er” behind the need for more treatment capacity, according to AW Director Greg Meszaros), water use could continue to decline for some time. (So far, it has; see graph, below.)

Furthermore, critics feared that declining revenues, thanks to declining demand, would make paying for the plant particularly difficult, inevitably leading to “rate shock,” a term used at the time by WTP4 critic Kent Butler, a water resources planner instrumental in establishing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan. Butler argued that conservation needed to happen prior to incurring significant debt (from building the plant) in order to avoid “a pricing conundrum of upward-spiraling rates,” similar to what California experienced during the drought of 1987-92: “Customers complained that it seemed like a penalty was imposed on them for conserving water,” he recalled, “because they had to pay more on account of using less.” When Butler died last month in a hiking accident, the SOS Alliance posted a tribute on its website noting that Austin had “suffered a tremendous loss”; recalling his opposition to the plant, SOS Alliance wrote that “[h]is prediction then that the water rate increases required to pay for WTP4 would be much higher than City staff was willing to acknowledge is now coming true.”

Slusher says that regarding conservation, the utility would be in the same financial bind with or without WTP4. Given that the plant’s monthly impact on the average residential bill is only 53 cents, he says “the plant is barely in the rate base at this point.” By 2016, it will only be about \$3.53, he says. Moreover, he argues that AW’s rates compared with other cities’ are not only “in the herd” but relatively inexpensive at the lowest levels of use, thanks to the tiered rate structure. Robbins counters that in January, AW had “the highest combined residential water/wastewater rates of the 10 largest cities in Texas.” Each is using different data in his analysis. Robbins argues his approach is more “accu-

Total Austin Water Consumption & Population



Robbins displayed a similar chart to this one at a City Council meeting this spring, noting that despite a 33% population increase, overall water consumption in 2010 was the lowest it had been since 1997. He attributed the results to the lingering effects of emergency drought restrictions and stepped-up outreach/enforcement efforts in 2009, arguing in favor of similarly aggressive education and enforcement on an ongoing basis.

Daryl Slusher



JANA BIRCHUM

The Resource Management Commission approved a recommendation asking council to direct AW to work with the commissioners on improving the plan; council has yet to respond.

rate”; Slusher says his is the “industry standard.” (Much of Robbins’ criticism prompts a similar back-and-forth; see “Reading the Meter: The Robbins Report,” p.24.)

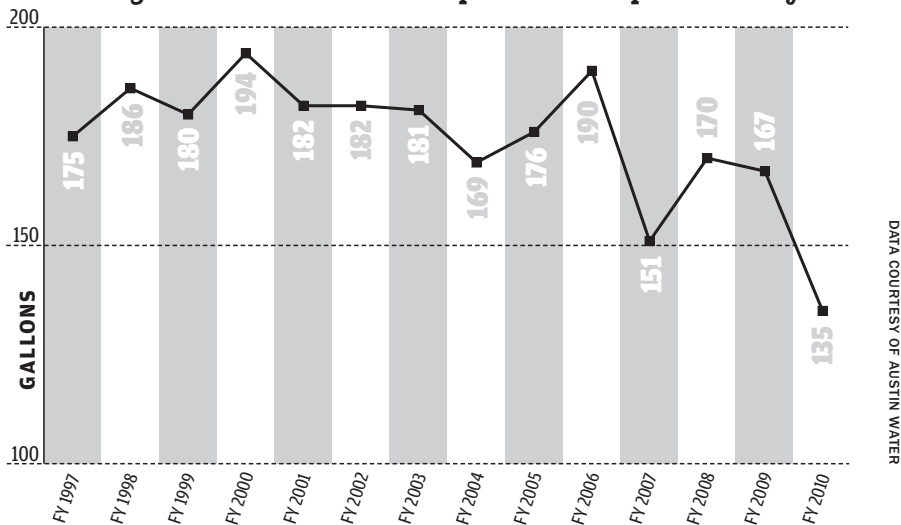
Meanwhile, Slusher offers a slew of reasons why it’s better not to have postponed construction of WTP4 – most notably the need for redundancy in the system lest something befall one or both of AW’s other, older treatment plants (as briefly did happen last year during Tropical Storm Hermine, when the Davis and Ullrich water treatment plants each lost power for several hours). Opponents dispute this reasoning, continuing to fight the plant even though construction is well under way. Meanwhile, the Place 3 council run-off is proving WTP4 to be the controversy that just won’t die, with incumbent Randi Shade – who voted in favor of the plant – accusing challenger

Kathie Tovo of unacknowledged designs to halt construction and leave Austin “dry and dangerous.” (See “WTP4: Still Bitter Waters,” p.26.)

With AW citing financial hurdles to conservation, Robbins faults the utility for not at least analyzing potential monetary savings from deferring plant construction. Furthermore, he insists that the plant actually poses a threat to conservation: Given AW’s financial commitment to WTP4, “pressure will be high to sell enough volume to justify its expense,” he predicts. “There is an inherent conflict of interest in administering programs that save water inside an agency that sells it.” Robbins’ report includes a list of “immediate” actions the utility should take. The following appears as No. 1: “The Water Conservation Division needs to be transferred out of AWU.”

CONTINUED ON P.24

Average Austin Water Consumption Per Capita Per Day



AW attributes decreased demand over the last four years to a combination of successful conservation, a depressed economy, and extreme weather: 2007 and 2010 were unusually wet, driving down outdoor water use, while the drought years in between (2008-2009) proved not to drive up demand, or be the financial windfall they might once have been, thanks to new outdoor watering restrictions (one of AW’s most successful conservation programs, even by Robbins’ account).

viva papa!

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Public Outreach Meetings Travis County 2011 Bond Program

The Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC) is inviting residents of Travis County to attend a series of public meetings to provide input into the proposed 2011 Travis County Bond Program. We invite your suggestions and comments on needed capital improvements projects. Meetings will be held at:

Monday, June 20, 2011 - Downtown Austin at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Court Room
314 West 11th Street, Austin

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 – Precinct 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Travis County East Service Center
6011 Blue Bluff Road, Austin

Thursday, June 23, 2011 – Precinct 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Del Valle High School - Opportunity Center
5301 Ross Road #B, Del Valle

Monday, June 27, 2011 – Precinct 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Wells Branch Community Center
2106 Klattenhoff Drive, Austin

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 – Precinct 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Lago Vista Council Chambers
5803 Thunderbird, Lago Vista

Thursday, June 30, 2011 – Precinct 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Lakeway Council Chambers
1102 Lohman’s Crossing, Lakeway

The committee is considering the need for the following capital improvements projects:

- ❖ Arterial and Collector Roadway Projects
- ❖ Safety Improvements
- ❖ Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements
- ❖ Bridge Replacement Projects
- ❖ Drainage Improvement Projects
- ❖ Park Improvements
- ❖ Acquisition of Parkland and conservation easements

The Committee is reviewing county projects for a potential bond referendum in November, 2011. Project details will be available at each meeting. For more information contact Carol B. Joseph at 512-854-9418 or carol.joseph@co.travis.tx.us or visit the CBAC website at <http://www.co.travis.tx.us/citizensbondcommittee>.

Reading the Meter The Robbins Report

Environmental activist Paul Robbins charges that misallocation of resources among Austin Water conservation programs has undermined cost-effectiveness and water savings, and that AW is letting budget shortfalls compromise conservation programs, while proceeding on Water Treatment Plant No. 4. He identifies the following recommendations as “immediate actions” to improve conservation efforts. (See his report, “Read It and Leak,” with this story online at austinchronicle.com)

– N.A.

ROBBINS RECOMMENDATIONS/AW RESPONSES:

1) Transfer Water Conservation Division out of AW: Robbins believes “there is an inherent conflict of interest in administering programs that save water inside an agency that sells it.”

AW Assistant Director Daryl Slusher points to a 2009 study conducted by the city’s Human Resources Department concluding that AW is the best location for the Water Conservation Division. He also says the arrangement helps incorporate “conservation consciousness into the entire utility” and credits it for recent achievements, including improvements to water main rehabilitation and repair.

2) Avoid new construction projects (e.g., WTP4); monetize current surplus capacity to “create more economic incentive to conserve” and to provide funding for conservation efforts:

Given AW’s abundant “base supply of water” that is either free (through run-of-the-river rights) or prepaid, AW “should evaluate ‘leasing’ some of its ‘free’ water to LCRA,” allowing the utility to postpone costly projects.

Citing “significant policy and legal issues,” AW spokeswoman Jill Mayfield responds: “The City is not interested in pursuing this at this time.”

3) Gather more local conservation data; improve methodologies for evaluating savings: Robbins charges that a lack of accurate, local savings data skews AW’s monthly reported savings estimates and hinders planning for future programs.

Water Conservation Division Manager Drema Gross points to improvements (hiring a full-time senior research analyst and planning to hire a conservation program coordinator) but also defends the use of data obtained from studies elsewhere: “When we can use data from established research organizations ... there’s no need to reinvent the wheel.” Gross also disputes Robbins’ analysis of AW’s irrigation audit savings studies.

4) Implement a more strategic, cost-effective approach to replacing/recycling inefficient toilets: Robbins criticizes AW’s free toilet giveaway program and proposes several improvements, including more emphasis on toilet replacement in high-flush environments (“restaurants, schools, office buildings” vs. residential) and better toilet recycling (in 2009-10, toilet replacement sent 2,000 tons of porcelain to area landfills).

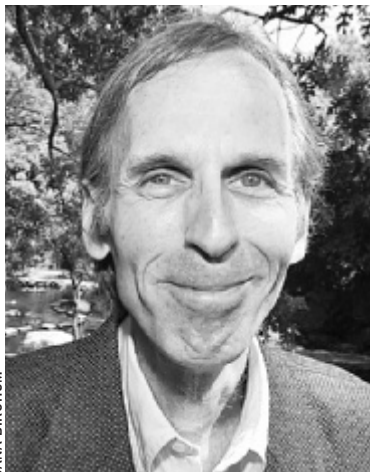
AW does plan to end the residential/multifamily free toilet program in December and pursue “a contract to expand its capability” to audit and provide efficiency rebates for commercial/institutional customers, and encourages the Solid Waste Services Department “to include porcelain recycling in their master plan.”

5) Assign a full-time staff member to the commercial program: Savings over the last few years have dropped, Robbins writes, “probably due to lack of staff to run this program” (despite, in 2008, a dramatic increase of the rebate offer).

Mayfield says AW is “pursuing a contract to conduct commercial facility audits” and proposes hiring a full-time employee “to provide audit and rebate assistance and coordinate ... marketing.”

6) Beef up inspection, enforcement, funding, and education for the watering restrictions ordinance: Restrictions implemented in 2008 (limiting irrigation to twice a week) have proven tremendously successful, exceeding 2007 goals, but Robbins links the most dramatic savings to periods of increased outreach and enforcement, and he proposes improvement in those areas.

AW’s 140 Plan acknowledges the need for “strong enforcement” and proposes designating infractions as “administrative” fines on water bills rather than staff- and time-intensive “criminal” fines, which require “resolution through municipal court.”



JANA BIRCHUM

7) Sign up for Austin Energy’s GreenChoice renewable power program: AW is extremely energy-intensive – responsible for 47.1% of city departments’ total energy usage – and plans to sign up in October for the current batch of GreenChoice (renewable energy). Robbins faults the utility for waiting so long; previous batches were less expensive.

According to Slusher, the move would have used too much of those earlier batches, which were intended primarily for the public. AW Climate Program coordinator David Greene says other measures – e.g., solar panels at the 51st Street reclaimed water tower and Glen Bell Service Center – reduce AW’s total power consumption, making GreenChoice “more feasible.”

8) Accelerate expansion of the reclaimed water supply system: Providing treated wastewater to customers for nonpotable uses (irrigation, toilet flushing, etc.) reduces demand for fresh water. Robbins believes accelerated expansion could reduce peak demand by about 40 million gallons per day, and that AW has underestimated potential demand.

Mayfield believes Robbins’ analysis “likely overstates potable water system reductions,” and cites financial and demand hurdles to acceleration.

9) Reinstate assessment of smart meters. Because of revenue shortfalls, AW canceled a smart meter feasibility study, a move Robbins believes is short-sighted given long-term administrative cost savings and decreased water use associated with smart meters.

Mayfield notes that up-front costs of such a system would “have a rate impact,” and says AW is researching the technology through a pilot commercial program and the Pecan Street Project.

10) Consider “early break-out” of some 140 Plan strategies. Robbins supports several 140 Plan proposals, including the measure decriminalizing watering restrictions ordinance citations, mandatory audits for large consumers, a pilot program for adding soil to institutional/commercial landscapes, a cooling tower retrofit program, and a retrofit program targeting high-use businesses (e.g., hotels).

Communication Drought

According to Slusher, the utility has a proven record of environmental stewardship. Below its treated sewage discharge in the Colorado River, he points out, the water is rated “exceptional” by Environmental Protection Agency standards. AW’s conservation budget is among the highest in Texas, with wildland holdings – nearly 37,000 acres of preserved land – unheard of among the state’s utilities. And the Water Conservation Division presides over a variety of water-saving initiatives, including rebates for rainwater harvesting, drought-resistant landscaping, and efficient toilets. As Slusher sees it, the last four years in particular have marked a period of notable achievement, with annual per capita water use trending dramatically downward like a bouncing ball that has suddenly plunged into a stairwell (see graph, p.23).

Like Robbins, Slusher has deep roots in Austin’s early environmental battles, having covered them in these very pages as the *Chronicle’s* politics editor two decades ago, after a stint at *The Daryl Herald* (1985-87), a local politics newsletter with a philosophy he

later described as being “tough but fair” in scrutinizing “government and players in government, no matter whether their views comported with ours or not.” Slusher’s time spent in the media trenches is still readily apparent today. “If he doesn’t want to answer your question,” says Resource Management Commission Chair Dielmann, “he just kind of looks at you and stares with that smile on his face.” Slusher left the *Chronicle* in 1995, served on City Council for nine years, and was later tapped for a new position at the water utility: assistant director of environmental affairs and conservation.

Ostensibly, he was hired for his environmental background in hopes that he’d do for AW what Roger Duncan – the anti-nuke activist turned utility exec – did for AE. Four years later, Robbins sees a different trajectory, in which

the Water Conservation Division has become more insular and communication between the utility and the Resource Management Commission – the citizen body charged specifically with advising city staff on matters of conservation – has broken down.

“In the 18 months I’ve been on the RMC,” says Dielmann, “the water utility has been the least cooperative of the departments that have come up in front of us.” In a tense exchange at a February meeting, the frustration was apparent. Slusher and Water Conservation Division

Manager Drema Gross were presenting their “140 Plan,” which aimed to reduce water usage to 140 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) by 2020. This goal was adopted by council in 2010, based on a 2004 recommendation from the Texas Water Development Board. (In

“[C]areful use, combined with the 140 Plan, may push consumption down even more than expected, making new water treatment capacity even more unnecessary and costly to ratepayers.”

– Paul Robbins

2010, Austin actually hit this target, with water use falling below 140 gpcd; however, the plan aims for a five-year “rolling average” of 140 gpcd vs. Austin’s current 163.) The utility had worked on the plan for nearly nine months without any citizen input, despite RMC’s repeated requests to be involved; it then presented the plan to council in January 2011 without RMC vetting. Then, when the commissioners saw the report on paper, it seemed still to be lacking in sufficient detail. From the dais, an exasperated commissioner Christine Herbert told Gross and Slusher, “We’re getting calls from the public and people coming to speak to us that we can’t address [without knowing] where these numbers came [from], what data was used.”

“We’re supposed to advise council, and in order to advise council, we have to understand the [utility’s] thinking,” says Dielmann. Instead: “We get the vetted press release; that’s it. We don’t get anything in-depth. ... That’s frustrating at times when you want to kind of dive down into some details or you want to provide some input.”

CONTINUED ON P.26

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When Robbins set out to write his report late last summer, he hoped to do what the RMC couldn't. He characteristically approached the task like an endurance sport, interviewing current and former AW employees and dogging the utility with a long string of public information requests. ("I think we lost count around 113 separate pieces of information," says Gross.) Robbins says the utility was not always forthcoming. "[S]imple questions, sometimes requiring easy answers, could take 10 working days and longer to answer," he writes in his report. "Material already submitted publicly, such as monthly reports to the City policy makers, could take weeks." After one request took more than two months, Robbins even filed complaints with the Texas attorney general. Gross counters that she actually offered to meet with Robbins in person but that he declined. Robbins concedes that he did turn down Gross' invitation, but says he met on a separate occasion with her and three other staff members to go over his questions.

"I think Paul [Robbins] has done a very good job," says Dielmann, "at diving as deep as he is able to, as a private citizen ... to identify some of those threads that kind of aren't consistent."

The RMC has asked the utility to provide a response to Robbins' report at its meeting on Tuesday, June 21.

What Goes Down Must Come Up

In May 2007, just 10 days after Slusher was hired, council adopted water conservation recommendations put forth by the 2006 Water

Conservation Task Force. "That really made water conservation much more of a focus and a much higher city priority, so the division did need to move into a new era," says Slusher. He acknowledges it may have been a "rocky" transition, but not to the extent Robbins claims. Robbins says programs approved then are still languishing today, a charge Slusher and Gross deny. Those programs are part of a plan that's "intended to be implemented over 10 years," says Gross, "and we are actually ahead of schedule" on the overall goal: reducing water consumption by 1% per year.

Nonetheless, she concedes that some programs haven't moved forward as quickly as intended, a setback she attributes to last year's reallocation of staff to develop the 140 Plan. In 2010 council directed staff to look at a new set of strategies for getting Austin to its new goal: a five-year rolling average of 140 gpcd by 2020. Potential strategies had already been developed, at council's behest, by the Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force, but that task force had complied with its directive in abundance, producing some 100 water-saving ideas. "We were really not contemplating additional recommendations to the extent that we received," says Council Member Sheryl Cole, who had served on the original, 2006 conservation task force. Realizing the city couldn't implement "100 different measures all at once," says Dielmann, the RMC approved the recommendations to council with two caveats: 1) that AW "prioritize" measures likely

to be "most effective," and 2) that it work with the RMC "to bring in public involvement ... which is really what our charge is as a commission." The first part happened, with AW staff transforming the recommendations into the 140 Plan, but the second didn't.

As staff worked at council's behest on analyzing the recommendations, it became clear, says Slusher, that doing that and also delivering monthly updates to the citizen bodies – not just the RMC, but also the Water and Wastewater Commission and others – would likely push the Dec. 16, 2010, deadline back by a month. "We just didn't have enough people to handle all of that at once," says Gross. Nonetheless, Slusher points out, RMC had already participated in the process, in that two commissioners had been on the task force that originated the recommendations. "I probably failed in that I suggested to RMC I thought we would have an opportunity to bring [the plan] back to them," says Gross. "But it was also clearly intended from the council direction to be a staff-developed plan." As Slusher points out, the council resolution directing AW to create the 140 Plan is mum on the topic of AW working with the RMC. Nonetheless, says Dielmann, "If you read our bylaws established by ordinance, we are to advise council on matters related to water conservation. ... I am not aware that council directed AWU to forgo [that] vetting process."

In any case, when AW Director Meszaros presented the plan to council in January, the RMC had yet to see it.

Selling Short ... or Long

The presentation didn't exactly go over well. Mayor Lee Leffingwell – who as a council member had also been on the 2006 conservation task force – quickly pointed to measures in this new plan that he felt were too extreme. He even called one measure (a limitation on permanent irrigation systems) "draconian," a word that seemed to echo for days, as did the price tag: AW predicted revenue losses of \$100 million per year, translating to a 25% to 35% rate hike when combined with the conservation strategies originally adopted in 2007. This presentation of the cost particularly irked Robbins, who felt that Meszaros did not sufficiently emphasize that when rates go up because of conservation, monthly bills will actually go down for anyone using less water. He would later add to his report, in all italics: "There is no net increase in overall costs to ratepayers from the 140 Plan."

The RMC received its official introduction to the plan at its February meeting, by which time Dielmann and commissioner Herbert could barely contain their displeasure. The plan, Dielmann declared, was "set up for failure." One point of contention was AW's approach to calculating the cost. Staff hadn't included cost-savings that would be achieved beyond 2020. For example, the amount of water the city draws from the Colorado River will at some point hit a threshold (201,000 acre feet, two years in a row) at which AW will have to start paying the Lower Colorado River Authority the market rate, whatever it is at

WTP4 Still Bitter Waters

Despite her opposition to City Council's 2009 approval of Water Treatment Plant No. 4, Place 3 candidate Kathie Tovo says now that construction has begun, she would "protect the taxpayers' investment." If council were to reconsider the project, she has said, she would "evaluate all information and seek to understand the full economic and legal implications before casting any vote."

This response has left too much gray area for some, including Place 3 incumbent Randi Shade, who was a "yes" vote in 2009. Shade released a TV ad last week asserting – against a backdrop of footage from the April 17 Oak Hill wildfire – that "water is needed for drinking, living, fighting fires" and that Tovo's opposition to WTP4 puts "our future water supply at risk."

"As someone who was literally in the middle of the fire path," responded Oak Hill resident Paul Robbins, "I am indignant." He points out that on the day firefighters battled the blaze, Austin Water used only 161 million gallons of water, well below AW's treatment capacity of 285 million gallons per day and storage capacity of 167 MGD.

Save Our Springs Alliance Executive Director Bill Bunch also slammed the ad, noting that broken and undersized pipes and pump stations without "reliable back-up power supply" have all been responsible for interruptions in water service, but "Austin homes and businesses have never been without water due to a shortage of treatment capacity."

Nonetheless, AW notes that power supply issues and other maintenance problems are hard to fix at the Davis water treatment plant because of its outdated design. According to Jane Burazer, AW's assistant director of treatment, repairs often require that Davis be shut down. Because the other city plant, Ullrich, can only handle the extra load for so long, those "windows of opportunity" are limited to periods of 24 to 48 hours. Regardless, Bunch argues that Austin has plenty of treatment and storage capacity for the time being, pointing out that before AW decommissioned the Green WTP in late 2008 (losing 42 MGD), AW added 67 MGD



Water Treatment Plant No. 4

to Ullrich in 2007, bringing total treatment capacity to 285 MGD; meanwhile, he notes, Austin's baseline water use (or winter use, as in, no lawn-watering) is only 100 to 110 MGD.

Regarding replacement and repair of outdated pipes, Robbins criticizes AW for underspending its allocated budget. While AW Assistant Director Daryl Slusher says AW has been able to "do more with less," Robbins asks, with so much work left to be done, why not fold that extra money back into the program? "You have a certain capacity to be able to plan and schedule and do work," says George Calhoun, assistant director of pipeline operations. "And when you fund it to a level that you can't meet that capacity, then you're encumbering that money where it can be spent somewhere else." Asked if the leftover money has been spent on other conservation programs, Slusher said it more likely went into AW's savings to meet revenue shortfalls.

When the utility mentions revenue shortfalls, of course, critics point to WTP4 as an obvious place to cut back. But AW officials insist there are reasons not to delay construction. Davis and Ullrich have little room for expansion, says AW (an assertion Bunch disputes), and WTP4 will draw from Lake Travis, a cleaner ("exceptional" by Environmental Protection Agency standards)

and deeper source of water than Lake Austin, where Davis and Ullrich are located. WTP4 will also provide treated water to the growing population of the north/northwest section of the city's Desired Development Zone (where the Domain is located), while using half as much energy.

Robbins believes AW overestimates those energy savings (for his analysis, see his report), and Bunch says Lake Travis' depth actually causes more algae growth, offsetting any benefits from its "exceptional" cleanliness. He also claims that the north/northwest area of the city currently has an overabundance of water supplied by the Martin Hill Reservoir, an assessment Burazer disputes as misleading, noting that "reservoirs aren't designed to provide for capacity" but rather act more as a "buffer" for changes in demand.

Finally, there's the cost issue: AW says WTP4's rate impact is not only low but also irrelevant when it comes to finding ways to fund conservation and other system improvements. But Bunch points out that WTP4's costs are on the rise: A recent report putting the cost at \$503 million (below earlier estimates of \$508 million) quietly dropped the \$15.9 million Forest Ridge transmission main and its associated costs originally included in that \$508 million estimate. Meanwhile, he points out, the cost of many other line items, including the Jollyville transmission main, have grown.

According to AW spokesperson Kevin Buchman, the Forest Ridge line "was removed from the initial phase [of construction] in order to keep the project within budget." The rate impact of the first phase "remains the same or slightly less," he says, noting that the delay won't affect "successful completion and operability of the plant." When anticipated bids for the Jollyville transmission main are opened later this month, says Buchman, AW will have a better picture of "overall project costs," which "could be lower or higher than anticipated, and therefore determine any cost savings or additional cost control measures."

Also anticipated: continued debate, unlikely to subside anytime soon.

— N.A.

that time. Right now, the city expects to cross LCRA's threshold around 2025 – but success of the 140 Plan would delay that trigger point and save the city money: \$124 million, Robbins estimates. In other words, the plan looks more feasible long-term than short-term, so why didn't AW calculate those savings?

"That's a good point, and we had internal discussions about that, but ... the resolution says to do a 10-year plan," says Slusher. "You're supposed to do what the council instructs you to do; you don't interpret differently." While he says the utility would "be willing to run things with those numbers," he insists that AW "followed the council directive." The commissioners disagreed. "What's the [directive's] intent?" Dielmann demanded. "It's to exercise water conservation. ... This plan discourages water conservation."

"We think we have a responsibility to tell [council] how much it's going to cost," insisted Slusher. That doesn't mean, countered Herbert, that the plan couldn't have "included some broader vision that would make that plan doable and achievable if that was our goal."

Members from the implementation task force also spoke at the meeting, including LCRA water conservation manager Nora Mullarkey (speaking as a citizen, not representing LCRA). She addressed the measure Leffingwell had called "draconian" – a perceived hard-line approach to limiting irrigated landscape sizes. LCRA had seen success with its customers on similar limitations, she explained, and similar measures had been adopted in San Antonio as well, but if you implement the strategy "without taking into account how it fits into the community, you're going to get a backlash on that, and that was never the intent," she said. Nonetheless, what AW had to work with was not the intent of the measure, says Gross, but only what was written in the task force report – which is exactly, say commissioners, why AW needed the help of RMC members, whose job, after all, is to bridge the gap between citizens and their municipal government.

The RMC approved a recommendation that night asking council to direct AW to work with the commissioners on improving the plan; council has yet to respond.

Regardless of the plan's status, Gross says AW is already moving toward the council-adopted goal of 140 gpcd by 2020, with plans to bring strategies "individually" before council if they require "authorization, including large contracts and changes to ordinances."

Cole says she didn't see the 140 Plan presentation as "negative" but as a "challenge" and a call for change in the utility's business model. "We have not made plans to deal with the financial impacts" of conservation, she says. Others, like Susan Butler, chair of the implementation task force, also take the long view, noting that the 140 Plan has kick-started a dialogue on conservation. But there seems to be a fundamental lack of agreement over what constitutes such dialogue, much less what constitutes progress. Slusher and Gross say they're continuing to work with the RMC, providing updates at monthly meetings; Dielmann counters that "their idea of working with us is presenting a final product ... without any prior input from the RMC."

"An ironic twist in this situation," Robbins writes in his report, "is that while volunteers and AWU staff were working hard on the 140 Plan, the goal was already being surpassed: 2010 was the first year in recent history that AWU has used less than 140 gallons per day per capita." One implication, writes Robbins, is that "careful use, combined with the 140 Plan, may push consumption down even more than expected, making new water treatment capacity even more unnecessary and costly to ratepayers."

Right now, construction trucks rumble on the spot where WTP4 will one day appear near the shores of Lake Travis; it may indeed be the "deepest" lake of the three from which AW can draw water, making it the ideal spot for such an endeavor, according to the utility. But it's hardly as deep as the rift between AW's perception of the task ahead and that of its critics. ■

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Reading Diplomatic Code

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

“Can Turkey Unify the Arabs?”

Say what?

That headline fronted the Sunday, May 29, *New York Times* “Week in Review.” I read it and laughed, thinking, “OK, things are getting more interesting when *The New York Times*, our major voice of mainstream affluence, puts so zany a question in a headline (or anywhere else).”

The *Times* is fastidious about getting its facts straight, communicates as much by what it omits as by what it prints, and is a dependable guide to what is acceptable or soon will be acceptable in the higher circles of policy-making. *Times* editors and columnists have an extraordinarily high level of access and are careful not to alienate sources with whom and about whom they report. Be it fact or opinion, if it's in the *Times* it's in the wind – or the offices – of policy makers. *Times* commentary can be contradictory, but only about specifics, not its view that enlightened, Western-flavored imperialism; heavily centralized government; and moderately regulated corporate capitalism best serve our country and the world. (Columnists who drift from that consensus leave, as Bob Herbert recently did.)

The game of reading between the lines is what makes the *Times* fun, and an article like “Can Turkey Unify the Arabs?” is rich fun for those of us who tirelessly and pointlessly try to figure out a world that spins beyond understanding, as it always has.

The article, by Anthony Shadid, enthuses about the aspirations of a newly empowered Turkey to exert its influence in the “region,” meaning Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the lesser Middle East states. Hype aside, the article's two meaty sentences are: “The resources of northern Iraq are strategic for Turkey's plans to diversify its energy sources and to feed a pipeline from Turkey to central Europe. A common free-trade area has already been agreed upon by Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.”

That signals big changes in the Middle East, changes that cannot be controlled by the American political establishment; however, the prominence of such an article in such a paper signals that establishment's approval. (The American political establishment has no party. George W. Bush's defense secretary still serves under Obama, and Obama's treasury secretary was brought to political prominence by Bush.)

Turkey is nominating itself as the West's Muslim counterweight to Iran while offering Europe a natural gas pipeline to bypass Russia's. Merely by stepping up to the plate,

Turkey promises many a future headline. The concept of a Muslim country as a stabilizing force is new to world thought.

Applause for Turkey's move from a prime organ of the American political establishment is even newer, especially if it is consistent.

On June 1, three days after “Can Turkey Unify the Arabs?,” the same writer wrote a front-page portrait of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, singing Erdogan's praises and essentially assenting to his “contention that Turkey will be Europe's second biggest economy after Germany by 2050,” noting (without dismay) that Erdogan is “building relationships with Iran and Arab neighbors at the expense of Israel.”

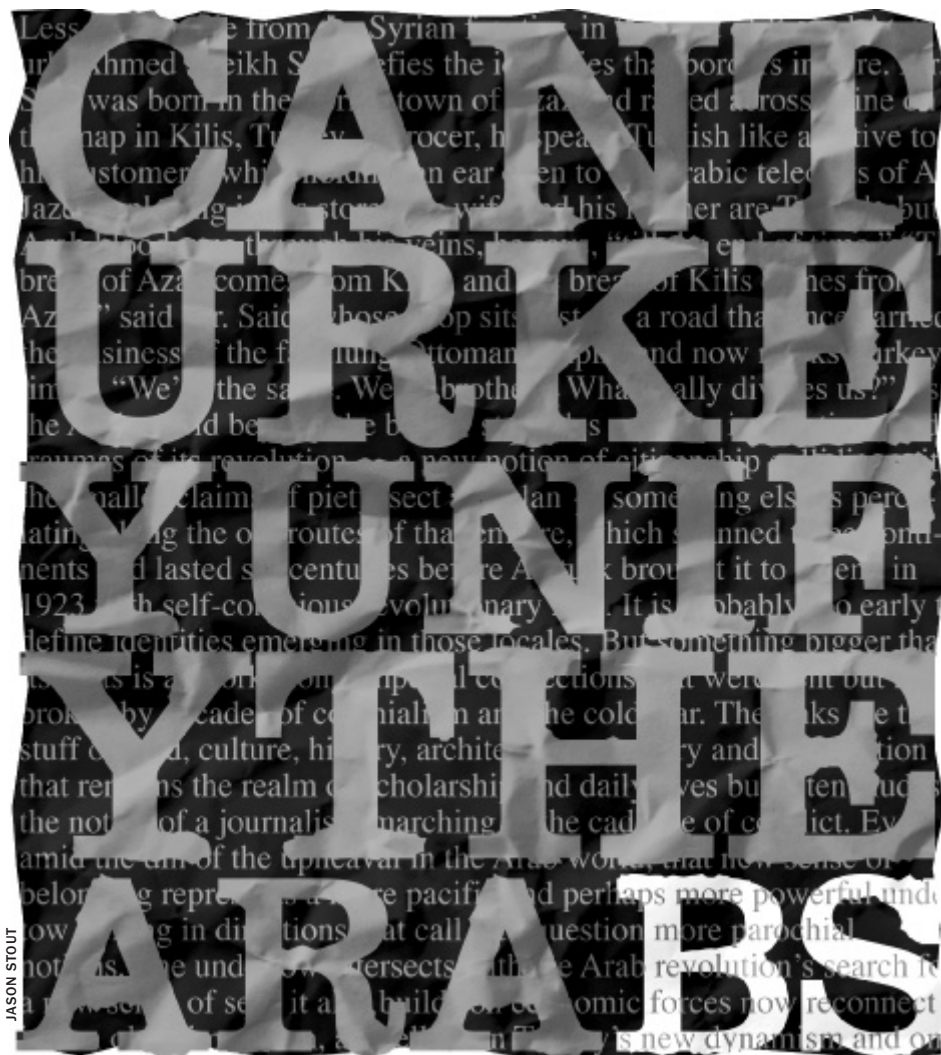
For decades, the *Times* and the establishment it represents have almost automatically supported Israel. In diplomatic circles, two such *Times* articles in three days constitute a fanfare for a tectonic shift in policy explained in the June 1 article: “But sensing a decline of American power in the region, Turkish officials have become sharply more assertive in the Middle East.”

The timing and placement of these articles signals that America's helplessness in the Middle East has been accepted by powerful U.S. factions at the highest levels, saying, in effect: “Turkey, have at it and welcome. Israel, good night and good luck.”

Some U.S. factions passionately disagree, and they are far more vocal but much less powerful.

In my files I found another front-page *Times* article by Shadid from Jan. 5, in which he marshals facts to support the conclusion that Turkey's “process of globalization and attention to the markets of the Middle East is upsetting assumptions that only American power is decisive.”

Those assumptions were drastically upset by developments in the endless stalemate known as the Middle East peace process. Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans had been pissing each other off as usual; and as usual, neither begging nor bribery stopped Israel from building new settlements in the West Bank. The difference was George J. Mitchell, arguably the world's most respected negotiator, appointed chief U.S. envoy on Obama's second day in office. Mitchell “largely abandoned his efforts after a failed push last year” (*The New York Times*, May 14, p.10). He officially resigned May 13 but hadn't been to Israel since December after sharp exchanges between Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – exchanges which



earned Netanyahu an unprecedented scold in a *Times* editorial (Nov. 13, 2010, p.22): “What Mr. Netanyahu does not seem to realize is that a peace deal with the Palestinians is not a favor to President Obama. It is vital to Israel's long-term security.”

Things must have been popping in the inner circles of the American political establishment. My guess is that George Mitchell and his staff vented privately and extensively, because the reflexively pro-Israel *Times* columnist Thomas L. Friedman let loose a diplomatic barrage: “The people running Israel and Palestine have other priorities. It is time we left them alone to pursue them – and to live with the consequences. They just don't get it: we're not their grandfather's America anymore. We have bigger problems.”

In another newspaper from another writer that would mean nothing. From Friedman in the *Times* it means everything.

The U.S. gave it one more try. At the United Nations, a U.S. veto in February stopped a U.N. Security Council condemnation of Israel's continuous settlement-building, earning Obama the censure of the European Union and of the entire Arab world. Israel thanked Obama like so: “On the eve of a White House meeting between President Obama and President Shimon Peres of Israel, [Israeli] officials ... took steps ... to advance

controversial new housing in the West Bank and a disputed area of Jerusalem” (*The New York Times*, April 5, p.4).

Obama responded with his now-famous speech on May 19, the day before his meeting with Netanyahu, officially demanding a Palestinian state on terms he knew in advance that Israel would not accept.

The talking heads talked their heads off, signifying nothing, but a bomb was dropped in Friedman's *Times* column of May 25. He equated the Israeli government with the Palestinian leadership, calling both “ossified, unimaginative, oxygen-deprived.” Then he took it further, addressing Netanyahu directly: “Sir, you are well on your way to becoming the Hosni Mubarak of the peace process.”

Four days later, on May 29, the *Times* started publishing front-page love letters to Turkey.

The posturing of Obama and Netanyahu is business as usual taken to extremes. A change in the basic stance of *The New York Times* signals a zeitgeist shift in the American political establishment.

Meanwhile, the so-called “Arab Spring” continues unpredictably.

A new edition of Middle East history comes next. That history will ultimately be decided not by geopolitics but by water availability and changing demographics. But on the way, expect a new kind of mess. ■

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Image: Herman Miller, Marshmallow Sofa, 2000, Herman Miller for the Home/Nelson office

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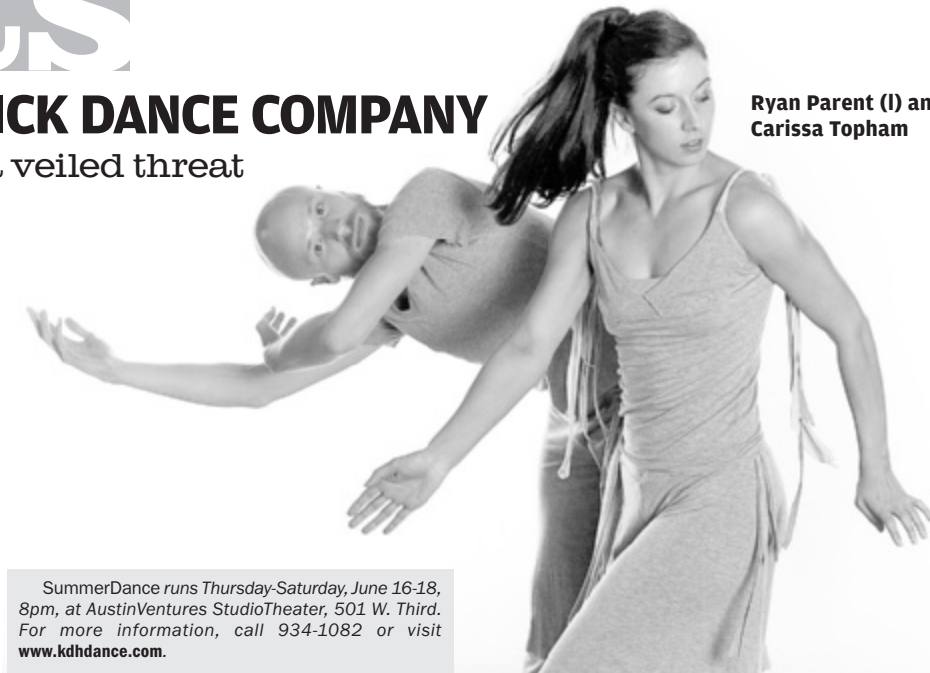
KATHY DUNN HAMRICK DANCE COMPANY

From a coo of comfort to a veiled threat

With typical candor, Kathy Dunn Hamrick admits that when she began to create her newest piece, "murmur," for Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company's *SummerDance* concert, she faced her dancers at the first rehearsal not knowing what the dance would be. She had only the title, a mysterious, cooing word that imparts softness and comfort. It is a wonderful word to savor quietly – impossible to say without blowing a double-kiss. However, for Dunn Hamrick, the sinister aspects of the word kept bubbling up, infusing the movement with anxiety and a simmering sense of foreboding, producing a darker and perhaps more introspective dance than any she has yet produced.

"Instead of exploring the idea of comfort, I ended up with an image of murmur as a veiled threat, something that comes on so slowly that you don't notice until it is too late," she says. "I didn't set out to do that, but lately it feels like the world has turned upside down. Recent events make me question if we are considering the consequences of our actions, whether political, environmental, or social."

The process of creating "murmur" proved to be a departure as well. "I usually encourage my dancers to incorporate personal narrative into the movement, but not this time," says the choreographer. "I needed them to be representations of everyone – I needed them to be symbols." Even ending the piece brought Dunn Hamrick the unexpected. Amid elements of storytelling, militaristic images, and humorous moments, she had to turn the piece upside down for it to finally make sense. Toward the end of the rehearsal process, she



SummerDance runs Thursday-Saturday, June 16-18, 8pm, at AustinVentures StudioTheater, 501 W. Third. For more information, call 934-1082 or visit www.khdance.com.

swapped the ending for the beginning, and it began to hum. For Dunn Hamrick, this new work absorbed some of the surrounding disquiet during its development and reflects a powerful sense of urgency: "With this piece, I've made my statement and not been totally silent about what I find disturbing."

Her son, Jacob Hamrick, created the original score for "murmur," inspired by the sounds of dancers moving physically through space. His goal for this piece was to create "music that is fluid, ambient, seamless, and dynamic," a perfect foil for Dunn Hamrick's ineffable rhythmic lushness. The concert closes the 12th performing season of KDH Dance and hosts three pieces by Houston's NobleMotion Dance. They will premiere "The Chamber," with live music by My Education;

"Photo Box D," a dance created within an original light installation by artist Jeremy Choate that causes dancers to disappear and reappear; and "a small place," a solo of struggle and psychological confinement.

Faced with so much newness, perhaps the biggest question remaining for you as a prospective audience member is: Should you take this journey? It's unsettling, filled with contrast, and it could be scary. It can be a hard sell to get people to choose substance over escape during times of great difficulty and suffering – and it is summer, after all. But if you go, know that you will be in a room full of commiserating souls watching glorious and challenging dance unfold. You are sure to find comfort in like-minded company.

– Dawn Davis Loring

Ryan Parent (l) and Carissa Topham



► **Texas State University musical theatre students** have a video hit on their hands. Some months ago, during one of **Andrew Lipa's** stays in San Marcos as the musical theatre program's first composer in residence, the composer of Broadway musicals *The Addams Family* and *The Wild Party*, as well as cult hits such as *John & Jen*, finished writing the song "It Gets Better" – his contribution to the national anti-cyberbullying campaign – and had a group of nine students join him in the studio to record it. With Lipa being so well-known, the video landed a mention on www.broadwayworld.com. As a result, it's been viewed more than 7,000 times in its first week. To see it for yourself, visit www.youtube.com/user/txtmusicalthea.

culture flash!

► **Palindrome Theatre** is headed to Scotland in August and not just to escape Central Texas' brutal heat. That's when the **Edinburgh Festival** is happening, and the company will be taking part in it this year, performing a 90-minute version of its recent adaptation of *Hedda Gabler* Aug. 5-29 at the Hill Street Theater. Since it takes money to get there, the company is having a fundraiser on Wednesday, June 22, 7-10pm, at the South Austin Trailer Park & Eatery, 1311 S. First. A \$25 contribution gets you access to a nacho bar by Torchy's Tacos, discounted drinks, live music by Matt Hines of the Eastern Sea and Shawn Jones and Lauryn Gould of the Lovely Sparrows, and the chance to mingle with the show's cast. Before taking it to Edinburgh, Palindrome will present its revised *Hedda Gabler* July 28-30 at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. For more information, call 939-6829 or visit www.palindrometheatre.com.

► June 24 is the last day for Austin-area artists to submit work for "**Austin Art Boards**." The juried visual arts competition sponsored by Reagan Outdoor in cooperation with the Austin Visual Arts Association will reproduce original art by 10 selected winners in large scale and display it on billboards throughout Austin over the next couple of years. Submissions may be in any medium but must be sized to 6 inches by 24 inches. For full submission guidelines, visit www.austinartboards.org.

– R.F.

CRISIS & OPPORTUNITY: AN OPEN, STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

Frank talk in troubled times

As it turned out, people *did* want to talk. And did so openly, candidly, and without rancor.

That last was especially important to the folks who sponsored Crisis & Opportunity: An Open, Structured Dialogue. Given the volatility of Austin's cultural scene in recent months and the strong feelings that accompanied some of the leadership and staffing changes at Arthouse, the Austin Museum of Art, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Austin Lyric Opera, and the Austin Theatre Alliance, the leaders of the Austin Creative Alliance, in partnership with the Wyatt Brand public relations firm and the city of Austin's Cultural Arts Division, had justifiable concerns that their attempt to generate constructive conversation in turbulent times might devolve into finger-pointing at specific organizations and bitter denunciations of their actions.

None of that appeared to be on the minds of the 100-plus individuals at the Mexican American Cultural Center on Tuesday, June 7. When Austin Creative Alliance interim Executive Director Marcy Hoen opened the forum to comments, attendees focused largely on their own issues and strategies for survival. ACA Business Manager Heather Barfield spoke of the frustrations of smaller arts groups that scream for aid but are frequently ignored. VSA Texas Executive Director Celia Hughes wondered about the future of the nonprofit, arguing that the current model is outdated and broken. Wyatt Brand principal David Wyatt proposed that organizations might have their own life cycles and

shouldn't expect to survive indefinitely. Many of the issues raised have been bemoaned for years in Austin's creative community, such as the large number of local nonprofits fighting for the same dollars from a small pool of philanthropists and corporations.

But no matter how ingrained or intractable the problem, someone addressed it – often in refreshingly frank terms. Wine & Food Foundation of Texas Executive Director Marshall Jones urged groups to own their mistakes rather than hide them, to "rip off the Band-Aid and get on with it." Kevin Benz, editor-in-chief of the forthcoming digital magazine CultureMap Austin, told the crowd, "You guys suck at business," and encouraged arts organizations to bring on more business-savvy board members and supporters. Latifah Taormina, ACA's former executive director, suggested that they may be guilty of talking too much about money; art is about value in a broader sense – the personal, the emotional, the spiritual.

The conversation took a while to ramp up – a consequence, perhaps, of Hoen and crew trying to keep the dialogue *too* open – but once it did, the 90 minutes flew by. Fortunately, that wasn't the end to it. The ACA has put up a summary of the meeting at www.austincreativealliance.org and plans to post a few topics on the site for people to vote or comment on to determine where the next conversation will start. Yes, the conversation will continue in July with another meeting at the MACC. Details as they come in.

– Robert Faires



Actors Shaun Patrick Tubbs (l) and Nadine Mozon (r) on the set of *The Book of Grace* with Suzan-Lori Parks (center)

COURTESY OF KIRK TUCK

Second Life

For her new play's sophomore production, Suzan-Lori Parks turns director

BY ROBERT FAIRES

A play's first production is unquestionably important. What were simply lines of dialogue on a page now become utterances spoken by characters of flesh and blood. Actions, previously described in words, come alive in space and time, building emotions, story, and drama that now can connect in a very immediate, visceral way with the audience.

But a play's second production can be equally important – for the author anyway. Having seen in that initial production how actors shaped the text, how the play's actions cohered into a dramatic arc (or failed to), and how audiences absorbed the story and responded to it, the playwright can use that follow-up production to make adjustments to the script: adding information here, removing information there, clarifying the story, illuminating themes, or just plain making the play better.

In March 2010, Suzan-Lori Parks was able to see her play *The Book of Grace* come to life at the Public Theater in New York. The play, set in the South Texas home of hard-nosed Border Patrol agent Vet and his optimistic wife, Grace, sees Vet's estranged son from a previous marriage arriving for a visit. Zach Theatre Artistic Director Dave Steakley saw the premiere and felt that the three-character drama was well-suited to Austin, and he invited Parks to direct Zach's production herself. It opened June 2, and although *The Book of Grace* has been mounted in Cleveland and Boston since its premiere, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright considers this local staging to be the play's true second production. Here she explains why and what she's learned about her own play by approaching it as a director.

Austin Chronicle: Do you have any strong feelings about playwrights directing their own work? I know some writers don't want to, and some directors think playwrights shouldn't direct their own work.

Suzan-Lori Parks: I think it's a good thing to do if you feel like it, you know? I love working with talented directors. There's nothing better. I've worked with all kinds of directors, from Spike Lee to George C. Wolfe to Richard Foreman. Michael Greif. Jo Bonney. Liz Diamond. Great directors. And I've learned a lot from working with them. At the same time, it's good to try new things. The middle road, I think, is the better road. [Saying] "I'll never direct my work" is as dumb as saying "I'll always direct my work, 'cause I'm the only one that ever understands what I've written!" You know, that's extreme, so doing it every once in a while I think is good. It's fun. It's interesting.

AC: Does it push you in different directions? Does it exercise different muscles?

SLP: Sure. I have to stay up later. I have to watch every show. If I were just the writer, I would be taking off a few days around now because it helps to take a breather from watching every night. So it pushes that muscle, the sort of patience muscle. Also we've got three great actors in the show: Nadine Mozon, Shaun Patrick Tubbs, and Eugene Lee, who's also a wonderful writer, and they're very respectful and talented, and it's interesting, because when they flub a line or say it wrong or forget it altogether, during notes they're like, "Sorry, sorry, sorry," 'cause it's my line. I wrote it. So I'm not just the director giving them a line note, I'm the writer who's giving them a line note, too. So you have to practice that gentle touch, so everyone can feel encouraged along instead of berated and shamed.

AC: What did you learn from the first production?

SLP: Things I knew already. Sometimes you learn things you knew already, and sometimes you learn things that you didn't know already. One of the things I learned that I knew already was that Texas is not this weird, quirky, odd place. Well, maybe it is, but it shouldn't be held at a distance. It's as weird, quirky, and odd as New York City is. It's as weird, quirky, and odd as Fargo is. It's as weird, quirky, and odd as New Orleans is or L.A. or whatever. It's just like where you live except different in maybe a few specific ways. So it shouldn't be held at arm's length as an oddity.

AC: How does that play out in *The Book of Grace*?

SLP: These people are just people, like anybody else you know. Because the most important part of the play is the family dynamic, which is manifested specifically through these three characters. That's the most important thing about the play. When people saw *Topdog/Underdog*, people who were not African-American said, "Wow, those could be my two brothers" or "That could be me and my sister" – that kind of thing. So the dynamic was not limited to a certain ethnic group. Or a certain place. It wasn't an urban black dynamic, you know? It was just a dynamic of tension and frustration, and I think the same thing goes with this. It's a dynamic of tension and frustration.

That being said, I think we are benefiting enormously from having an all-black cast here. Because in New York we had a multiracial cast, and in conversation with people I realized that there was a huge misunderstanding about the play. Because of the multiracial cast, [with] John Doman, who's a white actor, playing the father [and Amari Cheatom, who's a black actor, playing the son, people thought] that the father didn't like the son because the son was black. And I'm like, "Ooh, the father doesn't like the son because the father's got problems." And with Elizabeth Marvel, a white woman, as Grace, [people thought] that I was saying the message, quote-unquote, of the play was that grace is represented by white womanhood. To say that grace is embodied by white womanhood, black womanhood, Asian-American womanhood, or any kind of womanhood is ridiculous. You're not listening to the play. So I was joking that in New York it was *The Book of Race*.

There have been two other productions of this play, one in Cleveland and one in Boston, and I asked them not to copy our [New York] casting, because that was a mistake. I said, "I loved my three actors in New York. We had a great time. It led to a misunderstanding. Please don't do it that way." But there's a tendency for people to go, "But that's what it means!" And even with me reaching out to them, they went ahead [with multiracial casts]. And I thought: "They're not doing the play. They're doing ... something else." So this to me is the really real second production of the play.

And with this all-black cast, not only are we really getting into the rhythms of the play much more thoroughly, I think; it's very clear that it's about family. It's not about a racial dynamic. While I think it can be done with any groups of people, I think it's most effective being done homogeneous racially. And I would prefer it being done with African-Americans, 'cause why not? There's no reference in the play to "I'm a black person, and so I think this about you." There's nothing like that. They're just paranoid, frustrated, and weird. Like all of us, I think.

AC: When one person is both writer and director, there's a split personality thing that arises sometimes. I often ask people who are filling both roles at once how much the writer and director argue with each other. "All the time," they say.

SLP: My experience – and this might reveal everything about my personality – my experience is very different. I gotta say, I didn't know that the play was as good as it is until I was actually in it, realizing that I've laid in verbal cues for blocking. Like when Grace says, "Camp David? You know the place where ...?" – that's a cue to get the place setting. It's full of blocking cues. And I'm like, wow! I didn't really know that they were there. We didn't explore them in New York. But I think they're in all the plays – they're laid in like that. 'Cause I'm thinking of movement as I'm writing. I'm not thinking of the specific movement that they're doing here, but it's very easy to figure out the movement. It's very clear when she's crossing to him. The line is telling her when to walk, when to stop. Like yesterday, we were working on a part where I was telling Grace: "Follow that with your body. He's pulling you. And he's going to tell you what to do next." The actors looked at me. And I said, "Eugene, say your line." And he said, "Look at the kid, working the iron like his old man." "That's your cue to look. Before that, you're here." It's very small things, but I'm surprised. Like, "Wow! Look at all this information in here." I really didn't know.

It's creepy, actually. It's creepy when you're writing the thing that you're supposed to write. That's one kind of creepy that I'm much more familiar with and used to, and I don't really think anything of it. Like you can say that's the hand of God, and I'm writing, you know what I mean? Or the god

Ganesh is transcribing the Vedas. I love that he's a transcriber. He's copying. So I'm listening and I'm copying. That's cool. That's the higher power or whatever. But to be directing and to hear something in the play – "I wrote that." Ooh. It's a map. It's a road map embedded in the play that I didn't even know was there. That's a little creepy. It's a little odd. ■

The Book of Grace runs through July 24, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2:30pm, at Zach Theatre's Whisenhunt Arena Stage, 1510 Toomey. For more information, call 476-0541 or visit www.zachtheatre.org.

“[Saying] ‘I’ll never direct my work’ is as dumb as saying ‘I’ll always direct my work, ‘cause I’m the only one that ever understands what I’ve written!’ You know, that’s extreme, so doing it every once in a while I think is good.”
– Suzan-Lori Parks

AFTER MIDNIGHT

by Irmgard Keun
 (translated by Anthea Bell)
 Melville House, 176 pp., \$15 (paper)

Berlin is a city of wishful thinking. Even now, many of its most glorious dance halls stand, still decorated with the gold tinsel that festooned them in the 1930s, and bands still play the old songs there. You can drink sherry with other young people under lamps in the garden and maybe begin to wish that the bombs had never fallen, that the whole miserable business had simply not begun. Such wishing is lazy and without comprehension, objective, or any motive beyond childish pique, but it is nevertheless powerful and perhaps necessary to understanding how the rise of the Nazi Party became possible.

Though it takes place in Frankfurt rather than Berlin, Irmgard Keun's *After Midnight* is steeped in just such an atmosphere of youthful confusion about grim politics. Opening in the commotion attending a visit from the Führer's motorcade, it follows Sanna, Gerti, and their paramours through glittering cocktail-hour intrigues and silly parties while the dark, paranoid tide laps at their ankles and continues to rise.

Sanna is not a political firebrand; she barely com-

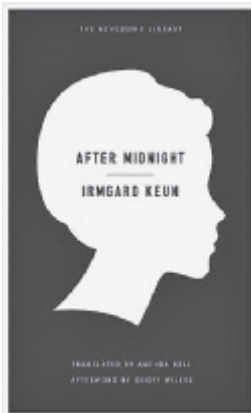
prehends the social shifts occurring in Frankfurt, where, as everywhere in Germany, the practice of informing on one's neighbors and family members intensifies the drone of domestic anxiety. Sanna and her friends fuss over normal 19-year-old problems, mostly regarding men and romance, but these subjects are hardly safe from being

marred by the oppressive tension. Sanna's fiancé, Franz, is jailed for months because of anti-Nazi pamphlets found in his business partner's apartment, and she herself is locked up briefly over a glib comment regarding how profusely Hitler sweats during his speeches.

You have to look hard to find a hero here; the youth of Frankfurt are more concerned with avoiding now-dangerous improprieties than they are with resistance. Through Sanna, Keun presents a guile-

less but hardly naive account of how gradual acquiescence transforms a society into a monstrous shadow version of itself. Eventually galvanized by the suicide of a journalist friend who can't bear watching this transformation, she acts against it, smuggling herself and Franz to safety. Love, rather than a political awakening, is the motive here, but in such murk, any way forward is brave.

— Sarah Smith



ELEVEN

by Mark Watson
 Scribner, 320 pp., \$15 (paper)

Xavier Ireland, the quiet protagonist of British comedian Mark Watson's fourth book, would perhaps be better suited, metaphorically speaking, as a domino aficionado than a *Scrabble* tournament champion. The host of a late-night London radio show, the character grapples with long-repressed memories from a former life in Australia while becoming increasingly – and unknowingly – entangled in the lives of his listeners, neighbors, and friends through intersections not entirely expected. It's an intricate web of beautifully rendered characters (one overweight boy is gingerly described in terms of food, a "doughy" figure with his "blancmange of a body," and charming housekeeper Pippa has an accent that "rips the consonants off the ends of words, and sometimes kidnaps them from the middle"), and the pages are rich with abundant, though typically crisp, similes.

Unfortunately, the tale's debate with cause and effect suffocates much of the writing. It's enough that the chain reaction – eventually encompassing a barkeep; his lover; a journalist; a psychologist, her patient, and his co-worker; a cash-strapped boy; a restaurateur; a reviewer, her son,

and the only witness to his bullying, Xavier – is drawn out explicitly at certain checkpoints as all-too-neat coincidences "domino mercilessly on." To hammer in the point, half a dozen characters spew hackneyed clichés of determinism over the course of the novel, and the sides of the debate are laid out plainly in an argument between Xavier and Pippa: He figures people "overestimate how much difference they can make"; she says "people underestimate it. You can change someone's life without even knowing it." (As Xavier regards a film, so too could the novel be described: "maybe a bit heavy-handed.") The predestination discourse, ham-fisted in its attempts to erect a false dichotomy and eschew the essential gray area, is mitigated in part by a moral vacillation by the novel's fence-sitting central voice, and a not-entirely-surprising twist in the final pages ultimately saves the book from itself.

Clunkiness aside, this is a thought-provoking effort – interspersed with welcome comic touches – that prompts readers to question their roles, their motivations, and their ideological stances, and in that spirit, it does not do the readers the disservice of a definitive end. "Life isn't so neat," indeed.

— Monica Riese



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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THESE BOOTS... While poring over **DListed.com**, I came across a lovely mention of a local company, **Helm Handmade** (www.helmhandmade.com). The mention, which included a link to the original source at www.justjared.com, stated that, “**Chris Evans** and **Ryan Gosling** attend the **2011 MTV Movie Awards** held at Universal Studios’ Gibson Amphitheatre on Sunday [June 5] in Universal City, Calif.” Describing their clothes, the item went on to note that the 29-year-old Evans (*Fantastic Four*, *Sunshine*, *The Nanny Diaries*, and *Captain America*) wore jeans and brown leather **Timmy Bob** boots by Helm Handmade to present an award. Helm Handmade, owned by **Progress Coffee’s Joshua Bingaman**, manufactures boots and accessories for men. Designed here in Austin and using the finest materials and handwork from around the globe, Helm Handmade boots are gorgeously updated renderings of classic styles. An extensive background in shoes inspired Bingaman’s love for his products – some of the very best to come out of Austin. With lots of coverage by the fashion trade papers and appearances by celebrities wearing Helm boots, Helm Handmade is no longer the best-kept secret in Austin.

GENERATION TXT Surely you’ve heard about the big stink the **Alamo Draffhouse** has caused by playing an actual customer’s voice mail as a warning to the audience against

talking and texting during shows. If not, you can get up to speed via the Draffhouse’s blog: www.draffhouse.com/she_texted_we_kicked_her_out2.html. I suspect that the texter in question will try to sue the Alamo for emotional distress (hopefully she’ll be so distressed, she’ll be unable to text ever again). I particularly love the part where the poor, victimized young woman, who may or may not have been drunk, proclaims that she’s texted in every theatre in Austin, and that her texting wasn’t bothering anyone. But at least she did say she would be taking her texting elsewhere, “where people are polite.” The subtitles the Alamo uses spells her words phonetically, as when she says she’s texting in theatres in the “**Magnited States of America.**” At the end of her gasbag monologue, she states confusingly, “And I’m pretty sure you guys are being assholes on purpose. So thanks for making me feel like a customer.” Uh-oh. An overwhelming amount of the commenters from across the Internet love that the Alamo did this. On **CNN**, **Anderson Cooper** proclaimed **Alamo Draffhouse** owner **Tim League** worthy of the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his actions. And then, after a story about it in the *Austin American-Statesman*, a reader commented, “I hope they tear down that stupid Alamo. Those a-holes kicked me out for using my cell phone to find my seat cause it was so dark in that *the-a-ter.*”



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SEABROOK JONES/WWW.JUICYTHIS.COM

FRIENDS OF FOX Words fail me when it comes to that vile, repulsive **Khloe Kardashian** and her totally contrived “nip slip” on **Fox & Friends** last week – at least we know who her friends are now. Showing up to tape a morning show wearing a see-through blouse (as she did) just wasn’t enough for the oafish Kardashian. She wanted to make sure the world got to see her nipple unfettered by a filmy piece of cloth. She tweeted to her “fans”: “I had a nip slip and I loved it!” She added, “Thank God! I fucking love nipples!!!!” She told **TMZ** she wasn’t embarrassed at all. “At least it’s not my vagina; who wants to see that?” Apparently not her husband.

BIRTHDAY BELLE Though my ravings about her faaabulous art collection led her to increase her home security drastically, **Charlotte Herzele** still invites me to her home. And I pretty much hang out with

Charlotte as much as she lets me. But *this* time it was her birthday party – on a Monday. Having a party on a Monday pretty much guarantees that it will be short and sweet, so it was clever planning on Charlotte’s part. But I still arrived late because I had to wear the shirt that I had been making. I sewed the last button on at 6:30pm; the party started at 5:30pm. Fortunately when I was through, my trusty **Haunted ATX** hearse limo was already waiting for me. Upon seeing a hearse in my driveway, one very alarmed neighbor ran over to see if anything was wrong. Arriving at Charlotte’s, I was aglow with all the compliments about my new shirt. But it was Charlotte’s houseful of friends that took the cake, as it were – a fascinating blend of art and commerce, business and pleasure, traditional and nontraditional, young and old. Happy birthday, Charlotte! Thanks for adding so much to the richness of my life.

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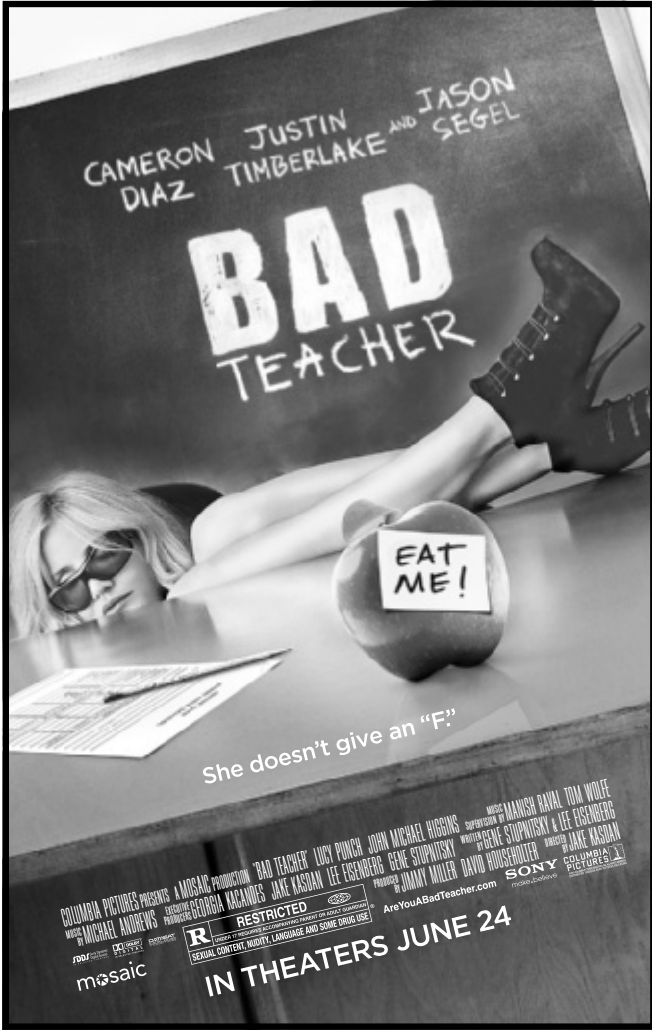
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The Beat Divas Teach Cooking With Songs of Food, Love, and Mayhem

When Kelly Ann Hargrove founded the **Music on the Menu** series at the **Central Market Cooking School** in March 2003, there was no way she could know what one of the acts she booked would ultimately accomplish. The vocal trio known as the **Beat Divas** – **Mady Kaye**, **Beth Ullman**, and **Dianne Donovan** – began presenting dinner classes with a generous helping of jazzy harmonies in 2004 and quickly became one of the recreational cooking school's most popular quarterly attractions. The Divas' seasonal dinner menus certainly attract customers, but the appealing set of food-related songs they've written over the past few years to supplement the menus delights music lovers as well. Each Beat Divas class opens with "Cookin' in the Kitchen," and other tunes are served up during and between courses. Appetizers might be paired with the bluesy "Sweet Potato Jive," while the versatility of chocolate dictates that the calypso-inflected "Little Bit of Chocolate" could fit just about any course. "Hog Fat" complements pork dishes, "Cuppa Joe" fits in at coffee time, and "Sweet Treat" can make you salivate over the thought of a man creating desserts and pastries.

The food songs originally intended to accompany the dinner class performances became a full-time project for bandleader Kaye over the past two years. A new CD titled **Dishin' With the Divas: Songs of Food, Love & Mayhem** is the result. Kaye penned seven of the songs herself and collaborated with Ullman on four others. As the title suggests, the songs deal with food, love both troublesome and sweetly expressed, and the mayhem wrought by a dangerous devil's food cake. "Better Not Drink the Water" isn't a political polemic, but rather an exaltation to enjoy wine when traveling the world. However, the quirky "Fast Food Junkie" fits right in with



COURTESY OF KATHY WHITTAKER

The Beat Divas

the current national debate on convenience foods and obesity.

Many of the songs from the CD have been warmly received by the Divas' loyal fans at Central Market, but the culinary musical creations were formally debuted before and during the opening ceremonies of the International Association of Culinary Professionals conference. The appreciative crowd listened to the songs with rapt attention, and several attendees later stopped by the Beat Divas' booth at the conference's culinary expo to chat – **Martin Yan** grabbed several copies of the album for gifts, **Ellie Krieger** showed some interest, and one of the tunes just might end up as the new theme song for a cooking show. There's really no way to predict what good might come from the high-profile IACP exposure, but the Divas are ready in case producers from the Food Network or *Every Day With Rachael Ray* should come calling. Their next project will be a cookbook based on recipes from their popular cooking classes.

Meanwhile, the Divas have three promotional events for the new CD scheduled for the coming week, including the newly produced video of "Sweet Treat," starring

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 6:30-9PM
Tomato Envy Cooking Class at Central Market Cooking School (4001 N. Lamar, 206-1014) \$50; the class is sold out, but there's a waiting list. Or sign up now for their Texas Goes Tuscan class on Sept. 17.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2-3PM
The Divas will be dishin' and playing cuts from their **new CD, Dishin' With the Divas: Songs of Food, Love & Mayhem** with Queen of Spoons Susan Gayle on KOOP 91.7FM's *Food Love Austin*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 3-5:30PM
CD release party on the upper deck at Central Market with a cash bar. Grab some grub from the cafe and relax to the sounds of the Divas' food songs. CDs on sale for \$15; Dishin' With the Divas aprons are available for \$20.

attractive, tattooed Central Market chef **Robert Jenkins** as the dreamworthy pastry chef, posted at www.facebook.com/thebeatdivas. Each and every one of these events is worth a taste. – V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

In a ceremony at City Council chambers June 9, **Mayor Leffingwell** and the Austin City Council proclaimed June 2011 the **Resurrection of Barr Mansion's Artisan Ballroom** month. The proclamation came on the first anniversary of the devastating lightning fire that destroyed the ballroom last summer. The newly expanded, even greener, zero-waste facility is once again hosting weddings and other events and providing seasonal, organic menus in the nation's only certified organic event venue. We send hearty congratulations to Barr Mansion owner **Melanie McAfee** and her talented staff on the ballroom's resurrection, and we offer our best wishes for its continued success.

A group of Texans styling themselves the **Texas Outlaws** are throwing a big party at the Colorado Kenichi outlet on Friday, June 17, during the eponymous magazine's **Food & Wine Classic in Aspen**. The Austin contingent includes chefs **Kevin Williamson** and **Antonio Vidal** of Ranch 616, **Tyson Cole** of Uchi and Uchiko, and **Bryce Gilmore** of Barley Swine (who closed his restaurant for the weekend in order to attend), as well as representatives of **Tito's Handmade Vodka**. As we reported last month, *Food & Wine* will be the presenting sponsor of the first **Austin Food & Wine Festival** in spring 2012.

Opal Divine's (www.opaldivines.com) owners Michael and Susan Parker have kicked off their annual summer **Drink Pink** fundraiser to benefit the Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas. The Parkers are shooting to raise \$10,000 this year, so upgrade that \$3, 100% agave margarita to a \$3.50 one made with vibrant pink prickly pear juice, and 50 cents go to the BCRC!

This month, KLRU presents **Juneteenth Jamboree** produced by Michael Emery, with a special focus on foods emblematic to the African-American holiday, including traditional foods of Juneteenth introduced by children's host **Funmi Ogunro**, insight into the history surrounding Juneteenth foods from culinary historian **Toni Tipton-Martin**, homage to popular Juneteenth foods by three Austin restaurants, and a cornbread recipe from children's author Deborah Orr's book *The Little Cornbread Girl*. **Juneteenth Jamboree** airs June 18-20 on KLRU. Visit www.klrutv.org/juneteenth for more information.

Cookie Monster alert! The bakeries at both **Central Market** stores will debut a new line of 19 specialty gourmet cookies this week, with **Cookie Happy Hours** from 3 to 6pm on Wednesday and Thursday, June 22 and 23. During this promotion, customers can buy six cookies for \$3 and pair them with a free 14-ounce container of Promised Land milk. The cookies also come packaged in their own oven-ready, heat-proof packages, meaning cookie lovers can reheat them in a home oven for an aromatic, home-baked treat.

Speaking of baking, summer fruits are showing up in area farmers' markets, so **Dai Due** invites home bakers to participate in a pie-baking contest. To enter, just take a generous slice of pie made with Dai Due's organic leaf lard and local fruit to the Dai Due booth at the Downtown Farmers' Market (Fourth & Guadalupe) any Saturday morning through July 2. The Dai Due staff will pick the best and announce the name in its weekly newsletter; the winner will receive a case of lard and a Dai Due apron.

Event Menu June 16-23

- Chef Josh Watkins hosts **A Taste of Spanish Wine** at UT's AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center (1900 University). \$100 per person; make necessary reservations at 404-3655 or lauri.taylor@attconf.utexas.edu. Thursday, June 16, 7-10pm.
- The Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts (1700 S. Lamar) hosts the **More Plants on Your Plate** weekend seminar with David Briscoe. \$245 for the full weekend; see day prices at www.naturalepicurean.com. Friday-Sunday, June 17-19.
- **Mix: Celebrate Texas Cocktails** at the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Mansion (2312 San Gabriel) has local mixologists preparing cocktails with Texas spirits. \$50 in advance at www.mixaustin.net or \$60 at the door. Friday, June 17, 9pm-12mid.

- **Jester King Craft Brewery** (13005 Fitzhugh, Bldg. B) and Young Faces of ALS host a benefit **Cornhole Challenge tournament** with a tailgate bag-toss along with beer tastings, food trucks, prizes, and raffle items. All proceeds benefit amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research. \$50 single entry; \$100 for teams; \$25 suggested donation to attend. www.jesterkingbrewery.com. Saturday, June 18, 11am.
- The Theater Action Project hosts its annual **Summer Pageant in the Park** celebrating **How Our Food Grows**. Elementary school students will gather at Republic Square Park (Fourth & Guadalupe) at 11am for a Grand Procession of the Seasons with handmade puppets. Saturday, June 18, 11am.

- Casa Chapala (101 San Jacinto) and the Tequila Society of Austin host the first **Austin Tequila Taste-Off** with an appetizer buffet and a raffle to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. Tickets are \$20 at www.casachapala.com or \$25 at the door. Saturday, June 18, 6-8pm.
- Savory Spice Shop (1201-B W. Sixth) teams with LiveMom.com to offer **Savory Kids cooking classes** for kids ages 7-12 with an adult. \$6; register at 524-1093 or austin6thstreet@savoryspiceshop.com. Mondays, June 20 & 27, 10:30am-noon. – V.B.W.



Dickey's Barbecue Pit

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

New on Burnet Road

BY RACHEL FEIT

Before MoPac was built, Burnet Road was a highway connecting northwest Austin to Burnet County. In those days, cars motored by, stopping only for gas or an occasional bite at Top Notch. Flash forward to 2011, and Burnet Road cuts through what we now call Central Austin and is the primary business corridor for surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Burnet Road commercial landscape is rapidly shifting, and in recent years, a new crop of restaurants have helped to revitalize segments to meet urban core needs. What's happening isn't necessarily destination dining; rather, Burnet Road's new eateries are unfussy establishments catering to families and folks for everyday eats. Just in the past year, Burnet Road has become home to a number of trailers turned brick-and-mortar businesses, as well as some welcome new faces in Austin's food scene. Here's a look at some of the newer establishments that are reshaping Burnet Road.



Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse

1900 S. First, 416-1601
Monday-Friday, 7am-12mid;
Saturday-Sunday, 8am-12mid
www.bouldincreek.com

Despite being housed in essentially a drafty shack, Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse has always enjoyed a large and enthusiastic clientele. Armies of tattooed hipsters perennially crowded the outdoor seating area, spilling out of the (faint) air conditioning directly into the Texas heat (and in winter, the northerly wind). I always imagined that the milieu was the drawing card – a place for like-minded individuals to meet and discuss last night's gig – but it wasn't long before I discovered the *actual* attraction: the food.

An out-of-town director wouldn't hear of meeting anywhere else, because Bouldin Creek had “the best tofu scramble in the world.” Like many a skeptic, Bouldin Creek's brunch made me an instant convert. Farm-fresh local free-range eggs, Fair Trade coffee, crisp hash browns, blueberry corn cakes, vine-ripened tomatoes, crisp baby lettuces, stellar salad dressings, and tasty grilled sandwiches are all prepared without any danger of meat “con-

tamination,” something my vegetarian husband dreads. Add its many vegan options, such as the aforementioned tofu scramble, and the coffeehouse's constant press of business is no longer a mystery.

Thankfully, Bouldin Creek's deserved success enabled the business to move a few blocks down the street to a beautifully restored, solid brick building, the former location of Big G Tire. The renovation is absolutely stunning. Artistically, owner Leslie Martin was able to keep some of the gorgeous window signage from Big G (“Tires Rotated”) while bringing along Bouldin Creek's characteristic splashy, big colors and abundant outdoor seating.

With the move, Bouldin Creek has made a few changes: Instead of waiting in an endless, slow-moving line to order, there is now table service, and the menu has been expanded. Service, always hit or miss, continues to be so; however, I got the impression that my server was busting her ass to provide the best service she could and that the various delays had more to do with working out the kinks of the new location than with carelessness.

CUTIE PIES

7329 Burnet Rd., 452-PIES

The mint-green interior of this cheerful cafe space evokes Grandma's 1950s kitchen, which is what pie trailer queen Jaynie Buckingham is going for with her new Cutie Pies home. Here you will find all your childhood (and your mother's childhood) favorites – the lacy buttermilk pie, puckery lemon meringue, and a mixed-berry crumble that tastes like a sleepy summer afternoon. At her new Burnet Road home, Buckingham is also experimenting with savory chicken pot pies and quiches, so don't skip an opportunity to visit for lunch. Buckingham has mastered the art of crisp crust, and each individually sized pie is always fresh-tasting, never soggy. Lemon squares, Rice Crispies squares, and chocolate chip cookies are also now on the menu.

DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT

5350 Burnet Rd. #1, 467-6653

I know Dallas natives who get sentimental when anyone mentions Dickey's Barbecue. Dickey's has been a venerable presence on the Dallas barbecue scene for nearly 70 years. Best known for brisket and ribs, Dickey's nonetheless offers a satisfying variety of meats, from pulled pork to sausage and smoked chicken. The meats are serviceable, though when weighed against other Central Texas choices, not memorable. Dickey's sells a variety of sides, including fried okra, onion rings, and macaroni and cheese, in addition to the usual suspects. These days Dickey's is a franchise operation with stores in almost 40 states. But this doesn't mean the business has forgotten its humble roots: Each store still smokes its own meat overnight in a wood-burning convection smoker, and brisket, ribs, and sausage are sliced to order.

MONKEY NEST COFFEE

5353 Burnet Rd., 505-8033

Across the street from Dickey's, Monkey Nest is developing its own loyal following. The tasteful corporate-style decor of glass subway tile, dark wood, and comfortable, matching leather chairs belies the coffeehouse's homespun roots. Owner Koros Derakhshani was tired of spending all his money at Starbucks, so he decided to open his own coffee shop offering all Fair Trade and organic coffees at reasonable prices. Monkey Nest has been an instant hit with neighborhood residents. Mornings offer breakfast tacos from Elsi's and pastries from local bakeries. Don't miss the vegan doughnuts from Red Rabbit Cooperative Bakery paired with Monkey Nest's signature Spiced Monkey Mocha (grated cinnamon and cayenne in a mocha latte). For an afternoon pick-me-up, try a *cafe glace* – espresso enhanced with a scoop of Tèo gelato. The cafe also offers a tempting variety of sandwiches made on fresh bread, and in a nod to the owner's Iranian roots, also stocks Persian tea scented with cardamom and orange blossoms.

LUCKY J'S CHICKEN & WAFFLES

5035 Burnet Rd., 524-2917

Lucky J's owner Jason Umlas has done his best turning a dark and unappealing snack shop space into a cute, quirky, and permanent home for his chicken-and-waffles trailer business. Walls are painted red and yellow to match the iconic trailer's flame design. Tables inside and on the street encourage dining there, but ordering still takes place at a small window that seems more like a mobile confessional than a counter. Chicken-and-waffle combinations are still the mainstay, but the new space also has an expanded menu of sandwiches and breakfast items.



Breakfast remains Bouldin Creek's strong suit. Everything I sampled in the breakfast arena was absolutely up to standard, from the crisp, rosemary-perfumed potato-hash cakes to “Fire,” the marvelous house fresh-pepper puree that can be added to any meal. The Benedict (\$6.50), a spin on eggs Benedict, was outstanding. Atop a grilled slice of ciabatta, two perfect eggs are decorated with strips of tofu bacon and vegan hollandaise, surrounded by fresh baby spinach and sliced organic tomatoes. It was delectable as only food made with the highest quality ingredients can be. Joe's Smokin' Omelet (\$7.25) was very nearly as good: tender eggs folded with spinach,

onion, and cheddar-Jack cheese, and topped with chipotle-pecan pesto.

Breakfast and brunch items make up the majority of the menu, but there are a number of sandwiches and hot entrées available if breakfast food doesn't appeal. The Bello Jiafra Melt (\$7.25) sports meaty, beautifully roasted sweet red peppers and portobello mushrooms with melted Gruyère on ciabatta. The mushrooms are extremely flavorful, and happily all of the sandwich breads are fresh and soft, enabling the sandwiches to stay together with the fillings firmly inside during consumption. The grilled cheese *con hierbas* (\$5.75) is the epitome of what a grilled cheese sandwich should be: long, thin sourdough slices filled with cheddar and Monterrey Jack, your choice of fresh cilantro or basil (or tomato or red onion, for an extra 50 cents) slipped inside, then grilled to a golden crispness.

The prices are so reasonable, the new building so comfortable, and the food so nourishing and enjoyable that Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse's base is destined to keep expanding. It may become an Austin institution – if it isn't one already.

– Kate Thornberry

HAT CREEK BURGER CO.
5400 Burnet Rd., 452-2025

Although Hat Creek has been flipping burgers at this location for more than a year, it's still a relative newcomer to the brick-and-mortar world. What started as a trailer parked around town quickly found a dedicated following and a permanent home in a former Arby's. The sign was conveniently repurposed with the Hat Creek logo, and the restaurant reopened to adoring fans. The guys at Hat Creek make their own Angus beef patties and spice them just right. The flame-grilled burgers are juicy, substantial, but not so thick you can't get your mouth around them. Hat Creek cuts its own fries, and they're invariably among the best in town. Oh, and did I mention creamy root beer floats and milkshakes made with Blue Bell ice cream? ■

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klru klru.org

Space Pioneers

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Get ready. A wave of brave new world dramas is coming to the small screen. While Fox aims to premiere the big-budget, high-concept *Terra Nova* this fall after nixing a planned May sneak peek, TNT's *Falling Skies* launches Sunday, June 19. (You can read TV Eye's review in last week's column.) BBC America joins the fray with the recently unveiled



BBC America's *Outcasts* premieres June 18.

theme night, *Supernatural* Saturdays. The lineup features sci-fi cult favorite *Battlestar Galactica* (the rebooted version), which started airing June 11 with the pilot episode, and expands this Saturday to include new show *Outcasts*. Well, new to America: This British production already aired in the UK this spring but wasn't renewed for a second season. After viewing only one episode – and after having seen six of *Falling Skies*' eight episodes – it's clear to me that everything that I didn't know I was missing in *Falling Skies* can be found in the more stylish, smart, and compelling *Outcasts*. In short, if you loathe *Falling Skies*, or even like it a little bit, you'll love *Outcasts*.

It's a great idea to pair *Outcasts* with *Battlestar Galactica*, as both could be called intergalactic frontier dramas. However, instead of searching for Earth as in *BSG* or trying to survive its invasion as in *Falling Skies*, the humans in *Outcasts* are fleeing a now-uninhabitable Earth. The details as to why this was necessary are not made clear in the first episode, but the drive to create and maintain order and stability is strong among the hundred or so pioneers who were among the first to flee.

When *Outcasts* begins, the first pioneers have already landed on the planet Carpathia, named after the *Titanic*'s rescue ship. The new planet resembles Earth but has a wan, austere quality to it. There, the pioneers have established Forthaven, overseen with a steady hand by President Richard Tate (Liam Cunningham, *Clash of the Titans*). His second in command is Stella Isen (*MI-5*'s Hermione Norris), who is also leader of Protection and Security. Like many in Forthaven, she left loved ones behind on Earth. Isen's lingering hope of seeing them again, coupled with the fear that she never will, is what undergirds the series for viewers. Longing, loneliness, and regret are the heavy baggage each character carries in his or her own way. Still, everyone has a job to do, and Isen is a no-nonsense taskmaster. That singular focus is what gets her through the day.

Working under her are Fleur Morgan (Amy Manson, *Being Human*) and Cass Cromwell (Daniel Mays, *The Bank Job*). The pair bickers constantly, but the verbal sparring is all good-natured. Fleur and Cass strongly believe in the ideals of Forthaven and have each others' backs – a good thing, because their lives may eventually depend on it. As it turns out, there are other human traits to deal with besides heartache and longing: ego, ambition, greed, and lust, to name a few. Discontent is brewing in Forthaven, with the hotheaded Mitchell Hoban (Jamie Bamber, *Battlestar Galactica*) among the most unpredictable of Forthaven's restless new citizenry. As head of the Expeditionaries, Hoban and his team are charged with exploring Carpathia and reporting on the findings. Are the settlers alone on the new planet? If not, will they encounter friend or foe?

As if Hoban's behavior were not troubling enough, there's a larger sense of foreboding on the horizon. All contact from Earth has ceased. One of the last transporters carrying new refugees is making the precarious trip from Earth to Carpathia. Everyone knows that if it arrives intact, it will be a small miracle. The Forthaven pioneers await the transporter with guarded anticipation, but none more than President Tate. He knows that Vice President of the Evacuation Program Julius Berger (Eric Mabius, *Ugly Betty*) is onboard. Berger's arrival – driven and still accustomed to the power he wielded on Earth – may be just enough to tip the delicate equilibrium of Forthaven.

If you're looking for explosive battle scenes or cool-looking aliens, you may be disappointed. But what *Outcasts* lacks in flash, it more than makes up for in substance. And in another marked contrast to *Falling Skies*, the historical references and "touching moments" in *Outcasts* do not hit you like an anvil.

Outcasts premieres Saturday, June 18, at 8pm on BBC America.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

Email Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.

screens

FROM BLOOM TO BOOM

This pop-up gallery fundraiser might just blow your mind

BY KATE X MESSER

What's in a name? The name of the kickoff to the Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival's fundraising year used to be Bloom. This year, it's Boom.

Launched in 2005, the then-springtime event was "named as a metaphor for spring pollination, the germination of the rest of the festival," according to ex-aGLIFF board member (and *Chronicle* staffer) Brian Carr. "We were soliciting seed money for the year." The fact that it was held those first few years at landscape nursery Big Red Sun furthered the narrative.

Right out of the garden gate, Bloom became known and loved for its lavish spread of finger foods, posh lounge areas, big-ticket raffles, and its focus – not so much film, but the opportunity to explore and connect with other visual arts.

Fast-forward to 2011.

"The name 'Bloom' sounds like a tea party or a luncheon, and this is definitely not that," says interim aGLIFF Executive Director Jason Rosen. "Boom is an exciting new identity. We hope to win back the people who know and love aGLIFF but perhaps haven't been, well, shall we say 'hugging' aGLIFF, at least in terms of supporting fundraisers and events beyond our regular screenings."

This year the fundraiser will see tweaks beyond the name.

"While the spine of [this fundraiser] has always been to offer local visual artists out-

side of the film community a place to share their stories in the same way the film fest is a forum for filmmakers to share stories," says Rosen, "this year we are expanding the idea of visual arts into a variety of performers, including fire-breathers and contortionists."

The event will still feature more than 45 works for sale from over 30 artists. Artists who donate artwork to the exhibition split the purchase price right down the middle with aGLIFF, so parties on both sides of any transaction remain invested and both benefit.

The work of local artist Marcus Sanchez is becoming familiar to folks who attend local art events. In addition to acting as curator of this year's Penis Project during ArtErotica (hosted annually by the Octopus Club, one fundraising arm of AIDS Services of Austin), his work has appeared at Project Transitions' Red Hot Summer Party and ASA's Viva Las Vegas. "It's great that aGLIFF is highlighting art other than film in our community. It gives artists from a variety of disciplines the chance to network with each other and check out each other's work. For many new or new-to-town artists, it's a chance just to get their names out there," says Sanchez.

This is the first year Sanchez is contributing work to aGLIFF. He's creating a Lotería-themed triptych which will be for sale at the event.

"We can elevate people in our network," says Rosen, "grow that network, and bring



queer artists from all disciplines together in this one pop-up gallery. And what we have lined up for this gallery is so 'pop-up,' it's blowing my mind.

"The main purpose of Boom is to bring people together," adds Rosen. "This party has nothing to do with VIP lounges or any sort of exclusion zone. Regardless of what your donor status is, your pocketbook brings, or what your corporate connections can influence, this is a night for everyone to celebrate who we are, together. That's what Boom means to me."

aGLIFF's summer fundraiser, Boom, takes place Saturday, June 18, 9pm-12mid at East Side Stages (3000 E. Cesar Chavez). See www.agliff.org for ticket info.

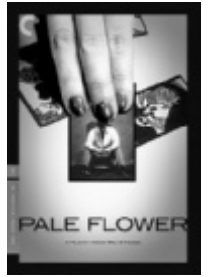
PALE FLOWER
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As dark and dreamy as an unexpected wounding by a soft-focus slug, Masahiro Shinoda's 1964

Nippon noir riffs on Godard's *Breathless* and the frenzied, near-psychotic nihilism of postwar Japanese society. Of course, since *Pale Flower's* protagonist is an aging Yakuza who, as the film opens, has just re-entered that society after a three-year sentence, pretty much everything is bad, black, or suddenly strange to us – and him. Ryo Ikebe's Muraki seems permanently lodged in a past that no longer exists – there's some notion of honor among thieves that shadows him like a pall throughout the film – and so when he returns to his old Tokyo haunts, the familiarity is at once normal and oddly

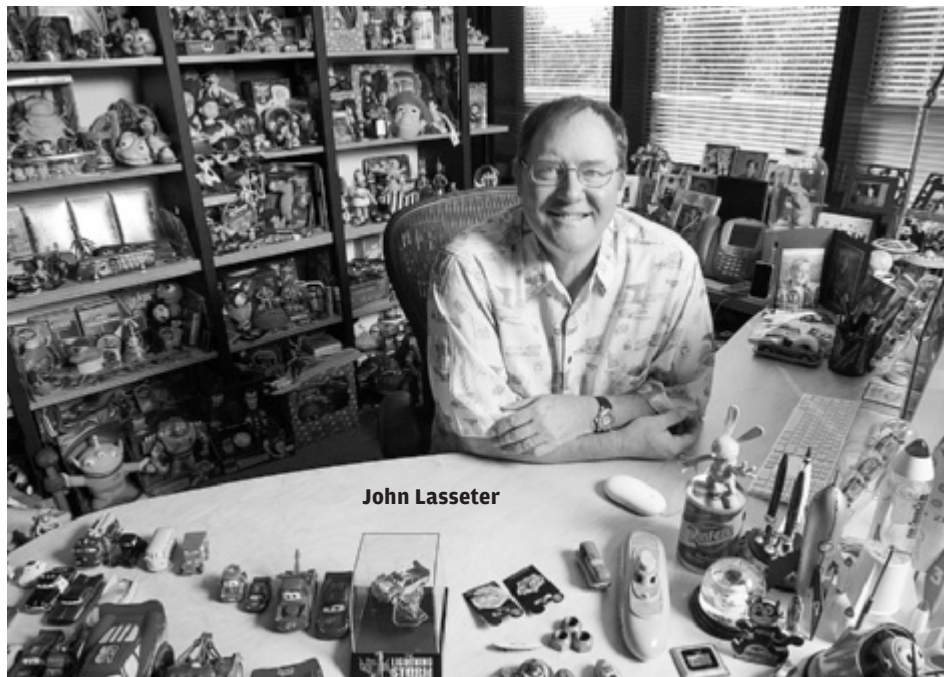
weird. The crush of modern life, the sheer, blunt brunt of an anxious and overpopulated cityscape, is immediately oppressive: "Why are so many people crammed into cage-like boxes?" Muraki intones in bewildered voice-over. "People are such strange animals." A creature of habit whether imprisoned within or without, Muraki immediately descends into the Tokyo under-

world, a fish-belly black-and-white world of simple, if illicit, desires: lust, gambling, drugs, death. It's at one of his boss' floating games of chance, amid the staccato knock of wooden playing cards clattering atop their wooden board, that Muraki encounters the mysterious, ethereal, pale flower of the title: Saeko (the exquisite Mariko Kaga), a bored young coquette with a heart of jade, gorgeous but chilly to the touch. Muraki and Saeko, two poles of a societal and generational spectrum, come together and spark, flaring frozen hearts to life briefly but memorably, like a supernova suddenly extinguished in black-tar bad vibes. The city eats its own and vomits forth beautiful nightmares, and director Shinoda catches it all and makes it look somehow cool. Apart from its Japanese nouvelle vague anti-panache and the bravura performances from both Ikebe and Kaga, *Pale Flower's* most striking aspect is its stunning, altogether unique score by Toro Takemitsu and Yuji Takahashi. Mirroring the rhythmic din of the gambling parlors and the frantic, soul-deadening pace of city life run amok, it's the aural equivalent of an anxiety attack that just won't stop. (Notably, the only sequence in the entire film that feels out of place or false takes place in a dream. This is one film where slow-motion seems ridiculous. There's no time for it.) *Pale Flower*, with its crisp, perpetual-twilight black-and-white photography (courtesy of Masao Kosugi) is, like a bullet in the throat, utterly breathtaking.



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DRAWING PRAISE A.F.F. to honor Pixar giant John Lasseter



John Lasseter

It doesn't take an advanced degree in sooth-saying to predict that *Cars 2* will open like gangbusters on June 24. Pixar productions, as a rule, are wildly profitable, not to mention critically adored, so we're comfortable calling John Lasseter's trip to Austin this October a victory lap. That's when Lasseter – the director of *Toy Story*, *Toy Story 2*, *Cars*, and its summer sequel, as well as Pixar's chief creative officer – will receive the Austin Film Festival's Extraordinary Contribution to Filmmaking Award, joining the previously announced Outstanding Television Writer honoree Hart Hanson (*Bones*) and Distinguished Screenwriter honoree Caroline Thompson (*Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*). The 2011 conference is shaping up to be a boon year for animation, in fact: Already confirmed panelists include Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger (*Kung Fu Panda*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*), Jason Eaton (*Ice Age 3*), and Rita Hsiao (*Toy Story 2*, *Mulan*), and the list just keeps getting longer.

The Austin Film Festival runs Oct. 20-27. Find out more – including details about discounted badges – at www.austinfilmfestival.com.

– Kimberley Jones

RoboCop Is Alive and Well and Kicking Ass Onstage

Eighties blockbusters and a 'cardboard aesthetic' courtesy of the Old Murder House Theatre

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Police officer Alex Murphy is murdered by a street gang and brought back to life as a depersonalized, metal-plated cyborg called RoboCop that proceeds to wreak turbo-powered justice on the criminal scum of a future Detroit. You remember that Eighties sci-fi blockbuster, right? Of course you do, citizen. And next week the movie will be brought back to life as a personalized stage play, with bargain-basement production values and ravening fanboy energy, by the Old Murder House Theatre crew at the HighBall on South Lamar.

You can thank or blame Sam Eidson for that: He's the driving force behind the popular troupe, having previously turned other cinematic upheavals into live plays, mounting stage versions of *Jurassic Park* and *Independence Day* and so on. He did those in Georgia while studying film at Savannah College of Art and Design. And now here he is in the ATX, along with his SCAD buddies Nate Sakulich and Josh Jones, along with new friends Byron Brown and Kirk Johnson, to foment further celebration of Hollywood's biggest lowbrow spectacles.

I recently met with Eidson and his cronies at a busy coffeehouse in the heart of our fair and sunbaked city to ascertain just what led them to this wacky diversion.

Austin Chronicle: How'd you get started on this live performance stuff?

Sam Eidson: We started with *Jurassic Park* back in Savannah. We did it just for fun, but a lot of people came, so we started picking more blockbusters that we liked from our childhood, that we thought other people would dig, too. We did *Independence Day*; we did a double bill of *Predator* and *Lion King*. We tried to mix it up — one for the kids and one for the adults. We did it late at night, like 12:30, and we got all the drunks. We essentially wanted it to be an old minstrel-type of thing, where people throw lettuce and tomatoes at us, but we were just trying to please the crowd. It was a lot of fun, and when Josh and I moved here, we thought, "Let's do more of those." Because everyone can enjoy a play version of movies they love, y'know?

AC: You ever do regular plays?

Eidson: No, we haven't done any of those.

AC: So your first thought was, "Oh, I love this movie — I'm gonna make it happen on the stage?"

Eidson: Yeah, I wanted to do theatre stuff, but I just wasn't interested in any of the stories — like Shakespeare or stuff like that. And we're all mostly in video, so stage was new to us. And it was kind of nerve-racking at first, but, y'know, people like it.

AC: How do you choose which movies you're going to stage?

Byron Brown: At gunpoint.

Eidson: Well, the big ones that everybody knows, where everyone's familiar with the story. It's really about the one-liners, the memorable characters, the memorable scenes.

Brown: Sam, it seems like every film you've selected so far has a kind of a die-hard, a built-in audience.

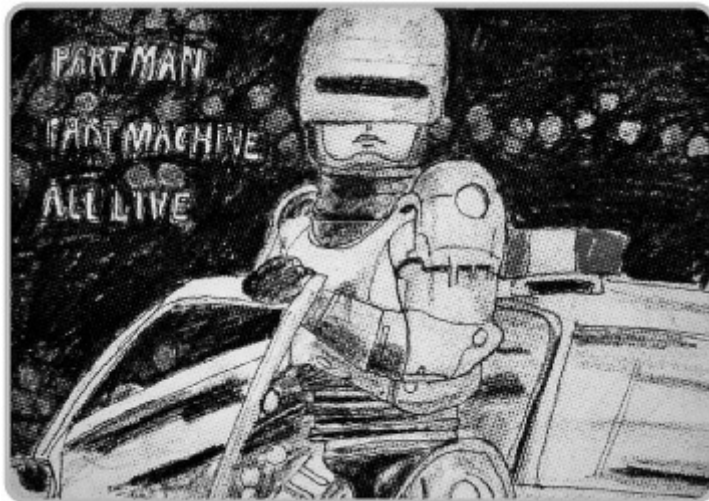
Eidson: Yeah, like ...

Brown: A die-hard audience.

Nate Sakulich: What was that a reference to?

Eidson: Yeah, when we did *Die Hard Home Alone*, that was two plays at once.

Brown: People are fanatical about both of those movies.



AC: That sounds like a helluva good mash-up, actually.

Eidson: Yeah, it was great, and it was all elementary-school production values. And, especially with *RoboCop*, we're gonna blow more stuff up, and it'll be cool. If I had my way, it wouldn't be inside, y'know? We'd do it on an outside stage. I mean, I love the HighBall, but we can't be as messy as I'd like. I wanna jump in the audience, I wanna have people jumping and falling on tables.

Sam Eidson (center) with Old Murder House players (from left) Byron Brown, Josh Jones, Nathan Sakulich, and Kirk Johnson



JOHN ANDERSON

Brown: Didn't you have fireworks at *Independence Day*?

Eidson: Yeah, we had fireworks there, in Savannah. But we had one explosion in the HighBall already, and we're gonna have more with *RoboCop*.

Brown: What we don't want to happen is, like, a Great White situation — you know what I'm talking about?

AC: That metal band?

Kirk Johnson: Yeah, they caught that club on fire a few years ago.

Sakulich: And 14 people died.

Eidson: Yeah, we don't want that. But it'd be a good story.

AC: Why did you move to Austin?

Eidson: There's a really good film community here, and it seemed really tight-knit. And you can get your films made here, as opposed to going to L.A. or New York where you have to jump through a hundred more hoops. Here you can just go down the street and shoot; you don't have to pay a huge sum of money a day just to shoot a story. On the other hand, there's not as many films shooting here as I thought there'd be. Especially because of Rick Perry screwing everything up, the son of a bitch. When I was about to move here, everybody was like, "Austin is thriving as the newest! city! in! film!" And

then I got here, and it was like, "Oh, the governor just signed this bill"

AC: So, wait, you moved here for film, but you're doing live plays?

Eidson: We still do film stuff, too. I act in ...

Brown: Sam is a machine. Seriously, he's been in a movie every week; he's always doing some kind of film project. We all do, we're involved with Hard Gravel, Beef & Sage, Kirk just finished his feature, *Austin High*, but Sam's got the most ...

Eidson: Yeah, *Avatar 2* is coming up, and they want me for the lead in that. *Jurassic Park 4*, they're talking about having me

Johnson: Okay, that's not true.

Brown: No, but he's very active, he's like the Parker Posey of ...

Johnson: Well, we all are. We're all trying to, you know, make some good stuff.

AC: What movie-plays have you done in Austin so far?

Eidson: *Die Hard Home Alone* we did at Cheer Up Charlie's in December. And we did *Back to the Future* at the HighBall.

AC: How'd you get hooked up with the HighBall specifically?

Eidson: Somebody found out about what we were doing, and they went to Kirk and said: "Hey, we want you to do a play here. We'll sponsor you." And the HighBall is really awesome. We weren't making any money before, and now we're making a little bit, at least enough to put on the shows. It's always been more of a love project, but now maybe it could be a huge *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, or whatever that fiasco was.

AC: What about after *RoboCop*?

Eidson: We want to do *Jurassic Park* again. But we want to do a *Jurassic Park* tour around the U.S. That's our dream. And we're thinking of doing older movies, too, like *Apocalypse Now* and *Jaws*. Blockbusters, mostly. But I wouldn't wanna do *Jaws* unless we could get a full water setup. Maybe one of the Rolling Roadshow kind of deals.

Sakulich: We could do it on Lake Austin or something.

Eidson: I mean, if these things keep going well, if we can get more money ...

Johnson: The Erwin Center!

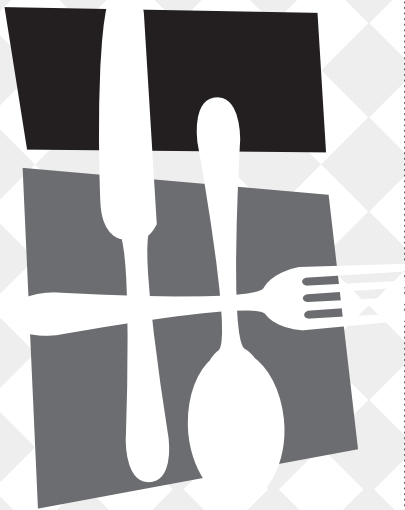
Brown: Austin Music Hall!

Sakulich: Top of the Austonian, on the helipad!

Eidson: Yeah, yeah — forget the cardboard aesthetic we work with now. ■

The Old Murder House Theatre performs *RoboCop* Fridays at 11:30pm at the HighBall (1142 S. Lamar), June 24-July 8. Tickets are \$5.

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music

OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Anchors Aweigh

Kevin Ahart might be the best Austin singer you've never heard. He's a smooth crooner putting a fresh new spin on the golden era of big band jazz, an interest he picked up from watching classic films with his mother. "One day, either on **TCM** or **AMC**, *Anchors Aweigh* came on," recalls Ahart, an Austin native. "In one scene, **Frank Sinatra** sits at a piano in the **Hollywood Bowl**, in a sailor suit, and sings 'I Fall in Love Too Easily.' I thought that was the greatest music and voice I had ever heard." Discovered at one of **Freddy Powers'** parties by **Monte Warden**, the two cut an album at **Pedernales Studios** that's attracted major label interest and features co-writes with Warden and **Darden Smith**, among others. They also just returned from a five-day recording session in **Sir George Martin's** London studio for Acura's new ELS Surround Premium Audio System. Ahart was one of only six artists selected, alongside **Band of**



Kevin Ahart

JOHN ANDERSON

Horses and the **Eagles**. "It's all original material," stresses Warden, whose **Wagoneers** stampede **Guene Hall** on Saturday. "This is what separates Kevin from the other neo-crooners – **Bubl , Gardot, Connick**, et cetera." Ahart added, "If someday I have one song that's printed in a fake book next to a **Cole Porter**, I'll know I have done something special."

Until the Light Takes Us



Ancient VVidom

Gaining credibility in the metal community can be an extreme, dramatic affair. Austin's **Ancient VVidom** – that's two "V"s pronounced as a "W" – achieved it in record time, debuting with a one-sided split LP, *Inner Earth Inferno* (Withdrawal Records), that features what's being called "new recordings" by **Charles Manson**, whose two contributions were apparently recorded last year at California's **Corcoran State Prison** over a smuggled cell phone. "He's allowed to play acoustic guitar in the courtyard," says vocalist **Nathan Opposition**, who sticks to the script in adding that their communication happens "telepathically, mostly through channeling energy through concrete walls." Rounded out by members of **Iron Age**, they're harvesters of sorrow, casting pagan-folk and cemetery eulogies with restrained, ominous arrangements. The band just released its proper debut, *A Godlike Inferno* (Shinebox

Recordings), recorded at the **Bubble**, and hosts an acoustic happy hour on Wednesdays this month at **Mohawk**. "What we project in our music," stresses Opposition, "is a disdain for what we see and feel are the horrors and tragedies of the world."

Wipeout

After being forced to evacuate **Waterloo Park** by the **Waller Creek Tunnel Project**, **Fun Fun Fun Fest** is trying to add a third day to its proceedings, currently scheduled at **Auditorium Shores** Nov. 5-6. The riverfront, however, has apparently reached its annual 25-event limit, established by the **Parks and Recreation Department's** Special Events Policy. **Transmission Entertainment** principal **James Moody** believes the problem's merely an "administrative glitch" in that displaced events at Waterloo Park should be redistributed across the park system. "We're not the only ones this is going to affect," says Moody, who's requested an exception to the **Austin Music Commission**. The resolution was unanimously passed. Fun Fun Fun Fest will start leaking confirmations next month, coinciding with its own special indie rock brand of water Olympics: canoe jousting and stand-up paddle board karate with winners taking home free tickets. "We're still figuring it out," laughs Moody, "but it should be a lot of fun."

Random Play

On Tuesday evening, **Nakia** emerged as the obvious front-runner for **Team Cee Lo** on **NBC's** *The Voice*. The local blues howler proved the saving grace on the group's opening rendition of **Sly & the Family Stone's** "Everyday People," then stole the two-hour live spectacle with a vivacious rendition of **Kings of Leon's** "Sex on Fire." His advancement will be determined by viewers, who have until Monday, June 20, to vote at www.nbc.com or by purchasing Nakia's cover on iTunes.

Elsewhere in prime time, **Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybees** strutted through "Livin' in the Jungle" on *The Late Show With David Letterman* on Monday, one week before their scheduled *Austin City Limits* taping with Dallas' revered gospel outfit the **Relatives**. Lewis just dropped a trill mixtape, *Livin' in the Jungle*, helmed by Mad Decent's **Derek Allen** and featuring cameos by **Bun B** and **Yelawolf**. Take it all in at austinchronicle.com/thenextepisod.

Scott Conn's 2007 documentary, *Dirt Road to Psychedelia: Austin Texas During the 1960s*, screens at the **Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz** on Saturday, June 18, 3pm. All proceeds benefit ailing **Golden Dawn** leader **George Kinney**.

Willie Nelson won't be singing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" in the **Hudspeth County Court**, as requested by attorney **Kit Bramblett**. Instead the country icon is beating the rap from his Nov. 26, 2010, marijuana possession charge with a mere \$500 fine and \$287 in court costs.

More unexpected than the release of *Chinese Democracy*, longtime *Chronicle* Music Editor **Raoul Hernandez** has taken to **Twitter**, cranking out live show notes 140 characters at a time: www.twitter.com/ChronicleRaoul. Meanwhile, Senior Music writer **Margaret Moser** has taken over the reins as our **Fox 7** music correspondent. Tune in Friday mornings.



BettySoo abroad

Some Parts of the World

BettySoo offers three practical lessons for traveling in Italy: "Pack stretchy jeans"; "You're not going to look cool, even if you try"; and "Leave your wristwatch at home." For further explanation, check out the local songwriter's six-part journal up on the *Chronicle's* Music blog, Earache! (austinchronicle.com/earache), detailing her current European excursion with the same detailed eloquence, light humor, and sense of history that informs her finest work. She's touring with Canadian Dobro specialist **Doug Cox** – they met while teaching at Acoustic Alaska Guitar Camp – in support of their new collaborative project **Across the Borderline**. The duo's stripped-down debut tackles the great storytelling of **Blaze Foley** ("Big Cheeseburgers and Good French Fries"), **Guy Clark** ("Dublin Blues"), and **Doug Sahm** ("Louis Riel"), whom Fox toured with shortly before the formation of the **Texas Tornados**. Across the Borderline touches down at **Cactus Cafe** on June 25.

Take Shelter

Indie folk whisperer **David Wingo** (see "Drawing Focus," Sept. 18, 2009) composed the foreboding soundtrack to *Take Shelter*, the latest psychological drama from Austin filmmaker **Jeff Nichols**, which won the Cannes Film Festival's 50th Critics' Week Grand Prix last month. "The visions that **Michael Shannon's** character gets are terrifying him, but when he's watching them there's also a sense of him being enraptured and in awe of it all," says Wingo of his first orchestral score, which boasts contributions from members of **Balmorhea**, **Mother Falcon**, and **My Education**. "Jeff wanted to make sure that the music captured that feeling just as much as the dread and the fear." While the film hasn't yet set a local release date, Wingo's **Ola Podrida** opens for **Explosions in the Sky** at **ACL Live at the Moody Theater** on Friday, June 17.

Drums Across Texas

Battling bands, DIY caravans, and SWAC radicals converge on Nelson Field

BY KATE X MESSER

Close your eyes and you can hear it – the unmistakable din of a high school band room. That swell of horns and honking sax, the sea-saw of ascending clarinets against descending flutes – none of it's changed. Note for note, the scene plays out generation upon generation.

A tall, good-looking man moves toward the center of the commotion, the din fading as it follows him, the clatter becoming murmurs cut only by the rustling of sheet music on metal stands.

"Shhhhhhh! Shhhhhhh!"

Two girls slide into their seats just in time, woodwinds at the ready.

"Baritone bass clef? Baritone treble clef? Who else needs 'Most Girls'?"

Assistant coaches are earnest in their chop-chop, handing out the last bits of sheet music as players arrange their scores.

"Let's go!" barks the conductor as an oddly commanding electronic metronome begins ticking. A bleat of horns creates a wall of noise vaguely resembling the hit by Pink.

Director Ormide Armstrong wanders into the mass, focusing on different instrument sections take by take. The John H. Reagan High School band director is working this warm June evening on his other project, the Austin All-Star Band, composed of area band students and slated to perform at Saturday's Alvin Patterson Battle of the Bands & Drumline Competition, held annually around Juneteenth on their home turf at Nelson Field.



Ormide Armstrong leads the trumpet section.

"Y'all, this is slow; we have to pick it up," he explains. "By tonight! The dancers are practicing to this song at its true tempo, and we are nowhere near close."

The group shifts gears. Sheet music for Rihanna's "What's My Name?" appears on the traditional black metal music stands. Three or four languid takes in, Armstrong, clearly frustrated, yet calm and focused, waves his arms to stop them.

"Listen!" he says to his back line of tubas, imitating them inhaling and spitting out air between notes, "You're dragging the beat!"

Meanwhile, the drum line has been outside honing its chops. During the next take, they drift into the packed, resonant room to join the rest. Like reunited battalions returning from the front line, this band of brothers and sisters is finally complete.

Brow furrowed, Armstrong beelines it back to his perch. The room is eerily silent. Front and center, he raises his arms. As if a choir of Berklee College of Music-graduate angels suddenly inhabited the kids' skins, notes begin to soar, percussion pummels, and the song's intended dynamics get good and tight. Stoking the momentum, Armstrong calls out.

"Turn around your stand! Turn around your stand!"

The group obliges, ready to tackle Rihanna sans sheet music. They chime in unison a martial chant ("Uhhhhhhhhhhhh, A! T! X!"), then rip into a decidedly faster take. Onlooking parents exchange grins and glances, and heads begin to pop to the beat. An unassuming gentleman watches intently from the sidelines. Despite his calm facade, his stern and determined features belie an intensity of spirit. He could be any of the kids' grandfather, and with regard to this particular pending competition, he is – in spirit.

His name is Larry Jackson.

'Drumline'

Bands across Texas and around the region, from Louisiana to Georgia, come to compete in Austin's Alvin Patterson Battle of the Bands & Drumline Competition. Launched in 2004 to stimulate academic excellence, the Juneteenth celebration is named for L.C. Anderson High School's much beloved late educator and band director Alvin O. Patterson, who led his band to seven state trophies. Patterson attended the events named in his honor until his passing in June 2007.

"We found there were very few African-American children in band," says competition founder Larry Jackson. Out of Austin



The Austin All-Stars' tenor drum section runs through drills before rejoining the entire band for practice.

PHOTOS BY SANDY CARSON

Independent School District's 84,000 students, only "54 African-Americans from 14 high schools were involved in band programs."

So he set out to change that. Jackson began the competition when he was executive director of the Austin Eastside Story Foundation. Currently, he heads up Austin's Joint Task Force on African-American Quality of Life for Education.

"Our ultimate goal is academic performance ... for well-rounded students," he explains. "There's a direct relationship between Reagan [High School] and Reagan's band and the fact that Reagan is not on [AISD's] closure list. Students here understand that if they are to participate in band and fine arts, they have to do well academically."

Schools and all-star bands are drawn to the battle of the bands because it spotlights the historically black college and university marching band tradition, a tradition that sizzles thanks to an ingredient most marching bands lack: soul. Historically black college and university traditions are carried by Southwestern Athletic Conference universities like Texas Southern, Grambling State and Southern universities in Louisiana, and Alcorn State and Jackson State universities in Mississippi. These programs have popularized "SWAC style," high-stepping that incorporates hip-hop, soul, funk, pop, R&B, and lots of strut, from knee-wagging stomps by the tenor drum section to the glinty swoosh of cymbals fluttering over the heads of the crash corps.

Not all schools find this style a valid form of study. SWAC style doesn't always fit in or place well at the University Interscholastic League, the inter-school organization formed at the University of Texas at Austin in 1909 to, according to its website, "provide leadership and guidance to public school debate and athletic teachers," as well as "educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests." Here tradition rates high, and schools adopting the SWAC style have about as much a chance of placing at UIL as Kanye West does of getting booked at a George W. Bush Presidential Library Gala. Needless to say, SWAC is popular with youth.

"This style of music is a crowd-pleaser," says Jackson. "Especially to young people. At



Larry Jackson

the Cotton Bowl, they would have 80,000 people show up for the Grambling-Prairie View game, and 60,000 of them showed up for the band."

While the subtext implies a breakdown around racial lines, colors and cultures blur.

"What started out being geared for African-Americans," says Jackson, "turned out to be something Hispanics are taking advantage of, and I for one am happy for all of that."

"I saw the movie *Drumline* when it came out and said to myself, 'That's what we need here,' because it attracts kids from all racial [backgrounds]. Plus, even narrow-minded groups can't be opposed to children having fun."

Jackson, whose history underlies a radical heritage, finds that SWAC-style empowerment runs right up his alley.

"In school, I played the trombone," he recalls. "I, like most African-American males, however, was geared toward sports. So I put my trombone down, and I did sports. I ended up putting all that down to become a social activist."

CONTINUED ON P.50

Bands across Texas and around the region, from Louisiana to Georgia, come to compete in Austin's Alvin Patterson Battle of the Bands & Drumline Competition.

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Young Larry Jackson (top center) with kids from the 1969 program that eventually became Head Start at Austin's original YMCA/YWCA

ALAN FOGUE

Jackson became part of what nowadays might be called the street team for Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown before their international notoriety as members of the Black Panthers.

Street Team Radical

Born in 1947, Larry Jackson came out of the Bryan-College Station metroplex, a native of Hearne. His father was Navy, stationed on the West Coast, so Jackson was sent to live with an aunt in California.

"[It was] the first time I went to an integrated school, La Cienega Elementary in Los Angeles," recalls Jackson. "I learned things I was not accustomed to, being from the South, like [when addressing teachers with], 'Yes ma'am,' and 'No ma'am.' They instructed me that it was 'yes' and 'no,' with no 'ma'am' to it. They felt my saying 'ma'am' was acquiescing to slavery.

"I was introduced to all kinds of things, like the L.A. symphony and swimming pools ..."

Integrated swimming pools.
"Where I was from, we had no pool. There was a pool, but it was for whites only."

According to Jackson, he wrote a letter to President Kennedy asking for a pool for Hearne.

"In the process, I received an invitation to Rice University in Houston, where President Kennedy was going to be. After they found out I was a teenager and not an adult, they contacted Texas A&M, which ended up contacting the city of Hearne. We got our first swimming pool."

Douglas Staten, a contemporary of Jackson's in Hearne, has stayed in touch.

"Mr. Jackson, at that particular time," giggles the onetime school board president at Hearne ISD, "I would characterize him as a little radical.

"Larry's not one that goes around tooting his horn," Staten continues. "He prefers to do things below the radar. He's an idea man and surrounds himself with individuals who can put those ideas in place."

Later, Jackson went to live with another aunt in Houston, where he attended Kashmere High School, famous for its award-winning jazz band throughout the 1970s, as documented in Mark Landsman's film *Thunder Soul* (see "Kismet in Kashmere," Screens, March 12, 2010). Jackson's tenure there predated the Kashmere Stage Band era, but the coincidence resonates. During this time, Jackson began connecting with state and national civil rights activists, meeting future Rep. Barbara Jordan at Texas Southern University.

"I stayed up the street off Lyons Avenue [in Houston], where she stayed," he recalls. "I had a speech impediment. She always told me to work on breathing to improve my speech. To choose my words. She said that people would always interpret a speech impediment as a mental impediment. I always remember that."

Jordan was but one legend of civil rights significance whose path Jackson would cross.

Jackson became part of what nowadays might be called the street team for Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown who, before their international notoriety as members of the Black Panthers, appeared at the University of Texas as part of an anti-war speaking engagement with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the youth

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group affiliated with Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Soon thereafter, the burgeoning radical was drafted for military service, after which he enrolled at UT with some well-placed influence from then-UT Dean John Silber, now president emeritus at Boston University and previous Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate. Silber's office sent the following statement:

"Larry Jackson entered the University of Texas full of energy and personality. His early initiatives sometimes answered to particular social needs but were contrary to [UT] policies. In time, he developed projects that could be supported by the University and greatly increased his influence. He was clearly a leader with intelligence, ideas, and a great deal of charisma. I'm pleased but not surprised to learn he continues to work with African-American youth."

"Out of that," Jackson points out, "I started Child Inc., which here is the Head Start free-and-reduced-lunch program in AISD."

Working with or on the political campaigns of Austin progressives Gonzalo Barrientos, Wilhelmina Delco, Gus Garcia, Lloyd Doggett, and Richard Moya came next. And drum lines?

"Music is a means to reach people," says Jackson, still talking progressive politics. "Now there's all kinds of music, all styles, but music is where young people have a united ear."

Pacific Ocean Boulevard

A teen gnaws on a lollipop and slings her arm across her friend's shoulder. Their booties bump to imaginary beats – imaginary because it's smooth jazz oozing out of the PA. That's how the band director likes it, and it's his fundraiser.

"This is our last car wash," he laughs. "A lot of the kids graduated yesterday and some today, so they're just kind of dragging tail."

Cymbal-slinger LaTonya Watson isn't one of the tail-draggers. Her incandescent grin outshines the Texas glare. Today's car wash raises funds for another of Larry Jackson's ideas: the Southwest Bound Marching Band Caravan University and College Tour, which takes the Austin All-Stars, Houston All-Stars, and Johnson School of Performing Arts from Killeen/Fort Hood on a weeklong tour of colleges and sites along the route between Texas and the West Coast. Watson's loyalty to Jackson, Armstrong, Reagan High, and the Austin All-Star group is clear. She's not going on tour since she graduated last night and is preparing for her freshman year at Texas State, but here she is on Saturday morning scrubbing cars alongside the dozen or so bandmates resisting the temptation to snap towels and spray one another with hoses.

"Mr. Jackson is so inspirational, what he does for us kids," she gushes.

This unprecedented SWAC-style high school band tour will take a caravan of buses packed with teenagers and chaperones across Texas to Balmorhea State Park; UT-El Paso; New Mexico State in Las Cruces, N.M.; and Arizona State in Phoenix; to Los Angeles and Palo Alto, Calif., to tour UCLA, USC, Cal State, and Stanford; to Las Vegas for a visit to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and a performance at Circus Circus; and with additional performance stops

at the Grand Canyon, the Hoover Dam, Venice Beach, and possibly the Facebook headquarters. Former Motown marketing Vice President Jonathan Clark, a Cal State and USC alum collaborating with Jackson, is using his connections to get the kids on a shared bill at Blair High School in Pasadena, Calif., with R&B/jazz artist Lalah Hathaway as well as booking a tour of Stevie Wonder's radio station, KJLH.

"We want to leave an indelible impression on these kids," says Clark, "not just for the academic experiences, but to let them see the sun set over the Pacific Ocean."

Armstrong notes that due to the group's SWAC connection, the kids are "always looking at the SWAC schools, but it's good for them to see that there's more out there. There are more educational opportunities out there if you look for them. It's going to open the kids' eyes to different college opportunities."

"My whole purpose has been to bring about change in the community," insists Jackson, whose radical path of sticking it to "the man" has led him to the cultural progressiveness of this current endeavor. "My whole goal is to do these things with no public funding. For instance, the Battle of the Bands has no budget."

One nerve center of band mothers is all abuzz behind the Reagan High band room. As the band runs through its paces, details of the coming tour are falling into place. Michelle Dean, whose son, Austin High School student Jacob Ruegg, is touring with the All-Stars, is hard at work. She and four other mothers are sorting medical releases and tour waivers and working out the dollar details. Between parents and other connections in AISD, the hustle is on to secure cheap or free lodging, mostly on school campuses, as well as food – their lunch cards work nationally at any public school cafeteria. The car wash is an opportunity for the kids to take care of their share. Local bus company Star Shuttle has negotiated a reasonable rate per rider. Jackson's dream of keeping the tour at a zero-fundraising budget may just come true after all.

"He's always had big visions," Armstrong says of Jackson and his dedication to the kids and the opportunities he's created for them. "He's just been a blessing to me, to Reagan High School, and to the band program. It's a testament to his character, to never give up on us when everyone else did."

Working at the Car Wash

Two cars line up as the kids begin to clean. "You heard what I said," Armstrong insists. "I don't want to see you just standing around. These people are giving you money so you can go on this trip."

His job today is herding cats. Wet, sluggish cats.

Meticulously scrubbing the grill of the first car, one older gentleman has his head down, set to the task at hand. So intent, so quiet, so eyes-on-the-prize, Larry Jackson hardly notices that our interview is about to begin. ■

The eighth annual Alvin Patterson Battle of the Bands & Drumline takes place Saturday, June 18, 6pm at Nelson Field, 7200 Berkman, just east of Reagan High School. Tickets are \$15 at the gate and \$10 advance purchase from Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar #148, Bldg. B, 323-6901, www.mitchie.com.

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THE WOODEN BIRDS

Two Matchsticks (Barsuk)

From the American Analog Set's seminal slowcore to his first solo foray on 2005's Post-Parlo solo split with Ben Gibbard, *Home: Volume V*, Andrew Kenny ebbs meditative lulls of steady, percussive strums that belie an often more turbulent disillusion. Following up his 2009 Wooden Birds debut, *Magnolia*, the local indie singer-songwriter largely stays the course behind subtle and plaintive half-revealed narratives, shimmering sonics finding a slightly heavier emphasis in Kenny's self-deployed arrangements. The sophomore effort's growth lies in its outlook, which still churns restlessly under his melodic pull, with an older, more reflective tone defined at the outset on openers "Folly Cub" and "Two Matchsticks" and bleeding through the weariness of "Company Time." Leslie Sisson's vocals shade harmonies throughout and lead with a country flair on "Baby Jeans," while Gibbard accents the grappling "Warm to the Blade" and Matt Pond provides a more Midlake-feel on "Be No Lie." **(The Wooden Birds conclude their tour at Mohawk, Wednesday, July 20.)**

★★★ – Doug Freeman

JOE ELY
Satisfied at Last
(Rack 'Em)

Satisfied at Last is being touted as a milestone in Joe Ely's decade-spanning oeuvre, and there's much to love in the old-dog leather bag of tricks he's carried throughout his travels. Packed with West Texas mythos, Ely's latest revisits the hardscrabble Lubbock poet and his ever romantic muse, the titles alone telling of the journey by a man looking back over his shoulder: "The Highway Is My Home," "Not That Much Has Changed," "You Can Bet I'm Gone." And if *Satisfied* is indeed that, the next Ely album demands that someone challenge his music to a duel. Assembling stellar accompaniment – guitarist Mitch Watkins and the classic Ely rhythm duo of Davis McLarty and Glenn Fukunaga among them – *Satisfied* lacks a contemporary six-string firebrand like Ely's late partner in crime Jesse Taylor and a team of young production bucks kicking in the stall all night. There's a younger generation out there ready to discover Joe Ely, and heaven knows they could use him.

★★★ – Margaret Moser



Chili Cold Blood and guts to smoking gun powder burns. A spidery guitar break on opener "Cold Sun" and McKeown's end flourish on "Jezebel Stomp" loosen aural pheromones leading to a Red River rumble on "Your Not the Only One," though it's the roundhouse wallop of "Black Eyed Susan" backed by the cymbal splash and guitar sirens of "Silent Blue" that sets *Black Pistol Fire* rolling and tumbling toward the last third of the LP. Bull's-eye.

★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

THE ECHOCENTRICS
Sunshadows (Ubiquity)

OCOTE SOUL SOUNDS

Taurus (ESL Music)

The Echocentrics began with an obscure Peruvian bolero that caught the ear of Adrian Quesada a decade ago. Intoxicated by the searing soul-psych warble of "Esclavo y Amo" by Los Pasteles Verdes, the guitarist behind local Latin stalwarts Grupo Fantasma and Brownout began sketching songs in the same vein. The ballad – featuring Argentine vocalist Natalia Clavier – is a standout on the now fully realized *Sunshadows*. The cover art, depicting a vintage amp and speaker sitting on a dusty sun-scorched road in middle-of-nowhere Texas, perfectly captures the desert psychedelia of arid instrumentals "Don Alejo" and "Electric Travels." Brazilian singer Tita Lima, who has a bloodline to the legendary Os Mutantes, splashes *tropicália* on three tracks. A collaboration between Quesada and Antibalas founder Martín Perna, Ocote Soul Sounds is another side project, although with three albums since the last Antibalas release, it's morphing into Perna's primary creative outlet. Produced by



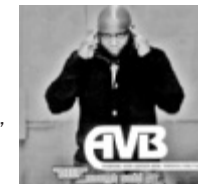
Eric Hilton of Thievery Corporation, *Taurus* is Ocote's most polished work but loses none of the Afro-Latin voodoo that has grounded the group since its 2004 debut. Ocote always grooved implicit protest music, yet it takes sharper aim on the rolling Afrobeat of "STTP (Speak Truth to Power)" and "Pan y Circo," an indictment of big-stakes sports. Guest shaman Chico Mann shakes the ancients on "En el Temblor," while Clavier, another Echocentrics thread, charms on a trio of numbers. Add *Taurus* and *Sunshadows* to the sensational psychotropic soundtracks cooked up when Perna and Quesada are unbound by their big bands. (Both) ★★★ – Thomas Fawcett

ANDRAE VAN BUREN

"Deep" ... Nough Said

Forget any pretense concerning "mainstream" jazz, whatever that may be these days. Local saxophonist/arranger/producer Andrae Van Buren deals in slow, simmering, soulful moods that are ultra laid-back, the perfect soundtrack for your most imaginative after-hours escapades. Often known by the moniker "Nookie Coltrane," Van Buren complements his more renowned namesake only in the vaguest sense, in this case Trane's penchant for gentle balladry. There's no denying a heartfelt and genuine feeling here for a groove that comfortably encompasses jazz, soul, R&B, and hip-hop – sometimes in the same tune – as on "It Aint Me." A Memphis-to-Austin transplant who's paid his dues with local aggregations like Tunji, Hip-Hop Humpday, and D-Madness and is currently with San Antonio's MoJoe, Van Buren's playing recalls the tart, blues-inflected tones of fellow Memphis, Tenn.-born alto saxman Hank Crawford. If "*Deep*" ... *Nough Said* is any indication, he's someone to keep an eye on.

★★★ – Jay Trachtenberg



girlie action BY MARGARET MOSER

LISA MORALES

Beautiful Mistake (Zaino)

As one half of 1990s Tex-Mex favorites Sisters Morales, Lisa Morales trekked from her native Tucson, Ariz., to Texas, shunning Nashville, Tenn., for an indie path. *Beautiful Mistake* reveals her unerring ear and compelling voice amid patchwork originals of wistful country ("Looking for Something Beautiful"), tender balladry ("I Can't Stop Thinking"), and all-out rock ("Drivin and Cryin"). Yet it's the dirty backseat allure of "I Wanna Be in Love" that makes Morales memorable: "I wanna hold your hand/I wanna wear your shirt/I wanna smell your smell/Baby take off my skirt." ★★★



LIBBY KIRKPATRICK

Heroine (Heart Music)

Philadelphia native Libby Kirkpatrick relocated to Austin 10 years ago with a trunkful of songwriting honors, but it took the pitter-patter of tiny cowboy boots to cross-stitch this colorful sampler of emotions. These aren't cute, mumsy songs about wondrous infants, though. They're reflective, dreamy songs of transition ("Alice," "Beautiful Illusion"), free of bitterness, with jaunty jazz touches ("In This Life"), an occasional cautionary tale ("Devil Inside"), and a true gem in "Trying." ★★★



VANESSA LIVELY

Uncovering Stones (Animada)

"Through the Veil" and "Men in White Hats" aptly demonstrate Vanessa Lively's polished songwriting across the eclectic musical pantheon, but her calling lies in her *puro Americano* confluence of American roots and border music ("Estoy Volando," "Baile Conmigo"), such songs dominating her previous *Canto y Cantera*. That's not to suggest that her country ("Honeybee") and folk ("Follow Your Heart") aren't as weighty, only that the road between San Antonio and Austin is paved with guitars, and she strikes a chord in Spanish. ★★★



LITTLE BRAVE

Wound & Will

The stream of consciousness running through *Wound & Will* is colored deep red. New Braunfels' Little Brave (aka Stephanie Briggs, aka Stephanie Macías) might be suffering from identity issues, but her time-honored use of music as catharsis yields bittersweet sentiments ("Monster," "Time To Forget"), drops a couple of radio-style tracks ("Mercy," "Blame") in the mix, and weaves unexpectedly lush musical textures ("Fool," "The Invitation," "Cut & Paste") throughout. Heavy on regret but confident with hope. ★★

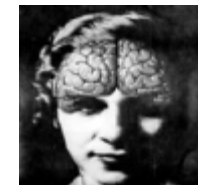


RUBBLE

The Farewell Drugs
(Latino Buggerveil)

Lowbrow or no brow? That's never been clear with Rubble, a slouching post-punk creature gathering its drug-rock in erratic doses over the last seven years. On its long-awaited debut LP, the Austin quintet doesn't blow its load on solos or "lyrics," jumping straight into the void instead. Opening dose "Cigarette Rabbit" shape-shifts into the Chrome-like chug of "It's So Easy," which gives way to blues-rock anxiety "You Can't Ever Come Down." Guitarists Bobby Baker and Shawn David McMillen, bassist Matt Turner, Butthole Surfers' beat King Coffey, and keyboardist Craig Stewart make expert use of pure psych-rock substances: fuzz, delay, dread. "Tom of Midland" has all three, while Ralph White's kalimba on "Old Dominion" is an inspired touch. "White Melt" is a straight-up Surfers flashback, and "Grey at Grace" backs out of *The Farewell Drugs* gracefully after all the crude energy. Real Texas psych.

★★★ – Audra Schroeder



LEAD STORY

In Chinese legend, tea leaves picked by fairies using not their hands but just their mouths yielded brewed tea that would bring prosperity and cure diseases, and now the historic, picturesque Jihua Mountain Tea Plantation (in Gushi, Henan province) has promised to hire up to 10 female virgins to provide the equivalently pure and delicate tea leaves, picked with the teeth and dropped into small baskets worn around the women's necks. According to an April report in London's *Daily Mail*, only virgins with strong necks, lips, and a bra cup size of C or larger (and without visible scars or blemishes) will be considered for the jobs, paying the equivalent of \$80 per day – an almost unheard-of salary in China, especially for agricultural fieldwork.

Note: Last month, "News of the Weird" reminded readers that bizarre human adventures repeat themselves again and again. Here are a few more recent selections of previous themes:

Cliché Come to Life: The person in the news most recently for slipping and falling on a banana peel might be Ida Valentine, 58, who filed a lawsuit in February against the 99 Cents Only chain after slipping on one while shopping in its store in Fontana, Calif., in April 2010. The fall, she said, left her with a herniated disk and tissue damage.

The powerful suction of swimming-pool filters can trap not only toddlers against the drain but also a grown man in excellent physical condition, according to a lawsuit filed in May by the family of the late John Van Hoy Jr., who drowned when he was unable to pry himself loose from the vacuum drain of a hot tub at the Sandals resort in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2010. (The most notorious drain-pegging of all time was perhaps a 1994 incident at a Scottish Inn motel in Lakeland, Fla., when a 33-year-old guest's penis became stuck in the drain, apparently as he was testing the filter's suction. That story did not appear in "News of the Weird," but several sources cite a July 1994 story in the *St. Petersburg Times*.)

British welfare benefits are being reduced in two years, but for now, work-shunning parents who blithely navigate a series of government "support" payments can make a nice living for themselves. Kathy Black, 45, of East Hanningfield, Essex, with 16 children by five fathers thus qualifies for the equivalent of at least \$1,000 a week (the take-home pay of someone earning the equivalent of \$69,000 a year), and child support from one of the fathers adds even more to her account. Black's 17-year-old son, 22-year-old daughter, and second husband spilled secrets of her irresponsibility to a *Daily Mail* reporter in February.

In May, a man exploring rural property in Lebanon, Ore., came across what appeared to be a classic World War II-era bomb, but, unfamiliar with the ordnance, he became only the most recent person to make the completely unwise decision to load it into his vehicle and drive to a police station (in Corvallis). Officers at the station reacted predictably and logically: They fled the room, closed down the streets around the station, and called the nearest bomb squad, which later detonated it safely.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



"News of the Weird" has reported several times on the confusion many art gallery visitors reveal by evaluating abstract impressionist pieces, comparing them to random scribbles of toddlers or animals (such as chimpanzees and elephants). In April, academic researchers at Boston College reported that, indeed, gallery patrons correctly differentiated serious works from squiggles only about 60% to 70% of the time. Commented one survey subject, apparently realizing his confusion: "The chimpanzee's stuff is good. I like how he plays with metaphors about depth of field, but I think I like this guy [Mark] Rothko a little bit better."

Least Competent DIY Homeowners: Reports still frequently emerge of homeowners battling household pests, yet only creating an even worse problem, as if the pests had ultimately outsmarted them. In recent cases, for example, Robert Hughes tried to oust the squirrels from his townhome in Richton Park, Ill., in March, but his smoke bomb badly damaged his unit and his neighbors'; firefighters had to rip open the roof in the two units to battle the blaze. Two weeks after that, in Mesa, Ariz., a man set his attic on fire trying to get rid of a beehive with brake fluid and a cigarette lighter.

Beauty contests for camels are very big business in Saudi Arabia, as "News of the Weird" reported in 2007, but the first one in Turkey (in Selcuk) was held in January and featured considerably lower-market camels. The Turkish winner had been purchased for the equivalent of \$23,000; a Saudi camel once won \$10 million in a single show. Judges supposedly look for muscle tone, elegance of tail-wag, and tooth quality, according to a January *Wall Street Journal* dispatch. Charisma is also important, according to one judge. "Camels," he said, "realize people are watching them, so they're trying to pose. ... Some camels will stop, open their back legs and wave their tail, or cock their head back and moan – this is the kind of posing we [judges] are looking for."

From time to time, someone visiting his bathroom looks down and finds the eyes of a critter staring back at him from the toilet bowl. In March, Dennis Mulholland, 67, of Paisley, Scotland, encountered a 3-foot-long California Kingsnake hiding in the bowl after escaping from elsewhere in the building. In December 2010, a woman in Edmond, Okla., had a similar experience with a squirrel, which, hypothesized police, might have crawled through a sewer drain.

Personal bodily orifices as storage units for contraband seem more in vogue than ever. Recent inventories made by police of suspects' vaginas included LSD in aluminum foil and marijuana in two sandwich bags (Englewood, Fla., January); pills (Manatee County, Fla., February); heroin (Scranton, Pa., March); a fraudulent driver's license and credit card (Lee County, Fla., May); and pills and a knife (Fort Myers, Fla., May). Rectal safekeeping included a man with a baggie of marijuana (Louisville, Ky., April), a man with a marijuana pipe (Port St. Lucie, Fla., May), and a man with 30 items inside a condom (Sarasota, Fla., February), including a syringe, lip balm, six matches, a cigarette, 17 pills, and a CVS receipt and coupon.

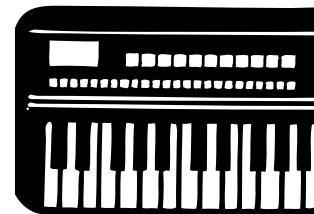
Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com
(or www.newsoftheweird.com).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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THURSDAY 16

*** FILMS FOR THE FOREST BLOCK**

PARTY Live music and arts & crafts precede a screening of the winning films of the Rainforest Partnership's 3-Minute Film Challenge. 6-10pm. Rainforest Partnership Headquarters, 505 Willow, 420-0101. Free. www.filmsfortheforest.org.

MAMMO MIXERS Manicures, refreshments, and, oh yeah, mammograms. Call to RSVP 6pm. The Breast Center at St. David's Medical Center, 919 E. 32nd #111, 544-8803. Free. www.stdavids.com.

READY, SET, GROW Coming-of-age saga told through rap and spoken word via the inspired lips, etc. of artist Tim'm T. West as part of the Black Arts Movement Festival. 8-11pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$22, discounts for multiple BAM show purchase. www.bamaustin.org.

ROCK WITH RUBY Check out the recent CD, LP and live show as Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers return to ATX. 9:30pm. Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. Free. www.rustysaustin.com.

ARE YOU WORTH A MILLION IN PRIZES? How about \$300? Well, come on down and take it all off, Bruce; we'll be the judge of that. All-male and amateur, just like you like it. Thursdays, 9pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.

AUSTIN BAT CAVE KIDS WRITING WORKSHOPS What a great way to spend the summer! ABC and Urban Roots Farm tour, light farm work, and journaling. Ages 10-18. See website for details. www.austinbatcave.org/workshops.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bonnie and Clyde @ Paramount, 7pm
Films for the Forest Film Festival @ Rainforest Partnership, 6pm
The Thin Man @ Yarborough Library, 6:30pm
They Live by Night @ Paramount, 9:15pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

The Capaces Red 7
Ultradry Victory Grill

FRIDAY 17

YOMICON is an anime convention for teens and tweens. Check out the steam-punk panel or the discussion on how to be a game-master. The more adventurous can enter the cosplay contest or the Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament or try out video games on the big screen. Bring two cans to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank and get Yomi Yen, which can be traded for food and other goodies. 3-9pm. Ruiz Branch Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

SONIDOS DEL BARRIO SHOWCASE

The Austin Latino Music Association commemorates the third anniversary of the Trail of Tejano Legends and the lives of three of those legends: Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, Guadalupe "Shorty" Ortiz, and Roger Velasquez. And what better way to commemorate them than to have them (and many others) play their music? 6pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 563-3697. Free.

*** RECOMMENDED**
YOUNG ONES
GAY PLACES

KIDS' WALK THROUGH AUSTIN HISTORY

Is it a scavenger hunt or a guided tour through historic Austin? Is it fun or learning? Why not let the kids decide? Enrollment is limited to 12 people and is recommended for ages 6 to 12.

9:30-11:30am. Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hannig Museum, 411 E. Fifth, 974-3830. \$20 for one child and one adult. www.susannadickinsonmuseum.org.

SATURDAY 18

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

CELEBRATE TEXAS COCKTAILS The food options will be good, but the custom drinks made from local spirits and mixed by local mixologist luminaries will be amazing. 9pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 535-1801. \$60 (\$50, advance). www.mixaustin.net.

GINGER LEIGH: NEW TUNES Come support Ginger with her full electric band. 9pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth #200, 479-8848. www.leigh.com.

ROCK WITH RUBY Check out the recent CD, LP and live show as Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers return to ATX. 9:30pm. Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. Free. www.rustysaustin.com.

R.A.W. FRIDAY DJ Kelly spins his patented vinyllogical warfare at Austin's oldest Levi's/leather/dive bar every last day of the work week. Fridays, 10pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. Free.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bonnie and Clyde @ Paramount, 9pm
Surfing LA @ First Unitarian Church, 7pm
They Live by Night @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Explosions in the Sky Moody Theater
Summer Dance AustinVentures StudioTheater
New Media Art & Sound Summit 2011 Salvage Vanguard Theater
Sahara Smith Threadgill's World HQ
A Storm of Light, Tombs Red 7

THURSDAY, JUNE 16 TO THURSDAY, JUNE 23

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING Your home for rocks and minerals is now also a community center waiting for whatever kind of gathering or event you might have in mind. Check out the space and maybe win a prize while you're there. 10am-8pm. Nature's Treasures Community Center, 4103 N. I-35, 472-5015. Free. www.ntrocks.com.

HYDE PARK HISTORIC HOMES TOUR Highlights include an 1890s two-story home moved from West Campus, as well as other historic homes updated to the 21st century. Stop by Saturday or Sunday to catch a tour group and to enjoy some arts & crafts booths with kids' activities. Sat., June 18, 10am-5pm; Sun., June 19, 1-5pm. Tour begins at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 474-1144. \$15 (free, kids 10 & under). www.hydeparkhomestour.org.

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

I'M GAY, AND I VOTE On June 1, 2009, President Barack Obama first issued a Presidential Proclamation naming June National LGBT Pride Month. He issued a similar proclamation again on May 28, 2010, again this year on May 31, and is expected to issue it in 2012, and then again for four more years if we re-elect him. On Dec. 22, 2010, during what turned out to be a pretty darned badass lame duck session, Obama signed into law the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. At its signing, the prez related an amazing story about two friends in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge, a story of courage and loyalty, about one friend risking life and limb for another, and about that rescued friend learning that his hero was gay – 40 years later! And it didn't matter! It changed neither their friendship nor the fact that a human life was saved – not by one iota. It's crazy that our feisty and rightfully pissed-off LGBT community, so quick to voice dissatisfaction with O-bam's pace on wiping out discrimination against us, did not mark this occasion with parades, fireworks, and naked parties in the streets, the fierce appreciation this overdue overturn deserved. Sure, the pace of politics labors like a big, fat, bloated woolly mammoth, but there was our prez, representing us and our lives. As we demand our rights, we must commemorate and celebrate our advancements, not just to make Mr. President feel good or to rub victory in the face of detractors, but for ourselves – to exercise our grace and fortitude despite very challenging, often dignity-stripping circumstances. Political engagement is still tricky for a lot of us in the LGBT realm. We are tender and often left licking deep, dark wounds.

Nowadays, it's easy to think the only requirement for political vitality is to forward a Facebook post or click on a link. Well guess what? It's so much more challenging than that. It's a gigantic pain in the ass. It's sweat- and back-breaking. So much is expected of us: We have to go out and pull a lever. We have to vote. Locally, we have a chance to re-elect Austin's first publicly out LGBT council member. Reflect on that for a moment. Austin: blue dot, red sea. And it wasn't until the late 2000s that we first elected an openly gay council member? Outness factors into that equation, for sure. Does that imply previous council members may have been in the closet? Hmm. Personally, this columnist likes Randi Shade, our first out lesbian (or gay, for that matter) on City Council up for re-election this week. I don't agree with everything she has done, and I don't disagree with everything her opponent touts. But I prefer Randi's wonkiness. She reminds me of Obama in that head-down, small-tasks, steady-keel type of nerdy wonkitude. I like that she works on the Hate Crimes Task Force and is supported by infrastructure frontliners like firefighters, EMTs, police, laborers, and heck, the League of Bicycling Voters. I like that she has been supportive of live music issues in ways that only a truly goofy wonk can be. And I won't lie, I really like that she is a big ol' ... first out-LGBT council member. She doesn't toot her horn enough, even as this arc of her political career hangs in the balance. And I can't believe that all I have to do to support her and thank her for repping us in this historic first is to find my precinct, go out to the polls this Saturday, turn a wheel, and click enter.

Send gay bits to
[gayplace@
austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).
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L - R: JUNETEENTH EVENTS (SEE P.58) | FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS (SPORTS, P.59) | WOYZECK (ARTS, P.60) | GREEN LANTERN (FILM, P.64) | BOOTSY COLLINS (MUSIC, P.72)

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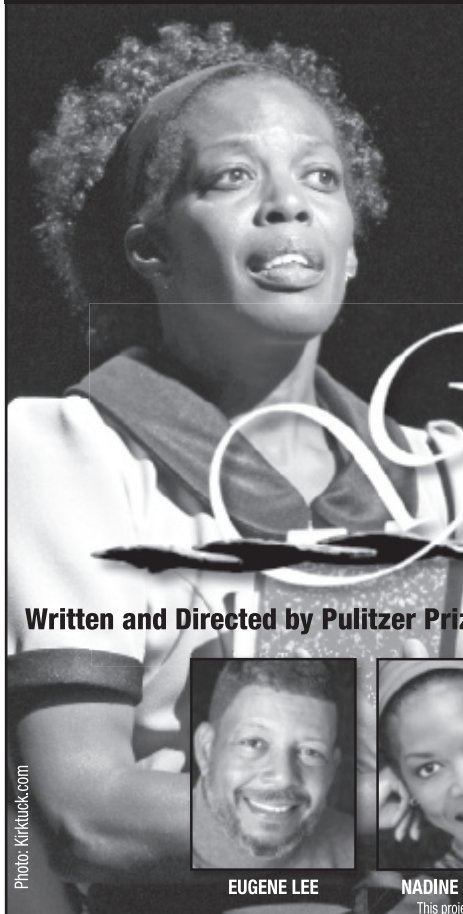
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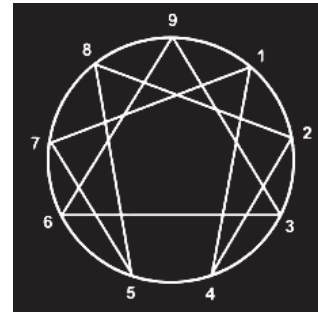
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- June 26** German Traditional Music- The Walburg Trio featuring Ronney Tippelt
- July 3** Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English Music featuring The Blue Buckskin Winchers
- July 10** Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia and Balkan Music featuring The Flying Balalaika Brothers
- July 17** Czech Music featuring The Czech Melody Masters and The Czech Singers
- July 24** Indian Subcontinent (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) Traditional Music featuring Ustad Amzad Rahman and Company on Harmonium, Tablas, and Vocals
- July 31** Native American Music featuring Mario Garza and Mexican Music featuring Conjunto Aztlan

In Collaboration With: Texas Folklife, Graduate Program in Ethnomusicology at UT Austin, UT Austin Community Engagement Center- DDCE, School of Social Work at UT Austin, Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University at San Marcos, German-Texan Heritage Society, Indigenous Cultures Institute, Austin Czech Historical Association, Austin College of Indian Music, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Austin Latino Music Association, The Historic Victory Grill and Carver Museum and Cultural Center.

This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division



FATHER/SON LATIN DANCE PARTY (SEE SUNDAY)



YOMICON (SEE FRIDAY)



WILD WEST FATHER'S DAY (SEE SATURDAY)

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FREE CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING Hey, youths, ages 14-23! Are you navigating the tricky waters of your burgeoning sea of sexuality? Get tested! You may also gain financial incentives for bringing a friend in to get tested, too, at these free, weekly KYSS program screenings. *Every Monday, 4:30-6:30pm. Out Youth, 909 E. 49th, 419-1233. Free. monrovia@outyouth.org. www.outyouth.org.*

WE PADDLE, YOU PARTY Stand-up paddlers will travel 21 miles across Lake Austin and celebrate when they reach the destination. You're invited to celebrate with them and help the cause. Money raised goes to the Flatwater Foundation, which assists cancer patients suffering from mental health issues. *5-8pm. Abel's on the Lake, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. Donations appreciated. www.damthatcancer.com.*

AI SD REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING Austin ISD is planning to rejigger the trustee districts to ensure that the population is equally divided. See archive.austinsd.org/inside/board for proposed maps, and share your input at today's meeting or through the online form. *6pm. 1111 W. Sixth.*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE Andrew Alpar, M.D., discusses the pros and cons of alternative medicine ... mostly cons. *7pm. Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 459-5835. Free. www.meetup.com/cfaustint/events/17011843.*

MONDAY SOCIAL UNDER THE STARS: CAP CITY QS All ages, all stripes, no dues, no fees, just you and your desire to mack ... errrr, network in the heart of the North Austin shopping mecca. Gay Place highly endorses. (Women encouraged to attend.) *7-10pm. Aloft Austin, 11601 Domain Dr., 491-0777. Free. www.capitalcityqsocals.com.*

WORLD REFUGEE DAY RALLY Celebrate Austin's immigrant community and speak out against the proposed Karnes County immigrant detention center. The march begins at the Texas Capitol and travels to the Travis County jail. *7pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress, 971-0487. tuff@grassrootsleadership.org.*

E'S WHITE TRASH B-DAY Or E's 10th annual 21st birthday, take your pick. Either way, they promise live bands, Little Debbie b-day cake, Totino pizza roll piñata (!!!), and Pin the Tail on the Honky. *8-11pm. Bernadette's, 2039 Airport.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Deeper and Deeper @ Violet Crown, 6:30pm*
Taxi Driver @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Lovely Sparrows Mohawk

TUESDAY 21

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CLASSES City officials help local businesses find the resources they need at these weekly meetups. Whether you're just thinking about starting a business or already have one, this class is for you. Go online or call to register. *Tuesdays, 9-10:30am. 201 E. Second, 974-7800. Free. www.austinsmallbiz.org.*

TREATS FOR INDIE CINEMA Help Cinema41 support the independent film scene by buying food or treats at either of these neighboring eateries. Tell them it's for Cinema41, and a portion of the sale will be donated. *11am-10:30pm. Amy's Ice Creams & Phil's Ice House, 5620 Burnet Rd. www.cinema41.com.*

BEYOND DIVERSITY: RETHINKING EQUALITY The Greater Austin Forum on Diversity and Inclusion brings UT prof and left-leaning gadabout Robert Jensen for some real talk on achieving genuine equality in our society. *11:30am-1pm. 5604 Manor, 5604 Manor Rd., 391-2305. Free. sarah.romero@safvic.org. www.5604manor.org.*

SUMMER SOCIAL FASHION SHOW Sushi, jazz, and strut-worthy fashions are just a portion of the goings-on that will benefit the Dress for Success charity. Bring clothes to donate that are appropriate for job interviews and a professional workplace, and help low-income women get back on track. *4:30-7:30pm. Pirahna Killer Sushi, 207 San Jacinto #202, 473-8775.*

LISTEN TO OUTCAST! Tweak your knobs to 91.7FM: It's OutCast with Stephen Rice and friends. Listen as they welcome and grill guests from every band of the rainbow. KOOP = queer, yo! *Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org. www.outcastaustin.com.*

WEDD & THE CITY Surround yourself with local wedding professionals while enjoying cocktails, appetizers, and the harsh reality of what nuptials run you these days. *6-8pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. \$10 (\$5, advance). www.chezwed.com.*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING Beyrl Armstrong tackles issues of land management in light of the realities of global climate change. *7pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free. www.npsot.org/austin.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Fahrenheit 451 @ Paramount, 9:25pm*
Farewell @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
McCabe & Mrs. Miller @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Parlor's Closing Night The Parlor
Emmylou Harris Moody Theater
Blue Corn Music Anniversary Antone's

WEDNESDAY 22

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC FOR STRAY CATS Do your neighborhood a favor and get the strays around your house vaccinated, sterilized, treated for fleas, and dewormed. *Every Wednesday and Thursday, 6:30-8:30am. Austin Humane Society, 124 W. Anderson, 646-7387. Free. www.austinhumanesociety.org/ferals.*

ASO: CHILDREN'S DAY ART PARK Learn about the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its various instruments (and performers), take part in arts & crafts, listen to storytellers, and more. Why not play a tune yourself at the instrument petting zoo? This week features the sounds of Joe McDermott. *Wednesdays through July 27, 9:30-11:30am. Symphony Square, 1101 Red River, 476-6064. 50 cents per child (free for adults accompanying a child). www.austinsymphony.org.*

THE SINGING ZOOLOGIST Lucas Miller shares his animal-loving tunes with the kiddos. He'll also sign his latest book, *Bluebonnet Time!* Kids can't get enough signatures these days. *1:30pm. Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main Ave., Round Rock, 512/218-7002. Free. www.lucasmillernet.net.*

KARAOKE FUN AT THE LIBRARY C'mon. You know you've always wanted to make an ungodly racket at the library. No shushing allowed. *3:30-6:30pm. Cepeda Branch Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 974-7372. Free. www.austintexas.gov/library.*

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY Austin City Limits continues its music series with Seth Walker accompanied by classy appetizers and happy-hour prices on wine. *5-7pm. Moody Theater, 310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd., 877/471-4225. Free. allegra@giantnoise.com.*

AFRICA'S PROMISE VILLAGE SUNSET SOIREE Meet the UT professor and his architecture students designing a school in rural Tanzania and help the community in that area. Entertainment and presentations keep the eyes and ears busy while the live and silent auctions keep your wallet engaged. *6:30-10pm. The Oasis, 6550 Comanche Trail, 291-3593. \$40. www.africaspromisevillage.org/eventticket.html.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Fahrenheit 451 @ Paramount, 7pm*
McCabe & Mrs. Miller @ Paramount, 9:15pm
Slacker @ Austin Studios, 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Ramblin' Jack Elliott Cactus Cafe

THURSDAY 23

COMMUNITY CAREER EXPO features workshops to help you spruce up your résumé and practice your job interview technique. Spanish and sign-language translators will be available. Preregister online. *9am-3pm. Goodwill Community Center, 1015 Norwood Park Blvd. Free. www.austingoodwill.org.*

BIKE! BIKE! This conference comes to San Marcos and brings bike-oriented nonprofits and organizations to help you talk shop and schmooze with other like-minded community organizers on two wheels. Forums, workshops, and more keep things educational. *Thu.-Sun., June 23-26. San Marcos Community Bike Project, 155 S. LBJ, 512/665-2145. \$25-45. www.bikebike.org.*

TEA WITH WILHELMINA DELCO Austin Woman magazine invites you to high tea with the civil rights legend. Delco will give a short speech followed by a Q&A. *2-5pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 328-2421. \$60. www.eventbrite.com/event/1610955411.*

KITTYPALOOZA KICK-OFF PARTY The Town Lake Animal Center gets its weekend of discounted cat adoptions off on the right foot with a video presentation, prizes, auctions, and even a few kittens to tug at the heartstrings. *5-8pm. Mean-Eyed Cat, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326. Free. www.friendssoftlac.com.*

KARAOKE AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S How much money would it take to get your friend to sing your favorite song? Don't worry; the money is going to the Alzheimer's Association. Call or email for more info. *6-9pm. Hang Town Grill, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 918-2800. austin@arden-courts.com, www.hangtowngrill.com.*

ARE YOU WORTH A MILLION IN PRIZES? (See Thursday, 6/16.)

AUSTIN BAT CAVE KIDS WRITING WORKSHOPS (See Thursday, 6/16.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof @ Prothro Theater at Harry Ransom Center, 7pm
Stir Crazy @ Paramount, 9:10pm
Uptown Saturday Night @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Kingdom of Suicide Lovers Ruta Maya
The Greencards Threadgill's World HQ

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 July 1 issue is Monday, June 20.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

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

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

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

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

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



MEN RALLY FOR CHANGE (SEE SATURDAY)

Juneteenth

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

ongoing

25 YEARS OF SXSW MUSIC Documents, photos, posters, and A/V clips tell the story of a developing festival and the effort to brand Austin as the live music capital of the world. *Through July 31. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7480. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

BICYCLE MAP UPDATE Need help getting around our town on your human-powered two-wheeler? Check out the city's new and improved bike map, now with steep-hill-whereabouts technology. OK, it's not really technology, but helpful nonetheless. www.cityofaustin.org/publicworks/bicycle.htm.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOME CALL FOR DONATIONS The Settlement Home for abused and neglected children needs items (clothing, furniture, sporting goods, collectibles, jewelry, etc.) for its annual garage sales. Home pickup can be arranged for bigger items. 836-2150. www.settlementhome.org.

CINEMAKIDS CALL FOR ENTRIES Kids 18 and younger are invited to submit their short films for the Cinemakids festival in September. Registration forms and entry criteria can be found online. Submissions must be received by July 1. 475-8648. \$15 registration fee. rtf.utexas.edu/cinemakids.

COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES Your esteemed public library system offers yet another service to the community: adult computer classes covering everything from the basics to finding a job online. Classes are held in various languages, with some requiring registration beforehand. Go online for a complete schedule and additional details. 974-7400. *Free.* www.cityofaustin.org/library.

FAMILY ELDERCARE FAN DRIVE Help ensure that the elderly keep cool during the dog days by donating a fan. Call or go online for a list of donation drop-off locations. *Through July 31. Family Eldercare, 2210 Hancock, 459-4326. www.familyeldercare.org.*

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER Join the various gatherings throughout the month. Events range from explorations of meditation practices to discussions of film to dream interpretation. Go online for a complete schedule of meetings. *Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

MEALS ON WHEELS AND MORE VOLUNTEERS are desperately needed as temperatures rise, creating an increased demand for the nonprofit's services. Go online for details, or call to volunteer. 476-6325 x131. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org/volunteer.

NEIGHBORHOOD HABITAT CHALLENGE Get the neighborhood organized, and start making your yard more hospitable to wildlife. If your neighborhood ends up with the largest number of certified wildlife habitats ... well, nothing happens, but you get a sense of well-being from a job well done. *Through Nov. 15. 974-4009. www.KeepAustinWild.com.*

ONLINE BUDGET FORUM The city is looking to cut \$9.8 million from the budget for 2012. Wanna help? Offer suggestions and discussion topics online and get the money-saving party started. We suggest replacing cops and firefighters with one giant, inexpensive, multipurpose superrobot and reopening the Trail of Lights. www.speakupaustin.org.

SOLAR SYSTEM REBATE BONUS The math gets a bit tricky, but if you're thinking of installing solar panels on your home, now might be the time. With the city's rebate and federal tax credits, you might only pay \$7,000 for a \$25,000 system. Unless we forgot to carry the one. Go online or call for a professional estimate. 482-5346. www.austinenergy.com.

TALK TIME features conversation practice for English-language learners hoping to fine-tune their skills in a nonthreatening atmosphere. Call or go online for a schedule of times and locations. 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

TOP DRAWER THRIFT SEEKS YOUR SWEET SWAG Gently used goodies! Junque! Crappé! Austin's darling den of dignified detritus wants your stuff. Give until your closets are squeaky clean. *Donations accepted on-site, Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm. Pickups arranged by appointment. Top Drawer Thrift, 4902 Burnet Rd., 454-5161. Free. www.projecttransitions.org.*

WALKING THE BLOCK Local photog Jo Ann Santangelo's intense and insightful B&W project documents New York City's Christopher Street just in time to honor National LGBT Pride Month. *Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10am-5pm, or by appointment, through July 2. B. Hollyman Gallery, 1202-A W. Sixth, 825-6866. www.joannasantangelo.com, www.bhollymangallery.com.*

upcoming

BRING YOUR GAY TEEN TO CHURCH DAY* Relax, fundies. This is not a reparative therapy-fest. It's what the good Lord (or whomever you worship) intended: to affirm life and love and to help fight LGBTQ teen suicide with the truth. God loves gays just as they (we) are. (*"Gay" in this case includes everyone under the umbrella of LGBTQ, and "church" means any place of worship.) See website for details. *Sat.-Sun., June 25-26. www.indiegogo.com/godlovesgays, www.myoutspirit.com.*

ROCK STAR CAREER LAUNCH WORKSHOP ROCKRGRRL magazine founder Carla DeSantis Black shares her expertise with women looking to break into the music biz. Classes consist of eight weekly sessions covering everything from dealing with band drama to merchandising. Wednesday and Saturday sessions are available. *July 6-Aug. 27. Soma Vida, 1210 Rosewood, 206/427 5343. \$175. www.carladesantisblack.com/meow.*

EAST SIXTH FOODIES/SOFTBALL PUB CRAWL Were you at either of the last two Foodies and Blindsided Softball pub crawls? They are nuts: a night of a million lezzies owning East Sixth in a way that makes the hipsters tremble. Free coo ... we mean Koozie. You'll especially want to be there to offer your arm to the ones who really need to crawl. *Sat., July 16, 7pm. East Sixth kick-off location TBD. \$10 (\$8, advance). cowgirlsoftball@gmail.com, blindsidedsoftball@gmail.com, www.foodiesaustin.com, www.debbieknowsaustin.com.*

BEARS ON THE GUADALUPE WEEKEND It's the Grrrrrr Splash, from Austin to San Antone, via a big, fat, bear-sized inner tube. More info to come. *Fri.-Sun., Aug. 19-21.*

SOUNDS OF JUNETEENTH Both locations of Central Market will feature music in celebration of Juneteenth. *Thu., June 16: Donna Hightower & Denia Riley. Fri., June 17: the Texas Eastside Kings. Sat., June 18: the Jeff Lofton Quartet. Sun., June 19: Pamela Allen & the Biscuit Rollers. June 16-19, 6:30-9pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. Free. www.centralmarket.com.*

AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL & HERITAGE FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING Come and see what's in store for the historic Dedrick-Hamilton House on East 11th as it is restored, expanded, and transformed into Austin's home for black culture. *Fri., June 17, 9:30-11am. 912 E. 11th, 974-3128. Free. sandra.harkins@ci.austin.tx.us, www.cityofaustin.org/ahfc/aach_facility.htm.*

JUNETEENTH AT THE CARVER Get prepped for tomorrow's festivities with craft activities, a marketplace, a puppet show, the drumming of Abeko Gidi and his students, Afro-Caribbean dance performances, and several theatre surprises. Volunteers will be dressed in costume and interacting with kids and adults as characters inspired by historic slave narratives. *Sat., June 18, 11am-3pm. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free. www.carvermuseum.org.*

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION What better way to celebrate freedom than with a mixture of partying and heritage? Kicking things off is a community program with speeches and poetry. Afterward, the praise dance competition gets under way. Enjoy art exhibitions, three stages of music, historical

skits, dance competitions, and lots of kids' activities all afternoon and evening. *Sat. June 18, noon-9pm. Rosewood Park, 2300 Rosewood, 472-6838. Free. www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com.*

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR Kids, parents, and everyone in between are invited to enjoy drumming and poetry (1pm), capoeira (2pm), and the music of R.A.S., riddlore, Alex Henly, Stephanie Grissett, and Park N Murray (3:30pm). Vendors and healthy food booths add to the party atmosphere. *Sat., June 18, noon-7pm. Orun Center of Cultural Arts, 1401-B Cedar,*

731-4584. Donations appreciated. www.projectabundantlife.org.

ALVIN PATTERSON BATTLE OF THE BANDS The eighth year of this Juneteenth institution will have all the drum line and school band skills you've come to expect. And that's saying something. See our Music feature about the people behind the annual phenomenon, "Drums Across Texas," p.48. *Sat., June 18, 6pm. Nelson Field, 7400 Berkman, 323-6901. \$15 (\$10, advance). www.mitchie.com.*

POLOS & STILETTOS DJ Wallo and DJ Winnerscircle bring the sounds that put sweat stains on your polo shirt and get the ladies' ankles twisted so good. Keep the Juneteenth party rolling into the evening. *Sat., June 18. MoJoe Room Bar & Grill, 6405 N. I-35 #1600, 206-4110. www.mojoeroom.com.*

JUNETEENTH JAMBOREE ON KLRU Turn your TV to KLRU for an education in Juneteenth history along with some fun in keeping with the nature of the holiday. Historians put the holiday in context of the Civil War before two chefs spotlight local restaurants and recipes to help enjoy Juneteenth even more. *Airing Sat., June 18, 12:30pm; Sun., June 19, 6pm; Mon., June 20, 10pm. 779-2442. www.klrutv.org/juneteenth.*

EMANCIPATION DAY CELEBRATION PHOTO EXHIBIT Learn about the celebration that has come to be known as Juneteenth through photos showing Emancipation Day in 1900. *Through June 20. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-7480. www.austintexas.gov/library.*



COURTESY OF CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

CITY EMPLOYEES JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION Travis County and city of Austin employees open up their Juneteenth celebration to the public with booths of food, arts, crafts, and more. Party animals Judge Samuel T. Biscoe and Commissioner Ron Davis host the festivities. *Fri., June 17, 11am-2pm. Wooldridge Square Park, 900 Guadalupe, 477-1566. Free.*

2K FREEDOM RUN/WALK runs along the Juneteenth parade route and is being held to help raise awareness of African-American health issues with the money going to the Greater East Austin Youth Association. Eight age divisions. *Sat., June 18, 9:30am. Begins at Comal Street and MLK, 671-0873. \$25. www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com.*

HISTORICAL JUNETEENTH PARADE The festivities start at MLK and Comal, travel down Chicon, and end at the Rosewood Park Juneteenth celebration (2300 Rosewood). In between there will be floats, marching bands, drill teams, clowns, and surprises, all traveling at a festive but slow, onlooker-friendly pace. *Sat., June 18, 10am. www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com.*

RHYTHM & RIBS CELEBRATION Round Rock starts the celebration on Friday with a talent show and live music. Saturday starts with a parade and continues with an art show, carnival rides, games, a car show, and more. *Fri., June 17, 6:30-10pm; Sat., June 18, 10am-11pm. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/341-3361. Free. www.roundrocktexas.gov.*

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

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

austinchronicle.com/commform

listings

ESPN 'Friday Night Fights'

ESPN brings its **Friday Night Fights** franchise to town with six intriguing bouts on the card. **Fernando Guerrero**

(undefeated and ranked No. 2 in the world) will fight **Grady Brewer** (the champion from *The Contender*) in the 10-round main event with the North American Super Welterweight Championship belt on the line. There are also some local pugilists of note competing on the undercard.



Gilbert "Boogie" Vera out of Westwood High School is the son of *The Contender* contestant **Brian Vera** and sports an 11-3-1 record with five knock-outs, **Cory Yett** attended Reagan High and is a 2003 Martial Arts Texas National Kickboxing Tour champ, and **Zach Briones** attended Akins High, graduated from Eagle Academy of Austin, and has a 1-0 record. Yes, we're ready to rumble. *Fri., June 17, 7pm.*

Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$25, \$60, \$75; \$100 VIP. Discounts for military & students. www.texasboxoffice.com.

soccer watch

BY NICK BARBARO

Up for a **road trip**? Maybe to see the **U.S.** and **Mexico** national teams? Catch a doubleheader: **CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals**, *Wednesday, June 22*, at Houston's **Reliant Stadium**. Likely **Mexico vs. Costa Rica** in the first game, and perhaps **USA vs. Panama** in the second (6 & 9pm, \$30, *Ticketmaster*; both games also on **FSC and Univision**). First the U.S. would have to get past undefeated Jamaica in the quarterfinals (*Sunday, June 19, 2pm; FSC, Univision*). The Yanks have been underwhelming so far, losing their first group round game ever and finishing second in the group to Panama.

What became of the **Austin Aztex**? See for yourself *Saturday, June 18, 6:30pm*, as **Orlando City** hosts Wilmington in Fox Soccer Channel's USL game of the week.

And a reminder for wayward players who have lost their teams: There are friendly **coed games** happening all over town; **Austin Pick-up Soccer** has a listserv (groups.google.com/group/pick-up-soccer-atx), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AustinPickupSoccer), and Twitter account (@pickupsocceratx).

THE HOME TEAMS

KILLA QUEENS OF THE DESERT The Texas Rollergirls' Hotrod Honeys are hosting this fundraising auction to help pay for a trip to Australia, where they will be the first U.S. team to play an international bout against an Australian team. Paid admission gets you free food and beer to be enjoyed alongside live music. Bring extra cash for the auction. *Sat., June 18, 6-10pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 751-5650. \$10. www.texasrollergirls.org.*

★ **AUSTIN OUTLAWS** Austin's women's football team ends their regular season with a home game vs. the Dallas Diamonds: *Sat., June 18, 7pm. Westlake High Stadium, 4100 Westbank Dr. 796-0108. \$10 adults; kids free. www.austinoutlaws.com.*

TOROS NBA DRAFT PARTY Cheer for the San Antonio Spurs draft picks alongside the lovely Capital City Dancers. Plus drink specials, free wings, and giveaways. *Thu., June 23, 6-9pm. Draft Pick, 1620 E. Riverside. www.austintoros.com.*

AUSTIN HUNS BLOODFEST RUGBY TOURNEY In its 14th year, this tourney welcomes 40 teams to town. *Sat., June 18, all day. Northeast Metro Park, 2703 E. Pecan St., Pflugerville. www.hunsrugby.com.*

★ **ROUND ROCK EXPRESS** For more on the Express, see the *Chronicle Sports* blog at austinchronicle.com/thescore. Vs. Omaha: *Fri., June 17, 7pm; Sat., June 18, 6pm; Sun.-Mon., June 19-20, 7pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-2255. \$6-30. www.roundrockexpress.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

★ **MARBLE FALLS ADULT SOAPBOX CLASSIC** Adults who fondly remember their childhood soapbox derby days now have an event all their own. Live music, food vendors, and more. "Build It. Bring It. Race It." *Fri.-Sun., June 17-19. Historic Downtown Marble Falls. 830/385-9289. Free. www.adultsoapboxderby.com.*

5K RUNNING CLUB for beginners looking to conquer a 5K. *Tue., June 21, 5:30am. Clay Madsen Rec Center, 1600 Gattis School Rd., 218-3220. \$39. www.claymadsenrec.com.*

SUNSET GOLF TOURNAMENT starts at sunset with special glow-in-the-dark balls. Also: live music, food, drinks, and a putting contest. *Friday, June 17, 6pm. Balcones Golf Club, 8600 Balcones Club Dr. \$65; \$25, nongolfers. www.austinaacc.org.*

ROCK YOUTH RUGBY CAMP Hosted by Paul "Rock" McCartney, head coach of Stony Point High School Rugby. Open to boys and girls ages 8-13. *Mon.-Fri., June 20-24. Hudson Bend Middle School, 15600 Lariat Trail; and Stony Point High School, 1801 Tiger Trail, Round Rock. \$75.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

SUNSTROKE SUMMER STAMPEDE RACE NO. 6 *Thu., June 16, 7pm. Town Lake Trail, (I-35/Riverside parking lot). \$10. 401-2554. www.summerstampe.com.*

VERN'S NO FRILLS 5K NO. 27 *Sat., June 18, 8am. \$1, adult. Berry Springs Park & Preserve, 1801 C.R. 152, Georgetown, 512/724-3774. www.noexcusesrunning.com.*

MAUDIE'S MOONLIGHT MARGARITA RUN & GALA Benefiting the Trail Foundation at Lady Bird Lake. *Thu., June 16, 8pm. \$30, run only; \$95, run and party; \$65, party only. American Legion Hall, 2201 Veterans Dr., 472-3344. www.thetrailfoundation.org.*

CAMP BEN MCCULLOCH 5K RUN/WALK AND KIDS K *Sat., June 18, 7:30am. \$20, 1K; \$25, 5K. Camp Ben McCulloch, 18301 FM 1826, Driftwood, 512/845-2522. www.campben.com.*

SUNSTROKE SUMMER STAMPEDE RACE NO. 7 *Wed., June 22, 7pm. \$10. Brushy Creek Park, Cedar Park, 401-2554. www.summerstampe.com.*

WILD CARDS

PLAY 4 KIDS TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAY benefiting the YMCA of Austin. *Mon., June 20, 6pm. Little Woodrow's, 9500 S. I-35, 970-4953. \$100 (\$75, advance). www.austinyymca.org.*

★ **CORNHOLE CHALLENGE DAY** Cornhole is described as "a lawn game in which players take turns throwing cornhole bags (bags filled with feed corn) at a raised platform with a hole in the far end." This tourney, hosted by the Young Faces of ALS, is being held nationally to raise funds to battle Lou Gehrig's disease. *Sat., June 18, 11am. Jester King Craft Brewery, 13005 Fitzhugh. \$80 per two-player team (includes brewery tour and pint glass). www.yfals.com.*

CHRISTINA SELL BOOKSIGNING EVENT Ansuria instructor Christina Sell will lead a class and then sign copies of her new book, *Body Is a Temple*. *Thu., June 23, 6pm. Castle Hill Fitness, 1002 W. 12th. www.castlehillyoga.com.*



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THEATRE CALL BOARD

PALINDROME THEATRE FUNDRAISER Help send the company's *Hedda Gabler* to the Edinburgh Festival, and while you're at it, enjoy music by Matt Hines (The Eastern Sea) and Shawn Jones and Lauryn Gould (The Lovely Sparrows), a nacho bar from Torchy's, a silent auction, and mingling with the cast and crew. NB: Only the first 150 donors will receive tickets to this benefit; all others get a ticket to Palindrome's Austin production of Ibsen's play in July. *Wed., June 22, 7-10pm. Torchy's Tacos, 1311 S. First, 939-6829. \$25. www.palindrometheatre.com.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.
Punch! Where do you find the funniest stand-up comics in Austin? You find them here, in this weekly showcase hosted by **Matt Bearden**. Yeah, on a Tuesday night. You're no idiot; you're calling for reservations now, right? *Tuesdays, 8pm. \$5.*
Finesse Mitchell He's been a solid part of SNL, he's a writer for *Essence* magazine, and he's no stranger to making people laugh with his stand-up. Hey, and **Spencer King** opens. *June 22-25. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*
John Mulaney He spent a year touring with Patton Oswalt and the Comedians of Comedy, he's on VH1's *Best Week Ever* every week, and he's stopping here while touring from New York City. **Mike Lawrence** opens. *June 16-18. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm..*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.
This Week in Coldness: Tiny Luddite presents improvised takes on David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*, in **A Supposedly Fun Show That Will Never Be Performed Again**. *Thu., 8:30pm. Sketch Night with Magician v. Clown and Braintooth. Thu., 10pm. Mainstage Sketch Lab Fri., 8:30pm. Live at ColdTOWne* Stand-up comics in the house. *Fri., 10pm. Free Gong Show Fri., 11:30pm. Cage Match! Sat., 8pm. Stool Pigeon* Improv sparked by the real-life stories of one of the troupe. *Sat., 9pm. Stone Cold Improv* brings **Midnight Society** and the **Frank Mills** to blow your mind. *Sat., 10pm. Latenight Saturday with Sarah 7* and the **Glamping Trip**. The **Sit-Ins** with the **P! Company**. *Sun., 7pm. The Jam with Oh! Science!* *Sun., 8:30pm.* And now there are **Free Improv Shows on Wednesdays**, too! *8:30pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.
Esther's Follies The popular Esther's troupe – now with Aden Kirschner! – conjures a loony June showcase, with topical sketches, hilarious song-and-dance numbers lambasting the high-and-mighty, and more, right there on Sixth Street. Political hijinx? Comedy ripped from the tabloid headlines? *These people will make you laugh, pardner!* And? And **Ray Anderson's** stunning spectacles of magic will boggle your mind and harry your kellar, friend, just you watch. Attendance (and reservations) recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20-27 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military).*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.
Thursday: The Threerfer brings you three troupes in one night: **Phil, The Amazon & the Milkspop**, and **Your Dad's Friends**. *8pm. \$10.*
Friday: Nightmare Video Project It's a retro evil improv game show, with the **Lottery**. *8pm. \$10.* The **Spectacle** brings you fierce sets by **Parallelogramphonograph** and – Aaaaaaah, no, no, not them! Not **Improv for Evil!**?! *10pm. \$10.*
Saturday: Holy 1960s Batman, Batman! All the bat-camp and bat-drama of the original TV series is brought to fully costumed life, old chum, with a different dastardly villain each week! This week's baddie: **Justin Davis**. *8pm. \$10. Maestro* is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *10pm. \$10.*
Sunday: The Weekender brings you a **Student Showcase** and **Antique Limax**. *7pm. \$6.*

NEW MOVEMENT THEATER 1819 Rosewood.
The New Movement It's the comedy-focused powerhouse that ate East Austin, furious with weird brilliance and nonstop energy. Shows, workshops, classes, all of it. See the website for details, yes, but look: The **Megaphone Show** puts a local celeb onstage to spin tales of true truth before being interviewed and instantly improvised upon. *Wed., 9:30pm. Free. Witch Baby* brings you class recitals, TNM-style, featuring **Handbomb**. *Thu., 8pm. Block Party Thu., 9:30pm. Megaphone Marathons* See what comedy Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, and your own Austin have to offer in this show that brings them in from all over – for **six solid hours each night!** *Fri.-Sat., June 17-18, 8pm-2am.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.
Chris Cubas OK, cancel whatever else you thought you might do this night that would be better – because, whatever it is, it won't be better. Chris Cubas. Say his name again: **Chris Cubas**. If he's not one of the funniest people you've ever seen, anywhere, I will eat my hat. And, y'know, I don't fucking have a hat, so you'd get to see me buy one and then eat it. But: It ain't gonna happen. And you are gonna laugh so damned hard, friend. Jesus – don't rupture anything, OK? Seriously: Recommended, recommended, recommended. Also, **Ruby Collins** opens. *Sat., June 18, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*
Thursday: Open Mic with **Michael Priest**. *9:30pm. \$5.*
Friday: It's Always Funny with Brian Gaar And the man's also, like, *supplementing* his own skills with appearances by Austin's top talents to make for one righteous show. *9:30pm. \$5. The Institution Theater's Comedy Crock Pot* Funnyman and host par excellence **Tom Booker** presents the best of the Institution Theater's sketch and improv comedy. *11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

CHERRYWOOD'S COMEDY HAPPY HOUR Local funnyman **Seth Cockfield** hosts an open mic where anybody can do a short set, but some of the city's top comedy talents break in their new material. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½.*
SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL The latenight madness continues apace, with **Puppet Improv Project** and the nonstop hijinks of the **Knuckleball Now**. *Sat., June 18, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.*

dance

BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: DEVOTION This is BLL's newest site-specific aerial dance, dedicated to the waters of the Earth, featuring dancers suspended by harnesses and bungees over the water. Seating is on the south shore of Lady Bird Lake, opposite the intake building (unless you opt for the boat seating on the lake). See website for details. *Tuesdays-Sundays through June 26, 9pm. Power Plant Intake Building on Lady Bird Lake. 474-LONG. \$12-54. www.bluelapislight.org.*
KATHY DUNN HAMRICK DANCE COMPANY: SUMMERDANCE This last performance of KDHC's 12th season premieres "murmur," the dynamic modern dance piece from acclaimed Austin choreographer Hamrick. "murmur" starts with a murmur and expands through language and mystery, featuring nine dancers who perform to an original score by Hamrick's son, Jacob. Kari Perkins contributes costumes for the 40-minute piece. The evening also features three works by Houston's **NobleMotion Dance**: "The Chamber;" "Photo Box D," created within an original light installation by Jeremy Choate; and "a small place," an solo work about overcoming psychological confinement. *Thu.-Sat., June 16-18, 8pm. AustinVentures StudioTheater, Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third, 934-1082. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students). www.kdhdance.com.*
MELISSA AMIRA'S CAROUSEL CARAVAN Jeanette hosts this monthly shimmy, featuring a host of hot belly dancers in one of Austin's coolest bars. *Every third Saturday, 8pm. Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. Free. www.carouselounge.net.*

So! Many! Dance! Classes!

No, really: There are so many dance classes in town that we're giving you just this small sample of the sort of diversity available. We welcome you, as Fred would welcome Ginger, to our online listings, where you'll find more instruction and community dance opportunities than you can shake a happily footloose leg at: austinchronicle.com/dance.

CONTRA DANCE You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught and called – with live music. **Weekly:** *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. First Friday: Carpenters' Hall, 400 Josephine. Third Saturday: St. Paul Lutheran, 3501 Red River. 453-4225. www.austincontradance.org.*
FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS: BODY SHIFT DANCE CLASSES Forklift Danceworks and VSA Texas offer a monthly mixed-ability dance class for people with and without disabilities. *Sat., Jun. 18, noon-2pm. Galaxy Dance Studios, 1700 S. Lamar #338. \$5-10. www.vsatx.org.*
CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASSES TAUGHT BY CHERYL CHADDICK *Saturdays, noon-1:30pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. Sundays, 11:15am-12:45pm. The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. Tuesdays, 6:45-8:15pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. 476-9151. www.chaddickdancetheater.com.*
FLAMENCO CLASSES WITH OLIVIA CHACON www.oliviaflamenco.org.
HAWAIIAN DANCE CLASSES The Hula Hulau Kaepa Polynesian Dance Academy is accepting students for beginning hula and Tahitian dance classes. *Hawaiian Tiki Imports, 3500 S. Congress. 440-7171. www.tropicalevents.com.*
ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES *Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. www.tangointexas.com.*
AUSTIN HOOPERS: HOOP DANCE AND CLASSES Hoop dance is a dance form, a fitness class, a moving meditation, and a ton of fun. Classes and jams occur all around town and multiple days a week: See website for schedules and prices. www.meetup.com/austinhoopers.
THIS ONE'S FOR THE GIRLS Dance workshops for women only, taught by Debbie Figueroa and Patty Vo. *Mosaic Austin, 5619 Airport. \$12 (\$10, members). www.austincitydanceclub.com.*
BALLET AFRIQUE DANCE CLASSES Ballet Afrique's acclaimed dance studio offers a wide variety of classes exploring expressions of the cultures and experiences of the African Diaspora

through professional dance. *3111 Manor Rd., 228-7060. www.balletafrique.org.*
BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLASSES Learn Bhangra, classical Indian style, and more. *10700 Anderson Mill #208, 432-5716. www.bollywoodshake.com.*
EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAKON *Various locations, 295-2036. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.*
HEAVY FLAMENCO AND LIGHT JAZZ WITH MARIANA MADUPELL *Fri., June 17. 512/474-9846. Tapestry regular class/card rates. www.myspace.com/marianamaduell.*
BELLY-DANCE CLASSES *Tarrytown Dance, 2414 Exposition. \$12-15. www.najladances.com.*
BRASS OVARIES POLE DANCING Ongoing classes for aerial hoop and static/spinning pole dance will add a deep tint of Eros to your Terpsichore. *477-POLE. www.brassovariespoledancing.com.*
WEST AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES Traditional West African dance taught by Jean-Clause Lessou from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. See website for details. *507-0263. \$15. www.africandanceaustin.com.*
ADVANCED BALLET CLASS FOR AGES 13 AND OLDER *Mondays, 6-7:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. \$16 walk-in fee. www.tapestry.org.*
SOLID CHROME DANCERS Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing in a real honky-tonk. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. \$8. www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers.*



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

The Mikado

Tickets \$5-\$25 On Sale Now

FINAL WEEKEND!

Tonight 8pm
 Friday 8pm
 Saturday 3pm
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 Sunday 3pm

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Travis High School Performing Arts Center
 1211 E. Oltorf

This project benefited and is supported by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division. You can give to the Texas Charitable Foundation or the National Endowment for the Arts, which makes a great match-donations grant too.

Entertaining Austin Audiences Since 1976



The Mikado
 Travis High School Performing Arts Center, 1211 E. Oltorf, 472-4772
 Through June 19
 Running time: 3 hr.

There's no telling who originally had the idea to dedicate a company to the famed Savoy operas of W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan and stage their delicious and wittily subversive work at least once every year. The idea didn't originate with the Gilbert &

Sullivan Society of Austin, as many cities annually stage the works of these masters of music and comedy, but whoever had the idea had a good one, as the practically packed auditorium at the Travis High School Performing Arts Center this past Saturday night would attest. This annual Austin tradition is popular, and rightfully so, as the stories that Gilbert wrote are just plain funny and the tunes that Sullivan composed are as memorable as the best of summer days.

Along with *The Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Mikado* is one of the duo's masterpieces – quite probably their best. Titipu is an almost comic-book town in Japan ruled over by Ko-Ko (Arthur DiBianca), a Lord High Executioner loath to hold an axe, and his sidekick Pooh-Bah (Robert L. Schneider), who holds every other office in the town, making it easy to gain a quorum. Enter the son of the mighty Mikado, Nanki-Poo (Holton Johnson), disguised as a common minstrel, seeking the lovely Yum-Yum (Tamsen Cohagan), whom he saw from afar and wishes for his wife, knowing she is betrothed to Ko-Ko. Romantic complications abound, especially when the Mikado (Russell Gregory) makes an appearance accompanied by the repulsive Katisha (Janette Jones), betrothed to Nanki-Poo.

With the plethora of vocal talent available in the Austin area, you would expect the Gilbert & Sullivan Society to field some fine voices, and you wouldn't be mistaken in your expectations. Music Director Jeffrey Jones-Ragona is blessed with the tenor of Johnson, who opens the show effectively with "A Wandering Minstrel I" and brings a similar vocal richness to more than a half-

dozen other numbers. DiBianca takes on one of the more difficult songs in the canon with "Behold the Lord High Executioner," keeping it precise and grounded. Watching Gregory's Mikado is great fun; besides having a deep, booming voice, Gregory really looks like he could rule imperial Japan.

Few live theatre events are more difficult to stage than operas. Imagine having to put singers, sometimes dozens, in their best positions to vocalize while maintaining visual interest on the stage. Now imagine having to tell a story that contains a level of believable human interaction while most of the time everyone is singing operatically. Challenging, to say the least, and director Ralph MacPhail Jr. and the cast are up to that challenge but don't quite meet it. MacPhail has staged the show simply, with choreography that consists of little more than people walking from place to place and moving their hands (and their fans – there are lots of fans) in a variety of ways. But on opening weekend, the show lacked energy. Simple often works, but it looked rote and under-rehearsed. It might very well have been that the performers were tired – opening weekends can wear you out.

While deciding whether or not to go to this production, keep in mind that you might not get a chance to see this gem for another six years or so; G&S last staged it in 2005. And this time around, you'll certainly find the voices, the songs, and the comic spectacle of imperial Japan intact and ready for your musical delectation. If you do want to go, given the very full Saturday house on opening weekend, you'd best get your tickets fast. – Barry Pineo

classical music

OPENING

GIRLS' CHOIR TOUR ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Fri., June 17, 5:30pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin, 453-0884. Free.

JUANITA ULLOA & JAVIER DE LOS SANTOS Ulloa takes opera's vocal gifts and blends them into the ranchera style of singing, accompanied by classically trained guitarist De Los Santos. Sun., June 19, 2pm. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 480-9373. \$10. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: CHILDREN'S DAY ART PARK Learn about the symphony and its various instruments (and performers), take part in arts & crafts, listen to storytellers, and enjoy mimes, magicians, and more. Each week is capped with a performance by one of Austin's favorite kid-friendly acts. This week: **Joe McDermott**. Through July 27. Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am; performance: 10am. Symphony Square, 1101 Red River, 476-6064. 50 cents (for kids; free for accompanying adults). www.austinsymphony.org.

visual arts

OPENING

CO-LAB: PAPERGIRL It's a show, an urban action, a bicycle workshop, and a party. This event originated in Berlin with artist Aisha Ronniger as a way to surprise and delight her city by giving out free art; now it's Austin's turn. There are no guidelines to who can submit, no required medium, as long as the art can be rolled up. Submission deadline: June 18. Opening reception: Sat., June 18, 7-11pm. Closing reception and meet-up for art distribution: Sat., June 25, 5pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.colabspace.org.

DOMY BOOKS: TRAVIS KENT The artist's many photographs catalog his life to fine, narrative-rich effect for a viewer. Reception: Sat., June 18, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through July 21. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS 16 "Thought Cloud," as curated by Alexander Freeman, presents the work of 10 Texas artists, all younger than 35, telling stories about the human condition in the 21st century. Also: **Serie Print Project 18**, presented by Coronado Studio. June 18-Sept. 25. 419 Congress, 480-9373. \$5 (free, Sundays). www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

CLOSING

GALLERY BLACK LAGOON: THE ARTIST SERIES New works by Lacey Richter, Stephen W Schwake, Ann Woodall, Jamie Spinello, Jesse Greene, Elena Rojo, Kristen Van Patten, Donna Birdwell, Robyn Dunbar, Linda Galvan, and Akaimi Davis Green. 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: ROCK, PAPER, CARBON Sabra Booth, Margaret Craig, Daniel Kaplan, and Leigh Anne Lester explore natural forms, genetic modification, flickering conversation, and molecular structures via drawings and sculpture. Through June 19. 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.

ONGOING

ACCESS GALLERY: LET'S MOVE TOGETHER Solo show by Denise Knebel, featuring depictions of her mental and physical struggles since retiring from the military. Through July 29. 3701 Guadalupe #103. 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.

AMOA: STORIES FROM HERMAN MILLER You know you wanna see these drawings, models, prototypes, photographs, and original designed objects by Charles and Ray Eames, Steve Frykolm, Alexander Girard, George Nelson, Robert Propst, and others who created

furniture for the renowned and design-driven company. Also: **The Mona Lisa Project by Rino Pizzi** features collaborations with Connie Arismendi, Ellen Berman, Valerie Chaussonnet, Judy Jensen, Faith Gay, Germaine Keller, Emily Little, Beili Liu, Beverly Penn, Margo Sawyer, Nancy Scanlan, Julie Speed, Jana Swec, Liz Ward, Sally Weber, and Sydney Yeager. Through Sept. 11. 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$5 (\$4, seniors, students, military; free, AMOA members). www.amoa.org.

ART ON 5TH: STARLA HALFMANN 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY 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 St., 457-0171. www.pablotaboadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE: Wura-Natasha Ogunji: The Epic Crossings of an Ibe Head, video screening, Through Aug. 28. **Jack Strange** The British artist finds beauty in the mundane and celebrates the banal with sculpture, photography, video, paper, and performance. Through July 3. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE Original art by Austin artists. 2200-J S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

AUSTIN DETAILS ART + PHOTO: THE TWO WORLDS OF DARVIN JONES The Austin artist's large canvases, works on aluminum, and limited-edition prints showcasing his visual and musical worlds. Through July 1. 106 E. Eighth, 391-0999. www.austindetailsart.com.

B. HOLLYMAN GALLERY: JO ANN SANTANGELO The artist's "Walking the Block" series features black-and-white photodocumentary of the LGBT community of New York City's Christopher Street. Through July 2. 1202-A W. Sixth, 825-6866. www.bhollymangallery.com.

BIG MEDIUM: JAMIE PANZER See review, p.63. Through July 1. 5305 Bolm, 385-1670. www.bigmedium.org.

CHAMPION GALLERY: CLAIRE FALKENBERG The artist's large, collaged C-print photographs are partially occulted with fields of oil paint in her solo show "Bloom." Through July 16. 800 Brazos, 354-1035. www.championcontemporary.com.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

D BERMAN GALLERY: THE OBJECT OF DESIRE Works by **Laura Pickett Calfee, Marjorie Moore, W. Tucker, and Steve Wiman**. Through July 9. 111 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley. www.dbermangallery.com.

DAVIS GALLERY: EXTERIORS You want to see what urban landscapes, peopled or otherwise, look like when captured in oil- or watercolor-based magnificence? See what **David Leonard** and **Christopher St. Leger** hath wrought. Through June 25. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

DIBONA STUDIO 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

DUMONT GALLERY 815 E. 52nd. 698-1890. www.lindadumont.com.

GALLERY SHOAL CREEK: RENÉ ALVARADO The artist's painted impressions from travels in Morocco and beyond. Through June 25. 2905 San Gabriel, 454-6671. www.galleryshoalcreek.com.

GAY FAY KELLY: MO SCOLLAN The artist's newest exhibition is "Above Us Only Sky." 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER: VIBRANT BLOOMS Catherine Beatty Flowers presents her paintings on silk featuring flora and fauna from across the U.S. Through Aug. 21. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

LAUGHING CARDINAL GALLERY: RELIQUARY BOX An exhibition of works new, old, rediscovered, and reclaimed by Kelly Mae Newhouse. 2503-A E. Sixth.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: SUSAN COLLIS "So It Goes" features the British artist's work created with or from drawing materials. Also, in the Project Room: quiet masterpieces of graphite rendering by **Tom Molloy**. Through July 16. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

MITCHIE'S GALLERY presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

For more Visual Arts Spaces
 & Creative Opportunities, check out
austinchronicle.com/visualarts.

PRO-JEX GALLERY: VAN REDIN REDUX
1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.

PUMP PROJECT: PERSPECTIVES Five award-winning artists from the Wright House's annual Culinary fundraiser: Chris Chappell, Chris White, Kenny Trice, Dave Berry, and Rene Norman. *Through June 25.* 702 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.

RED SPACE GALLERY: ES UN PAISAJE BONITO
Lindsay Palmer has reworked children's art to form an abstract topographical landscape. 1203 W. 49th. 740-6133. www.redspacegallery.wordpress.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

RUSSELL COLLECTION: UMLAUF RETROSPECTIVE
This display of art from the Charles Umlauf estate features approximately 40 works, including paintings, drawings, and sculpture in marble, limestone, and bronze. *Through June 30.* 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440. www.russell-collection.com.

STUDIO L: COLBURN RETURNS Daryl G. Colburn returns from New Mexico with new metal works. Also, watercolors by Eric Luplow and diverse creations from Jacob Colburn, Erin Waters, Rita Marie Ross, and Sandy Muckleroy. 2309 Thornton, 577-3479. www.darylcolburn.com.

TESTSITE 11.2: FROM A LIFE TO AN OTHER Dana Friis-Hansen is the curator for this latest project – opening with the glow of a dramatic birth and ending with an eerie specter of death – by New York-based artist Doug Fitch. *Through June 26.* 502 W. 33rd. www.fluentcollab.org.

THE BLANTON: ABOUT FACE This show features 40 portraits in diverse mediums from antiquity to today. Yes, but portraits by masters, you wonder? How do Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Alice Neel, John Singer Sargent, Diego Rivera, Chuck Close, Oscar Muñoz, and Kehinde Wiley sound, for starters? Exactly: Recommended. *Through Sept. 4.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

THE GALLERY AT FINE AUSTIN LIVING
Through July 15. 4238 Bee Cave Rd., 402-9800.

THE GALLERY AT MUSEO: PEACEABLE KINGDOM
Artwork depicting animals by Jane Hayman, Katherine Sheehan, and Kathleen McElwaine. 11266 Taylor Draper, 888/881-5773.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ANGELA FIFE + MARYBETH KARAUSE Oils on canvas and panel capture still life and distilled lives in colorful profusion: Our daily worlds on these walls. *Through July 2.* 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: NOTES OF A NATIVE DAUGHTER Lauren Woods presents this collection of videographic texts that reflects her studies of culture and the human condition, using images from Hollywood cinema, pop culture, and history to examine and comment on race, gender, and the sociopolitical environment. *Through Aug. 31.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

YARD DOG FOLK ART: JAD FAIR & DAVID FAIR The Fair brothers' newest paper-cut works evoke dreams and nightmares that may seem half Japanese but are wholly personal. *Through July 10.* 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR ART ENTRIES The Central Texas Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition is calling for art depicting healthy families with an emphasis on breastfeeding. See website for details. Deadline: July 1. www.keeppaustinbreastfeeding.com.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY Art Seen Alliance presents a live-model painting and drawing session. Bring your own supplies. *Mondays, 7-9pm.* 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$5. www.artseenalliance.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

THE STORY DEPARTMENT It's not a reading, but you'll hear stories. It's not stand-up, but you'll probably laugh. And it benefits Austin Bat Cave, a writing and tutoring center for kids. June's theme: I Fought the Law! *Tue., June 21, 8pm.* Home Slice Pizza, 1415 S. Congress, 903/495-8768. \$5. www.austinbatcave.org.

MYSTERYPEOPLE Craig Johnson presents *Hell Is Empty*, the latest in his bestselling Sheriff Longmire series. *Thu., June 16, 7pm.* **Wine, Women, and Murder** Sophie Littlefield (*Bad Day for Scandal*) and Juliet Blackwell (*Hexes and Hemlines*) serve up avengers and witches with a nice glass of Chardonnay or red. *Wed., June 22, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

LOCAL AUTHOR NIGHT Walter "Yukon" Yates, Beverley Charles, and Laurel Donnellan share their latest: the memoirs *Breakaway* and *How I Discovered My Mother Was a Goddess* and the how-to *Born To Do*. *Fri., June 17, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

SURFING LOS ANGELES is a film by James Hillman with Michael Ventura and John Densmore. Brilliant. Discussion led by Priscilla Hobbs and Priscilla Murr. *Fri., June 17, 7pm.* First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. \$15 (\$12, members; \$8, students). www.austinuu.org.

CHRIS DISHMAN presents *A Perfect Gibraltar: The Battle for Monterrey, Mexico, 1846*. *Sat., June 18, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.

MICHAEL B. DRUXMAN presents his *My Forty-Five Years in Hollywood ... and How I Escaped Alive*. *Sat., June 18, 2pm.* Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe. www.cityofaustin.org/library/news/nr20110512.htm.

DEBRA MONROE crosses the border in her memoir *On the Outskirts of Normal* and leaves us her novel *Shambles*. *Tue., June 21, 7pm.* BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

MICHAEL WALLIS stalks the legendary yet still mysterious icon David Crockett in his *David Crockett: The Lion of the West*. *Tue., June 21, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

OPEN MICS

MULTIMEDIA POETRY Wednesdays, 6:30pm. *Cafe Caffeine*, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.

FAIR BEAN Fridays, 5-7:30pm. *Fair Bean Coffee*, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN. www.fairbeancoffee.com.

THE HIDEOUT Mondays, 6-10pm. *The Hideout Theatre*, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S Sundays, 5-8pm. *Hot Mama's Espresso Bar*, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. Free. www.hotmamasaustin.com.

SPOKEN & HEARD Sundays, 7-10pm. *Kick Butt Coffee*, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Tuesdays, 8pm. *Spider House Ballroom*, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. www.austinslam.com/newsite.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *how years weighed each morning filled with expectations of redemption until she pointed out the scales were skewed had measured wrong the nature of the hole: it did not want filling but to be seen as source of measure, as price of the shine.* Namaste. Shine.

CAFÉ CON LETRAS is a Spanish-language forum of music, poetry, drama, short films, art and more, led by the Latin American Cultural Alliance. Everyone is invited to get involved, but it's not an open mic. To be considered as a guest artist, contact the Latin American Cultural Alliance. Every third Sunday of each month. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5 (free, ages 15 and younger). www.allianzicultural.net.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

how it miscalculated
its wings less strong than
the air of the glass
standing stunned in the road
uselessly turning its eyes toward heaven
like she did that night he called her less than nothing
– Rex Rains “uselessly winged: there's an answer”

Looking for more Book Groups or Open Mics? See those sections in the Litera Listings at austinchronicle.com/litera.

‘You See ... Thing Is ...’



Big Medium, 5305 Bolm #12, 385-1670

www.bigmedium.org
Through July 1

Humor in art is too often the arena of cartoonists and not of people crafting aesthetically sublime objects. Well, maybe not too often. Maybe it's just as well that those who put a lot of

work into what they make – relatively more, anyway, than the concerted application of pen to paper – maybe it's a good thing that those *artistes* don't attempt much humor at all. All but the best cartoonists' attempts at being funny will frequently fall flat, and it's so much the worse, I insist, if that failure is the case with the output of some degreed crafter whose best idea of humor stops at the merely goofy.

Well, here's the work of Jamie Panzer in the main gallery of Big Medium's sprawling Eastside compound, in a show called “You See ... Thing Is ...,” and it's little but a triumph of searing wit and eye-intriguing creation.

Panzer works with found objects, mostly, and connects and arranges them in unexpected ways or embellishes them with sculptural castings. Yeah, *found objects*, and we all know what a world of stupid that can be. You and I, reader, we can gather a bunch of cultural jetsam from neighboring curbs on Large Trash Pickup Day and try to make something compelling or at least not-unpleasant-looking out of it; likely, we'd do better trying to fashion a simulacrum of dog shit from leftover chocolate pudding. And the same is true, in my experience, of many exhibitions that truck in found-object manipulation: They may (barely) function on some deeply academic art-history level, but they don't achieve diddly-squat for the casual viewer or even the aficionado who wants to encounter more than obscure informational masturbation.

But here's Jamie Panzer. And of course it's a boon that his craftsmanship can render objects in wax or metal with accuracy and expertise; it's crucial that he can etch

and bind and drill and so on at a professional level. But what's most important here is his intelligence, and that: 1) his creations initially latch onto the brain via vision, with a whoa-shit-that-looks-totally-awesome hook, and 2) those creations follow through, on closer scrutiny, with epiphanies of whoa-shit-that's-also-a-commentary-on-perception-and-culture-and-it's-even-hella-funny magnitude.

An actual human skull, its bottom half obscured by a life mask formed from beeswax. A giant-sized model of some intricate molecule, built from colorful bowling balls joined by ornate brass lamp shafts. The thoroughly rusted coils of a stretched-out industrial spring, from the curves of which grow human teeth of what appears to be the same rusted material. The dead and discarded cathode ray tube of some ancient TV, upon whose dust-covered screen is scrawled the apropos variation of what you'd find on a dirty car's window: “WATCH ME.” The spectrum-lovely, vertically arranged beakers and flasks of *Rainbow Juice*. There's more, of course, enough sufficient, gorgeous invention here that Panzer's *two-dimensional* collage and photographic work – on display in Big Medium's adjoining, separate room – is merely lagniappe.

Let's bring the critical shorthand. The sharp, stand-up comedy observations of Louis C.K.? The arch, high-concept machinations of Damien Hirst? Meld those two aesthetics and wield them with equal amounts of playfulness and wisdom: Panzer's “You See ... Thing Is ...” is like a small museum of the best results you'd get from that process. – Wayne Alan Brenner

film listings



D: Richard Ayoade; with Craig Roberts, Yasmin Paige, Noah Taylor, Sally Hawkins, Paddy Considine, Lily McCann. (R, 97 min.)

Adapted from Joe Dunthorne's novel and presented theatrically by Ben Stiller, *Submarine* might seem an unlikely feature debut from British helmer Ayoade. Unlikely because he's known

in the States primarily for his work with U.K. cult-television phenom *The Mighty Boosh* and the bizarro-cool faux Eighties horror show *Garth Marenghi's Darkplace*, both of which have their tongues planted so firmly in their surrealist cheeks that they're well nigh untranslatable to mainstream American audiences. Those shows are brilliant, surrealistic, and patently goofy, especially *Darkplace*, which has no Yank precursor that I'm aware of (although the late, lamented *The Ben Stiller Show* came close at times). *Submarine* is a wholly different beast, though, and is the better for it. It's a sweet, knowing, bracingly deadpan coming-of-age story that proudly wears its influences on its sleeve – Wes Anderson's *Rushmore*, *Harold and Maude*, and Mike Nichols' *The Graduate* spring immediately to mind – and it's set in a grim and gritty Swansea, replete with concrete council flats and muddy, muddled dreams that'd do Morrissey and Marr proud in their existential despair. It's also the mid-Eighties, a fine time for stewing over the vicissitudes of *l'amour fou* and raging hormones. That's the case with teenager Oliver Tate (Roberts, in a terrifically sympathetic performance), a baggy-eyed naif who fancies himself more worldly-wise than he may actually be. Two events are redefining Oliver's notion of himself (as savior, hero, and emotionally accessible ladies man): The first is his tentative puppy love for his considerably more cynical schoolmate Jordana (Paige); the second is the slow-motion disintegration of his parents' marriage. Rarely if ever have I seen a more bracingly honest depiction of spousal malaise than here. Oliver's mousy, stoic father is played perfectly by Taylor, late of Simon Rumley's locally filmed *Red White & Blue*. If you're only familiar with Taylor's work

from that particular disturbathon – or, alternately, as Mr. Bucket in Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* – then his work here will come as a pleasantly downbeat surprise. *Submarine* is exceedingly well-cast. As Oliver's mother, Jill, Sally Hawkins is a model of barely contained familial frustration; Oliver suspects, with good cause, that she's taken to seeing an old flame, the hilariously self-important New Age huckster Graham Purvis (Paddy Considine, resplendent in matching mullet and misplaced, desperate machismo). But this is Oliver's story, narrated by him and glimpsed entirely from his specific point of view, which means plenty of misunderstandings, ghastly schoolyard and social faux pas, and heartache humor. It's difficult to pigeonhole *Submarine* without resorting to those obvious Wes Anderson influences, but in several

ways Ayoade's film is a (relatively) more genuine and organic portrait of semideluded youth in pseudo-revolt. The relationship between the initially straitlaced and refreshingly vainglorious Oliver and his gum-snapping, school-skipping "bad girl" paramour is fraught with the seriocomic perils of Everyteen life but nonetheless rings utterly true. It's a testament to director Ayoade's skills that *Submarine* very rarely descends into totally twee territory. Beautifully shot by Director of Photography Erik Wilson (a dreamy sequence involving fireworks and first love – in a blighted industrial deadscape, no less – is achingly lovely in every sense of the word), *Submarine* pulls off the difficult trick of being bittersweet without being saccharine and does so with a quietly riotous aplomb. – Marc Savlov

★★★ Arbor



new reviews

THE ART OF GETTING BY

D: Gavin Wiesen; with Freddie Highmore, Emma Roberts, Michael Angarano, Rita Wilson, Blair Underwood, Elizabeth Reaser, Sasha Spielberg, Marcus Carl Franklin, Sam Robards, Alicia Silverstone. (PG-13, 84 min.)

The Art of Getting By premiered at Sundance in January as *Homework*, a title that more accurately reflects the arduousness of sitting still through this flaccid, endlessly irksome coming-of-age drama. First-time writer/director Wiesen has called the film "personal," which reads to me like code for "autobiography about how that hot girl in high school wouldn't give me the time of day, probably because I was a cookie-cutter rebel with a battered copy of *The Stranger* and nothing remotely distinctive to say." But that's pure speculation. Freddie Highmore – whom you may recall as that kid who played the kid in all those movies a while back – stars as George Zinavoy, a promising artist who nonetheless applies himself with near-athletic exertion to *nothing at all*: not school, not friends, not family life, not comics or finding kinky stuff online, and certainly not the exploration of his own emotional terrain. Zip. Kids like this exist, sure – didn't we all have our embarrassing dalliance with existentialism, after all? – but still, I mean, *Jesus*. Eyelash-pulling is preferable to watching this affluent, annoying little shit round the plate from dead inside to marginally more alive. Highmore inherited a poorly articulated character, but a more expressive or soulful-seeming actor might have found a way to tunnel through the script's autopilot quirks (name-drop Leonard Cohen and Louis Malle here) to individuate George; Highmore, alas, brings little more than serial-killer eyes and his native British tongue flatlined into a cadence-free American accent. But he fits right in: *The Art of Getting By* is an inflection-free film, right down to the climax that's keyed to the drone of an early Pavement song, an aesthetic choice one suspects the filmmaker made not in service of his film, but because – and this is pure speculation – *Slanted and Enchanted* is what soothed him back when the hot girl in high school wouldn't give him the time of day. One can hardly blame her. – Kimberley Jones

↪ Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

GREEN LANTERN

D: Martin Campbell; with Ryan Reynolds, Mark Strong, Peter Sarsgaard, Blake Lively. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Will this comic-book hero have the superpowers to soar to box-office heights or will this intergalactic peace officer be as effective as a conventional flatfoot? Warner Bros. declined to schedule a local screening prior to deadline; *Green Lantern* will be reviewed next week. – Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

JUDY MOODY AND THE NOT BUMMER SUMMER

D: John Schultz; with Jordana Beatty, Heather Graham, Jaleel White, Preston Bailey, Parris Mosteller, Janet Varney, Kristoffer Winters, Robert Costanzo, Sharon Sachs, Jackson Odell. (PG, 91 min.)

We're very glad Judy Moody's summer turned out not to be a bummer, and wish the same could be said for the reviewers who have to sit through her movie. The film is based on the *Judy Moody* book series, and the screenplay was penned by the series' author, Megan McDonald, along with Kathy Waugh. It's a near-tween story that seems geared instead toward youngsters who can only dream of the day they'll become as cool and independent as their tween elders. Certainly, the film's overall candy-colored production design by Cynthia Kay Charette looks as though it was created for connoisseurs of those giant boxes of Crayolas. Judy (Jordan Beatty) is bummed out because her two best friends are leaving town to do fun things on their summer vacation and she's stuck at home with her little brother Stink (Mosteller), whose only summer plan is to catch Bigfoot. Then Judy's parents suddenly have to go out of town for the summer and leave their children under the supervision of their Aunt Opal (Graham), whom the children have never met. Judy's goal of collecting the most "thrill points" of any of her friends seems doomed. Opal, however, turns out to be an artist who travels with a trunk full of art supplies and has just returned stateside from a sojourn in Bali. She calls herself a guerrilla artist, but her definition lacks any political or social context. Guerrilla art in her usage involves repurposing everyday items as art objects, thus metal trash-can lids are decorated and become hats for lions (and let's never wonder about all the possums and other critters now making a mess of the family's uncovered trash). Although I'm generally a fan of movies that choose to star girls (of any age) as their lead subjects, *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer* simply strikes the same whiny chord over and over. Beatty's exuberance and uncombed mop of red hair are deliciously appealing, but as you study her face further you begin to wonder if her bee-stung lips and perfect eyebrows have been engineered to complement her unruly hair. As Opal, Graham had a shot at becoming one of those great Auntie Mame-like characters, but her Opal is too anemic to be anything but a bubbly, post-porn Rollergirl gone artsy. When Jaleel White (aka Urkel from *Family Matters*) is a movie's most sedate character, you know you're in for a noisy ride. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★↪ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

D: Mark Waters; with Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino, Maxwell Perry Cotton, Andrew Stewart-Jones, Curtis Shumaker. (PG, 95 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Are Americans still crazy for penguins? And what about Jim Carrey? Both questions will be put to the test in this movie in which a man inherits six penguins and ruins the rest of his

life caring for them. 20th Century Fox did not screen the movie for critics; it will be reviewed next week. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

TROLLHUNTER D: André Øvredal; with Otto Jespersen, Glenn Eran Tosterud, Johanna Mørck, Tomas Alf Larsen. (PG-13, 90 min., subtitled)

Fun Fact No. 1: Trolls have a deficit of red blood cells, a physiological anomaly that causes them to turn to stone – or explode – when they encounter ultraviolet light. Also, they reek. Troll lore old and new (they can live to be 1,200 years old; they tend to bang their heads on the underside of highway overpasses!) cling like lichen on a dead, um, troll to this fantastical and wholly unique faux documentary from Norway, land of giants. Well, not entirely unique: Stylistically, *Trollhunter's* cinematic forebears include the psuedo found-footage shocker *The Blair Witch Project* and Ruggero Deodato's cringe-and gag-reflex-inducing *Cannibal Holocaust*, although here the heightened sense of the extremely weird borders on the farcically surreal. Thomas (Tosterud), Johanna (Mørck), and Kalle (Larsen) are a trio of film students investigating a series of apparently random cattle killings near their picturesque hometown of Volda, Norway. After meeting with a group of professional bear hunters, the kids are tipped off to the existence of a potential poacher and immediately stake out his RV home with the hope of making a documentary about him. As it turns out, the gruff, bearded Hans (Jespersen) is tracking prey far more dangerous than any bear, and is in fact Norway's man in the field, as it were, in the troll-hunting biz. A state secret for centuries, the existence of these hulking, omnivorous throwbacks is closely guarded and indeed denied entirely by the powers that be. That hasn't stopped members of the mountain-and forest-dwelling troll population from occasionally going rogue and straying into populated areas, of course. That's where Hans comes in, driving his UV-bedecked Range Rover over hill and dale in an ongoing search for wayward trolls. "It's a terrible job," says Hans. "There's no overtime, no nuisance pay," he sighs. There's also no guarantee that he'll make it back alive as three-headed, old-growth mountains gone sentient grunt, feast, and scratch their behemoth behinds like outsized Homer Simpsons. Øvredal's delightfully bizarre film takes itself just seri-

ously enough to be tremendously fun. Buoyed by top-notch digital effects – you'll believe a troll can lurch! – and a surprisingly affecting turn from Jespersen as a man who really, really loathes his job, *Trollhunter* plays like the Brothers Grimm meets *Cloverfield* with a hint of Monty Python-esque ridiculousness. For a small indie film from Norway, *Trollhunter* rocks it gargantuan style and then some.

– *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ **BRIDESMAIDS** D: Paul Feig; with Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Chris O'Dowd, Melissa McCarthy, Ellie Kemper, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Jon Hamm. (R, 125 min.)

Bridesmaids is a delicious confection that artfully swirls vulgarity with sincerity. Comic actress Kristen Wiig's hapless heroine Annie, mired in debt after losing the cake shop she owned with a boyfriend who subsequently abandoned her, sees her circumstances grow even bleaker when her childhood best friend, Lillian (Rudolph), announces her engagement. She names Annie her maid of honor, but there's competition for the crown in the form of Lillian's new friend, Helen (Byrne). This relentlessly funny film mines material from the ludicrousness of the "wedding industrial complex," but it doesn't restrict its scope to matrimonial yuks, smartly placing the other bridesmaids (Kemper, McLendon-Covey, and McCarthy) as counterpoints on the continuum of a woman's life, from newlywed to sex-starved mom. In an age of doggedly unambitious comedy, one marvels at the finesse first-time screenwriters Wiig and Annie Mumolo and director Feig (*Freaks and Geeks*) bring to marrying raunch, romantic comedy, and the tested but ever-true bond between women. (05/13/2011) – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, Gold Class, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ **CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS** D: Werner Herzog. (NR, 90 min.)

Lions and bison and bears! Oh my! Such images join other remnants of prehistoric life that were drawn on the walls of the Cave of Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc in southern France, probably some 30,000 years ago. Generally believed to be the oldest examples of human artwork yet discovered, the images convey a powerful sense of mystery and awe. Because of the harmful effects of exposure to the 21st century, access to the Chauvet Cave is permitted only to a very select sample of geologists, art historians, anthropologists – and Werner Herzog. What this audacious filmmaker emerges with is an amazing investigation into what makes human beings

openings & ratings

The Art of Getting By (PG-13)

Green Lantern (PG-13)

Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

Submarine (R)

Trollhunter (PG-13)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

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Sun. - Thu. 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:10 9:35
GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:00 10:45 12:20 1:45 2:40 4:15
5:00 6:55 7:35 9:25 10:00 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 10:00 10:45 12:20 1:45 2:40 4:15 5:00 6:55 7:35 9:25 10:00
SUPER 8 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:45 11:30 1:30 2:15 4:15 5:00 7:00 7:45 9:45
10:30 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 10:45 11:30 1:30 2:15 4:15 5:00 7:00 7:45 9:45 10:30
X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:10 1:00 4:00 6:50 9:25 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 10:10 1:00 4:00 6:50 9:25
THE HANGOVER PART II (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
KUNG FU PANDA 2 (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:00 12:10 2:10 4:15 6:45 8:50
Sun. - Thu. 10:00 12:10 2:10 4:15 6:45 8:50
JUDY MOODY AND THE NOT SUMMER SUMMER (PG)
Fri. - Thu. 10:10 12:00 2:00 4:05
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (PG-13)
Fri. - Thu. 7:00 10:00

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tick, no matter the millennium. To a large extent, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* is can't-miss material, especially in its 3-D iteration. Herzog uses the images to explore ideas about the beginnings of art, and the outline of a human hand leads to an inevitable question about the work of the auteur. (05/20/2011) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★ Arbor, Violet Crown

THE DOUBLE HOUR D: Giuseppe Capotondi; with Ksenia Rappoport, Filippo Timi, Antonia Truppo, Gaetano Bruno, Fausto Russo Alesi. (NR, 96 min., subtitled)

Red herrings abound in *The Double Hour*, an Italian psychological mystery with two terrific performances by Rappoport and Timi. The film tells the story of two lonely people, Sonia (Rappoport) and Guido (Timi), in Turin, who find love after meeting at a speed-dating event. Then an art theft occurs while the couple is courting at a grand estate where Guido works as a security guard. Guido is killed in the course of the robbery, and Slovenian immigrant Sonia returns to her dreary job as a hotel chambermaid. But maybe some of these details are an illusion or a dream or the result of intentional misdirection. *The Double Hour* is difficult to discuss without giving away its twists and turns. Those who enjoy being yanked this way and that may find the film a delight, but others will just feel manipulated. *The Double Hour* is ultimately a mystery box that lacks a treasure at its core. (06/10/2011) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★★ Arbor

FAST FIVE D: Justin Lin; with Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Dwayne Johnson, Tyrese Gibson, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Matt Schulze, Joaquim de Almeida, Sung Kang, Gal Gadot, Eva Mendes. (PG-13, 130 min.)

This fifth entry in the *Fast and the Furious* franchise offers more of the same - only bigger, badder, and more intensely homoerotic than before. It begins in Rio de Janeiro, where ex-con Dominic Toretto (Diesel) and his pal Brian O'Conner (Walker) angle to steal a trainload of Detroit rolling stock for a fat payoff. Along for the ride are O'Conner's true love Mia (Brewster), who is also Dominic's sister, and hulking HGH horror show Vince (Schulze). Things don't go as planned, and it quickly becomes apparent that Dom and his crew have been set up. Enter the Rock, er, Dwayne Johnson, as Defense Security Service psychonaut Hobbs. When Johnson and Diesel finally come to blows, it's a masterpiece

of surrealist cinema: two gigantic, beveined, excessively phallic Übermenschcn battling it out to see who's top dog. Of course, that's just one reading of *Fast Five*. You could also say it's a kickass demolition derby - pure, dumb summer fun. (05/06/2011) - Marc Savlov
 ★★ Southpark Meadows, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE HANGOVER: PART II D: Todd Phillips; with Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Justin Bartha, Ken Jeong, Paul Giamatti, Jamie Chung, Mason Lee, Nirut Sirichanya, Jeffrey Tambor. (R, 102 min.)

The funniest thing about *The Hangover: Part II* isn't the onscreen, premarital chaos. No, the real meta-metal yuks commence immediately, as Glenn Danzig croons "Black Hell," setting the film's tone of cheerful nihilism. This *Hangover* is a doozy but not quite as much fun as the original. This time out, it's mild-mannered dentist Stu (Helms) who is the betrothed. Aware that his pals Phil (Cooper), Alan (Galifianakis), and Doug (Bartha) are something of a force of nature when it comes to reducing bachelors to quivering wreckage, Stu books the nuptials in Thailand. Soon enough though, these three amigos wake up in a Thai hotel surrounded by party debris after an all-nighter: Bangkok has them. Whereas *The Hangover* was borderline outrageous as it stacked one vulgarity atop the next, this second exercise in bad manners feels rote in comparison. But hey, if you're into lady-boy anal yuks, drug-running monkeys, and Glenn Danzig, you could do worse. (05/27/2011) - Marc Savlov
 ★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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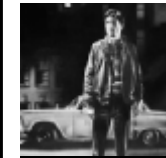
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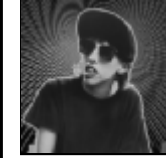
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Midnight in Paris
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PG-13

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Slacker

Slacker (1991) D: Richard Linklater; with a cast of hundreds. (R, 97 min.) **Austin Film Society and Alamo Drafthouse.** Celebrate the 20th anniversary of this landmark Austin film at an outdoor screening on the studio grounds. Richard Linklater will be on hand to introduce the film. Doors open at 8pm; guests should bring blankets or camp chairs. (*) @Austin Studios, Wednesday, 9pm; free for AFS members and Austin Studios neighbors; \$10 general admission tickets can be purchased online.

I AM D: Tom Shadyac. (NR, 76 min.)

As a writer and a director, Tom Shadyac first unleashed *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* and *The Nutty Professor* remake on the world; later he directed what could charitably be called a string of film fiascoes. But that's all behind him now, as Shadyac lays out in the opening minutes of this personal documentary. Tired of hearing the name Tom Shadyac? Try spending 76 minutes with him; you'll hear little else. This talking-head-heavy film, which explores what's broken with our world, raises some interesting ideas, like quantum entanglement, cooperation in animal behavior, and the intersection of science and spirituality. But Shadyac isn't content to let his interview subjects – including Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, and Desmond Tutu – speak for themselves. Instead, he has to literalize every concept in a kind of short-attention-span theatre. It's hard to decide what rankles most: what an astonishing monument to Shadyac's self-absorption *I Am* is, or the flat-out incompetence of the filmmaking. (04/22/2011) – Kimberley Jones
 ⚡ Metropolitan

INCENDIES D: Denis Villeneuve; with Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette, Remy Girard. (R, 130 min., subtitled)

In this French-Canadian epic, the secrets of an emotionally distant mother are unearthed after her death. As the movie opens, twins Jeanne (Désormeaux-Poulin) and Simon (Gaudette) Marwan are being read the will of their mother, Nawal (Azabal), as prepared by the notary Lebel (Girard). Nawal left some peculiar burial instructions and two envelopes: one for Jeanne to deliver to their father (whom they previously believed to be dead) and one for Simon to deliver to a brother that neither knew they had. Jeanne journeys, initially alone, to their mother's unnamed Middle Eastern homeland. Many surprises surface, but not until Simon joins Jeanne abroad does the ultimate revelation become manifest, and Villeneuve pulls it off in a manner that's as piercing as a sudden bolt in an ancient Greek tragedy. Savage scenes of factional religious brutality are depicted, making it difficult not to be swept away by the intensity of this eloquent and powerful anti-war drama. (06/03/2011) – Marjorie Baumgarten
 ⚡⚡⚡ Arbor, Violet Crown



The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers Extended Edition Event

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers Extended Edition Event (2011) D: Peter Jackson. (NR, 235 min.) **NCM Fathom.** Each episode of the trilogy is being presented once with nearly an hour of additional footage per film and an introduction from Jackson. @Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tuesday, 7pm.

JUMPING THE BROOM D: Salim Akil; with Paula Patton, Angela Bassett, Laz Alonso, Loretta Devine, Meagan Good, Tasha Smith, Julie Bowen, DeRay Davis, Brian Stokes Mitchell. (PG-13, 113 min.)

An urban family rom-com that actually has something interesting to say about race and romance, *Jumping the Broom* makes Tyler Perry's *Madea* franchise resemble Eddie Murphy's *Klump* family by comparison. Bassett and Devine are the dueling matriarchs brought together on the eve of their respective offspring's nuptials. Sabrina Watson (Patton) and Jason Taylor (Alonso) seem to form a match made in heaven but for their polar-opposite backgrounds. Sabrina's family lives on Martha's Vineyard and are cultured, multilingual, and a perfect portrait of African-American gentry. Jason's backstory is that of a gussied-up homeboy. Mrs. Taylor works long hours as a clerk for the Postal Service, she's widowed, and her pies are to die for. The collision of assumed propriety is at the heart of the story, but writers Elizabeth Hunter and Arlene Gibbs ladle on more than enough unnecessary subplots and family skeletons to make *Jumping the Broom* feel downright overstuffed. (05/06/2011) – Marc Savlov
 ⚡⚡⚡ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

KUNG FU PANDA 2 D: Jennifer Yuh; with the voices of Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Gary Oldman, Dustin Hoffman, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, Jean-Claude Van Damme, David Cross, Michelle Yeoh, James Hong. (PG, 90 min.)

Let's face it: Jack Black is perfectly cast as the portly, animated panda Po, the Dragon Warrior who keeps the peace in Valley of Peace with the help of his comrades, the Furious Five. In this second installment in DreamWorks' franchise, Po has mastered the martial arts and is now tasked with finding inner peace. Later, Po learns that he was adopted and that the evil peacock Lord Shen (Oldman) is the cause of his separation from his biological parents. Intent on destroying kung fu with his cannon firepower, the beautifully illustrated peacock raids Chinese villages for their metals, leaving swaths of destruction in his wake. Now, Po and the Furious Five must counter Shen's evil plans with a barrage of martial artistry. Director Yuh guides the film's visual look into something quite elegant and lovely to look at, and kids are bound to get a kick out of the kung fu creatures. (05/27/2011) – Marjorie Baumgarten
 ⚡⚡⚡ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS D: Woody Allen; with Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard, Kurt Fuller, Mimi Kennedy, Michael Sheen, Nina Arianda, Corey Stoll, Alison Pill, Kathy Bates, Carla Bruni, Adrien Brody. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris* is, quite simply, charming. Gil (Wilson), a would-be novelist on vacation with his no-nonsense fiancée Inez (McAdams), has a very specific fantasy in mind: Paris in the Twenties in the rain. During the day, Gil and Inez putter around like regular tourists, checking out this and that – but it's the nighttime where *Midnight in Paris* really hits its stride. As the clock strikes midnight, Gil discovers a portal of sorts into the 1920s. There, he boozes it up with Ernest Hemingway (Stoll, killing it), shares his manuscript with Gertrude Stein (Bates), and pitches future filmmaker Luis Buñuel the plot of the eternally



Farewell

Farewell (2009) D: Christian Carion; with Emir Kusturica, Guillaume Canet, Alexandra Maria Lara, Ingeborga Dapkunaite, Philippe Magnan, Fred Ward, Willem Dafoe, David Soul, Niels Arestrup. (NR, 113 min.) **Austin Film Society: Auteurs Sans Frontières.** Loosely based on historic events surrounding the end of the Cold War, this French espionage film shows how some spies are just regular folks. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm.

baffling *The Exterminating Angel*. This stretch of the film is a riot and feels like deeply personal filmmaking for Allen. While it's not all strictly *la vie en rose*, it's easy to shrug off the occasional fumble when weighed against so much cleverness and canniness and, *bien sûr*, irresistible charm. (06/10/2011) – Kimberley Jones
 ⚡⚡⚡⚡ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Violet Crown

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

D: Rob Marshall; with Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz, Ian McShane, Geoffrey Rush, Kevin R. McNally, Sam Claflin, Astrid Berges-Frisbey, Stephen Graham, Keith Richards, Richard Griffiths. (PG-13, 136 min.)

It's a Herculean task to steal the thunder from a Johnny Depp performance, but Richard Griffiths (best known as Harry Potter's Muggle uncle, Vernon Dursley) does exactly that in this fourth installment of Disney's seafaring franchise. Griffiths' brief cameo as the obese, obdurate, and altogether entertaining King George II of England is a marvel of protracted vowels and crumpet-stuffing regality. Bravo! That said, it's always going to be fun watching Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, be he besotted (as here, with Cruz's piratical Angelica, daughter of McShane's dreaded Blackbeard), or merely beleaguered – seemingly his lot in nautical life. This time out, Captain Jack and his old nemesis Barbosa (Rush) race to locate Ponce de Leon's storied fountain of youth. Far better than Verbinski's last two *Pirates* films, incoming director Rob Marshall (*Chicago*) keeps the subplots to a minimum, the action to the max, and Depp onscreen virtually throughout. Summer has arrived: More grog, please. (05/20/2011) – Marc Savlov
 ⚡⚡⚡ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

SOMETHING BORROWED D: Luke Greenfield; with Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin, Colin Egglesfield, John Krasinski, Steve Howey, Ashley Williams, Geoff Pierson, Jill Eikenberry. (PG-13, 103 min.)

In this adaptation of the first of Emily Giffin's companion novels, *Something Borrowed* and *Something Blue*, Ginnifer Goodwin is Rachel, a sweet but luckless-in-love attorney who's played second fiddle to her magnetic best friend, Darcy (Hudson), since childhood. Whatever Darcy wants, Darcy gets, including the lantern-jawed law student named Dex (Egglesfield), whom Rachel's been pining for since the first day of class. That bit of boy-snatchery is seen in flashback; the bulk of this romantic comedy from the director of *The Girl Next Door* is set in the weeks leading up to Dex and Darcy's wedding, as Rachel weighs the value of her friendship against

the wants of her heart. Oddly, the bond between the two women hardly concerns the filmmakers. With its FM-pop soundtrack and heavy Heineken product placement, *Something Borrowed* is fairly uninspiring. In this kicky portrait of narcissism unbridled, it's no longer a rhetorical question but an all-out dare. (05/06/2011) – Kimberley Jones
 ⚡⚡⚡ Southpark Meadows

SUPER 8 D: J.J. Abrams; with Joel Courtney, Kyle Chandler, Noah Emmerich, Elle Fanning, Ron Eldard, Riley Griffiths, Ryan Lee, Gabriel Basso, Zach Mills. (PG-13, 112 min.)

Set in 1979, writer/director J.J. Abrams' new monster movie throwback, *Super 8*, follows a group of late-tweeners/early teenagers who are spending their summer vacation shooting a zombie movie (on Super 8 stock). Newcomer Joel Courtney is perfect as Joe Lamb, who has recently lost his mother and gets his first kiss from Alice Dainard (Fanning) as he applies her zombie makeup. While filming one night at an abandoned railroad track, the kids witness a spectacular crash, which triggers the beginning of their town's destruction by the train's mysterious cargo. Joe's father, Jackson Lamb (Chandler), the town's deputy sheriff, is stymied in his efforts to solve the strange occurrences and sudden disappearances of various townspeople. Of course, the disaster also has a way of reuniting families, although Abrams' resolutions seem pat and hollow. Ultimately, it's the period and character details that provide the grist for *Super 8*'s winning formula, rather than its emotional arc and monster jolts. (06/10/2011) – Marjorie Baumgarten
 ⚡⚡⚡ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THOR D: Kenneth Branagh; with Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston, Stellan Skarsgård, Kat Dennings, Clark Gregg, Idris Elba, Colm Feore, Ray Stevenson, Tadanobu Asano, Rene Russo. (PG-13, 113 min.)

This is the long-awaited cinematic adaptation of Marvel Comics' popular take on Norse mythology and the eponymous God of Thunder. Following a bloody contretemps involving the dread Frost Giants, the arrogant, pouty Thor (Hemsworth, perfectly cast) is stripped of his all-powerful war hammer, Mjølfnir, and cast out of Asgard by his father, King Odin (Hopkins). Wormholing his way to Earth, Thor encounters scientist Jane Foster (Portman) and friends, who wonder, rightly: Who is this muscle-bound mook with delusions of demigodhood? *Thor* moves at a breathless pace, taking zero time for anything resembling the endearingly nuanced romance between, oh, I dunno, Spider-Man and Mary Jane. It's a spectacle, all right, and spectacular at times: Hemsworth nails Thor's royal insouciance and even injects a fair amount of



Stir Crazy

Stir Crazy (1980) D: Sidney Poitier; with Gene Wilder, Richard Pryor. (R, 108 min.) **Summer Film Classics: The Comedies of Sidney Poitier.** Three greats – Wilder, Pryor, and Poitier – combine their talents for this fish-out-of-water prison comedy. (Double bill: *Uptown Saturday Night*.) @Paramount, Thursday (6/24), 9:10pm; Friday (6/25), 7pm.



The Grapes of Wrath

The Grapes of Wrath (1940)

D: John Ford; with Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, John Carradine, Charley Grapewin. (NR, 128 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Ford, Fonda, and America.** John Ford translated the John Steinbeck Depression-era classic novel into an equally classic movie. The displaced Joad family from Oklahoma speaks for all Americans. (Double bill: *Young Mr. Lincoln*.) (*) @Paramount, Saturday, 4, 8:40pm; Sunday, 4:05pm.

humor into what could have been a dour downer of a deity. All told, though, *Thor* suffers from too much backstory and too many subplots and character introductions. (05/06/2011) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Gold Class, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ **THE TREE OF LIFE** D: Terrence Malick; with Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, Sean Penn, Hunter McCracken, Laramie Eppler, Tye Sheridan. (PG-13, 138 min.)

Terrence Malick's hotly awaited movie, *The Tree of Life*, bursts with unbridled ambition and vision. The filmmaker is trying to capture a sense of the entirety of human existence, which has roots grounded in the earth, branches that reach ever skyward, and a circumference that expands with each passing generation. After opening with a cacophony of whispered prayers swirling through the universe, *The Tree of Life* settles into its evocative middle section, which offers glimpses of the O'Brien family in 1950s Waco, Texas. Pitt and Chastain play the parents of three boys, the eldest of whom, Jack (McCracken as a child, Penn as an adult), is the story's central figure. He is constantly torn by the contradictory pulls of the "way of nature," represented by the father, and the "way of grace," the realm of the mother. While it doesn't always reach the heights for which it aims, *The Tree of Life* soars boldly and fearlessly. (06/03/2011) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S BIG HAPPY FAMILY

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Loretta Devine, Cassi Davis, Shad "Bow Wow" Moss, David Mann, Tamela Mann, Shannon Kane, Isaiiah Mustafa, Natalie Desselle Reid, Rodney Perry, Teyana Taylor, Lauren London. (PG-13, 106 min.)

Tyler Perry is back with another movie featuring Madea – his self-essayed, no-nonsense matriarch in drag – following his bid for respectability with last year's literary adaptation *For Colored Girls* and his ensemble piece *Why Did I Get Married Too?* Really, there is little to recommend about Perry's Madea films, which are brokers of racial and sexual stereotypes, other than their appeal to a certain segment of black women who are underserved by the current film market. *Big Happy Family's* primary plotline is about Madea's niece Shirley (Devine) needing to tell her grown children about her terminal cancer. Madea's family is a fractious bunch, but the mouthy matriarch eventually lays down the law for each one of them. Deathbed scenes and colonoscopy humor, Bible quotations and Maury Povich "Who Is the Real Baby Daddy" episodes: All cohabit with equal relevance in the world of Tyler Perry. (04/29/2011) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Metropolitan

X-MEN: FIRST CLASS D: Matthew Vaughn; with James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Kevin Bacon, Rose Byrne, Jennifer Lawrence, January Jones, Nicholas Hoult, Zoë Kravitz, Oliver Platt. (PG-13, 131 min.)

In this Marvel comic origin story, set primarily in the early Sixties, director Vaughn goesos summer blockbuster expectations by enlisting two arthouse hotties, McAvoy and Fassbender, to portray youthful versions of Professor X, who reads minds, and Erik, who bends metal as his alias Magneto. Truth be told, *X-Men: First Class* feels less like a movie and more like a series of preambles. It never quite catches a rhythm but glides by on the strength of its personalities. It's all vastly superior to Brett Ratner's *X-Men: The Last Stand*, of course. But new blood and swinging Sixties milieu aside, *X-Men: First Class* never finds a fresh way to sell the same old plot points – humans fearful of mutants, the idea of forced identification, a mad genius recruiting an army – and we're pretty definitely in broken-record country. Ah, but the natives do look groovy in their go-go boots and mock turtle-necks. (06/10/2011) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

also playing

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AFRICAN CATS ★★ Movies 8

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Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, 6:30pm.

Embodiment of Evil (2008) D: José Mojica Marins; with José Mojica Marins, Jece Valadão, Adriano Stuart, Milhem Cortaz. (NR, 94 min.) **Cine las Americas.** Horror icon Coffin Joe returns in this Brazilian film in which the deranged undertaker is released from prison and begins his quest to find a woman who can bear him a perfect child. @Alamo Ritz, 10:25pm.

Fahrenheit 451 (1966) @Paramount, 7pm. (See Tuesday.)

McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971) @Paramount, 9:15pm. (See Tuesday.)

Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus (2009) D: Jack Perez; with Deborah Gibson, Lorenzo Lamas, Vic Chao. (NR, 90 min.) **Hecklevision.** Prehistoric sea creatures battle each other off the California coast. Text in your heckles and have them appear onscreen. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7pm.

The Rock (1996) D: Michael Bay; with Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris, Michael Biehn. (R, 140 min.) **Tough Guy Cinema.** Explosions and tough-guy heroics rule in this Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer production. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

YellowBrickRoad (2011) @Barton Creek Square, 10pm. (See Friday.)

SPACES

Howl's Moving Castle (2005) D: Hayao Miyazaki; with the voices of Christian Bale, Emily Mortimer. (PG, 119 min.) **Austin Public Library and Austin Film Society: Head Start Cinema.** The films in this series belong to the British Film Institute's list of the 50 films that should be seen by the age of 14. A discussion will be held afterward. (*) @Windsor Park Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

Slacker (1991) See p.68.

KIDS

Alpha and Omega \$1. (*) @Westgate, 10am.

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore \$1. (*) @Arbor, 10am.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader \$1. (*) @Lakeline, 10am.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid \$1. (*) @Westgate, 10am.

The Iron Giant Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am.

Megamind \$1. (*) @Arbor, Tinseltown South, 10am.

Ponyo Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am.

The Tale of Despereaux \$1. (*) @Lakeline, 10am.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Free. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10:45am.

THURSDAY **23**

Dudamel: Let the Children Play (2011) D: Alberto Arvelo. NCM Fathom. The director/conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic leads this journey around the globe to visit with children inspired by the music in their lives. @Arbor, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, 7pm.

Stir Crazy (1980) See p.68.

Uptown Saturday Night (1974) D: Sidney Poitier; with Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby, Harry Belafonte, Flip Wilson, Richard Pryor. (PG, 104 min.) **Summer Film Classics: The Comedies of Sidney Poitier.** Two friends have their wallets stolen while out on the town, only to discover that one held a winning lottery ticket that they must now try to recover. (Double bill: *Stir Crazy*.) @Paramount, 7pm.

SPACES

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof D: Richard Brooks; with Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, Burl Ives. (NR, 108 min.) **Tennessee Williams Film Series.** (*) @Prothro Theater at Harry Ransom Center, 7pm.

Dead Man (1996) @Blue Starlite Microplex, 9pm. (See Thursday, 6/16.)

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (2004) D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn. (R, 87 min.) **College Movie Review Presents.** (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In I, 9pm.

KIDS

The Iron Giant Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am.

Ponyo Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Free. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10:45am.

offscreen

Austin FilmWorks: Advanced Digital Cinematography Workshop Austin FilmWorks offers this two-day workshop taught by Steve Mims that focuses on single-sensor digital cinema cameras, shooting techniques, and lighting. Cameras used will include the Panasonic AF100 and the Canon 7D. See website for details. Sat.-Sun., July 9-10. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film See website for class details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

Khabele Summer Filmmaking Camp Kids learn how to turn their ideas into stories, write a screenplay, shoot, and edit a short film. And there's also a five-week camp for adults. See website for details and registration. *The Khabele School, 801 Rio Grande, 480-8142. www.khabele.org.*

Meet Green Lantern Artist Doug Mahnke Between brightest day and blackest night, Austin Books & Comics and Regal Cinemas present Mahnke for a book signing and Q&A before and after screening this new superhero movie. With door prizes, comics, and more! *Fri., June 24, 7:30-10:15pm. Gateway Theatre, 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*

Summer@Austin Studios: Film Camps for Kids See website for camp details. *Austin Studios, 1901 E. 51st, 322-0145. www.austinfilm.org.*

Support Cinema41 via Ice Cream and Noms Stop by Amy's Ice Creams or Phil's Icehouse on Burnet anytime on the first day of summer. When you make your purchase, say "I'm here to support Cinema41," and that local series dedicated to screening independent films will get a percentage of your purchase. Also, Cinema41 peeps will be on hand to talk film and give you free tickets to upcoming shows. *Tue., June 21, 11am-10:30pm. 5620 Burnet Rd. www.wix.com/cinema41.*

The Screenplay Workshop: Summer Registration Open Screenwriting Fundamentals See website for class details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.



PARAMOUNT SUMMER CLASSIC FILM SERIES

LOVERS ON THE RUN

THU-FRI, JUNE 16-17

BONNIE AND CLYDE THU 7:00PM
FRI 9:00PM

THEY LIVE BY NIGHT THU 9:15PM
FRI 7:00PM



BONNIE AND CLYDE

FORD, FONDA, AND AMERICA

SAT-SUN, JUNE 18-19

GRAPES OF WRATH SAT 4PM & 8:40PM
SUN 4:05PM

YOUNG MR. LINCOLN SAT 6:35PM
SUN 2PM & 6:40PM

A MODERN STAR FOR A

MODERN TIME: JULIE CHRISTIE

TUE-WED, JUNE 21-22

MCCABE & MRS. MILLER TUE 7:00PM
WED 9:15PM

FAHRENHEIT 451 TUE 9:25PM
WED 7:00PM

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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR JUNE 17 TO JUNE 23

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Chris Schlarb

New Media Art and Sound Summit 2011

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Friday 17-Sunday 19

Last year's inaugural New Media Art and Sound Summit found Church of the Friendly Ghost testing its festing powers and hauling three days of music

and art to higher altitudes, much like a Sherpa. Improv and experimental are still in the bag for year two as they dive into the wild brush of Austin and beyond.

"We did not really consider genre when making selections," says CotFG organizer Aaron Mace of this year's lineup. "NMASS 2011 is not about certain sounds, but you could say that it is about a certain kind of artistic expression."

Friday highlights include locals ST 37, Ralph White, and Bee vs. Moth. Saturday, make sure to catch neo-classic Church favorite CJ Boyd, Weird Weeds' axe sharpener Sandy Ewen, and bicoastal noisemakers Psychic Temple with guitarist Chris Schlarb. Sunday, Thomas Fang hosts Get

Bent! 4.0, a circuit-bending workshop at 1pm. Later, Smoky Emery, Vision Improv Orchestra, and more leave a trail of melted time signatures. There are also panels, art installations, and the requisite "secret" parties.

"What we wish to achieve with NMASS 2011 is basically the same as it's ever been," Mace adds. "NMASS brings to light adventuresome music and other artistic works, created for this single occasion, some distance away from the institutional and industrial settings, and we have a fabulously big time with discovery. If Church of the Friendly Ghost is a community-based laboratory for music and other artistic expressions, then NMASS is the science fair - with beer."

www.nmassfest.org - Audra Schroeder

in-stores

Friday: **Tombs**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; the **Sideshow Tragedy**, Antone's Record Shop, 6pm; **Hex Machine**, **When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth**, Trailer Space, 7pm; the **Pushpins**, Backspin Records, 7pm
Saturday: **Xander Harris**, End of an Ear, 6pm; **Keg Vultures**, **Bottle Service**, **Rainbow Dragon**, Trailer Space, 7pm
Sunday: **Sex Advice**, **John Wesley Coleman III**, Trailer Space, 3pm
Monday: **Foster & Lloyd**, Waterloo Records, 5pm
Tuesday: **Ruthie Foster**, Waterloo Records, 5pm
Wednesday: The **Greencards**, Waterloo Records, 5pm
Thursday: **Skinner Sisters**, **Louck & Lucas**, **Hidden Hills**, Trailer Space, 7pm

A STORM OF LIGHT, TOMBS

Red 7, Friday 17

A Storm of Light and Tombs come well paired, the former's brooding prog bracing behind *As the Valley of Death Becomes Us*, *Our Silver Memories Fade*, frontman Josh Graham's third full-length as ASOL. Brooklyn metal trio Tombs likewise evokes Graham's Neurosis ties on new Relapse disc *Path of Totality*. One etches atmospheric disturbance, the other dooms civilization. Kill the Client referees. - Raoul Hernandez

YOUSSOU N'DOUR 'ACL' Live at the Moody Theater, Saturday 18

Stevie Wonder's set up to scorch the Austin City Limits Music Festival in September, but summer at the Moody hits triple digits on West Africa's most famous griot. Mbalax bard Youssou N'Dour steers the vocal tradition of historical praise away from its Afro-Cuban and Haitian merger to another Caribbean hot spot on latest LP *Dakar-Kingston*, which took the 51-year-old Senegalese singer to Bob Marley's studio in Jamaica for redemption songs. - Raoul Hernandez

GIRLS ROCK CAMP SHOWCASE

Red 7, Saturday 18

Now in its fifth summer, Girls Rock Camp Austin has the distinct pleasure of being its own generational flow chart. The camp employs mothers of the local scene (Rosie Flores, Terri Lord) who have helped spawn acts that went on to open for Arcade Fire (Schmillion), while its newest students just spent the last week getting a rock & roll crash course. At noon, see them shred and shed a tear (or two). - Audra Schroeder



BOOTSYY COLLINS 'ACL' Live at the Moody Theater, Sunday 19

His Royal Bass-ness lands in the live music capital on the platform heels of latest *The Funk Capital of the World*. That means four decades of sly, elastic funk from the man who outshone George Clinton's 1970s Parliament Funkadelic, reclaimed dance with Deee-Lite in the 1990s, and carved a contemporary niche with the likes of Ice Cube and Samuel L. Jackson. Bootsyy's flash and fun, but he's real, baby. - Margaret Moser

BLUE CORN MUSIC 10TH ANNIVERSARY Antone's, Tuesday 21

After a decade putting out some of the finest Americana and roots-rock, Austin's Blue Corn Music has not only good reason to celebrate, but two ways to enjoy it. Blues guitarist Hadden Sayers debuts his new CD, *Hard Dollar*; then comes Grammy-nominee Ruthie Foster releasing her first CD/DVD live recording, *Live at Antone's*. Expect special guests in honor of the label's new partnership with Spindle/Red Distribution. - Margaret Moser

THE PARLOR'S FINAL NIGHT

The Parlor, Tuesday 21

You've had 13 chances to say goodbye to the Parlor. Have you poured one out yet? No?! Get thee to the North Loop pizza joint posthaste, because tonight the Gill family closes its doors to the sounds of Extreme Fajitas, Shit Creek, and Chicago's Brickfight and Wide Angles. Don't miss one last chance to get your dough tossed. - Audra Schroeder

THE GREENCARDS

Threadgill's World Headquarters, Thursday 23

Nashville, Tenn., still claims them, but the Greencards are forever tied to that other "T," the one that nurtured them all the way to Music City. Austin's former Greencards visit this time as a follow-up to 2009's *Fascination*, latest LP *The Brick Album* getting truly creative with its Americana newgrass, honoring roots in traditional sounds while discretely revealing impeccable musicianship. - Jim Caligiuri



soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Friday 17

A decade in, still wordlessly exploding.

SAHARA SMITH

Threadgill's World Headquarters, Friday 17

She's got a voice that'll melt your sno-cone.

SUMMERDANCE

Austin Ventures Studio Theater, Friday 17 & Saturday 18

Locals My Education score with Kathy Dunn Hamrick. See "Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company," The Arts, p.31.

SISTER 7 REUNION

Antone's, Saturday 18

Patrice Pike's 1990s jam reignites for one night, with Brannen Temple on drums.

GIL SCOTT-HERON TRIBUTE & JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Gypsy Lounge, Saturday 18

A toast for the soul poet. Find more Juneteenth events in Community Listings, p.58.

AVERAGE WHITE BAND

One World Theatre, Sunday 19

Your dad's favorite band!

LOVELY SPARROWS

Mohawk, Monday 20

Local pop tarts stay inside all summer.

EMMYLOU HARRIS

ACL Live at Moody Theater, Tuesday 21

Country songbird drives a *Hard Bargain*.

RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT

Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 22

Perpetual folkie rides the frets.

KINGDOM OF SUICIDE LOVERS 7-INCH RELEASE

Ruta Maya, Thursday 23

"System vs. Factory," Boss Hog vs. Sonic Youth. No Mas Bodas open.

earache

Crushin' it with *Rush* at austinchronicle.com/earache

live music venues p.74

roadshows + club listings p.76



| L - R: TOMBS (FRI., 6/17) | YOUSSOU N'DOUR (SAT., 6/18) | EMMYLOU HARRIS (TUE., 6/21)

RUTAMAYA MUSIC PRESENTS:

Thursday June 16
CHRIS GATES & GATESVILLE
w/ These Mad Dogs of Glory, Dad Jim

Friday June 17
LEROI BROS.
w/ Victims of Leisure, Soulphonics

Saturday June 18
GENERAL SMILEY
w/ McPullish, Ken Serious, Sgt. Remo,
Mister Kali, DEG DJ

Thursday June 23
NO MAS BODAS



w/ Kingdom of Suicide Lovers,
Light Me Up

Friday June 24
BOLLYWOOD WHITE PARTY

UPCOMING SHOWS

- 7/1 - BLACK IRISH TEXAS,
VAGABOND SWING, SIDESHOW TRAMPS.
- 7/02 - JABARVY, NAMELESS HORSES
- 7/09 - ATTASH, IVORY GHOST, DJEMBABES
- 7/14 - DEADEYE, J. WESLEY HAYNES TRIO
- 7/29 - POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES,
RESTARVRANT
- 7/30 - DAVID KIMBOROUGH JR. OLD GRAY MULE
- 8/19-8/20 - ATX STILEY FESTIVAL
- 8/26 - ROBERT BELFOUR

MORE INFORMATION & FULL CALENDAR @
RUTAMAYAMUSIC.COM
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Emo's FEATURED SHOWS

JUNE 19
NINJASONIK
w/ ZEALE & PARKING



RX BANDITS FAREWELL TOUR

WITH
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JUNE 29 - EMO'S
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THURSDAY, JUNE 16

INSIDE: **RECIDE**
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
EXPLOSION HORSE • VOMETTES

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

INSIDE: **THE ELECTED**
NIC ARMSTRONG
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SATURDAY, JUNE 18

INSIDE: ATX MUSIC MAG ISSUE RELEASE PARTY
MOBLEY • CRASH GALLERY
ISLE OF WHITE • JORDAN TANNER

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

INSIDE: **NINJASONIK • ZEALE**
PARKING

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

INSIDE: **HAUNTED AMPS • THE NOUNS**
MIDNIGHT GHOSTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

INSIDE: **THE ROCKETZ** (LOS ANGELES)
CRAIC HAUS (CALI.) • **HOTROD HILLBILLIES**

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

INSIDE: **SHELLS • ROKY MOON AND BOLT**
BOONESBORO • THE MOLE PEOPLE

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

INSIDE: **EAGLE CLAW**
WOODGRAIN • COUNTY BUCKS • TACTICS

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

INSIDE: **TINSEL TEETH**
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH • CACAW

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

INSIDE: **EASTERN CONFERENCE**
CHAMPIONS • MY EDUCATION

MONDAY, JUNE 27

OUTSIDE: **Emo's Summer Boat Party Series**
THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

INSIDE: **FLESH LIGHTS • THE VIGNETTES**

COMING SOON: 7/15 TRIBAL SEEDS W/ SEEDLESS (OUT, TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM) ADAM & THE BULLSHARK (MEMBERS OF CRUISERWEIGHT) • 7/16 ICEAGE W/ DESKONOCIDOS, THE CREAMERS (IN) • 7/17 THE SHINY DARKS W/ MARY ANN & THE REVIVAL BAND (IN) • 7/17 EMO'S SUMMER BOAT PARTY SERIES W/ ZLAM DUNK • 7/18 SCHMILLION W/ THE BANANA CONVENTION, ADRIAN AND THE SICKNESS, THE BEAT DOLLS (IN) • 7/19 KOTTONMOUTH KINGS W/ KINGSPADE, DIRTBALL, JOHNNY RICHTER, D-LOC, DJ BOBBY D • 7/21 VALENCIA W/ CONDITIONS (IN) • 7/22 THE SUPERVILLAINS W/ ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE (IN, TIX ON SALE SAT 6/4 @ 10AM THRU C3CONCERTS.COM) ARTERY FOUNDATION SUMMER TOUR W/ IN FEAR & FAITH, VANNA, A LOSS FOR WORDS, CLOSE TO HOME, TEN AFTER TWO, CHUNKI NO. CAPTAIN CHUNKI, ADESTRIA (OUT) • 7/23 HARVEY MILK (IN) • 7/25 THE SLAUGHTER SURVIVORS TOUR W/ CONDUCTING FROM THE GRAVE, RINGS OF SATURN, SCALE THE SUMMIT, THE CONTORTIONIST, VOLUMES, STRUCTURES (IN) • 7/26 MOONFACE (IN) LUDO W/ SPARKS THE RESCUE, TOMMY & THE HIGH PILOTS (OUT, TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM) • 7/27 THE GREAT NOSTALGIC W/ PAPERTHREAT, BALTO (IN) • 7/31 YOB W/ DARK CASTLE, THE ROLLER (IN) MICKEY AVALON (OUT, TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM) • 8/02 VOLBEAT W/ COLD, ANCHORED (OUT) 8/05 PROCLAMATION W/ BLACK WITCHERY, MAMMOTH GRINDER (IN) • 8/06 TALLY HALL W/ SPEAK, CASEY SHEA (IN) • 8/07 100 MONKEYS (IN) • 8/10 DWARVES W/ NASHVILLE PUSSY (OUT) • 8/12 DAVID MAYFIELD PARADE (IN, TIX ON SALE SAT 6/18 @ 10AM THRU C3CONCERTS.COM)



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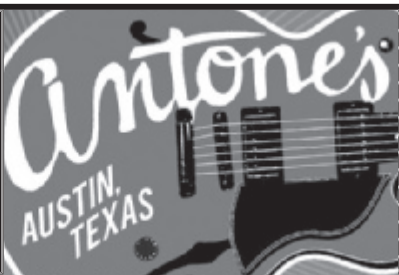
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BOBBY "BLUE" BLAND
SUN 3 JULY
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THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
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TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS
THU 16 JUNE
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MICKY & THE MOTORCARS
FRI 17 JUNE
WITH: **BRIAN KEANE BECK & CAUTHEN**
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SISTER 7
SATURDAY JUNE 18TH
WITH: **THE COVETERS & LISA MARSHALL BAND**
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12pm AUSTIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC ROCK CAMP
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TUE 21 JUN 10PM!
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THU 23 JUNE
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WITH: **THE JONES FAMILY SINGERS**
FRI 24 JUNE
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SUNDAY JULY 10 LEE DEWYZE w/ HUDSON MOORE
THURSDAY JULY 14 HUBERT SUMLIN & WILLIE BIG EYES SMITH

SATURDAY JUNE 25TH JOE KING CORRASCO & THE CROWNS
WITH: **THE GOLDEN BOYS**
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SUNDAY JUNE 26TH BENEFIT CONCERT FOR C.A.R.Y. WITH TONI PRICE LEEANN ATHERTON
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3RD ANNUAL STARLIGHT BENEFIT
WITH: **OK SWEETHEART ANDY BARHAM & THE GOOD PREVAILS ESTHER LaVONNE DJ TROY**
THU 30 JUNE
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WEDNESDAY JULY 6TH MARC BROUSSARD
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FRIDAY JULY 15-EARLY MARCIA BALL
SATURDAY JULY 16 GARY CLARK JR.
WEDNESDAY JULY 20 CHRISTINA PERRI w/ honeyhoney
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Fri, June 17

8 JON HOGAN & MARIA MOSS
10 MARK CREARY BAND

Sat, June 18

7 JESSICA SHEPHERD
9 NATALIE ZOE
11 SIXTH STREET COWBOY

Sun, June 19

7:30 MARSHALL HOOD BAND

Mon, June 20


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SATURDAY, JUNE 18 • 9PM
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SUNDAY, JUNE 19 • 5PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 21 • 6PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 • 6PM
BREWSKEE-BALL LEAGUE PLAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 23 • 9PM
JWW & THE PROSPECTORS THE SWING COMMANDERS (ENGLAND!) THE SKYLINE WRANGLERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24 • 8PM
SPILL DOT CON OFFICIAL OPENING PARTY FEAT. THE TEXAS BATTLE LEAGUE & DJ ASPEKT

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 • 8PM
4TH ANNUAL SUMMER TRIBUTE CONCERT SERIES FOOT PATROL PLAYS HIP HOP'S GREATEST HITS! & DJ MAHEALANI

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BLACK FRIDAY FEATURING TIA CARRERA WOODGRAIN MODOK

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club listings

ALL AGES VENUE ROADSHOW RECOMMENDED HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 16

ANTONE'S Deadman, Turnpike Troubadours (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Frank Meyer (7:30)
BEERLAND Ralph White, Walter Daniels, Izzy Cox, Viva Le Vox, Black-Eyed Vermillion
BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Pee Wee Calvin & the Way 'Tis, Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Advanced Dance Lessons, Candice Moore (7:00)
C. HUNTS ICE HOUSE Black Owl Society (9:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Karen Tennen, Richard James Mikel, Chris Mosley, Patrick Higgins, Candice Moore (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Much Love, Suede (6:00)
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Graham Weber (6:30)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Denia Ridley (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Beck & Cauthen (9:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Jakwagon (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio, Continental Graffiti (10:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Latin at Heart, Dahebebees (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons, Alvaro
DIZZY ROOSTER Guilty Pleasures (8:00)
DON JUAN'S CANTINA Fat Dog (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Milkdrive (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Polk (7:30)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Roberta Morales, Michael Ramos (6:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Albania & Her Fellas, Three Jazz Collective
ELYSIUM Producer Q, ProVision, Synapse (9:00)
EMO'S The Vomettes, Explosion Horse, Air Traffic Controllers, Recide
EVANGELINE CAFE Matt Smith (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Burns, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, Amplified Heat (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettle (8:00)
FREDDIE'S PLACE Lowell Thompson & Bill Mullins (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Jim Stringer & the AM Band (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Jason Allen (7:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Grupo Gruvo (6:00)
THE HIGHBALL Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL C.J. Boyd, Reverend Glasseye, Paleo, Cartright (9:00)
HOUSE WINE Jimmy Lohmann (7:00)
JOVITA'S Amanda Hickey, Daniel Stokes, the Beaumonts, Igor & the Red Elvives (5:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE David Lewis Morgan (7:00), Open Mic (8:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Joe Teichman, Marty Rigby (7:00)
LA FERIA RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (7:00)
LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Jeff & the Jumptones (6:00), Brett McMinn & the Micks (10:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; email, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)
MOHAWK Ashton Trudeau, Nomad's End, Boyfrndz (9:00)
MOMO'S Java Jazz, Ethan Kennedy, Jess Klein, Stukenberg, Justin Black & Big Heart
NEWORLEDELI Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Jeff Talmadge
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Liz Morphis
THE OASIS The Cornell Hurd Band
ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan (9:00)
OPAI Sly Barrack (7:00)
THE PARLOR Dead Space, Broken Gold, the Flesh Lights, Ghost Knife (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jeremy Steding, Nick Verzosa, Beth Lee (4:00)

roadshows

June

THU 16
ProVision, Elysium
Paleo, C.J. Boyd, Hole in the Wall
Igor & the Red Elvives, Jovita's
Boyfrndz, Mohawk
The Capaces, Red 7
Harry Bodine, Romeo's
Bigfoot, the Scoot Inn
Flemish Giants, Illuminants, Trailer Space Records
Ultradyme, Victory Grill
The Shake, Volstead Lounge

FRI 17
Rod Picott, Cheatham Street Warehouse
The Cedric Burnside Project, Continental Club
The Elected, Emo's
Brian Cutean, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Nasty 'Stache, John David Mahaffey, Jovita's
The Nouns, Kick Butt Coffee at the Triangle
Ray Cashman, Mean-Eyed Cat
A Storm of Light, Tombs, Kill the Client, Red 7
King Louie, the Scoot Inn
Dave Quanbury, Skinny's Ballroom
Valley of the Mariner, Stubb's
Hex Machine, Trailer Space Records
The Art Institute, Trophy's
Tombs, Waterloo Records

SAT 18
Anais Mitchell, Cactus Cafe
Igor & the Red Elvives, Continental Club
Ashes of Babylon, Flamingo Cantina
Felix Pacheco, Gypsy Lounge
Glabilly, Hole in the Wall
The Orbans, Momo's
Yousou N'Dour, Moody Theater
People vs. De la Rosa, Man Factory, the Parlor
Verbal Abuse, Hex Machine, Red 7
C.J. Boyd, Chris Schlarb's Psychic Temple, Salvage Vanguard Theater
Blame Sally, Threadgill's
Blackwater Revival, Triple Crown
Sideshow Tramps, Uncle Billy's Brew & Que
The Really Rottens, White Swan Lounge

SUN 19
Sonia Moore, Cedar Street
Ninjasonic, Emo's
Brian Cutean, Jovita's
Bleu Edmondson, Lamberts
Valley of the Mariner, Mohawk
Bootsy Collins, Moody Theater
Average White Band, One World Theatre
Chemtrails, Ghost Movie Rocker, Red Eyed Fly
Fran & Anton Cosmo, the Stage on Sixth
Warriors, Stubb's

MON 20
Paperhead, Mohawk
Dubstep Pressure, Ruta Maya
Foster & Lloyd, Waterloo Records

TUE 21
The Nouns, Emo's
Emmylou Harris, Moody Theater
Brickfight, Wide Angles, the Parlor
Matt Schofield, Stubb's

WED 22
Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Cactus Cafe
Adam Johnson, Continental Club
The Rocketz, Craic Haus, Emo's
Little Feat, One World Theatre
The Weathermen, Parmer Lane Tavern
Boy, the Offbeats, Red Eyed Fly
The Greencards, Waterloo Records

THU 23
Gin Blossoms, Paper Mache, Antone's
The Krayolas, Continental Club
Rocky Moon & Bolt, Emo's
The Live Lights, Flamingo Cantina
Kelley Mickwee, Gruene Hall
Bexar County Bastards, Mohawk
the Swing Commanders, the Scoot Inn
The Greencards, Threadgill's World HQ



cactus cafe
EST. 1979

THU JUNE 16



**SLAID
CLEAVES**
WITH **ROD
PICOTT**

FRI JUNE 17



**MILKDRIVE
& DREW
SMITH**

SAT JUNE 18



**ANAÏS
MITCHELL**
WITH
**DUSTIN
WELCH**

TUE JUNE 21

**VANESSA
LIVELY**
CD RELEASE SHOW



WED JUNE 22



**RAMBLIN'
JACK ELLIOT**

THU JUNE 23

**RAY
BENSON**



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COMING SOON
6/25 **DALE WATSON**
6/30 **IAN MOORE**
AND THE LOSSY COILS
7/2 **SCOTT H. BIRAM**

THUR
JUNE 16
H. H. **PLANET CASPER**
Da He Be Ge Bees
12AM **LATIN AT HEART**

FRIDAY JUNE 17
HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS
CEDRIC BURNSIDE
12AM



10PM **MUDPHONIC**
SATURDAY JUNE 18
MATINEE DOORS AT 3PM
REDD VOLKAERT
12AM

12AM **IGOR & THE
RED ELVISES**

10PM **TWO HOOTS
AND A HOLLER**
SUN. JUNE 19
DOORS AT 6:30 SHOW AT 7:30PM
**JUNIOR
BROWN**
AND THE LOVELY
TANYA RAE
7:30PM

HEYDALE WITH
REDD VOLKAERT,
EARL POOLE BALL
PLUS **DALLAS**
WAYNE
10PM

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
THU 8:30-10:30 **CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI**
ROBERT KRAFT TRIO
FRI 8:30-10:30 **TAMECA JONES**
THE LOST COUNTS NO COVER
SAT CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY
SUN 8:30-10:30 **JON DEE & FRIEND SHOW**
WITH **JESSE SUBLETT**
10:00 CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY



CHOSEN ONE OF "AMERICA'S
BEST BARS" IN PLAYBOY'S
GUIDE TO AMERICA'S GREATEST
BARS IN 2000 AND NOW
AGAIN IN 2010!
10PM **WELDON
HENSON**
TUESDAY JUNE 21
HAPPY HOUR 6:30PM
**TONI
PRICE**

11:15PM **SLOWTRAIN**
10PM **FRANK SMITH**
WITH **HEARTLESS BASTARDS**
WEDNESDAY JUNE 22
H. H. ADAM JOHNSON

12AM **JON DEE
GRAHAM**
THURSDAY JUNE 23
HAPPY HOUR **PLANET CASPER**
12AM **MICHAEL FRACASSO**
AND **LOCAL 99**
10PM **KRAYOLAS**
FRIDAY JUNE 24
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

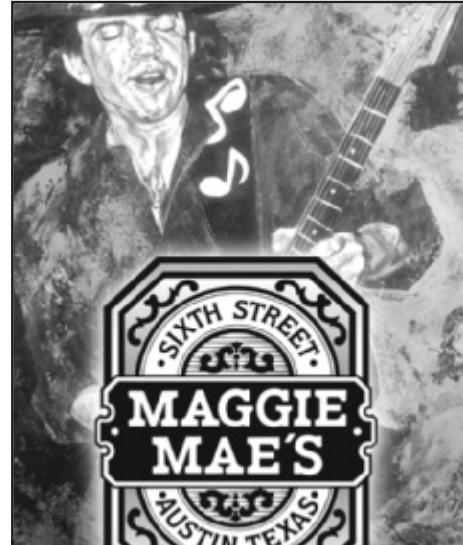
12AM **STONE RIVER BOYS**
10PM **THE SWING** FROM THE UK
COMMANDERS
SATURDAY JUNE 25
MATINEE DOORS AT 3PM **REDD VOLKAERT**

12AM **DALE
WATSON**
AND HIS LONESTARS
10PM **DUSTIN
WELCH**

ART BY
**CINDY
"CRASH"
RASCHKE**
**CARLOS
CASTANEDA**
&
JAMES LAGA

GALLERY OPENS AT 8:00PM
MON 8:30-10:30 **THE FRANK MUSTARD PROJECT**
DON HARVEY: A IS RED
TUE 8:45-10:30 **THE EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**
DAN DYER 2 BUCK TUESDAYS
WED 8:30-10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
8:30 **BARBARA K. & CINDY CASHDOLLAR**

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SUNDAY 6/19
AUSTIN ICON
ALAN HAYNES

THURSDAY 6/16
JO HELL
COLLEGE NIGHT WITH
DJ TAKTIK ON THE DECK
DJ KEN IN THE PUB

FRIDAY 6/17
JASON CASSIDY
VIDEO DJ KENN ON THE DECK
MASH-UP DJ TETSUO
IN THE GIBSON ROOM

SATURDAY 6/18
**THE RANKIN
TWINS**
VIDEO DJ KEN ON THE DECK
DJ KIDD IN THE GIBSON ROOM

SUNDAY 6/19
AUSTIN ICON
ALAN HAYNES!

MONDAY 6/20
BLUE MONDAY BLUES JAM WITH
**MIKE MILLIGAN &
THE ALTER BOYZ**

TUESDAY 6/21
CURTIS GRIMES
WEDNESDAY 6/22
**DEREK WINTERS
BAND**

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Music Line-up

THUR 6/16 Slim Bawb
FRI 6/17 Mark Atwood
SAT 6/18 Greg Reichel
TUES 6/21 TBA
WED 6/22 Opie Hendrix
THUR 6/23 TBA

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THU, JUNE 16 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9-11PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, JUNE 17 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **TWO TONS OF STEEL**

SAT, JUNE 18 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9-10PM **THE DERAILERS**

TUE, JUNE 21 6-8PM **ROLL TO WALK**
8-9PM **GARY P. NUNN**
9-11PM **DANCE LESSONS**
CHAPARRAL
W/ JEFF HUGHES

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

- RED 7** Strange Gun, Before Dishonor, Sniper 66, the Capaces, Exile ④
- RED EYED FLY** Rational Thought Neglect, Dividing the Stone, Vanagen, Friends of Lovers, Johnny Stimson
- RED FEZ** Jean Claude Van Jamme (9:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Lucas Cook (9:00)
- ROMEO'S** Harry Bodine, Mike June, Ghosts Along the Brazos (9:30) ④
- RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE** Jeff Lofton (7:00)
- SANTA RITA TEX MEX CANTINA** Erika Maassen (7:00)
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Lost & Nameless Orchestra (6:30)
- SAXON PUB** Eightysixed (6:00); Walter Tragert, Hector Ward & the Big Time, Chasing Blue (8:00)
- THE SCOOT INN** Andy Barham & the Good Prevails, Bigfoot, the Finest Kind (9:00) ④
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Chris Martinez (9:00)
- SKINNY'S BALLROOM** Battle Bend, Loblolly Boy, Bo & the Locomotive, Jesse Woods (9:30)
- THE STAGE ON SIXTH** Keith Kelso, Sam Riggs (6:00)
- STUBB'S** Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves, Moonlight Towers (9:00)
- THIRD BASE LIVE** Clayton Adams (8:00)
- TRAILER SPACE RECORDS** Intimate Stranger, Illuminatus, Flemish Giants (7:00) ④
- TRIPLE CROWN** Bruce Smith (6:00); Grant Ewing Band, Rooster Jenkins (10:00)
- TROPHY'S** Ugly Horse, Gut Radio, D'wax (9:00)
- UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE** Andrew Wade (7:00), Cameron Nelson (7:00)
- VICTORY GRILL** Ultradyne, Bodytronix (8:00) ④ ⑤
- VOLSTEAD LOUNGE** The Shake (10:00) ④
- Z'ZEJAS** Eagle Pritchard Murray Band (6:00)
- BACKSPIN RECORDS** The Pushpins (7:00)
- BEERLAND** Women in Prison, Crime Wave (9:00)
- THE BELMONT** Hedda Layne (6:00)
- BOAT HOUSE GRILL** Byrd & Street 'BOUT TIME DJ Element
- BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons, Two Tons of Steel (8:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Drew Smith, Milkdrive (8:30)
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mandy Marie & the Cool Hand Lukes, Right or Happy, T. Tex Edwards
- CEDAR STREET** Trent Durham, Skyrocket! (6:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Texas Eastside Kings (6:30)
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (6:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Jordan Minor, Rod Picott ④
- CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE** Something Something, Inc. (7:00)
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY** Guilty Pleasures (9:00)
- CONANS PIZZA** Matt "Blue Cat" Ferrel (6:30)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Tameca Jones, the Lost Counts (8:30); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); Mudphonic, the Cedric Burnside Project (10:00) ④
- COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons, Fabian (8:30)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Driskill Bar: Jamie Thomas, Dave Inslay (6:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
- EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Mariachi Tamazula (8:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Albanie & Her Fellas, Beto y los Fairlanes (6:00)
- EMO'S** Nic Armstrong, the Elected ④
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Bordertown Bootleggers (10:00)
- FAIR BEAN COFFEE** Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Blue Kabuki, Perfect Pants, the Daytes, Opposite Day (9:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00); Brian Cutean, Amy Annelie (8:00) ④
- FREDDIE'S PLACE** Wynn Taylor (6:00)
- GIDDY UPS** Bob Appel, Jimmy & the Lunar Rollers
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dane Sterling, Scott Angle & the Cold Cold Hearts (6:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Houston Marchman (7:30)
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:00)
- THE HIGHBALL** Copa Kings (7:00)
- HILL'S CAFE** Opie Hendrix
- HOLE IN THE WALL** The Beaumonts, Turbo 350, the Sonomatics, Mrs. Glass (9:00)
- JOVITA'S** Girl Guitar, Greg Talmadge, HalleyAnna Finlay, John David Mahaffey, Nasty 'Stache, Dye 4, American Astronaut (5:00) ④
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** Blues Dance (9:00)
- KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE** Edward Hartline, the Nouns, Old World Moon, Laserz (8:00) ④
- LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN** E.M. Cravens Band (7:00)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Prime Directive, Vinyl Dharma (6:00)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)
- MEAN-EYED CAT** Ray Cashman (9:00) ④
- MEXITA'S MEXICAN FOOD RESTAURANT** Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
- MOHAWK** The Happen-Ins (5:00); Ghost Wolves, Amplified Heat, Sideshow Tragedy CD Release (9:00)
- MOMO'S** Reed Turner, Ginger Leigh, Jack Burton, Cari Hutson
- MOODY THEATER** ACL Live: Explosions in the Sky ④
- THE OASIS** The Atlantics
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Sam Hooper, Dahebegebees
- OPAI** Mike June (7:00)
- THE PARISH** Shakey Graves, the Fox & the Bird, Black Books, David Ramirez (7:00)
- THE PARLOR** Field Dress, Sad Accordions, Bitter Birds, Horse + Donkey (8:00)
- PLUSH** Weight w/ the Herd
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** Jeremy Steding, Reid Wilson (9:00)
- RED 7** Skycrawler, Kill the Client, Tombs, A Storm of Light (9:00) ④ ⑤
- RED EYED FLY** Life on Loan, Audiologist, Friend City, Wings Burn Away, Chesterfield
- RED FEZ** Matt Creaton, Allen Daniels Band (8:30)
- THE RED ROOSTER** Dewayne Davis (9:30)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Shelli Coe (9:00)
- ROMEO'S** Maria Moss & Jon Hogan, Mary Creary (8:00)
- SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER** NMASS w/ Plutonium Farmers, Bee vs. Moth, Aaron Roche, Josh Ronsen, Ralph White, Wave Hands Like Clouds, ST 37 (8:00) ④
- SAM'S TOWN POINT** Classic Rock Open Jam w/ Breck English (9:00)
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Matt Creaton, Much Love (6:30)
- SAXON PUB** Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Guy Forsyth, Duquaines (9:00)
- THE SCOOT INN** Pagame, Hobo D, Sonora, King Louie, Manolo Black, Orion, Peligrosa (9:00) ④
- SHAKESPEARE'S PUB** James Rider (6:00)
- SHENANIGANS** The Instigators (9:30)
- SKI SHORES CAFE** Zach Torres (6:00)

29th Street Ballroom
At Spider House

THURS, JUNE 16TH

JIGGLEWATTS TURNS 5!
DOORS AT 10PM

HAPPY HOUR W/ BEN TIPTON AT 7PM

FRI, JUNE 17TH

TALMAGE D'AMOUR - FUTURE BLONDES - TROLLER
DOORS AT 10PM

HAPPY HOUR W/ BEN TIPTON AT 7PM

SAT, JUNE 18TH

BUXTON-MIDWIVES-LOLA COLA-UNCLE LADY
FREE SHOW - DOORS AT 10PM

HAPPY HOUR 7-10PM

SUN, JUNE 19TH

YOU GOT ME F*CK*D UP DANCE PARTY
W/ THE VOMETTES & BOYS LIFE
DOORS AT 10PM

MON, JUNE 20TH

I LUV VIDEO & SPIDER HOUSE PRESENTS:
FREE MOVIE NIGHT! **CINEMONDAYS**
THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUT - 10PM

TUES, JUNE 21ST

AUSTIN POETRY SLAM 8PM

KHORA-NICK KUEPFER-SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE
W/ AMASA GANA & SMOKEY EMERY
DOORS AT 10:30PM

WED, JUNE 22ND

TOP OF THE POPS
QUIN GALAVIS CD RELEASE PARTY W/ THE ZOLTARS
FREE DOORS AT 10PM

HAPPY HOUR W/ BEN TIPTON AT 7PM

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TBA

FRIDAY, JUNE 17 • 10PM • \$7
BORDERTOWN BOOTLEGGERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 • 10PM • \$7
HORTON BROTHERS

MONDAY, JUNE 20 • 6:30PM
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

TUESDAY, JUNE 21
6PM **BRENNEN LEIGH**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 • 7PM
FLOYD DOMINO

10PM **THE PEACEMAKERS \$5**

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Live band bookings subject to change.

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6.16 Bay of Pigs, Rust

6.23 Dixie Witch, Shed Alfred, Fur King

6.25 Lost Soul Revue

6.30 One Good Lung

Soul & Reggae every Sunday w/ Heart & Soul Soundsystem

Pub Quiz every Wed

ALL SHOWS FREE!

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Last Day Open June 21st!

Parlor North Loop Closing June Farewell Music Fest 2011

Thurs June 16: Ghost Knife, The Fleshlights, Broken Gold, Dead Space 8pm

Fri June 17: Horse + Donkey, Bitter Birds, Sad Accordions, Field Dress 8pm

Sat June 18: People vs. De La Rosa, The Now and Nevers, Really Old Airplanes, Man Factory, Sailors Wife, Extravaganza, Los Bones 5:30pm

Sun June 19: Wino Vino, Vana Mazi, Izzy Cox, Susquehanna Hat Company 6pm

Mon June 20: Rhett & Dean, Bottle Service, Crisis Hotlines, & We Know Where You Live 8pm

Tue June 21: Special Guests, Shit Creek, Brickfight & Wide Angles 8pm

All Shows Free & All Ages at The Parlor North Loop
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AUSTIN CITY LIMITS LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER

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TOMORROW NIGHT!

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY

w/Ola Padrida



FRIDAY, JUNE 17

ON SALE TOMORROW: 10 AM

FRAMPTON

COMES ALIVE! 35 TOUR



OCTOBER 18

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WED JUL 20  EELS TREMENDOUS DYNAMITE IN 2011 WITH THE SUBMARINES	TUE AUG 2  Arctic monkeys www.arcticmonkeys.com
MON AUG 8  THE DECEMBERISTS THE KING IS DEAD WITH CAITLIN ROSE	WED AUG 10  HARD SUMMER TOUR 2011 DIGITALISM • JACK BEATS CASPA • DESTRUCTO

IN THE CLUB

THU JUN 16 DOORS 9PM MOONLIGHT TOWERS WITH SALLY CREWE & THE SUDDEN MOVES
FRI JUN 17 DOORS 9PM FULL SERVICE WITH VALLEY OF THE MARINER & RAFIKI PROJECT
SUN JUN 19 11AM & 1PM GOSPEL BRUNCH WARRIOR GOSPEL BAND TIX AVAILABLE ONLINE OR CALL 512.480.8341 x4 FOR RESERVATIONS
TUE JUN 21 DOORS 8PM MATT SCHOFIELD
SAT JUN 25 DOORS 9PM ALELA DIANE WITH THE PARSON RED HEADS
THU JUN 30 DOORS 9PM RED RIVER NOISE PRESENTS: YOUNG MATHS WITH POP PISTOL & YES, INFERNO
FRI JUL 1 DOORS 8PM SAM SLIVA WITH JAVI GARCIA & THE COLD COLD GROUND
SAT JUL 2 DOORS 11PM OFFICIAL FOSTER THE PEOPLE AFTER PARTY! FOSTER THE PEOPLE DJ SET FEATURING ALL THREE MEMBERS
FRI JUL 8 DOORS 9PM REPRESENT AUSTIN: DREW SMITH'S LONELY CHOIR WITH THE BECKHAM BROTHERS & SHANE WALKER

CALENDAR

>> OUTSIDE SHOW
 >> INSIDE SHOW

7-14 NOT JUST ANOTHER CANCER EVENT 3.0	7-22 COUNTRY MICE BOY
PATRICE PIKE BEAUTIFUL MISTAKES	7-23 FOLKCORE WAITING FOR AUGUST, SQUINT, & CHRISTIAN BLAND
7-15 EMDRY QUINN	8-19 BLUE OCTOBER LAMODYNAMITE
7-16 SOUNDS UNDER RADIO	8-26 & 8-27 STS9
7-18 EMPIRES	
7-20 MY EDUCATION FREE SHOW!	

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THIS WEEKEND

 Yousou N'Dour SATURDAY, JUNE 18	 BOOTSY COLLINS JUNE 19	
 Emmylou Harris JUN 21	 CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER FRIDAY, JUL 08	 DWIGHT YOAKAM w/Kristen Kelly JUL 21
 OWL CITY All Things Bright and Beautiful Tour MAT KEARNEY UNWED SAILOR JUL 27	 Chicago SATURDAY, AUG 06	 ORQUESTA BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB featuring - Omara Portuondo FRIDAY, AUG 26
 BUDDY GUY SIX TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER SATURDAY, SEP 03	 SANTANA (SOCC) SOUND OF COLLECTIVE TOUR SEP 12 + SEP 14	 RETURN TO FOREVER ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA DWEZIL ALL AGES 18+ SUBS-RESERVE SEP 13
 LORETTA LYNN 50th LORETTA LYNN SEP 22	 George Jones SATURDAY, OCT 08	 B.B. KING w/Leon Russell OCT 09

310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd. All dates, acts & ticket prices subject to change w/out notice. All tix subject to applicable service charges. **BUD LIGHT**

the PARISH™

Fri 6/17 - 7pm - \$7/\$10

One Pulse Presents **David Ramirez**
w/ **Black Books, The Fox and**
The Bird, Shakey Graves

Sat 6/18 - 8pm - \$5/\$8

Vagabond Collective Presents **Zeale**
w/ **Freshmillions, Driver F,**
Karmatron, Corduroi

Wed 6/22 - 9pm - FREE

Shreddward and Mirasole Present
The Bright Light Social Hour
"Back and Forth" Remix Release Party

Thu 6/23 - 8pm - \$10/\$12

Southern Thread Presents **Dirty River**
Boys, Caravan Go, Eagle Eye
Williamson, Phillip Q Morrow

UPCOMING:

6/24 • C3 Presents: The Rosebuds w/ Other Lives
7/09 • An Evening of Comedy with Michael McDonald
7/16 • Band of Heathens w/ Cowboy and Indian
7/23 • C3 Presents: Ben Sollee w/ Thousands

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Dave Quanbury,
Wil Cope 6

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Open Ears Series w/ Jeff
Talmadge (7:00)

THE STAGE ON SIXTH Fond Kiser, Britt
Lloyd (6:00)

STUBB'S Rafiki Project, Valley of the
Mariner, Full Service (9:00) 6

THIRD BASE LIVE Jack Ryan Hood
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Sahara
Smith (8:00) 6

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS When
Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Hex
Machine (7:00) 6

TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band
(6:00); Smoke & Feathers, The
Blue Hit, Jack Wilson (10:00)

TROPHY'S Nuns of Justice,
Twinlights, the Art Institute,
Eons Ago (9:00) 6

UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE Rod
Williams, Jesse Dayton 7 (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Tombs (5:00) 6
WHITE SWAN LOUNGE Soul
Happening

SAT 18

ANTONE'S Lisa Marshall,
the Coveters, Sister 7
(9:00) 6

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sieker Band (7:30)
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN
Rose Kimball & Judy Painter
(10:00am)

AUSTINVENTURES STUDIO THEATER

Kathy Dunn Hamrick, My
Education 7

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Top
Kats 7, The Top Kats 7 (10:30)

BEERLAND These Are Words, the
French Inhalers, Lost Controls,
Love Collector (2:00)

BIG DADDY'S PLACE Watts Brothers
(8:30)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Danny Austin

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, the
Derailers (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Anais Mitchell (8:30) 6

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Spencer Dobbs,
Mancat House Band (9:30)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Jeff Lofton
(6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Son y No
Son (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Paul
Eason

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Really
Big Birds (8:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish &
Misbehavin' (9:00)

CLUB DE VILLE The Forever
Overhead, Boy Friend, Missions,
Lean Hounds (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert
(3:00); Two Hoots & a Holler, Igor
& the Red Elvises (10:00) 6

COPA BAR & GRILL Alvaro (8:30)
COUPLAND DANCEHALL Jon Wolfe
Band (9:00)

DELI WERKS Jo Hell & the Red
Roosters

DIZZY ROOSTER Gary Lee Cox (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark
Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mary Welch y los
Curanderos (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Tameca Jones
Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Jordan Tanner, Isle of
White 7, Crash Gallery, Mobley 7

END OF AN EAR Xander Harris (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Ashes of
Babylon (9:00) 6

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Henry
Crafts & the Austin T band,
Jezebel, Pete Minda, Mike
Burns (6:00)

FREDDIE'S PLACE Too Blue (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Teri Joyce & the
Tagalongs

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Ted Roddy (9:00)

GRUENE HALL White Ghost Shivers
(1:00), the Wagoneers (9:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Larry Lange &
the Lonely Knights (6:30)

GYPSY LOUNGE Gil Scott-Heron
Tribute w/ DJ Sun, Felix Pacheco,
El John Selector (9:00) 6

HANOVERS Ginger Leigh (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Horse Opera

HOLE IN THE WALL Hickoids,
Glambilly, Convoi! 7, Mrs. Glass
(9:00) 6

JOVITA'S Mandy Marie & the Cool
Hand Lukes

KICK BUTT COFFEE Shawn Lucas,
Siren's Downfall, Hannah Hagar,
Autumn in Your Arms, Zach
Gomez, the Pilot, Rob Dues,
Woolgather (7:00)

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16
Hector Ward & the Big Time 10PM \$7
Walter Tragert 8PM \$5
CHASING BLUE 12AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour **EIGHTYSIXED** 6PM
w/ DAVID HOLT, TOMMY SHANNON, & TOMMY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
GUY FORSYTH
9PM \$10 Adv/\$12 Day Of
The Duquains 11:30PM \$7
Rebecca Loebe 12:45AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour **EARL POOLE BALL & THE COSMIC AMERICANS** 6PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
WC Clark CD RELEASE
8PM \$10 Adv/\$12 Day Of
Crowded Hill 12AM \$5
Richard Jesse Project 6PM No Cover
Kerrville Kampground Energy with Frank Hill, Scooter Pearce
Raina Leigh, Bob Tom Reed
Patrick Green, Steve Crow
Michael and Brenda 1PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
THE RESENTMENTS with Bruce and Scraggy 7:30PM \$7
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 6PM \$10
Kevin Daniel Smith 10:30PM \$5
ASHLEY MONICAL 12:30AM \$5

MONDAY, JUNE 20
LONELYLAND WITH BOB SCHNEIDER 8:30PM \$10
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 7PM \$10
little brave 11PM \$5
STEVEN WILL & OLIVER STECK 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, JUNE 21
Bruce Hughes & the All Nude Army 8PM \$5
Julieann Banks and the Blues Grifters 10PM \$5
Fast Luke & the Lead Heavy 12AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6PM
JOHN INMON

Bri Bagwell 9PM \$5
NICK VERZOSA 10:30PM \$5
BECK & CAUTHEN 12:30AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour
The Nortons 6PM

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6/24 Malford Milligan & Dan Dyer
6/25 The Blue Hit

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Thursday June 16th No Cover
NICK VERZOSA 7PM

BETH LEE 10:30PM
JEREMY STEDING 4PM

Friday June 17th
REID WILSON 9PM \$5
AND HIS SO-CALLED FRIENDS
Jeremy Steding Band 11:30PM \$5

Saturday June 18th
Rob Baird 11PM \$10

FAST LUKE & THE LEAD HEAVY 8PM \$10
HAYDEN THOMAS 3PM No Cover

Sunday June 19th No Cover
Tessy's Last Show This Summer
TESSY LOU WILLIAMS & THE HILLTOP HILLBILLIES 3-7PM

STEAK NIGHT Monday June 20th No Cover
Texas Songwriter Showcase 6:30PM
GEORGE ENSLE guest **JEFF TALMADGE**
BRACKEN HALE 10PM

Tuesday June 21st No Cover
WC JAMESON 8PM
BECK & CAUTHEN 10:30PM

Wednesday June 22nd No Cover
No Bad Days Open Mic with
MARK ALLAN ATWOOD 7PM
JAMES HYLAND HAPPY HOUR 4PM

NO BAD DAYS
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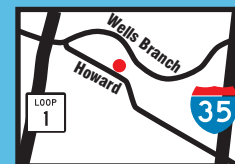
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 F 6/17 - Free People Clothing Party w/ **The Happen-ins** - 5pm
 // **The Sideshow Tragedy** EP Release w/ Amplified Heat, Ghost Wolves - 10pm
 Sa 6/18 - Happy Hour Beach Party - 5-8pm (upper deck) // **The Strange Attractors**, Motel Aviv, Clinical Girls w/ DJ Dangerpants - 10pm
 Su 6/19 - **Valley of the Mariner**, Wildshire, We Are Pioneers - 10pm
 M 6/20 - **Lovely Sparrows Summer Residency** - 8pm // **Paperhead**, Rayon Beach, tba - 10pm
 Tu 6/21 - Unplugged Happy Hour w/ **Mike and the Moonpies** (upper deck) - 5pm // **Electric Touch**, Politics, Michelle Armstrong - 9pm
 W 6/22 - **Ancient VVwednesday** Unplugged Happy Hour - 5pm // **Magnificent Snails**, tba - 10pm
 Th 6/23 - **High Watt Crucifixers** w/ Brink of Disaster, Bexar County Bastards, Hot Crush, Taunto - 9pm
 F 6/24 - **Dark Water Hymnal** w/ My Golden Calif, The Baker Family, Paris Falls, Jared Van Fleet - 9:30pm
 Sa 6/25 - **The Paper Shapes** w/ The Clouds Are Ghosts, Ishi - 10pm
 M 6/27 - **Lovely Sparrows Summer Residency** - 8pm
 Tu 6/28 - Unplugged Happy Hour w/ **Mike and the Moonpies** (upper deck) - 5pm // **The Hellfire Social**, Holy Wave, Black Tabs, The White Hotel, The Red 100s - 9pm

for info on upcoming tours, check out www.transmissionentertainment.com

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Th 6/16 - **Exile** (Tour Kickoff), The Capaces (Spain, Sniper 66, Before Dishonor, Strange Gun) - 9pm
 F 6/17 - **A Storm of Light** (Members of Neurosis), Tombs, Kill the Client, Skycrawler - 9pm
 S 6/18 - **Verbal Abuse**, Fleshlights, Modok - 9pm
 Su 6/19 - **Jungle Gym**, Young/Savage, TBA - 7pm
 W 6/22 - **La Snacks**, Plus More, Blue Kabuki (Houston) - 9pm
 F 6/24 - **Motograter**, Chant, Rise Thy Ruin, TBA
 S 6/25 - **A Tribute to Sky Saxon with Shapes Have Fangs**, The Wiggins, The Midwives, The Wiggins
 S 6/26 - **Benefit Day Show & BBQ** - 5pm
 W 6/29 - **FREE! Appreciation Party!** - 9pm
 Th 6/30 - "People of the Sun": A Tribute to Rage Against the Machine w/ **Este Vato**, Bombasta, Baby Got Bacteria, Higher Than Why
 F 7/1 - **Muhammadali**
 S 7/2 - **Blueprint** (Houston), Markov, Trip Crystals, Holder (ex Tie That Binds) - 9pm
 Su 7/3 - **Spanish Gamble**
 M 7/4 - **Knuckle Rumbler**
 W 7/6 - **Helms Aleigh**, Migas, Modok, OMGWTFBQQ - 9pm
 Th 7/7 - **The Limit Club**
 F 7/8 - **Clash City Rockers**

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<p>JULY 9</p> <p>RECKLESS KELLY W/ CODY CANADA & THE DEPARTED</p>	<p>JULY 15-16</p> <p>GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY</p>	<p>JULY 24</p> <p>BOB DYLAN AND HIS BAND W/ LEON RUSSELL</p>	<p>HIS ONLY 2011 TEXAS PERFORMANCE!</p> <p>VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS!</p>
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JUNETEENTH WEEK TRIBUTE
DENIA RIDLEY *jazz*

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
JUNETEENTH WEEK TRIBUTE
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS *blues, soul*

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
JUNETEENTH WEEK TRIBUTE
JEFF LOFTON *jazz*

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
Juneteenth Father's Day Celebration
8pm HOSA HARGROVE
7pm REV. KM WILLIAMS
6pm PAMELA ALLEN with the
BISCUIT ROLLERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
fiddle-driven folk rock quintet

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
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BILL CARTER** *songwriters*

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
SON Y NO SON *afro-cuban*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22
ROB ROY PARNELL
roadhouse blues

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
**LORRIE SINGER &
BRADLEY KOPP** *songwriters*

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
RUMBULLION *parisian cafe music*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
**HAROLD McMILLIAN'S
VICTORY BLUES BAND**
blues

FRIDAY, JULY 1
CHRIS BELL GROUP
jazz, blues

SATURDAY, JULY 2
ARIEL ABSHIRE *soul indie pop*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
**BRUCE SAUNDERS
MIKE FLANIGAN TRIO**
soul blues jazz

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

TRIPLE CROWN Winter Dance Party II, Blackwater Revival, Los Bones, Steve & Steve Band, the Ash Family, Molly Hayes **A**
TROPHY'S Lug, Exit the Sun, Loving Ugly, American Ritual (9:00)
UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE Robert Banta, Bobby Earle (2:00)
UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE Sideshow Tramps (8:00) **A**
VICTORY GRILL Mix It Up Saturdays w/ DJ Junior Vibes
WHITE SWAN LOUNGE Elevator Action, Smithers, the Really Rottens, Bad Lovers (10:00) **A**

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Enlaces Latinos (noon)
ELEPHANT ROOM Kevin Lovejoy (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Zeale, Parking, Ninjasonic **B**
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Martin Earley & Devin Mauch, Little Embers (6:00)
FREDDIE'S PLACE Atomic Duo (6:00)
FRIENDS Travis Green (5:00), Blues Jam (9:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Scott Angle & the Cold Cold Hearts (4:00)
GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
GRUENE HALL George Ensle (12:30), Brian Keane (5:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Mitch Webb & the Swindles (3:00)
THE HIGHBALL Soul Track Mind (10:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL White Dress, Devin Fry, Stephen's Island Wren
HOUSE WINE David Webb (6:00)
HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL Natalie Zoe (7:00)
JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:00)
JOVITA'S Rockin' Gospel Project (noon); Brian Cutean, Robert Vignaud (7:30) **B**
LAMBERTS Scotty B. Trio, Bleu Edmondson (7:30) **B**

LUCKY LOUNGE Marshall & the Moon Dance (10:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (9:00)
MOHAWK We Are Pioneers, Wildshire, Valley of the Mariner (9:00) **A**
MOMO'S Chris Tondre J., Sarah Castro, Warren Hood & the Goods, Molaro for Illinois
MOODY THEATER ACL Live w/ Bootsy Collins (7:00) **A, B**
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
THE OASIS The Brew
ONE WORLD THEATRE Average White Band **A, B**
OPAI Mandy Rowden, Tanya Winch (4:00)
THE PARLOR Susquehanna Hat Company, Izzy Cox, Vana Mazi, Wino Vino J (6:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tessa Lou Williams & the Hilltop Hillbillies (3:00)
RED 7 Young/Savage, Jungle Gym
RED EYED FLY Ghost Movie Rocker, Rough Edge, Robot Williams, Chemtrails **B**
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen
ROMEO'S Marshall Hood (7:00)
RUTA MAYA Ritmo 3 (9:00)
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATRE NMASS w/ Thomas Fang Workshop (1:00); (8:00) **A**
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Dan Earhart (7:00)
SAXON PUB Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Resentments, Kevin Daniel Smith, Ashley Monical
SKI SHORES CAFE Bobby Earle (3:30)
THE STAGE ON SIXTH Aware Organ Donation Benefit w/ E.M. Cravens Band, Tucker Jameson & the Hot Mugs, the New Mars, Fran & Anton Cosmo (2:00) **B**

SUN 19

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Bert Rivera (6:30)
BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)
BEERLAND Destruction, Flamingo Nosebleed, Capitalist Kids (9:00)
BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)
BOOKWOMAN Summer Solstice Song Circle w/ Adrienne Braswell
'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)
CEDAR STREET Sonia Moore (9:30) **B**
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Faux Pas (7:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Wigeon Holland (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Jesse Sublett (8:30); In the Club: Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00), Heybale! (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
DIZZY ROOSTER Jo Hell (8:00)

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Jesse Woods Bo and the Locomotive The Loblolly Boy Battle Bend	Thur 6/16
Dave Quanbury Wil Cope Corey Howe	Fri 6/17
Bali Yaaa! End Wave Rescue Mission	Sat 6/18
(7-9p) Music Trivia! Questions handcrafted by Darrin (9p) Jazz pick-up Join in & jam - happy hours til 11p	Sun 6/19
(10p) Karaoke Night! Bring all your friends & make new ones	Every Tuesday
The Grinning Man and TBA guests!	Wed 6/22
Archive War Colin Gilmore Noelle Hampton	Thur 6/23

www.skinnysballroom.com

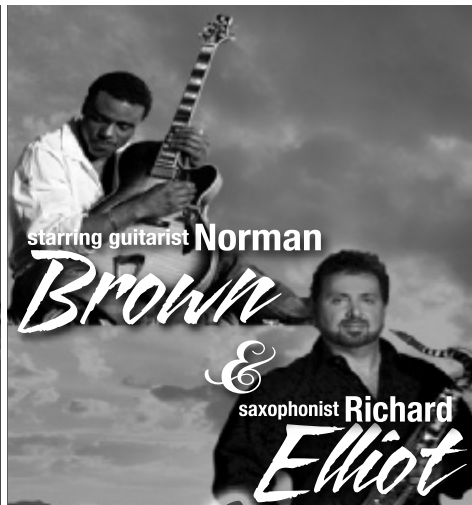
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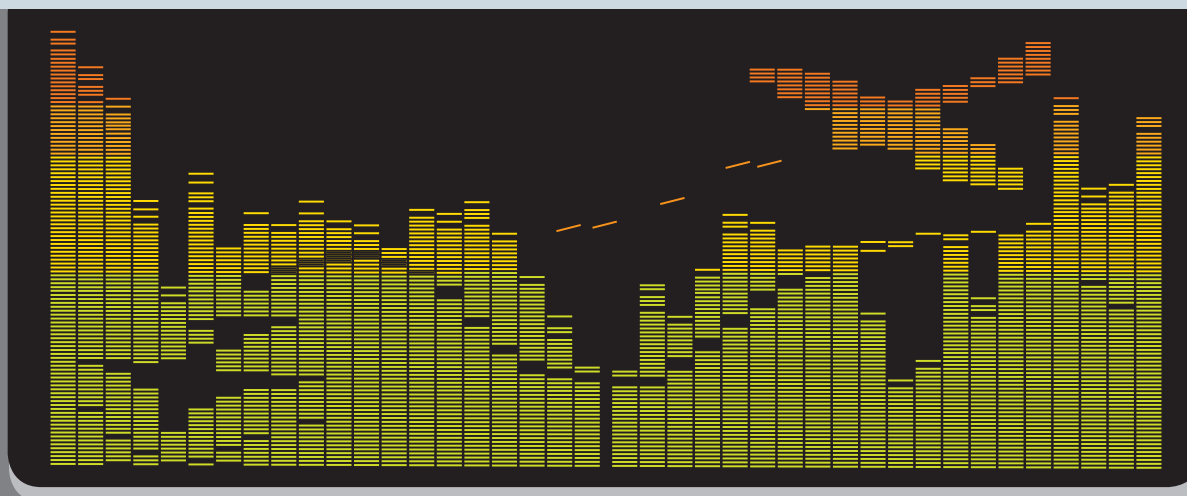
SOUNDWARS

is a digital **song competition** between local Austin bands competing for notoriety, exposure, and a chance to play the **21st Annual Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival** on Sunday, August 28 at Waterloo Park.

Registration begins



June 23



DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: Friday, July 8!

Ready to compete? Bands, sign up online today!



READY



BAND



SIGN UP



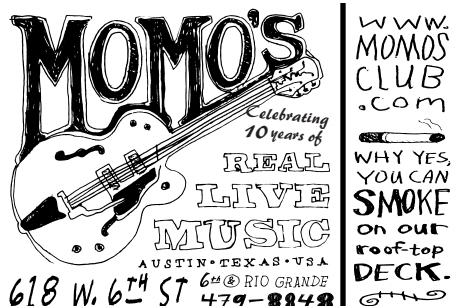
ONLINE



TODAY



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



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 MOMO'S JAZZ HAPPY HOUR w/ JAZZ 5 #5
 ETHAN KENNEDY & JESS KLEIN 9:15
 STÜKENBERG 10:45
 JUSTIN BLACK & BIG HEART 12

FRIDAY JUNE 17 #10
 SCOTT SPARKS NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
 ROBBY HECHT w/ LIZ LONGLEY 7
 REED TURNER 8:15
 GINGER LEIGH 9:30
 JACK BURTON TRIO 11:15
 CARI HUTSON 12:30

SATURDAY JUNE 18 #10
 DAVED FRIDLUND 6:30 THE ORBANS 8
 BUDDY QUAID BAND 9:15
 THE DAMN TORPEDOS 10:50
 A TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
 MATT McCLOSKEY 12

SUNDAY JUNE 19 #5
 CHRIS TONDRE 6:30 SARAH CASTRO 8
WARREN HOOD & THE GOODS 9:30
 MOLARD FOR ILLINOIS 12

MONDAY JUNE 20 #5
 JAIMEE HARRIS NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
 AVENUE ELLE 6:30
 CURTIS McMURTRY 8
TONY SCALZO & THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS 10
 MARSHALL HOOD & THE BADS 11:15
 CHAD PETTY 12:15

TUESDAY JUNE 21 #5
 MOMO'S JAZZ HAPPY HOUR
 NAJO (NOT YOUR AVERAGE JAZZ ORCHESTRA) 5:15 #5
 JACKIE BRISTOW 8
 CHARANGA SI 10:30
 CACTUS FUZZ 12

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 #5
 THE HANDCLAPS NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
 THE KINFOLK 6:30
 LIARS & SAINTS 8
 BOOSY CRAY 9:30
 DUSTIN WELCH 10:50
 THESE MAD DOGS OF GLORY 12

UP COMING SHOWS
SONIA MOORE
 EXPERIENCE
 ALY TADROS JUNE 24
SETH WALKER
 w/ TOPAZ JUNE 25



Sahara Smith
 FRI 6/17 9pm \$10 adv / \$12 day of show

Del Castillo
 SAT 6/18 9pm \$15 adv / \$18 day of show
 Patricia Vonne

Jon Emery
 SUN 6/19 11am Father's Day no cover

The Greencards
 THUR 6/23 8pm \$15 / \$18 reserve seating
 The Brick Album Release
 FAMILY ELDERCARE FAN DRIVE

The Trishas
 FRI 6/24 9pm \$12 adv / \$15 day of show
 Eliza Gilkyson

The Gourds
 SAT 6/25 9pm \$15

Tje Austin
 FRI 7/1 9pm \$10 adv / \$15 day of show

Jeremy Steding
 FRI 7/8 9pm \$10

Guns of Navarone
 FRI 7/16 9pm \$5
East Cameron Folkcore
 Clyde & Clems Whiskey Business

Courier
 SAT 7/23 9pm \$10 adv / \$12 day of show
Plain Jane Automobile
 Language Room

Uncle Lucius
 FRI 7/20 9pm \$10 adv / \$12 day of show

The Cobras
 SAT 8/6 9pm \$15 adv / \$20 day of show

The Mother Truckers
 SAT 8/20 9pm \$15

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

- STUBB'S Gospel Brunch w/ the Warriors (11:00am) 6
- TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM Texas Music Festival: Zafra w/ Javier Jara (1:30)
- TRAILER SPACE RECORDS John Wesley Coleman, Sex Advice (3:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
- UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE Trimmed & Burning, Christy Hays & Her Sunday Best (2:00)
- Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 20

- ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (8:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
- BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:00)
- 'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)
- CEDAR STREET Jordan Tanner (6:00), DJ Kid Gorilla (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Slate Garrett, Austin Gillam
- CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: A Is Red, the Frank Mustard Project (9:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Weldon Henson (10:00)
- DIZZY ROOSTER Tish & Misbehavin' (8:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM Milkdrive (6:00), Jazz Jam w/ Greg Williams (9:30)

- EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Amber Reigns, the Bluegrass Outfit (8:00)
- FRIENDS Blues Posse, Eric Tessmer (7:00)
- GIDDY UPS Open Blues Jam (7:00)
- GRUENE HALL Rob Roy Parnell (7:00)
- THE HIGHBALL MatchMaker Band (10:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL Mike & the Moonpies (10:00)
- KICK BUTT COFFEE Travis Yancy, Yahoo Trout (7:00)

- LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
- LUCKY LOUNGE Lazy K (9:00)
- MISTER TRAMPS SPORTS PUB & CAFE Open Mike Acoustic Jam w/ Nick Hirsch (8:00)
- MOHAWK Rayon Beach (Paperhead) (9:00) 8; The Lovely Sparrows (9:00) 3
- MOMO'S Jaimee Harris, Avenue Elle, Curtis McMurtry, Tony Scalzo, Warren Hood, Will Evans, Jaimee Harris (5:15)
- MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00)
- MUGSHOTS Acoustic Open Mic (8:00)
- THE PARLOR We Know Where You Live, Crisis Hotlines, Bottle Service, Rhett & Dean (8:00)
- PARMER LANE TAVERN Country Jam w/ Michael Petty (8:00)
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Songwriters Showcase (6:30), Braken Hale (10:00)
- RED EYED FLY Lydia Kolda, Jack O'Hara, Stephanie Saxon, Mickey Moore
- RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Monaco (9:00)
- ROMEO'S Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettle (6:30)
- RUTA MAYA Dubstep Pressure, Gypsy Bazaar (10:00) 8
- SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician (Lonelyland, Steven Will, Oliver Steck, Little Brave) (7:00)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood
- TRIPLE CROWN Robbie Doyen & James Thompson (6:00); Electric Mayhem (9:00)
- VARSITY BAR Open Mic (9:00)
- VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)
- WATERLOO RECORDS Foster & Lloyd (5:00) 8

- CEDAR STREET Mark Gibson (6:00), the Initials (9:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (10:45)
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY Sonny Wolf (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Dan Dyer (J), Ephraim Owens Experience (8:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Wil Cope, Slowtrain, Frank Smith (10:00)
- DIZZY ROOSTER Cody Jasper (8:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Liz Morphis (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
- ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Scotty B. Quartet (9:30)
- ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Felt, DJ Minimus
- EMO'S Midnight Ghosts, the Nouns, Haunted Amps 8
- EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallaughier (8:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jade Day (6:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)
- GIDDY UPS DJ Honky Tonk Red
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Conclusion Jumpers (9:00)
- GRUENE HALL Two Tons of Steel (7:00)
- HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund
- HOLE IN THE WALL Bridge Farmers, El Pan, Country Willie's Zombie Apocalypse (10:00)
- HOUSE WINE David Webb (8:00)
- HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL Jimi Lee & Mike Milligan (7:00)
- KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Comedy Open Mic (8:00)
- LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
- LUCKY LOUNGE The Finest Kind (9:00), The Finest Kind (10:00)
- MEAN-EYED CAT The Memphis Strange (8:00)
- MOHAWK Mike & the Moonpies (5:00); Michelle Armstrong, Politics, Electric Touch (8:00)
- MOMO'S NAJO, Jackie Bristow, Charanga Si, Cactus Fuzz
- MOODY THEATER ACL Live w/ Emmiyou Harris (7:00) 8 9
- ONE 2 ONE BAR Dahebebees (8:30), Dave Scher (11:00)
- OPA! Open Mic w/ Ana Bee (7:00)
- THE PALM DOOR The Austin Chronicle Paper Cuts w/ Akina Adderley (7:00)
- THE PARLOR Final Show w/ Wide Angles, Brickfight, Shit Creek, Extreme Fajitas (8:00) 8 9
- PATSY'S CAFE Sand & Sunnie (6:30)

TUE 21

- ANTONE'S Blue Corn Anniversary w/ Hadden Sayer CD Release, Ruthie Foster (7:30) 8, Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Chris Layton, David Grissom, Malford Milligan (10:30)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
- BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith (7:00)
- 'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)
- BROKEN SPOKE Gary P Nunn
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mighty Zoragon (7:00)

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

PLUSH Sonar
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Beck & Cauthen, W.C. Jameson
RED EYED FLY Bird Dog, Dead Swagger, James Williams & the Hang, Audic Empire
RED FEZ Bruce Smith (9:00)
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAXON PUB Bruce Hughes & the All-Nude Army, Julieann Banks, Fast Luke & the Lead Heavy, (6:00)
STUBB'S Matt Schofield (8:00) ♪
T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)
TRIPLE CROWN The Christophers (6:00); Motel Ball Band, Queen Street, Neighbor, Pocahontus (10:00)
TROPHY'S Acoustic Open Mic (9:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Honky Tonk Tuesday w/ Evan Christian (6:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS Ruthie Foster (6:00)
ZTEJAS Robert Kelly (6:00), Tameca Jones (6:00)

WED 22

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brooke Avid (10:00)
BROKEN SPOKE T. Jarrod Bonta, Dance Lessons, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (6:00)
CACTUS CAFE Ramblin' Jack Elliott (8:30) ♪ ♪
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mike Dubose, Wildcat Rig (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Thunder God Riders of Justice, the Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Rob Roy Parnell (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (11:00)
CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Aaron Navarro (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Cindy Cashdollar & Barbara K; Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:30); In the Club: Adam Johnson (6:30) ♪; Jon Dee Graham, Ray Bonneville (10:00)
DIZZY ROOSTER Jakwagon (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister (8:00)
EMO'S The Hotrod Hillbillies, Craic Haus, the Rocketz ♪
EVANGELINE CAFE Floyd Domino, the Peacemakers (10:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Rebekah Todd & Lamont Coal, Songbird Series w/ Lisa Kettle, Melissa Engleman, Mina Soto, Merri Palmer (6:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Weldon Henson (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Warren Hood (7:00)
THE HIGHBALL Black Red Black (10:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Dalles, Guns of Navarone (10:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE Comedy Open Mic (8:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Open Mic (7:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
MARIA MARIA Jeff Lofton Quartet ♪ (7:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Bear & the Essentials (7:30)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Ghosts Along the Brazos (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Marilyn Rucker (7:30)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Roberta Morales, Michael Ramos (6:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM The Jitterbug Vipers, Red Young (6:00)
ELYSIUM Emily's Gone Mad, Hipnautica, Strap On Halo (10:00)
EMO'S The Mole People, Boonesboro, Rocky Moon & Bolt, Shells ♪ ♪
EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie Irwin (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Soul Pilot, Follow That Bird, the Live Lights, Blowing Trees (9:00) ♪
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettle (8:00)
GIDDY UPS George Knaak
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Jason Eady, Kelley Mickwee, Jamie Wilson (7:00) ♪
HOLE IN THE WALL Churchwood, Why Not Satellite? (10:00)
HOUSE WINE Jimmy Lohmann (7:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE J. Meridian (7:00)
LA FERIA RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (7:00)
LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)
LAMBERTS Masumi & the Gentlemen (7:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Baby Atlas, Hazy Ray (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT The Moonhangers (8:00)
MOHAWK The American Spirit (5:00); Taunto, Hot Crush, Bexar County Bastards, Brink of Disaster, High Watt Crucifixers ♪ (8:00) ♪
MOMO'S Tony Bray, Wayne Sutton, Drew Smith, Meggan Carney, Justin Black & Big Heart ♪
ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan, Douglas Jay Boyd
OPAI Candace Bellamy (7:00)
THE PARISH Philip Q. Morrow Band, Eagle Eye Williamson, Caravan Go, Dirty River Boys (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Shawn Nelson, Sam Sliva & the Good (7:00)
RED EYED FLY Good Day Paradise, Bodacious Groovies, Zoo Child, Mad Martigan, the Prawns
RED FEZ Jean Claude Van Jamme (9:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Mashed Potato Johnson (9:00)
RUTA MAYA No Mas Bodas, Kingdom of Suicide Lovers (8:00) ♪
RUTH'S CHIRI STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)
SANTA RITA TEX MEX CANTINA Charlie Narayan & Dustin Bozarth (7:00)
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Caribbean Steelpan Trio (6:30)
SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00); Walter Tragert, Hector Ward & the Big Time, Cari Hutson (7:00)
THE SCOOT INN Skyline Wranglers, the Swing Commanders, JWW & the Prospectors (9:00) ♪
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Chris Martinez (9:00)
SKINNY'S BALLROOM Noelle Hampton, Colin Gilmore, Archive War (9:00)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ The Greencards (9:00) ♪ ♪
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Hidden Hills, Louck & Lucas, Skinner Sisters (7:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Erickson (6:00); The Couch, Say Say Say, Newlywed (10:00)
TROPHY'S Devour the World (10:00)
UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & QUE Cameron Nelson (7:00)
ZTEJAS James Speer (6:00)

THU 23

ANTONE'S Paper Mache, Saints of Valory, Gin Blossoms (9:00) ♪
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Karen Abrahams (7:30)
BEERLAND Statue Ruts, the Creationists, Fungi Girls (9:00)
BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Pee Wee Calvin & the Way 'Tis, Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Advanced Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)
C. HUNTS ICE HOUSE Black Owl Society (9:00)
CACTUS CAFE Asleep at the Wheel (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Southpaw Jones, Brian Kremer, Run of the Mill
CEDAR STREET Much Love, Suede (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brandon Rhyder
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Nicole Hale (8:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Jakwagon (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio, Continental Graffiti (10:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Michael Fracasso & Local 99, the Krayolas (10:00) ♪
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DIZZY ROOSTER Guilty Pleasures (8:00)
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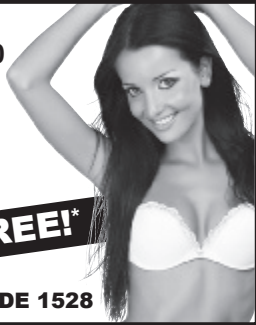
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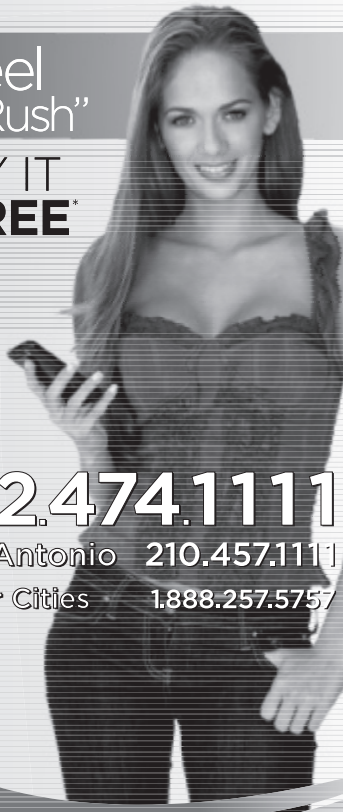
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Shannon Wheeler

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THEY'RE PUTTING PEOPLE DOWN...

FOR BEING PRETENTIOUS.

UH OH.

I'M LISTENING TO PRETENTIOUS PEOPLE BEING PRETENTIOUS BY PUTTING DOWN OTHER PRETENTIOUS PEOPLE FOR BEING PRETENTIOUS.

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2019: IT HAD TO HAPPEN EVENTUALLY.

The New York Times
FEBRUARY 20, 2017

ALL FOOD RECALLED
President Palin to Address Nation

Empty shelves in Brooklyn
Depression Continues For 11th Year

FDA is Powerless

Cannibalism on the Rise

THE CULPRIT: THIS SINGLE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX THAT PROVIDES THE COUNTRY'S ENTIRE FOOD SUPPLY, THEY BOUGHT OFF INSPECTORS FOR YEARS.

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONAL PAMPHLETS TO THE HUNGRY MASSES.

So You Have Nothing to Eat

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1. Obtain a firearm. It's easy in the U.S.!
2. Locate a squirrel.
3. Point firearm at squirrel.

NOTE: Shoot your neighbors only as a last resort.

HERE'S A MAN DIGGING FOR EDIBLE ROOTS IN THE WOODS. SIR, DO YOU THINK WE NEED TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY?

WHAT ARE YOU? SOME KINDA SOCIALIST?

DO YOU THINK I'LL DIE IF I EAT THIS?

www.slowpokecomics.com

NOW I ASK YOU SIR, WOULD AN INSOLVENT BANK HAVE A HAM THIS MAGNIFICENT?

MUELLER

WEAH... I'M ON THE PLANE. WE'RE STILL AT THE GATE, ANYWAY. GET THIS: LIZ DROPPED A BIG BOMB AT THE MEETING... SHE LIKES US, BUT SHE'S NOT HAPPY WITH THE SALES DEPARTMENT... AT ALL...

...NO, NO! I HAVEN'T TOLD ROB... THIS IS PRETTY SENSITIVE...

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Nurse Ann Perkins in the NBC comedy series *Parks and Recreation* is played by Rashida Jones, daughter of Quincy Jones and Peggy Lipton.

We regenerate taste buds every 10 days. If we didn't, we'd lose our ability to taste.

The origin of today's cheesecake likely stems from the 11th century, when Franco-German Jews ate cheese *fluden*, pastries that over time grew denser with filling and lost their top crust. The Greeks made griddle cakes with cheese curd in the fourth century.

Francis Julius Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance, hoped it would be used by citizens in any country. It originally read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Hundreds of blondes recently marched through the streets of the Latvian capital, Riga, in a rally called the Go Blonde festival, to lift the spirits of the Baltic state.

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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ART DIRECTOR

ART DIRECTOR FOR MARKETING AND TRADE PROMOTIONS:

Key coordinator/ link between mrktng./ sales regarding event mrktng, trade prom., mrktng dev. prog., SAF mngmnt/ cust. presentations; coord. the design aspects of major event mrktng. for meat prep. sauces/spices/dsgn/ production of multimedia presentations; be the lead supp. for all packaging design, sell sheets ads, letters, cust. notes/signs throughout the yr for the Spanish speaking mrktng efforts; supervise/train employees. Reqs: 24 mos exp or 24 mos exp as an Associate Art Lead for Marketing & Trade Promotions or suitable comb. of exp., educ., &/or training. Resumes: Attn: Matt Gase, CEO, One World's Foods dba Stubb's Legendary Kitchen, 811 Barton Springs Road, Suite 605, Austin, TX 78704

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ENGINEER

NVIDIA Corporation, market leader in graphics & digital media processors, has openings in Austin, TX:

SR. CAD ENGINEER (job code CADEE07), develop and apply computer aided design (CAD) software engineering methods, theories and research techniques, investigate and resolve CAD technical problems; **SR. VERIFICATION ENGINEER** (job code VERE01), verify the industry's leading Graphics, Video and Media & Communications Processors;

OPERATIONS RESEARCH ANALYST (job code ORA02), use exceptional analytical skills to drive improvement in NVIDIA's global software engineering processes; and **SR. HARDWARE ENGINEER** (job code HW64), work in NVIDIA's centralized physical design engineering group, contribute in the area of circuit and SI R&D methodologies. If interested, ref job code and send resume to: **NVIDIA Corporation. Attn: MS04 (J. Goodwin). 2701 San Tomas Expressway, Santa Clara, CA 95050.** Please no phone calls, emails or faxes.

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LEGAL

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-11-000450 NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration for the Estate of Rebecca J. Nieto, Deceased, were issued on June 2, 2011, in Cause Number C-1-PB-11-000450, in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas to Reuben Paul Nieto.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorneys for the Estate, addressed as follows:

Representative, Estate of Rebecca J. Nieto, Deceased
c/o Jordan T. Cypert
1016 MoPac Circle, Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time prescribed by law.

DATED this 17th day of June, 2011.

Cypert Law Firm, PLLC
By: Jordan T. Cypert
State Bar No. 24058391
Attorney for Independent Administrator
1016 MoPac Circle, Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 535-5008 Telephone
(512) 692-7131 Facsimile

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JERRY LINEBERGER HAYS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-000914 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. RESIDENTIAL CREDIT SOLUTIONS, INC

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on June 01, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship and LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JERRY LINEBERGER HAYS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on June 01, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ ABRAM GONZALEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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DAVID ALDEN BALL, DECEASED: On the 6TH day of JUNE, 2011, THOMAS CARROLL BALL, filed an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP for the Estate of David Alden Ball, in a proceeding styled the Estate of David Alden Ball, Decased, and bearing the number 4356-P in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas.

The Court will hear the aforesaid application at 10:00 A.M. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten (10) days, exclusive of the day of Publication, from the date this citation is published, which will be Monday, the 20TH day of June, 2011, in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas, sitting in Matters of probate, in the Hays County Justice Center in San Marcos, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written consent or answer shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk of Hays County, Texas in San Marcos, Texas.

The office serving this citation shall, in compliance with the new law, serve it by publication once in a news paper of general circulation in Travis County, Texas, for not less than ten (10) days before the return day hereof, exclusive to the day of publication, and the date of publication of said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Applicant's attorney name and address:

H.C. KYLE, III
118 North LBJ Drive 78666
San Marcos, Texas 78666
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If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Given under my hand and the seal of office, this the 6TH day of JUNE, 2011 at San Marcos, Texas.

LIZ Q GONZALEZ
CLERK OF THE COUNTY
COURT OF HAYS COUNTY,
TEXAS

HAYS COUNTY JUSTICE
CENTER

110 E MLK DRIVE
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666
BY /s/ Lupe Peralez
ISSUED THIS 6TH DAY OF
JUNE, 2011.

LIZ Q GONZALEZ CLERK OF
HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO THE ATTENTION OF
KENNETH MERLE FOSTER
and TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE ES-
TATE OF ANNIE BELL
FRANKLIN** Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000067 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

WILLARD CRAYTON and all the alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on **May 23, 2011**, an Amended Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said **ANNIE BELL FRANKLIN**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard

and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on **June 10, 2011**.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GEORGE A. BASEDOW, Deceased, Cause No. C-1-PB-11-000942 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JUDITH A. HULL and all the alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on June 7, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship and Application for Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said **GEORGE A. BASEDOW**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on June 7, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
PO Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy: O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A WILLIAMS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-000954 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

RASHUN RHODEN
The alleged heir(s) at law in

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

DAD'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK WITH CHUGGING ENGINE

Dear Tom and Ray:

I drive a 1995 Buick Regal two-door custom coupe. In the past week or so, I have noticed that while I am accelerating around 55 to 65 mph, my "Old Man" starts sputtering, sort of like a cough. He has an especially difficult time keeping up speed while going up an incline. The feeling is like a "chug-chug-chug!" along with a jolty-type lurch. My dad thinks it may be the spark plugs. Any thoughts? He has only 82,000 miles, and only 17,000 miles in 2002 when I bought him. I'd like to drive him until I am forced to leave him on the side of the road. (I'm very attached to this car.) Thanks! — Amanda

RAY: I think your dad may be right. It sounds like a classic engine misfire. The spark plugs are the first place I'd look.

TOM: When you're asking the engine to do the greatest amount of work — like climbing a hill at high speed — you'd be most likely to notice a bad spark plug. That's when you're asking the spark plug to ignite the greatest amount of gasoline.

RAY: And if a spark plug is weak, the extra gasoline and turbulence in that cylinder actually can douse the spark and cause you to run on five cylinders instead of six. That's what makes the car feel like it's chugging. It is!

TOM: If it's been many miles since you've changed the spark plugs (like 82,000?), start there — assuming they're not fused to the cylinder heads at this point.

RAY: If it's not a bad plug, it could be a bad spark-plug wire or even a bad coil. You might even consider getting — wait for it — a tune-up! Because there may be other things (filters, belts, etc.) that are overdue for attention.

TOM: But give your dad a pat on the back, Amanda. He's steering you in the right direction.

* * *

If you buy a used car, will you just be inheriting the previous owner's problem? Tom and Ray dispel this and other myths about used cars in their pamphlet "How To Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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1994 Honda Accord, 4 dr., only 57k, auto, can trade, have warranty.

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2002 Toyota Sequoia, silver, imac, 120k, can trade, have warranty. \$8,900.

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1996 Honda Civic, 4 dr., AT, can trade, have warranty, \$2,650.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for June 10-16

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In Mark Harris's novel *Bang the Drum Slowly*, professional baseball players cheat their fans out of money by engaging them in a card game called TEGWAR, which is an acronym for The Exciting Game Without Any Rules. Judging from your current astrological omens, Gemini, I'd say it's prime time for you to play a more ethical version of this game. Strictly speaking, the game can have rules, but they may be changed at any time, and new ones may be added as needed. The object of your brand of TEGWAR is to have as much smart fun as possible without anyone getting hurt.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up," said poet Paul Valery. Here's how I think that applies to you right now: You've become too engrossed in the mythic, phantasmagorical feelings of your fantasies, and that's interfering with your ability to muster all of the kickass pragmatism and supercharged willpower you will need to actually make your fantasies come to life. In other words, Cancerian, I advise you to snap out of your creamy, dreamy haze with a self-induced wake-up call. Stop floating, and start grunting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): As we began our first session, the 79-year-old Jungian psychotherapist looked at me with mischief in her eyes and said: "Go ahead - surprise me! What have you got?" I was torn. Part of me felt like rising to her challenge, meeting her dare. I fantasized about telling her such wild versions of my adventures that they would outstrip any tales she'd heard in her long service as a deep listener. But in the end I chose to tell the truth. I felt it was more important to explore my life's actual mysteries than to entertain her. And that was the first healing she helped me achieve. I suspect a similar test is ahead for you, Leo. Would you rather be honest or impress people?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I predict that at no time in the coming weeks will anyone be justified in saying to you, "Your ego has been writing checks that your body can't cash." Nor will anyone have any reason to tell you, "You'd better start running if you hope to catch up with your dreams." Or, "You may be an old soul, but you've been acting like a naive punk." No, Virgo, I firmly believe that none of those accusations will be hurled at you. Why? Because from what I can tell, all of the various parts of your psyche will be in a greater state of collaborative unity than they've been in for a long time. Your alienation from yourself will be at an all-time low, as will your levels of hypocrisy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I'm brave in some ways and cowardly in others. I've gone parasailing, performed on big stages before thousands of people, assisted in the birth of two children, and explored the abyss of my own unconscious. On the other hand, I'm scared of confined spaces, can't bring myself to shoot a gun, and am a sissy when it comes time to be around people who are dying. I imagine that you, too, have areas of courage and timidity, Libra, and I suspect that in the coming weeks you will be called to a challenge in both areas. See if you can transfer some of the nerve power you're able to summon in one sphere to bolster you in the place where you're a wimp.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The Kinky Dream and Funky Paradise chapter of your astrological cycle has arrived - a phase when you'll have poetic license to let your imagination run wilder than usual. In fact, it'll be prime time to escape into fantasy land and try on a new identity or two, complete with a host of outlandish nicknames. Your new hip-hop name could be Extasy TrixxMaster. Your pro wrestler name could be Velvet Soul Pandora. Your mystic superhero name could be Mountain Windstorm. Your Irish prostitute name could be Luscious X. Mahoney. Your rock-star-from-the-future name could be Destiny Acrobat.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The coming weeks could be a Golden Age for your perceptiveness. If you're even moderately aligned with the cosmic rhythms, you will be able to discern hidden agendas that no one else has spotted, catch clues that have been hidden, and be able to recognize and register interesting sights you've previously been blind to. To maximize your ability to cash in on this fantastic opportunity, say this affirmation frequently: "My eyes are working twice as well as usual. I can see things I don't normally notice."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you were the star of a fairy tale and a spell had been placed on you, you would find a way to break that spell sometime in the next seven months. If you were the hero of a myth about a royal child abandoned in the wasteland by your evil nurse and raised by emotionally clumsy but well-meaning gnomes, your exile would soon end; your real parents, the king and queen, would find you after a long search, and your birthright would be restored. Now translate these themes into the actual circumstances of your life, Capricorn. Are you ready to do what it takes to achieve a healing and restoration that have been a long time coming?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What is sacred? The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said it was anything that you cannot or will not laugh at. But I have the exact opposite view. If I'm unable to crack a joke about what I regard as holy, then it's not holy. For me, part of what makes an idea or person or object holy is its power to animate my sense of humor and put me in the mood to play. Where do you stand on this issue, Aquarius? If you're aligned with my view, you will have some wonderful opportunities to commune with the sacred in the coming days.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In the chorus of my band's song "Apathy and Ignorance," I sing, "What is the difference between apathy and ignorance?" and the other two singers chant, "I don't know and I don't care." I recommend you make that chant your mantra in the coming days, Pisces. You really do need to experiment with a mischievous state of mind that is blithely heedless of what anyone thinks about anything. You have the right and the privilege to be free of expectations, precedents, and dogmas. Trust your intuition above all other influences! It's an excellent time to at least temporarily declare your independence from everything that's not interesting or useful or helpful or appealing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The film *Tuck Everlasting* tells the story of a family that becomes immortal after drinking from a magical spring. The two parents and their two sons hide their gift from the world, but eventually a mysterious man in a yellow suit finds out about their secret and stalks them. At one point in his search, this man has a conversation with a young pastor. "What if you could be eternal?" he asks the priest. "Without having to face the uncertainty of death... Invincible to disease... Forever young." The priest is rattled. "You speak blasphemy, sir," he protests. "Fluently," replies the man in the yellow suit. You have that mandate right now Aries: to speak blasphemy fluently, as well as any other rebellious diction. It's time to rise up and express the unspeakable, the controversial, the revolutionary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There's substantial evidence that the Amazon River used to flow in the opposite direction from what it does now. Ages ago, its currents traveled westward from the Atlantic Ocean toward the Pacific (www.tinyurl.com/amazonreversal). I'd like you to hold that image firmly in mind as you contemplate a monumental shift of course in your own life. Let it serve as a surprising symbol of what's possible - as a promise that you could actually manage to reverse a current that may seem immutable.

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