

THE AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE



# Greenbacks for Green Space

**CITY TO DEVELOPERS:  
Shake That Money Tree!**

by Katherine Gregor p.28

**PRIMARILY  
PRIMATES:**  
AG Goes Ape

**AUSTIN  
WRANGLERS'**  
Arena Rock

**HANDMADE  
AUSTIN WOMEN:**  
How Does Your  
Garden Grow?

**Redemption in  
ROUND MOUNTAIN**

**Pearl Diving With  
OLIVER RAJAMANI**

Vol. 26 No. 35 ★ [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) ★ May 4, 2007

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# WATERLOO RECOMMENDS

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**CHARLOTTE GAINSBOURG**  
*5:55 (Vice)*  
International movie star, fashion icon, music royalty Charlotte Gainsbourg makes her US music debut with *5:55*. Music by Air, lyrics by Jarvis Cocker and the Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon.

\$12.99 CD

**GRINDERMAN**  
*Grinderman (Anti)*

The Grinderman sound is an instinctual yowl that also resurrects the demons of each musician's past: the trashcan proselytizing of Birthday Party-era Nick, Slavunos' late 70s New York no-wave noise wisdom, plus Ellis' avant-garde soundtrack work and his teenage love of Black Sabbath.



\$13.99 CD

**DNTEL**  
*Dumb Luck (Sub Pop)*

*Dumb Luck* is an album lyrically as much about human distance as connection. Features vocal contributions from Jenny Lewis (Rilo Kiley), Edward Droste (Grizzly Bear), Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) and many more.

\$11.99 CD



**ALL SMILES**  
*Ten Readings of a Warning (Dangerbird)*

Jim Fairchild is the singer/ songwriter and general creator of All Smiles, his first solo outing after his days in the band Grandaddy. *Ten Readings of a Warning* is held together with spare and decisive sounds, and a resistance to over-embellish.

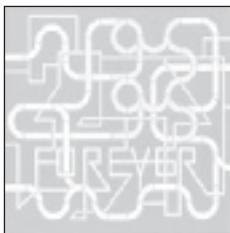
\$9.99 CD



**GUSGUS**  
*Forever (Groove Attack)*

It has taken a handful of time to create *Forever* because GusGus is not God. GusGus is: Biggi Viera, Earth, and President Bongo. And they need more than 6 days to create the world that is this album.

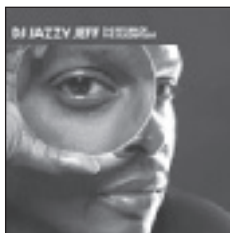
\$13.99 CD



**various/SPANK ROCK**  
*Fabriclive 33 (Fabric)*

*Fabriclive 33*, a fiery party mix that mashes together electro, hip hop, grime and everything bass-heavy, comes from Spank Rock, Baltimore's chart-topping hip-hopping trendsetters.

\$13.99 CD



**DJ JAZZY JEFF**  
*Return of the Magnificent (Rapster)*  
Through a combination of young guns and legends, including Pos of De La Soul, Raheem DeVaughn, Big Daddy Kane, and Method Man, *The Return of the Magnificent* is sure to impress old fans and warm up new ears to the soulful sounds of one of hip hop/soul's most consistent innovators.

\$12.99 CD

**SECRETARY BIRD**  
*Secretary Bird (In De Goot)*

This album melds the countrified-influence of the desert and the rock and roll expanse of Los Angeles. They are songs that bring celebration and sadness, breaking your heart just for the pelasure of healing it.

\$10.99 CD



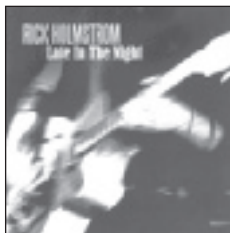
**PATRICK WOLF**  
*Magic Position (Low Altitude)*  
The roots of Patrick Wolf's music seem to stretch far, wide and beyond, from PJ Harvey to Stockhausen, English folk music to the grand old Chet Baker. It seems the diversity and turbulence of his life experience to date have done nothing but add to the depth and passion of his creation.

\$9.99 CD

**MARIA McKEE**  
*Late December (Cooking Vinyl)*

McKee continues to distance herself from her country roots on her sixth studio release, writing what might be best described as "pop-ras," miniature contemporary operas sung in open-throated vibrato. Those who prefer the old Maria will find a handful of songs to satiate their pallet as well.

\$12.99 CD



**RICK HOLMSTROM**  
*Late in the Night (MC Productions)*  
Holmstrom delivers a recording that's fresh, innovative yet completely steeped in the blues. *Late in the Night* features twelve new Holmstrom songs as well as a unique cover of Bob Dylan's "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35."

\$12.99 CD

**PRIESTBIRD**  
*In Your Time (Kemado)*

While this trio's last LP, *Book of Sand*, was a stirring, orchestral affair released under the name of Tarantula AD, Danny Bensi, Saunder Jurriaans and Gregory Rogove's re-emergence as Priestbird finds the three-piece rocking harder than their past form could ever suggest.

\$10.99 CD



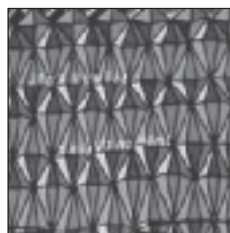
**ANDREW BIRD**  
*Armchair Apocrypha (Fat Possum)*  
"Bird uses whistling, loops and spare instrumentation to create an atmospheric, multilayered sound that's melodic and rhythmic but also moody and delicate. Elegant, demanding and moving." - *Q Magazine*

\$12.99 CD

**JANA HUNTER**  
*There's No Home (Gnomonsong)*

*There's No Home* is the second full-length formal release from Jana Hunter. Recorded over two consecutive weeks in fall 2006 at a friend's home, the album features Hunter writing, playing and producing throughout.

\$11.99 CD



**THE BLOW**  
*Poor Aim: Love Songs (K Records)*

*Poor Aim: Love Songs* is resilient electro-pop music that can be lovingly devoured by people of all ages and coolness factors. It's the sound of feeling fun and desperate and bravely romantically unsuccessful all at once; easy listening for difficult feelings.

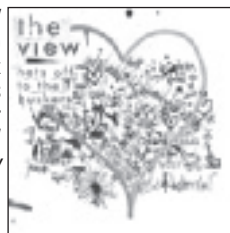
\$10.99 CD



**THE VIEW**  
*Hats Off to the Buskers (Columbia)*

"The View mix tempos and styles, from punk to ska to acoustic-with-harmonica, and what's great about these guys is their ability, their willingness to go soft — that is the early Jam/ Paul Weller sort of soft." - *LA Weekly*  
available Tuesday, 5/8

\$9.99 CD



**THE SEA & CAKE**  
*Everybody (Thrill Jockey)*

The Sea & Cake are back with *Everybody*, the band's first full length in just over four years. The record finds the band continuing to perfect their singular brand of dreamlike, hot-buttered pop music that sounds delicately handcrafted, yet effortless all the same.

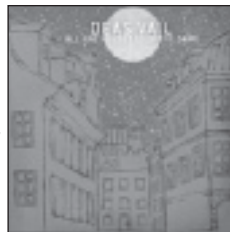
\$12.99 CD



**DEAS VAIL**  
*All the Houses Look the Same (BHR)*

Deas Vail combines catchy choruses and ethereal guitars to produce a sound that equates to the marriage of Coldplay and Death Cab for Cutie. The instrumentation of this record is beautifully crafted so that it resonates deep within the listener.

\$6.99 CD



**JOAN ARMATRADING**  
*Into the Blues (429)*

*Into the Blues* is the album that Joan Armatrading was always meant to write. Immediately you can tell how much she enjoys playing the blues as her guitar belts out these 13 hits.

\$13.99 CD



**MICHAEL BUBLÉ**  
*Call Me Irresponsible (Reprise)*

Melding the contemporary and the classic way as only Bubl  can, the album ranges from "I've Got the World on a String", "That's Life" and the title track to Leonard Cohen's "I'm Your Man", Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" and two new songs co-written by Michael.

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# contents

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Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.

**6 ENDORSEMENTS** A shortened version of the *Chronicle's* special-election picks  
**Wx** May 12 election – ballot items and full endorsements  
austinchronicle.com/webextra  
**POSTMARKS** Hot Fuzz too gory for one reader, the mystery of disappearing honey bees, and more  
**Wx** "Postmarks" online – updated (almost) daily  
austinchronicle.com/webextra

## NEWS

**15** AG Folds on Apes; Benzene Questions at Crestview Station; Supremes Examine Capital Punishment, Mental Illness; Immigrants Take to the Streets; and More  
**POINT AUSTIN** You Think Austin's Weird?  
**16** **BESIDE THE POINT** Don't Fear the Reaper  
**18** **ON THE LEGE** Jim Crow Gets a Vote  
**21** **DEVELOPING STORIES** A Public-Private Northcross  
**27** **THE HIGHTOWER REPORT** Stamping Out the Free Press; and Democracy vs. ZIP Code 10021  
**28** **GREENBACKS FOR GREEN SPACE** City moves to make development pay for parks  
BY KATHERINE GREGOR

## SPORTS

**38** **ARENA ROCK** Wranglers share hot dogs and tax brackets with their fans

## ARTS

**43** Clifford Antone Gets a Play, UT Playwrights Get Big Prizes, Austin Shakespeare Festival Gets a Home, *American Fiesta* Gets Mixed Reviews, and Everybody Gets Free Comics  
**44** **WATER THIS COTTAGE INDUSTRY** Shopping at Handmade Austin Women's spring show is a good way to keep our cool local craft scene blooming  
BY RACHEL KOPER  
**46** **AFTER A FASHION** Austin is graced by the sexy people, old and young  
**48** **BOOKS** Aline Kominsky Crumb's *Need More Love*; Jack Jackson's *The New Texas History Movies*

**Wx** web extra For this week's Web extras and more Web exclusives, go to: austinchronicle.com/webextra.

**CHRONIC**  
NEWS BLOG

This week: **THE CITY'S THUNDEROUS FINANCIAL FORECAST.** Lege death-watch, plus the usual mix of breaking news, wit, and cynicism

austinchronicle.com/chronic

**RACHEL**  
MUSIC BLOG

This week: Coachella: the new Burning Man? **CUTE BAND ALERT!** Plus, saying goodbye to Rollo.

austinchronicle.com/musicblog

**THE SCORE**  
CHRONICLE SPORTS BLOG

This week: Christopher Gray on **ALL THINGS EXPRESS AND ASTROS**, and more sports rumblings and grumbings from here and afar

austinchronicle.com/sports

**the gay place**  
BLOG

This week: **L0LGAY HAGZ YR FAGZ** and **COACHWHOLA?** Plus: More of Kate & K8's attempts at queering up your face.

austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog

## FOOD

**50** Is This Heaven? No, It's Buffalo Gap; In Print: *Cowgirl Cuisine*; Recently Reviewed: Sea Dragon and Evangeline Cafe; Event Menu: May 3-10; and Food-o-File

**52** **FINDING GOD IN THE GUMBO** The Smoking for Jesus Ministry is serving up Real New Orleans Style fare with a side of spiritual nourishment  
BY MM PACK

**54** **REVIEW** Mann's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que

**56** **RESTAURANT ROULETTE** A spin around our restaurant guide

## SCREENS

**59** As the Alamo Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary and Readies for Its Big Move, We Devote Even More Coverage to Its Programming, This Week With Farley Granger, Jon Gries, and QT's Last Stand; Crew Stories: Dan Eggleston; and DVD Watch: *Army of Shadows*

**61** **SPIRO'S EXPERIMENT** AFS Documentary Tour: 10 Under 10 and Its First Five Years  
BY ANNE S. LEWIS

**62** **TV EYE** *The Cats of Mirikitani*

## MUSIC

**65** **TCB** The Backyard's parking quagmire, Chris Cornell outshines those other guys, and more

**66** **OLIVER RAJAMANI** *Forty Days* and *Forty Nights* with Austin's King of Pearls  
BY DAVID LYNCH

**70** **TEXAS PLATTERS** Sly & the Family Stone's *Collection*, plus new discs from Beaver Nelson, Jack Ingram, Nathan Hamilton, *Girl in a Coma*, Ornette Coleman, and DVDnds from Pinetop Perkins

**72** **NEWS OF THE WEIRD** Throwing 363 tons of money at Iraq

## CALENDAR

**76** **COMMUNITY** Cinco de Mayo kicks off early, May fests abound, and Pilates is free for all

**78** **DAY TRIPS** Boca Chica Beach might be the most unspoiled public beach on the Texas coast

**80** **SOCCER WATCH** Debate over the player of the year, and more

**Wx** "Soccer Watch" online: Semiregular updates from everywhere  
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## May 12 Special Election

### The Chronicle endorsements

For the full version of the endorsements, see [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

#### Proposition 1: Yes

Authorizing the Legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years.

The likelihood of Texas voters rejecting a proposition so sympathetic on its face – who’s going to oppose an equity tax cut for the elderly and disabled? – is virtually nil. And note: The ballot language is even more convoluted than usual, as “reduction of the limitation” actually means “lowering of the previously legislated tax cap.” This proposition might also be called “the \$10 Million Screwup,” as that’s the estimated cost to counties saddled with make-

up legislation from the last Lege session. But if we’re all intended to get a tax break from the Lege’s dubious and shortsighted “generosity” to everyone but schoolchildren, who are we to say the old and the halt shouldn’t get a taste?

#### AISSD board, District 2: Sam Guzman

Businessman Sam Guzman and applied archeologist and community-housing consultant Fred L. McGhee have emerged as two intriguing candidates who have much to offer the district. While Guzman has the longer local experience and demonstrated public involvement, McGhee offers both a unique perspective and fresh energy to a board that sometimes seems overwhelmed by its responsibilities. On balance, we believe Guzman has earned the voters’ support, through his solid credentials and his record of long service to the community.

#### Travis Co. Early Voting (through May 8)

Travis Co. voters may vote at any early-voting location. On election day, voters must vote in their precinct. For a list of precinct locations, call 238-VOTE or go to [www.co.travis.tx.us/county\\_clerk/election](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election).

Polls are open Monday-Saturday, 7am-7pm, and Sunday, noon-6pm, for all locations, except malls, Howson Library, and mobile voting sites.

##### CENTRAL

Travis County Offices, 5501 Airport

Fiesta Mart, 3909 N. I-35

Flawn Academic Center (UGL) Lobby, West Mall, UT campus

Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe

Howson Public Library, 2500 Exposition (Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm; Sat., 10am-5pm)

##### EAST

HEB, 2701 E. Seventh\*

Northeast Health Center, 7112 Ed Bluestein (Springdale Center)

##### NORTHEAST

HEB, 9414 N. Lamar\*

County Tax Office, 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (just off Pecan Street), Pflugerville

##### NORTHWEST

Randalls, 10900-D Research

HEB, 7301 FM 620 N.\*

##### NORTH

Northcross Mall, 2525 W. Anderson (Mon.-Sat., 9am-8pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

Highland Mall, 6001 Airport (lower level near Fun Zone; Mon.-Sat., 9am-8pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

##### SOUTH

Randalls, 2025 W. Ben White

HEB, 2400 S. Congress\*

##### SOUTHEAST

Albertsons, 1819 S. Pleasant Valley\*

HEB, 6607 S. I-35\*

##### SOUTHWEST

Randalls, 6600 MoPac S.

Randalls, 9911 Brodie

##### WEST

Randalls, 2303 RR 620 S.

Randalls, 3300 Bee Caves Rd.

\* Temporary building in parking lot

##### MOBILE VOTING

###### FRIDAY, MAY 4

Rollingwood City Hall, 403 Nixon Dr., 8am-4pm

Lago Vista City Hall, 5803 Thunderbird St., 8am-4pm

Bee Cave City Hall, 13333-A Hwy. 71 W., 8am-noon, 1-5pm

Govalle Care Center, 3101 Govalle Ave., 9am-noon

Brighton Gardens, 4401 Spicewood Springs, 2-5pm

Hornsby-Dunlap Elementary, 13901 FM 969, 11am-7pm

###### SATURDAY, MAY 5

Lago Vista City Hall, 5803 Thunderbird St., 8am-4pm

Del Valle ISD Admin. Bldg., 5301 Ross, 8am-4pm

Crystal Falls Golf Course, 3400 Crystal Falls, 9am-5pm

Volente Fire Dept. & City Hall, 15406 FM 2769, 9am-5pm

Briarcliff Owners Comm. Bldg., 22801 Briarcliff, 8am-4pm

###### SUNDAY, MAY 6

Crystal Falls Golf Course, 3400 Crystal Falls, noon-6pm

Briarcliff Owners Comm. Bldg., 22801 Briarcliff, noon-6pm

NW Rural Comm. Ctr., 18649 FM 1431, Jonestown, noon-6pm

##### Englewood Estates, 2603 Jones Rd., 4-6pm

Lakeside Senior Center, 85 Trinity, noon-2pm

Parsons House, 1130 Camino La Costa, noon-4pm

##### MONDAY, MAY 7

Briarcliff Owners Comm. Bldg., 22801 Briarcliff, 8am-4pm

Blake Manor Elementary, 18010 Blake Manor, 11am-7pm

LBJ Building, 111 E. 17th, 8am-6pm

Heritage Park Center, 2806 Real, 9am-noon

Hillcrest Elementary, 6910 E. William Cannon, 11am-7pm

Heartland Health Care Center, 11406 Rustic Rock, 2-5pm

##### TUESDAY, MAY 8

Travis Building, 1701 Congress, 8am-6pm

RBJ Residential Tower, 21 Waller, 8-11am

Summit at Lakeway, 1915 Lohmans Crossing, noon-5pm

Decker Elementary, 8500 Decker, 11am-7pm

Smith Elementary, 4209 Smith School Rd., 11am-7pm

Grace House, 11825 Bee Caves Rd., 2-5pm

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

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#### Morlix's Themes Not Dark but Uplifting

Dear Editor,

Thank you, Jim Caligiuri for reviewing Gurf Morlix's CD *Diamonds to Dust*; however, I think you missed an important point ["Texas Platters," Music, April 20]. The focus on death and dying has its thumb on the psyche of baby boomers as we contemplate our lives. It is not dark but uplifting and comforting to know someone we love will "put the blanket on us" and "lift the glass to the past, ain't it a beautiful day." The musical arrangements remind me of the cosmic cowboy days of the Seventies and Eighties, while the harmonies remind me of Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris. I predict this album to be a cult classic much like [the Byrds'] *Sweetheart of the Rodeo*.

Joanie Grace

#### Highly Recommend Boudreaux's

Dear Editor,

Your review of Uncle Boudreaux's Cajun Cookin' restaurant in last week's paper was absolutely true [Food, April 20]. We had heard about it before, so on our way to Canyon Lake we went by Manor to try it. We liked it so much that we came back to Austin to eat there on Thursday of that week. On the way back to Topeka, we went by Manor again to eat there one more time.

We especially enjoyed the catfish, the shrimp (both grilled and fried), the bread pudding, and the syrup cake. The gumbo dishes were also excellent.

We highly recommend this restaurant. It is well worth the drive out to Manor.

Martha Rae Hook Pendleton  
Topeka, Kan.

#### Program Your Own Music!

Dear Editor,

Re: The firing of KLBK-FM deejay Johnny Walker ["The Last Rock & Roll Deejay," News, April 13]: I quit listening to traditional radio in general and KLBK-FM in particular some years ago. I had an epiphany of sorts and realized that radio had gotten tired and too corporate-driven. I mean, how many times can you hear the same Audioslave song over and over?

For a while I relied on CDs (or silence) in the car and Internet-based radio when I was at home

or at work. Then a few weeks ago I bought a portable MP3 player, and life hasn't been the same.

Since it isn't practical to carry your entire CD collection around, one has to be very selective with your chosen music. But with the music player I can carry and rediscover all my music with ease. And now that I have the ability to listen to my music player in the car, I can now say that I have sealed radio's coffin as far as I'm concerned.

And you know what? I don't miss the radio one bit. I can listen to my music on my schedule, uncensored, and without interruption or annoying commercials. So Emmis Communications can do what they want with KLBK and their other stations. I'm not listening anyway.

Sincerely,  
Eric Harwell

#### Think Outside the Box

Dear Editor,

Efforts to facilitate traffic flow in Oak Hill (April 20, p.10) ["Postmarks"] and on MoPac (p.19) ["MoPac Expansion Update," News] are both doomed due to planners' failure to think outside the box. The intellectual box in which they find themselves is the belief that transportation solutions lie in maintaining existing lanes devoted to auto traffic and then adding either more lanes, in the case of MoPac, or in the case of Oak Hill, waiting for commuter rail.

Fortunately for Mexico City, traffic planners there thought outside the box and realized that devoting eight lanes to autos on their major north-south arterial, Avenida Insurgentes, was only resulting in ever-longer traffic jams. Rather than building yet more lanes, they banned cars from one northbound and one southbound lane and allocated the lanes to 160-passenger buses. Buses on this one route alone carry 260,000 passengers a day. The plan has been such a success that five additional lines are now being added. Austin's transport planners' failure to adopt this already proven, off-the-shelf technology dooms us to wasting millions of dollars, exacerbating pollution, countless hours wasted in traffic jams, and the devastation of communities such as Oak Hill.

My offer to the CAMPO board or any other traffic planners to accompany them on an inspection tour of the Mexico City rapid bus system is still on the table.

Philip Russell

continued on p.8

**"PAGE TWO" WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.**



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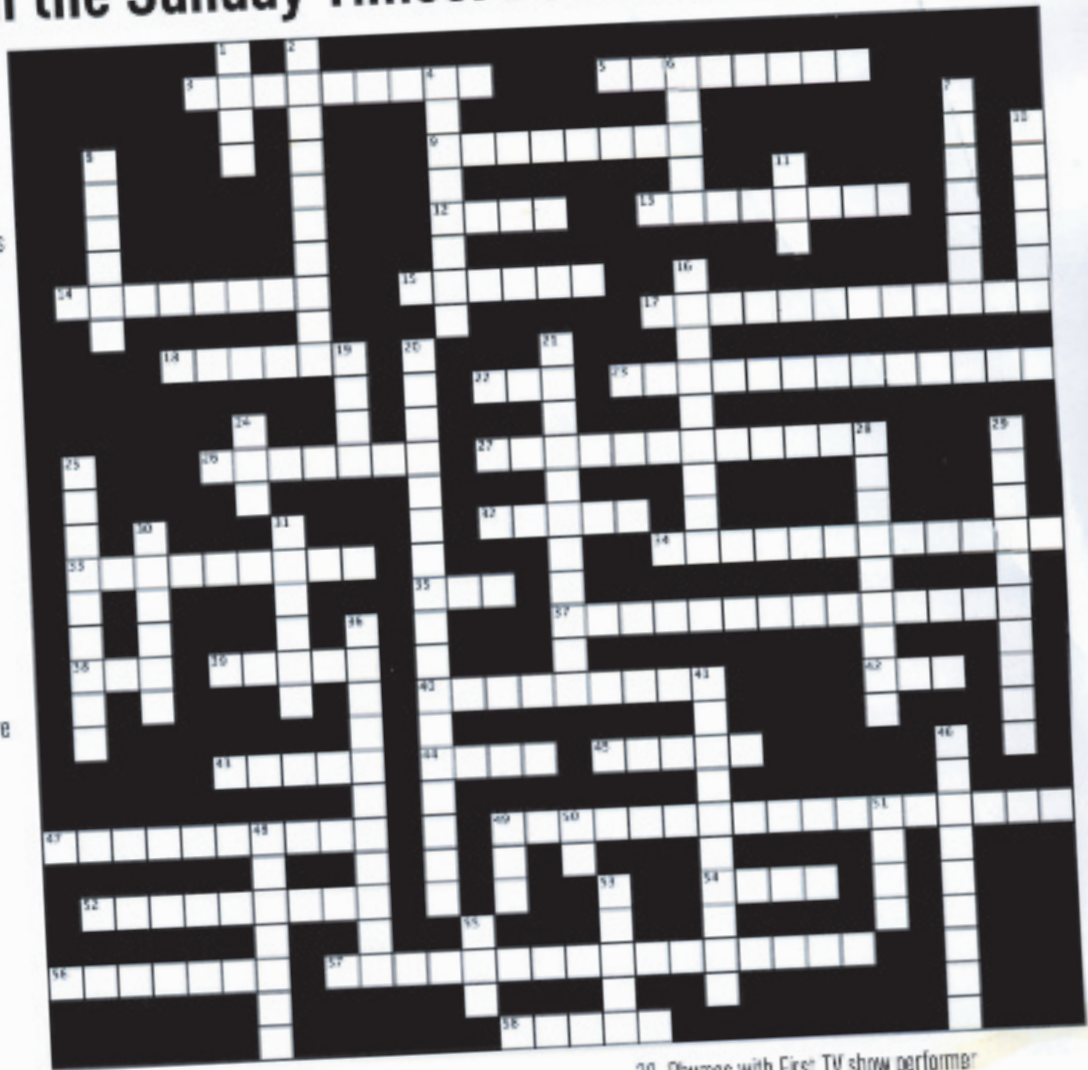
# Solve the ACL Festival Crossword and Learn the Lineup. Better than the Sunday Times. Because it Rocks.\*

## ACROSS

- 3. This gets the worm and the tickets
- 5. 25-year-old tune shack
- 9. 2004 Festival of the year according to
- 12. Hang out under Congress Bridge
- 13. Same name, two deep watering holes
- 14. What town lake really is
- 15. Les is enough for this partner
- 17. Tango en Francais
- 18. Festival Park
- 22. Cool and enthusiastic
- 23. The Who know who they are
- 26. Official festival bird
- 27. Three is their magic number
- 32. 11% of homeland is glaciated
- 33. Age of TV show
- 34. Sat in the front row of English Lit.
- 35. The big tree
- 37. Shared his front porch
- 38. Singers and songwriters heard here
- 39. Park carpet
- 40. South Dakota college
- 42. Makes great chips
- 43. Guitar accessory
- 44. A sponsor with keyboards
- 45. Over 130 of these
- 47. The Sun shines on their accordians and fiddles
- 49. Patrick Carney is their fan
- 52. Capital of the World for this
- 54. at&t room
- 56. Self-powered, easy parking method
- 57. Master of Puppets with salsa added
- 58. Auslin party street

## DOWN

- 1. A bark that rocks
- 2. Hideaway with a glass
- 4. Catch the shuttle from this square
- 6. Days of music
- 7. Capitol rock



- 8. 68 degree springs
- 10. Austin's Crown
- 11. Get milk and eggs on your way home here
- 16. She needs no "introduction"
- 19. "\_\_\_\_\_ Island"
- 20. One of two bands who whistle
- 21. All they need is a toolbox and an astronomer
- 24. 3 beautiful letters
- 25. Festival month
- 28. Home grown leafy drink
- 29. Food Court

- 30. Rhymes with First: TV show performer
- 31. Close to the Pod
- 36. He sings in an endangered language
- 41. This avian artist plays glockenspiel
- 46. Julius' boss
- 48. Road around the park
- 49. Sauce at every Austin table
- 50. Island Stage
- 51. Heineken's red symbol
- 53. Number of stages
- 55. Tag-A-What?

Go to [ACLFestival.com/crossword](http://ACLFestival.com/crossword) to see letters revealed.

\*Answer clues to Austin trivia, Festival lore, Sponsors, and bands to unlock 15 Festival artists.

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**More Indigenous Films**

Dear Editor,  
The 10th Cine las Americas International Film Festival is going on this week in Austin ["Travelogue," Screens, April 20]. At least a few of them are about indigenous peoples and their struggles.

Thursday night at the Paramount Theatre I saw a Mexican film titled *El Violín*. This exceptionally poignant drama is about a peasant guerrilla movement that had arisen to fight for their land and social justice. Unfortunately, this award-winning masterpiece was not even previewed or highlighted in this paper's last issue.

There needs to be more films about this land's original inhabitants. A human race that was almost decimated, resulting in the worst holocaust in world history – an unimaginable horror that obviously Hollywood, academia, and literature don't consider worthy of attention.

Unfortunately, most people of Mexico are still suffering and struggling for human rights because of the actions of NAFTA, globalization, and the greedy elite of that country and the U.S. The film industry should be more conscientiously responsible and inform us about real people, inhumane conditions, and possible solutions.

Anita Quintanilla

[Marjorie Baumgarten replies: Since the festival's Thursday-Thursday schedule spans the coverage dates of two Austin Chronicle issues, the April 19 opening film, *El Violín*, was profiled by Belinda Acosta in the April 13 issue ("A Decade of Cine," Screens), while the rest of the coverage appeared in the issue of April 20. We apologize for any confusion.]

**Duany's Slide Show Online**

Dear Editor,  
I enjoyed your article on Andrés Duany ["Developing Stories: What Would Andrés Duany Do?," News, April 13]. For anyone interested, his slide show and lecture on New Urbanism is available online for free viewing: [www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=3F372CFBA3A87C1F](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=3F372CFBA3A87C1F).

Michael Labay

**Texas Letting Primates Down**

Hello Michael King,  
I am writing you, as I know that you have been following the story of Primarily Primates. I am very concerned about the settlement, returning the sanctuary back to the neglectful directors. I believe the attorney general just flushed Texas cruelly enforcement down the toilet. Animals in Texas are protected from abuse, neglect, and abandonment by sections 42.09 through 42.10 of the Texas Penal Code. Unfortunately this code was not enforced for more than 800 animals.

It was only shortly after the receivership that I had a chance to volunteer for the sanctuary. I was appalled at the conditions I witnessed at this facility. The living conditions were deplorable, animals were neglected and underfed, not to mention there was no available shelter from the elements nor enrichment present. It was only under the appointed receiver that all the animals' lives improved immensely. These chimps deserve a better future than sheer neglect. The state of Texas has let them down. They are the innocent victims in this ordeal.

I hope you continue your interest in the sanctuary, something must be done to reverse this decision. The chimps at the sanctuary have earned the right to live out their lives under a caring, compassionate directorship, and that has not happened yet.

Sincerely,  
Charmaine Rea  
Dickinson

[Editor's note: Please see "Primarily Primates: AG Folds on Apes," in this week's News section.]

**Reviews Should Be More Explicit**

Dear Editor,  
Re: *Hot Fuzz* [Film Listings, April 20]: I went to see it based on your review and your categorizing it as "comedy/action." The film was well-constructed and presented. I found, however, that "action" meant "violent," and the blood and gore far outweighed any humor. I wish you'd indicated the level of violence. I wouldn't have gone. As it was, I had to leave the film toward the end. Just had way enough darkness. Action could mean simply car chases and the like. Not in this particular case, unfortunately.

Brooks Kasson



[Marjorie Baumgarten replies: "Action comedy" is a common term used to describe a certain hybrid genre, although I understand that you might have had different expectations of *Hot Fuzz* based on the way you misquote me describing it as "comedy/action." Rather than depicting *Hot Fuzz* as some sort of Keystone Kops update, I describe the film as "mimicking and tweaking moments from films by the likes of Tony Scott, Michael Bay, and Jerry Bruckheimer" – some of the most inflammatory, blow-'em-up action directors around. *Hot Fuzz* is furthermore rated "R," and I suggest that you and other readers would do well to consult sites such as [www.mpa.org/FilmRatings.asp](http://www.mpa.org/FilmRatings.asp) and [www.filmratings.com](http://www.filmratings.com) for complete listings information regarding the type of content that earns each film its particular rating.]

**The Great Rollo Banks**

Dear Louis,  
I'm sad we all lost Rollo Banks ["Page Two," April 20]. I'm sad to think he died in enough pain to have to take his own life. There are a number of us in the Austin tattoo community, both artists and aficionados, who have great Michael "Rollo" Malone tattoos and stories. I personally bought my first and last tattoo machine from him. He was a unique and large influence on a lot of us.

Yours,  
Bart Willis

**We Must Intelligently Recycle**

Dear Editor,  
More and more I see the push for compact fluorescent lightbulbs, but seldom, if ever, do I see mention that these bulbs contain mercury. Unless these bulbs are recycled – not thrown away when they stop working – we are only trading one type of pollution for another. Too many people are too lazy to recycle, and mercury is far too toxic to be taken lightly. I hope that in a few years when all these bulbs begin to burn out, the general public is better about this sort of thing.

Lance Wechsler

**Loved Cohen New Works**

Dear Editor,  
Rave: Biggest props to the Cohen New Works Festival [Arts Listings]. I only saw a couple of events, and they were amazing! I saw "The Knot" which was a silent, elegant dance piece. Then there was "Futari Tomo," which was a drumming extravaganza, and there was a dance piece associated with that, though the name escapes me. Then, there was *Elephant's Graveyard*, which told the story of Mary, the only elephant to ever be executed. It was sad and beautiful. You guys rocked! Great job, even with the scripts in hand. And then finally, there was "Portrait," which had three dancers suspended from the ceiling, using the back wall as if it were a floor. Just, just incredible! Such beauty, such creativity! I was moved, and so were many others. I'm sure there were many other great pieces, but I wasn't fortunate enough to see them. Shoulda read the *Chronicle*, I guess.

Clifford Stringfellow

p.s. Why does anyone care about reviews, anyway? Just go check it out, or buy it, or listen to it. Who cares about the opinion of some person you don't even know? Seriously.

**Save the Laguna Madre**

Dear Editor,  
This letter I am writing to you today is inspired by the loyal and dedicated members of Friends of Isla Blanca Park and the ever-growing voice from the coast of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Always thankful that Austin and your paper represent green ideals has motivated me to write this letter as an attempt to make more of us who love the Gulf aware of an atrocious event that is occurring in my hometown of Port Isabel, Texas. As Earth Day was celebrated this weekend, I thought it was an ironic time to share some upsetting earthly news. A piece of the Texas Gulf Coast is up for exploration of oil/gas. Well, the equipment is in the water, so I guess that means business. Bummer.

continued on p.10

**Oops!** In the News story "What's Next for Bankrupt SOS?" (April 13) we incorrectly reported that in its bankruptcy filing, the advocacy group cited more than \$200,000 in costs stemming from an unsuccessful lawsuit against the Rock Creek development in Dripping Springs. The judgment was actually for two suits, one against Rock Creek and another filed against the Belterra development, also in Dripping Springs. The *Chronicle* regrets the omission.  
In the April 20 "Page Two," Don Ed Hardy was mistakenly referred to as Jack Ed Hardy. The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

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The Laguna Madre is the official name of the body of water that is about to be tapped into. A petition I downloaded from the Save the Laguna Madre Web site ([www.savethelagunamadre.com](http://www.savethelagunamadre.com)) informed me that the Madre, which is more familiar to visitors as the bay you cross driving over the bridge to reach South Padre Island, is the "last unspoiled hyper-saline bay system in the United States" (quoted directly from the Web site). I don't think I need to explain how or why this is upsetting, but I do want to elaborate that rising gas prices is a constant reminder to me on how desperate our society is to get the next quick fix of this resource. It saddens me to think that I thought something like this could never happen in my parents' back yard. Naive much?

My parents are avid surfers who have passed on to me an immense appreciation of nature and our surroundings that runs in me so deep. Check out [www.saveislablanca.com](http://www.saveislablanca.com) or [www.savethelagunamadre.com](http://www.savethelagunamadre.com) if interested in helping preserve this area from intrusive resource exploration and future plans of gambling development.

Thank you so much for your time,  
Terra Volz

## Strange Equation

Dear Editor,

Hearing Bush (and the U.S. news media) blather on about the 33 privileged college kids and professors murdered in Virginia seems remarkably absurd, when you consider that many people are shot almost daily in Iraq (191 yesterday), thanks to the horribly ignorant and irresponsible actions of our top politicians. An estimated 650,000 innocent Iraqi people of all ages and both genders have had their lives taken in the last four years, as a result of the U.S. invasion/occupation. Multiplying the num-

ber killed by a factor of 10 gives a conservative estimate of the number crippled in Iraq (at least 6.5 million). They did nothing to deserve such a fate. Where is the outrage over that? Bush and all the Congress people and senators who've supported that barbaric invasion/occupation need to be stripped of all their power and locked up. They are the world's most notorious menaces to mankind! If someone dropped 10,000 500-pound bombs on London and America's 10 largest cities, it wouldn't come close to doing the amount of damage that our invasion/occupation has done to the Iraqi people. The best thing we could do is kick the Bush regime (and all those who've supported the invasion and occupation) out of the White House ([ImpeachBush.org](http://ImpeachBush.org) and elect Dennis Kucinich ([www.kucinich.us](http://www.kucinich.us)) as the next president. We desperately need leaders who can solve problems without bloodshed. The world can't wait much longer. We must not wait for the next elections. Today's American people have very much in common with the Germans under Hitler who were misled by their establishment, but we have to save ourselves. Impeach the bastards, and end the occupation!

John O'Neill

## Plight of Kinship Care Providers

Mr. Black,

I am writing to you because it seems that no one at the Capitol level will even listen to me about the plight of Kinship Care Providers. On March 31, a bill was submitted to the house that was not published; no information was leaked on this bill. The bill was introduced by Rep. Borris Miles, and I have met with the staff of Rep. Warren Chisum and Rep. John Davis. But it has stalled in the committee. House Bill 2595 is a bill that will help Kinship Care Providers with the much-needed support in raising and taking care of the children. Right now there is not that much

help for us in raising our grandchildren and others who are doing the same. We are regulated by income guidelines for food stamps. I'm in search of some much-needed support for this bill right now; it will die this week. It is sitting under Rep. John Davis out of Houston. There isn't a representative in Austin who has stepped up.

Cheryl Collins

## Why Are Honey Bees Disappearing?

Dear Editor,

Scientists say that honey bees are like the canary in a coal mine. I hope this is not true. But if so, the recent worldwide alarm being sent out by the "mysterious" disappearance of honey bees across America, Europe, and beyond certainly sends a loud message. Some have said that if honey bees disappear completely, man will follow in as little as four years. What's upsetting even more is that it's not just honey bees that are disappearing. Bumble bees, wasps, and other vital insects are declining rapidly as well. Disappearing means they've died. It's called colony collapse disorder. There have been a couple of historical incidences of bees disappearing from CCD but never in the magnitude we are seeing right now.

I'm not a scientist, but I suspect it's related to disruption of the bee's immune system that in turn affects the several pheromones they rely on for life. Chemicals, stress, and poor food quality takes its toll - much like it does on the human race. Bees have many special pheromones that help them with everything from reproducing to finding their way home. Chemicals definitely seem to disrupt pheromones. Much like they disrupt our own reproductive systems causing "feminine" characteristics on young boys, causing fish and frogs to lose their sex organs or to have multiple sex organs, causing breast cancer and other glandular cancers to proliferate. It's not a pretty picture of the future.

What would happen if the pollinators were suddenly gone? It's estimated that this year we could see a one-third reduction in our food supply due to the honey-bee problem. And there's no planned solution in place. What happens if it is worse next year?

Kelly Hayes

## Using Tragedy in Virginia to Make a Point

Dear Editor,

The recent tragedy in Virginia has brought out the puritans who wail about the media, video games, music, etc. Not wanting to be left out I began an investigation into another crazed killer who some have blamed for the deaths of 600,000 Iraqis and nearly 3,500 American soldiers. I discovered he had in his possession a book that only can be considered a terrorist manual. In this book are tales of a man (really a young boy) who beheads an enemy and then drags the head back to a riotous, happy mob. There's a story of a woman who lures a man to her bed, then drives a nail through his head while he sleeps. It glorifies a terrorist who with one blast (on a horn) blows up an entire city! There are lurid tales of sex and men with hundreds of wives and mistresses. There are stories of insurgents who wander into cities and massacre thousands of innocent civilians - yes, women and children. With a book like this in his possession, can anyone be surprised by George Bush's actions? I think it's time the man be given serious psychiatric treatment. I also think we need to ban this terrorists' handbook - the Bible - before more people are influenced unduly and begin to hang blacks, torture gays, blow up federal buildings in Oklahoma City ... oops, too late.

Jay Williams

continued on p.12

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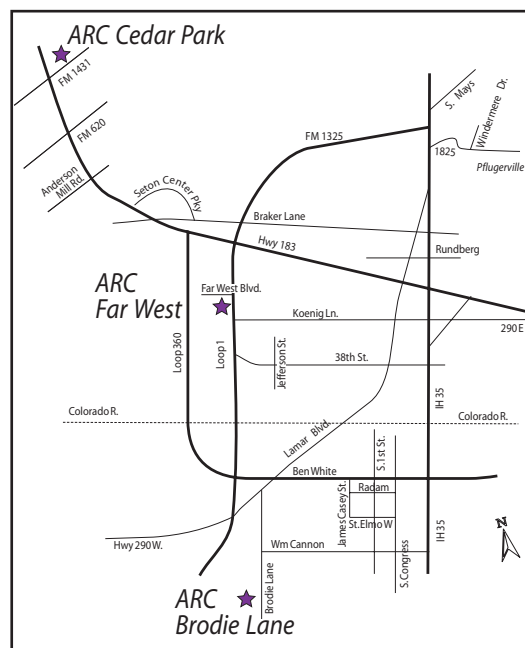
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# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE ARMY LIED ABOUT PAT TILLMAN'S DEATH. WHEN HIS FAMILY PUSHED FOR THE TRUTH, AN ARMY OFFICER INVOLVED IN THE CASE BLAMED THEIR IRRATIONAL PERSISTENCE ON THEIR LACK OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.



IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ESPN.COM, THE OFFICER SAID, "WHEN YOU DIE, I MEAN, THERE IS SUPPOSEDLY A BETTER LIFE, RIGHT? WELL, IF YOU ARE AN ATHEIST AND YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING, IF YOU DIE, WHAT IS THERE TO GO TO? NOTHING, YOU ARE WORM DIRT. SO FOR THEIR SON TO DIE FOR NOTHING AND NOW HE IS NO MORE...I DON'T KNOW HOW AN ATHEIST THINKS, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT THAT WOULD BE PRETTY TOUGH."



IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE TILLMANS JUST BELIEVED THAT PAT AWOKE IN SOME FANTASTICAL HEAVENLY PARADISE AFTER MAKING THE ULTIMATE EARTHLY SACRIFICE, THEY'D ACTUALLY BE HAPPY FOR HIM-- AND NONE OF THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM.



YES, IF ONLY PAT TILLMAN WERE CAVORTING HAPPILY IN THE AFTERLIFE WITH 72 VIRGINS--



TOM TOMORROW © 2007... www.thismodernworld.com

Who knows? Maybe I put too much of my time, money, and self into these projects, and as a result, I just cannot deal with this sort of back-stepping in the animal community. Under the old Animal Advisory Commission, this city made great strides in its efforts to lower the kill rate at Town Lake Animal Center. It saddens me

to think that these new "leaders" will be in the position to take credit for the fruits of labor of their predecessors. If Austin has any hope of becoming a "no-kill" community, it will be in spite of these two instead of because of these two. I am in deep sorrow for the animal community of Austin, but my heart really goes out to the

tens of thousands of animals that will be put to death under the leadership of Animal Advisory Commission Chair Carol Adams and Vice Chair Dr. Howard Blatt.

Sincerely,  
Delwin D. Goss

## Thanks to 'Chronicle' Staff

Dear Editor,  
Re: *Chronicle* Music Listings: I understand how difficult it must be to manage the information and functions constantly under your care. In particular, I turned in a change to our schedule, and your staff was able to publish it promptly. I've also noticed some improvements lately in your online Music Listings - thanks for your hard work and putting up with all the nagging details. The *Chronicle* is a great publication - among the best anywhere!

Kyle Myers  
*It's a Grind Coffeehouse*

## Why Do Politicians Lie?

Dear sir,  
I would like to know why politicians lie. I know - because they can - but I am not looking for comedic responses. With the convergence of city, county, and state governments in Austin, there is an abundance of politicians and ex-politicians and their friends and associates in this area.

Is there any one of you willing to give an honest reply as to why you lied to the public and how you rationalized it in your thinking either before or after?

Sincerely yours,  
Bruce D. Garnett

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Austin Chronicle

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## You Think Austin's Weird?

Consider the ballots beyond city limits

BY MICHAEL KING

Seeing as how it's election time – early voting began Monday for the May 12 Joint General and Special ... – we've already gotten a complaint about our lukewarm endorsement of Proposition 1 (and only). The constitutional amendment would apply last session's property-tax cuts to the elderly and disabled (missed because their taxes were already frozen). One reader objected, reasonably enough, that the ballot language of the proposition – by providing for “the reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed” – *seems* to suggest the opposite: that is, enabling a tax increase. That's yet another illustration of why government by proposition is a bad idea – the language of this proposition is a particularly egregious example, although it's unlikely that any voter will sue on grounds of obvious vagueness.

And if indeed the proposition would unilaterally increase taxes on the elderly and disabled, talk shows and editorials across the state would be calling for Lege-heads-on-pikes. So if you can't trust us or the official bill analysis or the House bill analysis, how about the League of Women Voters: “The amendment would ... provide tax relief to such elderly or disabled taxpayers who did not receive tax relief as a result of the school tax rate reduction passed in the 79th Legislature, 3rd called session.” There: The LWV says you can vote in peace, for a little less money for the schools.

Overall, this is an odd-lot election, and most Travis Co. voters who remember to go to the polls will find a ballot so brief they'll wonder why they bothered. Southeast Austin voters (District 2, Austin Independent School District) will choose among four candidates for a one-year seat on the school board, and neighboring jurisdictions will mostly be voting as well for school trustees.

### Pave Those Hills

It's frankly difficult to find good candidates who are also willing to endure the free labor and long hours on school boards, and the proliferation of tiny school districts in Texas – most of them dating from racial-segregation days – says something about our willingness to endure expensive inefficiency in the name of “local control.” And as much as one might decry literacy tests for voters as relics, literacy tests for candidates – at least school board candidates – might not be a terrible idea. Here's a Lake Travis ISD candidate on eminent domain: “Its not popular with the public and its not needed in

*continued on p.16*

Amparo Estrada was among the speakers at a rally for universal health care on the steps of the Texas state Capitol Sunday. Health Care for All Texans and Physicians for Social Responsibility hosted the event, in support of a single-payer system. The two groups say that more than 50 million Americans (including one in four Texans) don't have health insurance. State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, has sponsored the first-ever single-payer universal health-care bill in Texas; Senate Bill 1911 is still sitting in the State Affairs Committee. In Washington, D.C., Rep. John Conyers, D-Ohio, has sponsored House Resolution 676, a single-payer universal-health-care bill, with now 72 legislators, the AFL-CIO, and many others signed on.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The president can veto our attempt to secure a safe, orderly phased redeployment of our troops, but he cannot veto reality. Our troops will return; it is only a matter of how much blood and money will be lost before they do.”

– Austin Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, on President Bush's veto of a war-appropriations bill that included a timetable for the troops to exit Iraq



JANA BIRCHUM

## HEADLINES

Thousands of immigrants, families, and friends marched from the Capitol to City Hall on May 1, joining nationwide demonstrations in support of naturalization for the millions of undocumented people who are our neighbors, co-workers, *compañeros*. See p.24.

City Council meets today (Thursday), as the annual budget cycle begins with a five-year forecast: “We're gonna need lots of money.” See “Beside the Point,” p.16.

You can't tell the animal lovers from the chimps without a program – for the latest on the battle over **Primarily Primates** animal sanctuary, see p.22.

At the Capitol, the **Lege** proudly rejected Gov. Perry's proposal to vaccinate sixth-grade girls against human papillomavirus, moved forward on voter-ID bills designed to restrict voting, and the governor and other Republicans suggested that the best response to the handgun massacre at Virginia Tech is more of the same: Give everybody guns. For more, see p.18.

On the bloody fourth anniversary of his declaration of “Mission Accomplished” in Iraq, President Bush vetoed the **military appropriations bill** because it had the temerity to suggest that *enough is enough*. Commented Austin Rep. Lloyd Doggett: “He cannot veto reality.”

## NAKED CITY

Twenty-seven-year-old **Paul Ross Evans** has been charged with three federal crimes in connection with a **pipe bomb** found April 25 at a South Austin women's-health clinic that offers abortion services – charges that could net the Lufkin native up to a life sentence in the federal pen. The Austin Police Department, the FBI, and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were called to the Austin Women's Health Center on South I-35 just after 2pm last Wednesday, after a clinic employee found a suspicious package in the parking lot. The APD Bomb Squad, working with an FBI bomb technician, used a robot to remove from a blue, soft-sided cooler a bomb – homemade from a footlong, 1-inch-round copper pipe, a Coleman propane cylinder, a mechanical timer, and 2 pounds of nails. Had the device detonated, officials say, the explosion could have

caused serious injury or death to anyone within a 100-foot radius. Federal agents tracked the cooler and other items back to their retail sources – the Wal-Mart at 710 E. Ben White and a Lufkin Lowe's store – and to purchases made by Evans on April 23 and 24. Evans, who's been living in Austin and on probation since 2005 on a burglary charge, is charged with using “weapons of mass destruction,” manufacturing explosive materials, and obstructing “freedom of access” to a clinic entrance.

– Jordan Smith

The **Sustainable Communities Initiative** is rolling forward, putting numbers to goals for the future density of urban and suburban neighborhoods. At a presentation this week before a Planning Commission subcommittee, Cid Galindo put up a chart that ranked the city's 48 major neighborhoods for density, along with goals for population growth by 2035. The city's densest neighborhoods are West University, Riverside,

*continued on p.17*

## Do Hays Co. voters really want to spend all that money to smooth the way of bedroom commuters en route to Austin, past horizons of subdivisions that used to be the Texas hills?

our district ... [and Trustees] need to be able to reign in administrators." Wonder how he'd do on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test?

Beyond county limits, perhaps the vote of most interest to Austinites is the Hays Co. bond election. Outgoing commissioners plopped a \$172 million road bond on the ballot, effectively for three county roads (RR 12, FM 1626, and FM 110) that the Texas Department of Transportation wants to turn into major commuter highways. Almost needless to say, these will cost much more than they'll be worth, feed suburban sprawl, and continue the degradation of the Hill Country environment and more specifically the Edwards Aquifer leading to Barton Springs. Also on the Hays Co. ballot is a comparatively trifling \$30 million for parks and open space acquisition. Far be it from me to question the mathematical priorities of the Hays Co. Commissioners Court – but do Hays Co. voters want to spend all that money to smooth the way of bedroom commuters en route to Austin, past horizons of subdivisions that used to be the Texas hills? Or would you rather make a small investment in the permanently green future of Central Texas? Your call.

## West Lake Mud Bowl

Closer to home, the most entertaining neighboring race thus far appears to be the pitched battle over City Council in the sylvan paradise of West Lake Hills, population 3,116. In that tree-lined metropolis, where Mayor Mark Urdahl surprisingly upset 10-year incumbent Dwight Thompson last year, three challengers (Robin Vaughn, Amy Simmons, Mike Beuerlein) have stepped forward to take on council incumbents (Jane Noble, Jim Pledger, Earl Broussard), and the political feathers are flying. The anti-toll warriors took dubious credit for upending Thompson (a Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization member at the time), who seems rather to have been a victim of his own complacency. This year, the thorniest issue is spending on a new sewer

system, and especially the potential and growing expense to run sewer lines to businesses along Bee Caves Road. Call it the growing pains of a small town becoming a booming municipality, as well as generational insurrection.

The council has polarized between the three incumbents and the (normally nonvoting) mayor. The incumbents, accustomed to winning 3-2 votes, have issued dire warnings that should any of them be defeated, the mayor will thereby achieve "complete control of your city government." (First West Lake Hills, then Berlin.) The incumbents also warn grimly that the newcomers have "no experience" in government – more often than not a gold star in these suburban campaigns – and call themselves West Lake Citizens for Honesty (you can guess the implication). Urdahl insists the challengers are running on their own, although their slate Web site, called Complete the Change, at least implies a unified rising tide of rebellion. (Watch out for pikes and pitchforks marching up Redbud Trail, any day now.)

Two of the three challengers are minor local celebrities. Robin Vaughn (Place 1) is a music-industry executive and spouse of the legendary guitarist Jimmie Vaughan (who's raised his political profile in recent years by supporting various quasi-libertarian causes). Amy Simmons (Place 3) is the founder and owner of Amy's Ice Creams, also a founder of Choose Austin First, the small-business group that formed partly in distinction to the Austin Independent Business Alliance. (Even more independent, I guess.) Mike Beuerlein (Place 5) has, so far as I know, no high-profile backstory, but the whirring campaign blogs (WLH is nothing if not heavily wired) accuse him of being Urdahl's puppet and inflating his résumé. (Another intermittent campaign grumble is a plague of inconsistent orthography for "West Lake Hills" – good luck on that one.)

The challengers' Web site now features a photogenic "Mud Alert" – a rugby or soccer player, natch, covered in the stuff – and both campaigns are righteously denouncing the lies and distortions emanating from the other side. (Particularly baroque accusations involve who unvoted a previous budget vote on council and which current or former candidate really erected an illegal fence at his residence.)

For those of you nostalgic for an old-fashioned, down-home exercise in small-town (property) values and the curious habits of the local hill-dwelling gentry, I invite you to check out [www.completethechange.com](http://www.completethechange.com) and [www.wlhcitizensforhonesty.com](http://www.wlhcitizensforhonesty.com). Fair warning: You may find yourselves longing unreasonably for a nice, sane Austin City Council campaign. ■

## BESIDE THE POINT Don't Fear the Reaper

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Like George W.'s "Mission Accomplished" landing aboard the *USS Abraham Lincoln* – which just celebrated its glorious fourth anniversary this week – each city of Austin **budget season** is stage-managed within an inch of its life. The information is teased out by staff over the course of weeks and months, parceled out and combed-over piecemeal, often to underscore the central theme of the city manager's presentation – somewhere between "major budget-slashing operations have ended" and "the boom days are in their last throes." Hell, the things are even titled – last year's focus-group-infused title was *Rebuilding Services, Responding to Growth*.

What's this year's? Run for the Hills?

The first cannonade in the months-long campaign of Budget FY 2008 is fired today, in the form of the city's **Five Year Financial Forecast**. An overview of the city's coffers, it's prepared with respect to the potential (not yet proposed) budget, setting the tone for the discussion to come. And this year, the advance buzz down at City Hall is bad. While trying to predict the future is hard work (see Dick Cheney and his "dead enders"), rumors of a budgetary shortfall have been making the rounds, with the insatiable beast of **Public Safety salaries** inevitably fingered as the culprit.

But is it rumor, exactly? The financial forecast from last year plainly showed a \$2.2 million deficit for 2007, ultimately spiraling up to \$17.3 million by 2011. And with actual, amended, estimated, and proposed numbers to pick from in a city budget, it's likely the final shortfall could loom still larger.

So why the concerted whisper campaign? Well, up for renegotiation next year is the police contract. And with firefighter contracts to be negotiated at the same time, Emergency Medical Services possibly eligible for meet-and-confer (with Kirk Watson's help – his bill's in a House committee at press time), plus the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees' continued

push for similar contract rights, plenty of folks are pulling up chairs to the proverbial bargaining table. Let's also not forget that the five-year projections (and really, who aside from the Amazing Kreskin can see that far out?) stretch past 2011, the zero-hour when public-safety expenditures outstrip new revenue.

So what better way to head off a parade of demands than with a stormy forecast? Clearly, unabated public-safety costs are a problem, one the city will have to meet head-on next year. But it's also increasingly clear that the financial forecast – like the proposed budget, prepared under the city manager's purview – is the city's opening move in contract talks, one reverberating through the selection of a tax rate, what gets funded, indeed the entire budget discussion. Let's hope it's not governed by fear. Besides, if the city can't find a way to make flush times work for us, then really – why bother with a five-year prognostication?

## Cyber Austin

The 10:30am financial presentation isn't the only big ticket item at council today (Thursday): There's a trifecta of items of interest. First and foremost is Lee Leffingwell's long-awaited **water-conservation task force** recommendations, scheduled for a vote and implementation; additionally, an item from Betty Dunkerley accrues interest from the city's \$10 million Block 21 sale to endow the operation of the forthcoming **central library** nearby. Perhaps most imaginatively, an item from Jennifer Kim and Brewster McCracken creates a **three-dimensional digital model of the city**, with emphasis on the myriad Town Lake Corridor projects, and makes it available for public use.

With respect to the late Dr. Thompson, here's hoping that with the right kind of eyes you can see Austin's high-water mark – the place where the wave finally broke and rolled back.

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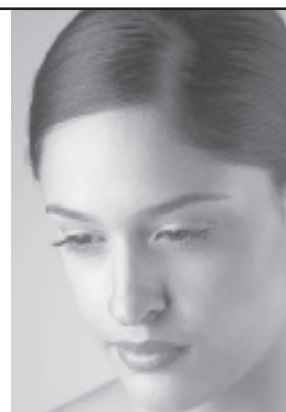


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North University, and the North Austin Civic Association. The most open spaces are located at Mueller, North Burnet/Gateway, Johnston Terrace, and MLK-183.  
 — Kimberly Reeves

Austin's **Patrice Pike** is a rock star in more ways than one. Her very own **Grace Foundation** will host the second annual Grace Foundation Event on Saturday, May 12, at 7pm at La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth. Singer-songwriter/guitarist Pike will perform, and acclaimed artist Roland Diaz will create an inspirational painting onstage. The event will include food, drink, and silent and live auctions. USI Holdings Corp., Maudie's Tex-Mex, and La Zona Rosa are also sponsors. Pike has been an Austin idol since the early Nineties, when she led the group Sister Seven and, later, Black Box Rebellion. She took numerous honors at the Austin Music Awards this year, including Musician of the Year, Song of the Year for "Beautiful Thing," Best Rock Vocals, Best Female Vocals, and induction into the AMA Hall of Fame. Co-founded by Todd Young, the Grace Foundation ([www.thegrace-foundation.org](http://www.thegrace-foundation.org)) provides health care, education, career training, and job placement to young adults whose lives have been marred by abuse, poverty, and homelessness. For info on the fundraiser, call 786-2330.  
 — Patricia J. Ruland

The Austin Fire Department got an \$88,000 federal grant last week from the Department of Homeland Security to pay for 2,500 **remote-controlled smoke alarms** for low-income seniors and 30 strobe-light smoke alarms for the hearing-impaired. AFD will buy 10-year lithium batteries to go with the alarms. "This grant allows us to increase our efforts to provide smoke alarms to the people who need them most," said Mayor Will Wynn in a press release.  
 — J.S.

Austin's **Martin Middle School** will begin offering the **International Baccalaureate** program next school year. The IB program, developed in Switzerland, is offered in 125 countries and aims to help students thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. The students are challenged to think about traditional subjects through broad themes, such as "approaches to learning," "community and service," and "health and social education." Martin has been working for several years to become an IB school; Murchison Middle School and Anderson High also offer the IB program.  
 — Michael May

Austin seventh-graders **Makeda Robertson** and **Harold Eggers-Soo** (son of *Chronicle* staffer cindy soo) began entering the **National Mathematics Pentathlon** when they were just kindergartners and have now become the first two Texans to win the Delbert Detwiler Award (received after participating for eight years) for their consistently strong performance in the competition. The students, who attend Small Middle School, were presented with their awards Saturday.  
 — M.M.

The A+ Federal Credit Union offers grants of up to **\$1,000 to teachers** to use on starting or continuing existing programs, including materials and professional development. The deadline has been extended to Friday, May 11. Applications are available at [www.aplusfcu.org](http://www.aplusfcu.org), by e-mailing [educationfoundation@aplusfcu.org](mailto:educationfoundation@aplusfcu.org), or by calling 800/252-8148 x4390.  
 — M.M.

**Austin Independent School District** is holding a **job fair** to recruit certified teachers for the 2007-2008 school year this Saturday. The district will hire around 800 new teachers in all and is looking in particular for math, science, bilingual, and special-education teachers. Teachers should bring proof of certification or a letter showing they've participated in the Alternative Certification Program. Student teachers should bring a transcript showing enrollment in student teaching. The job fair is Saturday, May 5, 12:30-3:30pm, at the Austin Convention Center.  
 — M.M.

Austin-area Republican Reps. **Lamar Smith** and **Michael McCaul** introduced legislation Monday to encourage awareness and production of plug-in hybrid vehicles — which use additional lithium-ion batteries to achieve 100-mile-per-gallon fuel economy range. The **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Act of 2007** proposes \$250 million in annual funding (between 2008 and 2012) for research and development and calls for \$50 million to carry out a pilot program for deployment while offering grants to help state and local authorities acquire plug-ins. Austin's Lloyd Doggett was among four co-sponsors. To urge automakers to build the vehicles, the Plug-in Partners campaign, initiated by the city of Austin, has enlisted more than 500 entities (including several major cities) representing 41 states. At least two companies offer plug-in hybrid conversion kits for existing hybrids. In fact, Austin Energy recently converted two Toyota Prius hybrids in its fleet to plug-ins. David Vieau, CEO of battery-maker A123Systems, a partner of Hymotion — the company that handled AE's conversion — testified to the U.S. Senate that his conversion kit will be publicly available in 2008 at a price of \$10,000, which, for an average commuter, will pay for itself in 5½ years while cutting about 100 tons of carbon emissions.  
 — Daniel Mottola

The Community Action Network and the Ready by 21 Coalition for Austin/Travis County are creating a 20-member **youth council** that will provide guidance to elected officials about policies affecting youth. Mayor Will Wynn offered his endorsement of the council, saying it would "serve as a bridge between my office, other elected officials supporting the council, and the young people we represent." Nineteen-year-old Luis Orozco is working to organize the council, which he hopes will change the perception of young people in the city. "Teenagers have a lot to offer, but often we are seen as 'the problem.'" A youth council would provide a very public way for our ideas, actions, and contributions to be considered." The two groups are urging passionate young people, ages 14 to 20, to apply for positions on the council. The deadline is Friday, May 11. The application and more information are at [www.readyby21austin.org/youthcouncil.php](http://www.readyby21austin.org/youthcouncil.php).  
 — M.M.

Meet **Mimo**, green artist **George Sabra's** newest creation, a 14-foot-tall sculpture made from recycled PVC pipe that debuted at Austin's Earth Day celebration. Sabra's last sculpture, **Matrix**, a surreal piece adorned with salvaged computer parts meant to address the problem of electronic waste, will be honored as **National Geographic** magazine's **Sculpture of the Year for 2008**. **Mimo** deals with broader waste issues and, according to Sabra, testifies to the fact that exquisite art can be made from recycled materials, a theme he plans to continue exploring.  
 — D.M.



## BEYOND CITY LIMITS

► **Hays County** voters are being asked to vote on a \$172 million **road-bond package** for construction and improvement to several Hill Country thoroughfares, including FM 1626, a portion of RR 12, SH 21, and new construction of FM 110 — the first phase of a San Marcos loop, designed to facilitate growth near the gargantuan outlet mall on the edge of town. Opposition group Citizens for Responsible Roads is urging voters to kill the proposal; they say the bonds, which advertise guaranteed Texas Department of Transportation reimbursements of up to \$133 million, won't cover overruns and will include millions in interest, while the roads will do little to benefit county needs and more to facilitate additional auto-dependent sprawl, not to mention transforming minor roads like RR 12 and FM 1626 into full-scale highways handling I-35 18-wheeler traffic. Learn more at [www.2007bondprogram.co.hays.tx.us](http://www.2007bondprogram.co.hays.tx.us) and [www.responsibleroads.com](http://www.responsibleroads.com).  
 — D.M.

► The **Texas Youth Mentoring initiative**, announced by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, and a slew of local service agencies last week, is a new five-year effort that will match the alumni of the state's African-American Greek and civic associations with groups that provide support systems for children, such as Amachi, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, and Communities in Schools. The number of African-American mentors often lags behind other ethnic groups, according to state statistics. Kenny Taylor, executive director of the Central Texas Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter, says the goal is to improve that average. The target will be to get at least one in five members in the state's active alumni chapters to volunteer. Those who might be interested in joining the effort can call West's office at 463-0123.  
 — K.R.

► In his latest efforts to fight student-loan payola, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo settled with two more **student lenders** Wednesday. JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America agreed to adopt a **code of conduct** in the wake of a nationwide student-loan investigation, which may cost UT financial-aid director Larry Burt his job. The banks joined Sallie Mae and CitiBank in adopting the code, which prohibits companies from offering financial incentives to colleges. For years, banks have offered revenue-sharing for student-loan referrals and routinely courted financial-aid officers with gifts, hoping to maintain a coveted spot on the preferred lenders list. While UT does not participate in revenue sharing, documents obtained by *The Daily Texan* this week showed lenders regularly offered "treats" to the Office of Student Financial Services. Several lenders including CitiBank, University Federal Credit Union, and Student Loan Xpress — the company whose stock Burt was scrutinized for holding — regularly lavished the financial-aid office with dinners, free booze, and gift baskets. Another document established that the number of gifts was used as one criterion for selecting preferred lenders in a category labeled "OSFS Visibility." Several New York universities have adopted the code of conduct as well, but UT has yet to adopt a similar code, although it is investigating any wrongdoing.  
 — Justin Ward

► **Mexico City** officials passed a measure on April 26 to legalize **first-trimester abortions**. City Health Secretary Manuel Mondragon said that, except in medical emergencies, women seeking an abortion would have to provide proof of residency in the Mexican capital city, a caveat designed to address the measure's foes who contend the new law will draw to the city women from across the country who are seeking access to safe and legal abortion, reports the Associated Press. Legalizing a woman's right to reproductive choice is historic in heavily Roman Catholic Mexico; the conservative National Action Party, President Felipe Calderon's party, says it will challenge the law in court, which could put implementation of the law on hold, pending a ruling by the country's Supreme Court. Under the new law, abortion services would be provided free at 14 city hospitals; the law requires girls under 18 to obtain parental consent and allows doctors to refuse to perform the procedure based on moral objection.  
 — J.S.

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# ON THE LEGE

## Jim Crow Gets a Vote

BY AMY SMITH

Election day calamities – technical glitches, human errors, hanging chads – do happen, often enough to affect the vote and embarrass the republic. One might think that it would be an appointed task of elected officials to address those widespread voting problems that are all too common and readily visible. Instead, Texas Republican leaders, with the active promotion of the national GOP (see the Gonzales/Rove federal attorneys' scandal), have concocted another, much more phantom malady that they nevertheless claim threatens to drive the system to ruin. So this session, as in the last, they are seeking to curb what they insist is a growing national problem of noncitizens voting illegally.

Democrats respond that the problem is all in Republicans' heads.

In the past two weeks, the House has passed two "Voter ID" bills, and one of them cleared a Senate committee on Monday. The House passed the second one on Tuesday night, this one requiring the Secretary of State's Office to verify the citizenship of new voter registrants. House Democratic leader **Jim Dunning**, in an impassioned floor speech before the vote, denounced the stepped-up requirement as "just more sophisticated Jim Crow."

Stiffer voting laws have either passed or are under consideration in several other GOP-controlled states. Democrats and voting-rights activists charge that the Republican Party is pursuing a mission to block minority participation in the voting process. Proponents deny ulterior motives, insisting they merely want to protect the voting rights of citizens.

The Senate State Affairs Committee heard testimony to that effect Monday during a hearing on **House Bill 218**, an equally controversial voter-ID bill that the House narrowly approved last week, that would require a government-issued ID to vote. As in the House debate, supporters argued it would end the (invisible) plague of voter impersonation; opponents described it as a transparent attempt to suppress voting by the poor, minorities, and elderly (who just happen to trend Dem). The Senate version of the bill passed on a 4-3 party-line vote.

Before the vote, Houston Sen. **Rodney Ellis**, one of the three D's on the State Affairs Committee, asked a representative of the Secretary of State's Office for the number of voter-impersonation complaints that have been filed with the agency. "We have not had any," elections director **Ann McGeehan** replied. "Have you had discussions about any political initiatives to try to deal with this perceived problem?" Ellis wondered. No, McGeehan replied. "The focus of our office for the last two years has been the implementation of the [Help America Vote Act]," she said in reference to the 2002 federal law directing states to upgrade their voting systems and eliminate the punch-card voting method. "So you all have been focusing on helping Americans to vote, not keeping them from voting," Ellis observed wryly. "I see."

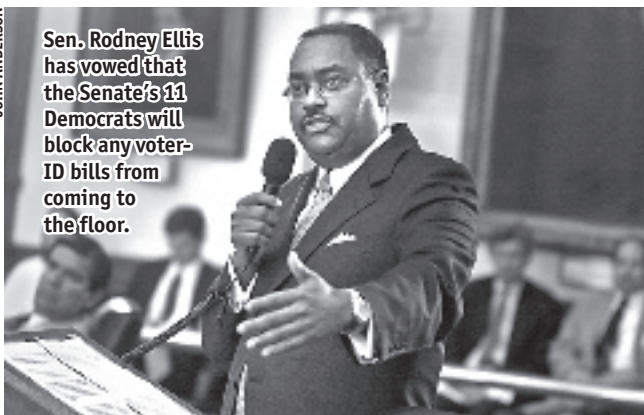
In testimony, Austin attorney and election pro **Buck Wood** said he's handled about 50 contested election cases but has never come across evidence of voter impersonation. "This bill is based on a false premise," he said. "We would never take up a

## Demanding Lege Action on Detained Families

Though **Free the Children** identifies itself as a "loose-knit" group of ordinary citizens, this band of extraordinarily resilient activists – who are fighting for the release of immigrant families detained at the **T. Don Hutto Family Residential Center** in Taylor – took another hard line by holding a People's Hearing Saturday at the state Capitol. The focus was **House Concurrent Resolution 64**, which demands alternatives to incarceration of immigrant children but which has never made it to the floor. The intent was to convene right where the issue is being royally ignored – for as long as the resolution stalls in committee, no public hearing can occur. The event was "a passionate and productive town hall meeting of union leaders, LULAC [League of United Latin American Citizens] representatives, writers, teachers, Hutto neighbors, and other activists," according to member

JOHN ANDERSON

Sen. Rodney Ellis has vowed that the Senate's 11 Democrats will block any voter-ID bills from coming to the floor.



bill to regulate an industry without having some solid proof that the regulation was needed."

Arguments favoring the bill were less compelling. **Skipper Wallace** of the **Republican County Chairmen's Association** told the committee that a voter-ID law would make the election process "more honest and above-board." When Sen. **Leticia Van de Putte**, D-San Antonio, pointed out that other states saw a decrease in voter turnout after enacting a voter-ID bill, Wallace responded that the drop could simply mean "we don't have the fraud anymore." Another proponent, **Rebecca Forest** of the **Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas**, noted that "even in Mexico," voters are required to show a form of ID at the polls. "If a poor country, poorer than the United States, can do that, we would request that the same policies be followed here," she said. She went on, "There are instances in the northern states where Middle Easterners are voting illegally, so it's not only in the Latin American states."

Prospectively, HB 218 creates some interesting dynamics in the Senate, where a similar bill died in the 2005 session. Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst**, a likely gubernatorial candidate in 2010, has committed to pass the bill, while Ellis has vowed to block debate on the legislation, assuming the 11 Democratic senators hang tight in opposition. As he did for re-districting – with much collateral damage – Dewhurst could waive the Senate's two-thirds voting rule for bringing bills to the floor. And in the event either HB 626 or HB 218 fails in the Senate, there's always the possibility that they'll be revived as riders to other legislation and come to the Senate floor by that route.

Tuesday in the House, both sides spent the day trying to broker a compromise on **HB 626**, which in its original form would have required new voter registrants to produce documented proof of citizenship. Bill sponsor Rep. **Phil King** of Weatherford agreed to shift the burden of proof to the Secretary of State's Office, but Democrats argued the agency doesn't have a mechanism in place to check citizenship. An agency spokesman told the *Austin American-Statesman* that indeed the agency does not have such a system but added, "We'll find a way to make it happen."

Earlier Tuesday, Austin Democrat **Mark Strama** commended King for his willingness to negotiate with opponents. "I think he listened to the testimony [in last week's debate on HB 218], he heard our concerns, and he's gone a long way to try to figure out a way to make this work," he said. The question is whether this is feasible for the secretary of state. ■

Jane Chamberlain. Signs outside read "Toddlers Are Not Terrorists" and set the tone for the day, which included plans for a petition drive in Taylor (despite warnings of possible retaliation) for continued lobbying efforts and for Vigil III, set for May 7 to mark the visit of **Jorge Bustamante**, an immigrant-rights expert who will inspect TDH during an extended border tour through Friday, May 18, and submit a report to the UN Human Rights Council.

"We have long said that this is ... an international tragedy. Members of our human family are being treated inhumanely, right here on American soil, in 'the land of the free,'" said FTC spokesman **Jay Johnson-Castro**. FTC is calling on all protesters to show at a stockholders' meeting on May 10 in Nashville of **Corrections Corporation of America**, which operates the TDH family jail for a federal contract of a whopping \$34 million-plus per year, \$200,000 of which goes to the host county, Williamson. – *Patty Ruland*

## CAPITOL BRIEFS

▶ A bill meant to address major funding shortfalls at the **state's parks** is set for debate on the House floor at press time. HB 12, offered by House Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee Chair Harvey Hilderbran, addresses requests by a state parks advisory board and a coalition of parks advocacy and environmental groups for \$85 million in additional annual funding through the elimination of the \$32 million cap on state sporting-goods-tax revenue originally intended for parks. But HB 12 combines an early park-fixing bill, HB 6 (co-authored by virtually every member of the House), with the newer, controversial HB 7, which would transfer selected state historic sites from Texas Parks & Wildlife to Texas Historical Commission control, a move that makes parks advocates uneasy and is seen as a favor to beer distribution baron and GOP campaign benefactor John Nau, chair of the Historical Commission. It is uncertain whether Appropriations Committee members will allocate HB 12's full park funding amounts or whether acquisition of new parkland, mentioned in the bill and sorely needed around turbo-suburban Houston and Dallas, will be funded at all. – *Daniel Mottola*

▶ The House Tuesday overwhelmingly agreed to exempt 60,000 **small businesses** from a restructured franchise tax that legislators approved last year as part of a new school finance package. The original bill exempted businesses with annual revenues less than \$300,000; the new proposal would exempt businesses bringing in \$600,000 or less per year. – A.S.

▶ In the wake of the **Virginia Tech shootings**, some lawmakers are saying a well-armed student body may be the best defense against gun-wielding maniacs. Gov. Rick Perry and some House members are contemplating legislation to repeal a state law that expressly forbids the possession of firearms on college campuses. GOP Rep. Frank Corte Jr. told the *Statesman* Tuesday that the massacre at Virginia Tech

## Ounce of Prevention, \$467 Million of Cure

The House State Affairs Committee on April 25 approved a measure that would increase education regarding **family-planning programs** and **sexually transmitted disease prevention**. Under House Bill 1842, by Rep. **Mark Strama**, D-Austin, the Health and Human Services Commission would be asked to undertake a "comprehensive marketing and outreach" program, designed to help prevent unintended pregnancies and to reduce the rates of STD infection. The educational outreach program would be designed to increase awareness of and participation in the state's **Women's Health Program**, a five-year Medicaid-waiver program that provides preventative health and family-planning services – like annual gynecological exams and screenings for cancer and diabetes – to low-income women.

Strama says the program is a proactive way to reduce unintended pregnancies and the incidence of abortion through comprehensive family planning – over five years the WHP should create \$467 million in savings, including \$278 million in state funds, otherwise spent on reactive medical care, in part a consequence of unplanned pregnancies.

Refreshingly, the bill received bipartisan support of the State Affairs Committee, which more often than not seems to focus more on ideological opposition to abortion than on any real policies aimed at reducing the incidence of abortion. Reps. David Swinford, R-Dumas, the committee chair; Corbin Van Arsdale, R-Harris; and Byron Cook, R-Corsicana; joined family-planning stalwarts Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, and Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, in voting for the measure. Notably, Republican Reps. Ken Paxton, Wayne Christian, Dan Flynn, and Tan Parker, available to voice their opinions on, say, a bill that would ban, outright, all abortion, were absent when the bill came up for a vote. – *Jordan Smith*

might have been avoided had a student or a professor been armed. "To me that situation could have been changed if that rule wasn't in effect," he said. Although it's too late to pass a bill this session, Corte and two other lawmakers are considering drafting a bill for the next session. Texas is one of 16 states with laws prohibiting concealed weapons on college campuses. Considering the Lege's record on gun-related bills – it passed two pro-gun measures earlier this session – a bill like this is likely to become law if drafted. "I've always felt that the NRA absolutely controls the legislative process in Texas to the detriment of public safety," said Democratic Rep. Lon Burnam.

– Justin Ward

While it may be a central theme in the upcoming presidential race, State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, has gotten little traction on his bill for **universal health care** in Texas, which continues to languish in the Senate State Affairs Committee. Other states, most notably Massachusetts, are experimenting with a single-payer system to address health-care needs. Shapleigh tailored his proposal on a bill out of California, which was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. In a news conference this week, Shapleigh said a quarter of Texas residents are uninsured. Most of them are the working poor.

– Kimberly Reeves

Both chambers of the Legislature managed to pass a two-year **moratorium on privately funded toll-road deals** in the past week, with major exemptions carved out for the Houston and Dallas areas. Gov. Rick Perry appears inclined to veto the legislation, saying in a released statement, "I will review this bill carefully because we

cannot have public policy in this state that shuts down road construction, kills jobs, harms air quality, prevents access to federal highway dollars, and creates an environment within local government that is ripe for political corruption." He cited a recent letter from the Federal Highway Administration noting concerns about specifics of the bill and the general direction of state policy. This week, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison jumped into the fray with a letter rebuking the FHWA for intervening in Texas policy, noting that the agency's role is technical assistance, not advocacy in favor of public-private toll-road deals.

– K.R.

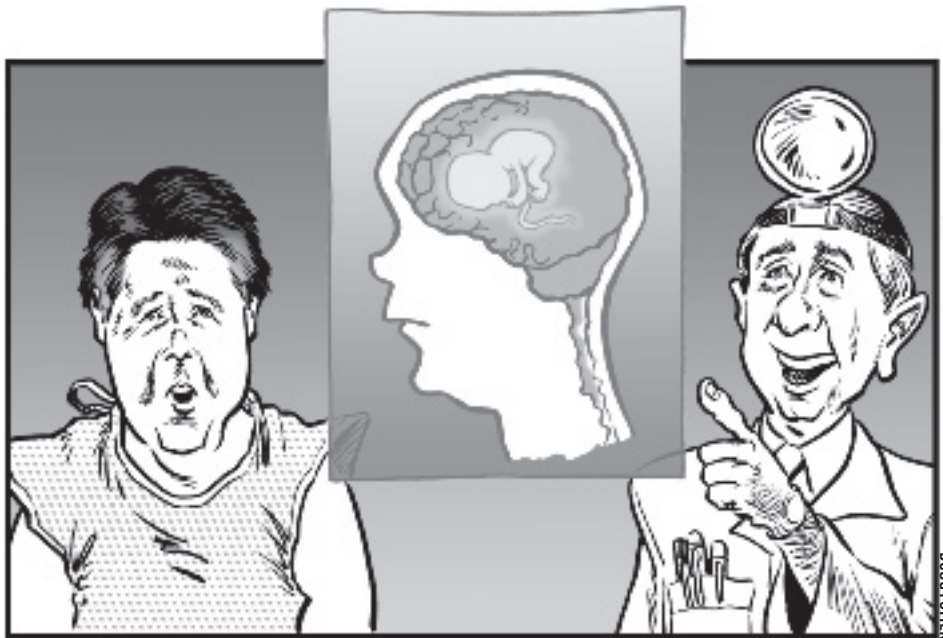
Citizens took the lawmaking into their own hands Monday night with a "shadow hearing" at the Capitol on HB 1534, Rep. Elliott Naishtat's bid to protect medi-pot patients from prosecution. Medi-pot advocates with **Texans for Medical Marijuana** organized the event as an opportunity to vet the bill publicly, which to date has been blocked from being heard in the House Public Health Committee by its chair, Dianne Delisi, R-Temple, who has said she's opposed to any pot-decriminalization measure – even one as mild as Naishtat's, which would create an affirmative defense to prosecution for use by seriously ill patients. Dianne Delisi: Stickin' It to Sick People. Bravo. Since Delisi has apparently made up her mind without even hearing any evidence, the bill is doomed to languish in the House – but is unlikely to disappear, says Noelle Davis, TMM executive director, who vows to keep pushing the measure until it passes. "There are too many lives at stake not to keep fighting," she says.

– Jordan Smith

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Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, proposes (Senate Bill 920) that every pregnant woman in Texas seeking an abortion be required to review an ultrasound image of her fetus as part of the state's "informed consent" for abortion requirement. Although Patrick insisted in an April 24 hearing that the bill wouldn't require women to view the image – he went toe-to-toe with Laurie Felker Jones from NARAL ProChoice Texas, who pointed out that the bill did, in fact, require just that – he nonetheless toned down the language to provide that a woman could refuse to look, but would still be required to have it "reviewed" (read: described) for her in order to satisfy informed consent. For this and other reasons, it occurred to us that maybe we should take an ultrasound of Sen. Patrick's head. The bill passed out of committee with only Sen. Eliot Shapleigh voting against it.

– Jordan Smith

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# Benzene Questions at Crestview Station

After a year of cleaning up the mess left behind by previous occupants, **Trammell Crow Co.** and **Stratus Properties Inc.** appear ready to begin transforming the former **Huntsman** chemical-testing facility in North Austin into **Crestview Station**, a mixed-use development adjacent to the planned Capital Metro commuter-rail stop. But they've hit a potential snag: the discovery of **benzene** in the groundwater under one portion of the property, as well as under a few adjacent houses. **Weston Solutions Inc.**, the company that performed the cleanup, describes the contamination as minor and says it won't harm residents, but a few affected neighbors aren't so sure.

Trammell Crow bought the property in 2005 to take advantage of the city's new **transit-oriented development** zoning around planned MetroRail stops and hired Weston to raise the environmental conditions of the 73-acre tract to levels considered safe for residential living by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Weston found leaking barrels of what it describes as low-toxicity substances (the facility tested soaps, foams, and glues from 1949 to 2005) and hauled them and tons of the surrounding soil off to a chemical-disposal site. In April, the TCEQ declared all but 3 acres at a southwestern portion of the property safe for housing.

At meetings with neighbors in January and April, Weston reported that benzene-contaminated water was found under those remaining 3 acres. It's believed to have leaked there from an old sewer line, and over 30 to 40 years, the benzene (a chemical carcinogen) had spread into water underneath four nearby homes. Weston and the city of Austin dug six wells around **St. John's Circle** to test the groundwater; five showed no benzene; one registered a concentration of 3 milligrams per liter. TCEQ residential-area regulations require that action be taken if the level is 0.5 milligrams per liter or higher, unless testing finds that the zone is "saturated soil" — meaning it produces very little water and offers no real potential for direct human contact. In that case, the action level would rise to 6.6 milligrams per liter.

Weston geologist **Jeff Henke** said his company is still sampling additional water and soil samples. He believes the ground could be classified as saturated because the groundwater is encased in rock underneath several feet of clay and is not a source of drinking water. Basically, Henke told a **Crestview Neighborhood Association** meeting, as long as people in the affected houses don't drill a well on their property and drink the water — a highly unlikely scenario — there is nothing to worry about. (He also noted that benzene is found in gasoline at around 5,000 to 25,000 milligrams per liter.)

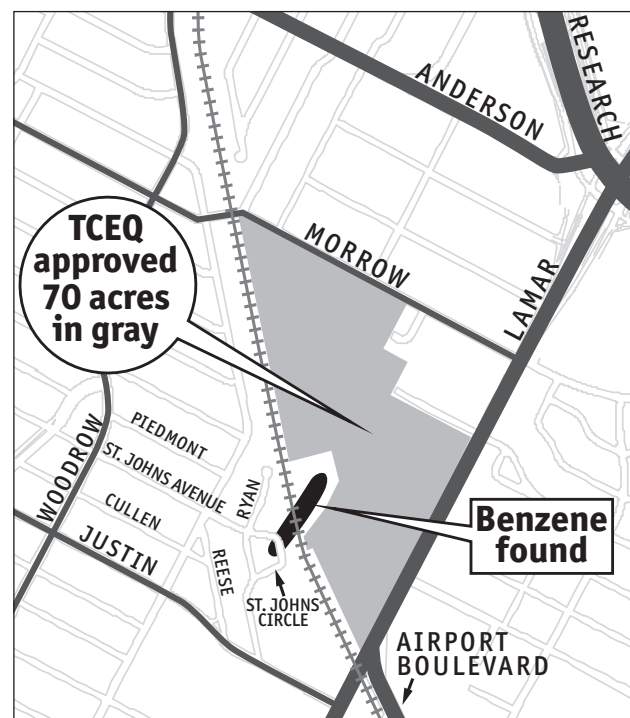
The general mood of the greater neighborhood seems to be welcoming toward Crestview Station, especially since most anti-developer ire is being siphoned off to the other side of Crestview, toward the **Northcross Mall/Wal-Mart** debacle. "Based on the information provided thus far by Weston, it appears that the depth at which the benzene was found combined with its diluted state work to limit the threat of adverse exposure," said Crestview Neighborhood Association President **Chip Harris**. "It is a great relief that Huntsman has removed its research and development activities from our neighborhood."

But Weston's explanations haven't satisfied residents living on or very near the underground benzene. **Mike Kammlah**, who lives a few houses away from the contaminated groundwater, peppered Henke with questions at the meeting, and while Henke had answers, Kammlah remains dubious. "Maybe I'm overdoing it, but I think there's a lot of cover-up here," Kammlah said. "I don't think we're getting the full story. I've asked on several occasions to have the entire test results of the water contamination in our neighborhood, even though every time I do, I get the response that the other contamination is below the recordable number."

"Overall, they're telling us a lot of things I wouldn't even have thought they'd tell us, but [the chemical plant has] contaminated the property underneath our homes, and nothing is going to be done about it, basically. ... [They say] the contaminated water is encapsulated — but yet there's water going in. Somehow the water's getting in. So if the water's getting in, then the contamination can get out. I just don't buy it."

**Marla Benningfield** is downright livid about the situation. She's been living in a house over the contaminated water her entire life and notes that for much of that time, she's been helping her mother fight cancer. Although she is suspicious of what caused her mother's illness (as well as that of other cancer victims and sufferers in the neighborhood), she admits, "I can't link their cancer to benzene." Instead, her main concern is the value of her family's property: "If we try to sell the home, [the benzene] is on record. The value of the property will not be good. ... If [my parents] want to move out, they're not going to be able to or be able to get rightfully what's theirs. ... Trammell Crow, the city of Austin, Huntsman, and the state ... need to come in and clean what's underneath the house."

In a private meeting with Henke, Benningfield says, "We suggested, 'Why don't you go in and pump it out?' ... They couldn't really give us an answer on that. ... We're not going to stand down because the value of our property is shot to hell." (Henke told us that due to the fractured nature of the rock in which the water is sitting, pumping the water out is extremely difficult, if not impossible.)



This map shows where benzene from the former Huntsman chemical-testing facility contaminated groundwater under both the planned Crestview Station development and adjacent properties.

**Mike Blizzard**, a media liaison for Trammell Crow, responded: "If the TCEQ declares this a saturated-soil area — which our scientists tell us it should be — there should be no devaluation of her property at all. In fact, I would argue that the redevelopment of that site and the environmental remediation and the placement of a Capital Metro rail stop there will only enhance her property values." If it's not a saturated-soil area, Blizzard said, there may be a need for a deed restriction against drilling a well, but otherwise the property is unaffected.

"While this isn't a problem that Trammell Crow or Stratus or Weston created," Blizzard said, "they found it in the course of the cleanup and since then have gone above and beyond what is legally required to inform people of what the science says the risks are and what they aren't. It's not easy to be the messenger on this, but it's better for folks to know rather than not know."

— Lee Nichols

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## DEVELOPING STORIES

# A Public-Private Northcross?

Why can't **Jennifer Kim** find a co-sponsor on council for a resolution to explore a public-private partnership for the redevelopment of Northcross Mall? **Paige Hill**, a board member of **Responsible Growth for Northcross** (RG4N), offers an answer: "Everyone knows right now that we have a City Council that's not going to stand up for anything."

Sympathetic to RG4N's crusade for a superior redevelopment of Northcross Mall, without a **Wal-Mart Supercenter**, Kim had a resolution drafted several weeks ago and went shopping for a co-sponsor on council. The bright idea: The city of Austin could approach owner-developer **Lincoln Property Co.** with cash on the table as a potential project partner, as a way to gain needed leverage to affect the project (which the city now says it lacks, due to the developer having all needed entitlements). But to date, says Kim, no colleague has stepped up to co-sponsor the resolution so that it can be put on council's agenda for action.

A public component – such as a city community center or affordable housing – could in effect "buy down" the size of the planned 220,000-square-foot Wal-Mart, which RG4N and surrounding neighborhood associations oppose as being seriously out of scale with the neighborhood and its traffic capacity. Kim said she would favor the idea of a smaller Wal-Mart, such as a 100,000-square-foot grocery-only store, over the existing project – an idea that's fallen on deaf ears in Bentonville. "So far, they've been thumbing their noses at us," Kim said.

"The idea was to put the public-private option out there – for open discussion on the dais – and then try to get everyone to the table," Hill said. "The resolution would at least let the public know that 'we've legitimately tried everything' – not just pretended – but really tried – before we go to a lawsuit." RG4N and the **Allendale Neighborhood Association** are preparing to sue the city over Northcross. Council Member **Brewster McCracken** consistently has told RG4N he believes a lawsuit is the only tactic that realistically could change the outcome at Northcross, Hill said.

An open resolution at council also would defuse the underlying bugaboo: council members' paralyzing fears of being sued personally by Wal-Mart for contract interference. Kim said she was told by city legal that Mayor **Will Wynn** and **Daryl Slusher** were personally sued (alongside the city) by landowner **S.R. Ridge** in November 2003 for working to stop Wal-Mart from building over the **Barton Springs Aquifer recharge zone**; she also was warned by city attorneys that the city would not indemnify council members against being named individually in lawsuits, or cover their legal expenses, if they were sued for contract interference or taking sides. "That's why this resolution is important, so that both sides are openly engaged in the discussion," Kim said.

Understandably, no council member wants to risk hand-to-hand combat with the planet's biggest, baddest retailer. But Hill said her group questions the stern warnings from city legal, which they believe reflect Wal-Mart's fear tactics. Wal-Mart is represented on Northcross by real-estate attorney **Richard Suttle**, who has regular communication with city attorneys and upper management.

Hill also noted that even if Lincoln were to sell off the property right now, "Wal-Mart has the right of first refusal to buy, if Lincoln decides to sell. When we learned that, it opened our eyes to why Lincoln is making the decisions it is."

Kim said that in discussing the draft resolution to explore a public-private partnership, some colleagues questioned the potential legal costs; others said that without solid numbers and interest up front from Lincoln, the whole idea was akin to a fishing expedition. "Well, at some point you have to be willing to fish if you're going to get someone to bite," Hill said. "You're not going to catch any fish if you don't at least show up with a pole."

RG4N also is calling upon council to direct city staff to deny approval of a second site plan filed by Lincoln. RG4N said in a recent release, "Assistant City Manager **Laura Huffman** confirmed at the April 5, 2007, City Council meeting that a big-box site plan can be rejected on the basis of traffic impact." Kim said she also would support limiting the hours of operation city-wide, for all big-box supercenters, new and existing, in the interest of public safety.

Next Thursday, May 10, RG4N will host a third **Town Hall Meeting** at 7pm at Grace Church of the Nazarene, 1006 W. Koenig. The group is seeking more hands-on volunteers. Topics for discussion include the forthcoming lawsuit, related fundraising needs, and an upcoming "Drive Away Wal-Mart" event to raise awareness of Wal-Mart's anticipated traffic impact, said RG4N's **Jason Meeker**. Activists plan to intentionally create a traffic jam at rush hour, on the streets surrounding Northcross, to vividly portray exactly what daily traffic could be like – based on realistic traffic counts for similar stores – if a Wal-Mart Supercenter is built at Northcross. – *Katherine Gregor*



Council Member  
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# Primarily Primates: AG Folds on Apes

Last Friday morning, Travis County Probate Judge **Guy Herman**'s courtroom was a zoo.

The Downtown enclosure was rife with squawking, grunting, and righteously noisy posturing as lawyers representing warring factions in a bitter dispute over the operation of **Primarily Primates Inc.** – the San Antonio-based sanctuary that is home to 250 primates and numerous other animals, assembled for a final battle – squared off over the conditions of a settlement reached between Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** and the board and management of PPI, from whom the state wrested control of the facility last fall.

In a petition for a temporary restraining order filed in October – seeking the ouster of PPI's management, including the entire board of directors, sanctuary founder and longtime director **Wallace Swett**, and newly appointed director **Stephen Tello**, as well as the appointment of a temporary receiver, wildlife rehabilitator **Lee Theisen-Watt** – Texas Assistant Attorney General Ted Ross, of the agency's Charitable Trusts Section, argued that the non-profit PPI had long mismanaged its donated funds, to the detriment of its large population of primates and other rescued animals (among them 63 chimpanzees, rescued or "retired" from the entertainment industry, space, or medical-research projects). The litany of allegations suggested PPI was guilty of serious animal neglect: The sanctuary's wards had long been denied even adequate food, shelter, and care, the AG charged. There was no veterinarian on site; the primates subsisted on monkey chow; they were housed in barren concrete enclosures that could not easily be cleaned and hadn't been, leading to dangerous accumulations of excrement and extreme infestations of both rodents and roaches.

Herman granted the AG's request and installed Theisen-Watt as receiver. This summer, a jury will determine the facts of the situation and decide whether or not PPI's leaders should be permanently removed from their posts.

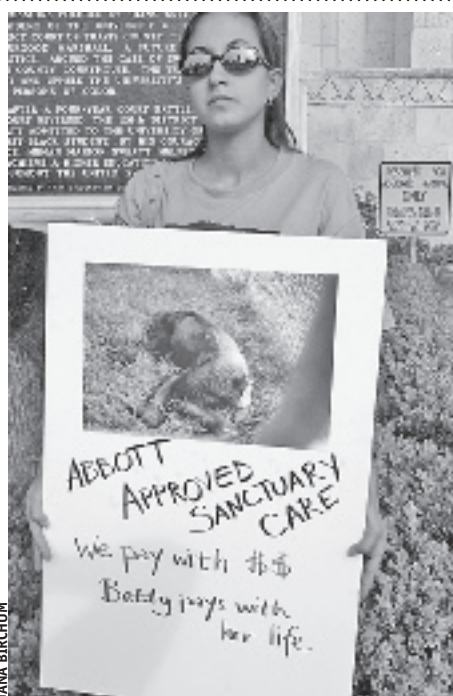
But late on April 25, news spread that a settlement had been reached and that the AG's office was ready to dismiss its suit.

Under the terms of the agreement ratified Friday, Swett is permanently barred from any involvement with PPI, Tello will be reinstated as manager of day-to-day operations, and the board will be reformed – to include **Priscilla Feral**, head of the 50-year-old Connecticut-based animal-advocacy group **Friends of Animals**, which is a fierce supporter of PPI and instrumental in bankrolling the defense, and **Eric Turton**, one of the lawyers she hired to defend PPI against the AG. The AG's office will continue to monitor conditions at the sanctuary, retaining the right to conduct random, unannounced inspections, Paul Carmona, director of the AG's Consumer Protection and Public Health Section, told Judge Herman last week. In all, Carmona said, the AG's office has done what it intended to do and therefore does not need to pursue legal action against PPI.

Indeed, under Theisen-Watt's control, the deplorable conditions at PPI were largely fixed or are being fixed. The AG is satisfied things will now be much better and was ready to have Theisen-Watt abruptly turn over control of the facility to Feral et al. at 4pm on Tuesday, May 1. That legal transfer occurred as planned.

To Theisen-Watt, news of the settlement was devastating: In her estimation – and in that of a diverse group of supporters who quickly rallied, writing letters imploring Herman to block the deal (many sent directly to the court, an impropriety that infuriated Herman) – the AG's decision to return control of the facility to many of the same people charged with creating the poor conditions is a moral and ethical outrage. Instead of standing up and fighting to the end, as Theisen-Watt sees it, the AG has simply buckled, washing its hands of any responsibility to ensure that the public trust is maintained and that the animals in PPI's care are not subjected to a miserable existence. "It sends a horrific message from the government to the public, that they will let this happen," she told the *Chronicle*.

The legal battle for control of the sanctuary has been tense, often devolving into inflamma-



JANA BIRCHUM

Opponents of Attorney General Greg Abbott's decision on the Primarily Primates shelter rally outside the Travis County Courthouse.

tory and undocumented personal attacks, including Feral and Tello's assertions that the whole takeover of PPI was orchestrated by the controversial animal-rights group **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**. Feral, Tello, and their lawyers have asserted that PETA initially complained to the AG because it was interested in taking over PPI not to improve conditions but in order to "liquidate" the sanctuary's assets – that is, to euthanize the animals, on the principle that death is preferable to life in a cage (PPI supporters dubbed Theisen-Watt "Lethal Lee"). While national PETA officials have at times made such theoretical statements, there is no evidence to suggest such a motive at work in this case. That hasn't kept Feral and Tello's lawyers – notably, Austin attorney **Ray Chester** – from ranting in court that the assault on PPI has been orchestrated and "funded by PETA,"

as Chester shrilly asserted in court last week. "Their lawyers are here today!"

This level of emotion turned what should have been a brief hearing into a nearly three-hour marathon, with Theisen-Watt's lawyer, **Bill Parrish**, attempting to block the deal. He argued that the AG's office was merely "tucking tail" and running (perhaps because it felt outgunned by Feral's legal team, he suggested), relinquishing control over the facility and thereby dooming the animals. In short, the "settlement has no teeth in it," Parrish argued. "Based on this settlement agreement," he said, "no one is looking out for the animals."

This isn't the first time the AG's charitable trust section has been accused of shying away from a complicated and heated dispute. "It's been my experience that they start out with tremendous effort and publicity, and as the case goes on, they're less inclined to be involved," said Arlington attorney Don Feare, who is an expert in animal law and has dealt with the AG's Charitable Trust Section on other animal cases – significantly, as a court-appointed receiver – and is a member of the state bar's Animal Law Section. "They start out with the indignation they should have, and then it's like a train running out of steam – and that does the animals no good whatsoever."

Herman ultimately approved the settlement, ruling that court-appointed receiver Theisen-Watt had no standing to block it – though he did have a few pointed questions for Carmona, emphasizing that the AG's Office has a duty to ensure that PPI's animals are treated humanely. "I've seen the pictures" of the living conditions at PPI, Herman said, and it "doesn't take any specific skill set" to see that conditions were, at best, substandard. "Are you going to go down [there] in the next few days to see what it's like now so that two months down [the road] you'll know [if things are] in heavy decline?" he asked.

"I hadn't planned to go in the next two days," Carmona replied. "I planned to go after the transition."

"I think it would behoove the AG to go down there fairly soon," Herman said sternly. At press time, Carmona had not yet visited the sanctuary.

– Jordan Smith

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# Before You Potentially Give Up Thousands Of Dollars, Read This.

Leasing is becoming a more popular choice of local automobile shoppers when it comes to deciding how to handle the method of payment. With that in mind you should understand what the difference is between a lease and a financed vehicle.

## Ownership:

When you lease a vehicle you do not own the vehicle, however you have the option to purchase the vehicle at the end of the lease term for the residual value. When you finance a vehicle you do not own the vehicle until you pay off the loan. Statistics show less than 15% of people actually keep a vehicle long enough to have a free and clear title, so in most cases the lender actually owns the vehicle that most people claim they own.

## Monthly Payments:

Monthly lease payments are usually lower than monthly loan payments because you are paying only for the vehicle's depreciation (the portion you are going to use) during the lease term, plus rent charges (interest), taxes and fees.

## Early Termination:

With a lease you are responsible for the remaining amount due of the entire loan, just as if you financed the vehicle. Prior to lease end, just like with a retail loan, it is possible to trade the vehicle in and get into a newer vehicle.

## Mileage:

A lease is structured allowing a set number of miles that you agree you will drive by lease end. Mileage requirements are set to assist in determining what the residual value (purchase option) of the vehicle will be able to at lease end.

At the end of the leasing term:

1.) You may return the vehicle and "walk away." If the vehicle is worth less than the residual value (purchase option) then you would want to walk away with no further obligation as long as you are within the agreed upon mileage limitations.

2.) You may buy it. If the vehicle is worth more than the residual value then you might want to buy it and keep it or sell it outright and capitalize on the equity.

3.) Trade it into a dealership and capitalize on the equity.

With the increase in reliability ratings that Mazda has achieved they are certainly a potential leader in the leasing market and should be given consideration when shopping for a new automobile.

Here is an example of an aggressive lease available in April 2007 through Mazda and Mazda American Credit:

Lease a 2007 CX-7 Grand Touring Model MSRP \$26,895 for \$389 a month for 24 months, with absolutely no money due at lease inception, not even a security deposit. Monthly payments on a 24-mo. purchase would be OVER \$1000 a mo. and \$454 a mo. for a 72 mo. financing \$24,888 plus tax, title and license at 7.00% APR. Instead you can lease the vehicle for \$389 a month for 24 months and then have the option to purchase the vehicle at lease end for \$18,557.55, based on 10,500 mi/yr at \$.15/mi. excess charge. All examples are With Approved Credit. Picture for illus.



# Mazda Claims Top Spot In Recent Reliability Report

## Warranty DIRECT 'Reliability League Table' 2007 TOP 10 RESULTS

Vehicle Manufacturer	Incidence Rate %*	Vehicle Manufacturer	Incidence Rate %*
1 Mazda	8.04	6 Subaru	18.46
2 Honda	8.90	7 Nissan	18.86
3 Toyota	15.78	8 Lexus	20.05
4 Mitsubishi	17.04	9 Mini	21.90
5 Kia	17.39	10 Citroen	25.98

\* Number of mechanical failures reported by policy holders for every 100 vehicles aged between three and nine years old.

Mazda vehicles have claimed the top place in one of the world's largest-ever reports on vehicle reliability. Nearly 92 percent of the Mazda cars studied, including the MX-5 Miata, aged between three and nine years old, suffered no mechanical failure of any type – outperforming all other brands.

The report, which was issued by independent automotive extended-warranty specialists, Warranty Direct, looked at the reliability of more than 450,000 vehicles from 33 manufacturers, across the United States and United Kingdom. The resulting 'Reliability League Table' shows the number of failures reported for every 100

vehicles covered by Warranty Direct's policies. Mazda was rated number one with a failure rate of just 8.04 percent of vehicles aged between three and nine years old.

"The exceptional build-quality and long-term reliability of Mazda vehicles is something we have been proud of for quite some time," said Jim O'Sullivan, President and CEO, Mazda North American Operations. "The findings of this recent report reinforce what we've believed all along – that Mazda reliability is not just very good, it's the best. These results are proof that Mazda builds stylish and exciting vehicles without sacrificing quality or reliability."

## Mazda Offers \$1000 To Current Tribute Owners

Mazda is pleased to announce its Tribute owner loyalty program going on now through May 31, 2007. This program offers \$1000 owner loyalty cash toward the purchase or lease of ANY new 2006, 2007 or 2008 Mazda vehicle for anyone that currently owns or leases a Mazda Tribute. No trade-in is required, only proof of ownership. However, the offer is excluded on the 2007 MAZDASPEED3 and 2007 MX-5 PRHT (Power Retractable

Hardtop). All other new Mazda models are available. This offer is transferable within the household but must live at the same address. In order to show proof of eligibility, you must provide a copy of the current Tribute registration or title and the purchaser's driver's license. This is a wonderful opportunity for any current Tribute owner in the market for a new, exciting and reliable Mazda.

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MAZDA SOUTH IH-35 S. on the Motor Mile Turn right on Shelby Lane 800-207-6534 [mazdasouth.com](http://mazdasouth.com)

ROGER BEASLEY MAZDA 2 MI. South of 183 on Burnet Rd. (512) 459-4111 [www.rogerbeasley.com](http://www.rogerbeasley.com)



## Red Ink on Second Street: Default or Confusion?

With its smart stores, mixed-use design, and wide sidewalks, the **2nd Street District** – 2SD to those in the know – is revered, across the street at City Hall, as the future of Downtown Austin – a blueprint for dense, urban growth.

But closer to the ground, there are signs of discord behind the 2SD's upscale veneer. Three district retailers – wishing to remain anonymous, for fear of appearing financially troubled or compromising their relationship with the property management agency – confirmed to the *Chronicle* that at the beginning of April they were unexpectedly hit with lease-default notices containing large bills for utilities and back rent. Invoices from the **West Village** management company overseeing retailers have been sent out in the tens of thousands of dollars – even while some retailers report they haven't received a utility bill in as long as a year. "It's districtwide," said one retailer, echoing claims that as many as eight stores were served with large bills and lease-default notices.

On April 2, a letter was sent to someone we'll call Retailer X. Citing a balance of more than \$20,000, the letter stated, "You are hereby notified that you are in default of your lease agreement." Moreover, the staggering amount – several months' worth of rent, enough to torpedo any new business – was due two weeks from the date of the letter, with failure to pay possibly culminating in "all legal remedies available under the lease." Retailer X was flummoxed, saying they'd reached an agreement with the management company on rent deferments that were now listed as due. Additionally, there were thousands of dollars in other fees: property tax and common area maintenance fees (both dating from 2005) and more than \$2,500 in water and chilled-water bills, stretching as far back as January 2006. (Newer Downtown businesses hook into a chilled-water air-conditioning system.) Despite having been in business more than a year, Retailer X claims to not have received a bill for the chilled-water service until getting the default notice, which demanded more than \$2,000 in payment covering six months. And it appeared that West Village was simply estimating everyone's usage – and consequent bill.

According to the retailer's lease, this latter practice may be perfectly acceptable. "I don't dispute that we owe them some money," X says. "We expected that we would get a bill from a utility provider – but the rather willy-nilly fashion [West Village] decided to use ... it's certainly not a flat-billing practice."

This is not the only store to report odd billing practices. "It is something that happened to our store," Retailer Y says. The business owner hasn't received a chilled-water bill in more than a year and had to repeatedly needle West Village for an electric statement. "Personally, I requested a bill on a regular basis and was told, 'We're working on it.' The electric bills would not come on a consistent basis." (The business owner rents in the **CSC building**; apparently, West Village manages electricity in this building, while Austin Energy maintains the electric accounts for retailers in the AMLI building.)

While Second Street itself is lined with businesses, there are several unleased storefronts on neighboring streets. Retailer X fears the default notices may be an attempt to run out smaller, local stores in order to bring in larger, chain retailers with bigger budgets. These fears are founded in West Village's namesake project in Dallas: largely a collection of trendy, national stores.

A third source, Retailer Z, thinks nothing so nefarious is afoot, instead describing the bills as one cog in the confused beginnings of a new business – for the renters and leasing agency both. Although Retailer Z opened early last year, the store didn't receive a chilled-water bill until May 2006. The initial bill seemed high, with no frame of reference, but Retailer Z shrugged and paid – until getting a bill roughly twice as large the following month, a combined water and chilled-water bill of more than \$2,500. "Then I started getting really upset," Z says.

West Village's Austin representative, **Frank Seely**, told Z to ignore the high bills while the company works on establishing a more equitable billing system and eventually installs submeters in individual businesses. "That conversation was around last August and September," Z says. Possibly adding to the confusion, a little later in the fall, a familiar name at West Village's Dallas office left the company. All three retailers identified the former leasing agent by name; they believe the agent was fired for poor billing and money management – possibly explaining the utility billing problems. Seely somewhat acknowledged this problem, saying the previous agent "left, so we're just picking things up. It's just a matter of reconciling the accounts."

Fast-forward to April 2, when Retailer Z also got a bill and lease-default notice. "My letter said that I owed \$13,000 and



Hit with a alarming bills and receiving extremely sporadic utility statements, some Second Street retailers are fearful of being elbowed out; property managers West Village say the notices were sent in error.

change," Z says. But after discounting two months' rent (sent out early in the month, the bills all included April's rent; the lessees were also mistakenly back-billed for a month's rent already paid), Z's bill only included the old utility bills Z had been told were being recalculated. "I feel like – and I can only speak for myself – when I waded through it, there wasn't anything on my bill that I didn't know about. There wasn't one big crazy new charge on there. ... I was relieved."

Z is in contact with West Village's Dallas office, which, according to the retailer, "knows that it's a problem." While not worried about being elbowed out of the lease, the retailer is frustrated by the lack of timeliness. "I'm thinking, 'It's building up' – it's not like I'm going to get [chilled water] for free. I want to close out my books, but I can't because I have to accrue the utility bills. The thing that needs to be improved upon is the timeliness of the info – that's the crux of it. I don't think the default letters were intended to get anyone out of here. ... The combination of a form letter, a management company trying to please a landlord, and any one of us [retailers] not having one or two [payments] on our accounts – all that created the state of the union right now on Second Street."

West Village's Seely calls the letters simply "some house-keeping we sent out" but acknowledged the bills contained "a lot of inaccuracies ... due to the software system." "They were some standard letters that were generated and sent out; that's all it was. ... [You can] call it computer error." He also said that the chilled-water billing inaccuracies are "being reconciled at this time" and are in no way intended to clear out retailers for larger, more lucrative stores. – Wells Dunbar

## Immigrants Tell Country to 'Listen Up'

For the second year in a row, a flood of flag-waving, sign-toting immigrants and supporters spilled out of the Capitol's front gates onto Congress Avenue on **May Day**, chanting, "*¡Sí se puede!* [It can be done!]" and "*Bush, escucha, estamos en la lucha!* [Bush, listen up, we are in the fight!]" among other rallying cries. The May 1 rally and march to City Hall was one of dozens that went down across the country as part of a **National Day of Action for Immigrant Rights**, an effort to give the nation's millions-strong undocumented immigrant community a chance to be heard in the federal debate over immigration reform.

"We want them to give us amnesty," said local restaurant cook **Manuel Romero** in front of the Capitol. "We only came here to work." A native of Morelos, Mexico, Romero, 33, said he journeyed to Austin without immigration papers about 16 years ago. He was at the rally with his sons – Jose, 10, and Eduardo, 7 – and wife, **Ofelia Romero**, who joined him in Austin with the children five years ago.

**Cristina Tzintzún**, project director for the **Workers Defense Project**, one of several local groups that formed the **Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition**, which organized Tuesday's event, estimated that at least

5,000 people marched in the rain down Congress past the federal building to City Hall, though there's no official count. The Austin Police Department estimates between 8,500 and 10,000 people marched in Austin last year. Turnouts were smaller than they were last year across the country, most notably in Dallas, where *The Dallas Morning News* reports 3,000 to 5,000 people took to the streets, compared to hundreds of thousands in 2006.

Tuesday's event was peaceful, with police reporting no arrests. APD spokeswoman Toni Chovanetz said the department isn't "concerned with whether you're in the country legally or illegally," only with whether someone is a victim or a suspect in a crime. The city isn't concerned with Austinites' immigration status, either. Council passed a resolution in 1997 declaring Austin a "'safety zone' where all persons are treated equally, with respect and dignity, regardless of immigration status," making it official city policy not to discriminate or deny "city services on the basis of a person's immigration status."

Local police and public servants leave immigration law enforcement to the feds, who weighed in on the rallies and marches with a **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce-**



Immigrants and supporters pour out of the Capitol's front gates onto Congress Avenue during Tuesday's National Day of Action for Immigrant Rights rally and march.

ment press release. "ICE enforces the law 365 days a year using targeted enforcement actions based on investigations, intelligence and priorities," said ICE spokeswoman Nina Pruneda in a statement. "We do not conduct random sweeps, but no one in the country illegally is immune from being detained and placed into removal proceedings if encountered by law enforcement."

Although they stayed out of trouble with the fuzz, about 40 **LBJ High School** students got zeros for work due in their classes Tuesday for walking out of class before noon. The problem wasn't that they wanted to attend the rally, Austin Independent School District

spokeswoman **Carmen Luevanos** said. The issue was that the event started at 5pm.

"They want to be there from the very beginning," Luevanos joked Tuesday afternoon. "We do respect their right to exercise their First Amendment rights. We encourage that, [but] we prefer it be after school hours."

**Salvador Jaimes**, 12, attended the rally with his mother, Dalia Jaimes; his aunt, Elena Peres; and his younger brother, Hugo. Everyone but Hugo sported oversized **Norteño 1490** T-shirts, one of multiple signs at the Capitol that local Spanish-language radio stations seized on the event as a marketing opportunity. Salvador and Hugo were born in the U.S., but Dalia and Elena are Mexican citizens.

"My parents came like this, and I don't want anybody else to suffer like that," said Salvador, who, when asked what he thought about the rally, unwittingly reflected the sentiments of a quote from a press release the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition sent out before the event: "Comprehensive immigration reform means that legislators must recognize that undocumented immigrants cannot continue living in the shadows of our society. A proposal with pathway to citizenship is the most viable and humane response," said **Catholic Charities' Leslie Helmcamp** in the release. – Cheryl Smith



## HAPPENINGS

For more on these and other events this week, see Community Listings, p.76.

### THURSDAY, MAY 3

**SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FORUM**  
Meet the candidates for AISD board District 2.  
7:30pm. *Texpresso*, 2700 W. Anderson, 467-9898.

### FRIDAY, MAY 4

**ALTERNATIVE RADIO** features news analyst Jeff Cohen on his new memoir, *Cable News Confidential: My Misadventures in Corporate Media*. 2pm. KOOP 91.7FM. [www.koop.org](http://www.koop.org).

**FUN COMPANY TOASTMASTERS** meet to screen and discuss *The Big Guy: Tom DeLay's Stolen Congress*. Call to reserve a spot. 6:30-8:30pm. LCRA Colorado Room, 3800 Lake Austin, 459-5462 x4. Free. [www.bigbuy.bravenewtheaters.com/screening/show/9329](http://www.bigbuy.bravenewtheaters.com/screening/show/9329).

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

**NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING CONFERENCE: The Next 10 Years - Building Community Capacity**  
This annual conference meets for a full day of workshops and seminars relevant to community activists and anyone interested in neighborhood involvement. See [www.neighboraustin.com](http://www.neighboraustin.com) for topics. 8:30am-4:30pm. Austin Community College Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville, 223-5100. \$35.

### SUNDAY, MAY 6

**DIFFERENT DEGREES OF CONSERVING ENERGY**  
A presentation from the Sierra Club's Scott Swearingen on environmental, energy, and urban issues. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.

**PETE EARLEY**, author of *Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness*, lectures at the Thompson Conference Center, followed by a panel discussion (26th & Red River, 3-5pm). A book signing and wine-and-cheese reception follow at Follett's Intellectual Property, 2402 Guadalupe, 5:30-7pm.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

**METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: DOES AUSTIN HAVE ROOM FOR KIDS?** City Council Member Jennifer Kim on meeting the affordable-housing needs of Austin's families. 7-8:30am. UT Club, Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 479-9460. \$15 (members, first-time guests). [www.mbc.austin.org](http://www.mbc.austin.org).

### ONGOING

**FAMILY PORTRAITS** This interactive exhibit is a symbolic display of 58,000 area families who currently live in substandard housing. Take a family off the display for a \$1 donation to Habitat for Humanity. Friday-Sunday, May 4-6. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport.

**FOR PEACE. BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW.** If you'd like your own yard sign with those words on it, send an e-mail to the Austin Movement for a Democratic Society, and they'll be more than happy to send you one. [mdsaustin@nuevoanden.com](mailto:mdsaustin@nuevoanden.com).

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## Supremes to Hear Case of Mexican National on Death Row

The **U.S. Supreme Court** said on April 30 that it would hear the case of Texas death row inmate **Jose Medellin** during its next session, which begins in October. Medellin, a Mexican national, was convicted and sentenced to death for a 1993 gang rape and murder in Houston but has argued that his case should be overturned because he was denied access to consular authorities after he was arrested.

At issue, in part, is whether Texas must comply with the 1963 **Vienna Convention's** promise that foreign nationals have access to home-country authorities when traveling abroad, particularly when arrested. Medellin had no access to Mexican authorities until four years after he was convicted of being one of six men responsible for the brutal rape and murder of Houston teens **Jennifer Ertman** and **Elizabeth Peña**.

Medellin's was one of 52 cases named in a lawsuit against the U.S. by Mexico, decided in 2004 by the **UN's World Court** in the Hague. Mexico argued that the U.S. was violating international treaty by denying the men access to country representatives – important in part because Mexico does not have the death penalty. The World Court ruled in favor of Mexico, prompting President **George W. Bush** to pen a letter asking Texas courts to “give effect to the [World Court] decision” in considering the appeals of Mexican nationals. Although the Supremes had already accepted Medellin's case on appeal, the appeal was put on hold pending the outcome of a state appeal prompted by Bush's letter. The state court ultimately dismissed Medellin's latest appeal, clearing the way for the Supremes to take it up this fall. – J.S.

## Death Row Inmates' Sentences Overturned

The **U.S. Supreme Court** overturned on April 25 the death sentences of three **Texas death row** inmates, sending them back to state courts and calling into question the death sentences of dozens of other inmates convicted before 1991. In the cases of **LaRoyce Smith**, **Brent Brewer**, and **Jalil Abdul-Kabir**, a 5-4 majority of the court ruled that the **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** and the **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals** (the state's highest criminal court) impermissibly prevented jurors from giving “meaningful consideration” to mitigating evidence – such as a history of childhood abuse or mental illness – that could have affected the outcome of the sentencing.

In the cases of all three inmates, originally sentenced prior to 1991, jurors were asked just two yes-or-no questions during the sentencing phase of trial: whether the killing was deliberate and whether the defendant would present a continuing threat to society – a “yes” answer to each meant death; a “no” answer to either meant life in prison. In the following years, the Supremes determined that offering just those two questions was inadequate, first prompting Texas courts to improvise a new standard – one of “nullification,” wherein jurors could artificially change a “yes” answer to a “no” if they felt mitigating evidence might preclude death; later, lawmakers crafted a third question specifically asking jurors whether mitigating evidence warranted life confinement instead of death. The newer standard is now in place, but the old two-question standard is still at play in numerous

death cases – perhaps 50 inmates currently on the row were sentenced under the scheme the Supremes have deigned insufficient – meaning that in the wake of the Supremes' decisions last week, dozens more cases might require a new sentencing hearing. (On Monday the Supremes overturned, without comment, the case of death row inmate **Ronald Chambers**, also based on faulty jury instructions. Chambers has been on Texas' death row for 31 years.)

In the majority opinions, Justices **John Paul Stevens** (who authored the majority opinions in the Brewer and Abdul-Kabir cases) and **Anthony Kennedy** (who led the majority in the Smith case) chastised the appellate courts for not heeding the Supremes' previous legal guidance on how to handle cases where questions of insufficient deference to mitigating evidence is raised on appeal. A long line of Supreme Court cases “have made it clear that when the jury is not permitted to give meaningful effect of a ‘reasoned moral response’ to a defendant's mitigating evidence – because it is forbidden from doing so by statute or a judicial interpretation of a statute – the sentencing process is fatally flawed,” Stevens wrote.

UT Law professors **Rob Owen** and **Jordan Steiker**, working with students enrolled in the school's Capital Punishment Clinic, argued the cases before the Supremes in January. Including the three cases decided last week, the Cap Punishment Clinic has won in five consecutive cases before the Supremes over the last three years. – J.S.

## Supremes Examine Capital Punishment, Mental Illness

The **U.S. Supreme Court** on April 18 heard arguments in the case of condemned Texas prisoner **Scott Panetti**, a case that asks the high court exactly how mentally ill a prisoner has to be in order to invalidate execution on the grounds of cruel and unusual punishment.

Panetti was convicted and sentenced to die for the 1992 murders of his in-laws, **Joe** and **Amanda Alvarado**, at their Fredericksburg home. Panetti has a long history of **mental illness** and had been hospitalized at least 11 times – indeed, he was released from his last hospitalization just two months before the Alvarado killings, and when he turned himself in to police, confessed that the real killer was “Sarge,” in fact a recurring auditory hallucination. Panetti was medicated for **schizophrenia** during a competency hearing, after which he was cleared as able to stand trial for the crime. Thereafter, however, he went off his meds and endeavored to defend himself, which the judge allowed; at trial, Panetti dressed in a purple cowboy suit, filed a host of rambling motions, and sought to subpoena as witnesses John F. Kennedy, Jesus Christ, and Anne Bancroft. He was ultimately found guilty and sentenced to death.

Since his conviction, the question has become whether Panetti, so clearly suffering from schizophrenic delusion, is sane enough to be executed or whether to do so would violate the **constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment**. In 2004, U.S. District Judge **Sam Sparks** ruled that while Panetti is in fact mentally ill, and that although there remains some question as to whether he understands the connection between his crime and the punishment, the law – as currently interpreted by the **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** – does not bar his execution. The 5th Circuit ultimately agreed that Panetti could be executed, prompting his lawyers – including Austin attorney **Keith Hampton** and Texas Defender Service attorney **Greg Wiercioch** – to appeal to the Supremes for intervention.

The state maintains that Panetti is “aware” of the connection between his committing the crime and that for that he will be put to death. And that, the **Texas Attorney General's Office** argues, is all that is required to pass constitutional muster. The “court's fact findings demonstrate conclusively that Panetti meets the appropriate test for competency to be executed,” Texas Solicitor General **Ted Cruz** told the high court. “The district court found that Panetti ... knows that he murdered two people. [And] he understands that he is going to be put to death.” Indeed, Panetti grasps those two plain facts, but he also believes that the state is merely using the murders as a pretense for its real motive for killing him: keeping him from “preaching the gospel” to his fellow inmates. His defenders assert that simply knowing he committed a crime and knowing he'll be executed is not enough – instead, they assert, the law requires that he rationally understand the connection between the two and that to say otherwise is a “profound misreading” of the law, Wiercioch told the court. For example, says Hampton, if merely being aware of the connection were enough, then it wouldn't be necessary to have teams of psychiatric experts evaluate a person's mental capacity. Indeed, if the connection were so obvious, it would be enough to have, say, a prison guard walk by the cell and yell out, “Hey, Panetti, you know they're going to execute you for those two murders?” Hampton said. Under the state's theory of mental competency, then, that would suffice.

But it's unclear whether the Supremes will actually hand down an opinion that clarifies when a person is sane enough to be executed. A significant portion of last week's oral argument was dedicated to the different, yet equally fundamental, question of whether the court even has standing to take the case. The dispute concerns the painfully complex federal statute that controls death-penalty appeals. Cruz argued that Panetti's appeal violates that law, in part because he never before raised the issue that he would be too ill to execute – even though having done so prior to his receiving an actual execution date would have been “unripe” and, likely, considered frivolous. As Wiercioch put it, the appeal is not an abuse of law, in part because the “constitutional violation [argued] here is forward-looking, unlike most constitutional habeas claims that are backward-looking.”

A decision is expected this summer.

– Jordan Smith



Scott Panetti

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# THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## STAMPING OUT THE FREE PRESS

At last, Washington officials are doing something about the problem of corporate control of America's media sources. Unfortunately, what they're doing will make the problem worse.

The culprit is the U.S. Postal Service, which is now a corporation rather than a government agency. It is presently changing what it charges for mailing publications, doing so in a way that reverses 215 years of postal policy.

From Jefferson and Madison forward, a bedrock principle of the post office has been to use mailing rates as a means of encouraging a free press. Rates for smaller publications have always been cheaper to help them get started and survive. The idea is to stimulate competition and keep the flow of ideas open.

Now, however, the postal corporation has proposed a rate increase that will sock smaller periodicals with a hike of up to 30% while letting the largest and richest publishers skate by with a hike of less than 10%. Mailing is the highest expense for most small publications, so this skewed rate structure threatens their very existence.

Guess who drafted this new rate scheme. Time Warner, the largest magazine publisher in the country. Small publishers were not consulted, there were no public hearings, and not even Congress was asked about it.

Throughout our history, it's been the sassy, iconoclastic publications outside the conglomerate structure that have often provided the sharpest analysis and most original journalism. America desperately needs them. This is not a left-wing or right-wing issue – it's a democracy issue.

The perverted rate policy is scheduled to be imposed on July 15 – but there's still time to demand congressional action. Rep. Danny Davis chairs the post office oversight committee in Congress. Ask him to stand against Time Warner ... and for a free press: 202/225-5051.

## DEMOCRACY VS. ZIP CODE 10021

The most popular ZIP code in America for politicians is 10021.

This is the Upper East Side of Manhattan, home to CEOs, stockbrokers, and wealthy investors. In last year's congressional elections, more campaign contributions flowed from this one posh neighborhood than from hundreds of other ZIP codes combined.

These corporate elites are not writing the big checks to Sen. Windbag and Rep. Blowhard because they want to support "good government" – they're out to buy government, using their checks to gain favor from lawmakers who can do favors for them.

Big money has stunted our democracy and corrupted Washington. Instead of representing the folks back home or grappling with the big issues of our time, Congress Critters spend their time dragging a sack to lobbyists' offices, corporate suites, and other privileged ZIP codes, filling their sacks with corrupt funds.

The rule of thumb for newly elected senators, for example, is that they must raise \$25,000 every single week of their six-year term to have enough to win re-election. That means they're sacking up more money in two weeks than the typical American family earns in a whole year.

Well, that's just the way it is, say those profiting from the system. There's nothing anyone can do about it.

BS! One thing we can do is get behind the Fair Elections Now Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Sens. Dick Durbin and Arlen Specter. This proposal, Senate Bill 936, sets up a clean system that combines spending limits and public funding of congressional campaigns. It's based on highly successful models already working in Arizona, Maine, North Carolina, and elsewhere.

This is reform that works. A fair-elections coalition of grassroots groups has formed to pass this bill. To get involved, call Public Campaign: 202/293-0222. Let's take our democracy back from the rich ZIP codes.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com).

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JOHN ANDERSON

City moves to make development pay more for parks

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

# Greenbacks for Green Space

Ah, a day in the park. When urban life hits red on the stress-o-meter, when the weekend finally comes, Austinites head to their neighborhood parks for a green respite. On a sunny spring Saturday, public parks in every part of town fill up with Austinites seeking R&R: tattooed youths playing ultimate Frisbee, extended families sharing birthday cakes, seniors chatting on park benches, parents chasing preschoolers around playscapes. Part of Austin's special character and appeal is the city's integration with nature; like our live music, our greenness sets us apart. Our city-funded trail and greenbelt systems, full of joggers, bikers, and walkers – and the city sports fields booked solid by avid recreational athletes – are integral to Austin's fitness ethic and outdoorsy self-image and even its tourism industry. Even in full-tilt-forward growth mode, Austin values its natural places. As infill development heats up and the central city densifies, neighborhood parks – and their protected green spaces – become an increasingly precious part of Austin's urban fabric.

help PARD keep pace with the city's residential growth, fee revenues (which currently are based on land values) must be spent to acquire, develop, or improve nearby neighborhood parks.

Now, PARD is asking that the fee model be changed with the times. Staff has recommended that a \$650 flat fee be assessed on each and every new housing unit in Austin – including Downtown condo towers. Not surprisingly, high-rise developers – who to date have proceeded with vertical villages fee-free – are less than thrilled. While most stakeholder groups support some fee amendment, the level of quibbling over the amount, the method of calculation, and the details has been high. Critics like Charlie Betts, of the Downtown Austin Alliance, say that parks should be adequately bankrolled by the city's general fund and bond elections, rather than a fee that singles out developers. In part, the friction stems from a culture clash between PARD, run by cautious city bureaucracy lifers, and the hustling development community, for whom PARD has not adequately painted a vivid picture – in the

Trust for Public Land publication, "The Benefits of Parks," states, "Repeated studies over the years have confirmed that people prefer to buy homes close to parks, open space and greenery." It cites a Boulder, Colo., study that showed that the average value of homes next to a greenbelt was 32% higher than those 3,200 feet away. An Austin example might be the Nokonah, a pioneering urban condo development overlooking the Shoal Creek greenbelt, which has enjoyed especially strong sales and rapid appreciation of units.

## A Suburban Model

A key reason Austin's Parkland Dedication Ordinance has become outdated: It was narrowly written to a suburban model. PARD assistant director Stuart Strong, who worked to get the original ordinance and fee in place, notes that in the sprawlin' 1980s most planners incorrectly assumed that growth was synonymous with suburbs. "It turns out, the model of growth has changed," Strong said. "We're a more mature city, and we're growing everywhere,

to the parkland-dedication fee – a new flat fee of \$650 on each new unit built (single-family or multifamily) – thus correlates with current thinking about desirable growth patterns. All that, plus the pure populist fun of making "fat-cat developers" share their perceived condotower riches with the park-going public.

Because the fee is currently triggered by subdivision, the more than \$10.1 million collected since the fee's inception primarily has funded new parks and capital improvements in outlying areas of sprawl. Stressed Downtown and inner-city parks, on the other hand, have received only chump change. By way of comparison, in the last 22 years, the Walnut Creek Metro Park and Greenbelt (on far North Lamar at Yager Lane) together have received more than \$970,500 from the fee. During that same period, hard-loved Pease Park on the Shoal Creek Greenbelt (between Enfield and MLK), of Eeyore's Birthday Party fame, has gotten a paltry \$6,720. None of Austin's historic Downtown squares – Republic Square, Wooldridge Square, and Brush Square – has ever received a penny.

**"It seems only fair that we should get a little piece of the pie of what's happening with the development boom and growth – because the parks system is an economic benefit to every developer in this town."**

**– Parks Board Chair Linda Guerrero**



shade of green best understood Downtown – of "what's in it for me."

Extensive research documenting the economic and property-value benefits of urban parkland has been published by professor John Crompton of Texas A&M (see "Real Value: The Parks Premium," p.36). "The real estate market consistently demonstrates that many people are willing to pay a larger amount for a property located close to parks and open space areas," wrote Crompton in a 2000 report. A

including in the central city. The intent was not to apply the fee requirement selectively. The fee's purpose was to respond to growth. So the amendment is a midcourse correction to create fairness and equity and to bring the fee into alignment with current growth patterns."

As Austin seeks to contain sprawl and its troubling environmental and societal impacts, the city and the Envision Central Texas model are redirecting growth toward dense infill housing, especially Downtown. The proposed change

If assessed on all new housing units, the new \$650 fee – a bump up from the average \$518 fee assessed now – would generate significantly more dollars for Downtown and close-in Austin parks. PARD's rationale is thus: As these existing parks are used by more people (who cause more wear and tear) and as increased density drives a need to acquire and develop new central-neighborhood "pocket parks," revenues from the fee would rise in lockstep with development in order to cover the new residents'

#### DOWNTOWN CREEKS

◀ **Shoal Creek Downtown:** Better lighting and other improvements would make the Shoal Creek Greenbelt Trail a safer, more inviting, and well-used Downtown walk-to-work and strolling route. Also high on the wish list: completing the trail between Fifth Street and West Avenue. PARD needs to acquire easements from landowners to close the gap and permanently locate the trail above the creek. Creek banks need stabilization work, too, near both Fifth and 15th streets.

**Waller Creek:** The new \$123.6 million Waller Creek Tunnel project offers an exciting opportunity to turn the blighted Waller Creek Trail into a beautiful Downtown amenity. But funds for trail improvements were not included in the tunnel project; parkland-dedication-fee revenues could fill the gap, as the tunnel opens up more than a million square feet of Downtown land for redevelopment. Council Member Sheryl Cole hopes the fee can help improve the Waller Creek Trail from Waterloo Park to Town Lake, bringing together more than 21 miles of Downtown trails.

needs. By how much? In the city's 2006 budget year, more than \$1.4 million in parkland-dedication-fee monies were appropriated (representing about 18 months of collections). With an across-the-board \$650 fee, said Strong, "We could perhaps double that yield."

Mayor Will Wynn is an enthusiastic advocate of the proposed fee amendment. Always bullish on greater Downtown density, citizen fitness, climate protection, and a "greener" Austin, Wynn recently said he's "pushing to see that the ordinance is amended quickly." To fast-track a council vote before the summer recess, Wynn and Council Members Lee Leffingwell and Mike Martinez have an agenda item posted this week: Tell Planning Commission to get on the stick and forward its recommendation at its May 8 meeting so that the parkland-dedication fee gets to council speedily. They will also direct the city manager to provide all relevant recommendations pronto for council's consideration "at its earliest possible meeting thereafter." With new condo towers announced every day, Wynn said, "We need to make some hay while the sun is shining Downtown."

#### Regressive or Progressive?

Not everyone is so enthusiastic. Developers and Downtown types express concern (albeit self-interested) that yet another development fee will prove an economic drag on successful projects and on affordable housing, especially Downtown. As condo-honcho Perry Lorenz notes, developers roll all such construction costs into the pricing of new homes – so ultimately, it's a pass-through fee to home buyers. The Austin Neighborhoods Council and others have expressed concern that a flat fee is unfairly regressive since it's the same for a tiny studio or a sprawling mansion; ANC proposes instead a sliding-scale fee based on square footage.

The Downtown Austin Alliance also wants a square-footage fee, but at just 25 cents per

*continued on p.30*

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JOHN ANDERSON



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## DILAPIDATED SQUARES

**Brush Square Park:** This embarrassing dirt pit screams “unrealized potential.” Surrounded by swanky new development – including the Downtown Hilton Hotel, new Marriott Courtyard, and 5 Fifty Five condos – Brush Square should be a star public plaza. Long left to languish, the historic park finally is benefiting from a \$20,000 Austin Parks Foundation grant, a community design charrette organized by the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and bond monies to restore the historic Susanna Dickinson House, which was moved to the site.

square foot – \$250 instead of \$650 on a typical 1,000-square-foot condo. (This despite the fact that Downtown parks, for which the DAA currently must provide significant fundraising and volunteers, would get the biggest financial boost from the fee.) At its March meeting, the city’s Downtown Commission carried a motion by Stan Haas to “encourage the Parks Department to consider not including any Downtown projects for these fees”; at its April meeting, the Downtown Commission unanimously voted to support the \$650 fee but with caveats.

Many have grumbled that the deeper issue is inadequate general fund appropriations for parks. By assessing a fee on developers (and ultimately home buyers), the city avoids increasing the Parks Department budget or raising taxes to address PARD’s budget woes. As Downtown Commissioner (and developer)

of this view, the Downtown Commission asked the city to consider exacting the fee at the Certificate of Occupancy stage.

Some stakeholders, on the other hand, don’t think the proposed fee is high enough. The ANC and the Design Commission each recommended that the average fee be raised to \$750, not \$650. Said ANC President Laura Morrison of the \$750 figure: “This value is still far below per-unit fees in comparable cities like Portland and Seattle, where the fees range into several thousand per unit and is also well under the per-unit fee in Texas cities such as El Paso and Arlington. It reflects the needs that we have in Austin.” (According to PARD, average parkland-dedication fees assessed in Portland, Ore., are \$3,053 for single-family and \$1,986 for multifamily; Seattle has fees of \$1,050 to \$3,000 per unit.)

**Palm Park:** This blighted Downtown park near the Austin Convention Center exemplifies how chronic underfunding can lead to dispiriting and even dangerous conditions. The 2.4-acre park lies between Second and Third streets, next to I-35. Dilapidated, with decrepit facilities, Palm Park on a recent visit was overgrown with weeds; its “amenities” include tennis courts without nets, a tetherball with no ball, a pool in need of repairs, and long-ago-locked restrooms. Its trail along Waller Creek is in crumbling disrepair. Cut off from Eastside neighborhoods by I-35, Palm is the park that time – and the city – forgot.

integrated, for example, into the city’s current planning process for transit-oriented development zones – dense new minicities with housing being planned around Capital Metro’s planned rail stations and transit hubs.

Potentially most politically troublesome for the parkland-dedication fee at council could be concurrent affordable-housing initiatives. Just as the parks fee is flying toward City Hall, recommendations from the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force are making their own trajectory. One recommended incentive: The city should waive all parkland-dedication fees for projects providing 10% or more affordable housing, per city guidelines. (The new Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance already waives the fee as an incentive for vertical mixed-use projects, which must include 10% affordable housing; ANC suggests dropping

er and potentially more profitable projects, runs the argument, it should exact benefits for the citizenry in return. “What sensible person would simply dole out those windfalls?” conceded developer Lorenz, whose partnerships recently have privately contributed to both parks and affordable housing. But like other high-rise condo developers, Lorenz has concerns about getting double- or triple-dipped.

How should a voluntary, optional “density bonus” system get weighed against an increase to a required parks fee? No one has quite figured it out. That will be council’s job.

## The Parks Budget Problem

Austin’s park system historically has been underfunded, and in places it shows – in long-deferred maintenance, missed opportunities to acquire key parkland, planning visions that have lain dormant for decades. Some facilities have become so run-down that they’re depressing and potentially dangerous. With so many other competing needs in the city’s annual budget, a soft amenity like parks and recreation has been the easy financial squeeze. In the 2006-2007 general fund budget of \$534.6 million, for example, just 5.9% went to the Parks and Recreation Department – while 65% went to Public Safety. And PARD’s current budget of \$44.5 million is its highest in years. “It’s amazing what this parks system accomplishes and does on the budget we have,” said Parks Board Chair Linda Guerrero. “But we need additional sources of funding.”

Over the years, Austin has invested moderately well in its parks system but has failed to proactively view parks as an infrastructure and quality-of-life investment or to measure the returns. Yet Trust for Public Land research (and the examples of peer cities with which Austin now economically competes) shows

*continued on p.32*



**In the last 22 years, Walnut Creek Metro Park and Greenbelt (on far North Lamar) together have received more than \$970,500 from the fee, while Pease Park has received a paltry \$6,720, and none of Austin’s historic Downtown squares has received a penny.**

Robert Knight put it, “We’re just hiding the ball so we don’t have to admit we’re raising taxes in Austin.”

Lorenz, who sits on the Design Commission and is its representative to the Downtown Commission, believes the city does need to fund its parks system more adequately – but by tapping the increased revenues that high-rises generate for the ad valorem tax base. “It’s a public embarrassment that more dollars are not spent and that Downtown parks are not nicer, but the money is already there [from increased property taxes] to maintain and improve these parks,” Lorenz argues. He also advocates for fee payment upon the sale of units. In support

While ANC favors a fee based on square footage, it advocates that the formula should equate to \$750 for an average-size new home. (Nationally, that’s 2,350 square feet.) Morrison also noted, “We feel that establishing small neighborhood ‘pocket’ parks should be a high priority.” ANC hopes to see the increased fees used to acquire pocket parks in existing neighborhoods.

PARD director Warren Struss said pocket parks are indeed a priority. “As a department, we’re retooling the way we look at those deficient needs and looking at the city from that perspective. Where are we not serving the city well? Parks are part of the infrastructure for all areas of the city.” New pocket parks could be

this incentive.) Given the conflict between parks and affordable-housing goals, other groups have counterproposals: Waive the parks fee just for the units designated as affordable, or create some type of sliding scale.

On yet another overlapping council trajectory: The Density Bonus Task Force recommendations from the Design Commission, which is integrating input from multiple groups. To qualify for a density bonus (upzoning to build a higher, denser project), a developer would earn “points” on a standard matrix of community benefits – such as private donations to fund parks and, again, affordable housing. As the city hands out increased entitlements, allowing larg-

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**HISTORIC SQUARES**

**Republic Square Park:** This historic square needs a master plan and substantial improvements to fully realize its potential as an activated people place. But it's the furthest along on the "revitalization" curve, thanks to help from the Downtown Austin Alliance, Austin Parks Foundation, a stakeholders group, and a 2006 Project for Public Spaces "placemaking" workshop. Packed with music lovers at the recent Austin Fine Arts Festival, Republic Square hosts the Austin Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

**Wooldridge Square Park:** Energized protesters and somnambulant street people bookend the "active users" of historic Wooldridge Square. The sunken topography is a major challenge to revitalization. UT School of Architecture students currently are completing a park study (including historic research, site-conditions survey, and stakeholder interviews) with DAA funding. Tweaking a Capitol view corridor could help spur surrounding residential redevelopment and thus enliven the park.

that the returns on such investments indeed can be quantified. A well-used parks and recreation system promotes public health by encouraging physical activity, increasing regular exercise, countering obesity (and its attendant health-care costs), and enhancing mental health. Social benefits cited include reduced crime, expanded recreation opportunities, and stable neighborhoods with a strong sense of community. Environmental benefits include filtering storm-water runoff, pollution abatement, lessening the urban "heat island" effect, and climate protection (more parkland means more carbon-dioxide-absorbing trees and green space to offset the city's carbon emissions). Economic benefits – which rule at budget time – include tourism, increased property values (both residential and commercial), enhanced revitalization, and attracting and retaining major employers.

capital improvements. El Paso currently has a fee of \$1,370 per unit; Arlington assesses \$1,100 per unit, Corpus Christi just \$200.

(Another aspect under discussion is the way PARD slowly accrues monies in separate accounts for individual parks; this has resulted in unspent fee revenues being "saved up" for years for major projects. Currently more than \$3.5 million has been appropriated and designated to specific parks but not spent. In part, this is because PARD has insufficient staff to execute the projects. New PARD positions are in the next fiscal year budget; staff time to

design and implement fee-funded projects also can be funded through the fee.)

Over the years in Austin, relatively little parkland has actually been dedicated by developers on-site – making the ordinance's very name something of a misnomer. Far more often, a fee is paid. (Avoiding the fee also has become a cottage industry for real estate lawyers, who use tactics to avoid subdivision and circumvent it.) Because the fee is triggered by the subdivision of a parcel of land, occasionally a Central Austin condo or apartment project (that just happens to require subdivision of a parcel) gets hit with

the fee – while the project down the street does not. It's in part this randomness and inequity that the fee amendment would correct.

Said Will Wynn of the current formula: "It has never made any sense whatsoever for Downtown. The fact is the majority of projects built Downtown – whether residential, office, restaurant, or anything else – don't require a subdivision; hence there's no parkland discussion to speak of."

One project that did trigger the fee was the Four Seasons Hotel. By the existing fee formula

*continued on p.34*



**"The amendment is a midcourse correction to create fairness and equity and to bring the fee into alignment with current growth patterns."**

**– Stuart Strong of PARD**

**Parkland Dedication: What the Ordinance Says**

The Parkland Dedication Ordinance requires residential developers to contribute either land or money toward the local park system. Rather than directly dedicating parkland on their sites, most developers have met the requirement by paying a fee-in-lieu – based on land values and varying widely from tract to tract. PARD staff has proposed amendments that would change this to a flat fee per unit, applicable to all new housing. Here are the main provisions of the ordinance, with notes on the proposed amendments:

- Assesses a fee which "shall be used for the acquisition and/or improvement of neighborhood parks which will be available to and benefit the residents of said subdivision and located within the service area defined by PARD" – generally within 1 mile. The money is for acquisition or improvements but not for maintenance, operations, programs, staff, or special events.  
*Proposed amendment: Change "subdivision" to generic term such as "all new housing units."*
- Requires residential developers to dedicate five acres of parkland on-site for every 1,000 residents or pay a fee-in-lieu of equivalent value or a combination of the two. (Note: Downtown units are calculated to have 1.7 residents/unit, as opposed to 2.1 or 2.3 elsewhere in the city.)

*Proposed amendment: Changes to flat fee of \$650 per unit, when PARD accepts fee-in-lieu option from developer.*

- Applies only to residential developers subdividing raw land or replatting.  
*Proposed amendment: Applies to all new residential development.*
- Applies to single-family homes (but only for projects with four or more lots) and multifamily projects, including mixed-use with residential.  
*Proposed amendment: Applies to all new residential and mixed-use projects, unless specific waivers apply.*
- Gives PARD the right to take land on the site rather than a fee, if desired. PARD prefers to do so when 1) the area is not adequately served by neighborhood parks, or 2) on-site acreage is adjacent to, or offers connectivity with, existing parks, greenbelts, trails, and waterfront.  
*Proposed amendment: No change.*
- Allows a developer to receive up to half credit for private park amenities.  
*Proposed amendment: No change.*

*City code reference: 25-4-212*



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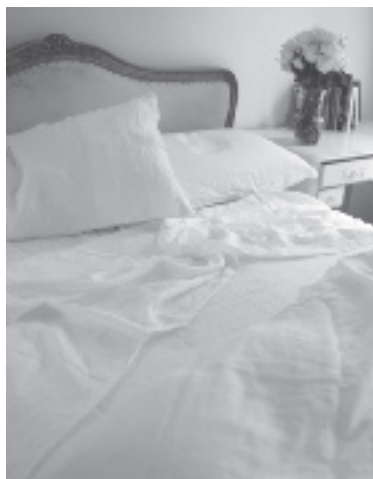


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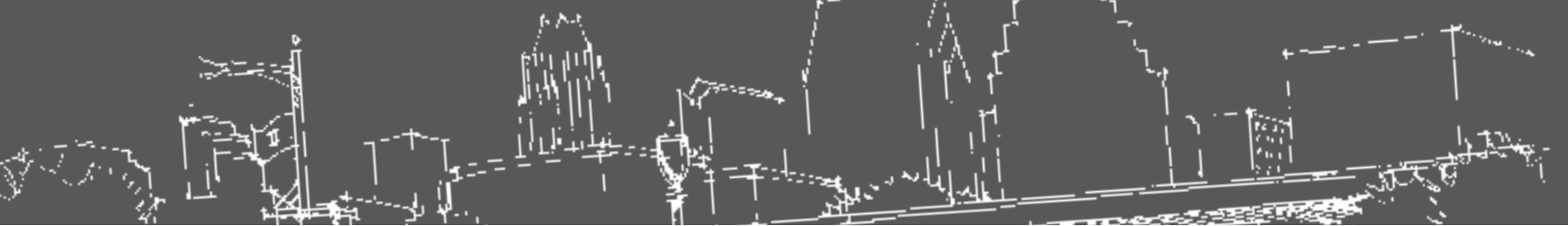
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# DOWNTOWN SEASON 3



(based on land value), the hotel developer owed a whopping fee of \$2 million. Council reduced the assessment to \$186,000; that bought Austinites the open green space between the Four Seasons and Town Lake. The handsome stretch of Town Lake Trail, waterfront, and public parkland is a lovely amenity for the hotel, which maintains it. The win-win illustrates the potential for public-private gain, as well as the need to change the current fee-calculating formula – Downtown, land is priced in square feet, not acres.

## Funding Downtown Parks

It's especially instructive to consider how the amended fee, as proposed, would play out Downtown. Within Downtown's official boundaries – Town Lake to MLK, Lamar to I-35 – plus Town Lake's immediate south shore, including Zilker Park and the Town Lake Trail, PARD has identified more than \$31 million in immediate and short-term parks improvement needs (see map and chart, at right). All of these projects are unfunded, and according to PARD, none of the projects on the chart will receive funds from the 2006 bond election. Many have languished as but a dream in a park planner's eye for years or, as in the case of a Riverside Boardwalk to close the 1-mile gap in the Town Lake Trail, even decades. Neither the city's general fund nor another bond election is likely to cover the bulk of them any time soon.

Downtown is fast becoming a residential neighborhood – our most densely populated neighborhood, in fact. (Lorenz pointed out that his Spring condominium tower will have the same population as about 25 square blocks of Clarksville.) In 2005, Mayor Wynn set a goal of 25,000 residents living Downtown within 10 years. According to Michael Knox, in the city's Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, that equates to nearly 15,000 urban abodes (at an average of 1.7 residents per unit). That will require new construction of another 6,500 or so living units (beyond the more than 3,200 built, 1,600-plus under construction, and 3,500 or more already in the city approvals pipeline – which would all be fee-exempt). If all 15,000 nests-on-stilts are actually built and occupied, voilà! – Downtown will have become a neighborhood of more than 25,000 potential trail-joggers, dog-walkers, and park-strollers.

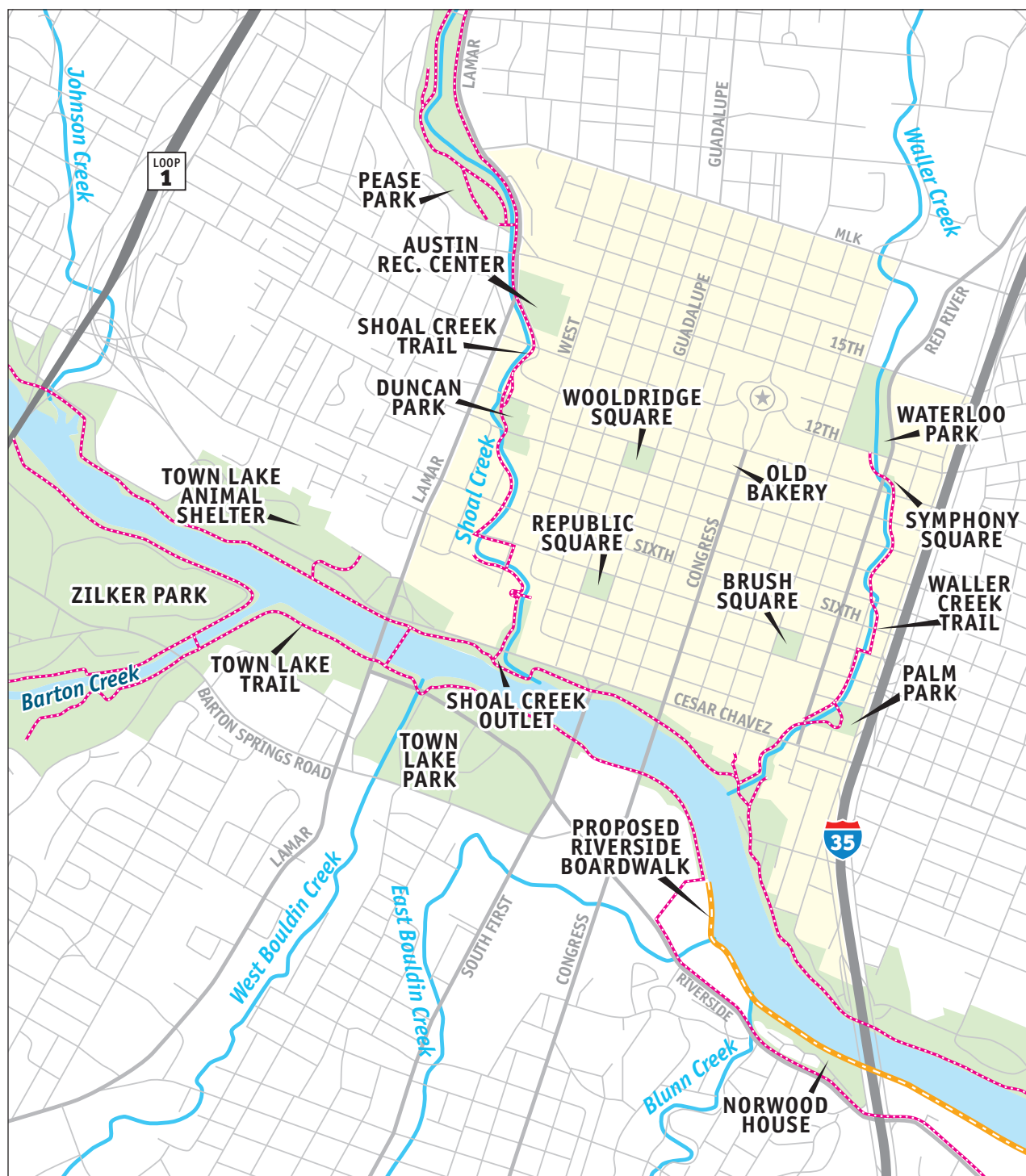
How much in new revenues from parkland-dedication fees might that future construction yield? At \$650 per unit assessed on an additional 6,500 residences (those not yet planned), the proposed fee would generate \$4,225,000 in new revenues for Downtown parks. While that's a chunk of greenbacks, it would fund only about 7.5% of the identified Downtown green space needs. "All it does is ask growth to fund part of its impact," Strong said. "The city of Austin still shoulders the major burden."

Urban dwellers have an especially acute need for public open space. And as Design Commissioner Eleanor McKinney notes, "Urban open space Downtown requires a much higher [more expensive] level of development than a suburban park." Living in small units with no yards, Downtown Austinites increasingly will create demand for city parks within walking distance (three to four blocks) of their homes. For certain, about a quarter of the 25,000 residents will have dogs; imagine (or not) the odoriferous impact of 6,250 Downtown doggies being walked on steamy city sidewalks twice a day. Yet Austin currently has no plan for a Downtown dog park. (Parks Commissioner Jeb Boyd does have his eye on a possible location near the new library site.) In a few years, at least some of today's child-free urban hipsters will start spawning rug rats, who will need playscapes and pocket parks a short stroller-ride away.

Should Austin plan for a Downtown well-populated by families? That prospect appears dubious to City Demographer Ryan Robinson. Given the steep pricing of units, and particularly the trend toward smaller studios and one-bedrooms (with few three-bedroom units), he doesn't see Downtown Austin attracting a significant number of families. By contrast, he points to Vancouver, which has required that 25% of new units must be three-bedrooms, to make Downtown family-friendly. Those families can recreate in Vancouver's 1,000-acre Stanley Park,

# Urban Green Spaces

Investing in Downtown parks – green oases for public life amid the high-rises – is increasingly critical as Downtown revitalizes, develops more densely, and becomes a real neighborhood. For inspiring ideas for how Austin's Downtown parks could contribute more to civic life, visit [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org). (Chart at right lists immediate needs for all parks shown on map.)



one of the largest and most gorgeous urban parks in North America, with its redwood forests and trails, lakes, gardens, aquarium, playing fields, splash park, and, oh yes, an ocean-front hike-and-bike trail.

Parents with young children already live in Downtown Austin, of course, including the mayor, who is more bullish on the future for families Downtown. "These new Downtown residents – like my daughters and me – will dramatically increase the use of our Downtown parks, creeks, and trails," he observed. "That is the best thing long-term that could possibly happen to our parks system – but we should also utilize the economic prowess of this new development to capitalize needed improvements for those very residents (and everybody else).

"Now that we've reached our tipping point attracting residential development and repopulating Downtown," continued

Wynn, "we should have an equitable, predictable, and transparent parkland-fee structure for Downtown residential development." He added, "I suspect that there are any number of developers who disagree with me about this, but I'll put my Downtown advocacy credentials up against anybody's."

## Fees, Taxes, or Bonds?

One developer with a differing point of view is Kent Collins, board chair for the Downtown Austin Alliance. In discussing why he and the DAA are not more bullish on the parkland-dedication fee, Collins cited a high degree of frustration with "systemic issues" he's observed with the city's inadequate parks budget for operations, maintenance, and programming. Because PARD can't or won't spend parkland-

# Investing in Downtown Parks

Turning underperforming parks into great outdoor people places requires both vision and cash. This PARD "wish list" documents current needs – all unfunded – in city parks Downtown, and along central Town Lake. Parkland-dedication fees from new Downtown condos and apartments could help fund the projects listed.

## COST \* SHORT-TERM NEEDS: UNFUNDED

### HISTORIC SQUARES & STRUCTURES

<b>Wooldridge Square</b>	\$500,000	Restore and improve square, Phase I
<b>Republic Square</b>	\$250,000	Complete master-plan process; next phase of improvements
<b>Brush Square</b>	\$300,000	Master plan to improve square, with O. Henry Museum and Dickinson House
<b>Old Bakery &amp; Emporium</b>	\$1.5 million	Restore historic structure

### CREEK GREENBELTS: TRAILS & PARKS

#### SHOAL CREEK

<b>Pease Park</b>	\$1 million	1) Improve and stabilize trail near 15th Street/possible mitigation from disc golf 2) Improve lighting along Shoal Creek
<b>Shoal Creek Trail</b>	\$1.5 million	1) Stabilize banks at Fifth Street 2) Close gap in trail near Fifth Street (acquire land or easements)
<b>Austin Recreation Center</b>	\$500,000	Redevelop parkland for new uses after old ARC is demolished
<b>Duncan Park</b>	\$700,000	Develop park amenities

#### WALLER CREEK (To complement Waller Creek Tunnel project)

<b>Waterloo Park</b>	\$750,000	1) Master plan; consider new uses compatible with tunnel redevelopment; expand and update recreational amenities 2) Restore damaged segments of trail
<b>Symphony Square</b>	\$300,000	Redevelop in order to reflect opportunities created by tunnel project
<b>Waller Creek Trail</b>	\$6 million	1) Repair severe erosion on trail at Cesar Chavez & Red River (restore bank; stabilize banks along trail) 2) Explore appropriate lighting opportunities along the trail 3) Add trail heads to connect future development along Waller Creek
<b>Palm Park</b>	\$900,000	1) Redevelop park – includes design and implementation 2) Feasibility study: Improve park along Waller Creek Trail

### TOWN LAKE CORRIDOR: TRAILS & PARKS

<b>Town Lake Trail</b>	\$10 million	Complete continuous trail: Acquire waterfront easements and/or construct boardwalk
<b>Animal Shelter Site</b>	\$1.5 million	1) Master-plan parkland for new uses (after animal shelter moves) 2) Construct new park facilities, as master-planned
<b>Shoal Creek Outlet</b>	\$700,000	Develop as public park (restore building, park peninsula); connectivity with Seaholm
<b>Zilker Park</b>	\$2 million	1) Barton Springs Pool: Master plan and implement improvements 2) Canoe Launch: Improve access 3) Barton Creek: bank restoration 4) Zilker Loop: Complete connection between Barton Creek Trail and Town Lake Trail
<b>Town Lake Park (phase 3)</b>	\$2 million	1) Add bridge for Town Lake Trail (over West Bouldin Creek) 2) Construct park between Riverside Drive and Town Lake (as master-planned)
<b>Norwood House</b>	\$1 million	Restore historic house and park grounds

**TOTAL \$31.4 million**

\* Note: Initial cost estimates are from preliminary PARD review. Further cost analyses needed.

dedication-fee revenues on these needs, Collins believes the fee is not the right parks-funding solution.

"We want our Downtown parks to be alive, have events, and have places for people to go," Collins said. His development company, Centro Partners, is developing Seaholm Power as well as the Domain and several condo/loft projects.

"We don't think capital improvements is the real issue Downtown; we think it's operations and maintenance," he continued, explaining that the DAA partners with the Austin Parks Foundation to help PARD "fill in the gaps" for operating and maintaining Downtown parks. The serious PARD budget shortfalls have led to "a lack of confidence," said Collins, in invest-

"They're never going to get it done this way. Let's figure out a way to get the total amount needed in bonds for Downtown parks."

– Kent Collins, Downtown Austin Alliance



ing in new parks and facilities, when PARD can't take care of what it already has: "You never get the level of maintenance you need. It's part of the general fund conundrum."

For these reasons, the DAA specifies in its fee position, "This new source of revenue might not be offset by general budget reductions." It also wants fees to be optionally payable to a certified nonprofit (such as the Austin Parks Foundation or Town Lake Trail Foundation); in the DAA's recent experience, these nonprofits can execute a project with far less overhead, making scarce dollars go further. The DAA also wants PARD to find a way to spend fee revenues on better operations and maintenance. Collins noted that PARD staff had not visited with the DAA board since making their \$650 flat-fee recommendation. He said, "If we could be assured the city was taking care of O&M [operations and maintenance], I think we'd be happy to look at a revised fee structure" closer to what Parks is requesting.

Collins also pointed to the Dallas Parks & Recreation Department as a model. In Dallas, he said, "The citizenry has supported a huge increase in bond funding into the 21st century." When Dallas lost its 2001 bid to become Boeing's new corporate headquarters, the city learned that it was passed over, in part, due to its lack of recreational opportunities, especially Downtown. Civic soul-searching ensued (to the extent that Dallas has a soul), and a Downtown revitalization task force in 2002 issued this top recommendation: "Dramatically expand new parks and open spaces." Dallas now is executing its 2004 Downtown Parks Master Plan.

Collins thinks bonds are the way to go in Austin too, given that Parks has built up more than \$30 million in long-unfunded Downtown parks needs. "That needs to be done through bond programs," he said, rather than by slapping a fee on residential developers. "They're never going to get it done this way. Let's figure out a way to get the total amount needed in bonds for Downtown parks." But like Dallas, he said, the city needs to sell people on an exciting parks vision – not just expect a fee or tax increase.

The 2006 bond issue was the first one PARD devoted primarily to renovation and restoration projects. "It had become critical to take care of some deferred needs, things that hadn't

continued on p.36



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**Town Lake Park:** This February construction photo shows the work in progress on Town Lake Park, next to the Palmer Events Center (between Barton Springs Road and Riverside). While the master design included the parkland between Riverside and Town Lake, as well, that phase remains unfunded; completing the project could be a good use for parkland-dedication fees.



**Town Lake Trail:** A privately funded study is under way for a \$10 million Riverside Boardwalk to help close the 1-mile gap in the 10-mile trail, thanks to the Town Lake Trail Foundation. In 2006, voters approved \$1 million in bond monies for trail repairs and maintenance, but the trail needs millions more for improvements like new and updated restrooms, according to TLTF.

had funding for two decades,” explained Strong. Much of the money will go to unsexy but critical projects like replacing roofs, air-conditioning and electrical systems, and bringing facilities into compliance with state and federal requirements. While Austin will get a few fun new facilities – such as a BMX/skate park – PARD largely had to forego its wish list for new facilities or parks due to more pressing needs created by deferred maintenance.

“That’s not the way bonds are supposed to be used,” Collins said. “If you wait long enough on basic needs that should be funded through the O&M budget, it becomes a capital-improvement project.” As bonds are issued only every six to eight years in Austin, another bond issue that could fund major new capital improvements now is unlikely before 2015.

John Crompton’s research shows that the higher property values enjoyed by homes adjacent to parks and open space results in their owners paying higher property taxes. In some cases where city bonds finance a park’s acquisition and development, his research shows, the additional property-tax revenues to the city can be enough to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds. The park, in essence, would pay for itself. (This line of thinking is similar to that underlying tax-increment financing districts, such as the TIF for the Waller Creek Tunnel.)

But right now, PARD understandably is most focused on a bird almost in hand – the fee increase – not some mythical, future bond issue, sudden city-management awakening, or annual general fund largesse. An obvious first place to spend fees generated Downtown would be on improving the three historic squares – Republic, Wooldridge, and Brush – where the DAA, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and other stakeholders are already engaged. With the commencement of the Waller Creek Tunnel project, which by eliminating floodplain issues will allow major redevelopment along the creek greenbelt all the way from Waterloo Park to Town Lake, the city has a tremendous opportunity to improve and better connect area parkland. Richly desired by all is an enhanced adjoining Waller Creek Trail,

yet trail improvements are not funded within the \$123 million tunnel budget. The below-grade trail now is blighted – a hidden, trash-strewn “urban amenity” that is currently enjoyed primarily by the homeless, the socially marginal, and the law-averse.

Also included in the PARD estimates are desired improvements along the Shoal Creek Trail and Greenbelt on the west side of Downtown; Shoal Creek offers another long-unrealized opportunity to better integrate a natural waterway and trail into the cityscape. Adjoining Shoal Creek within Downtown are Pease Park, Duncan Park, and the soon-to-be-redeveloped Austin Recreation Center site.

Right now, more than 5,000 new units are under construction or in the city approvals pipeline. If a parkland-dedication fee of \$650

per unit had been applied to all of those projects, they would have yielded \$3.25 million for improvements to Downtown parks – an opportunity that’s largely been lost. (Several high-rise condo developers recently have pledged to voluntarily donate funds for parks, when seeking upzoning for taller projects.) Some parks advocates privately questioned PARD’s passivity in not amending the fee sooner; Parks realized it was missing the gravy boat on multifamily projects way back in the 1980s yet waited two decades to act. It took the current tantalizing condo-tower boom to finally embolden PARD, at the urging of Guerrero, to request a fee amendment.

At a coffeehouse by the Town Lake Trail recently, while discussing developer grumblings that a \$650 fee could deter new Downtown

projects, Guerrero gestured out the window to all the building cranes and rising condo projects punctuating the skyline: “Does it look like it’s very hard to develop Downtown to you?”

“It seems only fair that we should get a little piece of the pie of what’s happening with the development boom and growth – because the parks system is an economic benefit to every developer in this town,” Guerrero asserted. She noted that Downtown condos all tout and market their ready access to the Town Lake Trail. “Developers need to recognize that the green space we provide enhances their property values and promotes their developments. They’re being asked to contribute to the green infrastructure, to give back to their community – and they’re getting back as much as they’re giving. So why is there so much resistance?” ■



**“Now that we’ve reached our tipping point attracting residential development and repopulating Downtown, we should have an equitable, predictable, and transparent parkland-fee structure for Downtown residential development.” – Mayor Will Wynn**

## Real Value: The Parks Premium

Can the effect of parkland on the values of nearby homes be quantified in dollars? Texas A&M professor John Crompton, who has extensively researched the issue, believes that it can, using what he dubs “The Proximate Principle.”

Crompton’s research shows that quality parks and open space directly increase the property value of homes. “In effect, this represents a ‘capitalization’ of park land into increased property values of proximate land,” he writes. “Developers need to apportion the opportunity cost of park and open space lands in their projects to individual lots, and to establish these premiums based on the lots’ locations.” He compares the premium effect to that enjoyed by

fairway homes in a golf-course community.

Crompton suggests calculating premiums using a sliding scale, based on the home’s distance from the park. His research shows that the positive impact on property values applies within a three-block (500 feet) radius for neighborhood and larger parks. In addition, “Large parks are likely to have value to populations beyond the radius that can be captured by proximate capitalization.”

However, his research shows that enhanced property values are created only by high-quality, well-maintained parks. Using a five-point scale, Crompton suggests that property value premiums be calculated according to park quality: Unusual Excellence equals 15% premium; Above Average

equals 10%; Average equals 5%. Conversely, Below Average or Blighted parks could correspondingly lower proximate property values.

The suggested percentage premiums are averages for a three-block radius. The effect was found to be strongest immediately adjacent to the park. For the first block, Crompton documents several “recent, technically strong studies that reported premiums in the 16% to 22% range.”

An average price for a nice Downtown Austin condo is \$500,000; a 15% premium would be \$75,000. Not a bad return on a \$650 parkland-dedication fee.

Source: *The Proximate Principle*, 2004, National Recreation and Parks Association

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*"Where You At?"*

# Arena Rock

Wranglers share hot dogs and tax brackets with their fans

BY JEREMY MARTIN

He's been in the league less than a year, but rookie lineman Rob Schroeder has the Arena Football League pegged.

"It's like playing football in a hockey rink," he says. That's also a good description for the disorientation you feel as a first-time AFL spectator, seeing 16 regulation-sized athletes crammed on a half-sized field. A guy like Schroeder (6 feet 4 inches, 285 pounds) looks even more out of place – like your big brother standing on your electric football game.

Veteran defensive back Damon Mason (5 feet 9 inches, 185 pounds) had a different impression. "I remember the first time I heard about Arena, I was like, 'Man, I would never play that. That's suicide.'"

Considering Mason's survived 10 years in the league, we can assume his first impression was wrong, but the league's not easy on its DBs. The thinner, shorter field (50 yards by 85 feet) begs for passing; strong-arm quarterbacks can take a touchdown shot from their own end zones. Plus, unlike the NFL or NCAA, one of the receivers is allowed a running start to the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped.

"The biggest surprise when I started was having a guy back up 10 yards and come running at you full speed every play," Mason said, and he's not the only one caught off guard by the different rule. First-time fans often spend the first few quarters yelling for offside flags. (For more differences between the NFL and AFL see rules, below.)

And a recent rule change has made coverage even harder. Unlike past seasons, when the league restricted when and how players could be substituted, this year players can be switched out at any time. So now the chances are much better that the guy running full speed at Mason in the third or fourth quarter is fresh off the bench.

"A team will see your defense and keep bringing out fresh guys – vroom vroom vroom – and that's a plus for the offense. ... Back in the day, that guy [you were covering] was just as tired as you were; by the third [and] fourth quarter, it was about who had the stronger willpower. Now you might have the stronger willpower, but he has fresh legs."

The rule change, in addition to keeping Mason moving, brings the AFL's rules closer to the NFL's and quickens the game's already ridiculous pace. Arena games typically play out like *SportsCenter* highlight reels, usually with either nonstop scoring or heroic defensive stands. With the AFL's recent spike in prominence – a TV contract with ESPN and a sexy new video game (see *Arena Football: Road to Glory*, p.40) – a move toward an even faster, sleeker game makes sense.

Free-substitution aside, Schroeder says the AFL's pass-heavy playbook and truncated field make playing defensive line more enjoyable. The two-back system (a QB and fullback in the backfield) leaves Schroeder freer to rush the passer, like the days on the schoolyard. But there's no five-Mississippi rule here, just some genuinely huge and scary dudes colliding. "The field's a lot shorter, and I like that. I don't have to run that far; I come to an Arena game, and I think, 'This is easy.' ... I hate playing against the run."

It makes sense that guys Schroeder's size would feel comfortable in the AFL. If he lived 2,000 years ago, he'd still be in an arena; only instead of quarterbacks, they'd be throwing him Christians.

Mason joined the league in 1998, the same year Kurt Warner left the AFL for NFL Europe. One of the AFL's biggest success stories, QB Warner led his team, the Iowa Barnstormers,



JOHN ANDERSON

**"It's like playing football in a hockey rink."**

**- Rob Schroeder, lineman, Austin Wranglers**

to the Arena Bowl both seasons he spent behind center, 1996 and 1997. After playing a season with the Amsterdam Admirals, he signed with the St. Louis Rams and became one of only a few players to win the NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP in the same season.

Now say something if this starts getting eerie: Mason made Arena Bowl trips his first three seasons in the league, leading the team in tackles all three years and even setting a league record in 2000.

In case any NFL scouts missed the hits he was racking up, Mason remembers being featured in a magazine article titled "Diamonds

in the Rough" the year Warner won the Super Bowl, an article about the most NFL-worthy players in the AFL. When friends called to tell him they saw him on a magazine cover, he started looking for bigger things. But his shot at Super Bowl MVP never came.

"We went to the Arena Bowl for the three years, and every time I talked to an NFL team, they would say, 'We know you're a really good player, but unfortunately the roster is already set for training camp.'" Every new season, he said, brought new excuses to keep him out of the big leagues. The New Orleans Saints under Mike Ditka were supposed to call Mason up in 2000, but Ditka never got the chance to hand Mason a jersey. He'd traded all the Saints' 1999 draft picks for UT running back Ricky Williams, and when Williams washed out, Iron Mike and his staff were fired.

Maybe the main difference between Warner's and Mason's careers is this: Warner throws passes, and Mason defends them. In the AFL, where 60- and 70-point games are common, the offense can hog the spotlight. In fact, Mason said, during his first few years in the league, some coaches didn't make specific game plans, or even practice plans, for defenses.

On March 24, Schroeder had the kind of game against the Nashville Kats that rookies have impure dreams about. He came about as close to winning a game as a lineman can, twice tipping the scoring exchange toward the Wranglers with a blocked extra point and a fumble recovery for a touchdown. The Kats came back in the end though, 63-70. When the opposing team scores 70 points, is anyone looking at the defense?

Schroeder says yes.

continued on p.40

## AFL Rules

### FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

The AFL field is 50 yards long (excluding two 8-yard end zones) and 85 feet wide. In terms of an NFL field, this is half as long and, for some reason, 53.125% as wide. Players are not made to scale.

Goal posts are 9 feet apart with the crossbar set at 15 feet (NFL goalposts are 18½ feet apart with the crossbar at 10 feet).

Missed field goals and kickoffs that bounce off the posts and safety nets are still in play.

Sideline barriers are 4 feet tall and made of high-density foam rubber. The floor outside the barriers, where receivers often land, is made of high-density concrete.

The ball is the same size and weight as a regulation NFL ball, but the AFL's balls are gold instead of brown. There has to be a good joke in there somewhere.

### PLAYERS

Eight players on the field per team, three players less than conventional football, even if you're one of those people who considers soccer "conventional football."

Four offensive players and three defensive players must line up on the line of scrimmage.

One receiver can be in forward motion when the ball is snapped; this is not considered offsides, so quit yelling for a flag, already.

### RULES AND SCORING

Four 15-minute quarters, just like God intended. Overtime is 15 minutes also, but each team gets one possession to score before sudden death begins.

The clock is stopped each half for the "one-minute warning." Incomplete passes or out-of-bounds plays (the ball carrier can hold the ball over the wall to "run out of bounds") only stop the clock in the last minute of the half.

Each team gets three time-outs per half and zero challenges.

The offense still gets four downs to move the ball 10 yards, because two downs to get five yards would be ridiculous.

Scoring is mostly the same, but a successful drop kick earns two points on the extra point and four points as a field goal. This distinction isn't all that important because nobody drop kicks in the AFL.

Receivers must have one foot in-bounds for a complete pass. Considering the out-of-bounds line is a 4-foot wall, players still try pretty hard to land with both feet in bounds.

### KICKING

Kickoff is from the goal line and is often caught off the net. A touchback is put on the receiving team's 5-yard line. Punting is illegal and would probably look pretty lame on a 50-yard field.

- J.M.

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JOHN ANDERSON

Quarterback Adrian McPherson

"They take [the scores] with a grain of salt. ... People know it's a high-scoring game. I think if you can produce and put up good numbers, you'll be noticed."

Mason, the only player in AFL history to log more than 800 tackles, seems to agree but adds that, for whatever reason, the NFL never gave him a real opportunity, and he gets a little upset when he hears teams complaining about the lack of good defenders or when he reads about failed experiments with moving college quarterbacks to coverage positions.

"Evidently they're not looking hard enough," he says. "I've been playing defense my whole life. ... I tackle and cover people in my sleep."

But whether or not the AFL's defenders get proper notice, Mason says, they can and do determine the outcome of the game. AFL games are typically high-scoring but usually pretty close. On April 2, for example, Austin

managed a 45-38 overtime win against the New Orleans VooDoo, mainly with some solid fourth-and-goal defensive stops and a fumble recovery.

"In this league," Mason remarks, "the saying is, 'If you get at least one stop, we can lead.'"

"I was told, 'If you play good, we win,' and I take that role."

But this season, the team has apparently needed more than Mason playing well to win. With a 3-5 record, the Wranglers, who made the playoffs last year, are fighting a losing season. Under new coach Brian Partlow and new QB Adrian McPherson, the team's in an awkward adjustment phase, struggling with turnovers and broken plays. And unlike the lack of a legitimate NFL shot, the losing record is something Mason won't accept.

"I do take it personally," he says, "I don't want any team to score more than 50 on us."

Winning is his job and his responsibility to the fans. "These people paid to come see you play," he says. "They deserve to see you give your best and to win."

But some of the Wranglers' most visible and vocal fans (read: face paint and choreographed dance routines) say they'll be back next year even if the Wranglers end with a disproportionately heavy "L" column.

Third-year season-ticket holder Matt "Guy in the Shiny Blue Top Hat and Matching Wig" Cross says he's disappointed in the season so far, but he'll buy season tickets as long as the team stays in town.

"Of course I'll be back next year," he says with a touch of near indignation, surprising from a guy with a metallic blue mop-top. "As a fan you've got to take the good with the bad." Unconditional love and acceptance: That's the Wacky Blue Top Hat Guy guarantee.

Cross, like many other season-ticket holders, tailgates in the parking lot before and after the games. Sometimes they're joined by actual Wranglers, one of the perks of being a hardcore fan in a smaller league.

Because of their accessibility, Mason calls AFL players "blue-collar athletes." Players and cheerleaders not only sign autographs on the field and at sports bars after the game, but also the AFL has to be one of the only major-league sports where the players make similar incomes to the average fans.

"People ask the difference between NFL and Arena," Mason points out. "One of the biggest differences is NFL players get paid millions; we get paid thousands."

Sharing hot dogs and tax brackets is one thing, but the league takes fan accessibility to an almost-uncalled-for level with the Manglers. Season-ticket holders of the screaming, face-painting ilk, the Manglers' semiofficial capacity with the team began three years ago as an

**"I remember the first time I heard about Arena, I was like, 'Man, I would never play that. That's suicide.'"**

**- Damon Mason, defensive back, Austin Wranglers**

April Fools' Day joke. In lieu of the expected halftime performance by the Lady Wranglers cheerleading squad, fans were treated to a sort of choreographed line dance by the paunchy, middle-aged, all-male Manglers.

For Mangler David Manchuca, this is exactly the sort of fan appreciation exclusive to the AFL. Get dragged-out and hog-snouted for a Redskins game, spend three hours sweating in a latex mask in the Cleveland Dawg Pound, and you won't be asked to take the field. In fact, they've got troops of guards trained to keep people like you off the field.

"If you dress up for an NFL game," Manchuca says, "all you're gonna do afterward is walk a mile to your car in the parking lot." ■

Catch the Wranglers in action this Sunday, May 6, 3pm at the Erwin Center vs. the Tampa Bay Storm. For tickets and more info, please see [www.austinwranglers.com](http://www.austinwranglers.com).

## It's Prime Time in the Owner's Box

Playing in the National Football League is "the common goal of any kid that puts on a uniform" says veteran Wranglers defensive back Damon Mason. Sure, but what do NFL players dream about?

Deion Sanders, Wranglers co-owner and sure bet for NFL Hall of Fame induction, says most players just want a team of their own.

"Every NFL player's dream mostly is to be in ownership," he says. "Not just a player, not just on the roster. Your dream is to own things, not be employed for the entirety of life."

While little kids everywhere were spiking balls on the playground pretending to be Prime Time himself, maybe Sanders was at home in an ill-fitting suit, pretending to be an old oil billionaire.

He'd probably love to take over for Jerry Jones, but the excitement of arena football (not to mention the dearth of the aforementioned mad oil money) led Sanders to buy part of an AFL team instead. Sanders says he enjoys the game's fast pace and high scoring, but he's glad he stayed on the 100-yard field.

"I don't think I would've been successful [in the AFL], because arena football is a tremendous game," he laughs. "It's not easy by any means. Oftentimes ... guys who have played in the NFL don't have success in the game."

Sanders isn't the only NFL alum with arena aspirations: John Elway (Colorado Crush), Ron Jaworski (Philadelphia Soul), and Mike Ditka (Chicago Crush) are all AFL co-owners. Former Cowboy quarterback Danny White coaches the Utah Blaze, and even several NFL owners, including Jerry Jones, have expanded their portfolios to the Arena League. But the AFL's sexy siren song wasn't the Wranglers' only appeal: Sanders was drawn to its A-Town location. He spends most his time in the Metroplex, but he's got an Austin residence and, of course, knows lots of cool hangout spots.

"I like to go to the IHOP," he reveals, "and the Denny's on MoPac."

So take note, NFL rookies. Adrian Peterson and Brady Quinn, if you work hard and stay healthy, one day you too could have the Rooty Tooty Fresh 'N Fruity breakfast.

- J.M.



## ARENA FOOTBALL: ROAD TO GLORY

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There's just one thing that keeps *Arena Football: Road to Glory* from being as completely kickass as the *Madden* juggernaut. That is its lack of big-name stars like Vince Young, Peyton Manning, Terrell Owens, and LaDainian Tomlinson.

The main rebuy factor for *Madden* year after year is the updated rosters and improved graphics. Saints' fans have to be drooling over the prospect of "trading" for LSU grad and first-overall pick JaMarcus Russell and teaming him in the backfield with Reggie Bush. Aside from this one unavoidable flaw, *Road to Glory* is a great complement to the fast-paced, high-scoring brand of play its real-life counterpart offers. And for big-time Wranglers and AFL fans, the lack of NFL names isn't a problem at all. Your favorite Wranglers - Adrian McPherson, Kevin Nickerson, Damon Mason - are all here, with the only disappointment for Austin fans being the absence of talented wide receiver Derrick Lewis, most likely due to his promotion to the NFL's Houston Texans and the *Madden* game. *Road to Glory's* tutorial, AFL 101, is a comprehensive and excellent introduction to the AFL's unique style of pigskin play and will get video-game quarterbacks up to speed in the time it takes McPherson to call an audible. Once familiar with the rules and the almost-no-rushing, no-punting style of play, it doesn't take long to adjust to the differences between the NFL and the AFL and get into the game-playing groove. The action is fast and furious and in many ways more suitable for our attention-deficit world than the slower-paced NFL game of fighting for field position, which doesn't come into play in the AFL. With the tight quarters of the Arena field, the smallest mistake on offense will result in a turnover, and, on the flip side, if your DB zigs when he should've zagged, you can bet that six points are going up on the board. This year's version also features the teams of the AF2, further broadening the game's fan appeal. With a respectable \$29.95 price tag, *Road to Glory* is a nice addition to the sports-gaming library.

- Mark Fagan





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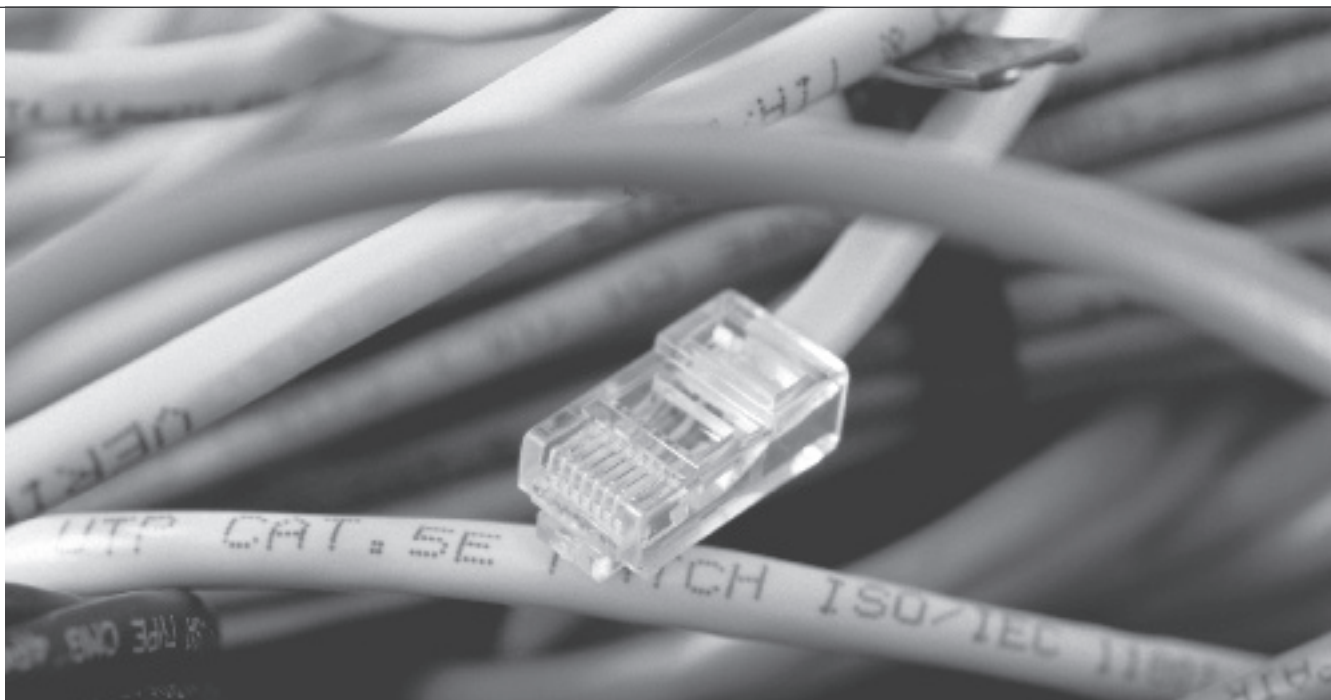
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# the arts

44 HANDMADE AUSTIN WOMEN

46 AFTER A FASHION

48 BOOKS

## C. Denby Swanson: A play for Clifford

Clifford Antone spent his life around stages, but most were in clubs. The late, great blues patron likely never pictured himself on a stage in a *theatre*, but that's where he's headed, courtesy of C. Denby Swanson. The local playwright – who's also artistic director of Austin Script Works and a *Chronicle* contributor – was one of 11 dramatists from across the country selected for the 2007 National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights, which connects writers with host theatres to develop new work and get involved in the theatre's artistic life and community activities. Each playwright receives \$25,000 and up to \$1,000 in additional funds for "individual life needs" (health insurance, child care, care for aging parents, etc.). Swanson will be in residence at Zachary Scott Theatre Center to develop *Blue Monday* – a working title – based on the life of Clifford Antone.

"The idea for the play hit me when I was on a walk around Town Lake, a week or so after Clifford passed away," says Swanson. "I had seen him introduce Pinetop Perkins at a benefit for the Paramount, and that was fresh on my mind." When she finished the walk, she e-mailed Zach Artistic Director Dave Steakley, thinking Zach's track record with musicals such as *Love, Janis* and *It Ain't Nothin' but the Blues* made an Antone project "a natural fit." Within minutes she had a reply: He wanted to do it. She plans to start with extensive interviews, in the vein of *Keepin' It Weird*. "I'm looking forward to talking with Clifford's friends and family – I've been in touch with Susan Antone – making a road trip to Port Arthur, hanging out a lot at the club, buying a lot of music, and dealing with the complicated events of the life of Clifford Antone, the life of blues music in Austin. I'm an Austin native, but this will be my first chance to really write a local story, and this one feels pretty important."

By the by, Swanson isn't the only Austinite chosen for this year's residency program. Dan Dietz, acclaimed author of *tempOdyssey*, *Americamisfit*, and *A Bone Close to My Brain*, gets to develop *The Difference Engine*, a drama about the relationship between 19th century engineer Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace, the math-prodigy daughter of Lord Byron, at Salvage Vanguard Theater. This honor arrives as Dietz is bidding Austin "au revoir" after a decade of providing important stage work as a writer and actor. He's taken a teaching position in the theatre department at Florida State University in Tallahassee. A valedictory production of his short plays and monologues has been assembled by Shrewd Productions under the title *Trash Anthems*. It opens Thursday, May 3, and runs through May 26 at Hyde Park Theatre. For more information, call 479-PLAY. – Robert Faires

## Playwrights @ UT: An Edgar for Dietz, a Wendy for Ramsey

Last week was an especially good one for playwrights on the UT campus. On Monday, April 23, Linda Ramsey, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, became the first recipient of the Wasserstein Prize for her play *This Feather House*. This new honor for young women dramatists, established in memory of Wendy Wasserstein, comes with a \$15,000 award, a year's membership to the Dramatists Guild, and a reading of the play in New York City with a professional cast and director. The prize was presented at a benefit for the Dramatists Guild Fund.

Then, on Thursday, nationally renowned dramatist Steven Dietz, who quietly joined the UT Department of Theatre & Dance faculty last year, was awarded an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his play *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Commissioned by the Arizona Theatre Company, which premiered it last spring, the play conflates the Arthur Conan Doyle stories "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Problem" with William Gillette's wildly successful dramatic adaptation from 1899 into one jam-packed adventure featuring both Holmes' archenemy, professor James Moriarty, and his love interest, Irene Adler. – R.F.

## Austin Shakespeare Festival: Raising the Curtain for ASF

The Austin Shakespeare Festival called its recent performance on a scaled-down replica of the Globe Theatre a "dream come true." Now, it appears that the dream lives on forever. Richard Garriott, the gaming guru who had that Elizabethan stage built on his West Austin estate and gave ASF permission to present *As You Like It* there recently, has now invited the company to perform at his Curtain Theater on a regular basis. Garriott caught a performance of *As You Like It* on Easter and was so impressed by ASF's "professionalism, artistry, and excitement" and the "joy and excitement reflected in the eyes of hundreds of other audience members" that he felt "the Curtain was the perfect venue for ASF and the important work they offer the Central Texas community." This won't affect the company's annual free presentation of Shakespeare in Zilker Park. (The next such production – an original compendium of scenes, sonnets, songs, and soliloquies titled *Will Power: Your Imaginary Forces* – runs May 19-27, and in the interest of full disclosure, this writer is involved in the show.) However, ASF Artistic Director Guy Roberts hopes to mount the rest of ASF's productions at the Curtain.

The company makes its first appearance at its new theatrical home this Saturday with a benefit performance of *As You Like It* to make up for the show that was axed April 7 when the weather was not as you or anyone liked it. In addition to the performance, ASF will host a silent auction that features a signed Al Hirschfeld lithograph, donated by his widow, Louise, of famous Shakespearean actors, including Olivier and Gielgud, and an original painting by Sandra Langston based on ASF's *As You Like It*. Tickets are \$35, but \$150 gets you reserved box seating and complimentary food and drink. All tickets purchased for the April 7 show will be honored. – R.F.



## Free Comic Book Day: Hey kids! Free books with words and pictures!

Free Comic Book Day turns 6 this Saturday, May 5. The annual giveaway, launched in 2001 to take advantage of the opening of the first *Spider-Man* film, has succeeded in drawing enough people into their friendly neighborhood comics shops that it's still around for the web-slinger's second sequel. More than 40 titles are available for the taking this year. Of course, with both *Spidey 3* and *FF 2* storming the megaplexes this summer, caped crusaders are well-represented; Spider-Man, Hulk, and Iron Man appear in two Marvel books, while DC's Legion of Super-Heroes stars in a comic for kids and its Justice League of America headlines one for grownups. But there's also loads of fun beyond the cape-and-cowl set: The Simpsons! Little Archie! Owly! Mickey Mouse meets Robin Hood! *Pirates vs. Ninjas!* Fantagraphics offers a look back at 100 rarely reprinted strips from the *Peanuts* gang's prime years, while Eddie Campbell (*From Hell*) grants a peek ahead at his new retro-adventure series, *The Black Diamond Detective Agency*. *Chron* cartoonist Lynda Barry is represented with a book, as is *Too Much Coffee Man*'s Shannon Wheeler, who teams with Flaming Carrot creator Bob Burden, Rick Geary, and Mark Bode to present their unique takes on ... wait for it ... Gummy! To find the participating store nearest you, visit [www.freecomicbookday.com](http://www.freecomicbookday.com). – R.F.

## 'American Fiesta': New York not quite bowled over

Austin loved Steven Tomlinson's *American Fiesta*, cheering it through two successful runs and showering it with praise, in print reviews and word of mouth.

New York ... not so much.

The latest solo show by our town's favorite performing economist made its Big Apple debut at the Vineyard Theatre on April 25, and the response was, sadly, less than ecstatic, at least from professional critics. Not that they hated it. Actually, most reviews included positive comments: "Entertaining" and "amusing" show up regularly as descriptors of the show, and Tomlinson himself is characterized as "engaging" or some variation on good-natured ("affable," "amiable," "genial"). And almost everyone has praise for Mark Brokaw's direction and Neil Patel's set, which lovingly showcases the Fiestaware dishes central to the play.

But.

Most of the reviews come with a "but" that leads to some sharp criticism. Tomlinson is consistently dismissed as more motivational speaker than actor, and several critics weren't persuaded by *Fiesta*'s blend of the personal and the political. The kindest felt the play grew "preachy" (Linda Winer, *Newsday*), while the harshest called it "trite, tenuous, and overstated" at its worst (Gina Bellafante, *New York Times*) or "rather boring and empty" overall (Martin Denton, *NyTheatre.com*).

*American Fiesta* has yet to find a champion in the New York press, but it definitely struck a chord with a few bloggers; see [speakthespeechprayeryou.blogspot.com](http://speakthespeechprayeryou.blogspot.com) and [tsnob.blogspot.com](http://tsnob.blogspot.com). The show continues through May 20 at the Vineyard Theatre, 108 E. 15th. – R.F.

Porcelain containers by Sunyong Chung



Handmade Austin Women: (from top left) Melanie Schopper, Jenifer Nakatsu Arnston, Stephanie Lindsay, Bonnie Lynch, Chia Guillory, Jaime Jo Fisher, Sunyong Chung

Blue hat by Chia Guillory



# Water This Cottage Industry

Shopping at Handmade Austin Women's spring show is a good way to keep our cool local craft scene blooming

BY RACHEL KOPER

Care for a garden stroll? Try a visit to the elegant grounds of Ginko Studios this weekend for the second annual Handmade Austin Women Spring Sale. The collective accurately describes the show this way: "Our yearly market gives direct access to works usually found as a picture in a magazine, on display in the gallery, or in choice boutiques. Handmade Austin Women believe in the profound benefits of keeping women sustained at work at home

here in Austin. We support cottage industry and the growing character of local economy." The farmers' market model applies here, but in this case, the products aren't locally grown fruits and veggies but locally created dishes, clothing, and accessories.

Chia Guillory has a line of floppy summer hats for sun protection. These comfy modern hats are reversible with a subdued side and a bright pattern. The clever craftsmanship of

these pieces is superb, at once durable, practical, and easy on the eyes. Jenifer Nakatsu Arnston works two colors of vinyl into an amazing array of purses and bags. Choose the size you like, and the styles vary from groovy orange and green combos to punkish with cute skulls to — my favorite — cherry blossoms. Stephanie Lindsey of Baby Jane uses a classical, almost Grecian style to make superclean chunky silver pieces. The quality of her metal work and design take these 1940s postcards and resin pieces past kitsch and into the realm of longtime keepsake. Jaime Jo Fisher uses silver and stones to create asymmetrical necklaces. If the collarbone is the azimuth of a landscape composition, then these little bundles of silver could be a bush, a flat stone could be a pond, and the chains an arbor reaching skyward in an elegant garden. These necklaces are boldly balanced and one of a kind.

Ginko Studios has been a favorite destination for those who discovered it during one of the East Austin Studio Tour weekends. Studio resident ceramic artists Melanie Schopper and Sunyong Chung will host and show off the site's new building. There is a tasteful mix of products here. Even though there are three ceramic artists, their goals vary widely, with Bonnie Lynch's raku vessels being very primitive and earthy, Schopper's brightly colored cup sets being pure pop, and Chung's porcelain surfaces serving up something refined. Go on over and see what these ladies have made at home. It's impressive, and you can contribute to what is hopefully a growing cottage industry. ■

The second annual Handmade Austin Women Spring Sale will take place Saturday-Sunday, May 5-6, 10am-6pm, at Ginko Studios, 800 Gullett. For more info, call 389-1920 or visit [www.handmadeaustinwomen.com](http://www.handmadeaustinwomen.com).

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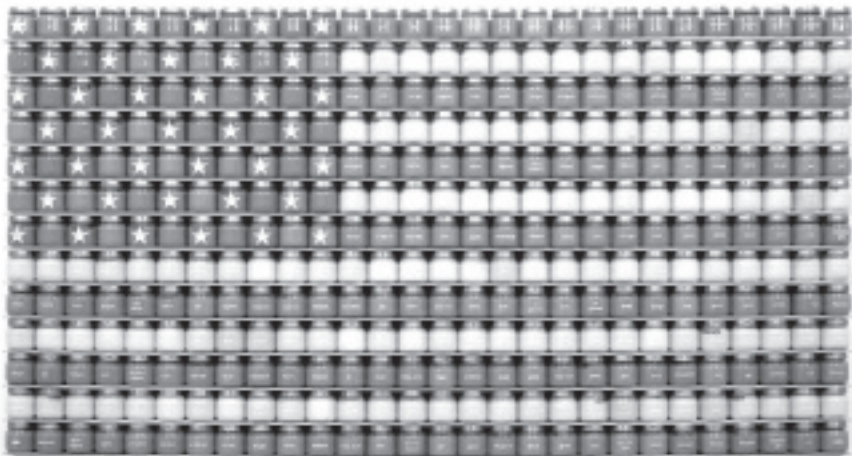
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# AFTER A FASHION BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

**DRIVE-BY THOUGHTS** An invitation for an event at the **Seaholm Power Plant** stated that high heels were prohibited in the historic building. With that in mind, I could not possibly attend. Not that I was planning on wearing them – it's just that I totally saw myself as Snow White surrounded by dwarves and just couldn't face the prospect of seeing all my girlfriends looking so diminutive. But I do get mistaken for Snow White fairly regularly – must be my natural beauty and kindness... I laughed hard at the name of the new book about stay-at-home-moms called **The Feminine Mistake**. Clever title. Personally, I'd love to be a stay-at-home-mom as long as it didn't involve children.

**Legendary actress and chanteuse Karen Kuykendall takes the stage at Zach Scott's Red, Hot and Soul fundraiser.**



ROXANNE CO MITCHELL

**BOLDFACE** Actor **Ryan Reynolds** (*Van Wilder*), currently in Austin filming *Fireflies in the Garden* with **Julia Roberts**, went to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to pick up his new girlfriend, the ubiquitous serial-dater, **Scarlett Johansson**. We won't use the phrase "dry-humping," but reports say the pair steamily made out for 10 minutes before they collected his luggage and drove off. Scarlett (she recently broke up with **Josh Hartnett**, her co-star in the abysmal *Black Dahlia*) and Ryan (he dumped fellow-Canadian girlfriend **Alanis Morissette** in February) were spotted together on Tuesday, shopping hand-in-hand on our chic SoCo Strip... **Golden Girl Rue McClanahan** graced the dais at **Red, Hot and Soul**, the fabulous fundraiser for Zach Scott (the band **Skyrocket**, starring **Trish Murphy** and **Johnny Goudie**, rocked the crowd's socks off). She was in town for an onstage conversation with Zach's Artistic Director **Dave Steakley**, and to sign copies of her book, *My First Five Husbands ... And the Ones Who Got Away...* Loved the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden Party**. As usual. So elegant and charming. Visited with the indomitable **Liz Carpenter**, among so many other friends... The dreamy **Jake Gyllenhaal** dined with friends at Chuy's on Thursday night, genially ignoring the gawking of fellow diners (and their cell-phone cameras). I don't know why he hasn't returned my calls.

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



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**NEED MORE LOVE:  
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by Aline Kominsky Crumb  
MQ Publications, 383 pp., \$30

Before the outgrowth of women's confessional literature clogged the bookstore shelves and the blogosphere, there were confessional women's comics – found in such publications as *Wimmen's Comix* and *Twisted Sisters*, *Dirty Laundry Comics*, among others. Most of all, there was Aline Kominsky Crumb, the common ingredient in the collections listed above, who has spun the autobiography of her life into *Need More Love*, the first hard-back collection devoted exclusively to her work. The book includes comic strips and individual panels (in black-and-white and color), prose recollections and testimonials, paintings, photographs, and memorabilia to tell the story of her journey from her Jewish baby-boomer childhood on Long Island to her Sixties counterculture rebellion in the East Village, unwanted pregnancy, failed first marriage, discovery of underground comics, marriage to the more famous and notorious artist Robert Crumb, the parenting of their daughter Sophie, open marriage, and relocation to France in the Nineties.

Kominsky Crumb has rarely been given her professional props and has been popularly regarded primarily in the subordinate role of muse to and creative partner of Robert Crumb.



Her cartooning style is more ragged than the great man's – the inventor of such immortals as Fritz the Cat, Mr. Natural, and Devil Girl. Therefore, many have viewed her as an opportunist, a would-be Yoko to Crumb's John, despite the fact that she has been making what she calls "ahrt" since she was 8 years old. Some, like the rigid feminists of the *Wimmen's Comix* collective, felt that she was sleeping with the enemy and not sufficiently feminist to be a member of their crew (a particularly interesting chapter of this book). Others in the present question why, upon seeing the occasional cartoons Kominsky Crumb and her husband mutually pen for *The New Yorker*, she allows Crumb to draw her so unflatteringly while curiously failing to recognize that she draws her own image and that the panels are fully collaborative.

Anyway, it's all here in *Need More Love*, Kominsky Crumb's reflections on the last five decades. When last many of us saw her it was in the closing moments of the 1994 documentary *Crumb*, as she and her family were pulling up stakes in California and heading toward the French countryside. In addition to its autobiographical edge, this book offers insights into the history of underground comics and their creators. And for rebellious Jewish American princesses now in their 50s, Kominsky Crumb is a voice of illustrative clarity and hilarity.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

**THE NEW TEXAS HISTORY MOVIES**

by Jack Jackson  
Texas State Historical Association, 50 pp., \$9.95 (paper)

The posthumous *New Texas History Movies* serves as a fitting coda to the work of cartoonist Jack Jackson. His final project is both a continuation of his acclaimed and realistic historical comics, as well as a reinterpretation of a comic strip that inspired him as a boy. As Jackson explains in the afterword, "A Bit of History About Texas History Movies," reading the original *Texas History Movies* succeeded in sparking his lifelong interest in the state's history. First published as a newspaper comic in 1926 and later compiled and distributed in a variety of formats to generations of Texas schoolkids, Jackson included, the comic played an important role in shaping the romantic self image of the state. Jackson's new version is the culmination of his desire to produce a more realistic and balanced version of Texas history.

The goal of the original comic strip was to educate the public about the historical heritage of Texas and to entertain them in the process. Each panel was envisioned as being a frame from an epic movie about the state with the captions acting as subtitles. The art conveyed the majority of the story, while the captions added context and facts. The strip was a hit with the public and helped fuel much of the myth of Texas. But it was marred by the racial stereotyping and biases that were common during the time it was produced. With the changing times, the book fell

out of favor and was finally dropped as an educational tool. Jackson's book provides a more balanced history of Texas. He adopts the format of the original comic but updates it using his realistic style and a more evenhanded telling of events. Most of the mythologizing has been dropped in favor of a straightforward, matter-of-fact telling of history. Like the original comic, Jackson's illustrations provide the gist of the story while his captions fill in the facts concerning the people and places. His often irreverent, modern dialogue adds a touch of humor to the history.

The book opens with Columbus landing in the Bahamas and closes with the final defeat of the Comanches and the building of the state Capitol. In between, Jackson covers the conflicts, broken treaties, and power struggles that shaped the state. His artwork, with its extensive crosshatching, evokes the style of old woodcuts. The style fits the time period he depicts, which enhances the documentary-like tone. It wouldn't be surprising if *New Texas History Movies* became a useful educational tool in seventh-grade Texas History classes. Maybe it will inspire some young cartoonist to dig into the history of the state.

– Ryan Rutherford



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**52** THE REAL NEW ORLEANS STYLE RESTAURANT;  
MANN'S SMOKEHOUSE BAR-B-QUE  
**56** RESTAURANT ROULETTE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Considering all the revelations about the healthy attributes of real chocolate and the recent surge in the fine-chocolate market, the following shouldn't really come as much of a surprise. Local artisan chocolate producer **Tom Pedersen of Kakawa Pure Whole Bean Chocolates** brought an alarming piece of information to my attention. It seems that an industry group called the **Chocolate Manufacturers Association of America** has petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to change the legal definition of "chocolate" to allow for the substitution of much cheaper vegetable oil for actual cocoa butter and whey protein for dry whole milk. While it's easy to understand why makers of mass market candies would like to see this change made – to increase their profits and give them access to the recently burgeoning fine-chocolate market – artisan producers such as Pedersen are anxious because it would put them at a distinct disadvantage. Terms such as "chocolate-flavored" and "chocolatey" already exist to differentiate products made with cheaper, inferior ingredients from higher-end products made from more expensive real chocolate, cocoa butter, and milk. Pedersen encourages lovers of real, quality chocolate to submit a comment to the FDA demanding that they protect the current high quality standards and the U.S. definition of chocolate. To do so, go to [www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/comments/commentdocket.cfm?SORT=DOCKET\\_NODE&MAXROWS=15&START=1&CID=&AGENCY=FDA](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/comments/commentdocket.cfm?SORT=DOCKET_NODE&MAXROWS=15&START=1&CID=&AGENCY=FDA).

**Central Market Westgate** (4477 S.

Lamar, 899-4300) has a brand-new attraction: Drop by the store May 3-5 for some of the grand-opening festivities at the new **A22 Wine Bar**, where Texas vintners will be on hand showcasing their wines, offering wine flights, wine by the glass, and bottles for purchase... Midcity restaurateur **Eddie Bernal** e-mailed to report that the first phase of his remodeling project at **34th Street Cafe** (1005 W. 34th, 371-3400) is now completed. Bernal says chef **Raif** and his staff now have a "larger, more functional work space with new equipment and appliances." Look for them to begin remodeling the interior and exterior of the popular neighborhood spot late this summer... One of the most popular food samples to arrive at the *Chronicle* offices lately has to be the assortment of gourmet popcorn from **That Popcorn Place** (1914-B Guadalupe, 472-POPS, [www.thatpopcornplace.com](http://www.thatpopcornplace.com)). This new business is the brainchild of former Metroplex-area residents **Mark** and **Debbie Couch**, who dreamed of relocating to Austin and created this endeavor to make their dream come true. Some folks around the office loved the cheddar and Cajun flavors, while others preferred some of the sweeter offerings such as cinnamon roll, and at least one was pleasantly surprised by the vinegar tang of the dill pickle popcorn!

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**VIETNAMESE: SEA DRAGON** They have a four-page menu loaded with choices, and they're especially heavy on the spicy and the seafood specialties. The portions are big, and the service is fast and efficient. **8776-B Research, 451-5051 \$**

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## Digesting the Buffalo Gap Wine and Food Summit

Every year during a late-April weekend, Tom and Lisa Perini throw one of the best parties in Texas with the Buffalo Gap Wine and Food Summit. Tom is internationally known for his chuck-wagon cooking and his tender-as-butter beef tenderloin, but he's better known in the Abilene area for Perini's Steakhouse in the tiny town of Buffalo Gap. If things keep going the way they are, the Summit is what will make the couple famous.

This year's gathering was the best so far, and a good deal of the glory goes to guest chef Stephan Pyles and his pastry chef Katherine Clapner. Instead of doing a star turn and disappearing as soon as his event finished, Pyles came for the entire festival. He started on the first night with a slam down with Tom Perini called a Collision of Flavor and Style and stayed through the last customers on Saturday night.

The highlight was Pyles' Saturday lunch. All events at the Summit are al fresco, and the weather helped by being delightful. We were seated in a beautiful white tent at eight-top tables with white tablecloths and napkins. The opening flurry of fancy food was Ceviche of Lobster With Vanilla-Roasted Fennel, Almond Gazpacho, and Frozen Champagne Grapes. Next up were Pineapple-Pecan Empanada With Foie Gras Mousse and Cardamom-Scented Spit-Roasted Suckling Pig. Pyles' last dish was Barbecued Beef Short Rib With Tamal Criollo and Dried Cherry-Chipotle Salsita. Former Austinite Clapner made a Frozen Guanabana-Passion Fruit Soufflé With Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta and Prickly Pear Ravioli. Besides being gorgeous, this dish covered all the bases with sour prickly pear, rich soufflé, and mellow panna cotta.

After all of that work, the duo came back for the least glamorous event – at least for the chefs – the Saturday night walk-around. This is the event where chefs and wineries offer their best. Polling the other media folks there, the consensus was that chef Matt Martinez Jr. carried the night with his dish that takes longer to say than to eat: Mini Jalapeño Corn Bread Cakes Laid to Rest on Top of Zesty Chile Con Queso and Topped With Smoked Brisket, Wild Boar Sausage, Sweet Peppers, Onions, Fresh Mushrooms. That's a mouthful in more ways than one.

One other event merits mention: my own Texas vs. the World Wine Tasting. As usual, when I'm leading a wine tasting, we put every wine



Texas vs. the World Wine Tasting

in a bag so that no one – including the panel or me – would know what we are tasting. Then, to keep everyone honest, we use mystery ringers from other countries in every flight. The panel included a dozen winemakers, a master sommelier, and myself. Flights were tasted and voted on before unclinking. This year, I asked the Perinis to provide a very rare and expensive ringer for the Viognier flight. I have written and said many times that Texas Viognier could stand with the best in the world. I wanted to see if that would prove to be true, and this group of professionals and consumers provided the perfect forum. So we added the gold standard, a French wine from Condrieu, one that costs four times as much as the Texas versions and is so rare that the state is allocated only 10 cases allocation annually. When all the votes had been tabulated for the four-wine flight, Texas Viogniers finished in the top three spots for both the experts and the audience. Bravo to Brennan Vineyards, Becker Vineyards, and McPherson Cellars.

Throughout the three days of the Buffalo Gap Wine and Food Summit, happy faces were all I saw. Several people commented that they thought it was a bargain at the price (\$375 for an all-event pass). One fellow from Stonewall approached me at the Saturday night event, moved in close, grabbed my arm, and said, "If I get to heaven and it's just like this, I'm gonna be a happy man." – *Wes Marshall*

### EVENT MENU: MAY 3-10

Celebrate **Cinco de Mayo** at **Central Market North** (4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000) where they will present great food, live music, and folk dancing to showcase aspects of Latino culture. Activities begin with a cooking class (\$20, reservations required, 458-3068) taught by **Málaga** chef **Alejandro Duran**, continue with a presentation by the **Puerto Rico Folkloric Dance Company** and end with music by Beto & los Fairlanes; Saturday, May 5, 4-10pm.

**Green Gate Farms** (8310 Canoga) hosts a **Slow Foods Feast** to benefit the **Austin Discovery School** ([www.austindiscoveryschool.org](http://www.austindiscoveryschool.org)). The **Slow Foods Convivium of Austin** and the **Texas Culinary Academy** are also sponsors of the event, which will feature live musical entertainment, a happy hour at the historic Bergstrom farm house, and a five-course feast prepared by TCA chefs with foods donated by several local farms, restaurants, and artisans; \$100 tickets available online; Saturday, May 5, 7-10pm.

The **Belmont** (306 W. Sixth, 457-0300), just named one of the **Top 25 Nightspots in the World** by *Condé Nast Traveler*, invites you to join them for **Unwine Wednesdays**. This month, they will feature Merlot (May 9), Shiraz (May 16), Zinfandel (May 23), and Cabernet (May 30). A one-time, \$25 membership fee entitles you to a personalized wine glass, tastings, and appetizers designed to match the featured wines; Wednesdays, 6-8pm.

The **Sustainable Food Center** (236-0074) has moved its Wednesday **Austin Farmers' Market** ([www.austinfarmersmarket.org](http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org)) to the Triangle Park between Lamar and Guadalupe at 46th. The market will be open from 4 to 8pm every Wednesday. – *V.B.W.*

### COWGIRL CUISINE: RUSTIC RECIPES & COWGIRL ADVENTURES FROM A TEXAS RANCH

by Paula Disbrowe  
Morrow, \$29.95, 290 pp.

I have to admit I approached this book with a healthy dose of skepticism - the fifth-generation Texan in me had trouble envisioning a New York-based travel writer as an authentic Texas cowgirl. Turns out I had nothing to worry about. Paula Disbrowe's account of her conversion from city slicker to Hill Country rancher was so engaging, I was totally disarmed. Paula's stories of chasing escaped livestock, checking her boots for scorpions, and taking refreshing swims in the Frio River are interspersed among the recipes, along with candid photos of ranch life. Her personal tales ring so true and are told with such charming frankness, they make *Cowgirl Cuisine* a delightful read as well as a very useful cookbook.

Many of the recipes in *Cowgirl Cuisine* were developed while

Disbrowe was a chef at the former Hart & Hind Fitness Resort in the Hill Country. Though her cuisine boasts many recognizable Hill Country elements – plenty of beef, Gulf seafood, wild game, chiles, tomatillos, and cilantro, for instance – her cooking also reflects the influence of another arid, rocky terrain on much the same latitude: the Mediterranean. She establishes flavor with fresh herbs and cuts fat by using olive oil.

I recently spent a week cooking *Cowgirl Cuisine* with very positive results. My favorite entrée has to be the Cowboy Pot Roast With Coffee and Whiskey: slow-cooked, butter-tender

chuck roast with potatoes, onions, and carrots in a rich, savory broth, paired that with the divinely crunchy Celery Root Remoulade and the easy Espresso Brownies. I'm also partial to the Herbaceous Egg Salad and the Texas Chili With Poblanos and Beer. I'm glad to welcome Disbrowe as an adopted Texan. Her story reminds me of those bumper stickers that say "I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could!" – *V.B.W.*



Paula Disbrowe will be at **Progress Coffee** (500 San Marcos St., 493-0963) on Friday, May 4, 6pm.



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# Finding God in the Gumbo

Once in the Ninth Ward and now in the Hill Country, the Smoking for Jesus Ministry serves up Real New Orleans Style fare with a side of spiritual nourishment **BY MM PACK**

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. So easy to say. But what do you do when life gives you Hurricane Katrina, decimating your entire community and way of life? The answer for one New Orleans East church group was: Stay together, trust the Lord, move to Texas, make gumbo. And create a new life in the Hill Country.

Every restaurant, like every picture, tells a story of hopes, dreams, history, hard work, and visions of success. This is the story of how the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant came to be in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

Round Mountain (population: 118) in Blanco County is not much more than a wide spot on U.S. Highway 281, an hour west of Austin between Marble Falls and Johnson City. It's the tiny hub of a rural ranching community founded in 1854, a stage stop on the mail route between Austin and Fredericksburg. Today, the town center contains the post office, a gas station, the volunteer fire department, the Cattleman's National Bank, and a sprawling livestock-auction barn. A few buffalo occasionally graze in the pasture next door. Altogether, an unlikely setting for a bustling Creole restaurant serving étouffée, steak Orleans, and catfish po'boys, where cheerful women greet diners with welcoming smiles and terms of endearment, and the chefs are seasoned veterans of French Quarter kitchens.

Occupying the former Roundup Restaurant truck stop, the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant is run by the Smoking for Jesus Ministry, led by Pastor Willie Monnet Sr. and his wife, Claudette. And yes, everyone asks about the name, which has nothing to do with barbecue. Pastor Monnet explains that the inspiration is from Revelations 3:16, which castigates lukewarm faith that is neither hot nor cold. In contrast, the SFJ Ministry is "smoking for Jesus, on fire for the Lord."

The nondenominational church, founded

made arrangements with the Church Alive Conference & Retreat Center in Lumberton (north of Beaumont) and began calling church members. Everyone was to meet in the church parking lot early Sunday morning with one small bag each. Those who didn't have cars were assigned rides with those who did.

At 8am, 20 vehicles bearing 42 families left for Lumberton. Of the 187 travelers, the youngest were 4-day-old twins. Because Orleans Parish was the last called to evacuate, it took 20 hours to make the 4½-hour drive. "We were prepared to be away for three days," remembers June Roth, the church's event coordinator. "No one thought we'd never come back," she says softly.

"When we finally arrived in East Texas, the whole Hardin County community opened their arms to us. We may have been the first New Orleans people to get there, and they overwhelmed us with donations and supplies; we shared them with others as they arrived. We were in Lumberton for three weeks. Our kids were in school, many of the group had found jobs, and we'd modified the dorms for families. But then, Hurricane Rita came, and we had to evacuate again because the retreat center wasn't a certified shelter."

It took the SFJ caravan 19 hours to reach temporary accommodations at the Lakeview Baptist Assembly in Lone Star (normally three hours away). After a few days, they migrated to a hotel in Dallas, then to Canyon of the Eagles resort near Burnet, a hotel in Austin, and the Burnet Holiday Inn Express.

During that peripatetic time, Monnet and a small reconnaissance party got back into New Orleans to check on the church and the neighborhood. They returned to the flock with videos of the devastation. "That's when we knew we couldn't go home," Roth says. "It was extremely stressful. But, throughout it all, we never missed

**"We didn't fall apart because of our faith and the generosity of Texas people."**

**— June Roth, SFJ event coordinator**

in 1996, was originally located on the Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans East, in the Ninth Ward. As part of their outreach, the church members operated a neighborhood beauty salon, lawn-care service, restaurant, car wash, nursery, and summer camp. Monnet previously had been minister to prisoners, and his pastoral focus firmly includes jobs, community, and education in addition to spiritual nourishment.

"Young people," he says, "just need the right attention and proper opportunities."

## Exodus

Like everyone on the Louisiana Gulf Coast, the SFJ members' lives changed forever in late August 2005. On the Saturday before Katrina's landfall on Wednesday, church elders strategized the congregation's evacuation. They

a service. We didn't fall apart because of our faith and the generosity of Texas people."

## A Home in the Hill Country

In October 2005, SFJ learned about Vistas Apartments in Marble Falls. It seems that 16 new buildings had been built in anticipation of a school district workforce that hadn't materialized, so most of the units were for rent. Claudette Monnet says, "We'd been on the road for so long, this apartment complex looked really good; we had no doubt that this was the right place for us. Family by family, we got qualified to move in." Two full months after leaving New Orleans, the 180-plus SFJ travelers had found a new home.

The kids were quickly enrolled in Marble Falls schools, and many adults found work,



(L-r) Claudette Monnet, Erin Legier, and Pastor Willie Monnet Sr.

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although often not in their fields and sometimes with long commutes. As can be imagined, the adjustment from life in semi-tropical, multi-cultural, urban New Orleans to

the rural and rocky Hill Country was tough. "Marble Falls and we were both in culture shock. It was hard on them and hard on us. Yes, there was some stereotyping," says one congregation member, "but there was also generosity and love." SFJ held church services and activities in Johnson Park, at the Marble Falls First Baptist and Marble Falls First United Methodist churches, and ultimately in the Marble Falls High School cafeteria.

Four months later, in February 2006, the SFJ group demonstrated their thanks to everyone who'd helped them. "We wanted to show people that we hadn't come just to take but to contribute to the community," Roth explains. "So we threw a 'Hill Country - New Orleans

empty cafe. "It was perfect for us," Claudette Monnet says. The deal was done, and Real New Orleans Style Restaurant welcomed a packed house to its grand opening on July 7, 2006.

The restaurant, like all SFJ endeavors, is a communal affair. The waitstaff consists of members of the congregation, and most have previous restaurant experience. Traveling members bring back Community Coffee, spices, and special ingredients from New Orleans. The two chefs, Sean Richard and Erin Legier, are cousins and, between them, have beaucoup years in New Orleans restaurants, including Russell's Marina Grill, Cafe Sbisá, the Smokehouse, Danny & Clyde's, and Hank's Seafood.

Richard, who specializes in grilling, frying, sauces, and specials, describes the restaurant's food as a mix of creole, home-style, and Cajun. "Everything you all eat, we eat; we just fix it different," he says. "We're unique around here; nobody does what we do." Legier takes care of the barbecue (ribs, sausage, and chicken) and the pot cooking (red beans, gumbo, étouffée). Family-recipe desserts (bread pudding, chocolate cake, sweet-potato pie, lemon-meringue tarts, 7Up cake) are prepared by Ella Ford, Juanita Fraise, and Dolores Roland, affectionately known as the Three Drama Mamas. "Because of their personalities," Claudette Monnet says sweetly.

The Real New Orleans Style menu is an eclectic homage to Louisiana food: brochettes of lightly sautéed Gulf oysters wrapped in bacon (\$6.99), shrimp creole in a blond roux (\$10.99), and, of course, smoky, peppery, deep-dark gumbo (\$4.99/\$7.99) with chicken and sausage. Hungry eaters will appreciate the various grilled or fried seafood platters (\$10.99-\$18.99) and smothered pork chops with peppers in brown gravy (\$8.99/\$11.95). There are always a few daily specials on offer, including Seafood Legier (\$12.99) that Legier first concocted for a customer who wanted both fried fish and crawfish étouffée.

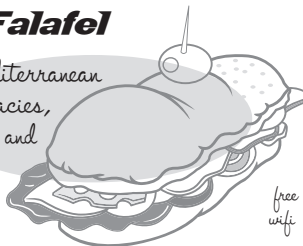
The po'boy selection (\$4.99-\$7.99) extends beyond the usual shrimp, oysters, and catfish to country-fried steak, smoked sausage, and meatballs. A weekday lunch-special menu offers a variety of home-style deals (\$6.99) such as fried- or baked-chicken plate with fries, spaghetti-and-meatballs, country-fried steak with

*continued on p.54*

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While the restaurant's food is straight-up down-home New Orleans, the decor remains solidly cowboy truck stop: Somewhat incongruously, two enormous long-horned bull heads preside over the dining room.

### A New Community

Although the restaurant is a thriving business that serves a full house most days, the SFJ Ministry isn't resting on its laurels; there are plenty more big plans in the works.

Monnet explains that they'd looked for land suitable to build a church and nearby houses in order "to create a community. But we realized it would just take too long to start from scratch. We found a ranch for sale that already had a church on it and enough acreage to build our homes. We closed on it last November." This is the former Buckner Baptist Boys' Ranch on the shores of Lake LBJ, an orphanage that was built in 1949. It's about 15 minutes from the Vista Apartments.

Monnet is quick to say that this is a long-term project; the ranch needs work, and the home-building phase will require infusions of money. But the congregation includes experienced mechanics, contractors, plumbers, carpenters, and maintenance people ready to apply their expertise. Plotting and clearing residential streets have already begun.

Starting a new life in a totally different environment has been far from easy, but these are resourceful people with a mission and a vision. And as Roth says, "We brought our community with us; it makes it easier to adjust." Making inroads into an existing community always takes time, but good food prepared with skill and served with loving pride is a great means toward mutual respect and understanding. And lest anyone forget what brought the SFJ group to the Texas Hill Country, just look at the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant menu. If you're really hungry, order the Hurricane Seafood Platter, Category 4. ■

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8624 Research, 459-5077  
Monday-Saturday, 11:30am-8pm

Located near the southeast corner of Ohlen and Research in a mansard-roofed building that looks like it once was a McDonald's (and then later, Donn's BBQ), sits Mann's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, perhaps the friendliest barbecue joint in Austin and one that exceeds even R.O.'s Outpost in their amount of available side orders. Owners Sallie and Jim Mann have put together a very complete menu, which offers something for everyone, even the vegetarians. The cafeteria-style-service restaurant is kid-friendly, with all sorts of Western-themed geegaws on the walls to catch the eye, piles of kiddie books, and a free arcade game to occupy their short attention spans. For drinks, there is a vat of Texas-style sweet tea (with plain tea also available), lemonade, milkshakes, a big assortment of sodas (including Dublin Dr Pepper shorties still made with real Imperial cane sugar, as well as IBCs), and beers for the adults.

As for the barbecued meats from this smokehouse, we find them all above average and some exceptional. The brisket is superb: moist and very tender, with a nicely seasoned smoky cap around the edge. The pork loin is less smoked and a little dry, but this is a lean cut of meat to begin with and can't hold up to the hours-long smoking that a brisket can. The pork ribs are smoky, tender, and lean; there is no crust because they are wrapped in plastic film, but we'd love to catch some right off of the fire. The chicken has a nice smoky skin and moist meat within.

Pulled pork is exemplary: moist and smoky (and unbathed in sauce). Sausage is available in a spicy jalapeño version or plain: Both have a nice smoky, snappy skin, and a medium-grind, nicely seasoned, fairly lean interior. It is more of a dense Elgin type than the more fatty Lockhart style. We have yet to sample the beef ribs (a cut not offered by that many local barbecue joints), ham, or turkey, so we must remain mum on them.

The meats are all seasoned with a rub and mesquite-smoked and not mopped or glopped with sauce; you apply the sauce yourself, at



JOHN ANDERSON

Jim (l) and Sallie Mann

the table. The sauce is dark, rich, and slightly smoky, with a nice balance between sweet and sour and a touch of piquancy. All of the meats can be had as plates/combos (\$6.89-\$13.99), by the pound (\$7.09-11.19), or as tortilla wraps or sandwiches (\$2.69-\$5.99).

Sides are for the most part very worthy of accompanying the meats. In bean world, we sampled the green beans (long-cooked, Southern-style), butter beans (excellent), and pintos (loaded with bits of the sausage filling). Turnip greens were spicy with a kiss of vinegar, but disappointingly, way oversalted. Mac-and-cheese was made with aged cheddar and a bit of spaghetti (very nice).

Corn-bread sticks were good, and the fried green tomatoes delicious. Their spud salad is a whipped version that is tart with mustard, with a nice ratio of dill relish. Fried okra tasted like it had been hand-breaded, and disappeared rapidly. We passed up the mayo-based coleslaw, french fries, black-eyed peas, tossed salad, onion rings, mashed potatoes


and gravy, fruit salad, and corn on the cob. All of the veggies can be had as individual portions (\$2.19), pints (\$3.89), or quarts (\$7.79).

As if this menu didn't cover enough bases, they also offer blue-plate daily lunch specials, Frito pie, huge baked potatoes, hamburgers, fried catfish, chicken-fried steak, and pot roast. Not to mention desserts: banana pudding (\$1.79), fruit cobblers (\$2.09), pecan pie (\$2.49), and brownies (\$1.49), all with a Blue Bell à la mode option. They also offer small group meals that can feed from four to 10 (\$20.99-52.99); our 10-person meal could have easily handled a dozen big eaters.

Often, restaurants that try to satisfy everyone end up satisfying few; they get too ambitious and overreach. Mann's manages to deliver what they promise, and it's to the diner's benefit that the menu covers so many bases. We will be going back for more, and it will take many visits before we can sample it all.

- Mick Vann

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# RESTAURANT ROULETTE

## ESTIMATED MEAL COST PER PERSON

\$ <\$10 \$\$ \$10-25  
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### DOWNTOWN

#### FINE DINING, FRENCH: AQUARELLE RESTAURANT

Fine dining in a quietly understated atmosphere. Traditional French service and preparations, often using fresh local ingredients. A special-occasion place with china, crystal, and romantically dim lighting.  
606 Rio Grande, 479-8117 \$\$\$\$

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: ARTURO'S BAKERY & CAFE** Shouldered in between El Mercado and Galeria Sin Fronteras, you'll find Mexican fare, sandwiches, burgers, smoothies ... and knock-wurst! 314 W. 17th, 469-0380 \$

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

**BARBECUE: BOWIE STREET BBQ AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET** All-natural Texas-style barbecue in a lunch-counter setting, featuring house-made beef andouille sausage, chicken, pulled pork, baby back ribs, and beef brisket. Available both by the plate and by the pound.  
525 N. Lamar, 476-1206 \$

**PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT** Serves some of the best home-style, thin-crust pizzas with a personal touch. 1209 Red River, 477-7006 \$\$\$

**FINE DINING, FRENCH: CAPITOL BRASSERIE** Like an early 20th century French neighborhood cafe, the atmosphere is friendly, and the selection of beers on tap is generous. Best of all, the schedule and menu offer something for just about everyone. 310 Colorado, 472-6770 \$\$\$

**FINE DINING: FINN & PORTER** Don't let the fact that it's in a hotel scare you off. Finn & Porter is a gorgeous place with top-notch sushi, inventive seafood, and perfectly cooked prime beef.  
500 E. Fourth, 493-4900 \$\$\$\$

**BARBECUE: LAMBERTS** Offering steaks, chops, seafood, and barbecue, this spot in the 2nd Street District caught on fast. That may have something to do with live music upstairs almost every night. 401 W. Second, 494-1500 \$\$

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

**PAN-ASIAN: NOODLE-ISM** The emphasis is on quality ingredients along with quick and friendly service. This is a place where vegans and carnivores can happily coexist.  
107 W. Fifth, 275-9988 \$\$



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### EAST

**BARBECUE: AUSTIN'S BARBECUE** What a feast. Ethereal pancakes, fluffy omelettes, homemade hashbrowns, and ancho-chile-spiked barbecue sauce compete with really wonderful hamburgers. Try the chorizo burger. Seriously.  
6002 Burleson, 382-2105 \$

**AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: EASTSIDE CAFE** The only restaurant in town with its own enormous garden. That means they serve the freshest salads and vegetables in every season.  
2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858 \$\$\$

**SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI** The royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul-food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600 \$

**AMERICAN CAFE: GO GO GOURMET** An inviting selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, entrees, and side dishes awaits you. Eat in or take out.  
3505 N. I-35, 542-9860 \$\$

**SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING** Dishing out huge portions of freshly cooked, Southern-style home cooking such as jerk pork ribs, the Bella Muffaletta, and heavenly pork chops, this place remains a popular standby.  
2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006 \$\$

**TEX-MEX: LA INDIA BONITA** Eccentric hours, cozy-looking interior, and a terrific mural out front.  
1505 E. Seventh, 220-0819 \$\$

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

**TEX-MEX: MI REY MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CAFE** "My King" boasts *guisado de puerco en chile colorado*, plump chile rellenos, and light, tasty gorditas. 1505 E. Seventh, 476-4211 \$\$\$

**VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MR. NATURAL** A juice bar, bakery, health-food store, and vegetarian Mexican restaurant in one: your one-stop shop for soybean ceviche, pineapple empanadas, and queen bee royal jelly.  
1901 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-5228 \$

**TEX-MEX: TACO SABROSO** Andean and Latin American food and live music enliven this former taco stand on Saturday nights, while classic Mexican fare is served the rest of the week.  
5100 E. Seventh, 247-3333 \$\$\$

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

**CAJUN/CREOLE: UNCLE BOUDREAUX'S** Go for simple, authentic, and soul-satisfying Louisiana specialties for reasonable prices. Everything here is made in-house from scratch except for the pork boudin and the delicious French bread. 11007 Hwy. 290 E., 272-5200 \$

### LAKE

**SOUTHWESTERN: THE OASIS** Live music and great food continue on the Terrace as repairs are made to the rest of the "sunset capital of Texas." Still the perfect ending for a day on the lake. 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442 \$\$

**FINE DINING, ITALIAN, SEAFOOD: ROCCO'S GRILL LAKEWAY** Overlooking the hills of Lakeway, its pasta and seafood selections are the way to go.  
900 RR 620 S., 263-8204 \$\$\$

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

### NORTH

**ITALIAN: CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL** Order from the pasta bar, sample one of the wood-fired pizzas, or choose a grilled specialty. The menu also includes the requisite manicotti, lasagna, and spaghetti options. 11590 Research, 345-8232 \$\$\$

**SEAFOOD: CATFISH PARLOUR** When the gang's hungry, take a crowd to eat in, or arrange to have them cater your next outdoor fish fry.  
11910 Research, 258-1853 \$\$\$

**ITALIAN: ITALIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT** From the bowl of crostons on every table to the delicate herbal house dressing, they specialize in hearty southern Italian, "Brooklyn-style" fare.  
14611 FM 1325, 146-1119 \$\$\$

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

**CHINESE: MANDARIN HOUSE** A respectable and frequently replenished lunch and dinner buffet is the main attraction here. Popular items include General Tso's chicken and above-average egg rolls. 8929 N. Lamar, 837-6361 \$\$\$

**BARBECUE: MANN'S SMOKEHOUSE BAR-B-QUE** Traditional smokehouse values take the cafe-ria-style line past a wall-height menu, a rabbit-quick assembly line, and out through a waiting cashier - all in record time.  
8624 Research, 459-5077 \$\$\$

**CHINESE, INDIAN: MASALA WOK** Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok-cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. 1100 Center Ridge, 251-9696 \$

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

**JAPANESE: MIDORI** Given its location, you'd expect lots of lunch traffic, especially considering the bargain lunch specials. A nice array of entree choices is available for dinner and take-out. 13435 Hwy. 183 N., 257-1411 \$\$\$

**VIETNAMESE: SUNFLOWER RESTAURANT** Austin's go-to restaurant for traditional Vietnamese flavor; you'll find dishes here that you can't get at the competition. The shaking beef makes us quiver! 8557 Research #146, 339-7860 \$\$\$

### NORTH CENTRAL

**BURGER JOINT, TEX-MEX: ALONZO'S JALAPEÑO JOE'S** Present yourself at the window, and order an Angus beef burger or the pile of Tex-Mex sustenance known as the Alonzo Platter, but save room for Ernest's Enchiladas.  
4905 Airport, 451-3326 \$

**FINE DINING, ITALIAN: ASTI TRATTORIA** For various Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot.  
408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218 \$\$\$

**CHAIN, DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA** Specializes in the East Coast style of soft and gooey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner.  
6001 Airport, 458-2167 \$\$\$

**BURGER JOINT: DAN'S HAMBURGERS** One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's hamburger king, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friendly service. 5602 N. Lamar, 459-3239 \$

continued on p.57

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**INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CARIBE** A little-known jewel serving a mix of Interior Mexican and more-conventional Mexican fare. Tastes are authentic, the prices are very reasonable, and portions are huge. **5610 N. Lamar, 452-6207 \$\$\$**

**SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD** It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Hit the oyster bar for lunch or an early dinner. **5621 Airport, 454-5827 \$**

**TEX-MEX: TAMALE HOUSE** An Airport Boulevard institution, they offer authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete, and forget about tamales; they actually do not serve them. **5003 Airport, 453-9842 \$**

**THAI: THAI VILLAGE** Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. **6406 N. I-35, 452-3888 \$\$\$**

**SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1** Fried-catfish dinners at Threadgill's have been a popular menu item as long as the restaurants have been open in Austin. **6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440 \$\$\$**

**SOUTH**

**AMERICAN CAFE, BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: BAKEHOUSE** Features a menu studded with specialties, from stir-fry to filet mignon to chicken Florentine. Classic diner food, designed for those who crave the honest, homemade flavors of Mama's cooking. **5404 Manchaca, 443-5167 \$\$\$**

**TEX-MEX: CASA GARCIA'S** Offers a wide selection of traditional Tex-Mex favorites as well as an enticing array of Interior Mexican dishes. The cabrito is worth a return visit. **1901 W. William Cannon, 441-9504 \$\$\$**

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CHANTILLY BAKERY CAFE** Try Sandra Ojong's pastries for breakfast (or anytime), and come back for the wonderful sandwich selection at lunchtime. **4032 S. Lamar #200, 916-0404 \$**

**TEX-MEX: EL MERCADO** A very happy hour and home of 99-cent appetizers, nestled in a neon rainforest. **1302 S. First, 447-7445 \$\$\$**

**BURGER JOINT: FRAN'S HAMBURGERS** Real-deal burgers hot off the well-seasoned grill, exceptional fries, all served up in white waxed paper, plus real milk shakes and malts. **1822 S. Congress, 444-5738 \$**

**CHINESE: HUNAN** A neighborhood favorite, serving reliable and spicy Chinese food for decades. Lunch is an incredible deal, and at night the portions get even bigger. **1940 W. William Cannon, 443-8848 \$**

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR** "Irie" is Jamaican for the ultimate positive so you'll find free Wi-Fi, coffee and occasional live music. Try the roasted-vegetable sandwich or the muffaletta. **2310 S. Lamar, 326-4636 \$**

**TAKEOUT, TEX-MEX: NUEVA ONDA** The miga tacos will make you wanna slap your mama, while the eggs and spicy onions cure whatever happened last night. **2218 College, 447-5063 \$**

**BURGER JOINT: SANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & ROOT BEER** The cool relief of a chocolate-vanilla swirl cone, the neon sign, not to mention the sinful smell of decades of subtly greasy burgers transport us back in time. **603 Barton Springs Rd., 478-6322 \$**

**CHINESE: WANFU TOO** The Fifties diner setting is as comforting as the usual Chinese menu choices like eggdrop soup, eggrolls, and lots of choices for main dishes. **1806 Barton Springs Rd., 478-3535 \$\$\$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: ZAX PINTS & PLATES** Find American bistro cuisine here: fluffy crab cakes, classic Caesar salad, and meaty burgers with blue cheese. Also known for a large selection of great beers on tap. **312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100 \$\$\$**

**UT**

**BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX** Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. **2912 Guadalupe, 477-8433 \$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: CAIN & ABELS** This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but also serves salads, soups, wraps, and breakfast tacos all day. **2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201 \$**

**TEX-MEX: EL PATIO** These friendly folks have been serving up moderately priced Tex-Mex food with salsa and salsitas since 1954. **2938 Guadalupe, 476-5955 \$\$\$**

**MIDDLE EASTERN: GYRO KING** They carve your spiced meat from one of those rotating triangles. A take on the sandwich beyond the ordinary. **2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 479-6222 \$**

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

**THAI: MADAM MAM'S** Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai home-style dishes served in this popular campus-area spot are Mam's family recipes. **2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306 \$\$\$**

**PIZZA: MILTO'S** Longtime UT-area institution serving both Italian and Greek specialties. Wonderful. **2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021 \$\$\$**

**BURGER JOINT, DELIVERY: PLUCKERS WING FACTORY & GRILL** Who ya gonna call when you're craving good wings in the wee hours? These folks are frying and flying until 2am on weekdays and 3am on weekends. **2222 Rio Grande, 469-9464 \$**

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD** The bright, comfortable dining room is populated with students enjoying Hyde Park Fudge Cake, Hobbit Bread, hearty sandwiches, soups, and salads. Great for breakfast. **2900 Rio Grande, 499-0544 \$**

**CHINESE: YEN CHING NOODLE HOUSE** Get your noodle fix with homemade noodles and fantastic *ma po dofu*. **2910 Guadalupe, 472-4754 \$**

**WEST**

**SEAFOOD: CAFE JOSIE** Look for inventive food and the rich spices of the equator applied to high-quality meat, fish, and poultry. Nice surroundings and a small but perfect wine list complete the experience. **1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226 \$\$\$**

**AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: CASTLE HILL CAFE** After two decades in business, this eatery has a fresh, new look, with a recently redecorated interior and updated menu items. **1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728 \$\$\$**

**DESSERTS, FINE DINING: CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Voluptuous, decadent brunch items are served with signature croissants and strawberry butter. Dinner options span a wide range, from pastas to chicken dishes to a variety of salads. **5406 Balcones, 454-2666 \$\$\$**

**CHINESE: CHINATOWN** Chef's Specials shine - try the Crunchy Rabbit in Orange Sauce, Crispy Whole Fish in Red Chili Sauce, or the Peppercorn Chicken for proof. **3407 Greystone, 343-9307 \$\$\$**

**TEX-MEX: LA COCINA DE-CONSUELO** This tiny yet first-class Mexican-food restaurant provides both sit-down and take-out meals, as well as exceptional, professional Mexican catering for your big event. **4516 Burnet Rd., 524-4740 \$**

**BARBECUE: RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BAR-B-Q** Good-quality smoked meats are available by the pound, along with all the light bread, pickles, onions, and peppers you need. **2451 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 329-5554 \$**

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

**BURGER JOINT: TOP NOTCH RESTAURANT** They smear Thousand Island dressing on both sides of a plain, nontoasted roll. The large, hand-formed, charbroiled patty is enhanced by good-quality lettuce and tomatoes. **7525 Burnet Rd., 452-2181 \$**

**TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S NORTH** Find some of the best burgers and Tex-Mex in town, but it is their splendid margaritas and Mexican martinis that keep us going during the occasional long wait. **8820 Burnet Rd. #600, 454-1474 \$\$\$**

**ITALIAN: TUTTO GUSTO** This family-friendly eatery offers a full bar for you and a popular play-scape for the kids. Enjoy the pizza, pastas, and affordable entrees indoors or out. **4300 Quinlan Park Rd. #100, 266-2221 \$\$\$**

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE UPPER CRUST BAKERY** Cinnamon-roll aficionados should try their version, a refined-taste treat that refuses to overwhelm the cinnamon with stickiness. Stop by at lunchtime for soups, salads, and sandwiches. **4508 Burnet Rd., 467-0102 \$**

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# Screens

61 UT'S 10 UNDER 10  
62 TV EYE

## A Nerd in King Vidiot's Court (or in Uncle Rico's Van)

### Jon Gries at the Alamo

Ah, the many faces of Uncle Rico. The antisocial, unkempt brainiac alongside Val Kilmer in *Real Genius*. The stressed and serious Joseph Wald running up against Jack Bauer in *24*. Stranded and hopeless on the island of *Lost*, another prime-time hit. Actor Jon Gries' supporting roles have come in high-grossing and gross-out films and TV shows alike, but arguably none is as impressive as his obscure, over-the-top arcade bully known only as King Vidiot in *Joysticks*. As someone who has also worked with Stephen Frears and the Polish Brothers, Gries might well be one to disagree, but we're going to go with it for now.

"I've been lucky," Gries says. "There's something to be said for diligence and tenacity; opportunity is luck."

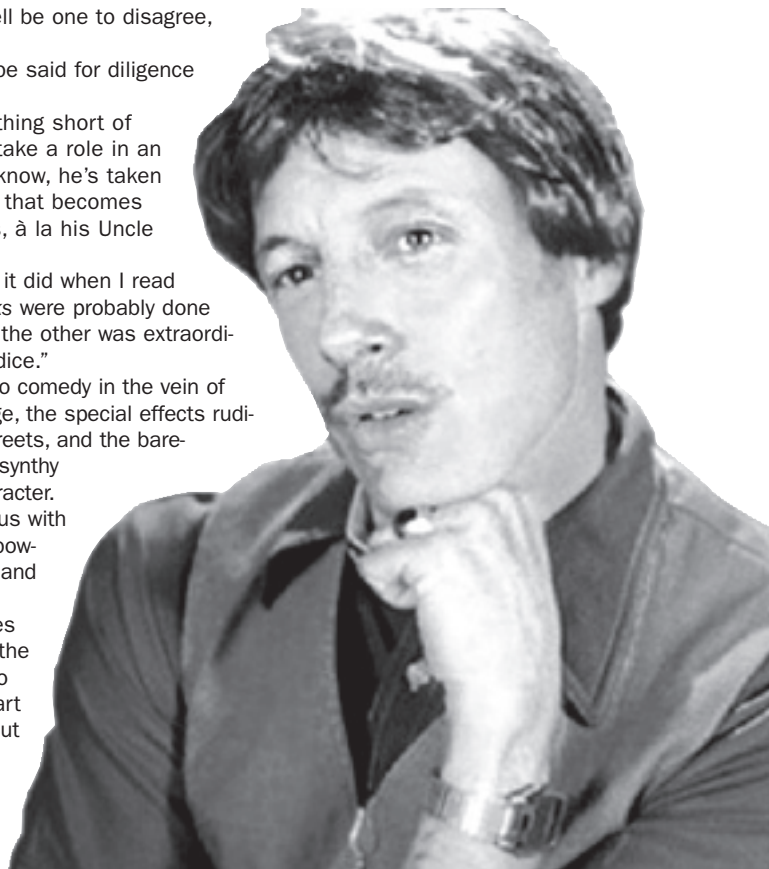
Gries' 30 years in the movie industry have been nothing short of lively. He'll star in a box-office blockbuster here, then take a role in an indie film that barely makes it to DVD; next thing you know, he's taken on a low-budget project with an inexperienced director that becomes an award-winning, multimillion-dollar-grossing business, à la his Uncle Rico turn in *Napoleon Dynamite*.

"I had no idea that movie was going to do as well as it did when I read the script," Gries recalls. "The truth is, that and *Joysticks* were probably done for the same amount of money. One was mediocre and the other was extraordinary. You get into a situation like that, and you roll the dice."

1983's *Joysticks* is a typical Reagan-era, ma-cheese-mo comedy in the vein of *Porky's* and *Weird Science*. The budget was pocket change, the special effects rudimentary, the jokes juvenile, the actors straight off the streets, and the bare-breasted women plentiful. In the dense fog of flesh and synth soundtrack, the main thing that stands out is Gries' character. Take a Seventies-era David Bowie and splice in Sid Vicious with the attitude of an evil Kramer. Now cake on enough rainbow-colored make-up to leave no trace of human skin visible and you'll have the King.

"For that role, I paid homage to the 1950s and Sixties *Beach Blanket Bingo* villains," Gries says. "I remember the day that I auditioned for that film very well. I walked into this office filled with a bunch of people. I wanted the part so bad. They handed me the script and I just went all out and handed them the King Vidiot character I had created. Then they asked me where I got the inspiration. I knew I had to say something completely off the wall to

*continued on p.61*



### 'NAPOLEON DYNAMITE' AND 'JOYSTICKS' WITH JON GRIES IN ATTENDANCE

Saturday, May 5, 7pm, Alamo Drafthouse Downtown  
[www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com)



### CREW STORIES: DAN EGGLESTON

Dan Eggleston likes to count. Consider the 6,363 books he's read so far in this life (275 last year was a record high). Or the 1,319 autographs he's snagged out of celebrities. Don't forget he walked 3,409 miles in 2006. And he's lived in Austin for 31 years, long enough to remember that fabled weirdness and revel in it. But the most important number is 5,497. That's the current membership of AustinFilmCasting, a Yahoo! group he started back in 2000. It's the number that tells you Eggleston counts on the Austin film scene.

If you know Austin film, you've probably already bumped into the wiry guy with the electric shock of hair and silvery cotton-candy beard. He's everywhere and has quietly made his cipher multiply. Consider him a low-key Harry Knowles. Both grabbed onto the Internet and took it on a filmic ride. Knowles, a community-college dropout, rode the *Ain't It Cool News* wave to become a national voice to be reckoned with. Eggleston parlayed his site into roles in more than 100 mostly ultralow-budget films. Not bad for a guy who not too many years ago was Knowles' middle-school science and computers teacher. He also taught *Dazed and Confused* actor Wiley Wiggins, whom Eggleston remembers as an outcast whose fingers were broken by the jocks.

How did this mild-mannered teacher and card-carrying Mensa member make the leap to cool scenester? It started on a movie set, naturally, and gives hope to all who dream. Or is that the tagline of *Hope Floats*, whose Smithville, Texas, set Eggleston visited a decade ago in search of autographs? Instead, he was asked to return as a movie extra and caught the bug. Soon he'd found himself with an actual role in the indie film *Pageant* and a recurring extra gig on Sandra Bullock starrer *Miss Congeniality*. *Pageant* couldn't find extras, and *Miss Congeniality* had some 200 of them waiting in stultifying boredom in the "excitement" that is the 12-hour movie-making day. Eggleston passed around a list seeking e-mail addresses. Voilà! An online independent-film resource was born.

"It exceeded my expectations," says Eggleston, who now claims another 7,500 or so members on similar lists since started for Dallas, Houston, South Texas, and Lubbock. "It helped create a network for people wanting to make their independent films and created a larger film community that wouldn't exist otherwise."

And it made Eggleston into the most unlikely of VIPs. His indie roles have included long-haired party-goer, bum, corpse, and, of course, teacher. The key has been persistence, something the former teacher has down to a science. Just ask John Pierson, the famed producer's representative who has had to shoo Eggleston from his doorstep on more than one occasion. Eggleston's latest passion has been the odd indie comedy *Z: A Zombie Musical*, for which he was promoted by filmmaker John McLean to producer. That has set the persistent Eggleston out on a tear, convincing everyone from a band of former Austin mayors to musicians including Dale Watson and Joe Ely to do cameos. Now the pair is mulling a larger profile indie film called *Ex Libris* with Eggleston dreaming this time of a budget in the \$3-5 million range. Can the man who counts manage that number? Anything is possible.

— Joe O'Connell

## DVD WATCH

### ARMY OF SHADOWS

Criterion, \$39.95

Arriving as it did between two of Jean-Pierre Melville's greatest triumphs, *Le Samourai* and *Le Cercle Rouge*, *Army of Shadows* should have been a huge success, both in its native France and on the international arthouse circuit. Unfortunately, the release of the movie, which follows a group of resistance fighters during the Nazi occupation of France, couldn't have been more poorly timed. To many in the French film community (including the tastemakers at *Cahiers du Cinéma*, to whom, ironically, Melville had been an inspiration) the film played as a glorification of their president and former Free French leader Charles de Gaulle — who, at the time, was widely out of favor on the left for his perceived betrayal of the student uprisings of May 1968 — and they trashed it accordingly.

As a consequence, the movie wasn't released in the United States until last year, when it received a deserved hero's welcome from critics. Based on the book of the same title by former resistance fighter Joseph Kessel and on Melville's own experiences fighting with the Free French, *Army of Shadows* is as tense as you'd hope a movie about small, ragtag bands fighting the great Nazi



death machine with little more than bows and arrows would be. Its scenes of torture and mass executions, shot with unblinking dispassion by cinematographer Pierre Lhomme, are terrifying for their banality; it's clear from their stone faces that the film's protagonists have seen worse and expect their own lives to end under similar circumstances, and soon.

At the same time, Melville, who was deep in his celebrated gangster-movie period, isn't above romanticizing a life spent in the underground, where daring escapes, cyanide capsules, and mysterious figures with names like the Mask were the order of the day. The two-disc set features a wealth of extras, including interviews with Melville and Lhomme and former resistance fighters and a short documentary from 1944 called "Le Journal de la Resistance," which chronicles the last dark days of the German occupation.

— Josh Rosenblatt

### ALSO OUT:

**Brute Force (Criterion, \$39.95):** Burt Lancaster plays a hardened prisoner living under the ironfisted rule of guard Hume Cronyn in Jules Dassin's melodrama.

### UPCOMING:

**Acne in the Hole (Criterion, July 17):** Cynical and rarely screened, this Billy Wilder classic has eluded me all my filmgoing life. My long, personal nightmare ends this summer.

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# What's



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# Spiro's Experiment

The Austin Film Society Documentary Tour: 10 Under 10 and Its First Five Years

BY ANNE S. LEWIS

10 Under 10, the brainchild of UT Radio-Television-Film professor Ellen Spiro, is celebrating its fifth anniversary on May 9 with five new films and five previously shown films, one from each of the program's first five years. The films made by RTF students are, according to Spiro, "a celebration of raw creativity, real reality – as opposed to the scripted television kind – and founded on the notion that great ideas can happen on no budget and in little time." Spiro says she's watched too many students get caught in the "film school debt romance" and decided to produce an event to honor films made with "little money but lots of substance and inventiveness." The concept is simple: The film must be less than 10 minutes in length with a budget not to exceed \$10. "But," Spiro adds, "we will not audit."

Spiro describes herself as an alum of the "cheap and dirty" school of filmmaking. "I learned early on how to make cheap documentaries on 8-millimeter video, and it was liberating. I never would have learned the art of storytelling if I'd had to pay out the wazoo for it." Spiro's very first documentary, *DiAna's Hair Ego*, was made for "approximately next to nothing" and was the first documentary shot on a so-called consumer-video format to be broadcast nationally on television.

Each year, outside judges choose the films submitted by RTF students. This year's judges were Kate Horsfield, former executive director of the Video Data Bank, and producer Karen Bernstein. According to Horsfield, "All of the submissions were impressive, but we chose ones that pushed the boundaries of nonfiction filmmaking and took creative risks."

This year's selections are an innovative and interesting mix with a shared sense of passion

## 10 UNDER 10

May 9, 7pm,  
Alamo Drafthouse Downtown  
Admission: [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org)

### New Shorts ...

"International High School" by Marcel Rodriguez  
"When the Light's Red" by Keith Wilson  
"Nathan Pelkey" by Drew Daniels  
"To Live Is a Masterpiece" by Gaby Yepes  
"Conversation" by Marianela Vega Oroza

### ... and Selections From the Past Five Years

"Unwrapped" by Mike Gomez and Ashley Cook  
"Levi Oliver: Competitive Eater" by Joshua Jaedike and Claire Canavan  
"Social Pariah" by Stevenson Jacobs III  
"Spiral" by Jeanne Stern  
"Luke" by Naiti Gamez

in the process of creating and storytelling. One of the more poetic and personal films in this year's program is Marianela Vega Oroza's "Conversation." Oroza says of her film, "I wanted to explore my own experience of dealing with my mother's divorce and what it means to me in the process of defining my identity. As a 27-year-old woman, I constantly find myself thinking about marriage and motherhood and the way they would fit into my own life and about the roles that my society expects from women and how different my situation and my choices are from the women of previous generations in my family. I'd like to think that many people who are dealing with the same issues can connect with the film and relate to their own experiences."

JON GRIES :: FROM P.59

stand out from every one else, so I said, 'King Vidiot was born from the finger oils left on quarters that are pumped into the video games.' They told me afterward that as soon as I said that, I had the part."

Both *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Joysticks* focus on nerd culture, yet the former became an instant cult classic, while the latter gave a quick pop before it fizzled and died. Gries believes it's not about the nerd in question, but how the nerd is depicted.

"It's about the portrayal. *Joysticks* was a formulaic film, with a formulaic plot, and, as a result, the acting was formulaic. That's how they made movies back then, there wasn't even a platform release for that film. On the other hand, *Napoleon Dynamite* took a standard formulaic movie and stood it up on its ear by making it personal. A lot of those segments in that movie really happened to [director] Jared Hess. There are personal trademarks to *Napoleon Dynamite* that make it accessible and timeless. You empathize with the film; you just laugh at *Joysticks*. I remember times when the director Greydon Clark literally said, 'If all else fails, just pan down to the cleavage.'"

Regardless of each film's transposition, Gries' King Vidiot is the star stud of the arcade. His obsession for *Ms. Pac-Man*, his gang of video-game groupies, his attraction to cross-dressers, and his spastic mannerisms make for a likable and memorable villain. Though *Joysticks* has yet to achieve the status of *Napoleon*, some cult flicks age like wine. King Vidiot could make an underground comeback.

"There's a film I was in called *Monster Squad* that's now popping up all over the country. I've heard that they have *Monster Squad* festivals in different cities, but I've never been to one. Who knows, 20 years from now, the people might be looking at *Joysticks* like the way they looked at Van Gogh's paintings after he died. But I'd be really surprised if they did."

We do know that people will at the very least be looking at *Joysticks* on Saturday night, and that Gries will be joining them. "I'm just gonna enjoy the films and be a film buff like everyone else there. I'm not going to do a Tiffany-mall-tour-type thing and act above the crowd."

Meanwhile, typical of his working schedule, Gries has several projects in the pipeline.

"I just finished four movies that are coming out soon. Some are crappy, and some are good ones that I'm really excited about."

– Carson Barker



Big Ideas, Short Format: (clockwise from top left) "Nathan Pelkey," "Conversation," "Spiral," and "When the Light's Red"

The ubiquitous topic of panhandlers on the interstate access roads is dealt with through subjective humor and self-reflection in Keith Wilson's "When the Light's Red." Wilson made the short documentary because he was "amazed at the number of people flying signs at red lights. I realized I was horrified every time I pulled up to an intersection and would have to make so many decisions in such a small amount of time. 'Who was this person? Can I believe what they're saying? Will I contribute to a problem if I give money? Am I being cheap if I don't?' I went back and forth between compassion and contempt, always feeling guilty about the interaction or lack thereof. I knew

there wasn't a 'right' thing to do, but I wanted to make an informed decision about what was best for the flyers. My motivation was also a selfish one: I was tired of going through a guilt-laden inner-dialogue at every red light."

Of the "flashback" films picked from the first five programs, the highlight is probably "Social Pariah," a documentary about the closing down of the Cinema West porn theatre on South Congress. The film is a reminder of how much Austin has changed in recent years. Where the Cinema West once stood, there was an Internet start-up, now defunct, followed by several other businesses.

For more information, visit [www.10under10.com](http://www.10under10.com).

## ALSO AT THE DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN ...

### Last Night at the Alamo Grindhouse: May 10, 11, 13

It's the end of an era, a decade of film-geek heaven swung low in the sweetest 16mm silver nitrate Challenger-chariot to ever burn bright, hi-octane flickers outside of the hellbilly drive-ins of yore. It's true: The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema's original downtown location is shutting its doors this month, bringing an end to a historic, cinematically unprecedented run as the single most important theatre in the country. (But don't slit your wrists just yet, grinderboy; founder/owners Tim and Karrie League are relocating their whole moving picture show palace into the soon-to-be refurbished Ritz Theater on Sixth. The best, as they say, is yet to spurt.)

But how to say a proper goodbye to those hallowed Original Alamo halls? Enter No. 1 fan Quentin Tarantino, who'll be screening a series of last-chance triple bills Thursday, May 10, as well as on May 11 and May 13. Tickets for the Last Night at the Alamo Grindhouse series – including "Sex Comedies," "Regional" (including League's pick of the litter, "Redneck Miller"), and "Swinging" triple features go on sale today for Heroes of the Alamo and Fantastic Fest badge holders and Monday, May 7, for the general public. Proceeds benefit the Austin Film Society. Check out their blog for all the glorious particulars (plus ways to weasel your way in): <http://originalalamo.blogspot.com/2007/04/quentin-returns-to-alamo-downtown-one.html>.

### Farley Granger Live for 'Strangers on a Train,' Monday, May 7, 7pm

In an event sponsored by BookPeople, the star of the Alfred Hitchcock film will also be signing copies of his memoir, *Include Me Out*, with co-writer Robert Calhoun.

– Marc Savlov

## TV EYE

# Healing Power

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Those ignorant of history are in danger of repeating it. I've been struck by this adage at an accelerated pace recently. Last week, *This American Life* (on NPR) reran a program on Guantanamo Bay detainees, painstakingly laying out the horrific disregard for habeas corpus that is happening there. Listeners were reminded that it is a fundamental human right to know why you are incarcerated and to hear the evidence against you (and to know that there is evidence) and for the accused to be given a fair chance – within a fair amount of time – to defend themselves.

Later, I watched a portion of a documentary on the Inquisition. I was struck by how those events are reflected in the present. When it comes down to it, it's all about power. Who has it, who wants it, and the lengths humans will go to get it and protect it. The things people will do in the name of God or some other higher calling is truly shattering.

So, it was with some trepidation that I watched the film *The Cats of Mirikitani*. At 80 years old, Jimmy Mirikitani is a survivor. He's survived as a homeless artist living on the streets of New York. He survived the horror of Hiroshima. He survived the internment camps of World War II. He's survived most of his family's passing, believing he is the last Mirikitani standing. In spite of the playful title, I was sure I was in for another heavy (yet necessary) reminder of how we all need to be mindful of how past mistakes and injustices can reappear if we're not paying attention. The documentary, which airs on PBS as part of the continuing *Independent Lens* series, does that and more. Much more.

When filmmakers **Linda Hattendorf** and **Masahiro Yoshikawa** set out to make *The Cats of Mirikitani*, they thought

it would be a small film about an inscrutable street artist. As the film progressed, it was clear that Mirikitani had much more to offer than a few charming drawings, and in fact, there was a recurring theme in many of his works: the experience of isolation and despair that he experienced as a child in the Japanese internment camps. At the same time, his recurring images of cats, domestic and wild, playful and ferocious, offer a glimpse at the many faces Mirikitani has worn in order to reach his 80th year. The film was going well until September 11. There was no place for Mirikitani to protect himself from the toxic cloud that hung over the city. So, Hattendorf took him in, in a simple and profound act of human kindness.

Mirikitani's life story unfolds at a greater pace when he moves in with Hattendorf. An elderly and occasionally cantankerous Japanese man rooming with a single white female in a small New York apartment offers some amusing and revealing moments. While most are born into a family, family can be made by even the most disparate of individuals. While doing the right thing may be obvious, it's not always easy, particularly when that kindness means relinquishing some of your space and freedom. And finally, in a short and endearing moment that I suspect the filmmakers were not intending to capture,



the film shows how much people need people, how quick we can come to love them for who they are in spite of the obvious differences. Through Hattendorf's persistence, *Mirikitani* is able to reclaim what he thought was lost, and that makes the film especially cathartic. In a time when so much is so wrong in the world, it's heady to see that some wrongs can be corrected, particularly if you're stubborn enough to survive the pain.

*The Cats of Mirikitani* airs the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday, May 9, on KLRU. Additional airdates include Tuesday, May 15, at 9pm.

Upcoming films in the *Independent Lens* series include: *Sentenced Home* (May 15, 10pm): Three Cambodian teens are deported to a homeland they have no knowledge of after making a poor choice.

*Knocking* (May 22, 9pm): A history of the Jehovah's Witnesses. *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* (May 29, 8pm): A dharma bum finds the meaning of life among a flock of wild parrots.

Check local listings for additional airdates and times. Local note: *Downtown*, the locally produced series that celebrates Austin, had its season premiere last week. Though it's not mentioned in press materials, a little bird tells me that the upcoming episode features a glimpse at the Hot Sauce Festival hosted by *The Austin Chronicle*. *Downtown* airs Thursday at 8pm.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at [tveye@austinchronicle.com](mailto:tveye@austinchronicle.com).



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# music

66 OLIVER RAJAMANI

70 TEXAS PLATTERS

TCB  music news BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

## ULTRAMEGA OK

While his former **Audioslave** bandmates reunited with **Zack de la Rocha** at **Coachella** – see *Chronicle* Music blog Into the Void for **Austin Powell**'s report – **Chris Cornell** proved he's still one badmotorfinger at **Stubb's** Sunday night. Opening with a 30-minute volley of **Soundgarden**'s "Spoonman," "Outshined," and "Rusty Cage," Audioslave's "Be Yourself," "Original Fire," and **Temple of the Dog**'s "Hunger Strike," Cornell stoked the sold-out crowd into a hand-waving frenzy and joked about weed several times. "That was just the sound check," he laughed, before howling for another hour. He excused his four-piece band for an extended acoustic interlude where he covered **Bob Marley**'s "Redemption Song" (and made more weed jokes), revisited 1997 solo hit "Can't Change Me," and let the crowd take over vocals for "Like a Stone," before sending all the stoners home happy with sprawling *Badmotorfinger* encore "Searching With My Good Eye Closed."

FELICIA GRAHAM



"We definitely have tenants in the shopping center, who when they signed their leases, were concerned maybe the Backyard concert parking situation might infringe on their customers' ability to shop at the shopping center," says **Kristi Balcezac**, who manages the Shops at the Galleria for Lincoln Properties. "So now we have some leases where we're legally obligated to protect those areas."

Some of those leases, Balcezac adds, specify the exact parking spaces to be reserved for the tenants. Others don't, however, making working out a compromise for Backyard customers to use at least some of the shopping center's parking area extremely difficult. Furthermore, although many people assume the Galleria stores are closed by the time Backyard concerts begin, Bee Cave police chief **Allwin Barrow** notes several stay open until 9 or 10pm. Direct Events' recent schedule has doors generally opening between 6 and 7pm, with showtime usually an hour later.

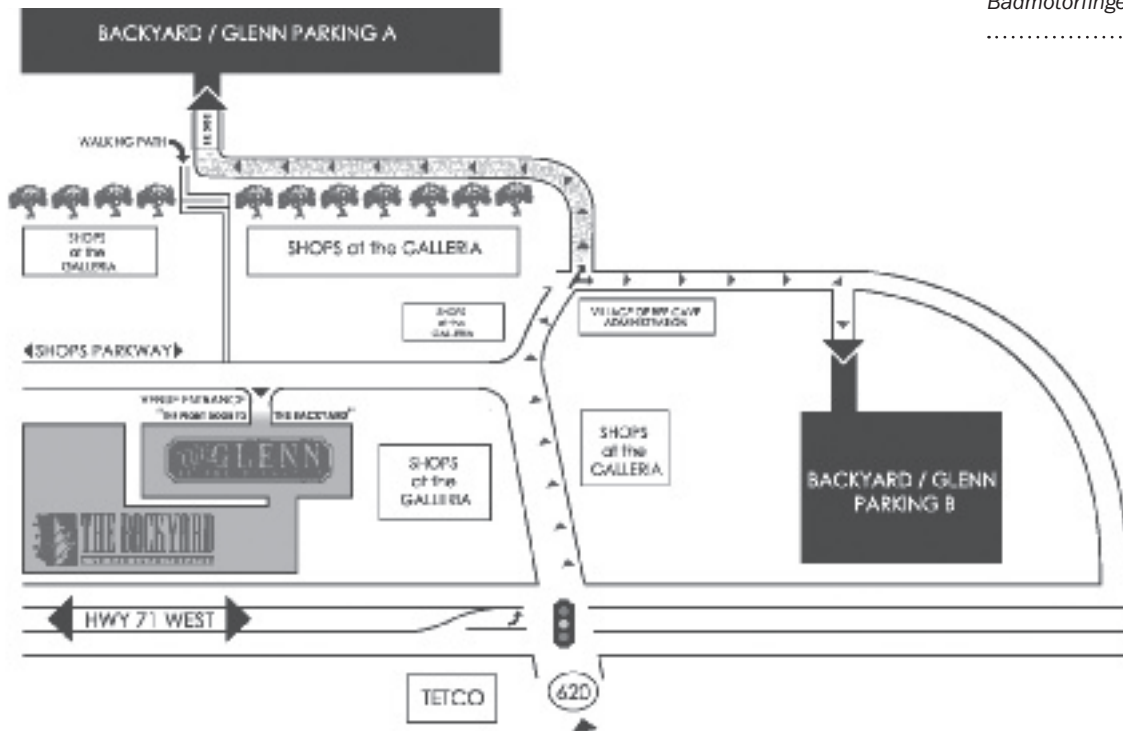
"No one likes the situation," Balcezac says. "We're trying to figure something out. We have had so many meetings trying to figure out a way to work something out, and I sure do hope that we can."

For now, though, all anyone heading to the Backyard or Glenn for Cinco de Mayo with **Del Castillo** and **David Garza** Friday, **REO Speedwagon** Sunday, **Modest Mouse** Wednesday, **Morrissey** May 26, or **Norah Jones** June 15 can do is arrive with plenty of time to spare, exercise the rapidly disappearing concept of patience, and take cold comfort in the fact that development around the Backyard's immediate area is complete.

"Everything that's been done around us that can be done has been done," Kohlus says. "At this point, our parking is where it is, and I don't see any foreseeable change unless the Shops is able to change something in their leases or [we can] come up with some cooperative idea."

That may not be enough to retain the business of customers like Cape.

"I don't want to go back at all, and neither do my friends," she says. "I used to go to the Backyard all the time, before all those strip malls and everything were out there. It was awesome. It was a really cool venue, but now it's not worth it at all."



## Not in My Backyard?

**Jessica Cape**, 23, studies print journalism at **Texas State University**, pays the bills answering the *Chronicle* phones afternoons, and sometimes drives back to Lubbock to see her parents on weekends. Like thousands of other young Americans, she likes the **Shins**, so she attended their April 22 concert at the **Backyard**, part of the MTVU Campus Invasion tour. Walking back to her car after the show ("They only played 45 minutes, which was crap"), she tripped along the pathway that constitutes part of the 400-yard walk to the venue's parking area, fell into a ditch, and fractured her elbow. If she's lucky, the cast comes off next week.

"They didn't have any flags or anything [along the trail], and the grass had grown up," she says. "Plus it was dark out there. It's not lit at all. [The last time TCB visited the Backyard, for the **Pet Shop Boys** in October, there were dim Japanese lanterns in the surrounding trees.] I fell and landed on my elbow. My best friend stepped over to pick me up, and she landed in the same hole."

Though Cape doesn't hold the Backyard responsible for what happened to her – she admits she and her friends had a few beers at the show – her experience is another in a growing list of unpleasant incidents related to the venue's parking accommodations, which have changed significantly since the adjacent **Shops at the Galleria** retail complex opened last year. **Barry Kohlus**, vice president of operations for Backyard owner **Direct Events**, says that after certain shows, he spends a "fair amount" of his day returning phone calls and e-mails related to parking complaints.

After **ZZ Top**'s April 14-15 Backyard shows, the *Chronicle* received several letters about the situation, mostly complain-

ing about the nearly hourlong wait to reach the parking area. Senior writer **Margaret Moser** was unable to review the show because she was stuck in traffic, and her bad knee made the trek from the back lot to the venue unrealistic. At least the traffic, Kohlus sighs, was an anomaly. Usually, swears Kohlus, it's not that bad.

"It was cold, and it was the weekend, and everybody showed up at once for a general-admission show, which in my 14-plus years here never happens," he says. "I think part of it was the more mature crowd, who were like, 'Why am I going to go out there and stand around four or five hours? I don't want to.'"

"Of course, if it were up to me, I wouldn't either."

For the **Bee Cave** venue's first 10 years, its main parking area was located east of the Backyard along Texas 71, but when construction of the Shops began, it moved to a meadow north of the Backyard and behind the shopping center (see map), connected to the Backyard and its smaller cousin, the **Glenn**, by the trails where Cape stumbled. (Additional parking is available west of the Backyard, near Bee Cave City Hall.) Adding to the confusion, Backyard customers were allowed to park at the Galleria before the shopping center opened, but once it did, property owner **Lincoln Properties** began towing.

JOHN ANDERSON



# The Pearl King

Oliver Rajamani's evolved soul, musical and otherwise

BY DAVID LYNCH

"My dad would rather me sing in a Johnny Cash band," declares Oliver Rajamani.

This doesn't sound odd coming from an Austin musician – unless said multi-instrumentalist was born in rural India. Like all artists, Rajamani fights to follow his muse, yet his struggle crosses history, race, style, religion, and modernity.

Born into a family valuing artistic expression, the now thirtysomething Rajamani was gifted enough to attend the prestigious Kodaikanal International School, a century-old, multicultural American academy nestled in the Indian mountains. Growing up, Rajamani soaked up the devotional folk music of his Tamil tribal culture, also studying Western and Indian classical and contemporary music. He played jazz and rock on the side.

Rajamani then moved to New York City to attend college, painting for art shows as well. He also helped with the International Romani Union, an organization working for the people often derogatorily referred to as "the Gypsies." There he met Dr. Ian Hancock, director of the Romani Archive and Documentation Center at UT-Austin. Through Dr. Hancock, Rajamani learned about Austin, eventually moving to Old Waterloo in 1995.

It didn't take long for the raven-haired Rajamani to make his musical mark here. Within five years, this pearl of the Austin music scene won Best World Music Act at the Austin Music Awards. While world music is a suitable tag for Rajamani's tones, Slackerville fueled his sonic development.

"There's really no place like Austin," states the man with prior Greek and Israeli return addresses. "Austin takes you to a place without borders, with a lot of freedom. I play with all these country guys and we all do our tradition, but we're not trying to hold on to anything."

Rajamani speaks of *Cowboys & Indians*, a band that blends C&W with Indian music. Founder Bob Livingston praises Rajamani:

"I've played with a lot of Indian musicians, and Oliver is one of the best. Oliver was schooled in Indian traditions, but his father encouraged him to learn Western music, too. His dad loved Johnny Cash, so when we got the chance I gave Oliver a bass, and we did 'Ring of Fire'! We filmed it and sent it to his dad."

## Pearl-Handled Six-Shooter

"Johnny Cash, Jim Reeves," lists Rajamani, laughing at the seeming incongruity of all. "Hank Williams – my dad loved that stuff."

Still, Rajamani's affinity for rural American music involves more than his father's musical tastes and *Cowboys & Indians*.

"I play redneck music from India," he declares.

To understand is to appreciate Tamil Nadu, Rajamani's home region in India's deep south, one of the oldest continuously inhabited places on Earth.

"They're kind of like Texans," explains Rajamani, quoting the regional pride: "We're not part of the country; we're our own state, our own people."

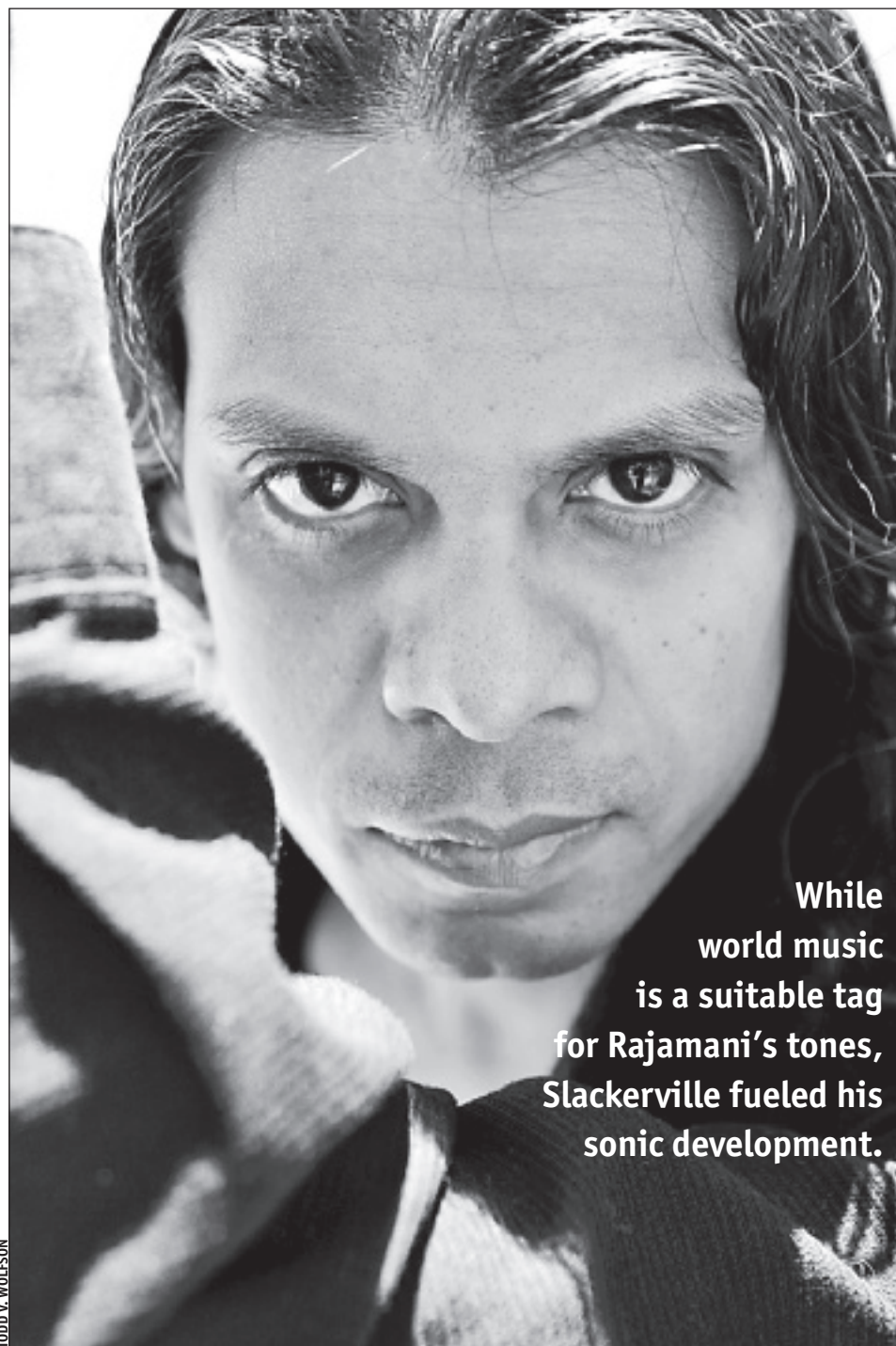
And oddly enough, in one of humanity's oldest societies, folks enjoy spaghetti westerns.

"I've always had this dream about living in Texas," begins the full-throated singer. "Especially cowboy culture, very uniquely American. Clint Eastwood movies were huge, like *For a Few Dollars More*. I watched those all the time with my uncles. America had this exotic thing about it.

"I loved Native American culture, Western culture – there was something really raw about it. It connected me to Indian culture, which is also very raw, redneck-y, direct."

Speaking of reds, there's one in particular who represents a dream collaboration for Rajamani.

*continued on p.68*



While world music is a suitable tag for Rajamani's tones, Slackerville fueled his sonic development.

TODD V. WOLFSON



## RAJAMANI

**Forty Days (Rajamani Productions)**

## RAJAMANI

**Forty Nights (Rajamani Productions)**

With these two simultaneously released albums, Oliver Rajamani has again showed his mastery for intertwining international music styles. With *Forty Days*, the more effusive of the pair, the South India-born Rajamani and his eclectic ensemble weave a brilliant, exciting tapestry that principally blends traditional Indian music with Spanish/Gypsy flamenco and Middle Eastern melodies. The first two tracks, "Ven Conmigo" and "Llorar," derived from poems by Pablo Neruda and Garcia Lorca, respectively, combine all of these musical elements while being sung *en español*. A pair of classic American spirituals, "This World Is Not My Home" and "Wayfaring Stranger," both arranged beautifully by Rajamani and containing some Tamil

lyrics, are fascinating to hear played on exotic instruments and deeply moving as well. There's a distinctive undercurrent of spirituality that runs through all this music. It's particularly evident in the companion set, *Forty Nights*, a far more restrained and meditative collection that largely eschews joyful musical interface. Considerably darker in tone, this set adheres more closely to the dictates of Rajamani's Indian roots as tunes like "Usha" and "Yeshua" attest. The Hill Country Strings are used effectively on the lengthy, raga-like "The Little Black Fish." The album closes, interesting enough, with a tabla-inflected reading of Dylan's "Forever Young," which, in this context, not only gives the song a more reverent feel, but also ties it to the cross-cultural tenor of *Forty Days*, making it a fitting closure of this heartfelt musical circle.

(Forty Days) ★★★★★

(Forty Nights) ★★★★★

– Jay Trachtenberg

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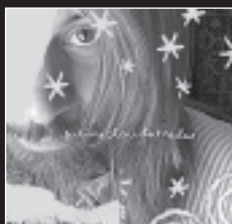
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“Willie Nelson, because he sings redneck songs which are pretty similar to the South Indian songs I sing.”

Nevertheless, Rajamani was about to have an epiphany about cowboy culture vis-à-vis his own culture. While in New York, Rajamani worked up oil paintings, often with Western motifs. One memorable day, his art instructor asked what his problem was, man.

“You’re from India,” Rajamani recounts chuckling. “Do something Indian.”  
“All the sudden, everything changed.”

## Pearls of Wisdom

He had overlooked his own culture for American culture, but his art instructor’s direct question provided a pearl of wisdom, and with it Rajamani looked upon his own history with new eyes.

“I started painting traditional cultures in my country, village scenes, people riding camels in Rajasthan,” he nods.

Rajamani also began working more in music. Through his exploration of Tamil folk songs, the singer/strummer/timekeeper felt drawn to the Romani people.

No one knows exactly why, but Indians migrated west around A.D. 1000, making their way over the centuries to Spain and Ireland, all the while helping develop Eastern European music, flamenco, Django Reinhardt-style jazz, and klezmer. Romani scholar and UT professor Hancock describes Rajamani’s Romani affiliation, and his role in Austin’s aural oyster.

“Oliver does play our music,” says Hancock. “He’s supportive in bringing attention to our origins in Northern India through his performance. Oliver is also a fine musician and an asset to the Austin scene.”

While not Romani himself, Rajamani’s knowledge and proficiency in Romani music would be hard to match. Of course being an Indian playing Romani music in the heart of Texas might cause some folks severe cognitive dissonance, as in “What box am I in?”

“No box,” declares Rajamani. “I don’t fit into any.”

This is another pearl of Rajamani wisdom, his ability to draw from stylistic histories while fashioning something new.



TODD V. WOLFSON

## Mother-of-Pearl

An iridescent substance created by mollusk shells, mother-of-pearl adorns some of the thoroughbred instruments in Rajamani’s noise-maker stable. — D.L.

**CAJON:** Originating in Peru, a wooden box drum used in flamenco

**DUMBEK:** Famed Mediterranean goblet drum

**NYLON-STRING GUITAR:** Torch of flamenco, brandished by Paco De Lucía, Carlos Montoya, and Pepe Habichuela.

**LOUD:** Arguably the über-lute, precursor to the Western classical guitar, and prominent in the Old World triumvirate of Arabic, Turkish, and Persian music.

**RUBAB:** Short-necked Afghani lute oft employed by Sufi poets

**SAROD:** Chrome-fingerboarded, fretless North Indian lute, played by superstar Ali Akbar Khan

**TABLA:** Indian two-headed drum rig, Zakir Hussain being the most salient exponent

**TAPPU:** South Indian frame drum, cousin of the Irish bodhran, Siberian shaman drum, and Rolling Stones tambourine

“I don’t see myself as an Indian playing oud, a Roma going back to India,” says Rajamani. “I see myself as someone who can pick up any instrument and learn the basis of the tradition, yet do my own thing. This is the whole tradition of the Roma – leaving India, going into countries, taking the music that was there and interpreting it their own way.”

Thus, Austin both contributes to and benefits from Rajamani’s quest.

## The World Is My Oyster

Once Rajamani felt more comfortable in his native country’s shoes, his musical skills grew like bamboo bathing in a Miracle-Gro river. The musical instrument world was his oyster, ripe for the plucking.

Case in point, in the living room of his Eastside Austin home, an Afghani *rubab* sits next to Rajamani as he speaks. Simultaneously, the bright-eyed musician holds an oud, pluck-

ing soft notes as he talks. This isn’t affectation, but rather business as usual, the way some folks hold a cat while conversing. One pictures this fellow dreaming in melodies and rhythms.

While proficient with several instruments, Rajamani’s ultimately become a veritable one-man orchestra. Likewise he’s a singing Rosetta Stone, vocalizing in more than a half dozen languages. As with instrumental music, room for interpretation is a positive thing.

“Since people do not understand the language I sing,” acknowledges Rajamani, “they have an easier time letting go of their prejudices and ideologies, to just be moved by the music, to connect to something more real in themselves by not knowing I am singing a Christian, Hindu, or Islamic song.”

Those delving into Rajamani’s lyrics will be rewarded with lessons by Spanish writer Federico García Lorca, Persian poet Shamsod-Din Muhammad Hafez, and Pablo Neruda. Rajamani’s octet, meanwhile, drips with global talent, from the vocal artistry of Nagavalli Medicharla, to the bright, bittersweet bow strokes of cellist Valerie Klatt-Fischer.

The Pearl King’s 2000 debut, *Pakiam*, firmly placed his name on the local map. National tours and myriad local gigs, including weekly stints at El Sol y la Luna and frequent Cactus Cafe appearances, cemented his reputation as a compelling live act. *Sabas*, from 2004, built momentum, yet all was not well in Rajamani-land.

“My family spent their whole generation trying to get away from village life, to be completely modern, Western, and successful,” divulges Rajamani, oud against his torso while an emergency siren eerily dopplers in the background. “And here I am completely going backwards. They’re always asking, ‘What are you doing over there? We put so much money into sending you there and you come back asking about your grandma.’”

Rajamani’s redneck Indian music found welcome in America, yet this vocational tack didn’t resonate well at home. Picture a student earning a scholarship to the Sorbonne, only to return playing devotional hillbilly music. But wait, doesn’t Rajamani’s family like country music?

“They’ll like Jim Reeves love songs, but not Tamil love songs,” Rajamani exasperates. “It’s

## All the King’s Men

### Collaborators paint a picture of the Pearl King

**Alex Coke**, multi-instrumentalist and composer (Creative Opportunity Orchestra, Willem Breuker Kollektief)

*Oliver’s music can be complicated and demanding, but its emotional and passionate qualities are the most important thing. One night at El Sol y la Luna he picked up a violin and played a fantastic solo. We all looked at him in amazement saying, “We didn’t know you played violin!”*

**Mohammad Firoozi**, vocalist and percussionist (Atash)

*At the Gipsy Kings concert Oliver said to me, “Let’s go play for them.” I said, “Are you crazy, we can’t even get backstage.” Much to my surprise, I found myself singing with Oliver playing the drums backstage, and the band looking at us saying, “Who are these two crazy guys?” The next year when they came back, Oliver was on the stage with them.*

**Kamran Hooshmand**, multi-instrumentalist (1001 Nights Orchestra, Ojalá)

*When I worked at UT’s music building, I could hear his drum coming from over the hill by the LBJ library as he taught informal drumming classes.*

**Brad Houser**, multi-instrumentalist (Critters Buggin, Zydeco Blanco)

*Playing with Oliver is a free-wheeling experience. No set lists. He’s a thoroughly postmodern combination of classical precision and a free roaming party. He’s also a virtuosic musician, and definitely gifted of the spirit. Playing with him is an adventure in the unexpected – and strenuous, because you have to play fast.*

**Sean Orr**, multi-instrumentalist (Pubcrawler, Ridgetop Syncopators)

*When playing with Oliver, often you have to put aside your musical knowledge and tap into something deeper. If I worry about what scale to play or what time signature the tune is in, it’s often to my detriment. You jump on, then hang on, or get left in the dust. Playing with Oliver has definitely enriched my musical experience. I don’t think I would have ever been in a project like this if I had stayed in Dallas.*

**Mark Rubin**, multi-instrumentalist (Rubinchik’s Yiddish Ensemble)

*I think Rajamani’s way out there, routinely conjuring the essence of what makes music interesting rather than getting hung up on the pedantic particulars of its creation. When done well, music should appeal to a fundamental sameness of people on a human and, dare I say, spiritual level, which makes all cultural and ethnic divides superfluous. I reckon Oliver starts there, which is a place many of us never get to.* — D.L.

## Formed through irritation, time, and friction, yet gorgeous, imperfect, and universally valued, a pearl is the ideal icon for the evolved soul.

such a weird thing. That's what I've been fighting for so long."

In the end, his family's questions sparked Rajamani's self-evaluation, a mental pruning: "Where do I stand in this world?"

### The Nine Pearly Gates of Paradise

Formed through irritation, time, and friction, yet gorgeous, imperfect, and universally valued, a pearl is the ideal icon for the evolved soul. Hence, pearls hold high symbolic weight in many religions, particularly with regard to earthly happiness and the afterlife.

The sacred Hindu Vedas speak of the Nine Pearls, while the Quran asserts that one of the greatest treasures in paradise are pearls. Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as a "pearl of great price," while the gates of heaven are reportedly each made of a single pearl. It's fitting, then, that Rajamani's second epiphany is written in two new spiritual chapters, *40 Days* and *40 Nights*, to be enacted live May 20 at One World Theatre.

As Rajamani has learned, not being rooted in any one place means you're from everywhere, a true citizen of the world. He describes the transformation.

"I can't see myself as Indian anymore, I can't see myself as an American. I can't see myself as anything. I've had to completely let go of everything and completely believe in the spirit."

Three's a charm for Rajamani, releasewise, as this sonic, devotional love letter to his family displays both musical and spiritual growth.

It demonstrates a maturity of someone who's struggled – and overcome.

"These CDs are real growth for me ... the letting go of the world, and putting total faith in the spirit. It's come down to that for me. I love the world a lot more when I'm in the spirit."

And it shows. In addition to the highly emotive sounds he's known for, Rajamani also stretches out, covering Dylan's "Forever Young," and giving the Tamil touch to old North American spirituals "This World Is Not My Home" and "Wayfaring Stranger."

Those not familiar with Rajamani's diverse portfolio, or his penchant for experimentation might view such syncretism as novelty. Or they may, like his family, scratch their heads. Yet only musicians with such robust confidence can extend art's boundaries.

Bringing to mind Nobel Prize laureate Thomas Mann's notion of "plastic irony," or Brian Eno's suggestion to "Honor thy error as a hidden intention," Rajamani gets philosophical.

"Life constantly flows, it's not afraid to make mistakes. It's not going by any law that we create. It's going by the law of the spirit, and when you connect, you become the music."

In the end, Oliver Rajamani has done his name proud, a pearl diver of the first order. He explains the link.

"The name King of Pearls comes from my last name. 'Raja' means 'king' and 'mani' means 'jewel,' or 'pearl.'"

"Plus, my birthstone is pearl." ■

*Oliver Rajamani celebrates Forty Days and Forty Nights at another Austin pearl, the One World Theatre, Sunday, May 20, 6 & 8:30pm, 330-9500. [www.oneworldtheatre.org](http://www.oneworldtheatre.org)*

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## Pearl Therapy

One alternative health treatment is a mixture of pearls boiled in milk. Another healing catalyst is music. Rajamani contributed to his partner Anita Jung's two domestically released healing albums, 2001's *Words From Within* and this year's *In Tranquil Silence*, and also works one-on-one and in classrooms. Locals in the know opine.

- D.L.

**Susan Burek**, Rajamani teaches daughter Priya

*Oliver's approach is to help students find their own musical voices through their instruments. There are no wrong answers, only steps on a journey, and he's patient enough to allow each student to complete the journey at their own pace. For Oliver, music seems to be a way to find harmony and share it with the world.*

**Anita Jung, LPC**, division director, LifeWorks counseling services

*Since music is all around us – the song of a sparrow, the chirp of a cricket, the whisper of a breeze – it only made sense to combine it with therapeutic work. Oliver's music in particular speaks to our sensual perceptions, and allows us to connect to our inner world in an often mystical way.*

**Tina Marsh**, founder, director, vocalist, and chief composer of the Creative Opportunity Orchestra

*Oli was always so gentle and unassuming, I had no idea for a while how much fire he really has for music and for human beings. Oliver has a special and gentle presence with people who are fragile. We did many, many different projects over the years with children. He's like a pied piper.*

**Hartt Stearns**, percussionist, co-founder and director of the One World Theatre

*Oliver came into my office once, expressing frustration with the whole rat race of the music business. He seemed to have a pivotal visit to India, seeing his family and reorienting his goals. He started to realize how fulfilling it was to work with youth.*

INBOX

**SLY & THE FAMILY STONE**

**The Collection (Sony/Columbia Legacy)**

Dallas-born Sylvester "Sly" Stewart & the Family Stone – younger siblings Freddie on guitar and Rosie on keyboards, foil/eventual nemesis Larry Graham on bass, drummer Greg Errico, trumpeter Cynthia Robinson, and sax maniac Jerry Martini – exploded existing notions of popular music. For scholars who love a good riddle, Sony's expert 40th-anniversary remasters – overreaching, undercooked 1967 debut, *A Whole New Thing*, to 1974's inconsequential *Small Talk* – unfold layers of deep reflection and deeper grooves. *New Thing* is a James Brown exuberant prelude to '68's *Dance to the Music*, whose irresistible title track gave the Family Stone a template they revisited with diminishing returns through 1973's *Fresh*. Ignored then but now a signpost to and from their roots, *Life* followed with a hot stew of R&B ("Chicken"), psych-drenched party-funk ("Fun"), and lifestyle adjustments ("Jane Is a Groupee"). *Stand!* still stands tall with "I Want to Take You Higher" but betrays Sly's splintering psyche on "Don't Call Me Nigger, Whitey." He was a superstar with nowhere to go but down: ditching Graham, holing up in a Beverly Hills mansion, receding into drugs, and finally releasing '72's *There's a Riot Goin' On*. Slowed down, his quest for post-stardom identity mirrored black America's quest for post-Sixties purpose. *Fresh* sidestepped such weighty concerns with rubbery arrangements and swan songs "If You Want Me to Stay" and "Que Sera, Sera." *Small Talk* fizzles out in an illusion of domesticity and tranquility, even though the Beastie Boys salvaged enough of "Loose Booty" to make "Shadrach." Sly only wanted to take us higher, and he did, but by becoming postwar pop's Icarus in the process.

(*A Whole New Thing; Dance to the Music*) ★★★ (Stand; *There's a Riot Goin' On*) ★★★★★ (Life; *Fresh*) ★★★★★ (Small Talk) ★★ – Christopher Gray



**GIRL IN A COMA**

**Both Before I'm Gone (Blackheart)**

As Nina Diaz purrs, "She won't mind; they always said a women's touch can cure no man," it's easy to see why Joan Jett snatched up these three San Antone ladies for her label. Featuring sisters Nina (guitar) and Phanie (drums), plus Jenn Alva on bass, the Girls' full-length debut is under pressure from the push of opener "Clumsy Sky" to the propulsive four-four drum beat of "Say." Produced by Jett's perennial co-conspirator, Kenny Laguna, *Both Before I'm Gone* booms with a professional studio vibe. The album's ubiquity is Nina Diaz's powerful, booming hiccup, reminiscent of Sleater-Kinney's Corin Tucker, though it can often dominate to the point of dulling her guitar's straight edge. Still, both radiate a manic energy; even the ballads ("Their Cell," "Road to Home") feel like they have electric skin. *Gone* has all the vital signs. (*Girl in a Coma* wakes up Red 7 Thursday, May 10.)



★★★ – Audra Schroeder

**KVRX LOCAL LIVE VOL. 11: ASSACRE TO ZOOKEEPER**

Time to dive into Austin's musical wealth. And KVRX knows it. In this 11th installment of the college radio frequency's Sunday night program, the glorious (Peter & the Wolf, Possessed by Paul James) and the not-so (Cry Blood Apache, the Moaners, Ghostland Observatory) are caught on disc, while a companion DVD courtesy of Texas Student Television rounds out. See double Tee Double! Performances from 2003 to 2006 revolve around the Hold Steady's prefame jitters, Smog's uneasy ooze, and Paul James' freak-out, repeating only Pompeii's emo-rific "Pythons, Awake!" from CD to DVD. A successful compilation should cover all bases, and after years of experience, KVRX masters the mix. We're gonna go listen to Zookeeper's closer, "Modern Living," on repeat now. "None of the hits all of the time."

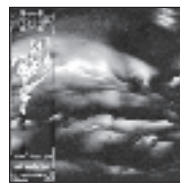


★★★ – Darcie Stevens

**BOOK OF SHADOWS**

**... And Then We All Woke Up (Ethedrone Muzac)**

Books of Shadows' latest full-length is one long, strange trip. Carlton Crutcher, formerly of ST 37, mans the keys, and wife Sharon's cosmic chants provide an ambient, bewitching drone. Often, the music is celestial, dusted with theremin, synth, and guitar, but mostly it's unsettling, and it's those supreme creep-outs that save *Woke Up* from mediocrity – and categorization. Largely improvised, the songs flow seamlessly, the title track sounding like the soundtrack for *Altered States*, while opener "Clouds in My Eyes" and closer "The Fallen Architecture of Pompei" float through space and time looking for the big bang. There are residual echoes of Fursaxa and Popol Vuh, but BOS has managed to create spiritual music that's difficult and engaging, sensual and androgynous, and it warrants repeat listens. (*Book of Shadows* trances out End of an Ear Saturday, May 12.)

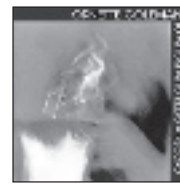


★★★ – Audra Schroeder

**ORNETTE COLEMAN**

**To Whom Who Keeps a Record (Water)**

"Music Always Brings Goodness to Us All. PS. Unless One Has Some Other Motive for Its Use." These are the song titles from this marvelous album, originally released as a Japanese-only LP in 1975. The music comes from two sessions in 1959-60 that produced the Fort Worth-born alto saxophonist's classic Atlantic albums, *Change of the Century* and *This Is Our Music* featuring Ornette Coleman's legendary quartet with trumpeter Don Cherry, bassist Charlie Haden, and drummers Billy Higgins and Ed Blackwell. Upon its release, this disturbing and challenging "free jazz" jolted the jazz establishment to its core. Almost 50 years later, the musical world has finally caught up with once jarring tunes like "To Us" and "Motive for Its Use," which now sound practically mainstream. Coleman was recently awarded a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement, a Texas Medal of the Arts, and a Pulitzer Prize. This is the music that started it all.



★★★★ – Jay Trachtenberg

**BEAVER NELSON**

**Exciting Opportunity (Freedom)**

Beaver Nelson's folksy witticism has always held the tenuous line between genuine insight and clichés that are more tried than true. Unfortunately, *Exciting Opportunity*, the disheveled Dad Who Rocks' seventh album, is more the latter than the former. Plowing familiar terrain alongside longtime collaborator Scrapy Jud Newcomb, Nelson fails to reap any real acumen amid formulaic power-pop ("Lord of All That I Survey") and easy folk-rock balladry ("If You Name a Thing It Dies"). Although the songs are steeped in a comfortable charm, Stephen Bruton's banjo, especially on the title track, provides the only hint of stimulating inspiration. Too often, as with "Humility" and "Perfect String," the songwriting is sacrificed to clever but ultimately shallow rhyme schemes. Nelson undoubtedly still has many excellent songs left in him, but this is hardly *The Last Hurrah*.



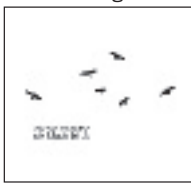
★★ – Doug Freeman

Paisley. Then you get to the music and realize he's been absorbed by the Nashville Borg. Songs are overproduced, especially "Easy as 1,2,3 (Part II)," a co-write with Todd Snider that would sound great on an acoustic guitar, and he covers tunes like third-rate stoners Hinder's "Lips of an Angel." The second half of the disc is an improvement, because they're his songs. Anyone who's been following Ingram's career knows that's really what it's all about.

**NATHAN HAMILTON**

**Six Black Birds (On the Corner Music)**

Can it really be five years since Nathan Hamilton's last studio album? One thing for sure is that the local singer-songwriter represented on *Six Black Birds* isn't the same artist who won New Folk honors at Kerrville in 2000. Where Hamilton previously worked the twang/folk road, he's now toiling the same path to indie rock paved by Grand Champeen and the deep grooves and messages of James McMurtry. Blasting open with "Sooner or Later" and the cutting "Teeth," he then returns to his trademark laid-back melodies on "Green and Gold." "The Cut" is at the set's core, a Crazy Horse guitar workout that's long been Hamilton's forte. If there's anything missing here, it's a sense of who Hamilton is. He borrows well, but it never coalesces into anything overtly original. With a songwriter of such sturdy talents, that's not a problem, though after five years, expectations run higher.



★★★ – Jim Caligiuri

**JACK INGRAM**

**This Is It (Big Machine)**

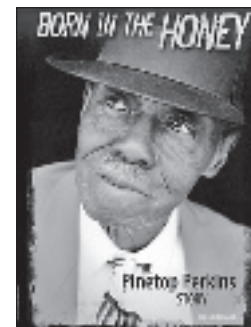
What's with the steely look Jack Ingram offers on the cover of *This Is It*? If *This Is It*, what he's been aspiring to after 15 years of hard work, wouldn't there be a glimmer of a smile? After all, Ingram's on a big label, with songs that reach No. 1 on the country-music charts, and he's playing arenas with Brad



DVDnds

**BORN IN THE HONEY: THE PINETOP PERKINS STORY (Vizztone)**

Hubert Sumlin puts it best when he exclaims, "What a guy he is. What a musician. But he's not just a musician. He's got some God in him." The blues guitarist is referring to 93-year-old peer Pinetop Perkins. *Born in the Honey* does a fair job of telling Perkins' life story, from his beginnings at the Honey Island Plantation in Belzoni, Miss., to his time in present-day Austin. Cutting between historic footage of these home locales, interviews with the pianist himself as well as followers (Ike Turner, Dr. John, Taj Mahal, Kim Wilson, Marcia Ball, etc.), and contemporary live performances, *Honey* offers amiable insight into Perkins' extraordinary journey through life. Despite sub-standard audio in spots and storytelling straight out of Documentary 101, the subject still lights up the screen with an affable nature whose indelible influence on the blues began with Sonny Boy Williamson, Muddy Waters, and others before his solo career took off at 83. The bonus *Live in Chicago* CD is an admirable addition, a satisfying glimpse into Perkins' ability to move audiences to this day.



– Jim Caligiuri

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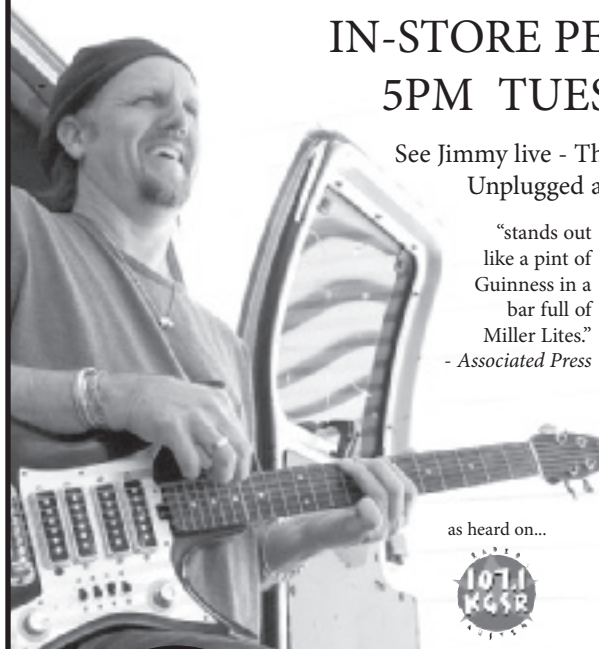
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MUSIC BLOG

## Schadenfreude on Austin's Signal Lost:

"I can only see singer Ashley Marshall pop up and down ... I begin to wonder if there's a trampoline I can't see."



[austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com)

# Passing Notes

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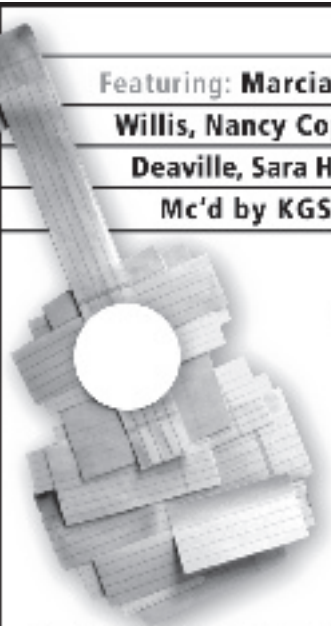
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## LEAD STORY

To fund a new Iraqi economy and government after the March 2003 invasion, the U.S. Federal Reserve shipped 484 pallets of shrink-wrapped U.S. currency, weighing 363 tons, totaling more than \$4 billion, and, according to a House of Representatives committee staff report in February, most of the cash was either haphazardly disbursed or distributed to proper channels but with little follow-up tracking. By March 2007, *The Times* of London found bank records revealing, for instance, that two unremarkable Baghdad small-business men (appointed to the defense ministry) eventually deposited more than \$1 billion in private accounts in Jordan and that U.S. efforts to buy state-of-the-art equipment for the Iraqi army were seriously undermined because middlemen purchased only cheap, obsolete Polish munitions and pocketed the savings.

## CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

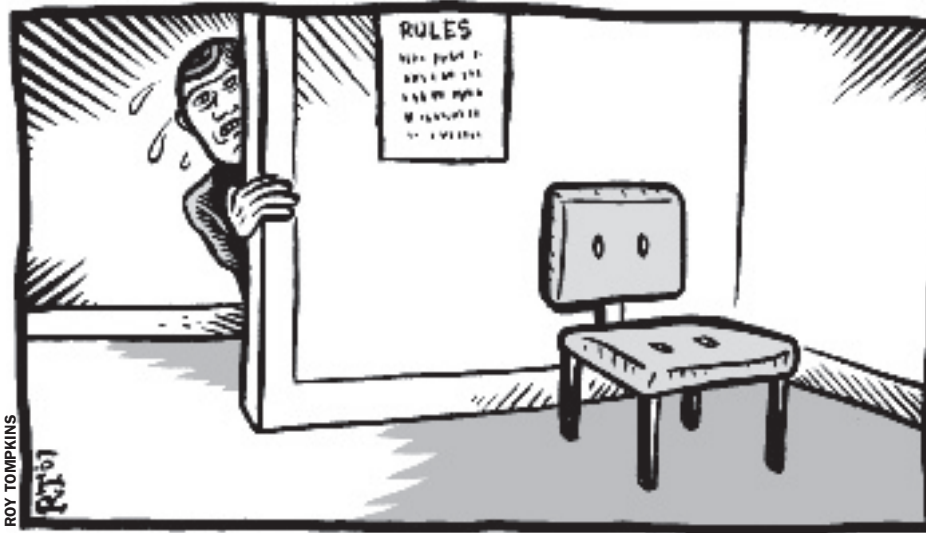
A Web site based in Seattle shamelessly encourages pedophiles to look all they want at kids (and gives tips for where the sightseeing is best), as long as they don't touch, and police admitted to Fox News in March that so far, that's not illegal. Said founder Jack McClellan, 45 (whose preference is for girls ages 3 to 11), "I really think this pedophilia hysteria is overblown." "There's a kind of code of ethics that these pedophiles have developed." "[Many people] have the attraction, but they're not going to do anything physical because of the laws." (After the Fox report, the Internet service provider closed the Web site.)

## READERS' CHOICE

1) In March, a British Airways economy-class passenger on a flight from Delhi, India, died onboard, and the corpse was moved to the less-congested first-class section, to the chagrin of Paul Trinder, who had paid the equivalent of about \$6,000 for his nearby seat. When he complained, he said he was told just to "get over it" and that no refund would be offered. 2) In March, officials at the Gaza-Egypt border noticed that a Palestinian woman entering Gaza had a particularly lumpy upper body and searched her to reveal, strapped to her chest, three small crocodiles, which she had intended to sell to a zoo.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



ROY TOMPKINS  
RT 07

Britain's Health and Safety agency headquarters reportedly posted signs in various locations in the building warning workers not to attempt to move chairs and tables by themselves, but to call for porters (for which 48 hours' notice was required). (In April, London's *Daily Mail* reported, not surprisingly, that the agency's workplace injury record was very low.)

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- On Jan. 31, several hundred Japanese husbands recognized the second annual Beloved Wives Day to upgrade Japanese men's notorious, deeply ingrained indifference to their spouses. Among the husbands' vows: be home from work by the unusually early hour of 8pm, actually look into the missus' eyes and say "thank you," and try to remember to call her by her name (instead of, as many apparently do in substitution, grunting at her). (Divorce in Japan remains relatively rare, but marital estrangement has been rapidly increasing in recent years.)
- Several matrilineal cultures exist in the world, but on Orango Island, off the African coast of tiny Guinea-Bissau, women's power to choose marriage partners is nearly absolute, according to a February Associated Press dispatch. By custom, the woman selects a man, then prepares a special dish of fish marinated

in palm oil, after which any reluctance on his part is regarded as dishonoring his family. Before the couple can cohabit, though, a family home must be built from driftwood and mud bricks, and fortunately for the man, that, too, is her job. Islanders told the reporter that men are becoming more assertive but that change has brought with it the unheard-of phenomenon of divorce.

- Spain has long been criticized for its traditions of animal abuse, such as bullfighting and, until recently, one village's festive custom of tossing a live goat from a church tower. German animal welfare activists complained in March about another Spanish "sport": the flinging of live quail into the air (from a catapult) so that hunters can shoot them. (Germany also has its ugliness, according to a March *Der Spiegel* report, with certain villages' customs of clubbing a hung-up goose and poking a cat with a broomstick through a hole in a crate.)

## LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

- Among the world's emerging messiahs is lapsed-Catholic Jose de Jesus Miranda, 60, of Houston (who has ministries in as many as 30 countries), whose message includes drinking ("Jesus [Christ] drank wine because he didn't have Dewar's [scotch]"), smoking, rejection of the concepts of sin and hell, and condemnation of Catholicism and the pope (according to a March report from ABC News). Though El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras recently banned him, he is said to have tens of thousands of followers, many of whom joyfully have themselves tattooed with "666" to honor Miranda's self-description as an antichrist.
- A professional burglar was arrested in the village of Klevan, Ukraine, in February (according to a report from the German news agency DPA) after he broke into a church to steal gold fixtures, fell asleep, got locked in the weekends-only facility for five days, and survived on the only liquid available: sacramental wine.
- A senior Italian member of the Catholic organization Opus Dei, Ms. Paola Binetti, told a television interviewer in March that she often wraps a spiked chain around her upper thigh for two hours a day as punishment for her sins. Said a prominent Catholic writer (interviewed in London's *Daily Telegraph*), "The world is full of people who, thanks to God, freely choose their own type of suffering." Wrote the Opus Dei founder: "Blessed be pain. Loved be pain. Sanctified be pain ... glorified be pain!"

## CRÈME DE LA WEIRD

In March, police in Trenton, N.J., arrested four men in separate incidents and learned that they fancy themselves as "diplomats" from the Abanaki Indigenous Nation and claim immunity from the laws of the "so-called planet Earth" (and, by the way, of Mars and Venus, as well). One allegedly possessed an unidentified "controlled substance," and the others were driving cars with made-up "diplomat" tags. The four showed no ostensible ties to the Abenaki Indigenous Nation, a tribe that first appeared in North America in the 17th century and which is still present in the northeastern U.S.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at [newsftheweird.blogspot.com](http://newsftheweird.blogspot.com) (or [www.newsftheweird.com](http://www.newsftheweird.com)). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or [weirdnewstips@yahoo.com](mailto:weirdnewstips@yahoo.com). ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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### SATURDAY MAY 5

- ➔ NOON The Tea Merchants
- ➔ 1:00 Ortega Elementary School Superstar Choir
- ➔ 1:30 UT Latin Dance Club
- ➔ 2:00 Kona Isle Dancers
- ➔ 3:00 Nritay Sangam
- ➔ 3:30 Texas Bengali Cultural Alliance
- ➔ 4:30 Poorman's Fortune
- ➔ 5:00 Capoeira Angola Group
- ➔ 5:30 Flying Balalaika Brothers
- ➔ 6:00 The Barbarians of Sevilla

### SUNDAY MAY 6

- ➔ NOON Joel Laviolette
- ➔ 1:00 Poorman's Fortune Celtic
- ➔ 2:00 Fuerza Latina Dance Company
- ➔ 3:00 UT Latin Dance Club
- ➔ 4:00 Oliver Rajamani
- ➔ 5:00 Flamenco Duo Teye & Belen
- ➔ 6:00 Sabaya Bellydance Collective

## ★ Concert Stage

Clifford Antone Memorial Concert

### SATURDAY MAY 5

- ➔ NOON Ortega Elementary School Superstar Choir
- ➔ 1:00 Sara Hickman Super Pal Universe
- ➔ 2:00 Dr. Zog
- ➔ 3:00 Mysterious Ways - U2 Cover Band
- ➔ 4:00 Sara Hickman
- ➔ 5:00 Big Chief Kevin Goodman & The Flaming Arrows
- ➔ 6:00 Bob Schneider
- ➔ 7:00 Texas Renegades
- ➔ 8:00 Brandon Rhyder

### SUNDAY MAY 6

- ★ MACC Center Stage
- ➔ 1:00 COG
- ➔ NOON Cerronato
- ➔ 1:00 Ernie Durawa's Caribbean Jazz Trio
- ➔ 2:00 Hayden Vitera Band
- ➔ 3:00 Batikum
- ➔ 4:00 Manuel Cowboy Donley Y Las Estrellas
- ➔ 5:00 AT-Boyz
- ➔ 6:00 Latino Comedy Project
- ➔ 6:30 Tortilla Factory



### ★ Lone Star Stories @ The Velveeta Room

Saturday & Sunday 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Bring your most interesting relatives and friends to be professionally filmed telling their stories. We'll give you a DVD and the files will be donated to the Austin History Center.

### ★ Pecan Street PowerFlicker @ The Old Pecan St Cafe

Sunday 2:00 - 6:00 PM (free admission)

A collection of the best short films from REEL WOMAN, NALIP, EAST SIDE STORIES, AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FILM and ME TV. You can order food and drinks while you watch.

### ★ Enter the raffle to win Gibson Guitars

Benefiting American Youthworks.



## ★ Performing Arts Stage

### SATURDAY MAY 5

- ➔ 1:00 Chef Marko's Food Comedy
- ➔ 2:00 Aztlan Circus and Dance Company Pt. 1
- ➔ 4:00 Poetry Slam Qualifiers
- ➔ 6:00 Aztlan Circus and Dance Company Pt. 2
- ➔ 7:00 Sabaya Bellydance Collective

### SUNDAY MAY 6

- ➔ 1:00 Clickety Cloggers
- ➔ 2:00 Aztlan Circus and Dance Company Pt. 1
- ➔ 3:00 Poetry Slam Finals
- ➔ 5:00 Aztlan Circus and Dance Company Pt. 2



www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com



## this week

### COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY NORA ANKRUM

## Thursday 03

**AMIGOS DE LAS AMÉRICAS FIESTA** features live and silent auctions, food from **El Chile**, and music from the **Crying Monkeys**. Proceeds help Amigos' volunteers participate in community-development and health projects in Latin America. 6:30-9pm. *Laguna Gloria*, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. \$30 (\$25, advance). [www.austinamigos.org/fiesta.html](http://www.austinamigos.org/fiesta.html).

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

**INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT BENEFIT** An evening of live music – some of which you'll sing yourself, with some help from Karaoke Underground – plus your admission pays for two packages of books for Texas inmates in need. (See Club Listings.) 7pm-12mid. *Carousel Lounge*, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. \$5.

**INTEGRITY: THE SECRET TO GREAT LEADERSHIP** A talk from St. David's Community Health Foundation CEO and President Dick Moeller. 11:30am-12:15pm. *Concordia University, Beto Lecture Hall*, 3400 N. I-35, 486-1140. Free. [www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu).

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS** This three-week class focuses on the basics for travelers: greetings, asking for directions, dining out, etc. Call for location details, etc. Thursdays, 5-6pm. 345-8941. \$75. [www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com](http://www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com).

**MEDICINAL YOGA FOR BACK PAIN** 5:30-6:45pm. *Carver Cultural Center*, 1165 Angelina, 963-8364. \$15.

**NOBODY'S WATERPROOF** features water-safety demonstrations (for first aid, jet-ski safety, and water rescues), plus speakers and booths full of information about kayaking, SCUBA diving, sailing, water polo, and other aquatics in Central Texas. 1:2-3:30pm. *Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center, UT campus*, 1900 Robert Dedman Dr. Free. [www.tsc.utexas.edu](http://www.tsc.utexas.edu).

**SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FORUM** Meet the candidates vying for AISD's Place 2 trustee spot on the school board. 7:30pm. *Texpresso*, 2700 W. Anderson, 467-9898.

**SECRET HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE: ECONOMIC HIT MEN, JACKALS, AND THE TRUTH ABOUT GLOBAL CORRUPTION** A presentation from **John Perkins**, author of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, an inside look at the many actions the U.S. has taken to fuel global instability. 7:30-9pm. *The Crossings*, 13500 FM 2769, 258-7243. Free. [www.thecrossingsaustin.com](http://www.thecrossingsaustin.com).

**SPANISH PRACTICE** Ruiz Branch Library, 1600 Grove Blvd.: Mondays, 6-7:30pm. *Faulk Central Library*, 800 Guadalupe: Thursdays, 3-4pm; Saturdays, 11am-12:30pm. 974-7400. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).

**YERAZART FOUNDATION** presents eight Armenian musicians performing the works of rarely heard Armenian composers. 7:30pm. *University Christian Church*, 2007 University Ave., 477-6104. Free. [www.yerazart.org](http://www.yerazart.org).

**THEATRE** (See Arts Listings.)

**The Moth Alamo Drafthouse Downtown Trash Anthems** Hyde Park Theatre

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)

**Davis Gallery, Mexic-Arte Museum, Vin Bistro**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**The Ballad of AJ Weberman** @ Alamo Lake Creek, 7:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Old Haunts Beerland**

**Cinco de Mayo Music Festival** Fiesta Gardens **Stephen Marley** Antone's

## Friday 04

**ALTERNATIVE RADIO** features news analyst **Jeff Cohen** on his new memoir, *Cable News Confidential: My Misadventures in Corporate Media*. 2pm. *KOOP Radio* 91.7FM. [www.koop.org](http://www.koop.org).

**BACA CENTER SENIOR ART CLUB** meets today for a presentation: **Using Watercolor Crayons**. 1pm. *Allen R. Baca Center*, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2, Round Rock, 512/218-5499. Free. [www.roundroctexas.gov/bacacenter](http://www.roundroctexas.gov/bacacenter).

1110 Barton Springs Rd., 386-8292. \$8 (\$15, ages 12 and younger, seniors). [www.secondyouth.com](http://www.secondyouth.com).

**CHILD SAFETY FAIR** APD officers host this event for the Southwest Area Command community, to answer questions about quality-of-life issues and to provide child ID kits. Sat., May 5, 10am-1pm. *Target Greatland*, 5300 MoPac S. Free.

**SHOES FOR AUSTIN KIDS 1K** accompanies an adult 5K today. All proceeds from the races go toward buying new shoes for children in need. *Adult*, 8am; *kids*, 9am. *La Frontera Green, Sundance Parkway & La Frontera Boulevard, Round Rock*, 512/218-5540. [www.shoesforaustin.org](http://www.shoesforaustin.org).

**YMCA SPLASH DAY** launches the summer season with a day of play in the pool, along with games, races, splash fountains, water slides, music, food, and free T-shirts. Sat., May 5, 10am-2pm. *YMCA East Communities Branch*, 5315 Ed Bluestein, 933-9622. Free.

**COMMUNITY NIGHT** Enjoy the Children's Museum's hands-on activities and exhibits every Wednesday night for just a \$1 donation. Upcoming special



## Austin's Japan-America Society celebrates spring

[SEE SUNDAY, SATSUKI MATSURI]

**DEADLINE: 'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' NICE RACK CONTEST** Submit the best design today for UT's 40 new *Chronicle* distribution racks, and you could win cash, art supplies, and glory. See [www.austinchronicle.com/nicerack](http://www.austinchronicle.com/nicerack) for details.

**FUN COMPANY TOASTMASTERS** meets for a screening and discussion of *The Big Guy: Tom DeLay's Stolen Congress*. Call to reserve your spot. 6:30-8:30pm. *LCRA Colorado Room*, 3800 Lake Austin Blvd., 459-5462 x4. Free. [bigguy.bravenewtheaters.com/screening/show/9329](http://bigguy.bravenewtheaters.com/screening/show/9329).

**PEOPLE UNITED** broadcasts a discussion with sex workers about labor and gender. 1pm. *KOOP Radio* 91.7FM. [www.koop.org](http://www.koop.org).

**TEXAS CERTIFIED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY APPLICATION WORKSHOP** The Texas Department of Agriculture hosts this seminar on what it takes to make your area a destination for retirees. Call

or e-mail to register. 9:30am-12:30pm. *Stephen F. Austin Building*, 1700 N. Congress, 936-6339. [finance@agr.state.tx.us](mailto:finance@agr.state.tx.us).

**THREADFAIR FASHION SHOW** Code Rainbow and Two Guy Trio perform at tonight's fashion competition, with styles designed by Flashback Boutique and area high school students. There will be booths selling clothing, art, and jewelry, and part of tonight's proceeds benefits **Big Brothers Big Sisters**. 7-9pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 569-2229. \$5. [threadfair@gmail.com](mailto:threadfair@gmail.com).

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)

**NEA, Volitant Gallery**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Pretty Woman** @ Alamo Downtown, 7, 10 **The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow** @ Dart Bowl, 8:15pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Son Volt Stubb's**

**Cinco de Mayo Music Festival** Fiesta Gardens **Wayne Hancock, American Graveyard Continental Club**

## 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 May 18 issue is Monday, May 7.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

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

Mark Fagan (Sports): [gameplans@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gameplans@austinchronicle.com).

Nora Ankrum (everything else): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

## the young ones

**WRITE TO WIN** Invites public-school first- through 12th-graders to write a creative essay about what the Write Co. logo means to them. Cold, hard cash prizes await the winners. Deadline: *Mon., May 7*. 877/OK-WRITE. [www.writecompanyonline.com](http://www.writecompanyonline.com).

**ORGANIC GARDENING CAMP** helps kids ages 3-6 get in touch with nature at a 1-acre TDA-certified organic garden, where they learn through the Montessori method all about plants (including what's edible, medicinal, and poisonous), animals, geography, yoga, Kodaly music, sign language, and Spanish. *Weekdays*,

May 29-Aug. 24, 8am-5:30pm. *Ronda's Montessori Garden*, 4300 Mt. Vernon Dr., 707-8635. \$720 (full session), \$40 a day.

**NEW TRAVIS COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL** has openings for young adults, ages 14-20. Youth Council members consult other young people and relay information and policy recommendations to elected officials. Application deadline: *Fri., May 11*. See Web site for details. [www.readyby21austin.org/youthcouncil.php](http://www.readyby21austin.org/youthcouncil.php).

**ROBIN HOOD** An original adaptation of the classic tale, requiring audience help to save Maid Marian and recover the gold from the crabby old sheriff. For ages 4-10. *Through May 28*. *Saturdays*, 10am; *Sundays*, 2pm (enjoy Robin Hood's Merry Meal beforehand on April 28 & May 5). *Scottish Rite*, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$10 (\$7, kids 12 & under; \$3, infants).

**THE PAGE AND THE CATERPILLAR** Here's a new play from Second Youth Family Theatre, in which a fairy-tale king's page and a caterpillar both learn that, no matter what, everyone is important in their own, special way. Sat., 11am & 3pm; Sun., 3pm. *Through May 13*. *Dougherty Arts Center*,



# Saturday 05

**ARTIST'S MARKET** Saturdays, 10am-6pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free. [www.downtownartistsmarket.com](http://www.downtownartistsmarket.com).

**ASH DASH 5K** A walk-or-run race to benefit the patients at the Austin State Hospital. Tours of the historic hospital building available after the race. 8am. Austin State Hospital, 4110 Guadalupe, 419-2330. \$20 (\$15, kids 15 & under). [www.signmeupsports.com](http://www.signmeupsports.com).

**AUSTIN DISCOVERY SCHOOL CULINARY FUNDRAISER** pairs fresh, local foods with talented local chefs for a slow five-course meal accompanied by music from the Heather Ivey Ensemble and a happy hour in the historic Bergstrom farmhouse. 7-10pm. Green Gate Farms, 8310 Canoga, 674-0700 x103. \$100. [www.austindiscoveryschool.org](http://www.austindiscoveryschool.org).

**AUSTIN LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP** Complimentary dinner provided. First Saturdays, 5:30-7pm. Seton Medical Center, 1201 W. 38th, 653-4134.

**BALANCING HORMONES NATURALLY** Learn to make lifestyle and nutritional adjustments to resolve PMS, menopausal syndromes, and other hormonal imbalances. 3-4pm. Natural Health Center of Austin, 4701 West Gate, 892-3366. Free. [www.nhcaustin.com](http://www.nhcaustin.com).

**CHARITABLE LADIES DERBY DAY FUNDRAISER** Sip on a few mint juleps while you watch a live telecast of the Kentucky Derby and maybe even win a raffle prize or two. All proceeds benefit the Brighter Days Equine Rescue and Ride on Center for Kids. 2pm. The Belmont, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300. Free. [www.charitableladies.com](http://www.charitableladies.com).

**CPR/FIRST AID CLASS** Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 750-0586. \$25.

**FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS** Sponsored by Seton Hospital. No appointment necessary; first come, first served. 8am-2pm. Brackenridge Hospital, 601 E. 15th, 800/ACS-2345. [www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net).

**HANDMADE AUSTIN WOMEN** hosts a spring studio sale this weekend, featuring artists Sunyong Chung, Bonnie Lynch, Chia Guillory, and many others. They'll be showcasing their clothing, accessories, fine art, jewelry, and housewares just in time for Mother's Day shopping. Laura Freeman and DJ Mahealani perform. 10am-6pm. Ginko Studios, 800 Gullett, 389-1920. [www.handmadeaustinwomen.com](http://www.handmadeaustinwomen.com).

**HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL FESTIVAL** celebrates "life, love, and hope" today with an outdoor festival (bring your own blanket and ice chest), featuring live music from Z Rock, Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band, and Dana Cooper. Noon-6pm. Sol Reflections, 107 RR 620 S., Lakeway, 512/263-6990. Free.

**HOW TO KNOW & GROW AUSTIN BUTTERFLIES** A six-hour seminar on identifying, rearing, and attracting butterflies, brought to you by the Austin Butterfly Forum. Call/e-mail to register. 10am-4pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 255-0368. \$35. [kscjtaylor@prodigy.com](mailto:kscjtaylor@prodigy.com).

**ITALIAN WINE & CHEESE TASTING** Hosted by A Taste of Italy's Elsa Gramola. 6:30pm. 345-8941. \$35. [www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com](http://www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com).

**MAKE STUFF PARTY** Make zines or clothes or what have you, while musicians make music to inspire you. (Bring your own supplies.) 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.

**MONSTER MOBILE** This roving bookstore sets up shop at different locations each month to sell you books and media on the cheap (as in \$1-2 cheap). All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Austin Public Library. 10am-2pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940. [www.austinlibrary.org](http://www.austinlibrary.org).

**NATIONAL PILATES DAY** Every year, a group of local Pilates studios devotes one special day to sharing the great secrets of Pilates, and that day is today, all you poor-postured schmoes. Do your core muscles a favor, and drop by a participating studio for free classes, equipment sessions, demonstrations, raffles, and giveaways. BodyBusiness (459-9424, 306-0557), Body Springs (452-0115), JoyMoves (328-4440), the Pilates Center of Austin (467-8009), Pilates360 (732-2002), Hills Fitness Center (327-4881), Pilates Connections (249-5390). Free.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING CONFERENCE: THE NEXT 10 YEARS - BUILDING CAPACITY** This annual conference meets for a full day of workshops and seminars relevant to community activists and anyone else interested in neighborhood involvement. Choose from eight tracks today, covering topics like Neighborhood Transportation & Economic Development, Building Relationships With Government, and Neighborhood Environment. 8:30am-4:30pm. Austin Community College Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville, 223-5100. \$35. [www.neighborhoodplanning.com/2007/agenda.pdf](http://www.neighborhoodplanning.com/2007/agenda.pdf).

**OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL** The annual Sixth Street celebration comes around again with more than 200 arts & crafts exhibitors, live music and theatre performances, and even some dance lessons. Look for the Chrontourage if you want some free Chronicle loot. 11am-10pm. Sixth & Seventh streets, from San Jacinto to Sabine, 443-6179. Free. [www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com](http://www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com).

**PLEASANT VALLEY LIBRARY BIRTHDAY PARTY** Stop by to say happy 20th, and enjoy a puppet show, games, a performance from the McCallum High School Steel Drum Band, and lots of popcorn, cookies, and snow cones. The Monster Book Mobile will also be on-hand with lots of book, CD, and DVD bargains. 10:15am-2pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).

**TARRYTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE** Proceeds from today's sales benefit the church youth group's mission work with the homeless. 8am-1pm. Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition, 472-3111. [sarah@tarrytownumc.org](mailto:sarah@tarrytownumc.org).

**THE RUDE BOOK EXCHANGE** Those local gods of theatre the Rude Mechanicals are hosting a book exchange (bring a book, take a book), and any leftover volumes will be donated to the Inside Books Project. 10am-2pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833.



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# VIOLET CROWN FESTIVAL 2007

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY  
35+ ARTISAN BOOTHS  
GREAT FOOD  
KID'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday  
**May 5** Noon to 7pm  
Brentwood Park

## Camp "History on the Hill"

JUNE 18-22, 2007

Texas time travelin' atop historic "Robertson Hill." Each day, 9 a.m. to noon, campers (ages 6-12) journey into 1800s Texas through stories, characters, hands-on activities and more. For more information call 512-472-8180.

### The French Legation Museum

802 San Marcos Street



THANKS THEIR FRIENDS AT THE CENTER FOR TEXAS MUSIC HISTORY AND THE O. HENRY MUSEUM FOR THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT OF THIS EVENT.

## MAYPOLE FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 5 - 1-5 p.m.

# THE BISCUIT BROTHERS

LIVE CONCERT at 1:30 p.m.

Also featured: "AUSTIN GIRL'S CHOIR" & "THAT DAMNED BAND."

MAYPOLE DANCE. LIVE MUSIC. HISTORICAL REENACTMENTS. 1800s CRAFTS & GAMES. HAYRIDES. KITE-FLYING. BARNYARD BABIES.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 children (2 and under free). Buy at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org) or at the gate.



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10621 PIONEER FARMS DRIVE / EXIT I-35 AT BRAKER LANE, GO EAST, FOLLOW THE SIGNS.

**CINCO DE MAYO AT CENTRAL MARKET** Former City Council Member Raul Alvarez hosts today's celebration, which begins with **Grilling & Storytelling** from Málaga chef Alejandro Duran (4-5pm, \$20, 458-3068) and continues afterward with music from **Beto & los Fairlanes** and entertainment from the **Puerto Rico Folkloric Dance Company**. *Sat., May 5, 4-10pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. Free.*

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION** Sponsored by the city, this pre-Cinco fest features mariachi, ballet folklorico, music from Johnny Degollado, and more. *Fri., May 4, 11am-2pm. Wooldridge Square Park, Guadalupe between Ninth & 10th.*

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION** Spanish-language media company Univision sponsors this all-out fiesta, with a Furiosos de Metal car show, a live wrestling match starring Mexico's one and only **La Parka** and **Sicodelico Jr.**, two stages of contemporary and traditional Mexican music, ballet folklorico performances, and tons of stuff for kids, including moonwalks, live children's entertainment, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a rock-climbing wall. *Sun., May 6, noon-6pm. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000. Free.*

**CINCO DE MAYO CHICAS POBRES FUNDRAISER** is your chance to see the TXRD Lonestar Roller girls take off their skates (or not?) for some pudding wrestling, tricycle jousting, belching, and other ladylike competition. There's also beer, live music, a team-date auction, and fun activities for the kids. All of today's proceeds benefit the above mentioned Roller girls (aka, the chicas pobres). *Sat., May 5, 3-9pm. Independence Brewery, 3913 Todd Ln., 797-7879. \$10 (\$15/two people, free, kids under 12). info@txrd.com.*

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** helps kick off Latino Music Month with four days of live music celebrating La Batalla de Puebla. Enjoy jalapeño-eating and polka-dancing contests, games for kids, lots of Mexican food, and Sunday's Conjunto Festival. (See Club Listings.) *Thu.-Sun., May 3-6 Thu., 5:30-11pm; Fri., 5:30pm-12mid; Sat., noon-12mid; Sun., noon-10pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 867-1999. \$5 (\$8, after 8pm); free, kids 10 & under. www.austincincomemayo.com.*

**CINCO DE MAYO HAFLEH** features family activities in the afternoon: a parent/child yoga class (3pm), a seminar on organic farming and butterflies (4pm), a kids art project (5pm), an all-ages belly-dance class (6pm), and an art bazaar (plus lots of delicious goodies, including Turkish coffees and organic teas). The evening festivities include dance performances, live music, fire-eating, a drum circle, and more. *3pm-dark. Oasis Gardens Community Farm, 7651 Delwau Ln., 386-7636. \$5 (free, kids 12 & under). Proceeds benefit the relocation efforts of Middle Eastern-cuisine restaurant Ararat. www.myspace.com/araratrestaurant.*

**HOT 93.3 CINCO DE CAR SHOW** invites lowriders, imports, sport trucks, trick cars, and sport bikes out to compete for cash prizes and to marvel at the Hootie to Hottie car-upgrade and the Miss Hottie bikini contest. Proceeds benefit the **Sustainable Food Center**. *Sat., May 5, 11am-7pm. Republic Square Parking Center, Fourth & Guadalupe. \$7 (\$5, in advance). www.hot933.fm.*

**LA LUZ GRAND OPENING/CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA** New South First store La Luz (which specializes in clothing, furniture, art, and everything pretty) celebrates its grand opening today with a Cinco de Mayo celebration – music, food, and beer. *Sat., May 5, 6pm. La Luz, 2009 S. First, 326-8384.*

**TOWN LAKE LAUGHTER CLUB** meets for laughter exercises and yoga breathing to reduce your stress and promote health. *9-10am. Auditorium Shores, South First at Town Lake, 916-9337. Free. www.laughteryoga.org.*

**VICTOR J. STENGER** The physicist, University of Colorado philosophy professor, and author of New York Times bestseller *God: The Failed Hypothesis* has two appearances scheduled in town today. This morning he signs copies of his book at BookPeople (603 N. Lamar, 11:30am); tonight he delivers a lecture, sponsored by the Center for Inquiry Austin (Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 7pm).

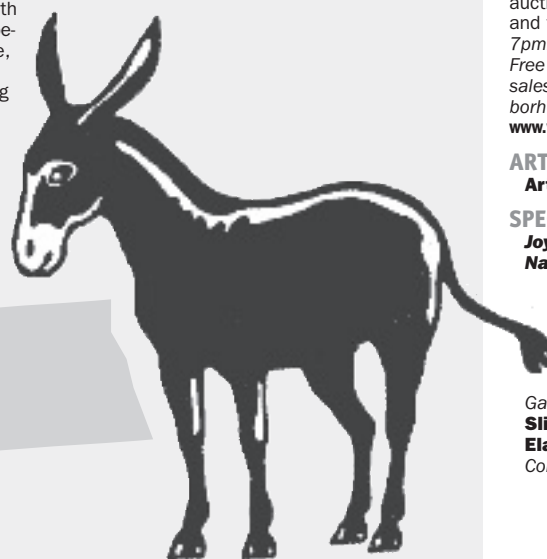
**VIOLET CROWN FESTIVAL** features a silent auction, local-artisan booths, lots of kids activities, and tons of live music. (See Club Listings.) *Noon-7pm. Brentwood Park, 6710 Arroyo Seco, 689-8244. Free (proceeds from silent auction and refreshment sales benefit Violet Crown Community Works' neighborhood enrichment projects). www.violetcrownfestival.com.*

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)  
**Art Palace**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**Joysticks** @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm  
**Napoleon Dynamite** @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**The Clutters** *The Mohawk*  
**The Ugly Beats**, **Freddie Steady 5**  
*Carousel Lounge*  
**Cinco de Mayo Music Festival** *Fiesta Gardens*  
**Slimfest** *Cactus Cafe*  
**Elana James & the Continental Two**  
*Continental Club*



## Cinco de Mayo Festivities

# day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

**Boca Chica Beach** might be the most unspoiled public beach on the Texas coast. At the southern tip of the state map, this is the kind of place you only divulge to your best friends.

The khaki-colored beach stretches about 10 miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande (when it makes it this far) to the end of Brazos Island and its view of the hotel towers of South Padre Island. The two recreation areas couldn't be more different, even though only a narrow channel of sea water separates them. But that is the dichotomy of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. For 100 miles from Roma to Brownsville, U.S. 83 is Main Street for a long list of towns. The highway is lined with national franchise stores and restaurants beginning in McAllen and extending to the international bridge in Brownsville. The old downtowns are left to the beauty shops and antique dealers.

Sometimes called the Riviera of Texas, South Padre Island is a world of T-shirt shops, restaurants, condos, and high-rise hotels. You have to drive nearly 10 miles north on the island to find unfettered beaches. It is hard to begrudge the locals for this enclave of tourists and winter Texans. The taxes support one of the richest school districts in the southern part of the state.

Once you get away from the major roads and tourist districts, pockets of the "old valley" remain. Head east from downtown Brownsville on TX 4, and it doesn't take long before houses replace Walgreens, fields replace houses, and then tidal flats replace the fields until you reach the rhythmic waves of the Gulf of Mexico.

Like a pearl necklace, 24 state and federal land parcels in the Lower Rio Grande Valley string together pockets of protected wildlife areas. If Bentsen State Park in Mission is the crown jewel of the refuges, then Boca Chica State Park is the hidden jewel.

The 1,054 acres of undeveloped coastal wetlands and beach area are owned by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, which is pursuing a lease-purchase agreement with the feds, the owners of the nearby 45,000-acre Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

As TX 4 leaves the city, it turns into a narrow country road lined with yuccas and prickly pear cacti only a few feet above the bare flats that disappear under sea water during high tide. During low tide, the muddy wastelands are occasionally scarred by tire tracks of some unseen vehicle headed toward the water. In the distance, the towers on Padre Island rise out of the water.

It's hard to imagine that the landscape was once part of a large cattle ranch. This inhospitable land was also the gateway to Texas

Boca Chica Beach



GERALD E. MCLEOD

for two invading armies. In 1846, in the opening days of the Mexican War, Gen. Zachary Taylor established his headquarters and a supply fort at the north end of the 217-acre Brazos Island, which is more of a 7-mile-long peninsula except cut off from the mainland during high tide.

During the Civil War, the fort was occupied by Union soldiers while the Confederates held Brownsville, some 20 miles up the Rio Grande. More than a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender, the southerners steadfastly held the city. On May 13, 1865, the Union forces moved across Palmito Ranch along the cart path that became TX 4 only to be repelled by the Confederates in the last land battle of the Civil War. The fort disappeared in a hurricane in 1867.

As the highway nears the beach it passes Boca Chica Village, a tackle shop and convenience store. The road goes through a divide in the tall dunes and then disappears under the soft sand with the blue waves rolling onto the beach. A half dozen RVs are parked at the entrance, but no other structures are in sight, not even the towers of South Padre Island. You have the beach to yourself, with the exception of a few fishermen, a couple of beachcombers, and the wooden skeleton of a boat sticking out of the sand. There is no admission fee, nor any services on the beach, just miles of empty sand and water.

*827th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.*

## out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

**CINCO DE MAYO** brings Texans together to compete (or just sample the entries) in the **State Menudo Championship Cookoff**, which features music, arts & crafts, and more. *Thu.-Sat., May 3-5. San Marcos Plaza, San Marcos, 888/200-5620. www.sanmarcoscharms.com.*

**MAYFEST** ushers in spring with food, arts & crafts, and live performances. *Thu.-Sun., May 3-6. Trinity Park, Fort Worth, 817/332-1055. www.mayfest.org.*

**CINCO DE MAYO** festivities take over the courthouse lawn with an evening of dance, arts & crafts, and lots of food. *Fri.-Sat., May 4-5. Lockhart, 512/398-9600. www.lockhartthispanicchamber.org.*

**POETRY AT ROUND TOP** has been described as "the best-kept secret on the American poetry scene. It's new, small, powerfully charged, and incredibly intimate." Join in the fun, discussion, and workshops. *Fri.-Sun., May 4-6. International Festival-Institute, Round Top, 979/249-3129. www.festivalhill.org.*

**CENTRAL TEXAS AIRSHOW** is filled with fireworks and pyrotechnic shows on Friday evening and static displays and aerobic thrills during the day. *Fri.-Sun., May 4-6. Temple Airport, Temple, 254/298-5900. www.centraltexasairshow.com.*

**ICE CREAM FESTIVAL** lets everyone help Blue Bell Creamery eat all they can before what's left is sold, and features ice cream contests, arts & crafts, and more. *Sat., May 5. Brenham, 888/273-6426. www.downtownbrenham.com.*

**CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY** lets kids ages 6-12 compete for prizes. Tackle and bait are provided, but enrollment is limited. *Sat., May 5 & 19, 9am-noon. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, Brenham, 936/878-2214. www.birthplaceoftexas.com.*

**FIRST SATURDAY ART FESTIVAL** showcases the work of area artisans and craftsmen. *Sat., May 5, 10am-5pm. Smithville, 512/360-5085. www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org.*

**MAY DAY** brings out the May Pole for an old-fashioned day of period games, pie-eating contests, and music, with a petting zoo and costume contest as well. *Sat., May 5, 10am-4pm. Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, Fulton, 361/729-0386. www.tpwd.state.tx.us.*

**GARDEN JAZZ PARTY** The San Antonio Water System introduces easy water-saving landscape tips, plus food and music. *Sun., May 6. Botanical Garden, San Antonio, 210/829-5100. www.sabot.org.*

**ST. STANISLAUS PARISH FESTIVAL** honors one of Texas' oldest Catholic Churches on its 151st anniversary with food, children's activities, music, an auction, and more. *Sun., May 6, 11am-4pm. Mansfield Park, Bandera, 830/460-4712. www.stanislausfest.com.*







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## Moonlight and Magnolias

Larry L. King Theatre at Austin Playhouse, through May 13

*Moonlight and Magnolias* is Ron Hutchinson's behind-the-scenes comedy based on actual events, which supposedly transpired during the making of *Gone With the Wind*. A few weeks into filming, producer David O. Selznick realizes that he doesn't have a workable screenplay, so he shuts

down the \$50,000-a-day production and locks himself in his office with crack screenwriter Ben Hecht and veteran director Victor Fleming, whom Selznick has just hired to replace George Cukor. With only five days and a supply of peanuts and bananas, Selznick is determined that no one leave until they have a finished script. From slapstick to screwball to trenchant satire, the varied comic possibilities unfold immediately as it is discovered that neither of these two professionals have read the book. So Selznick, veering wildly from nebbishy to overbearing, and Fleming, notoriously macho and impatient with the pretensions of art, proceed to act out the story, one ridiculous scene after another, while Hecht puts it to paper.

The first act of the play is nearly perfect. Gray G. Haddock, as Ben Hecht, hits the distinctive hardboiled persona of a late-Thirties Hollywood writer dead on, all two-tone wing

tips and fast-talking cynicism. He gets many of the best lines, and even the most devoted *Gone With the Wind* fans will find it hard not to laugh at his dry evisceration of the more glaring antebellum apologies implied in that familiar story. Michael Stuart does well as the boorish Fleming and, upon being yanked from the set of *The Wizard of Oz* at 7 in the morning, walks on with a truly brilliant opening line. As the desperate Selznick, David Stahl shines most when his wry self-awareness overtakes his grand impresario pretensions. Once these three get going, the play takes off, with insider gossip, quips, and retorts flying back and forth in the best Howard Hawks' screwball tradition. Director Lara Toner keeps the pacing of this Austin Playhouse production fast, and the absurdity mounts until a rousing debate on the moral reprehensibility of Scarlett slapping the young slave girl Prissy devolves into a hilarious bit of Three Stooges-style physical comedy.

Problems emerge in the second act as everyone gets far more serious and self-important. Hecht's self-righteous conceit as the racial conscience of the movie industry quickly becomes tiresome, as do the many speeches about the magic of film from Fleming and Selznick. Cyndi Williams, her voice a perfect Thirties-chorus-girl squeak, is very funny as Selznick's harried secretary,



though she too is encouraged to ham it up a little too much by the end.

The set, also designed by Toner, is a flawless, lush re-creation of late Deco affluence, and the very small size of the Larry L. King Theatre works well with this production. The intimacy of the space and proximity to the actors create an effective illusion of being a fly on the wall in Selznick's office and therefore privy to all of these industry secrets.

The tiny theatre, the quick tempo, and the heavy succession of jokes drawn from a

milieu already familiar to the audience give this production a feeling approaching cabaret. It is accessible, short, and extremely entertaining theatre, even for those who don't normally attend theatre. Judging from the many approving murmurs at the evening's end, it appeared that nearly every member of the audience enjoyed the production, and that really renders any other critical commentary extraneous and unnecessary. The people have spoken, and they like *Moonlight and Magnolias*.  
— Iris Brooks

## Theatre

### OPENING

**THE INDIAN WANTS THE BRONX** The City Theatre Company presents this Israel Horowitz play, dealing with the cruelty of two youths toward a helpless stranger, and, the same night, **The Women of Lockerbie**, Deborah Brevoort's award-winning drama of a husband and wife searching for peace and closure after losing their son in a plane crash. Directed by Eric Virkkala and Eric Porter. May 3-6. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport. 524-2870. \$10. [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

**THE MOTH** New York City's acclaimed storytelling collective comes to Austin, with **Jonathon Ames**, **Kelley Caleb Hunt**, and **Edgar Oliver** among the performers who'll have you in serious laugh-stitches and omg-I-know-just-how-that-feels resonance with their polished stories of personal adventure, eccentric foibles, and all-too-human truth. Recommended. Thu., May 3, 7:30pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$8. [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org).

**TRASH ANTHEMS** If you like theatre at all, or anything kinda like theatre but not as twee as some theatre can be; if you can't help thinking about the underpinnings of the complex world in which we spend our fleeting years; if you have ever wondered when you'd see things onstage that are relevant, in deep ways, to your own life. If those things resonate with you and you don't see this show, whoa, what the hell's wrong with you, man and woman? This is a collection of short works by the often-brilliant playwright **Dan Dietz**, who's soon leaving Austin for Florida. The pieces are directed by the *Chronicle's* own Andrea Skola for Shrewd Productions, they're performed by a strong cast, Dietz himself stars in the unnerving masterpiece "A Bone Close to My Brain," and this, this, this is strange and powerful stuff. May 3-26. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$10-15. [www.hydeparktheatre.com](http://www.hydeparktheatre.com).

**UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST** The annual UIL state-level competition presents 40 plays in three days, with locals from Austin High, Wimberley High, and Pflugerville's Connally High among the teams duking it out for thespian supremacy. See their Web site for a complete schedule. Thu.-Sat., May 3-5. Bass Concert Hall and McCullough Theatre, UT campus. [www.uil.utexas.edu/academics/drama](http://www.uil.utexas.edu/academics/drama).

**THE FRANK MILLS: WINNING DIRTY** This is the recalibrated, revamped, and polished version of their recent (more workshoppy) *Classy-Ass Show*. Which is to say, it's a savvy collection of com-

edy sketches about the things people will do to get their way. Bob McNichol, Rachel Madorsky, Dave Buckman, and Erika May are your star performers, with music by John Ratliff. Fri.-Sat., May 4-26, 8pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 415-2896. \$15. [www.thefrankmills.com](http://www.thefrankmills.com).

**A THOUGHT IN THREE PARTS** Rubber Repertory presents the U.S. premiere of Wallace Shawn's trio of short plays exploring the lonely underside of sex, love, and all that falls between. Where do loving and loathing intersect? Will personalities ever mix as conveniently as anatomies? How much nudity and simulated (?) intercourse do you want to see onstage? Directed by Carlos Treviño, Matt Hislope, and Josh Meyer, who caution that you must be 18 or older to see this frank and galvanizing performance. May 4-26. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-25. [www.rubberrep.org](http://www.rubberrep.org).

**AS YOU LIKE IT** This beloved Shakespearean comedy is presented, by Austin Shakespeare Festival under the direction of Guy Roberts, in Richard Garriot's new Globe Theatre replica, which affords either a greater authenticity or another layer of postmodern distance to the night's slate of celebratory, fundraising, silent-auction-precaded Bardic entertainments. Sat., May 5, 7pm. Curtain Theatre, 7400 Coldwater Canyon Dr. 454-BARD. \$35 (\$150, reserved box seats with food & drink). [www.austinshakespeare.org](http://www.austinshakespeare.org).

**SECRET LIVES OF THE INBETWEENERS** is the latest in the Vortex's "Living Room" staged reading series, this one a new musical by Aaron "M.O. of M.I." Brown, with the music performed live. And free bagels. Sun., May 6, 1pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free. [www.vortexrep.org](http://www.vortexrep.org).

**SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD** The City Theatre Company presents Jason Robert Brown's musical journey of discovery, which drifts through gospel-driven ballads, humorous production pieces, and love songs. May 10-27. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport. 524-2870. [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

### CLOSING

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS** I swan, y'all, this classic Robert Harling comedy about Southhuh womanhood is just the most heartwarming thing evah to come down the pike! This iteration, with an all-star cast, is directed by Don Toner for Austin Playhouse. Through May 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$22-25 (half price for students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

**TAKE ME OUT** Here's the Austin premiere of Richard Greenberg's Tony-winning show about a valuable young Major League Baseball player coming out as gay. It's directed by the nonstop theatre engine called Dave Steakley, so we can safely assume that the actors are good (and they certainly are, um, hot, which is why it might not be so much a

warning to mention that the show's locker-room scenes contain full male nudity). And everything's perfectly lit by Jason Amato. Through May 6. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$30-38 (\$15, student rush tickets one hour prior to curtain). [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com).

**STOMP!** Percussive and acrobatic, the world-class troupe of tumblers and tumblers returns to turn the Paramount stage and many oversized props into their personal drumkit in ways that'll amaze and delight your eyes and ears. Here's a show that easily lives up to its hype: Imagine that. Recommended. Through May 6. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 & 9pm; Sun., 3 & 7pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$29.50-58.50. [www.austintheatrealliance.org](http://www.austintheatrealliance.org).

### ONGOING

**365 DAYS/365 PLAYS** The acclaimed playwright Suzan-Lori Parks wrote a play a day for an entire year back in 2002. Now every single one of those plays is going to be staged at various venues all across the U.S.: New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, and so on. But Austin is where the yearlong cycle begins, so get set for several weeks of theatre — with short plays of only five minutes, perhaps, and longer ones of 10 or more — from various local companies. This week: Cavalier presents its rendition. Sat., May 5, 3:30pm. Lou Neff Point (where Barton Creek meets Town Lake). [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com).

**MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS** Ron Hutchinson's fast-paced comedy was inspired by actual diva-fueled events as they occurred behind the scenes during the filming of David O. Selznick's *Gone With the Wind*. Directed here by Lara Toner, with a fine cast. [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com). Through May 13. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C. 476-0084. \$22 (\$11, students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

**IT'S A SCREAM** David DeBoy's witty mash-up of comedy and horror is parlayed into staged shenanigans by the Way Off Broadway Community Players, directed by Lynda Davidson, out Leander way. Through May 19. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Thu., May 17, 8pm. WOBBCP Theatre, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966. [www.wobcp.org](http://www.wobcp.org).

**TOO SOON FOR DAISIES** by William Dinner and William Morum, now playing out in Lockhart. Through May 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Sat., May 5, 2pm. Gaslight Theater, 204 N. Main, Lockhart, 512/376-5653. [www.gaslighttheater.com](http://www.gaslighttheater.com).

**ARCADIA** Tom Stoppard's masterpiece, a romantic and intriguingly intellectual mystery that switches between 1809 and the present, is directed by Mary Ellen Butler out in Georgetown. Through May 20. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$18 (\$16, seniors; \$7, students). [www.georgetownpalace.org](http://www.georgetownpalace.org).

# FORUMS

NEWS BLOG

Anonymous on God knows what:

"What planet are you from? The planet where people don't get man boobs from falling off of grocery carts."

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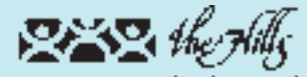
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# Steel Magnolias

Austin Playhouse, through May 6

Running Time: 2 hr, 20 min

Y'all are familiar with *Steel Magnolias*, that Hollywood fave that set the standard for cinematic depictions of Southern sisterhood. It involves six headstrong women sitting in chairs and shedding more than hair at the local gossip mill, Truvy's Beauty Salon. They develop a kinship through the moral support they provide one another during a wedding and a tragedy, all while whipping out witty one-liners with their elongated vowels, laughing and suffering all together. Multitudes of women have indulged in cinema therapy with this chick flick, holding tissue boxes to their chests while its romantic schmaltz plays out and some even reciting the lines verbatim. I went to Austin Playhouse's revival of the original play to note the changes in the stage to screen crossover, although having seen the movie only once, my notes are restricted to the basics.

In the play, the only actors are women (in other words, no Dylan McDermott eye candy), there is only one setting, and there is no Dolly Parton. In fact, the film version would not have been half the success it was had it not been for the all-star cast. Here, with the stage packed with estrogen, it's no wonder the ratio of women to men in the audience is so imbalanced.

It's been 20 years since Robert Harling's play made its off-Broadway debut, and enough time has passed for dust to settle on the motion picture, too. Set in a retro Eighties era when it used to be popular to get your "colors done" and when Southern hair featured awful, big helmet cuts like Loni Anderson's, Austin Playhouse's new production of *Steel Magnolias* is a breath of fresh Louisiana air.

The six gals in this production parody themselves in ways that rely on gender types as well as criticize them, puffing up their emotions to be as big and unyielding as their hair. The barely recognizable Mary Agen Cox plays Truvy and makes her more matronly (in the best, warmest, and sassiest ways) than her large-breasted movie-star counterpart. I'd be more likely to trust her with my secrets than my hair, which I couldn't say the same for with Ms. Parton. Molly Karrasch plays Truvy's new assistant, who lost her husband and later joins a church. She plays the role the way it always would have been played, with the right amount of intended beguilement.

The other young woman of the group, Rebecca Carton, plays the most difficult role: Shelby, a character who is still maturing in her efforts to be as brazen as her mother and her older peers. She has a hypoglycemic episode (a more realistic and nonconvulsive one in this play) and has to persuade her mother that her diabetes won't hinder her having a child. Though she's likable as Shelby, Carton has trouble mustering the mountain of charm the role demands so that when we reach the end, we also reach for a tissue. That finally happens in the scene when M'Lynn, Shelby's mother, breaks her usual decorum in a dramatic seizure of loss and mourning – another heart-



wrenching performance by Babs George. Bernadette Nason and Janet Hurley Kimlicko, as Clairee and Ouiser, the two funniest battle-axes, shatter the moment with their comedy. There's not a twinge of uneasiness among this ensemble, just a comfortable and compassionate camaraderie. In the end, Truvy sums it up by saying, "Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion." For these Southern belles, this sentiment rings true.

– Patti Hadad

## DINNER THEATRE

**THE FALSETTOS** The Capital City Mystery Players present another interactive murder-mystery: *The Fallettos*, featuring a mobster, his wife, his mistress, and a gangsterish whacking – to be solved by you as you wine and dine on pasta and vino. Through June 23. Saturdays, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. [www.meatballs.com](http://www.meatballs.com).

## AUDITIONS

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Scottish Rite Theatre launches a new Classic Theatre series. Not their kids-oriented stuff, but theatre for grownups. This Shakespeare gig is the first. Men and women, prepare a two-minute monologue, and call for appt. Mon., May 7, 7-10pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 786-9458.

## THEATRE CALL BOARD

**RUDE MECHS HOUSE PARTY** This party showcases those talented Rude Mechanicals in the newly renovated Reddy mansion on Newning Avenue. An open bar and some of the finest catered eatables available will keep you sated while listening to the music of Kat Edmonson and rubbing elbows with creative types and their happy hangers-on. Sat., May 5, 8pm-12mid. 1924 Newning. 476-7833. \$50. [www.rudemechs.com](http://www.rudemechs.com)

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the May 18 issue is Monday, May 7. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

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Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.  
[dance-classical@austinchronicle.com](mailto:dance-classical@austinchronicle.com).

Ric Williams, litera. [litera@austinchronicle.com](mailto:litera@austinchronicle.com).

Benné Rockett, visual arts. [art@austinchronicle.com](mailto:art@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.  
[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

## Comedy

### IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com).

**Open Mic Comedy** Seasoned pros and up-and-comers knock themselves out to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).

**Pauly Shore** That's right: **Pauly Shore**. We said it twice, we'll say no more. May 4-6. Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm; Sun., 8pm.

**Funniest Person in Austin** Somebody's got to win it, and the competitions have already begun. Each week for the next two months at Cap City, the city's finest (or perhaps merely bravest) comedians battle their wacky way toward the power and the glory, in Shecky's name, amen. The upcoming night of cerebral carnage is hosted by: **Kerry Awn**. Mondays, 8pm.

**Jimmie Roulette** He won *what*, recently? The **Purina Comedy Pet Challenge?** Whoa, damn. We already knew we could recommend the man's show to you; now, maybe, you should bring your kitties and puppies along, too? **Chris Fairbanks** opens. May 8-12. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

**COLDTOWNE THEATER** 4803 Airport.  
[www.coldtownte.com](http://www.coldtownte.com).

**New lineup!** Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, weave stories that are equal parts poignant and absurd; **Available Cupholders** if you don't know about them, you don't know about improv: These guys are the Wallendas of instant invention, except that none of them are dead. Thursdays, 8pm. **Jerm Pollet's One-Guy Show** The ex-Sinus Show mastermind and master raconteur guides the audience through his adventures in the music biz. Fridays, 8pm. **That Other Paper presents ... Standup Comedy.** The popular showcase continues, fracturing funnybones every weekend. Fridays, 10pm. **The AIC CageMatch** is where two improv teams battle for supremacy, right before your very eyes. Fridays, 11:30pm. **Stool Pigeon** features celebrity monologues, true stories, and an all-

star cast of local improvisers. Saturdays, 8pm. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it. Saturdays, 10pm. **Vinyl Destination** Asaf Ronen, John Ratliff, and an all-star cast join forces for this weekly musical improv extravaganza. Sundays, 7pm.

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553.  
[www.esthersfollies.com](http://www.esthersfollies.com).

**Esther's Follies** The most popular comedy troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson** as an audience-galvanizing feature. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military.) Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.

**Late Night Skinny Dip** Join the infamous Esther's Follies after-hours crew for an adults-only hour packed with improv, sketch comedy, and homegrown music, some of it bluer than their usual shade of "family" offerings. Direction and music by Doug Ewart, featuring Shaun Wainwright-Branigan, Cindy Wood, Ted Meredith, and Donnie Loa. With musical guests Steven Baranowski and DJ Michael Corley. Through May 12. Saturdays, 11:30pm. \$10.

**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** 617 Congress, 443-3688.  
[www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**Austin Improv** Let the Austin Improv Collective and friends brighter your nights with a little extemporaneous comedifyin':

**Friday: Improv Threeer** features **Look Cookie**, **\$10 Bourbon**, and **Scatter!** 8pm. \$7-10. The **Double Barrel** features **Massive** and the **Knuckleball** Now. 10pm. \$7-10.

**Saturday:** The competitive spectacle of improv comedy that is **Theatresports** returns! 8pm. \$7-10. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended.* 10pm. \$7-10.

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.  
[www.thevelvetaroom.com](http://www.thevelvetaroom.com).

**John Ramsey** The local legal eagle sets aside his briefs (so to speak) to slay audiences with the sort of rib-cracking humor that saw him win

the Funniest Person in Austin title in 2005. **Sean Carey** and **Mike Creed** open. Fri.-Sat., May 4-5, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

**Open Mic Night, God Help Us All** They've got three minutes to soar and you can smell the flopsweat wafting in from backstage. There are good jokes, bad jokes, moments of dull obscenity, and times of hilarious brilliance. These are your neighbors: Fear them. This week's emcee: **Mike Creed**. Thursdays, 10pm.

## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

**STAND-UP COMEDY FRIDAYS AT HOMER'S** Fridays, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114, 251-5444. [www.myspace.com/homersbarandgrill](http://www.myspace.com/homersbarandgrill).

## Dance

**ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE** Student-choreographed dances were selected through juried adjudication by ACC dance faculty, two of whom – Darla Johnson and Allison Orr – offer up a pair of their own new works. Fri.-Sat., May 4-5, 8pm. ACC Mainstage Theater, Rio Grande Campus, 1212 Rio Grande. 223-3384. \$6 (\$3, students).

**ROY LOZANO'S BALLET FOLKLORICO DE TEXAS** Drawing from a mosaic of religions, customs, languages, and music, the dancers of Ballet Folklórico explore the traditions of different regions of Mexico in a program filled with intricate choreography, colorful costumes, and vibrant music in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Sun., May 6, noon. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. \$15 (\$10, children). [www.oneworldtheatre.org](http://www.oneworldtheatre.org).

**VIOLET CROWN PLAYERS & DIVERSE SPACE DANCETHEATRE: FABRIC OF TIME, BATTLE TORN** In a time of war, it's the artists who tell it like it is: grim. Paying homage to those who have suffered while promoting peace, this collaborative effort, conceived by Toni Bravo and Diane Huckaby, includes music direction by Jeffrey Jones-Ragona and guest performances by members of Ballet Austin and Ballet Austin II. Sun., May 6, 2:30pm; Sun., May 13 & 20, 7pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee, 301-3656, 445-5582. Donations accepted. [www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org).

## 1,001 NIGHTS

**CLEOPATRA** Belly dancing with true Egyptian flavor. Fri.-Sat., 8pm-2am. Cleopatra, 2620 S. I-35. 947-9462.

**LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: FULL MOON DANCE AND MUSIC CIRCLE** Musical instruments, dancing shoes, and something to sit upon under the stars are the requisites for a fun-filled night of music and dance. Kids welcome. Refreshments available. Sat., May 5, 7-11pm. Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. Free. [www.luciladance.com](http://www.luciladance.com).

**ARARAT AND OASIS GARDENS FARM: CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM** The festivities start with parent/kid activities, and as the evening progresses there are belly dance classes and performances, "Malana's Feast of Fire," a bazaar, a drum circle, and more. BYOB if you wish to sip something stronger than Turkish coffee and organic tea. Sat., May 5, 3pm-late. Oasis Gardens Farm, 7651 Delwau. 419-1692. \$5 (free, kids). [www.myspace.com/araratrestraurant](http://www.myspace.com/araratrestraurant).

## TWO LEFT FEET

### CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS

Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.

### INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED MODERN DANCE CLASS

Ellen Bartel (artistic director of Spank Dance Company) leads classes in modern dance. Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm. *Dance Discovery*. 2110-A White Horse. \$10. [www.spankdance.com](http://www.spankdance.com).

### FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING

Easy and fun, contra dancing'll put you in the swing of things. Live music by the Lost and Nameless Orchestra; dances called by Marc Airhart. Fri., May 4, 7:30pm (beginners lessons); 8-11pm (main dance). Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members and first-timers).

### ESTUDIO FLAMENCO

Get fired up with flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times. 2801 W. 45th. 382-1366. \$10 per class (private lessons available). [www.estudioflamenco.com](http://www.estudioflamenco.com).

### AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS

ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd. 989-3939. [www.austinballroomdancers.org](http://www.austinballroomdancers.org).

### DANCE INTERNATIONAL

Open to all, these ballroom and latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. *Dancers Workshop*, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves, 32-DANCE. Fees vary. [www.dancein.org](http://www.dancein.org).

**AUSTIN CLICKETY CLOGGERS: BEGINNERS' LESSONS** The Appalachian-style dancing requires no partner. Through May 22. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm. 1807 W. Slaughter #325. \$60 per person (family discounts available). [www.clicketycloggers.com](http://www.clicketycloggers.com).

**BELLY-DANCE CLASSES** Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188. [www.twylabellydance.com](http://www.twylabellydance.com).

**LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING** Belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, tai chi. Check their Web site for more. Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. [www.luciladance.com](http://www.luciladance.com).

**AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING** Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. Thursdays 7:30-9:45 pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. [www.austinscandi.org](http://www.austinscandi.org).

**AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE** With live music. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm).

**AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS** Learn a variety of couples' and line dances from around the world before the open dance session for beginners and experienced dancers. No partner required. Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. [www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html](http://www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html).

**AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet Rd. First session free. [www.austinscd.org](http://www.austinscd.org).

**AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP** Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free. [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa).

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

**AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE** A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). [www.austinswingsyndicate.org](http://www.austinswingsyndicate.org).

**FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES** Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. Tue., 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. [www.fouronthefloor.com](http://www.fouronthefloor.com).



▲ The Miró Quartet brings four kinds of brilliance to Bates Recital Hall this Friday.

## Classical Music

### OPENING

#### YERAZART: YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM ARMENIA

Eight prodigious musicians from the ancient South Caucasus nation present music of their homeland in a blend of indigenous folk music and Western classical music. Thu., May 3, 7:30pm. University Christian Church, 2007 University Ave., 477-6104. Free. [www.yerazart.org](http://www.yerazart.org).

#### UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC: MIRÓ QUARTET

The brilliant resident quartet performs *Quartetsatz* by Schubert, *Langsamer Satz* by Webern, *Quartet No. 3 in E-flat Major* by Arriaga, and *Quartet in A-flat Major*, op. 105 by Dvorak. Fri., May 4, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$17 (\$15, UT faculty, staff; \$10, students). 471-5401. [www.music.utexas.edu](http://www.music.utexas.edu).

#### AUSTIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR: THE ODYSSEY

This is a workshop performance of composer Graham Reynolds' and librettist Beverly Bardsley's "Odyssey," directed by Kathleen Turner. Sun., May 6, 4pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6317 W. Bee Caves Rd., 486-1221. \$5. [www.austinchildrenschoir.com](http://www.austinchildrenschoir.com).

#### STARLIGHT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SCREEN PLAY

Cina Crisara conducts the SSO in a pops concert that presents fun-filled music from the world of TV, movies, and video games. Fri., May 4, 7:30pm. Emily Ann Theatre, Wimberley. Sat., May 5, 7:30pm. San Marcos Plaza, San Marcos. 512/858-0324. Free. [www.starlightsymphony.org](http://www.starlightsymphony.org).

#### LA FOLLIA AUSTIN BAROQUE: MUSIC FROM THE COURT OF FREDERICK THE GREAT

Frederick the Great was a brilliant Prussian military commander, architect, philosopher, linguist, flute player, and composer. This show features his music and that of his contemporaries – the Enlightenment's answer to France and the Sun King. (Even then everyone seemed to have had it in for the French, eh?) Fri., May 4, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. Sat., May 5, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. 879-1993. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students). [www.lafollia.org](http://www.lafollia.org).

#### AUSTIN CHAMBER ENSEMBLE: PANORAMIC TRIOS

A delightful combination of cello, clarinet, and piano features in a Brahms trio; the concert includes rarely performed works by Muczynski, Juon, Tajcevic, and Walker. Sat., May 5, 3pm. A private home (directions given with reservation). Sun., May 6, 3pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover. 345-3399. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students; \$5, ages 10 and younger). [www.austinchamberensemble.com](http://www.austinchamberensemble.com).

#### AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: SPRING CONCERT

AYO's symphony orchestra, under the direction of Kay Vanlandingham and James Edwards, performs works by Glinka, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Borodin. Sun., May 6, 7pm. McGee PAC, Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. Free. [www.austinyouthorchestra.com](http://www.austinyouthorchestra.com).

#### BALCONES COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Brian Shaw is featured trumpet soloist as the orchestra performs works by Telemann, Mozart, Britten, and Beethoven, under the baton of Robert Radmer. Sun., May 6, 4pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 10010 Anderson Mill, 358-8676. Free.

▼ The ACC Choreographers' Showcase puts dancers in the air and across the boards.



Live Theatre - \$5  
**Wizard of Oz**  
 by John Daniels, Jr.  
 May 4 @ 6 p.m. - May 7 @ 1 & 6 p.m.



**Seussification of Romeo & Juliet**  
 by Peter Bloedel  
 May 4 @ 7 p.m. - May 7 @ 2 & 7 p.m.  
 303-5516



Dougherty Arts Theater  
 1110 Barton Springs Rd.  
**EASYtheatre.com**

# Visual Arts

## EVENTS

### WOMEN & THEIR WORK: ART OF THE POT

Join local artists and foodies in celebrating the wonderful world of ceramics and food in this party that's free to all who bring a potluck dish for 12 in their favorite ceramic pots. *Tue., May 8, 7pm. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* Demonstration by Kowkie Durst at Clayways: *Wed., May 9, 7pm. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

**1906 GALLERY: YELLOW BIKE PROJECT TENTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY** Eye-grabbing graphics, music, and dancing spark a night celebrating the YBP's decade of community-positive work. *Fri., May 4, 7pm-12mid. 301-I Chicon, 628-0712. www.thiscityisours.com.*

**GALLERY LOMBARDI: B-BOY CITY ART SHOW** features photographs of B-boys from around the state and graffiti by Nate Nordstrom. Live DJs and turntable tech fuel this opening night of the epic, city-rocking festival (about which you can find relevant information in our Community Listings section). *Thu., May 3, 7-10pm. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

**LA PENA: PERFORMANCES BY ERRO GRUPO** An urban performance, *Adelaide Fontana* chronicles the character's last radio broadcast where she's free to speak the truth to her listeners. Performance takes place in the small window display, making the sidewalk and street a theatre set. *Fri.-Sun., May 3-5, 7pm. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610.*

**JAPANESE MAY FESTIVAL** Dancers flourishing silk kimonos, the thundering beat of Taiko's festival drums, and gleaming kendo swords bring the sensual and sensational artistry of Japanese culture to Central Texas. *Sun., May 6, noon-5pm. 477-8672.*

## OPENING

**MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: FROM REVOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE** Following the 1910 revolution, Mexico witnessed an explosion of creativity, exemplified in this show curated by James Oles and featuring the important modern Mexican art collection of Lance and Erika Aaron: Works by master artists David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquierdo, and Olga Costa. *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**DAVIS GALLERY: TEXAS RIVERS** Susu Meyer's paintings carry us to a timeless place whether we skim its surface or sink deeper into its soulful dimension. *Through May 26. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

**FLATBED: ANN CONNER** Created with a Pirrograph and compass and carved by hand with a power chisel, this 2006 suite of eight large color woodcuts is the artist's third project to be published by Flatbed Press. Artist's talk: *Wed., June 6, 6pm.* Exhibition: *Through June 23. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

**VOLITANT GALLERY: PARADING DOWN THE AISLE** This collection of photography confronts viewers with nontraditional depictions of marriage's bells and bliss. Curated by Amy Griffin. Reception: *Fri., May 4, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *May 4-June 16. 320 Congress #100, 236-1240. www.volitant.com.*

**NEW EAST ARTS: SHAPING CONSCIOUSNESS** Deborah Roberts' current series of paintings and drawings are in-your-face politically provocative pieces that show her evolution as an artist. Reception: *Sat., May 12, 7-10pm.* Exhibition: *May 4-June 8. 1601 E. Fifth St., #106, 477-9438.*

**VOLITANT GALLERY: MEMORIA MEMOIR** is artist Carol Flax's multisensory exhibition depicting the elusive nature of memory as abetted by the show's audiences for more than 13 weeks. Reception: *Fri., May 4, 6-9pm.* Artist Talk: *Sat., May 5, 2pm.* Exhibition: *May 4-Aug. 4. 320 Congress #100, 236-1240. www.volitant.com.*

**ART PALACE: AGENT ON THE ROAD** This is part one of a two-part collaboration with Dallas gallery Road Agent and their artists Lizzy Wetzel, Bladly Brown, and Edward Setina. Reception: *Sat., May 5, 8-11pm.* Exhibition: *Through June 2. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.*

## CLOSING

**AMOA: AMERICA STARTS HERE: KATE ERICSON AND MEL ZIEGLER** presents 10 years of collaborative work by two artists who helped rethink the nature of public art and conceptual practice in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Ericson and Ziegler devised public art projects and site-specific installations that altered sites subtly, using poetic



▲ Susu Meyer's *Riada Reflections* is part of her "Texas Rivers" exhibition at Davis Gallery.

language and their idiosyncratic wit to illuminate mainstream American contexts and to highlight individual community issues. *Through May 6. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

**PRO-JEX: PERSPECTIVE** Life drawings from the mind of Austin's own Paul Russell whose works are reminiscent of Henry Moore, Paul Klee, and Picasso. *Through May 5. 1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.*

**VISUAL ARTS CENTER: MFA STUDIO EXHIBITION** This ambitious show features the work of Jarrod Beck, Robert Boland, Stephanie Wagner, and others. *Through May 4. 23rd & San Jacinto.*

**LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: EASTERN EUROPEAN PAINTING NOW** An exhibition of fresh works by four young artists and curated by critic Jane Neal. *Through May 5. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

## ONGOING

**EYE CONTACT ART** showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102. 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.*

**GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS** The UT Professor Emeritus presents his finest prisma-color works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667. www.gallerypollock.com.*

**ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY** is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotoabodastudio.com.*

**ARTHOUSE AT THE JONES CENTER: AHEAD OF THEIR TIME** The eighth annual advanced student art exhibition gives those students the opportunity to show their work in a professional setting and receive feedback from a well-respected curator. Teen Art Bash: *Sat., May 12, 2-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through May 12. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

**ATELIER 3-D** The former Austin Sculpture Center hosts an open house for public viewing. *Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4-10pm. 2209 Pasadena, 374-0580.*

**AUSTIN ART GLASS** This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demon-

strations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

**BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS** Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

**CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER: ON THE PLAINS WITH PASTELS, PENCILS, AND PAINTS** Frank Reaugh captured the rugged beauty and vastness of the frontier and documented the people, landscapes, and animals of a vital period of American history. *Through May 28. 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb/spbt/history/chistory.htm.*

**THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK** is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeptaustinweird.com.*

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY: ARTE SAGRADO XII** A national juried exhibition with juror Ken Schmidt. *Through May 18. 3400 N. I-35, 486-2001.*

**CORONADO STUDIOS** The Serie Project, a non-profit 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: JOSEPH PHILLIPS AND JARED THEIS** Each of these Austin artists creates fantastical worlds – one from clay, one on paper, both with remarkable skill and imagination. *Through May 26. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

**DIBONA STUDIO** Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a sculptural tattoo series. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

**ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: IDENTITY THEFT** International photography relevant to our modern and media-mangled world. *Through May 25. 411 Brazos #99. www.elsemadsen.com.*

**FIELDING LECHT: IN MY STAIRWELL** The striking images of internationally recognized film and music photographer Mark Seliger bring Austin some haute glamour. Closing reception: *Thu., May 10, 6-9pm. 708 Congress, 476-0044. www.fieldinglechtgallery.com.*

**FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY** *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

**GALLERY 3 @ THE CO-OP: DISTANT RELATIVE** New work by UT undergraduate students in sculpture. *Through May 19. 2246 Guadalupe, 476-7211. www.gallery3atthecoop.com.*

**GRAVITY CONSTANT STUDIOS: TERRY BEUTLER** New paintings by Beutler depict an autobiographical journey. *301 Chicon Ste. F, 415/254-5222.*

**KATHY WOMACK GALLERY** Art by Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.*

**LA PENA: TEXTIMONIO** showcases the ceramic and sculptural work and life of Marsha Gomez. *Through Aug. 31. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610.*

**MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART** has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

**THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA** The ongoing exhibition in this intimate, quirky gallery is a perfect example of the more charming and enjoyable side of Austin's weirdness. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.*

**QUATTRO GALLERY: RUSSELL CROMAN AND DAVID STEIN** Astrophotography and paintings that are out of this world. *Through May 30. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178. www.quattrogallery.com.*

**SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP** Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961. www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.*

**SLUGFEST GALLERY: OSCAR GILLESPIE** Using the difficult art of engraving as a starting point, the artist renders various creatures, birds, rabbits, or people amidst a swirl of line and color to edify the human condition in his "Over 21: Pages & Marginalia." *Through May 13. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204.*

**TOTALLY COOL/TOTALLY ART** features more than 800 works from local teens who participate in the citywide program. *South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland, 444-6601.*

**THE RUSSELL COLLECTION: FREDERICK HART** One of the nation's finest representational artists, Hart's work is a balance of extraordinary aptitude and exquisite beauty. *Through May 26. 1137 W. Sixth, 342-0747.*

**WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: JENNIFER BALKAN** Balkan's astonishing oil paintings will haunt your mind's deepest corners for years to come. If you're smart enough to see this show. And, of course, you are. *Through May 23. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com/jennifer\_balkan.lasso.*

**WOMEN & THEIR WORK: YELLOW LABYRINTH** This new installation by Aki Nagasaka transforms the space into an ephemeral experience. *Through May 12. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

**YARD DOG: CASEY MCGLYNN** Visually and psychologically complex works, full of color, texture, multiple images, and lots of writing. *Through May 27. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

## SPACES

**NORTH HILLS GALLERY: FLIGHTS OF SPIRIT** Works by Betty Jameson and Carolyn Patterson. *Through May 6.*

**DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY** is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

**CULTURAS DE ARTE GALLERY: FEELING ABSTRACT** *May 3-July 7. 3311-C N. I-35, 473-2302.*

**GUTTERKITTY SUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT** a group show of figurative paintings done by some of Austin's best painters. *102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.*

**ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE: CHRIS SCROGER** *Through May 26. 314 W. 17th, 469-0380.*

**ARTWORKS GALLERY** features tropical butterflies artfully displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

**AUSTIN JAVA: AUSTIN SCENE** Julie Dean captures the essence of Austin in her photos from every neighborhood in the city. Exhibition: *Through June 5. 1206 Parkway, 476-1829.*

**CAFE JOSIE: PHOTOGRAPHY** by Stephen Cone. Exhibition: *Through June 22. www.conephotography.com. 1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226. www.cafejosie.com.*

**HALCYON COFFEEHOUSE** Photography and encaustic paintings by Marlene Barberousse-Nikolin and Sabrina Carmona. *Through June 3. 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637. www.halcyonaustin.com.*



Carol Flax's series of video installations at Volitant Gallery act as a sort of mediated memory harker for viewers.

**HYDE PARK BAR AND GRILL** Acrylics on canvas of large macro flowers by Kijaso. Exhibition: *Through May 27. 4206 Duval St., 458-3168.*

**LAS MANITAS AVENUE CAFE: THE PUPPET SHOW** Puppets and portraits of Mexican artists by fourth-grade students at Sanchez Elementary. Closing reception: *Fri., May 18, 4:30-6pm. 211 Congress, 472-9357.*

**MANUEL'S MICRO GALLERY: ZITA RAYMOND** A witty likening of produce and human activities that gets us through the day. Reception: *Wed., May 9, 5-7pm. Exhibition: Through June 30. 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.manuels.com.*

**ROADHOUSE RELICS** is a vintage-neon gallery and studio where artist Todd Sanders creates neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. *1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.*

**VIN BISTRO: THE PAGE SERIES** Mixed media on paper by Jerry Seagle. *Through May 31. 1601 W. 38th.*

## CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

**AVAA: STUDIO RENTAL** Affordable artist studios available, Central Austin. Historic building, natural light, utilities paid. Private studio: \$395 monthly; shared, \$170. [www.avaonline.org](http://www.avaonline.org).

**THE CREATIVE ARTS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN** is seeking new members for 2007. Open to all levels of talent and all media. Contact Joan Lawson via e-mail or phone. *288-0574. artist@joanlawson.com.*

**HILL COUNTRY ARTS ALLIANCE: PHOTO CONTEST** Theme: "Healthy Hill Country, Wealthy Region." Deadline: *May 5. www.hillcountryalliance.org.*

**PHOTOBUCKET: COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ARTISTS** For beginners and those already familiar with Photoshop Muse. See the Flatbed Web site for more. [www.flatbedpress.com](http://www.flatbedpress.com).

**FELTON KNORRA STUDIOS: STUDIO RENTAL** Two affordable artist studios available in a thriving Eastside artists' complex. *389-9776.*

**AVAA 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT AND REUNION: CALL-FOR-ENTRIES** Juried exhibition open to Austin area artists working in all media. Current membership in AVAA required. Deadline: *May 13. Info.: www.avaonline.org.*

**FLATBED: BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY/DARKROOM TECHNIQUES** Flatbed is adding a new photo class and a darkroom open shop. Check into this class taught by Heidi Schlein, and you might fall in love with film all over again. *2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

**THE ART SCHOOL @ LAGUNA GLORIA** Looking to tap into your creative side? Discover the large selection of spring classes available with the AMOA catalog online. *3809 W. 35th, 323-6380. www.amoa.org.*

## Litera

### READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

**GERRY BARTLETT, NINA BANGS, AND KIMBERLEY RAYE** do up vampires, romance, and Texas. Yes, *Real Vampires Have Curves*, a *Wicked Fantasy* is the best kind, and what else is a girl to do in Austin on a Sunday afternoon when she's *Dead and Dateless*? *Sun., May 6, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**TEXAS NAFAS** presents Peruvian poet Miguel Angel Zapata reading his poems in Spanish, with a great reading of the English translation by V.J. Arizpe, at Texas A&M. *Viva Zapata! Every Saturday at 10pm on Channel 16 cable.*

**SPUNKY MONKEY MUD AND POETRY** Join in creating the world's longest painting with mud on newspaper. Open mic. Jam with ambient music and poetry. *Sat.-Sun., May 5-6, 11am-5pm. Spunky Monkey Ranch, 2213-B S. First, 462-2431 or 698-9956.*

**VICTOR STENGER** The acclaimed physicist lays out the numbers on *God: The Failed Hypothesis*. *Sat., May 5, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. Sat., May 5, 7pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. www.bookpeople.com.*

**DON MILES** knows all about *Cinco de Mayo* and he's willing to share. *Sat., May 5, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**MARGARET & DAVID BAMBERGER AND JEFFREY GREENE** sign *Water From Stone*, the story of the Bamberger Ranch preserve. *Sat., May 5, noon-4pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. www.wildflower.org.*

**AMERICAN BOOK AWARD-WINNER LI-YOUNG LEE** highlights this year's Round Top Poetry Fest. Other writers include Chase Twitchell, William Wenhe, Rosemary Catacalos, Cyrus Cassells, Olga Samples Davis, Scott Hightower, Jacqueline Kolosov, Abe Louise Young, Farid Matuk, and Susan Briante. Readings, writing and publication workshops, a published anthology, discussion panels, and music concerts. Early registration is recommended. *Fri.-Sun., May 4-6. Round Top, 979/249-3129. www.festivalhill.org.*

**WAYNE LEVINE** teaches the whipped how to *Hold On to Your N.U.T.s* (Non-negotiable Unalterable Terms.) *Fri., May 4, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**RUTH BARRETT** The Dianic High Priestess and an award-winning recording artist of goddess songs, demon/strates her latest *Women's Rites, Women's Mysteries*. Learn how to think like a ritualista. *Thu., May 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

## WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

### THE WOMEN'S STORYBOOK PROJECT OF TEXAS

The Women's Storybook Project is a volunteer program that started in Austin and works with children of women who are imprisoned at Gatesville prisons, helping get them books and audio books. This weekend they'll be providing information and volunteer opportunities at a multivenu fundraiser. *Sat.-Sun., May 5-6. Barnes & Noble La Frontera, Round Rock; B&N Arboretum, 10000 Research; B&N Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S.; B&N Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie.*

**REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB** pages through a *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. *Wed., May 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**THE CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP** *Tue., May 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.myspace.com/nousgroup.*

**THE UTTER READING SERIES** is bringing Ben Fountain and Natasha Marin to the dais. Fountain is the author of the short-story collection *Brief Encounters With Che Guevara* and the novel *The Texas Itch*. Marin, a poet and a conceptual artist, is a Cave Canem fellow, an Affrilachian Poet, and a co-founder of the Gibbous Moon Collective. *Tue., May 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**SEVEN-PERCENT SOLUTION CLUB** measures *Rain Fall* by Barry Eisler. *Mon., May 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

**THE SCREENPLAY WORKSHOP** Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is offering a one-time course examining what makes a short film great (and why 99% aren't). The goal is for participants to leave with a short film script or script outline. See their Web site for details. *Sun., May 6, 2-5pm. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.*

**DIANE FANNING** presents *Fact or Fiction: Suspense Is the Key*, another in the series of B&N free writing workshops. *Wed., May 9, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

**BAD GUYS, OUTLAWS, AND HEARTBREAKERS** is a mystery panel discussion with Susan Wittig Albert (the China Bayles series) and Evelyn Palfrey (*Three Perfect Men, The Price of Passion, and Dangerous Dilemmas*). *Wed., May 9, 7:30pm. Borders at the Domain, 3309 Esperanza Crossing, 339-1352.*

**COLLECTING THE IMAGINATION: THE FIRST 50 YEARS OF THE RAMSON CENTER** features a panel discussion with book contributors, including Megan Barnard, Cathy Henderson, Richard Oram, and John Thomas. Ed Nawotka, publishing correspondent for *Bloomberg News* and *Publisher's Weekly*, will moderate. *Collecting the Imagination* traces the Center's growth from UT's founding to the birth of Harry Ransom's idea to establish a research center in the humanities that would be for the state of Texas what the Bibliothèque Nationale is for France. *Thu., May 3, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

**WHAT KIDS LIKE TO READ AND HOW TO WRITE IT** Julie Lake leads an all-day workshop that explores the basics of the children's and teen book market, touches on key elements of craft, and finishes with tips on what to do with your story once it's ready to be submitted. *Sat., May 5, 10am-4pm. Writers' League of Texas, 1501 W. Fifth Ste. E-2. \$139 (\$89, WLT members).*

## OPEN MICS

**NEO-SOUL** is a certified slam venue. *Wednesdays. Antonio's Tex-Mex Cafe & Cantina, 7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070. \$6. www.antoniosexmex.com.*

**CAFFEINATED POETRY** is open to musicians and poets. Hosted by Thom the World Poet. *Every Wednesday, except the first Wednesday when they all go to Vinny's, 7-9pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.*

**THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM** Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. Amy Steinberg is featured at 7:30 for a swell opening! And the 1!2!3!4! Slam has joined the holy fracas. Four times the excitement for the same step through that door. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic precedes the main event. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.*

**MONDAY NIGHT POETRY** is hosted by Justin Parker. *Mondays, 8-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

**HIDEOUT MIC** is still an Open Universe event with your newest host, Frank. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.thehideout.org.*

**THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA** backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.*

**RUTA MAYA** is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by Aaron and maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.*

**UNPROTECTED POETRY** Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. *Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. \$5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets). poetryatx@yahoo.com.*

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**THE NORI STORY: \$100** Cafe Armageddon is running this contest to place a short story in their forthcoming *Minerva's Wreck*, a big literary and arts anthology featuring some of the best their host city has to offer. But this contest is open to the whole damned world. Length: 1,500 words maximum. Subject: anything, as long as *nori* is featured somewhere in the story, whether as a pivotal device or a small but distinct part of the background. Prize: \$100 and two copies of *Minerva's Wreck*. Submit via snail mail only; if you want your manuscript returned, include an SASE. Send to: *Cafe Armageddon, PO Box 4942, Austin, TX 78765. Deadline: June 22.*

**THE REFINED SAVAGE POETRY REVIEW** is looking for well crafted poems that engage the imagination, psyche, and/or senses through some combination of exceptional thought, emotional projection, and/or imagery. Send three-to-five short poems (32 lines or fewer) with a brief biography and a photo (optional). [www.therefinedsavagewebsite.com/call\\_for\\_poets.htm](http://www.therefinedsavagewebsite.com/call_for_poets.htm).

**THE POETRY IN THE ARTS'** journal of poetry, *Ardent*, seeks poetry with strong emotion. Reading fee \$3 (for up to three poems). Line limit: 45. Send to: *Dillon McKinsey, Ardent Editor, 1909 Hollow Ridge Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613.*

**FARFELU** a nonprofit magazine devoted to the work of Austin-area writers and artists, seeks submissions for its upcoming issue in all forms, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, paintings, drawings, cartoons, and photographs. Edited by Elisabeth McKetta and Kim Pyle. Deadline: *May 15. www.farfelumagazine.com.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MORE POETRY!** & *what is this beauty a genius of modesty of the mud rooting the perfect lotus the shine of distance generosity of emptiness between ache soft & the kiss down: how her wet skin warms the morning of this last day.* Namaste. Vaya con Dios.

**AJA BOOK FAIR** From Sunday, May 6, through Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13, 20% of your BookPeople purchases will be awarded to Austin Jewish Academy's Library and Scholarship Fund. Book buyers must show an AJA Book Fair flier at the time of purchase. These fliers can be picked up throughout the community, at the J campus, and in the AJA school office. The 20% to AJA flier will also be inserted in the May issue of *The Jewish Outlook*. Plus, kids read poems (*Sun., May 6, 4pm*). Then there are novelists, poets, bloggers, essayists, columnists, editors, professors, and playwrights to give readings from their own works about mothers. *Sun., May 6, 6-8pm. And Topher Bradfield, BookPeople's storyteller extraordinaire, tells some terrific tales about mothers. Wed., May 9, 2pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

## POEM OF THE ISSUE

### ANTI WAR RANT OF THE ISSUE

i'd like to take every semiautomatic rifle every machine gun every SAM every RPG every mine every clusterfucking clusterbomb and pile them up like a pyramid for the god of fucking war and douse them with the piss of ten thousand house cats and leave them there on the White House lawn an abstract art form for eternity to ogle maybe put a cross on top and a sign that says "Your religion is only as violent as you are" yeah, that would do it

- Glosso, from "my mother sometimes says wistfully, 'you were such a sweet boy'"

## New Reviews

### CIVIC DUTY

D: Jeff Renfroe; with Peter Krause, Khaled Abol Naga, Richard Schiff, Kari Matchett, Ian Tracey. (R, 98 min.)

*Civic Duty* stands out amid the new wave of terrorism paranoia thrillers. It's a taut drama set primarily within the confines of two apartments in the same urban building complex and keeps the viewer guessing until the end regarding the reliability of its two central protagonists. The line separating civic duty from vigilantism is constantly shifting and constantly challenges our allegiances to these characters. In the film, *Six Feet Under*'s Krause plays an accountant named Terry Allen (a character whose disposition is so different from the identically named artist/musician that it's clear the filmmakers selected the name out of ignorance rather than homage). We learn in the film's opening moments that Terry has been laid off from his job, which consequently allows him more time to hang around his apartment working on his résumé and fretting about the down payment on the house that he and his understanding wife (Matchett) intend to buy. Everywhere, he is subtly bombarded by warnings emphasizing the terror threat and the need for extra scrutiny. When an Arab man (Naga) with few possessions moves in downstairs, Terry's curiosity is aroused, and he begins to follow the man and, eventually, enters his apartment to search it when the man is not home. Although Terry also calls in the FBI, he seems put off by the lack of alarm demonstrated by the agent (Schiff, of *The West Wing*, again wonderfully underplaying). Terry's agitation drives his wife away and we, too, come to doubt Terry's grip on reality. Yet, his discoveries also become more and more curious. Dramatically, the script by Andrew Joiner keeps the pot boiling 'til the last drop is drained. However, director Renfroe's excessively busy camerawork and green fluorescent-looking glow distract from the proceedings, as does Krause's equally frenetic performance. Once the story's events reach a climactic pitch, the film stagnates in place for too long and loses momentum. But while *Civic Duty* is truly ticking, there's no telling when and if it's going to detonate. — Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square

### THE INVISIBLE

D: David S. Goyer; with Justin Chatwin, Marcia Gay Harden, Margarita Levieva, Chris Marquette, Alex O'Loughlin. (PG-13, 97 min.)

This may be a remake of a Swedish film from 2002 (itself based on a novel), but unspooling in the cineplex it feels more akin to one of emo godhead Conor Oberst's more emotionally mopey musical diversions. Weirder still, director Goyer is the pen and brains behind the fine *Batman Begins*, which can be viewed as the darker gaze to *The Invisible*'s oh-so-bright eyes. Seemingly tailor-made for the dispossessed teen within us all (or



at least the one who loiters around Hot Topic on the weekends, if and when they finally finish pimping that difficult MySpace profile), Goyer and screenwriter Mick Davis take a crazy gambit, teen-angst clichés and all, and almost make it work, thanks to a pair of better-than-you-might-have-hoped-for performances from Chatwin and Levieva. Sensitive teen writer-type Nick (Chatwin) spends much of the first act asphyxiating on widowed mom Harden's upper-crust apron strings. It's not much of a role for the once and future *Miller's Crossing* moll, to be sure. Brooding bad girl Annie (Levieva) enters Nick's life after she mistakenly identifies him as the snitch who tipped the coppers to her late-night Tiffany's smash 'n' grab. A future candidate for *Faster Pussycat, Kill! Kill! Redux*, she accidentally offs the hapless poet-boy, which leads to his spending the rest of the film in a discorporeal state — Dead Like Yeats, you could call it — as he struggles and hollers and generally acts up in the hope that someone will discover his corpse isn't dead. Yet. Surely the pitch meeting read better than that summary, but still, that's about all there is to it, with a third act that borders on the pedantic and cloying. It's all about redemption, grasping the imperfections of all those bruised teenage (and adult) egos, and the possibility, however remote, of achieving some sort of grace by film's end. Director of photography Gabriel Beristain (*Blade II*, *The Ring 2*) turns in some superlative, atmospheric work, aided and abetted by the production's nicely oppressive Vancouver locales, but geez, let's face it: Teen angst is teen angst whether it's DOA or MIA, and c'mon, if you really want to go all Swede-emo on us, you're always going to run up against the immovable cinematic woegasm that was Ingmar Bergman. Never a smart move, that. — Marc Savlov ★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL

D: Harvey Glazer; with Jamie Kennedy, Maria Menounos, Miguel A. Nuñez Jr., Michael Rosenbaum, Christopher McDonald, Debra Jo Rupp, Bobby Lee, Aris Alvarado. (PG-13, 107 min.)

*Kickin' It Old Skool* begins in 1986, and like *The Wedding Singer*, another comedy that mines Eighties pop-culture flotsam and jetsam, it contains a scene featuring the early hip-hop classic, "Rapper's Delight," by Sugarhill Gang. In Adam Sandler's *Wedding Singer*, 80-year-old character actress Ellen Albertini Dow raps the song at her 50th wedding anniversary party, and the result is the high point of a surprisingly funny and charming picture. In Kennedy's latest opus, meanwhile, the song is playing on the radio while 12-year-old break-dancer Justin Schumacher (Alexander Calvert) pops and locks in front of his mirror in a pair of parachute pants and a leather jacket covered in zippers, and the result is little more than the humorless blueprint for an unbearably painful slog. That slog follows Justin to a school talent show, where, in a dance-off between his crew, the Funky Fresh Boys, and a rival gang, led by the rich and sleazy Kip (Taylor Beaumont), he attempts a daring spin-flip combination that results in his flying offstage headfirst onto the floor below and ending up in a coma. If only the movie had ended there, it would have been nothing more than a harmless cautionary tale about the dangers of hubris and wearing fingerless gloves. Instead, it insists on flashing forward 20 years. Justin (Kennedy) is now in his 30s and, after a surprise recovery, is newly returned to the world of the conscious and ready to get back to dancing so he can win a competition to remunerate his parents for his medical bills and reclaim the love of his elementary-school sweetheart (Menounos), who, to the surprise of no one anywhere, is now engaged to the grownup Kip (Rosenbaum). Still possessing the mind and naivete of a 12-year-old, Justin gathers the original members of the Boys (now all settled adults and comic stereotypes) and proceeds to dance his way through a series of predictable gags and low-rent cultural parody. The continued existence of Jamie

Kennedy as a factor in the entertainment industry is a source of absolute confusion to me. His success as the host of the television prank show *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment* (the missing link between Dick Clark's TV's *Bloopers & Practical Jokes* and Ashton Kutcher's *Punk'd*) and the fact that he was allowed to make another movie after 2003's unwatchable *Malibu's Most Wanted* are reasons enough to question the justness of the universe. Kennedy's humor comes from the broad, brainless, lowest-common-denominator school (in other words, he was born to play a grown man with the intelligence of a boy), and the writers behind *Kickin' It Old Skool* (one of whom cut his teeth "writing" for reality TV) make sure to fill their script with only the most obvious jokes and cultural references so that their star's particular comedic talents will shine brightest and he can work his magic without the risk of causing any audience members to think. — Josh Rosenblatt ✎ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

### LUCKY YOU

D: Curtis Hanson; with Eric Bana, Drew Barrymore, Robert Duvall, Debra Messing, Horatio Sanz, Charles Martin Smith, Saverio Guerra, Jean Smart. (PG-13, 135 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This romantic drama set against a Las Vegas background features a terrific cast and direction by L.A. *Confidential*'s Hanson. However, the fact the studio held no press previews and is opening the film against *Spider-Man 3*'s opening weekend indicates there may be little to bet on here. — Marjorie Baumgarten Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### NEXT

D: Lee Tamahori; with Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore, Jessica Biel, Thomas Kretschmann, Tory Kittles, José Zúñiga. (PG-13, 96 min.)

This pseudo-Phildickian actioner is chum for the bigger fish to come this summer; for Moore, it's a slummer. As Cris Johnson, Cage wears eyeliner and a sort of black pageboy, like Emo Philips — if



## Openings

*Civic Duty* (R)

*Lucky You* (PG-13)

*Spider-Man 3* (PG-13)

*The TV Set* (R)

## Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

Emo Philips were bald in front, and if he were a Vegas magician and professional gambler who could see approximately two minutes into the future around him. Cris cheats casinos and steals a prominently placed product vehicle, and it's all fun and games until some sexy Eurotrash obtain a nuclear weapon and threaten to detonate it somewhere in Southern California. (Why? Because the movie needs them to.) FBI agent Callie Ferris (Moore) will search every gas station, residence, warehouse, farmhouse, henhouse, outhouse, and doghouse to get clairvoyant Cris on the case, but he doesn't want to be caught. Meanwhile, in what feels like an entirely different movie, Cris romances Liz (Biel), who must be a nice girl because she teaches Havasupai children (several of whom surround her gratefully, as if intoxicated by her blond aura and heaving Caucasian décolletage) and jumps into a car with Cris minutes after being stalked by another man. Nothing about the relationship makes sense, and the age difference is not easily ignored. (Haggard, hangdog Cage still chafes as a leading man, and his future should include a return to his Coppola roots.) The only thing about the movie that makes sense is Moore, who snaps, "Get me broadband noise reduction!" and "Get me the head of casino security!" and kicks down doors, as if playing cops-and-robbers on the Paramount payroll. She's fun to watch. The rest is instantly forgettable. Cage is somnolent in his semiparadistic lowlife cheeseball mode – ladies, he can turn a takeout napkin into a rose! – and even crinkly old wonderful Peter Falk looks like a hologram of himself in a throwaway scene as Cris' father. More effort has gone into the effects, yet the action amounts to little more than dodging projectiles. I'm very concerned about director Tamahori, who used to make interesting movies about masculinity (*Once Were Warriors*, *The Edge*) but doesn't seem to have a grip on the helm here.

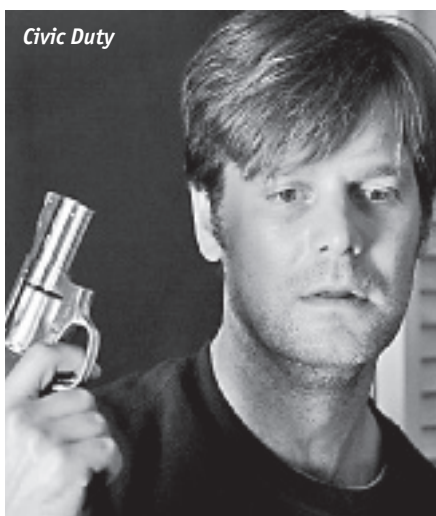
– Marrit Ingman

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## SPIDER-MAN 3

D: Sam Raimi; with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Thomas Haden Church, Topher Grace, James Franco, James Cromwell, Bryce Dallas Howard, Dylan Baker, Rosemary Harris, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 140 min.)

Ever since 2004's *Spider-Man 2* became one of the rare sequels that bested its predecessor in terms of narrative originality and visual audacity, expectations have run high for this third entry in the series. Having defied the odds once, perhaps it was unrealistic to hope for a threepeat. Sadly, *Spider-Man 3* in no way (except budget) surpasses the movie that came before it; like Icarus of myth, *Spider-Man 3* may have attempted to soar too close to the sun and melted some of its infrastructure in the process. The movie still thrills and captivates but is overstuffed with story fragments and earthbound dramas that have been inserted but then treated like second-tier guests at the film's real party: its gravity-defying heroics. The numerous chases and rescues that bob and weave through the skyscrapered air space of Manhattan have been stunningly rendered by director Raimi and cinematographer Bill Pope. However, screenwriter Raimi (who co-authored with his brother Ivan and Alvin Sargent) is not on such sure footing when it comes to the pedestrian dramas of *Spider-Man*'s human counterpart, Peter Parker. Maguire as Parker/Spider-Man has an atypical modernist moment in his opening voiceover. He stands outside a movie theatre that's showing a *Spider-Man* film and assures us that things in his life are peachy: He's famous (despite remaining incognito), still at the top of his class, and in love with the girl of his dreams, Mary Jane (Dunst). In short order, his love life becomes complicated when Mary Jane is fired from the Broadway show she's supposed to open in (this hitch in her career doesn't forestall the movie from slowing down a couple times to hear her warble a tune), and Parker is too wrapped up in Spidey's adventures to notice. For comfort, she turns to their old pal Harry (Franco), who also has a second identity as the New Goblin – an adversary of *Spider-Man*'s until amnesia makes him conveniently forget the feud. Amnesia?! But there are many more adversaries for *Spider-Man* to battle. There's Sandman (Church), whose molecular processes are a wonder of movie magic; the lingering injustice of who killed Uncle Ben; the new upstart photographer at the newspaper (Grace), who also comes



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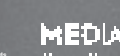
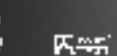
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–Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE MAGAZINE

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network executives that everything that happens in the entire show is predicated on the suicide. But the execs just do a lot of smiling and assert their absolute love of the show, only to completely undermine that love in the same breath by insisting that the show's very essence be dramatically altered. Manipulating every element, Lenny insists that an over-the-top actor (Kranz) play the lead role and forces last-minute rewrites during production. As a result, Mike watches his creation transform from edgy storytelling into trashy melodrama, complete with fart jokes and catchphrases. Clearly wanting his audience to experience some of the pain he must have felt at various times during his television work, Kasdan ensures that it's a sad progression to watch. Full of sharp comedy, the writing and directing is skillful and reminiscent of Kasdan's first two feature-directing efforts, *The Zero Effect* and *Orange County*. And the performances stand out as subtle and clever (particularly Duchovny and Kranz). But it's difficult to overcome the maddening futility underlying the film. Mike sort of learns something and sort of changes, only to begin to realize he's pretty much screwed all over again. Meanwhile, the other characters are either soulless commandos (Weaver), eager pawns (Kranz), or lonely observers (Gruffudd). The people we root for either don't or can't take action. It's a losing battle in a completely screwed-up business. Yes, it's funny because it's true. But it's also just sad for the same reason. (*The TV Set* first screened in Austin during last fall's Austin Film Festival.) - *Toddy Burton* ★★ Arbor

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# First Runs

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## AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE COLON MOVIE FILM FOR THEATERS

*D: Matt Maiellaro, Dave Willis; with the voices of Maiellaro, Willis, Dana Snyder, Carey Means, Andy Merrill, Mike Schatz, Fred Armisen, Bruce Campbell, C. Martin Croker.* (R, 86 min.)

Count it as one of the great Hollywood mysteries – right up there with the death of Natalie Wood and the career of Vin Diesel – that we’ve had to wait this long for a movie starring a talking milkshake, a floating box of french fries, and a ball of ground beef. Based on the popular Cartoon Network TV show, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters* is every bit as ridiculous as its name. And in all honesty, I have no real idea what it’s about; the plot is fairly incomprehensible. Which doesn’t really matter, because the plot is incidental anyway; it’s just a frame in which to hang a massive collection of absurdist non sequiturs and deadpan pauses, which, depending on your tastes (and possibly your affinity for mind-altering drugs), are either the stuff of comic genius or proof that the world has stopped making sense entirely. (04/13/2007) – *Josh Rosenblatt*  
**★★** Alamo Drafthouse South, Tinseltown South

## ARE WE DONE YET?

*D: Steve Carr; with Ice Cube, Nia Long, John C. McGinley, Aleisha Allen, Philip Bolden.* (PG, 92 min.)

Who could have ever foreseen that Ice Cube – the rapper who announced his music career with *Straight Outta Compton* and his subsequent acting career with *Boyz n the Hood* – would now be making movies about family life and the pitfalls of home-ownership in the suburbs. Although an unlikely career path, it has served Cube well, and in addition to morphing into a decent actor and popular star of family movies, he has also moved into the producer’s chair for these projects. In this follow-up to 2005’s *Are We There Yet?*, Cube resumes the role of Nick Persons, who has now married the object of his affections (Long), become a loving and dutiful parent to her annoying children (Allen and Bolden), and sold his Portland, Ore., sports-memorabilia store and moved away from the city. Nothing is very funny in this movie, and everything is predictable. (04/13/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

**★** AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



## Napoleon Dynamite With John Gries

**Napoleon Dynamite (2004)** *D: Jared Hess; with Jon Heder, Efren Ramirez, Jon Gries, Aaron Ruell, Tina Majorino, Diedrich Bader, Sandy Martin.* (PG, 86 min.) **Jon Gries Live.** Indie film about teenage dork celebrates the youthful underdog. Uncle Rico (Jon Gries) will be in attendance. See p.59 of this week’s Screens section for more info. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Saturday, 7pm.

## Two-Lane Blacktop

**Two-Lane Blacktop (1971)** *D: Monte Hellman; with James Taylor, Warren Oates, Laurie Bird, Dennis Wilson, Harry Dean Stanton.* (R, 102 min.) **Austin Cinematheque.** This cult classic is a keenly acted and directed film about two drivers racing their cars through the Southwest. @Texas Union Theatre, Monday, 7:30pm; free.



## AVENUE MONTAIGNE

*D: Danièle Thompson; with Cécile de France, Valérie Lemercier, Albert Dupontel, Laura Morante, Claude Brasseur, Christopher Thompson, Dani, Annelise Hesme, Sydney Pollack.* (PG-13, 100 min., subtitled)

In writer/director Thompson’s film, de France plays Jessica, a young woman who moves to Paris from the provinces with nothing but the knapsack on her back and the innocent gleam in her eye. Choosing to bypass all those unnecessary years spent paying dues in garrets, she heads straight to the city’s famous Avenue Montaigne in search of a life of wonder and luxury. Never mind that she can’t afford a meal, much less an apartment, in that tony district: This is *Paris du cinema*, and as long as Jessica exudes joie de vivre, she’ll have the world on a string. Thompson’s Paris is a close cousin of Woody Allen’s Manhattan: a place of boundless wealth, safety, and romantic possibility, where genuine urban hardship is scarce but emotional discontent is everywhere. Thompson, though, knows that even the deepest onscreen Parisian dissatisfaction will sparkle in the city’s glow. (04/20/2007) – *Josh Rosenblatt*

**★★★** Arbor

## BLACK BOOK

*D: Paul Verhoeven; with Carice van Houten, Sebastian Koch, Thom Hoffman, Halina Reijn, Waldemar Kobus, Derek de Lint.* (R, 145 min., subtitled)

Verhoeven returns to his native Netherlands after a 20-year sojourn in Hollywood, and the result is nothing like *Showgirls*. Just so we’re clear. *Black Book* (Zwartboek) resurrects themes from 1977’s *Soldier of Orange*, a heroic thriller about Dutch resistance to Nazi occupation. *Black Book* is more morally shaded, its sympathies divided among individuals rather than ideologies: It is an enhanced consideration of collusion and resistance, evil and good, and the people in between. Verhoeven mines the resistance movement for Dutch nationalism and anti-Semitism; some characters are simply misguided by impossible love. Still, Verhoeven can be philosophical yet perverse, lofty yet earthy. All of this unfolds with characteristic Verhoeven spectacle: At 16 million Euros, *Black Book* is the most expensive Dutch production to date, and what’s in the budget is on the screen. The action set-pieces, double crosses, and narrow escapes are hand-somely mounted and suspenseful as a Saturday matinee. (04/27/2007) – *Marrit Ingman*  
**★★★★** Arbor, Dobie

## BLADES OF GLORY

*D: Josh Gordon, Will Speck; with Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Arnett, Amy Poehler, Jenna Fischer, William Fichtner, Craig T. Nelson, Nick Swardson, Rob Corddry.* (PG-13, 93 min.)

Just because Will Ferrell is game for anything that might draw a laugh, it doesn’t mean the comedian and leading (funny)man should follow through with every idea that comes his way. *Blades of Glory*, although mildly amusing, has the dank odor of having gone to the well once too often: Ooh, let’s dress up Ferrell like an elf – or an anchorman or a NASCAR driver – and see what happens. There’s more concept than execution in *Blades of Glory*, which squishes Ferrell’s flabby body into an ice skater’s spandex and then runs on the weak narrative fumes left over from *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* and *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*. The film also features a slew of cameos that includes everyone from Andy Richter and Luke Wilson to a host of real skaters (among them Nancy Kerrigan, Brian Boitano, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming, Scott Hamilton, and Sasha Cohen) and sports announcer Jim Lampley. (03/30/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

**★★** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## THE CONDEMNED

*D: Scott Wiper; with Steve Austin, Vinnie Jones, Rick Hoffman, Robert Mammone, Tory Mussett, Christopher Baker.* (R, 100 min.)

Ten death row inmates from Third World prisons. One South Seas island. Thirty hours. Twenty ounces of plastic explosives strapped to various legs. Two screenwriters. One retired wrestler (Austin, no longer “Stone Cold”). One impale-ment. Two rapes (one attempted, one offscreen but audible). \$49.95 for Internet subscribers to watch it all on a reality series produced by one Hollywood slimeball (Mammone). Millions tune in. Two others: a crazy Special Forces motherfucker (Jones) and the high-minded producer’s girlfriend (Mussett), who balks at the show. One FBI agent (Luke Pegler) who won’t drop the case, even when ordered. And dozens of explosions, approximately one per every six minutes of screen time. In between, an earnest newswoman (Angie Milliken) asks us to please think of the children, and someone or another remarks on how violent entertainment wouldn’t sell to millions of people if they weren’t bloodthirsty bastards, and aren’t we really all to blame? (04/27/2007) – *Marrit Ingman*  
**📍** Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## DISTURBIA

*D: D.J. Caruso; with Shia LaBeouf, David Morse, Sarah Roemer, Carrie-Anne Moss, Aaron Yoo, Jose Pablo Cantillo, Viola Davis, Matt Craven.* (PG-13, 104 min.)

Up-and-comer LaBeouf (*Holes*) is a young actor to watch, but he’s had better opportunities than this teen thriller to show what he’s capable of. Resembling, without copying, the voyeuristic storyline of Hitchcock’s *Rear Window*, *Disturbia* also brings to mind other films such as Coppola’s *The Conversation* and Joe Dante’s *The ‘burbs*. In *Disturbia*, LaBeouf plays a smart teen who winds up under house arrest because of an impulsive action. Eventually, he discovers the indoor sport of spying on the neighbors through binoculars. This activity gets him up close and personal with the girl who just moved in next door (Roemer) and arouses his suspicions about the man who lives by himself (Morse) across the way. Nearly an hour of film time passes before anything suspenseful happens. Once the commotion hits, it barrels ahead with an ugly forcefulness. The one notable aspect of the story is the modern integration of desktop technology to unravel its tale. (04/13/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*  
**★★★** AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## FIREHOUSE DOG

*D: Todd Holland; with Josh Hutcherson, Bruce Greenwood, Dash Mihok, Bill Nunn, Bree Turner, Scotch Ellis Loring, Mayte Garcia, Teddy Sears.* (PG, 111 min.)

I agreed with my 5-year-old that *Firehouse Dog* was pretty terrific, but there were many aspects I didn’t like as much as he – like the setup, about a Hollywood pooch who gets lost during a stunt and ends up a stray outside a downtown firehouse captained by a single dad (Greenwood) with a stubborn school-skipping son (Hutcherson, of *Bridge to Terabithia*). I liked the parts in which the boy and the dog became friends and the boy solved a mystery; I thought the kid was good, and the dad was actually pretty awesome. But I didn’t like how the dog wore a cheesy bouffant hair-piece and silk robes and did computer-animated stunts and rode a skateboard and farted a lot. I also questioned the filmmakers’ taste at times. Perhaps the lesson to be learned is that just because we can use computer technology to give dogs goofy faces, that doesn’t mean we should. (04/13/2007) – *Marrit Ingman*

**★★** AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

## FRACTURE

*D: Gregory Hoblit; with Anthony Hopkins, Ryan Gosling, David Strathairn, Rosamund Pike, Embeth Davidtz, Billy Burke, Cliff Curtis, Fiona Shaw.* (R, 112 min.)

Anthony Hopkins can convey more with one flared nostril than most actors can express with their entire bodies working in overdrive. As *Fracture*’s wife-murdering protagonist, Ted Crawford, Hopkins is a delight to watch as he uses his actorly guiles to successfully agitate, torment, and belittle his accusers, who are unable to find the evidence to prove his guilt despite full certainty that he committed the act. Gosling is also one of the best young actors of his generation. Cast in *Fracture* as the hotshot assistant DA whose task it is to convict Crawford, Gosling, too, is a pleasure to watch. This legal thriller pits these two brilliant actors against one another in a sustained battle of wills that has enough sizzle to keep us rapt even when the storyline sags and zags. Veteran courtroom dramatist Hoblit directs with seamless style despite the movie’s overstuffed narrative midsection and warrantless romantic subplot. (04/20/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

**★★★** CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## GRINDHOUSE

*D: Robert Rodriguez, Quentin Tarantino; with Rose McGowan, Marley Shelton, Freddy Rodriguez, Josh Brolin, Jeff Fahey, Michael Biehn, Naveen Andrews, Kurt Russell, Sydney Poitier, Jordan Ladd, Vanessa Ferlito, Zoë Bell, Rosario Dawson, Tracie Thoms, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Michael Parks, Danny Trejo, Bruce Willis, Tarantino.* (R, 191 min.)

More than just a fun three hours at the movies, *Grindhouse* is a total immersion into movie geekdom, in which the packaging, marketing, lore, and accumulative experience are as much a part of the deal as the images that are up on the screen. With its two separate feature films – “Planet Terror” by Rodriguez and “Death Proof” by Tarantino – a host of tongue-in-cheek trailers; scratches and notices of missing reels intentionally inserted into the prints in order to heighten the illusion of the celluloid’s sprocket-weary authenticity; a splashy two-for-the-price-of-one marketing campaign; and enough cast members to keep the talk-show couches on permanent rotation, *Grindhouse* raises the bar for a certain kind of movie lollapalooza and film showmanship. It’s this injection of playfulness and fun and attention to the entire moviegoing gestalt that will probably become *Grindhouse*’s lasting contribution to movie history rather than any on-the-screen content of the movie itself. (04/06/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

**★★★** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Metropolitan

## HOT FUZZ

*D: Edgar Wright; with Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Jim Broadbent, Paddy Considine, Timothy Dalton, Billie Whitelaw, Rafe Spall, Edward Woodward, Paul Freeman.* (R, 121 min.)

Simultaneously smart and silly, *Hot Fuzz* demonstrates that it’s not necessary to be a buffoon in order to lampoon. This send-up of buddy-cop movies is a thoroughly entertaining blend of wry British humor and climactic, over-the-top action-film heroics. It is a film that truly deserves the description “action comedy,” a true hybrid that gives equal measure to both labels rather than merely using one form to prop up the other. *Hot Fuzz* comes from the same team behind 2004’s hilarious spoof of zombie movies, *Shaun of the Dead*: director and co-writer Wright, star and co-writer Pegg, and funnyman Frost. Mimicking and tweaking moments from films by the likes of Tony Scott, Michael Bay, and Jerry Bruckheimer, *Hot Fuzz* shows a great love and knowledge of everything it satirizes. At two hours, *Hot Fuzz* drags a bit in its midsection but is nevertheless the most originally funny movie to hit U.S. screens in a while. (04/20/2007) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

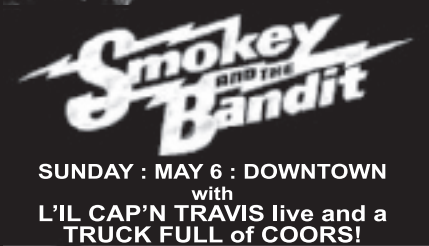
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**JOHN ERLER'S MASTER PANCAKE THEATER LAMPONS PRETTY WOMAN**  
FRI, MAY 4, DOWNTOWN

**THURSDAY, 5/3 - DOWNTOWN**  
**THE MOTH STORY TOUR**  
"STORYTELLING AS LITERARY COMFORT FOOD"  
- THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

**SATURDAY, 5/5 - DOWNTOWN**  
**JON GRIES LIVE IN PERSON**  
with **NAPOLEON DYNAMITE** and **JOYSTICKS!**

**MONDAY, 5/7 - DOWNTOWN**  
BOOKPEOPLE presents  
**STRANGERS ON A TRAIN**  
with star **FARLEY GRANGER** live in person!

**WEDNESDAY, 5/9 - DOWNTOWN**  
HOLLAND PHOTO presents  
**the original WILLY WONKA**  
with **GOLDEN TICKET GIVE-AWAYS!**

**THURS 5/10, FRI 5/11 & SUN 5/13 - DOWNTOWN**  
**LAST NIGHT AT THE ALAMO GRINDHOUSE**  
QUENTIN TARANTINO LIVE IN PERSON with a  
**THREE NIGHT EDITION OF QT FEST FAVORITES**  
featuring **SEX COMEDIES** on THURSDAY, **REDNECKS** on FRIDAY, and **SWINGING** on SUNDAY!

**DOWNTOWN - 4TH AND COLORADO**

THU, MAY 3	<b>THE MOTH STORY TOUR</b> <b>THE PRINCE SING-ALONG</b> • <b>TERROR THURS (FREE)</b> INVASION OF BEE GIRLS	6:30 9:45 MIDNIGHT
FRI, MAY 4	<b>MASTER PANCAKE: PRETTY WOMAN</b> •	7:10:00
SAT, MAY 5	<b>NAPOLEON DYNAMITE w/ JON GRIES</b> • <b>JOYSTICKS w/ JON GRIES</b> •	7:00 9:45
SUN, MAY 6	<b>SMOKEY &amp; THE BANDIT w/ L'IL CAP'N TRAVIS</b> •	7, 9:45
MON, MAY 7	<b>STRANGERS ON A TRAIN w/ FARLEY GRANGER</b> <b>MUSIC MONDAY: WE WERE NEVER HERE</b>	7:00 9:45
TUES, MAY 8	<b>AFS: THE PIANO TEACHER</b> <b>PLAGUES &amp; PLEASURES ON THE SALTON SEA</b>	7:00 9:45
WED, MAY 9	<b>TX DOC TOUR: TEN UNDER TEN</b> the original <b>WILLY WONKA w/ GOLDEN TICKETS</b> <b>WEIRD WEDS (FREE)</b> COP-KILLERS	7:00 9:45 MIDNIGHT
THU, MAY 10	<b>QUENTIN TARANTINO presents</b> <b>LAST NIGHT at the ALAMO GRINDHOUSE</b> • (SEX COMEDIES)	8:00

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<b>AQUA TEEN</b>		1145*	155*	435	725 945
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<b>BLADES OF GLORY</b>		1120*	135*	405	655 920
<b>THE WENDELL BAKER STORY</b> •				700 (Tues)	

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<b>HOT FUZZ</b>		1255*	355	705 955
<b>BLADES OF GLORY</b>		105*	405	705 945
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<b>LOST</b>				9:45 (Wed)

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ful, hypnotic, comforting, and, yes, bizarre. At once eerie, picaresque, evocative, and utterly alien to the reality most viewers inhabit, *Into Great Silence* is a daring and breathtakingly constructed documentary dream. (04/27/2007) — Marc Savlov  
★★★ Arbor

★ **THE LIVES OF OTHERS**  
D: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck; with Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch, Ulrich Tukur, Thomas Thieme. (R, 137 min., subtitled)

Oh, to be in East Berlin: The buildings are gray, the birds are chirping, and the Stasi — the East German secret police — are looking into those buildings through binoculars and scanning those birds' chirps for seditious intent. In 33-year-old von Donnersmarck's debut feature, which also just received the Oscar for Best Foreign Film, the sense of dread and lifeless resignation is palpable. That feeling is personified by Capt. Gerd Wiesler (Mühe), a stone-faced Stasi officer who is assigned the task of spying on a couple of renowned artists, who appear to be the last people in East Germany capable of having any fun. At first, Wiesler is the very portrait of post-Stalinist discipline, but this is the story of a man's small redemption, and it isn't long before Wiesler begins to sense a light growing inside him, rattling his concrete walls. Mühe, in a performance that won him a Best Actor award at the German film awards, is brilliant here. (03/02/2007) — Josh Rosenblatt  
★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

**MEET THE ROBINSONS**  
D: Stephen J. Anderson; with the voices of Anderson, Angela Bassett, Tom Kenny, Laurie Metcalf, Daniel Hansen, Jordan Fry, Wesley Singerman, Matthew Josten, Nicole Sullivan, Ethan Sandler, Tom Selleck. (G, 92 min.)

While Disney's latest animated feature might not be a sign of the apocalypse, it's at least a sign that Disney needs to find some decent writers. The film opens with the Mickey Mouse short "Boat Builders" from 1938. Sure, the hand-drawn animation is fun to watch. But hearing Walt's falsetto Mickey voice mixed with the thin humor, it's difficult not to wonder, "What exactly is Disney Magic, and how can I get far, far away from it?" The story of the film, based on a children's book by William Joyce, follows the tale of 12-year-old Lewis (voiced by Hansen and Fry), a boy-genius orphan. Though the characters are unique and occasionally fun, they're paper-thin. And without any foundation, it's impossible to care about these characters. This is the zany for zany's sake school of filmmaking. The animation strives for 1950s sci-fi retro, but the result is that everyone looks like a plastic animé doll. (04/06/2007) — Todd Burton  
★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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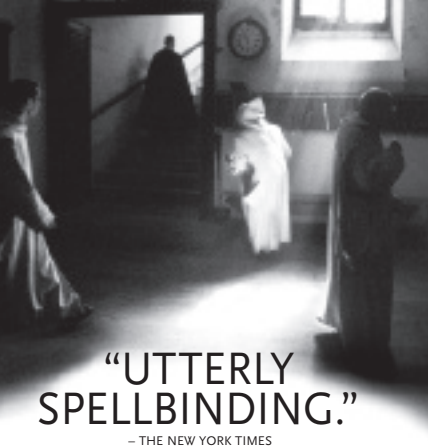
**IN THE LAND OF WOMEN**  
D: Jonathan Kasdan; with Adam Brody, Meg Ryan, Kristen Stewart, Olympia Dukakis, Makenzie Vega, Elena Anaya, Clark Gregg, JoBeth Williams, Ginnifer Goodwin. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Despite a title that makes this movie sound as though it might be the latest madcap offering from Pedro Almodóvar, *In the Land of Women* is a much more conventional affair — a tame yet appealing melodrama about finding oneself that is alternately formulaic and unique. The OC's Brody here gets to break out of high school and play his own age — even if it's only the ripe old age of 26. Playing Carter Webb, an older variation of his too-cool-for-school nerd, Brody is this movie's drifting soul loose in "the land of women," which, in this case, is somewhere in suburban Michigan, where he goes to stay with his batty grandmother (Dukakis) and "regroup." While Dukakis mostly delivers schtick, Carter becomes involved with a mother and daughter who live across the street. This first film by writer/director Kasdan reveals him to have a good ear for dialogue and the foibles of growing into adulthood. (04/20/2007) — Marjorie Baumgarten  
★★★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Tinseltown South, Westgate

**INTO GREAT SILENCE**  
D: Philip Gröning. (NR, 162 min.)

So sonorously meditative as to be something of a federally scheduled soporific, this remarkable 162-minute documentary on the Carthusian monks of the French Alps — who have taken a vow of silence that lasts as long as they do — is a profound and hauntingly beautiful glimpse into a stratum of religiosity few laypersons will ever encounter. It also, at first reckoning, borders on the absurd. But director Gröning, who patiently and penitentially waited some 16 years to secure ascetic permission before embarking on his aesthetic documentary project, is nothing if not fully immersed in the lives of his subjects. Working with an unobtrusive camera, Gröning seeks the furthest reaches of faith, and what he discovers is beauti-

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Profound and hauntingly beautiful. A daring and breathtakingly constructed documentary dream."  
— Marc Savlov, THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE



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## Nudge 4.0 Micro-Digital Film Festival

**Nudge 4.0 Micro-Digital Film Festival (2007)** *D: Various.* **Austin FilmWorks.** These semi-annual end-of-the-semester screenings present students' work for public consumption. Final thesis films from UT's 368S class screen on Wednesday and include "Lessons of the Tongue," "Donnybrook," "Pederson's Savings and Loan," "House of Darkness," "Overexposed," "Richard Cocksmith," and "Crash." Film project films for Austin FilmWorks' Production One and Two classes screen on Thursday and include *The Visitors* and *A Day to Remember*. Filmmakers will be in attendance. For more info, see [www.austinfilmworks.com](http://www.austinfilmworks.com). @Arbor, Wednesday-Thursday (5/10), 7pm; \$6.



### REDLINE

*D: Andy Cheng; with Angus Macfadyen, Tim Matheson, Eddie Griffin, Nadia Bjorlin, Nathan Phillips, Wyclef Jean, Kevin Levrone.* (PG-13, 95 min.)

*Redline* is former Enzo owner and producer of this film Daniel Sadek's poshy, rich-dick vanity flick. If *The Fast and the Furious* was the car-porn equivalent of Larry Flynt's upstart skin rag *Hustler* (vaguely amateur, barely legal, and very cherry), then *Redline* is redolent of Bob Guccione's too-glossy latter-day *Penthouse*, with an archaic bad boy's eye for both T&A and automotive emphasis on the exotic. (Yawn.) In a word, it's sleek and shiny and you can't have it. Wealthy men of leisure (Macfadyen, Matheson, and Griffin) bet \$100 million of their money and their own cars – including the aforementioned Enzo, a Rolls-Royce Phantom, a Lamborghini Murcielago, and a deuce of Mercedes McLarens – on a race of their own devising. The pneumatic Bjorlin plays a sexy singer-grease monkey-road vixen, who steals the show, barely, from all the candy-colored, metal-flake rimjobs that glide and slide across the screen. (04/20/2007) – Marc Savlov

✧ Tinseltown South

### SHOOTER

*D: Antoine Fuqua; with Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Kate Mara, Elias Koteas, Rhona Mitra, Rade Serbedzija, Ned Beatty.* (R, 124 min.)

To an extent I'm willing to indulge a dunderheaded commando actioner such as *Shooter* if one of its villains is an omnipotent Cheney-esque senator; in these times we all need catharsis. This movie blows lots of shit up *real good* and punishes contemptible public figures otherwise left unaccountable for massacring African villagers. Retired and improbably named ex-Marine Corps sniper Bob Lee Swagger (Wahlberg) falls for the oldest trick in the book – the book being Stephen Hunter's *Point of Impact*, here adapted leadenly to the screen by Jonathan Lemkin – and helps a shady G-man (Glover) "prevent" the assassination of the president. But before you can say "fall guy," Swagger is wanted for murder and on the run. There's a junior agent (Peña) who believes Swagger has been framed and Barbie-doll co-stars (Mara and Mitra) who change clothes often and discharge weapons while wearing lots of eyeliner. (03/23/2007) – Marrit Ingman

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

### 300

*D: Zack Snyder; with Gerald Butler, Lena Headey, David Wenham, Dominic West, Vincent Regan, Michael Fassbender, Tom Wisdom, Rodrigo Santoro.* (R, 117 min.)

Both the comic book by author Frank Miller and director Snyder's cinematic adaptation are blood-thirsty affairs for ex-sanguinary times. Onscreen, buoyed up to and past Mount Olympus by some of the most flawlessly integrated visual effects yet created and a script that takes itself, as it should, very seriously, *300* is an action-film lover's wet, crimson

## Pretty Woman

**Pretty Woman (1990)** *D: Garry Marshall; with Richard Gere, Julia Roberts.* (R, 117 min.) **Master Pancake Theater.** Martha Kelly joins Master Pancake Theater as this month's "rotating third heckler." Kelly is a former Austin resident and former "Funniest Person in Austin," who will join John Erler and Joe Parsons in the front row to dismantle both *Pretty Woman* and the gender barrier. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Friday, 7, 10pm.

## The Piano Teacher

**The Piano Teacher (2001)** *D: Michael Haneke; with Isabelle Huppert, Annie Girardot, Benoît Magimel.* (NR, 130 min.) **Austin Film Society: Spaces Between Realities – The Films of Michael Haneke.** Harrowing psychological drama based on a novel by Austrian Nobel Prize-winner Elfriede Jelinek. For more on the series, see [austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A460826](http://austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A460826). (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Tuesday, 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 nonmembers.



dream, awash in spectacle and set to a terrific, rumbling score by Tyler Bates. Not since Mario Bava's *Hercules in the Haunted World* has Greco-Roman movie-house mythmaking been so thoroughly well-conceived and executed. Cinematographer Larry Fong brings Miller's visceral, instantly identifiable splash pages to bloody life and loses none of the author's trademark visual kineticism in the transfer from page to screen. It's notable that these 300 bearded die-hards, attempting to repel shockingly awesome numbers of foreign usurpers, resemble nothing so much as an intractable insurgency willing to sacrifice everything up to and including their own lives. (03/09/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan

### TMNT

*D: Kevin Munroe; with the voices of Chris Evans, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Mako, Patrick Stewart, Laurence Fishburne, Ziyi Zhang, Mitchell Whitfield, James Arnold Taylor, Mikey Kelley, Nolan North, Kevin Smith.* (PG, 90 min.)

"We're going to rescue our brother; then we're going to save New York City," declares one of the crime-fighting turtles. Beyond this crux, the rest of the plot in this new outing from the dormant Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise seems an afterthought. Back on the screen for the first time since the early Nineties, the turtles are now animated via CGI and no longer wearing their Jim Henson hard shells. Though they are still identifiable by their color-coordinated masks and penchant for pizza, their character distinctions are harder to perceive in this revival. Even though much of the action takes place in the sewers and nighttime rooftops the turtle clan claims as its own, the overall look of this animated feature is murky and dull. It's all probably too slippery for the youngest viewers to grasp and too sketchy for the nostalgia crowd (for whom this revival seems most geared). (03/23/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

### VACANCY

*D: Nimród Antal; with Kate Beckinsale, Luke Wilson, Frank Whaley, Ethan Embry.* (R, 80 min.)

*Vacancy* is a creepy, well-executed exercise in back-roads paranoia. Wilson and Beckinsale play a variation on the old bickering-couple theme who, after nearly killing themselves trying to avoid the overemployed critter-in-the-road gambit, are forced to check into the rundown motel of nutty Mason (Whaley) only to find they're pawns (pawns, I tell you!) in a horrific game of decidedly deadly cat and mouse between management and guests. Antal directed a far more interesting bit of cinematic weirdness (in the good sense, I mean) by the name of *Kontroll* a few years back. That film mined the innate subterranean suspense of the Budapest metro for every single kilo of mystery it could get its paws on, and while *Vacancy*, which mixes bits of *Psycho* with *Sliver* and still manages to come up wanting, works best when it slows down to catch its breath – which it doesn't do nearly enough. (04/27/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

### THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY

*D: Ken Loach; with Cillian Murphy, Padraic Delaney, Liam Cunningham, Gerard Kearney, William Ruane, Orla Fitzgerald, Roger Allam.* (NR, 127 min.)

In left-wing rabble-rouser Loach's brilliant new film, Murphy plays Damien O'Donovan, a medical student living in Ireland in 1920 whose plans to move to London are sidetracked by the Irish War for Independence, a bloody struggle that pitted bands of guerrilla fighters against the ruthless Black and Tan soldiers of King George V. At the center of the struggle is Damien's brother, Teddy (Delaney), a hard-line IRA man. Paul Laverty's script is a masterpiece of ambivalent populism, showing with a subtle touch just how dire the personal consequences of political decisions can be, and how quickly principles can devolve into hypocrisy when the desire for retribution supersedes the need for freedom. *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* isn't free of platitudes or high-minded oration, but it paints a grim realist portrait that captures the solemnity of an Ireland turning on itself and the tragedy of two brothers spiraling away from each other. AFS@Dobie (04/27/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Dobie

### YEAR OF THE DOG

*D: Mike White; with Molly Shannon, Laura Dern, Regina King, Thomas McCarthy, Josh Pais, John C. Reilly, Peter Sarsgaard.* (PG-13, 97 min.)

Whether focusing on an obsessive man-child (Chuck & Buck), a wannabe rocker (*School of Rock*), or a lonely housewife (*The Good Girl*), Mike White's scripts capture an authentic awkwardness that somehow manages to remain hilarious and heart-breaking all at once. In his directorial debut, White embraces the awkward with the story of a woman and her dog. Peggy (Shannon) just wants to be loved. White's directing style is gentle, with highly composed symmetry and hardly any camera movement. Giving the actors plenty of authentically funny dialogue and time to rest in every moment, he's clearly a writer first. As for the cast, you couldn't ask for more. Dern is hilarious as the obsessive sister-in-law, Sarsgaard plays oddball dog-man to perfection, Pais is perfectly awkward as Peggy's nervous boss, Reilly rocks the subtle humor of Peggy's hunting-obsessed neighbor, and Shannon gives a breakout performance. (04/27/2007) – Todd Burton

★★★★ Arbor

### ZODIAC

*D: David Fincher; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Edwards, Robert Downey Jr., Brian Cox, John Carroll Lynch, Chloë Sevigny, Elias Koteas, Dermot Mulroney, Donal Logue, Philip Baker Hall, Zach Grenier, James LeGros, Adam Goldberg, Candy Clark, Clea DuVall.* (R, 156 min.)

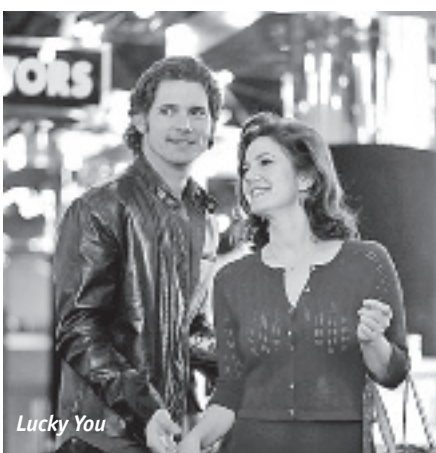
Fincher switches gears with his new film from psychological thrillers to something that more closely resembles a police procedural. Based on Robert Graysmith's two books about the notorious Zodiac murders that gripped the San Francisco area in the early Seventies, Fincher's film is nevertheless creepy and uncompromising. It's a true-crime story in which justice has never been served, making the film one that has no rectifying conclusion. Instead, Fincher's film places its primary focus on the four men whose lives were forever altered by their pursuit of the Zodiac's identity. The casting couldn't be better. Yet Fincher's character shorthand is also the film's biggest problem. We know too little about the psychological makeup of these men to just accept the film's easy conclusion that the Zodiac case ruined these men's lives. At 2½ hours, the film is also too long in the telling and too short on suspense. (03/02/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Round Rock

# Also Playing

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

- AMAZING GRACE ★★★ Round Rock
- BECAUSE I SAID SO ★★ Round Rock
- DEAD SILENCE ★★ Round Rock
- GHOST RIDER ★★ Round Rock, Tinseltown South
- THE HILLS HAVE EYES II ★ Round Rock
- I THINK I LOVE MY WIFE ★★ Round Rock
- THE LAST MIMZY ★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square
- NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM ★ Round Rock
- NORBIT ★★★ Millennium, Round Rock
- THE NUMBER 23 ▼ Millennium

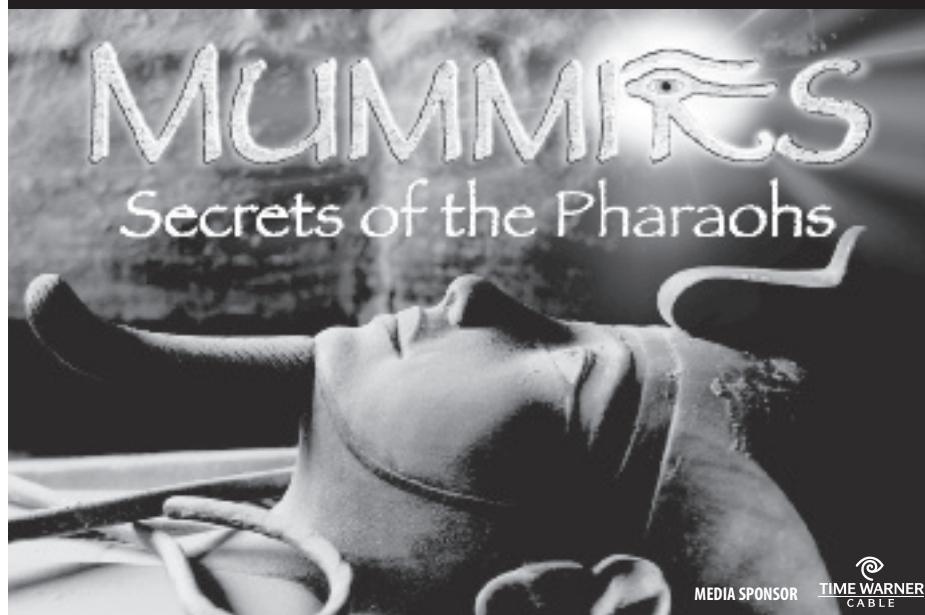


Lucky You

- PREMONITION ★ Tinseltown South
- THE REAPING ★★ Metropolitan
- TYLER PERRY'S DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS ★★★ Round Rock
- WILD HOGS ★★ Tinseltown South

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# Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (\*) indicates full-length reviews available online: [austinchronicle.com/film](http://austinchronicle.com/film).



Farley Granger (r) will attend a book signing and screening of *Strangers on a Train* on Monday.

## THURSDAY 03

### **Invasion of the Bee Girls (1973)**

*D: Denis Sanders; with Ben Hammer, Wright King, Cliff Osmond, Anitra Ford, William Smith, Victoria Vetri. (R, 85 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Talk about your ultimate B-movie! Ford lures women into her hive and zaps them with some kind of gooey sap. They come out wearing dark sunglasses and luring male victims to death by you-know-what. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

### **The Ballad of AJ Weberman (2006)**

*D: James Bluemel and Oliver Ralfe. (NR, 80 min.)* **Austin Film Festival.** The life, times, and crimes of the obsessive Bob Dylan collector and inventor of the "gargology" is profiled in this feature that includes an animation of an actual telephone conversation between Weberman and Dylan. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$4, AFF members free.

**The Sing-Along Formerly and Again Known as Prince** @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

## SPACES

**Fletch (1985)** *D: Michael Ritchie; with Chevy Chase, Hal Holbrook, Julianne Phillips, Cleavon Little, R. Lee Ermey, Richard Libertini. (PG, 96 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

## FRIDAY 04

**Pretty Woman (1990)** See p.94.

## SPACES

**"Rescue Me" (2005)** *D: Stacy Schoolfield. (NR, 35 min.)* This documentary about the urgency of animal rescue features interviews with a range of volunteers and professionals, including Kinky Friedman, the founder of the Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch, and workers at the Austin Zoo, Austin Feral Cats, and other groups. For complete info see [www.rescuemedocumentary.com](http://www.rescuemedocumentary.com). @Jo's Hot Coffee (1300 S. Congress), 8:30pm; \$10 suggested donation benefits local rescue groups and spay/neuter programs.

**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow (1998)** *D: Joel Coen; with Jeff Bridges. (R, 117 min.)* This is so much more than a parking-lot screening of the wonderful *Big Lebowski*. In addition to the outdoor screening of the film, the ticket includes bowling and White Russians. @Dart Bowl, 8:15pm.

## SATURDAY 05

**Joysticks (1983)** *D: Greydon Clark; with Joe Don Baker, Leif Green, Jim Greenleaf, Scott McGinnis, Jon Gries. (R, 88 min.)* **Jon Gries Live.** Joe Don Baker tries to shut down the video arcade that's ruining the town's youth. King Vidiot (Jon Gries) will be in attendance. See p.59 of this week's Screens section for more info. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

**Napoleon Dynamite (2004)** See p.92.

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin Rocky Horror fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 30 years straight. For more info, see [www.austinrocky.org](http://www.austinrocky.org). @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

## SUNDAY 06

**Smokey and the Bandit (1977)** *D: Hal Needham; with Burt Reynolds, Sally Field, Jackie Gleason, Jerry Reed. (PG, 96 min.)* New 35mm print of the good ol' boy classic. There will be live music by Lil Cap'n Travis before the show, a semi-truck full of Coors in the lobby, and lyric sheets for the opening song. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

## SPACES

**Stripes (1981)** *D: Ivan Reitman; with Bill Murray. (R, 105 min.)* Hosted by cut-up Jerm Pollet and featuring Sunday-only dinner specials. @Belmont, 8pm.

**"Teaching Austin: 125 Years of Public School Education" (2007)** *D: J. Kevin Smith and Mike Nicholson. (NR, 56 min.)* **AISD and Austin Film Festival.** Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Austin Independent School District by seeing this new documentary about its history over the decades. To reserve a seat in the IMAX Theatre, send a reply to [aisd125@austinfilmfestival.com](mailto:aisd125@austinfilmfestival.com). (\*) @Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 7:45pm; free.

## MONDAY 07

**Strangers on a Train (1951)** *D: Alfred Hitchcock; with Farley Granger, Ruth Roman, Robert Walker, Leo G. Carroll. (PG, 106 min.)* **BookPeople.** Great psychological suspense from Hitchcock based on Patricia Highsmith novel stars Granger as a tennis pro who makes an unwitting "arrangement" with a very creepy Robert Walker. Granger will be in attendance and also signing copies of his new memoir *Include Me Out*. Tickets are available that include the movie and the book or movie-only. See [www.includealalomo.com](http://www.includealalomo.com) to purchase. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

## Offscreen

**2007 Texas Filmmakers Production Fund Applications** The TFPF 2007 grant cycle has begun, and any filmmakers who have resided in Texas for at least a year are eligible to apply. Application forms and guidelines are available for download on their Web site. Application workshop: May 3. Postmark application deadline: June 1. 322-0145. [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org).

**Austin Film Festival Screenplay and Teleplay Competition** Submit early, submit often! Original screenplay categories: adult/family includes historical, Western, drama, family, romance, horror, thriller, etc. Comedy includes dark, satirical, slapstick, and more. For more information, check the AFF Web site. Screenplay deadline: June 1. Film deadline: July 5. [www.austinfilmfestival.com](http://www.austinfilmfestival.com).

**Austin Filmworks Summer Intensive** with Steve Mims will cover cameras, lenses, film and metering, digital video imaging, cinematography, lighting, audio, writing, directing, and digital nonlinear editing. In-class demonstrations and workshops use 16mm film stocks and analog and digital cameras. See their Web site for more info. Mon-Fri., June 4-8. [www.meticulouspictures.com/afw/html/summera3.html](http://www.meticulouspictures.com/afw/html/summera3.html).

**Classes at Austin School of Film!** Precisely what you need to learn to get that filmic masterpiece in the can and distributed. All aspects of the industry covered and presented by professionals for your edification and artistic progress. And, just in time to keep your younglings busy this summer, there's a **Teen Filmmaking Workshop** and a **Summer Film Camp for Girls** and more. See their Web site for details. [www.austinfilmsschool.org](http://www.austinfilmsschool.org).

**Indie Music Video Festival** The sixth annual shindig shifts into high gear in all its cross-continent, cross-genre glory, looking for independent music videos of fewer than six minutes, on VHS, DVD, DV Codec (high res), and mini DV. (Screenings in 2006 included Vancouver, Victoria, Baltimore, Calgary, Toronto, Los Angeles, Austin, New York, Tel Aviv, London, and Chicago.) See their Web site for details. [www.imvf.com/submissions.html](http://www.imvf.com/submissions.html).

**Network Austin Mixer** is a monthly party with folks involved in local film and media. Guest speaker this time is Scott Meyers, assistant director on *Sin City* and other major movies. Wed., May 9, 7pm. *Mother Egan's Irish Pub*, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. [www.imdb.com/name/nm0583622](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0583622).

**Reel Women First Monday Mixer** will be hosted by RW board member Eric Dogget, who'll answer your questions about music, photography, and the Web while the mingling and shoptalk continue. Mon., May 7, 6-8pm. *Opal Divine's*, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free. [www.reelwomen.org](http://www.reelwomen.org).

**Screen It Like You Mean It** Austin Studios has a new, state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they're opening it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, a surround-sound system, and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. [www.austinstudios.org](http://www.austinstudios.org).

**SXSWclick** Film and video-makers are urged to submit their best short work for consideration. An esteemed jury will select winners in each of five categories: Old School Shorts, Really Real Shorts, Animate-It, Sound Checks, and What the F?, and the finalists will be announced by June 25. See their Web site for details. Deadline: June 15. [www.sxswclick.com](http://www.sxswclick.com).

**The Museum of Fine Arts Austin** seeks sponsors and actors for the movie *A Fabulous Man and His Dog*. Call for more information. 803-3835. [www.freeewebs.com/mofaa](http://www.freeewebs.com/mofaa).

**The Screenplay Workshop** Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is offering a one-time course examining what makes a short film great. The goal is for participants to leave with a short film script or script outline. See their Web site for details. Sun., May 6, 2-5pm. [www.thescreeplayworkshop.org](http://www.thescreeplayworkshop.org).

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 18 issue is Monday, May 7.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): [specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com](mailto:specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com); Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

**Two-Lane Blacktop (1971)** See p.92.

**We Were Never Here: A Film About Mutter (2005)** *D: Antonia Ganz. (NR, 97 min.)* **Music Monday.** This is the U.S. premiere of this documentary about the German avant-rock band Mutter. The Diagonals play live before the movie. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

## SPACES

**Little Miss Sunshine (2006)** *D: Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris; with Alan Arkin, Abigail Breslin, Steve Carell, Toni Collette. (R, 101 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** free (\*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

## TUESDAY 08

**Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea (2004)** *D: Chris Metzler and Jeff Springer; narrated by John Waters. (NR, 73 min.)* Documentary (with new narration by Waters) about the hardy, eccentric residents who live in the Salton Sea area of southeastern California, who are a reflection of their environment – a bizarre proving ground of ecological history and fabrication. Friends of Dean Martinez scored the movie. Bonus short: "LSD a Go-Go" by Austin-based director and comic Scott Calanico. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

**The Piano Teacher (2001)** See p.94.

**The Wendell Baker Story Advance Screening (2007)** *D: Andrew Wilson and Luke Wilson; with Luke Wilson, Owen Wilson, Seymour Cassel, Harry Dean Stanton, Eddie Griffin, Kris Kristofferson, Eva Mendes. (PG-13, 95 min.)* **Austin Film Society.** Brothers Luke, Owen, and Andrew Wilson will be in attendance at a special advance screening of this comedy that Luke and Andrew co-directed, Luke wrote, and Luke and Owen co-star in. The film made its world premiere at SXSW Film 2005. All proceeds benefit the programs of AFS. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm; \$50 AFS members only (includes afterparty).

## IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com). See showtimes for dates and times

**Hurricane on the Bayou (2006)** *D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Meryl Streep. (NR, 40 min.)* *Hurricane on the Bayou* started production before Katrina and switched gears after the catastrophe. The film tells the stories of four musicians, highlighted by a jazz, blues, and gospel New Orleans score.

**Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (2007)** *D: Keith Melton; with William Hope, Crispin Redman, Nasser Memarzia, Daud Shah, Boris Terral, Elana Drago; narrated by Christopher Lee. (NR, 45 min.)* Modern-day forensic adventures unravel the historic past – with narration by a master of the crypt, Christopher Lee.

**Sharks 3D (2004)** *D: Jean-Jacques Mantello; narrated by Geoffrey Bateman. (NR, 42 min.)* This big-screen film seeks to debunk the public perception of sharks as fearsome predators of human flesh. Although geared toward kids, the film's 3-D effects make it a fun experience for all.

**Texas: The Big Picture (2003)** *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.



## SPACES

**Four Rooms (1995)** D: Allison Anders, Alexandre Rockwell, Robert Rodriguez, and Quentin Tarantino. (R, 115 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free (\*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

## WEDNESDAY 09

**10 Under 10: The First Five Years (2007)** **AFS Texas Documentary Tour.** This collection of 10 short documentaries is by RTF students at the University of Texas. The program includes five new films and five favorites from past years. See story on p.61 of this week's Screens section for more info. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

**Cop Killers (1973)** D: Walter R. Cichy; with Diane Keller, James Nite. (R, 93 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Hippies transporting cocaine across the desert do whatever they feel they must. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

**Lost (2007)** Weekly episode. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 9pm; free.

**Nudge 4.0 Micro-Digital Film Festival (2007)** See p.94.

**Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)** D: Mel Stuart; with Gene Wilder. (G, 98 min.) **Holland Photo.** The original, twisted film version of Roald Dahl's so-called children's story (Dahl also wrote the screenplay). One Golden Ticket-winner at each screening will unwrap a free Wonka Bar

and find prizes from Holland Photo and Hogwild Toys. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

## SPACES

**Napoleon Dynamite (2004)** @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm. (See Sat., 5/5.)

## THURSDAY 10

**Last Night at the Alamo Grindhouse Heroes of the Alamo and Fantastic Fest.** Quentin Tarantino will host one last personal festival at the downtown venue before the Drafthouse moves into the old Ritz Theatre location on Sixth Street at the end of the summer. Last Night at the Alamo Grindhouse features a different triple feature each night: Thursday (5/10), Sex Comedies; Friday (5/11), Rednecks; and Sunday (5/13), Swinging. Tickets go on sale at 1pm on Friday, May 4, to Heroes of the Alamo members and Fantastic Fest badge holders. Tickets open to the general public on Monday, May 7, at 1pm. See [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com) for details. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Austin Film Society. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 8pm.

**Nudge 4.0 Micro-Digital Film Festival (2007)** @Arbor, 7pm; \$6. (See Wed., 5/9.)

## SPACES

**Up in Smoke (1978)** D: Lou Adler; with Cheech Marin, Tommy Chong. (R, 86 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free (\*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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thur. may 10  **DAN** 8:30pm  
**BERN**

fri. may 11  **ELLIS** guest star  
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- Mo 7 Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns 6pm
- Tu 8 Robbie Doyen 6pm  
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- We 9 Wel'burnt 6pm  
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Open Chapter 9pm
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Despite a proud Nashville pedigree, there's nothing country-politan about the Clutters. With their sophomore LP, *Don't Believe a Word* (Chicken Ranch), the garage rock quartet moves beyond the rudiments of genre to harness a genuine dynamic of its own. Not content to just pump up the sneer quotient, the Clutters shake, rattle, and roll with quick, keyboard-laden right turns on "Rockaway" and Cheap Trick-driven pop longing on "Surrender," both of which would sound great on the radio in a better world. So what's it like setting garages alight in Opryland?

"There's a good rock scene here now, and there's always been an underground place where anybody can get a show, but it's weird in Nashville because everything's so ingrained in the music culture," explains guitarist/vocalist Doug Lehmann. "All the universities around here have a music program, so everyone here knows you need to get a manager and stuff like that. Even the audiences expect to see it."

Against this background, it's not surprising to find the Clutters on an Austin label; Chicken Ranch boss Michael Dickinson uncovered the band while living in Nashville several years back. Although the Clutters' fiery 2005 debut, *T&C*, garnered well-placed raves (*Rolling Stone*), Lehmann, bassist Jake Rosswog, drummer Steph Filippini, and keyboardist Ali Tonn didn't make the same album twice.

"On this one, we were a little less prepared as a band, but I think that kind of worked," Lehmann explains. "Not to be cheesy, but it gave us a little more space to jam on things."

In a town beholden to recorded sound, the Clutters had the luxury of recording in a studio used by Elvis on a console once owned by Neil Young. Nevertheless, the quartet remains true to its bashed-out live persona on *Word*. "If we were trying to be like session players, we couldn't do it," Lehmann laughs. "So we just did the exact opposite." — Greg Beets

*Fellow Chicken Ranchers the States and Dallas' Tah-Dahs scratch first.*



**The Clutters**  
MOHAWK, SATURDAY 5

## In-Stores

Friday: The **High Strung**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; **Mars Attacks, Johnny & June Carter Cash** tribute, **Herman the German**, Cheapo Discs, 6pm; the **Archibalds**, End of an Ear, 6pm; **Pharmacy, Fires in Roam, Hey La La, Foolproof**, MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm

Saturday: **She Sir**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Tuesday: **Jimmy LaFave**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Thursday: **Future Clouds & Radar**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; **Alright Tonight, Adult Sons, Party Garbage**, Sound on Sound Records, 6pm

## Cinco de Mayo Music Festival

FIESTA GARDENS, THURSDAY 3-SUNDAY 6

Time for some Tejano and *puro* conjunto. Thursday's Cinco de Mayo kickoff includes Beto y los Canarios, and Friday offers the highly anticipated return of Ricardo Castillon y la Diferenzia. On Cinco de Mayo proper, Saturday, it's a full day of music starting with Dystancia and closing with Los Players. Sunday, it's all conjunto with Texas Legends La Familia Zamora, Los Texas Wranglers, Ruben Vela, Johnny Degollado, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, and Santiago Jimenez Jr. Visit [www.austincincodemayo.com](http://www.austincincodemayo.com). — Belinda Acosta

**Mas de Mayo** (Saturday): **Grupo Fantasma, Vallejo**, Antone's; **Vatos Locos, Roger's Porn Collection, Los Hispanos UK, Suicidal Failure, Panther Zora**, and more, Emo's; **Del Castillo, Maneja Beto, David Garza**, the Glenn at the Backyard; **Clorox Girls, Wax Museums, Teeners**, Beerland; **Beto y los Fairlanes**, Central Market North

## Elana James & the Continental Two

CONTINENTAL CLUB, SATURDAY 5

Elana James has reunited with guitarist Whit Smith, her old bandmate from the Hot Club of Cowtown, and with Beau Sample (ex-Cave Catt Sammy) on bass, the local trio creates an old-time sound that swings and shakes with phenomenal precision. James' self-titled solo debut, released earlier this year, finds her reaching into folk and Dylan, but it still sounds, as she puts it, like "Hot Club of Cowtown in a dress." The Mother Truckers close out the night. — Jim Caligiuri

## The Girls' School of Austin Gala

LA ZONA ROSA, SUNDAY 6

The average girls' school graduate scores 18% higher on the math and science portion of the SAT than her counterparts in mixed-gender schools. A remarkable statistic, but only one of many to support the Girls' School of Austin's Spring Gala. Further inducement comes from Sara Hickman (pictured), Marcia Ball, Kelly Willis, Nancy Coplin, and Darcie Deaville, the musical guests of this estimable fundraiser. It's a small investment with a big payoff. — Margaret Moser



TODD V. WOLFSON

## Damien Rice/Harry Connick Jr.

BASS CONCERT HALL, WEDNESDAY 9/THURSDAY 10

Ideal date nights or early Mother's Day gifts, this Bass double-dip is made for the ladies. Acoustic-sporting Irish smoothie Damien Rice works that brogue to maximum effect on last year's 9 (Warner Bros.), prompting more pantie removals than the average ob-gyn. The next night, Crescent City favorite son Harry Connick Jr. steers his Steinway through selections from recent hometown tribute twins *Oh, My NOLA* and *Chanson du Vieux Carré*. Who's your daddy? — Christopher Gray

## The Postmarks STUBB'S, THURSDAY 10

While many of South Florida's musical exports tend to be strip-club-friendly, the Postmarks are a breath of fresh air from the balmy Sunshine State. The Miami trio's eponymous debut, riding high on ubiquitous single "Goodbye," is all aflutter with sweet melodies; tender, Bacharachian strings; and rainy-day whispers from frontwoman Tim Yehezkely, who might be Françoise Hardy's illegitimate child. — Audra Schroeder



## Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

**WAYNE HANCOCK, AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**  
*Continental Club, Friday 4*  
Twang, bang, clang. Dang!

**AIRLANE**  
*City Hall, Friday 4*  
The only time you'll ever see a Gary Numan tribute band during the day. 4pm.

**UGLY BEATS, FREDDIE STEADY 5**  
*Carousel Lounge, Saturday 5*  
Steady as she go-gos.

**SLIMFEST**  
*Cactus Cafe, Saturday 5*  
Richey's down for year No. 2.

**REO SPEEDWAGON**  
*Backyard, Sunday 6*  
C'mon, you know you can't fight this feeling.

**LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS/ THE DIAGONALS**  
*Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Sunday 6/Monday 7*  
LCT revs *Smokey & the Bandit*, while the Diagonals toast German weirdos Mutter before *We Were Never Here*.

**SPRINGSTEEN HOOT NIGHT**  
*Cactus Cafe, Tuesday 8*  
Southpaw Jones, Matt the Electrician, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, and more Boss tones.

**KINGS OF LEON**  
*Stubb's, Wednesday 9*  
The family that plays together slays together.

**LOVE GONE COLD**  
*Beerland, Thursday 10*  
Bluegrass gets blackened.

**MODEST MOUSE**  
*Backyard, Wednesday 9*  
Shit luck? Nah. With Man Man and Love as Laughter.



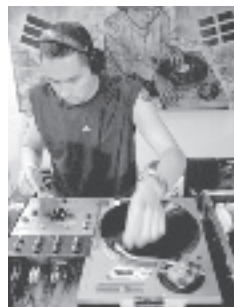
## Son Volt STUBB'S, FRIDAY 4

On well-received fifth album *The Search* (Transmit Sounds/Legacy), Jay Farrar keeps Son Volt steady as she goes, chronicling life in the Midwest's forgotten corners with a novelist's eye for detail, a preacher's compassion, and an activist's outrage. Meanwhile, local bassist Andrew Duplantis (Tia Carrera) keeps the St. Louis quintet's roots-rock rhythms churning like a Mississippi paddle wheeler. Detroit Guided by Voices acolytes the High Strung open. — Christopher Gray



## B-Boy City XIV FRIDAY 4-SUNDAY 6

Spread over various local venues (Emo's on Friday, Skate Park of Austin Saturday, and Paradox Sunday), B-Boy City XIV covers hip-hop, dance, and film like a Kangol in a downpour. Under the guidance of local visionary Romeo Navarro, DJs and breakdancers from all over the country assemble to celebrate their still-thriving underground culture, and they'll be joined by the likes of DJ Apollo and the righteous funk of Brownout! Visit [www.bboycity.com](http://www.bboycity.com) for full lineup. — Robert Gabriel



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FRI 4	SHAWN & PHIL	METAL SHOP
SAT 5		SPAZMATICS
SUN 6		LES & THE FUNK MOB
MON 7	HIGHLY LIKELY	JOHN POINTER
TUE 8	SEELA & FREINDS	JOHN MONTEZ
WED 9	TRENT & DAVE	SPAZMATICS

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## roadshows

### MAY

#### THU 3

**Stephen Marley, Damien "Jr. Gong" Marley, K'Naan,** Antone's  
**Old Haunts,** Beerland  
**Yatsuzaki,** Carousel Lounge  
**Candy Kane,** Continental Club

Inside: **Mono, World's End Girlfriend, Grails;** Lounge:  
**In Case of Fire, Minutes Too Far,** Emo's

**Beto y Los Canarios,** Fiesta Gardens

**Eric McFadden Trio, Steepwater Band,** Flamingo Cantina

**Mute Math, the Cinematics, Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin, Club of the Sons,** La Zona Rosa

**Scattered Pages,** the Mohawk

**Mars Attacks,** the Parlor

**Chuck Bob Carnes,** Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

**Dubb Sicks,** Red 7

**All Get Out, Schill, Eating Crow,** Room 710

**Don Chani,** Ruta Maya

#### FRI 4

**Mars Attacks,** Cheapo Discs  
**Late Nite Access,** the Dirty Dog

**The Archibalds, the Album Leaf, Lymbyc Systym, Drop-Da-Chalupa, La-Low, Bobby Hinojosa, Beverly Skillz, QBaSE, Tony 5kratchere, Astonish, Manila Ice, Lord Meemz, Derive, Hypnotize,** Emo's  
**The Archibalds,** End of an Ear

**Ricardo Castillon y La Diferenzia,** Fiesta Gardens  
**Dimitri's Ascent,** Flamingo Cantina

**Todd Snider,** Gruene Hall

**Ese,** Headhunters

**Subrosa Union,** Lucky Lounge

**Pharmacy,** MonkeyWrench Books

**Maelstrom, Midnight, Battletorn,** Room 710

**Skeleton, Kings of All Cities,** Scoot Inn

**Son Volt, the High Strung,** Stubb's

**Fluffers Union,** Trophy's

**The High Strung,** Waterloo Records

#### SAT 5

**Clorox Girls, Red Dons, Wax Museums,** Beerland

**Lannaya,** Brentwood Park

**Ese, Suicidal Failure, Hell's Engine, 13th Victim, Spitting Bullets, Undertone, Kings of Crime,** Emo's

**Los Players, Trzan, Dystancia,** Fiesta Gardens

**Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans,** Flamingo Cantina

**Neal McCoy,** Gruene Hall

**Pillcrusher,** Headhunters

**The Clutters, the States, Tah Dahs,** the Mohawk

**Chris Berardo,** Momo's

**Roger Creager, Wade Bowen,** Nutty Brown Cafe

**Chuck Bob Carnes,** Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

**Far From Finished, Rat City Riot,** Red 7

**Fuck the Facts, Kill the Client,** Room 710

**Flying Balalaika Brothers,** Sixth Street

**DJ EZ, DJ Silent Rob, DJ Priest, DJ Love, DJ Comp One,** Skatepark of Austin

**Word Association,** Triple Crown

#### SUN 6

**Flyleaf, Kill Hannah, Sick Puppies,** Antone's

**REO Speedwagon,** the Backyard

**John Vanderslice, St. Vincent,** Emo's

**La Familia Zamora, Ruben Vela, Santiago Jiménez Jr.,** Fiesta Gardens

**Bugs Henderson,** Gruene Hall

**DJ Cros One, DJ Silent Rob, DJ Comp One, DJ Bles One,** Paradox

**American Black Lung, Fight Pretty,** Red 7

**Zenith Fuzzbomb, Late Nite Access,** Room 710

#### MON 7

**Factor, DJ Moves, Josh Martinez, Mine + Us, DJ Hoppa, MSG Crew, Birds of Avalon, Awesome Color,** Emo's

#### TUE 8

**Elf Power,** Emo's

**Julieann Banks,** Evangeline Cafe

**3,** Room 710

**Ryan Shaw,** Stubb's

#### WED 9

**Modest Mouse, Man Man, Love as Laughter,** the Backyard

**Damien Rice,** Bass Concert Hall

**Zoe Lewis,** Cactus Cafe

**The Bomb System,** Emo's

**Subrosa Union,** Flamingo Cantina

**Caspan, Balmorhea, Loren Dent,** the Mohawk

**Firefall,** One World Theatre

**Hacienda,** Room 710

**Kings of Leon, Vast, Snowden,** Stubb's

**Not the Government,** Trophy's

#### THU 10

**Harry Connick Jr.,** Bass Concert Hall

**Dan Bern,** Cactus Cafe

**Back Door Slam,** Continental Club

**Dead Girls Ruin Everything, La Snacks,** Emo's

**Green Lemon,** Flamingo Cantina

**Girl in a Coma,** Red 7

**M.J. Baby & the Last Word,** Zilker Park Hillside Theater

## for your benefit

#### THU 03

**Inside Books Benefit** w/ Yatsuzaki, Follow that Bird!, the Funeralizer, **Carousel Lounge**

**Amigos de Las Americas Benefit** w/ Crying Monkeys, **Laguna Gloria**

#### FRI 04

**Threadfair Fashion Show; Big Brothers, Big Sisters Benefit** w/ Code Rainbow, Two Guy Trio, **Ruta Maya**

#### SAT 05

**Violet Crown Community Works, Violet Crown Festival** w/ Lannaya, Susanna Sharpe & Catavento, Cowboy Johnson, Ted Roddy & the Backwoods Hipsters, McCallum Steel Drum Band, Mau Mau Chaplains, Jim Stringer & the AM Band, Jon Emery, Violet Crowns Violins, Guess, Los Escondidos, **Brentwood Park**

**Groundwork Music Project Benefit** w/ Groundwork Music Orchestra, Rebecca's Ragtime Revue, Steve James, Infinite Partials, Neal Kassanoff, White Ghost Shivers, **Ruta Maya**

**H.O.P.E. Springs Eternal Festival** w/ Zee Rock, Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band, Dana Cooper, **Sol Reflections**

#### SUN 06

**Make-a-Wish Foundation May Day Music & Biker Bash** w/ Chuck Bob Carnes, Raven Laurendine, Horseshoe Travellin' Orchestra, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends, Pauline Reese, **Horseshoe Lounge**

**Girls' School of Austin's Spring Gala** w/ Darcie Deaville, Nancy Coplin, Kelly Willis, Marcia Ball, Sara Hickman, **La Zona Rosa**

**Project Transitions' Top Drawer Couture** w/ the Guise, the Studebakers, **Top Drawer Thrift Shop**

#### WED 09

**NORML Benefit** w/ Green Mountain Grass, Subrosa Union, Sinai Fiyah, **Flamingo Cantina**

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) for complete listings.

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**& THE TRENCHTOWN TXANS**  
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 05/18 - SINIS Reunion w/ New Dissected Elvis on Speed, Rubber Monster 05/19 - SINIS Reunion w/ Duke, Slide, Rubber Monster 05/20 HipHop ROADSHOW w/ Cali Agents, Cali Zack, D Madness and more  
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 05/23 - Sinai Fiyah, Celus & The Loose Grip  
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FRIDAY, MAY 4  
**WT SPECIAL** 12MID  
**HEATHER RAE**  
**& THE MOONSHINE BOYS** 10P  
**MICHAEL THOMAS** 9P  
**BROOKS ALAN BRANNON** 7:30P

SATURDAY, MAY 5  
**THE PERSONALS** 12MID  
**PETER ELLIOT**  
**& THE SELLOUTS** 11P  
**LAST UPRIGHT MORNING** 10P

SUNDAY, MAY 6  
**ROCK & ROLL FREE FOR ALL** 12MID  
**REX MOROUX** 11P  
**SUPEREGO ALL-STARS** 10P  
**REBECCA'S RAGTIME REVUE** 9P

MONDAY, MAY 7  
**SICK SCIENCE PROJECT** 11P  
**THAT DAMNED BAND** 10P  
**SICK'S PACK** 9P

TUESDAY, MAY 8  
**CASTING COUCH** 10P  
**PASSED OUT FLYERS** 8P

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9  
**STACEY MILLER** 11P  
**AVED BEND** 10P **LOSS RAYNE** 9P  
**ROGER WALLACE** 8P  
**WASH HAMILTON** 6:30P

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**HALLOPENO** 9:30PM  
**ELVIS ON SPEED** 11PM  
**ADRENALINE FACTOR** 12:30AM

**KING ONUS** 7:30PM  
**PRIDE & JOY** 10PM


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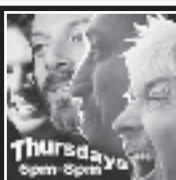


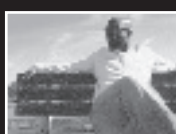





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SAT., MAY 5, 9PM		<b>PRIMM</b>
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## club listings

### Thu 0 3

**219 WEST** Acoustic Jungle (8:00)  
**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Mary Welch y los Curanderos (3:30)  
**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH** Robyn Ludwick (1:00)  
**ANTONE'S** K'Naan, Damien "Jr. Gong" Marley, Stephen Marley (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Michael Austin & Chris Gage  
**AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR** Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)  
**B.B. ROVERS** Judith Miller Band (8:30)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Trent Turner  
**BEERLAND** Finally Punk, Old Haunts  
**BENNIGAN'S** Andy Fiegall (7:00)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes  
**BROWN BAR** mr.ripley  
**CACTUS CAFE** Stephanie Fix CD Release, Bonnie Bishop (8:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Inside Books Benefit w/ Yatsuzaki, Follow That Bird!, Funeralizer (7:00)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Rick Turcotte (5:30), Tony Taylor & Friends (8:30)  
**CLUB ONE 15** Girl Guitar  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Paris '49 (10:00); In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Seth Walker, Candy Kane (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Lipservice  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)  
**COTTON CLUB** Texas All-Stars (8:30)  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL** Boca Abajo (5:30)  
**THE DIRTY DOG** Bang  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)  
**EGO'S** Aimee Bobruk, Marshall Jones  
**EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Grupo Gruvo (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies, Chris Vestre Trio (6:00)  
**EMO'S** Inside: Grails, World's End Girlfriend, Mono; Lounge: Consider the Source, Minutes Too Far, In Case of Fire, Quiet Company  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Liz Morphis  
**FIESTA GARDENS** Greater East Austin Youth League Benefit, Cinco de Mayo Festival: Big Frank Gomez w/ Jonny Gonzales, Autentico de Tierra Caliente, Yuselle, Brazero Musical, Beto y los Canarias (5:30)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Steepwater Band, Red Line Riot, Eric McFadden Trio (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Johann Wagner Songwriter Triangle (8:00)  
**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Adam Raven Trio (6:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Mike Morgan's Open Mic  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Ted Roddy (8:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Triple Play

**GRUENE HALL** Dave Insley (7:30)  
**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Monsters of the Midway w/ Ruben Ramos (6:30)  
**HANOVER'S** Karaoke w/ Dan the Man  
**HEADHUNTERS** Something Called Nothing, Darth Vato, Hadley, Monkeys Doin' It, Sunglasses & Mushrooms  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Brian Kremer (9:15)  
**HILL'S CAFE** Bob Rhodes  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Vipers Royal Garden, Kevin McKinney, Adrian & the Sickness (9:00)  
**HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian  
**HYATT LOST PINES RESORT & SPA** Lauren Dillon  
**JOVITA'S** Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)  
**LA ZONA ROSA** Club of the Sons, Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin, the Cinematics, Mute Math  
**LAGUNA GLORIA** Amigos de Las Americas Benefit w/ Crying Monkeys (6:30)  
**LAMBERTS** Glover Tango (6:30), Porterdavis (10:30)  
**THE LOADING DOCK** Breezy  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Aston Teague (6:00)  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)  
**THE MOHAWK** The Heirs, Mockery Birds, Scattered Pages, Honor Farm (10:00)  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Emile Miller w/ Greg Moses (9:00)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Jim Bryant & Rich Cross (6:30)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Nutty Karaoke  
**THE OAKS** Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Sharon May & Lew Andre' Mathews, Jim Wylie (7:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Johnny Cash/June Carter Tribute Show, Mars Attacks  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** The Balons  
**PLUSH** Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Chuck Bob Carnes  
**RADISSON** Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio  
**RANCH 616** Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)  
**RED 7** Phranchyze, Dubb Sicks, S.O.C., Passenger  
**RED FEZ** Vehicular, Nuthin' New All-Stars (9:00)  
**REDRUM** Bricks ATX, Baseline Bums  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Lonesome Heroes  
**THE ROCK ROOM** The Detentions, the Seiker Band (5:00)  
**ROMEY'S GEORGETOWN** Eddy Main  
**ROOM 710** Eating Crow, Schill, Television Ends, All Get Out  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Dave Jorgenson  
**RUTA MAYA** Brat 4 Hoobie Dat, Imbibe, Austin Daze w/ Don Chani, Grimy Styles (5:30)  
**SAXON PUB** John Ware, Will Evans, George Devore, Brian Keane (6:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Billy Dee  
**SPEAKEASY** Alpha Rev (9:30)

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

**STUBB'S** Megan McCallon, Iron Giants, AUX, Barefoot  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** The Leghounds (9:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Sean Neely & Zak Perry, Mochate (6:00)  
**TROPHY'S** People Skills  
**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** YerzArt Young Musicians (8:00)  
**WOODY'S SOUTH** Natalie Zoe (7:00)  
**Z'TEJAS** Kat's Meow  
**ZILKER PARK HILLSIDE THEATER** Trip 4 Mas, Beto y los Fairlanes (7:00)

### Fri 0 4

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Los Texas Wranglers (3:30)  
**AGAVE** Randy Pavlock (7:30)  
**ANTONE'S** Johnny Goudie & the Little Champions, Nelo  
**AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA** Boca Abajo (noon), Airline (4:00)  
**BEERLAND** Chili Cold Blood  
**BOAT HOUSE GRILL** Bo Porter (6:00)  
**'BOU TIME** DJ Element  
**CACTUS CAFE** Graham Weber  
**CAFE MUNDI** The Breathers, Elizabeth Jackson (6:30)  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (9:00)  
**CEDAR STREET** John Pointer (6:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Texas Eastside Kings (6:30)  
**CHEAPO DISCS** Herman the German, Johnny Cash & June Carter Cash Tribute, Mars Attacks (6:00)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Gregg Andrews (5:30), The Hudsons (8:30)  
**CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** Infinite Partials, Sean McCarrey  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Mike Flanigin B-3 Trio (10:00); Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), American Graveyard, Wayne "the Train" Hancock (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Grooves  
**COTTON CLUB** Johnny Lyon  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Road to Recovery (8:00)  
**THE DIRTY DOG** Sunmachine, Phoenix Down, Late Nite Access  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)  
**EGO'S** Jane Bond, Corrine Rose (8:30)  
**EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Oliver Rajamani (7:30)



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**PRIVATE PARTY**  
FRIDAY MAY 4 / \$8

**THE SITUATION** 12:45  
**GRAHAM WILKINSON** 10:30  
& **THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP**  
**CHAMPAGNE SUNDAY** 9:15  
**RYAN HOLLEY** HAPPY HOUR

**SATURDAY MAY 5**  
**RICKY STEIN & SLOW TRAIN** 12  
**GINGER LEIGH** 10  
**SUZANNA CHOFFEL** 9:15  
**CHRIS BERARDO** 8

**SUNDAY MAY 6**  
**WARREN HOOD**  
& **THE HOODLUMS** 9:30-11:30  
**phoebejeebies** 8  
**THE LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA** 12

**MONDAY MAY 7**  
**THE WILL EVANS PROJECT** 10:30  
**DUSTIN WELCH** 9:15  
**DAVE MADDEN** 8  
**JONATHAN TERRELL** 7

**TUESDAY MAY 8 / \$5**  
**KACY CROWLEY** 8  
**SUZANNA CHOFFEL** 9:15  
**KEVIN SEKHANI** 10:30  
**AARON BARRERA** 11:45  
**BETH MINER** 7

**WEDNESDAY MAY 9 / \$5**  
**THE Band of Heathens** 9:30  
**JACK SAUNDERS**  
CD RELEASE 8  
**WILL SEXTON** 12

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
**SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND** 05 26

# Antone's

<b>FRI 04 MAY</b> <b>NELO</b> W/ JOHNNY GOUDIE & THE LITTLE CHAMPIONS 2ND FIVISON	<b>SUN 13 MAY</b> <b>JOE BONAMASSA</b> ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM	<b>THU 24 MAY</b> <b>PINETOP PERKINS</b> CD/DVD RELEASE PARTY WITH SPECIAL GUEST <b>HUBERT SUMLIN</b> CHRIS LAYTON GARY CLARK JR W/ SCOTT MELBOM & FILEY DEBBY 8:30-11:30 <b>BUDDY FLETT</b> ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM
<b>CINCO DE MAYO</b> <b>GRUPO FANTASMA</b> & <b>VALLEJO</b> WITH MUCH LOVE	<b>THU 17 MAY</b> <b>GAELIC STORM</b> ON SALE NOW! WWW.ANTONES.NET	<b>FRI 25 MAY</b> <b>STORYVILLE</b> ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM
<b>SAT 05 MAY</b> <b>FLYLEAF</b> KILL HANNAH SICK PUPPIES also RESIDENT HERO ANDICE TICKETS ON SALE NOW! WWW.FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM	<b>FRI 18 MAY</b> <b>scabs</b> GREYHOUNDS • THE CAMPAIGN ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM	<b>SAT 26 MAY</b> <b>DOYLE BRAMHALL II</b> <b>CHARLIE SEXTON</b>
<b>Blue Tuesday</b> 5-7:30 <b>GARY CLARK JR</b> W/	<b>FRI 20 MAY</b> <b>BLUES SOCIETY EXTRAVAGANZA</b> <b>JIMMIE VAUGHAN</b> <b>MARCIA BALL</b> <b>WC CLARK</b> with <b>RUTHIE FOSTER &amp; NINA WOOD</b> TICKETS ON SALE NOW!	<b>SUN 27 MAY</b> <b>ANIMAL COLLECTIVE</b> w/ RICHARD BISHOP ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM
<b>FRI 11 MAY</b> <b>"LIVE AT ANTONE'S"</b> CD RELEASE PARTY <b>GUY FORSYTH</b> TICKETS ON SALE NOW!	<b>WED 30 MAY</b> <b>BADFISH</b> A TRIBUTE TO <b>SUBLIME</b> w/ INDOFIN ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM	<b>FRI 14 JUN</b> <b>XAVIER RUDD</b> ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM
<b>WED 09 MAY</b> <b>ERIC TESSMER BAND</b> W/ BLETZUNG	<b>SAT 12 MAY</b> <b>IAN McLAGAN'S MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION</b> <b>BILL CARTER &amp; THE BLAME</b> FEATURING CHARLIE SEXTON • DENNY FREEMAN GEORGE RAINS • ANDY SALMON <b>BROTHERS &amp; SISTERS</b> DONALD WOOD A VERY SPECIAL GUEST STAR! BENEFITING THE KIM McLAGAN MEMORIAL FUND	<b>WED 16 JUN</b> <b>MASON JENNINGS</b> ON SALE NOW! FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM
<b>THU 10 MAY</b> <b>nooner</b> VIDEO PREMIERE PARTY <b>TWO GUY TRIO</b> <b>SABROSA UNION</b>	<b>WED 22 MAY</b> <b>REMEMBERING CLIFFORD</b> 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY with A CAST OF THOUSANDS!	<b>FRI 03 JUN</b> <b>RUTHIE FOSTER</b>
	<b>WED 23 MAY</b> <b>MARTIN SEXTON</b> w/ CHRIS TRAPPER ON SALE NOW!	<b>06 JUN &amp; 07 JUL</b> <b>ARC ANGELS</b> ON SALE NOW!

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SAT 5/5 > DIE CORRA, PILLCRUSHER, MUCHOS BACKFLIPS (P), 3 POT OFFY, POINTLY (P), TEX PISTOLS (See Pistols Tribute Band)  
SUN 5/6 > DUKE, BASELINE BUMS, TRODUS, A MIND DIVIDED, SUPERPHAT, DJ- PATIO  
MON 5/7 > BUFFALO BREATH, THE FIREBALL SHOW, MATT READ, SINGER SONG WRITER SHOWCASE  
TUE 5/8 > RUBBER ROBOT, 2-HR FIRE, XATHAX  
WED 5/9 > LONESOME HEROES, MARSHALL JONES & HIS FRONTIER PHRENOLOGISTS, TILANWRECK WASHINGTON, ESMERALDA STRANGE (P)

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## MUERTE VILLA

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th The Old Haunts, Strange boys,  
3 Finally Punk, Follow That Bird  
fr Chili Cold Blood, Apehits and other fine performers  
4 Cinco de Mayo mini-fest  
sa Clorox Girls, Red Dons, Wax Museums, Teeners, Party Garbage, Sex Advice come early for hot pinata action!

THURSDAY-MAY 3  
**INNERVISION**  
THE MONARCH  
DEAD BY KNIGHT  
WHERE SILENCE IS LOUD

FRIDAY-APRIL 4  
**IGNITOR**  
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Thursday • May 3 **SPECIAL EVENT!**  
**HUNTER'S BACHELOR PARTY**  
Shinola 12:00 AM (Austin, TX)  
www.myspace.com/shinola  
Chris Gates - Gatesville 10:00 PM

Sat 5.5

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## INSECT WARFARE

## KILL THE CLIENT

## BOWEL

su 6 Brothers & Sisters family & friends  
mo Karaoke w/ Nathan Black  
7 no cover! over 1000+ songs  
tu Cathar, Fire vs. Extinguisher,  
8 Connie Ball

SATURDAY-APRIL 5  
**COURSE OF RUIN**  
CRITICAL ASSEMBLY  
WITHIN CHAOS  
THE GREAT FIRE OF NEOPOLIS

SUNDAY-APRIL 6  
**BEYOND GODS & EMPIRES**  
BY A LONG SHOT  
DRYLINE  
FIRE FROM THE GODS  
MY DEVASTATOR

Friday • May 4 **LIVE MUSIC!**  
**japanese CARCRASH** 12:00 AM  
www.myspace.com/japanesecarcrash  
**Withheld** 11:00 PM (Dallas, TX)  
www.myspace.com/withheldnomore  
**Rage Ranger** 10:00 PM (Austin, TX)  
www.myspace.com/rageranger  
with DJ MINIMUS

Sun 5.6

## ZENITH FUZZBOMB

## LATE NITE ACCESS

## MEGANAUT

we 9 **the Government**  
th The Moonhangers, Love  
10 Gone Cold, Salvia Family Band, Shotgun Party  
fr Flametruck Subs, Satan's  
11 Cheerleaders, Turbo 350

MONDAY-APRIL 7  
**PHATT'S MCNATT**  
**ANTEROS**  
TELLING STORIES

TUESDAY-MAY 8  
**A LIAR BEFORE**  
**THE BRIDGEFARMERS**  
& SPECIAL GUESTS

Saturday • May 5 **HAVEN**  
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE  
Haven with DJs VOID & THE GOTHEATHER  
**Taurus Night** • no cover for Taureans  
with special guest DJ RALEIGH

Tue 5.8

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WEDNESDAY-MAY 9  
**THE CHANNEL**  
**CASSETTE**  
THE DIRTY HEARTS

THURSDAY-MAY 10  
**I'M THE LION**  
**KAZUKI**  
SO FAR GONE  
THE BANYANS

Sunday • May 6 **REGRESSION**  
**RETRO 80's** **RETRO 80's** **RETRO 80's**  
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE  
Monday • May 7 **CLOSED**  
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May 4th  
Inside: Mocktigers, Distant Lights, Rubber Monster, The Bright Light Social Hour  
Outside: Whitman, Radioland Murders, The Mechanical Boy, Bestview

May 5th  
Inside: Scattered Remains, Indisgust, Disfigured, Ayasolotec, Malignant Spawn, Engaged in Mutilation, The Death of Rob  
Outside: Born to Lose

Far From Finished, Rat City Riot, Saint Street Brawlers, Career Criminal

May 6th  
Fight Pretty, American Black Lung, Architects, Polygamist Prophet

May 9th  
Seconds From Waking, RIAx, Empryeau, Pylon Gin, Remember This  
myspace.com/redsevenaustin

FRIDAY-MAY 11  
**HONKY**  
**ELVIS ON SPEED**  
**HELLAPENO**  
HAPPY HOUR W/ CHARLIE

SATURDAY-MAY 12  
**BUILT BY SNOW**  
**FIREKILLS**  
RIOT LIKE WORDS  
**THE ARTILLERY**  
THE STILL LIFE  
SEA HORSES

Tuesday • May 8 **90'S NIGHT**  
90's RETRO **90's Night** 90's RETRO  
DJs BOBA FETT, AMERYKAH, & LOLA  
Wednesday May 9 **MID-WAVE**  
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth  
Mid-Wave WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:  
5-10 SCARLETT, SILENCE IS LOUD, FIRE FROM THE GODS, SOMERHALL TALENT  
5-10 BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR, ROCKY BIRD  
INSPIRATION, GOOD LITTLE THINGS  
5-10 AS THE FRODO BAGGINS, ANTIHERO, SCARLETT, BOB DYLAN  
5-10 SILENCE, KILL THE GOAT  
5-10 CASHVILLE & COMPANY OF PEACE  
5-10 FORTNITE & ACCESS A PREVIEW OF DEATH BOND  
THE SHAMER PRODUCTIONS FOR RECORDS, MAPS OF ASIA  
5-10 THE REMARKABLE, THE WAKES, SUPERBOOLES

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Thursday May 10 • Electrocutation - electro and industrial w/ DJ Panther  
Friday May 11 • Live! Simple Shelter, Hipnautica, Pulse Faction  
Thurs. May 24 • Live! God Module, CHANT, Sin D.N.A.

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FRIDAY, MAY 4  
**PATRICE  
PIKE**  
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SUNDAY, MAY 6  
**BENEFIT CONCERT**  
*For Sam Kambo*  
Featuring Trish Murphy, Suzanna Choffel,  
Jeremy Miller Band, Bill Jerram Band,  
Silent Auction, Family Friendly  
— helpsamkambo.com • 3-9PM —

SATURDAY, MAY 12  
**KEVIN  
FOWLER**  
— 7:30-11PM —  
ADVANCED, \$15 • DOOR, \$20  
4-PERSON VIP TABLES, \$125



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& PAUL THORN  
5/19 ..... BRUCE ROBISON

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**FRI MAY 11**



**GEORGE CLINTON**  
and the PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC

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**SUN MAY 13**



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**WED MAY 16**



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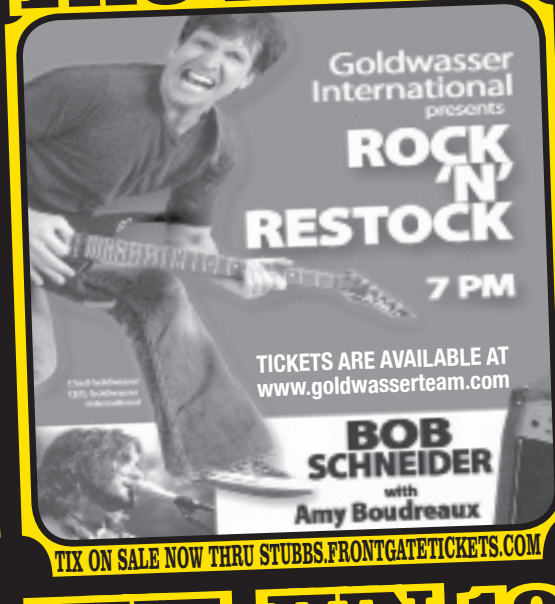
**FRI MAY 18**



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with Amy Boudreaux

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CHILDREN RUNNING THROUGH TOUR  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
TERREMOTO

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**SAT JUN 16**



**RISE AGAINST**  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
SILVERSTEIN  
COMEBACK KID

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**TUE JUN 19**



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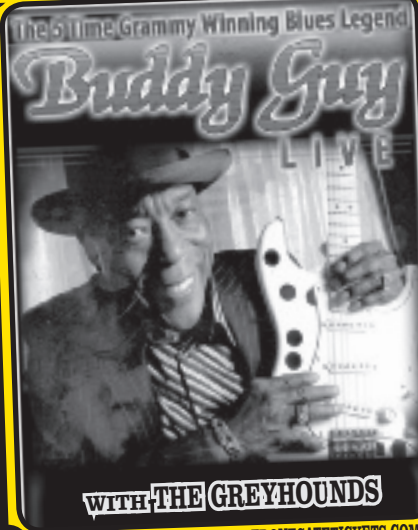
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**THU JUN 21**

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**FRI JUN 22**

**WOLF MOTHER**  
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**FRI JUL 20**

ROCKIN THE COLONIES TOUR  
**THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS**  
TIX ON SALE SATURDAY MAY 5 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM



**IN THE CLUB**

THU MAY 3  
**BAREFOOT WITH AUX**  
**IRON GIANTS**  
AND **MEGAN MCCALLON**  
SUN MAY 6

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH  
**THE BELLS OF JOY**



TUE MAY 8  
**RYAN SHAW**



WED MAY 9 — DOORS 10:30PM  
**VAST**

THU MAY 10  
**THE POSTMARKS**  
WITH **SHUTTLEDEBRIS**  
AND **RALEIGH**

FRI MAY 11 — DOORS 11:30PM  
**DIASPORIC**  
FREE WITH GEORGE CLINTON TIX

SAT MAY 12 — DOORS 10:30PM  
**BACKDOOR SLAM**

WED MAY 16 — DOORS 11PM  
**ALTERNATE ROUTES**

THU MAY 17 — DOORS 10:30PM  
**RYAN BALES BAND**

FRI MAY 18 — DOORS 11PM  
**BACKDOOR SLAM**  
FREE WITH LOS LONELY BOYS TIX

SAT MAY 19  
**BACKDOOR SLAM**

SUN MAY 20  
**JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
WITH **TEDDY LONG BAND**  
AND **QUIET COMPANY**

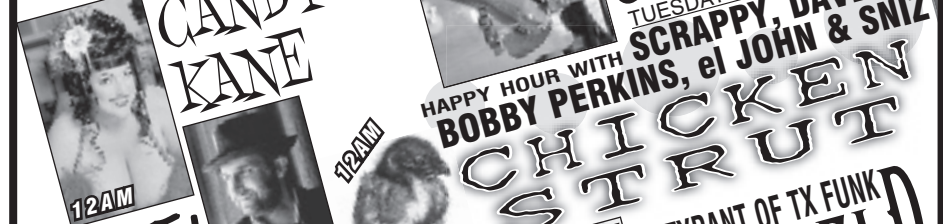
MON MAY 21  
**EOTO**  
TUE MAY 22  
**OURS**  
WITH **APRIL BAUER**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY  
THUR. MAY 3 ART GALLERY OPENING • **SUZANNE PRATT**  
THURSDAY • 10PM  
**PARIS '49**  
FRI • SAT • SUN • 10PM  
**MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO**  
MONDAY • 10PM  
**DAVID GARZA**  
TUESDAY • 10PM  
**EPHRAIM OWENS**  
WEDNESDAY • 10PM  
**THE GREYHOUNDS**

THURS MAY 3  
HAPPY HOUR  
**THE MOTHER TRUCKERS**  
12AM



**CANDY KANE**  
12AM



FRIDAY MAY 4  
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS  
12AM



FRIDAY MAY 4  
**WAYNE HANGOCK**  
12AM



SATURDAY MAY 5  
MATINEE 3-7PM  
**AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**  
12:30AM



11:15PM  
**THE MOTHER TRUCKERS**  
12AM



10PM  
**ELANA JAMES**  
12AM

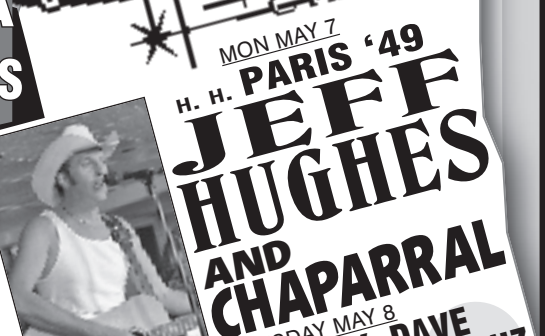


10PM  
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL**  
**BILL KIRCHEN**  
5/17

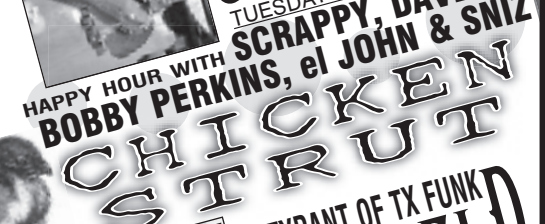


IT'S ALL AT... CONTINENTALCLUB.COM  
**CONTINENTAL Club**

MON MAY 7  
H. H. **PARIS '49**  
**JEFF HUGHES AND CHAPARRAL**  
TUESDAY MAY 8  
HAPPY HOUR WITH **BOBBY PERKINS, el JOHN & SNIZ**  
**CHICKEN STRUT**  
10PM



WEDNESDAY MAY 9  
**TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD**  
H. H. **THE EXPLOSIONS**  
10PM



THURSDAY MAY 10  
H. H. **THE MOTHER TRUCKERS**  
**JOHNATHAN TYLER AND THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
AND **BACK DOOR SLAM**  
12AM



FRIDAY MAY 11  
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS  
**GARY CLARK JR.**  
10PM



SATURDAY MAY 12  
MATINEE 3-7PM  
**REDD VOLKAERT**  
10PM



10PM  
**Hayes Carl GRAHAM WILKINSON**



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**\*\* THIS SATURDAY \*\***

**1ST ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION**

**THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD**

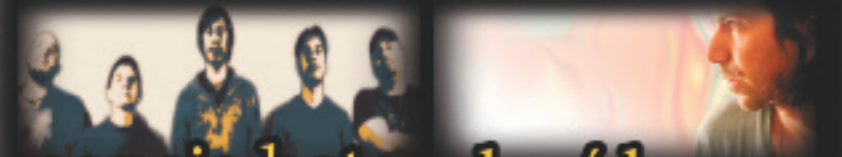
**MAY 5TH, 2007**

**TICKETS ONLY \$17**  
\$20 AT THE DOOR



**DEL CASTILLO**

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS



**manaja beto & david garza**

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM - MARIACHIS' LOS BRILLIANTES PERFORM EMCEED BY PAUL SAUCIDO OF METV'S SONIDA BOOMBOX

**FIRST 500 PEOPLE FREE POSTER**  
HAND-NUMBERED BY ACCLAIMED AUSTIN ARTIST BILLY PERKINS

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**\$3 Tecate Beer!**

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**directevents**

**THE BACKYARD**  
LIVE OAK AMPHITHEATRE

13101 HWY 71 WEST @ 620  
AUSTIN, TX 78738

**MODEST MOUSE**

**WEDNESDAY**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **MAN MAN** AND **LOVE AS LAUGHTER**  
**MAY 09**



**MORRISSEY**

SPECIAL GUEST **KRISTEEN YOUNG**

**MAY 26**

**JUN 15**



**JUL 06 07 & 08**

**WIDESPREAD PANIC**

TICKETS ON SALE **SATURDAY AT 10AM!**

**THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD**

13101 HWY 71 WEST @ 620  
AUSTIN, TX 78738

**1ST ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION**  
**THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD**

**\*\* THIS SATURDAY \*\***



**MAY 10 DOORS 6:00PM**

**JUN 19 DOORS 5:30PM**



**JUN 22**



**JUN 29**

**Joan Armatrading into the blues us tour**

DISCOUNTED STUDENT TICKETS AVAILABLE W/ VALID ID AT GETTIX OUTLETS

**LA ZONA ROSA**

**PING PONG TOURNAMENT**  
MAY 23 @ BACKSTAGE BAR

612 W 4TH ST & RIO GRANDE  
AUSTIN, TX 78701

**\*\* TONIGHT \*\***



**MAY 03 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM**



**JUN 13**



**JUN 15**

**JUL 03 LEZZ ZEPPELIN**

**JUL 28 29**

**FUNKBATZ 2ND ANNUAL FUNKFEST**  
MORE DETAILS AT **FUNKBATZ.COM**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **GetTix** OUTLETS, INCLUDING WATERLOO RECORDS, UT CO-OP and RUNTEX LOCATIONS. BY PHONE 1-866-I-GET-TIX FOR INFO: 512-263-4146  
**WWW.DIRECTEVENTS.NET**

# WIDESPREAD PANIC



TICKETS ON SALE  
**SATURDAY**  
AT 10AM!

 **THE BACKYARD**  
LIVE OAK AMPHITHEATRE

July 6, 7 & 8

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **GetTix** <sup>NET</sup> OUTLETS, INCLUDING WATERLOO RECORDS, UT CO-OP  
and RUNTEX LOCATIONS. BY PHONE 1-866-I-GET-TIX FOR INFO: 512-263-4146  
**WWW.THEBACKYARD.NET**  
13101 HWY 71 W. @ 620 • AUSTIN TX, 78738



# THE PARISH ROOM

214 E.6TH ST., AUSTIN, TX 78701, ABOVE JAZZ KITCHEN  
[www.myspace.com/theparishroom](http://www.myspace.com/theparishroom)  
[www.theparishroom.com](http://www.theparishroom.com)  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 tix @ [theparishroom.frontgatetickets.com](http://theparishroom.frontgatetickets.com)  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 THUR 5.3 · SAT 5.5 ..... 8pm

## EMERGENZA LIVE MUSIC FEST

SEMIFINALS  
[www.emergenza.net](http://www.emergenza.net) for band lineups  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 FRI 5.11 ..... 9pm

**THE MERCERS**  
 CD RELEASE  
 THE LAST GASP  
 SOUNDS UNDER RADIO  
 THE SUMMER WARDROBE

SAT 5.12 ..... 9pm

**JOSEPH ARTHUR & THE LONELY ASTRONAUTS**

1971  
**STARS OF TRACK AND FIELD**

THUR 5.17 ..... 7pm

**YOUNG LOVE & UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF GIANTS**

PLAYRADIOPLAY!  
**LIAM AND ME**

FRI 5.18 ..... 9pm

**THE JUNGLE ROCKERS**

TWO HOOTS & A HOLLER  
 THE SOCK HOP DJs

SAT 5.19 ..... 8pm

**THE DAMNWELLS**

**& ARI HEST**

MOZZELLA

FRI 5.26 ..... 9pm

**DREMNT THE END**

**DYNAH SLIDER**

THUR 5.31 ..... 9pm

SCION LIVE METRO presents

**GZA**

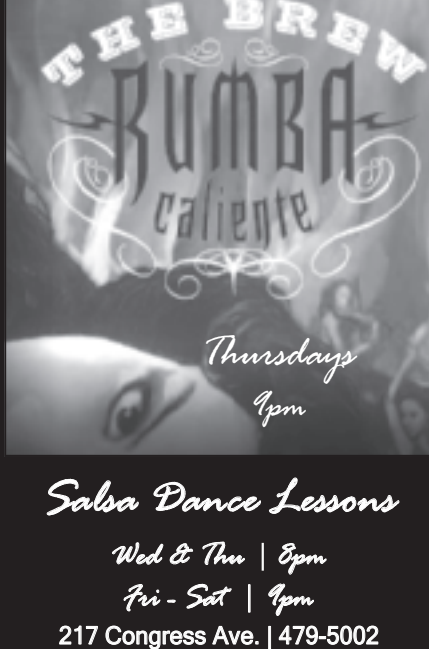
performing live with

**FYRE DEPARTMENT**

6.1 future clouds and radar  
 6.2 bastard sons of johnny cash  
 6.3 albert hammond jr.  
 6.5 electralane w. tender forever  
 6.7 mandi perkins w. chris taylor  
 6.11 mewithoutyou w. piebald  
 6.12 lavender diamond  
 6.14-6.15 tom waits peepshow  
 6.16 closed for private event  
 6.19 menomena w. all smiles  
 6.20 the rosebuds w. land of talk  
 6.21 u.s. air guitar championships  
 6.23 emergenza music fest finals  
 6.25 triple crown clothing tour



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 Caliente  
 Thursdays  
 9pm  
*Salsa Dance Lessons*  
 Wed & Thu | 8pm  
 Fri - Sat | 9pm  
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### club listings << FROM FRIDAY

- ELEPHANT ROOM** George Carver Band, the Brew  
**EMO'S** Inside: B-Boy City King of Scratch Throwdown w/ Hypnotize, Derive, Lord Meemz, Manila Ice, Astonish, Tony Skratc here, QBaSE, Beverly Skilz, DJ Graham, Bobby Hinojosa, La-Low, Fundamental, DJ Nick Nack, DJ Tats, Guido, Drop-Da-Chalupa (7:00); Outside Later: Single Frame, Lymbyc Systm, the Album Leaf; Lounge: Brother Machine, the Archibalds, Hope Irish CD Release  
**END OF AN EAR** The Archibalds (6:00)  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (10:00)  
**FADÓ** Mysterious Ways (10:00)  
**FIESTA GARDENS** Cinco de Mayo Festival w/ Evolucion, La Traizion, Ricardo Castillon y La Diferenzia (6:00)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Mr. Brown, Dimitri's Ascent (9:30)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Kacy Crowley, Will T. Massey (9:00)  
**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Graham Wilkinson (6:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Teri Joyce & the Tagalongs (9:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Eddie Flores Band  
**GRUENE HALL** Gurf Morlix, Todd Snider (8:00)  
**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoi Brothers (6:30)

- HEADHUNTERS** Stevie Tombstone; Cockfight; Under the Gun; Hazard of the Industry; Red Herring; Ese; Love, Death, & Fame; Roger's Porn Collection; Belligerent 86  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Brooks Alan Brannon, Michael Thomas, Heather Rae & the Moonshine Boys, WT Special  
**HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian  
**IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE** Playing With Syxx (7:00)  
**JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE** No Show Ponies  
**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)  
**LAMBERTS** The Gimbles, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Subrosa Union (9:00)  
**MANCHACA FIREHALL KITCHEN** K'Cee (6:30)  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)  
**MOMO'S** Graham Wilkinson, Champagne Sunday, the Situation  
**MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS** Foolproof, Hey La La, Fires in Roam, Pharmacy (8:00)  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Raised by Humans (6:00)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST A BAND** Named Sue (6:00)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Patrice Pike (7:30)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Ted Roddy & the Backroom Hipsters  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

- RADISSON** Haydn Vitera  
**RED 7** Outside: Rubber Monster, Bright Light Social Hour, Distant Lights, Mock Tigers; Inside: Bestview, Mechanical Boy, Radioland Murders, Whitman (8:00)  
**RED FEZ** Meridian West, DJ In/Verse (9:00)  
**REDRUM** Streetlight Suzy, Sunglasses & Mushrooms, Prevail Within, Head Panic  
**RED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Mr. Fabulous (8:30)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**THE ROCK ROOM** Jon Emery (9:00)  
**ROCKIN' TOMATO** D-Madness  
**ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield  
**ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN** Eddy Main  
**ROOM 710** The Roller, Muerte Villa, Battleorn, Midnight, Maelstrom  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Black Top Band  
**RUTA MAYA** Threadfair Fashion Show; Big Brothers, Big Sisters Benefit w/ Code Rainbow, Two Guy Trio, (7:00), Farmer Tan Funk Band (10:00)  
**THE SALT LICK** Byrd & Street (6:00)  
**SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Ruthie Foster, Woodbelly (9:00)  
**SCOOT INN** Pataphysics, Kings of All Cities, Skeleton (9:00)  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Crystal Image (9:00)  
**SKI SHORES** Danny Britt (6:30)  
**SPEAKEASY** Texas Unlimited Band (9:30)  
**STARDUST CLUB** Redneck Boys



**MODEST MOUSE**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
**MAN MAN AND LOVE AS LAUGHTER**

**MAY 9**

**THE BACKYARD**  
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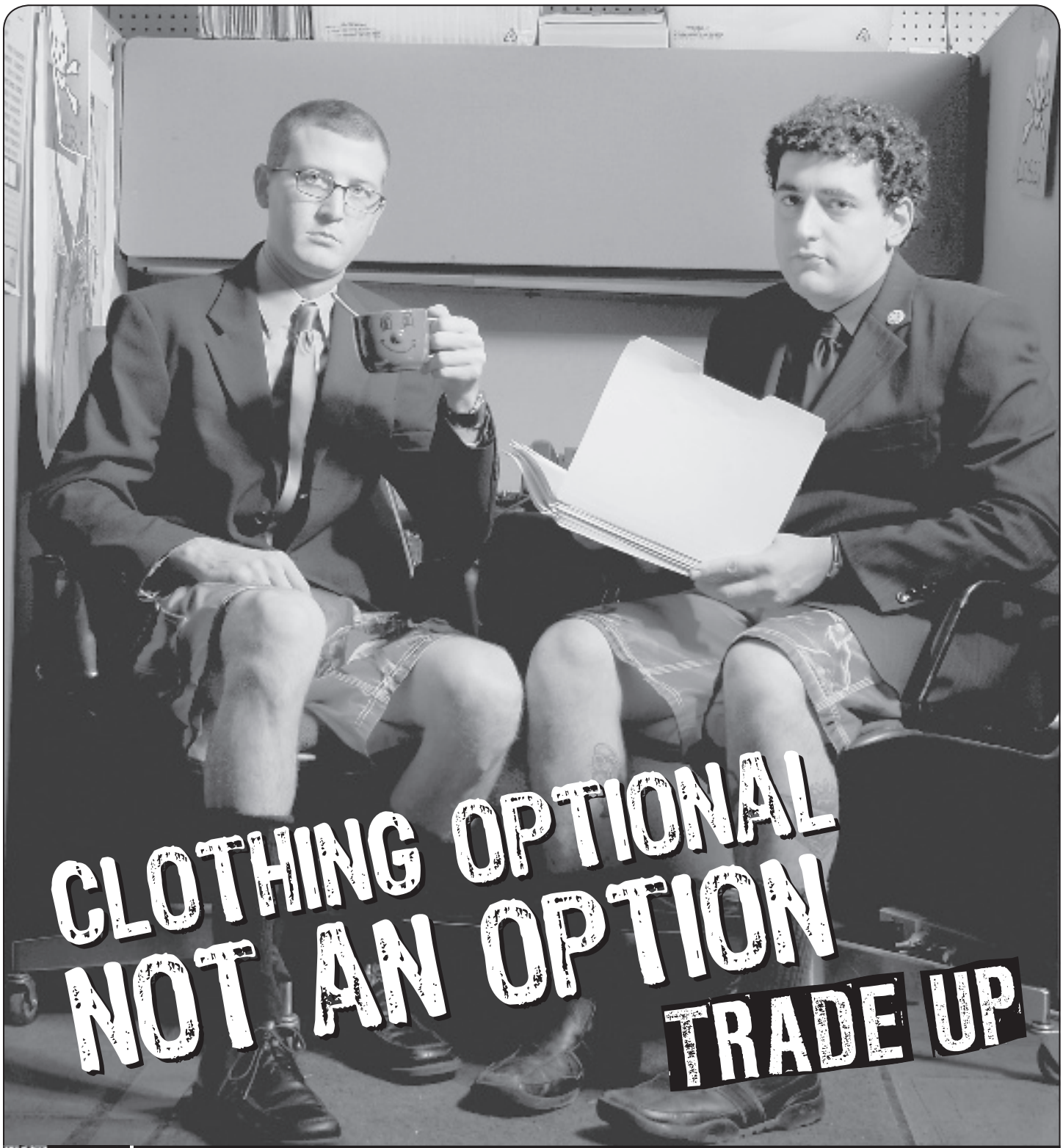


**BROKEN SPOT**  
 PHOTO BY M. DAPRA  
**3201 SOUTH LAMAR • 442-6189**  
**THU, MAY 3 CHAPARRAL w/ JEFF HUGHES**  
**FRI, MAY 4 DALE WATSON**  
**SAT, MAY 5 BRUCE ROBISON**  
**TUE, MAY 8 CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT**  
**WED, MAY 9 JESSIE LEE 6-8 NO COVER**  
**TED RODDY NO COVER**

**Cheatham Street WAREHOUSE**  
 Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos  
 www.cheathamstreet.com  
**TH TONY TAYLOR & FRIENDS**  
**FR THE HUDSONS**  
**SA TEXAS HIGH LIFE**  
**SU GRANT MAZAK BAND 4-8PM**  
**MO BIG JOHN MILLS**  
**WE EVERY WEDNESDAY KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE**  
**COMING SOON**  
 5/10 GRANT EWING BAND  
 5/11 WALT WILKINS  
 5/12 TEXAS RENEGADE  
 5/19 RODNEY HAYDEN  
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**THU 5/3 LONESOME HEROES**  
**FRI 5/4 MITCH WEBB & THE SWINDLES**  
**SAT 5/5 DARRYL LEE RUSH**  
**SUN 5/6 OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN & KIM MACKENZIE**  
**MON 5/7 KARAOKE**  
**TUE 5/8 SHAWN LINE**  
**WED 5/9 THE LESTI HUFF BAND**  
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**Saxon Pub**  
 1320 South Lamar 448-2552  
 www.thesaxonpub.com  
**Thurs. May 3 9:30pm**  
**GEORGE DEVORE**  
**BRIAN KEANE 12:30am**  
 8pm **WILL EVANS**  
 Hhr. **Rob Roy Parnell 6pm**  
**Fri. May 4 9pm**  
**RUTHIE FOSTER \$15**  
**Woodbelly \$10 11pm**  
 Hhr. **The Regulars 6pm No Cover**  
**Sat. May 5 12am \$10**  
**Jon Dee Graham**  
 Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz  
 CD Release 10:30pm 9pm **Driver**  
**DEAN SCOTT**  
 The Singer's Singer, Special early show, 7:00  
**Sun. May 6 7pm**  
**THE RESENTMENTS**  
 w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman  
**WALTER TRAGERT 12am 10pm THE SAILINGERS**  
**Mon. May 7 8:30pm**  
**JEFF PLANKENHORN & SPECIAL GUEST**  
 Matt the Electrician 7pm  
**Nathan Singleton 11pm 12:30am Sheboygan**  
**Tues. May 8 8pm**  
**Bobby Whitlock From Derek & The Dominos**  
**& Coco Carmel**  
**WILL 12am 10pm LEE ANN SEXTON ATHONTON**  
 Hhr. **Beth Black 6pm**  
**Wed. May 9 10pm**  
**Monte Montgomery**  
 8pm **Paula Nelson**  
 12am **JAY THOMAS**  
 Hhr. **Pauline Reese 6pm**  
**COMING TO THE SAXON:**  
 Fri. 5/11 - **Omar & the Howlers**  
 Sat. 5/12 - **South Austin Jug Band**  
 Sat. 5/12 - **James Hand**  
 Fri. 5/18 - **No. 9 Orchestra**



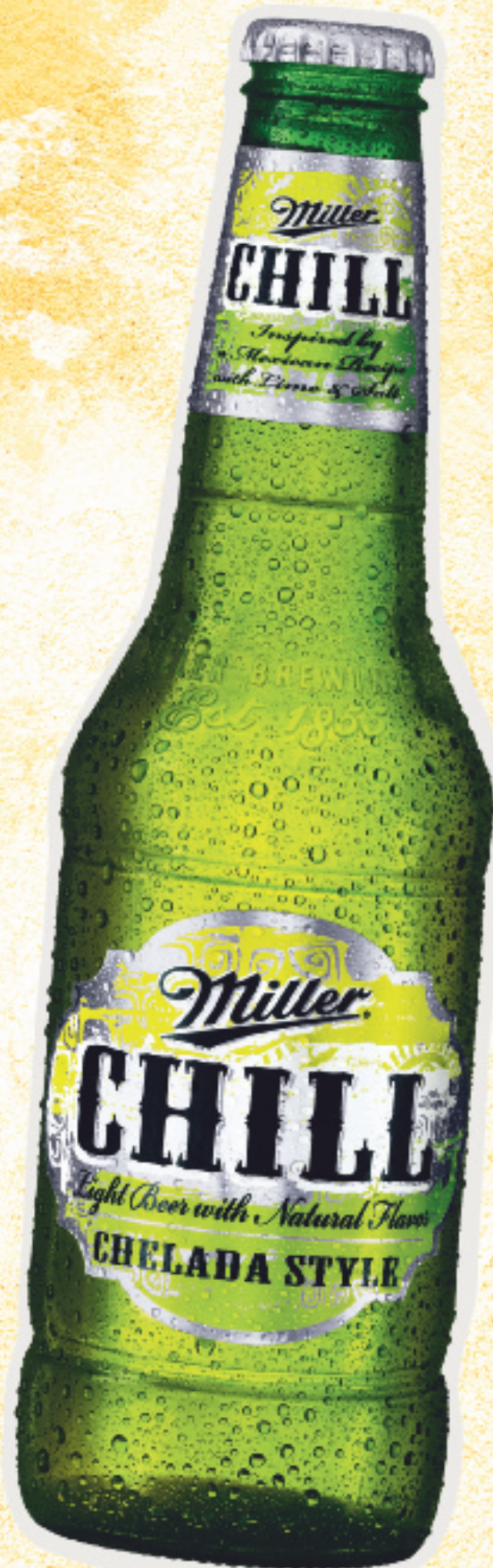
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**LIME & SALT**

¿SE HABLA  
**CHILL?**<sup>TM</sup>



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T	2.75 ALL PINTS
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TH	2.25 House Beers
F	2.75 Independence Ale
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S	1.75 Domestic Pints

*\*fresh\*  
this  
week*

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# THE SCORE

SPORTS BLOG

**On the tragic death of Cardinals' pitcher Josh Hancock:**

*"He pitched for the Cardinals, and we who love the Cardinals will miss him, although we'll get over his departure long before his family and friends will."*

- Shawn Badgley.

**THE CHRONICLE** austinchronicle.com/sports

**club listings << FROM SUNDAY**

**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Central Market All-Stars (12:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Grant Mazak (3:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! w/ Redd & Earl (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Scary-oke (10:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**EGO'S** Juliann Banks, Paul Lemond (9:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jeff Hellmer & the UT Jazz Professors (9:30)

**ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

**EMO'S** St. Vincent, John Vanderslice (10:00)

**FIESTA GARDENS** Austin Conjunto Festival w/ Santiago Jimenez Jr., Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, Johnny Degollado, Ruben Vela, Los Texas Wranglers, La Familia Zamora (1:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Sunday Soul Service w/ the Bruce James Quartet (1:00)

**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Josh Murley (3:00)

**FRIENDS** Open Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (8:00)

**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Ted Hall's Blues Church/Jam

**GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

**GRUENE HALL** Elana James & the Continental Two (1:00), Bugs Henderson (5:30)

**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Tex Thomas & the Danglin' Wranglers (3:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** Superphat, A Mind Divided, Trodus, Baseline Bums, Duke

**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Austin Sketch Group (1:30)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Rebecca's Ragtime Revue, Superrego, Rex Moroux Rock & Roll Free for All (9:00)

**HORSESHOE LOUNGE** Make-a-Wish Foundation May Day Music & Biker Bash w/ Chuck Bob Carnes, Raven Laurendine, Horseshoe Travellin' Orchestra, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends, Pauline Reese (2:00)

**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Brunch w/ DJ Chicken George (11:00am)

**LA ZONA ROSA** Girls' School of Austin's Spring Gala w/ Darcie Deaville, Nancy Coplin, Kelly Willis, Marcia Ball, Sara Hickman

**MANUEL'S** Son y No Son (11:30am)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** McMercy Family Gospel Band (10:30am), Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)

**MOMO'S** Lost & Nameless Orchestra, Phoebejeebies, Warren Hood

**NUEVO LEON** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Java Jazz (11:00am)

**THE OASIS** The Brew

**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mrs. K

**OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD** Pop Stars: Dads Who Rock (10:00am)

**PARADOX** B-Boy City 14 Awards Ceremony w/ DJ Baby-G, DJ Element, DJ Bles One, DJ Panda, DJ Comp One, DJ Silent Rob, DJ Cros One, Brownout! (5:00)

**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

**RAIN ON 4TH** Hedda Layne (5:30)

**RED 7** Hokaset, Architects, Polygamist Prophet, Fight Pretty, American Black Lung (8:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Kurupt (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie

**ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield

**ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN** Eddy Main

**ROOM 710** Meganaut, Late Nite Access, Zenith Fuzzbomb

**RUTA MAYA** Kids' Show (10:30am), Monster Big Band (7:00)

**SAXON PUB** The Resentments, Walter Tragert, the Salingers (7:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D

**SIXTH STREET** Old Pecan Street Festival w/ Cerronato, Joel Laviolette, Poor Man's Fortune, Ernie Durawa's Caribbean Jazz Trio, Circus Aztlan, Haydn Vitera Band, Batikum, c, A-T Boy (11:00am) *Chrontourage* Event

**SKI SHORES** Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (5:30)

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** The Blues Specialists (8:30)

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Lee

**THINGS CELTIC** Celtic Song Session (2:00)

**TOP DRAWER THRIFT SHOP** Couture '07, Project Transitions Benefit w/ Brooks Chambers, Frantic Mantra, the Guise, Muchos Backflips!, Muppetone (noon), Project Transitions Top Drawer Couture w/ the Guise, the Studebakers (noon)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

**THE WATER TANK** Open Mic w/ Patrick

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WEST** Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

**WOODY'S SOUTH** Jordan Price & Shad Blair (7:00)

# Mon 07

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Michael Ballew (3:30)

**ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE DOWNTOWN** We Were Never Here w/ the Diagonals

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

**BEERLAND** Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ Nathan Black

**BLIND PIG PUB** Chris Pennington (10:30)

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

**CEDAR STREET** Highly Likely, Jukebox Heroes w/ Robert Wagner (6:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Mike & Rob Haedge (5:30), Big John Mills (8:30)

**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Rich Demarco (6:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: CryBear (10:00); In the Club: Paris '49 (6:30), Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**EGO'S** Elise Evans, Aquafire (8:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

**EMO'S** Inside: Awesome Color, Gorch Fock, Birds of Avalon, Those Peabodys; Lounge: Awol One w/ MSG Crew, DJ Hoppa, Mine + Us, Josh Martinez w/ DJ Moves, Factor

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Trip 7 (8:00)

**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Mike & Dave

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**FRIDAY MAY 4**  
**TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS**  
blues legend

**SATURDAY MAY 5**  
**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL**  
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**BETO & THE FAIRLANES** 7PM  
**PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE CO.**  
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**SUNDAY MAY 6**  
**SEAN HOPPER QUARTET**  
BATTLE OF AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL  
AT 3:30 JAZZ PROGRAMS

Show times: 6:30 - 9 pm  
Sunday Music starts at 12:30 pm

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**THURSDAY MAY 3**  
**LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA**  
irish, celtic  
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WESTGATE WINE BAR GRAND OPENING  
**KATHY WOMACK GALLERY ART SHOW**  
WITH **KATHY WOMACK** 5 TO 7PM  
LIVE MUSIC

**SUNDAY MAY 6**  
**CIENFUEGOS**  
cuban

**WEDNESDAY MAY 9**  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE BAYOU CANJUN**  
band

Wednesdays & Thursdays 6:30 - 9pm  
Sundays 12:30 - 3 pm

**@CENTRAL PARK**

May 11 - **EGGMEN**  
May 12 - **BREW**  
May 13 - **MADY KAYE**  
May 18 - **MONSTAS**

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May 16 - **HUDSONS**  
May 17 - **JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ**

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**JJ Usher**

No Cover

**Saturday May 5, 7-10**  
**Malford Milligan**

No Cover

**Sunday May 6, 7-10**  
**THE BREW**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 3**

INSIDE: **MONO** (JAPAN)  
WORLD'S END GIRLFRIEND • GRAILS  
LOUNGE: QUIET COMPANY • IN CASE OF FIRE  
MINUTES TOO FAR • CONSIDER THE SOURCE

**FRIDAY, MAY 4**

OUTSIDE: **THE ALBUM LEAF**  
THE LYMBYC SYSTEM • SINGLE FRAME  
LOUNGE: HOPE IRISH (CD RELEASE)  
THE ARCHIBALDS • BROTHER MACHINE  
INSIDE: KING OF SCRATCH DJ COMPETITION 7PM

**SATURDAY, MAY 5**

3PM INSIDE: **CINCO DE MAYO** WITH  
VATOS LOCOS • ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION  
ESE • SUICIDAL FAILURE • HELL'S ENGINE  
13TH VICTIM • SPITTING BULLETS • DICKINS  
PANTHER ZORA • UNDERTONE • LOS HISPANOS UK  
SOBER DAZE • LOS DE VERDAD • KING'S OF CRIME  
LOUNGE: MURDOCKS • THE NOISE REVIVAL  
ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE • FOR THOSE WHO KNOW

**SUNDAY, MAY 6**

INSIDE: **JOHN VANDERSLICE** 11PM  
ST. VINCENT 10PM

**MONDAY, MAY 7**

INSIDE:  
**THOSE PEABODYS • BIRDS OF AVALON**  
(EX CHERRY VALENCE)  
**GORCH FOCK • AWESOME COLOR** 9:30PM  
LOUNGE:  
AWOL ONE W/ FACTOR • JOSH MARTINEZ W/ DJ MOVES  
MINE + US W/ DJ HOPPA • MSG CREW

**TUESDAY, MAY 8**

**ELF POWER • LOXSLY • AM SYNDICATE**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9**

**THE BLISS OUT 3:**  
HORSE + DONKEY • SHE, SIR (CD RELEASE)  
GHOSTS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE  
ALL IN THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON  
LOUNGE: THE BOMB SYSTEM • RED TEAM GO  
SECULAR END • LAZAR WOLF

**THURSDAY, MAY 10**

INSIDE:  
**DEAD GIRLS RUIN EVERYTHING**  
(EX-ULTIMATE FAKEBOOK)  
**LA SNACKS • LOCALS TBA**  
LOUNGE: **ROCK OF AGES**  
COVERING DECADES:  
50's - PRESERVE THE SOUND  
60's - CONSIDER THE SOURCE  
70's - SEAFLEA • 80's - PROMISEBREAKERS  
90's - SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS

**FRIDAY, MAY 11**

EARLY LOUNGE SHOW (6:30-8:30PM):  
**AUSTIN'S HOTTEST KID BANDS!**  
NATURAL EAR MUSIC  
& BULLDOG BOOKING PRESENT:  
**NO ADULTS ALLOWED ON STAGE**  
INSIDE, 9:30 SHOW:  
**FROG EYES • ALEX DELIVERY**  
THE SHAKY HANDS • FUTURE CLOUDS & RADAR  
(CD RELEASE)

OUTSIDE: **CRUISERWEIGHT • DRIVER F**  
RORY & THE ARTIFICIAL HEART  
CRASH GALLERY • CASSETTE

LOUNGE:  
**GOLDEN BEAR • MIDGETMEN**  
(5TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW)

**PEEL • MICE & RIFLES**  
TEAM FABRICATIONS DJS  
BEFORE THE SHOW & IN BETWEEN SETS!!

**SATURDAY, MAY 12**

INSIDE: **CENTRO-MATIC**  
MICAH P. HINSON • MANDIBLE

**MONDAY, MAY 14**

**KING KONG** (DRAG CITY/EX-SLINT)  
**AWESOME COOL DUDES • LALALAND**

**TUESDAY, MAY 15**

**SOLD OUT: BEN GIBBARD**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16**

INSIDE:  
**BROTHERAL**  
**PSALM ONE**  
REEF THE LOST CAUSE • VEHICULAR

LOUNGE: **PRIESTBIRD** (EX-TARANTULA A.D./  
KENIADO RECORDS)  
PIT ER PAT • WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

**THURSDAY, MAY 17**

INSIDE: **UME • FORGET CASSETTES**  
**A TIGER NAMED LOVESICK**  
LOUNGE: **THE POLITICS**

OUTSIDE:  
**CHAOS IN Tejas FEST**  
DAY ONE:

FROM LONDON, UK  
**HARD SKIN** ONLY TEXAS SHOW  
**LA FRACTION • PISSCHRIST • DROPOUT**  
(FRANCE) (AUSTRALIA) (REUNION)  
MIND ERASER • SPAZAM 151 • DEEP SLEEP

**FRIDAY, MAY 18**

INSIDE: **LIONS • RED FANG**  
(EX-BAD WIZARD/RFTC)  
ROCKLAND EAGLES • HUMAN BEING LAWNMOWER  
LOUNGE:  
PROMISEBREAKERS • KARAOKE APOCALYPSE

OUTSIDE:  
**CHAOS IN Tejas FEST**  
DAY TWO:

**BELGIUM PUNK LEGENDS**  
**THE KIDS** ONLY U.S. SHOW!  
**THE PERSUADERS**  
(PRE-KAJUN SS/EXPLODING HEARTS...  
"HEART OF CHROME")

**GOVERNMENT WARNING**  
(EX-MUNICIPAL WASTE/  
MEMBERS OF DIRECT CONTROL)  
**COMPLICATIONS** (MEMBERS OF BORN DEAD ICONS)  
**PUNCH IN THE FACE** (EX LOS CRUDOS/MK ULTRA)  
**SEX VID REPERCUSSIONS**  
(EX DEATHREAT/COLD SWEAT)

**SATURDAY, MAY 19**

INSIDE: **THE CLIENTELE**  
**BEACH HOUSE • ZYKOS**  
LOUNGE: 101X HOMEGROWN LIVE \$1 COVER  
**THE CHANNEL • CASSETTE**

OUTSIDE:  
**CHAOS IN Tejas FEST**  
DAY THREE:

**GORDON SOLIE MOTHERFUCKERS**  
(REUNION... MEMBERS OF 9 SHOCKS TERROR/INMATES)  
**EYEHATEGOD • BORN DEAD ICONS**  
(MONTREAL, CANADA)  
**PELIGRO SOCIAL • BRIAN HANDLE**  
AMERICAN CHEESEBURGER

**SUNDAY, MAY 20**

EARLY SHOW INSIDE @5PM:  
**SET YOUR GOALS • JUST SURRENDER**  
**DRIVING EAST • TOMORROW'S TOO LATE**  
LOCAL TBA

LATE SHOW:  
**CALI AGENTS • PLANET ASIA & RASCO**  
D.O.S. UNCLE SUEL & MORE

**TUESDAY, MAY 22**

**THE BOXING LESSON • TUSSLE**  
**YACHT** (MEMBERS OF THE BLOW) • BEST FWENDS

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 23**

AUSTIN DISCOVERY SCHOOL BENEFIT  
WITH **QUIEN ES BOOM • FOOT FOOT**

**THURSDAY, MAY 24**

INSIDE & IN THE LOUNGE:  
**EMISSIONS FROM**  
**THE MONOLITH**  
FEST DAY 1  
**KYLESA • AMPLIFIED HEAT**  
DAMNWEEVIL • THE MAKAI • MORE TBA!

**FRIDAY, MAY 25**

OUTSIDE: **VOXTROT**  
INSIDE & IN THE LOUNGE:  
**EMISSIONS FROM**  
**THE MONOLITH**  
FEST DAY 2  
**THROTTLEROD • MESS WITH THE BULL**  
**BIBLE OF THE DEVIL • TEST SITE**  
IMPERIAL BATTLESLAKE • LORD BY FIRE  
VALKYRIE • BEAST • LORD

**SATURDAY, MAY 26**

OUTSIDE: **MELT BANANA** (JAPAN)  
**XBXR • THE CARROTS**  
INSIDE & IN THE LOUNGE:  
**EMISSIONS FROM**  
**THE MONOLITH**  
FEST DAY 3  
**RPG • MIDDIAN • COFFINS • INDIAN**  
ARTIMUS PYLEDRIVER • UNFORTUNAUT  
MINSK • COLLAPSAR • GRAVES AT SEA  
GIANT SQUID • DIXIE WITCH

**SUNDAY, MAY 27**

OUTSIDE:  
**EL-P • HANGAR 18**  
**YAK BALLZ • SLOW SUICIDE STIMULUS**  
INSIDE & IN THE LOUNGE:  
**EMISSIONS FROM**  
**THE MONOLITH**  
FEST DAY 4  
**DEADBIRD • WEED EATER • BLACK COBRA**  
**RWAKE • DELICIOUS • SKELETONWITCH**  
ALABAMA THUNDER PUSSY • SUZUKITON • MORE TBA!

**MONDAY, MAY 28**

INSIDE:  
**SOL-ILLAQUISTS OF SOUND • DJ STORM**  
**GREY MATTER • MAESTRO & TEE DOUBLE**

OUTSIDE:  
**PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES**  
(FINAL TOUR)  
**MOONRATS • MOROS EROS**  
LOUNGE:  
**SET AFLAME • SCREAMING AT THE SKY**  
**THE LOST ANTHOLOGY • TRANSITORY**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 30**

INSIDE: **HAWNAY TROOF • BEST FWENDS**  
FINALLY PUNK  
LOUNGE: **POMPEII • GAZELLES • THE HEIRS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 31**

INSIDE:  
**WHITE DENIM • THE WAR AGAINST SLEEP**  
**RED LEAVES • RINGO DEATHSTARR**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1**

INSIDE: **RTX • TOTIMOSHI • FACELESS WERE-**  
**WOLVES • THE FLOOD**  
EARLY SHOW: **STATE RADIO • LOCAL TBAS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

INSIDE: **GAL'S PANIC** (REUNION)  
**THE TOTAL FOXES • THE TRICKER TREATS**  
THE CATFISH HUNTERS  
OUTSIDE:  
**THE OCTOPUS PROJECT • PEEL**  
**PALAXY TRACKS • FOR THOSE WHO KNOW**

COMING SOON: 6/3 MICE PARADE • 6/4 LIFESAVAS • 6/5 DMBQ (JAPAN) • 6/8 HOLD STEADY • 6/9 SAGE FRANCIS / BUCK 65 (OUT) / CALVIN JOHNSON (IN)  
6/10 C3 PRESENTS: JANEANE GAROLFALO & PATTON OSWALT (TIX ON SALE 4/28 @FRONTGATETICKETS.COM) • 6/11 MASERATI (LOUNGE) / SLEEPYTIME GORILLA MUSEUM (IN) • 6/12 DAN DEACON  
6/15-6/24 EMOS 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WEEK! - UNSANE, THE FREEZE, SHEARWATER, THE STILLS, HELL'S BELLES, SCOTT BIRAM, JERRY'S KIDS, RADIO BIRDMAN, THE QUEERS AND MUCH MORE! • 6/15 US BOMBS • 7/21 THE WRENS

\*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [www.emosaustin.com](http://www.emosaustin.com), [waterloo records](http://waterloo records), & [end of an ear records](http://end of an ear records)



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thursday 5.3  
**mockery birds,  
the heirs, scattered pages**

friday 5.4  
**come latelays, last gasp,  
built by snow, program**

saturday 5.5  
**the clutters,  
the states, the tah-dahs**

tuesday 5.8  
**MOHAWK residency:  
white demin, brazos**

wednesday 5.9  
**balmorhea, caspian,  
loren dent**

thursday 5.10  
**AUX, the alice rose, plus...**

friday 5.11  
**cartright,  
spain colored orange**

saturday 5.12  
**quiet, lovely,  
sad accordians**

next  
sunday:  
spouse,  
till we're  
blue...  
5.13.07

**\*COMING SOON:**  
ANDY ROURKE (THE SMITHS), KEXP RESIDENCY TUESDAYS  
MATT&KIM, LAURA VIERS, GHETTO PONY, UGLY BEATS  
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# speakeasy

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THURSDAY, MAY 3	<b>ALPHA REV</b>	9:30PM
FRIDAY, MAY 4	<b>TEXAS UNLIMITED BAND</b>	9:30PM
SATURDAY, MAY 5	<b>CINCO DE MAYO THE BREW</b>	9:30PM
TUESDAY, MAY 8	<b>TEXAS TUESDAY MATT SKINNER</b>	9:30PM 18+ WELCOME
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9	<b>LATIN WEDNESDAY THE BREW SALSA LESSONS</b>	9:30PM 9PM

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**FRIDAY**  
Grudgeweary  
9:00-11:00

**SATURDAY**  
I Need More Cow Bell CINCO DE MAYO PARTY  
9:00-11:00

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<b>THURSDAY</b>	
<b>Vehicular</b>	9:00-11:00
Nuthin' New All Stars	11:00-2:00
<b>FRIDAY</b>	
<b>An Arabian Night</b>	9:00-11:00
DJ Mike Swing	11:00-2:00
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
<b>Mrandmrsays</b>	9:00-10:30
DJ Kury	10:30-2:00
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
DJ Kurupt	10:00-2:00
<b>MONDAY</b>	
DJ Jeff Jupiter	10:00-2:00
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
<b>Porter Davis</b>	9:00-10:30
Twist Up w/DJ Manny	10:30-2:00
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
The Reflex	10:00-2:00

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club listings << FROM MONDAY

**HEADHUNTERS** Suinger-Songwriter Showcase, Matt Reed, Fireball Show, Buffaloo Breath  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/ Frank (7:30)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Sick's Pack, That Damned Band, Sick Science Project (9:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** The Swells Wave (10:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Robbie's Open Mic Night  
**MAGGIE MAE'S** Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators (8:00)  
**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson & Joley Flowers  
**NASTY'S** DJ Mel, Jahmighty  
**RADISSON** Larissa Ness (5:30)  
**RED FEZ** DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)  
**THE ROCK ROOM** Jam Night (7:00)  
**ROMEO'S** Lisa Clark  
**ROOM 710** Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Suzanne Smith  
**RUTA MAYA** Stefan Harpin, Second Hand Catholics, Craig Marshall (7:30)  
**SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Nathan Singleton, Sheboygan  
**SCOTT INN** J.T. Van Zandt, Calvin Russell (9:00)  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Little Elmore Reed (10:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns (6:00)  
**TROPHY'S** The Meshbanes  
**THE WATER TANK** Tony Fant (8:00)  
**WOODY'S SOUTH** Billy Dee

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)  
**EGO'S** Sunny Sweeney, Kathleen O'keefe  
**EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE** Writers Who Rock Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith (6:00), Jon Blondell (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah  
**EMO'S** AM Syndicate, Loxsly, Elf Power  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Love Gone Cold, Julieann Banks (6:00)  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)  
**FRIENDS** Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Joe Richardson Express (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Roots Day w/ Miss Lauren Marie  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Stop the Truck  
**GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Open Stage w/ Cade Baccus  
**HABANA CALLE 6** Trey Lanshe (8:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Pete Benz & Kevin Havron (7:30)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Xathax, 2-Hour Fire, Rubber Robot  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Night w/ Sergio Martinez (8:00)  
**HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Leo Stokes  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Passed-Out Fliers, Casting Couch, Chris Brecht  
**LA PALAPA** Bobby Lindstrom  
**LAMBERTS** Jitterbug Vipers (6:30), Phil Brown's Acid House (10:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Fishermen, DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox (10:00)  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Billy D  
**PARDNERS** Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)  
**PLUSH** Mentalnote  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos  
**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Justin  
**RADISSON** Murphy's Inlaws  
**RANCH 616** Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)  
**RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)  
**REDRUM** Heather Rae & the Moonshine Boys, John Maverick, Lady Watanabe, Hula Lula, Cardinal Cyn, Bon Bon Vivant, Masked Contortionist, Miss Maulie, Perle Noir  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine Trio (6:30)  
**ROOM 710** Dead by Knight, Demon Driver, 3  
**RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)  
**SAXON PUB** Bobby Whitlock, Coco Carmel, Leeann Atherton, Will Sexton (8:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae  
**SPEAKEASY** Matt Skinner (9:30)  
**STUBB'S** Ryan Shaw  
**TAVERN IN THE GRUENE** Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Robbie Doyen, Opposite Day, Three Leaf  
**TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis  
**THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ RJ

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Will Dunlap (6:00)  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Jimmy LaFave (5:00) *Chrontourage Event*

Wed 09

**219 WEST** Breezy (7:00)  
**311 CLUB** Sindrome (8:30)  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Patterson Barrett (3:30)  
**ANTONE'S** Eric Tessmer Band  
**APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL** Marty Linville  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)  
**BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5** Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee  
**THE BACKYARD** Love as Laughter, Man Man, Modest Mouse (7:00) *Chrontourage Event*  
**BASS CONCERT HALL** Damien Rice (8:00)  
**BROWN BAR** DJ Manny  
**CACTUS CAFE** Zoe Lewis  
**CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)  
**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Jacinta (7:00)  
**CLUB 973** Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)  
**CLUB ONE 15** Rogue River String Band, Heart & Soul Sound System (6:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Trube Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: The Explosions (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, Amy Cook (10:00)  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)  
**CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)  
**CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN** Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee  
**THE DIRTY DOG** William's Garage  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Frank & the Station Masters  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kat Edmonson (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Austin Poetry Slam, Half Dozen of the Other (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Crying Monkeys (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Mid Wave w/ DJ Gothfather  
**EMO'S** Inside: Bliss Out 3 w/ All in the Golden Afternoon, Ghost of the Russian Empire, Horse + Donkey; Lounge: Lazar Wolf, A Secular End, Red Team Go, the Bomb System  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Cowboy Johnson (6:00)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** NORML Benefit w/ Green Mountain Grass, Subrosa Union, Sinai Fiyah (8:30)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** David Hamburger Guitar Workshop, McMercy Family Gospel Band (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jack & the Jilted, Jack & the Jilted  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Open Mic w/ Gino's All-Stars  
**GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Ian of Ecosystemz (8:00)  
**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)



PHOTO BY SHELLEY HIRM

CHRONtourage

Sunday May 6

pecanstreet festival



6th Street, www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com

Friday May 4, 10:30pm

PAULYSHORE

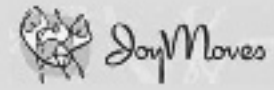
Cap City Comedy Club  
 8120 Research #100, www.capcitycomedy.com



Saturday May 5

FreePilatesDay

at JoyMoves, the Pilates Center of Austin, BodyBusiness, Body Springs, the Hills Fitness Center, Pilates Connections and Pilates360. Contact each studio for details.  
 www.joymoves.com



Sunday May 6, 3pm

wranglers vs. tampa bay

Frank Erwin Center  
 1701 Red River, www.austinwranglers.com



Tuesday May 8, 5pm

JIMMYLAFAVE

Waterloo Records  
 600 A N. Lamar, www.waterloorecords.com



Wednesday May 9, 6:30pm

Modestmouse

The Backyard  
 13101 Hwy. 71 W., www.thebackyard.net



Make sure to sign up for the weekly Chrontourage newsletter @ austinchronicle.com/party to find out about more upcoming events and ongoing contests!

See pictures of what you missed at austinchronicle.com/whatyoumissed.

club listings << FROM WEDNESDAY

**HEADHUNTERS** Esmeralda Strange, Trainwreck Washington, Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists, Lonesome Heroes

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Wash Hamilton, Roger Wallace, Loss Rayne, Aved Bend, Stacey Miller (6:30)

**HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian

**LAMBERTS** Erik Hokkanen & His Gypsy Tribe (6:30), In Stereo: DJ Mahealani (10:30)

**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Alpha Rev w/ Casey McPherson (10:00)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem

**MAGGIE MAE'S** Patrick Fleming (10:00)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** The Hudsons

**THE MOHAWK** Loren Dent, Balmorhea, Caspian

**MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Philip Gibbs & James Thomas (6:00)

**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Firefall (7:00, 9:30)

**PARDNERS** Kara

**PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders

**PLUSH** Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones

**THE PUB** Jam Session w/ Frank

**RADISSON** The Newz

**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

**RED 7** RIAx, Remember This, Seconds From Waking, Peyton Gin, Emyprean (8:00)

**RED FEZ** The Reflex w/ DJ Honeycomb, DJ Fuckin' A (10:00)

**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine Trio (7:00)

**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D

**THE ROCK ROOM** Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)

**ROOM 710** Sybil, Hacienda, Something Called Nothing

**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Glenn Collins Open Mic

**RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Ramsay Midwood & Friends (8:30)

**SAXON PUB** Pauline Reese (6:00), Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery (8:00)

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Karaoke, Open Mic (9:00)

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Karaoke (9:00)

**SOUTH FORTY** Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)

**SPEAKEASY** Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

**STUBB'S** Outside: Snowden, Kings of Leon; Inside Later: Vast

**TAMBALEO** DJ Mike Swing, Tee Double

**TRIPLE CROWN** Wellburn, Open Chapter, Mind Divided, Subtle Creeps

**TROPHY'S** Not the Government

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Ptarmigan (7:00)

**Y BAR & GRILL** Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

**Z'TEJAS** Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter (6:00)

**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Triple Play

**THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD** Reckless Kelly, Joe Ely (7:00)

**GRUENE HALL** McKay Bros. (7:30)

**HANOVER'S** Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Ted Hadji & the Wholly Ghosts, Kevin McKinney, Dave Insley

**HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian

**JOVITA'S** Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LAMBERTS** Glover Tango, D-Madness (6:30)

**THE LOADING DOCK** Breezy

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Matt White (10:00)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

**THE OAKS** Singer-Songwriter Series w/ Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, Steve Bedunah

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench

**PLUSH** Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** The Leghounds (9:00)

**RADISSON** Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio

**RANCH 616** Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

**RED 7** Girl in a Coma

**RED FEZ** Vehicular, Nuthin' New All-Stars (9:00)

**REDRUM** Destroyed for Comfort

**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)

**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

**THE ROCK ROOM** Brandon Raines

**ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN** Eddy Main

**ROOM 710** Mouse About, La Mancha, Lick Lick, Masonic

**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Dave Jorgenson

**RUTA MAYA** Warren Hood & Friends (8:00)

**SAXON PUB** Denim, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore

**SHENANIGANS** Billy Dee

**SOUND ON SOUND** Party Garbage, Adult Sons, Alright Tonight (6:00)

**STUBB'S** The Postmarks

**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** The Weary Boys (9:00)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Rabb Rodriguez y los Killer Hawgs, Lonesome Heroes, American Graveyard, Raditude

**TROPHY'S** Foolhardy, Dorkstar, Phoenix Down, Acoustic Underground

**WAHOO'S FISH TACOS** Level Hill Band (6:30)

**WATERLOO RECORDS** Future Clouds & Radar (5:00)

**WOODY'S SOUTH** Natalie Zoe (7:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Crews South (6:00)

**ZILKER PARK HILLSIDE THEATER** M.J. Baby & the Last Word (7:00)

Thu 10

**219 WEST** Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Silver Moon (3:30)

**ANTONE'S** Noon Video Premiere

**AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR** Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

**B.B. ROVERS** Judith Miller Band (8:30)

**BASS CONCERT HALL** Harry Connick Jr. (8:00)

**BEERLAND** Love Gone Cold

**BENNIGAN'S** Andy Fiegal (7:00)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

**BROWN BAR** mr.riple

**CACTUS CAFE** Dan Bern

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Rick Turcotte (5:30), Grant Ewing (8:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Paris '49 (10:00); In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Back Door Slam (10:00)

**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Texas All-Stars (8:30)

**THE DIRTY DOG** Bang

**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

**EGO'S** Lonely Child, 2 Hoots & a Holler

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Gaila Kenneally, Rich Harney

**EMO'S** Lounge: Rock of Ages: Fifties: Preserve the Sound; Sixties: Consider the Source; Seventies: Seaflea, Eighties: Promisebreakers; Nineties: Say Hello to the Angels; Inside: La Snacks, Dead Girls Ruin Everything

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Moving Matter, Green Lemon

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Craig Toungate, Craig Marshall (9:00)

**GIDDY UPS** Mike Morgan's Open Mic

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Ted Roddy (8:00)

**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Triple Play

**THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD** Reckless Kelly, Joe Ely (7:00)

**GRUENE HALL** McKay Bros. (7:30)

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**Z'TEJAS** Crews South (6:00)

**ZILKER PARK HILLSIDE THEATER** M.J. Baby & the Last Word (7:00)

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FRI. 5/11 @ 6:30PM \$5

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SAT. 5/19 @ 9PM

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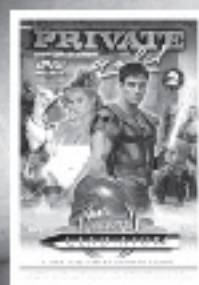
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If you're looking for a relationship that's a bit ... unconventional, you need to turn onto Easy Street. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, you can meet real people from right here in Austin who share your interests and lifestyle. Browse ads, look at pictures, read profiles - all absolutely free. Plus, if you place a profile with a picture by 5pm Monday, May 7, you'll be automatically entered to win a \$100 gift certificate from 365 Days, 365 Ways, the nicest place for naughty gifts. So don't dream it; do it.

Place a profile with a photo on Easy Street, and you'll be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate from 365 Days, 365 Ways!



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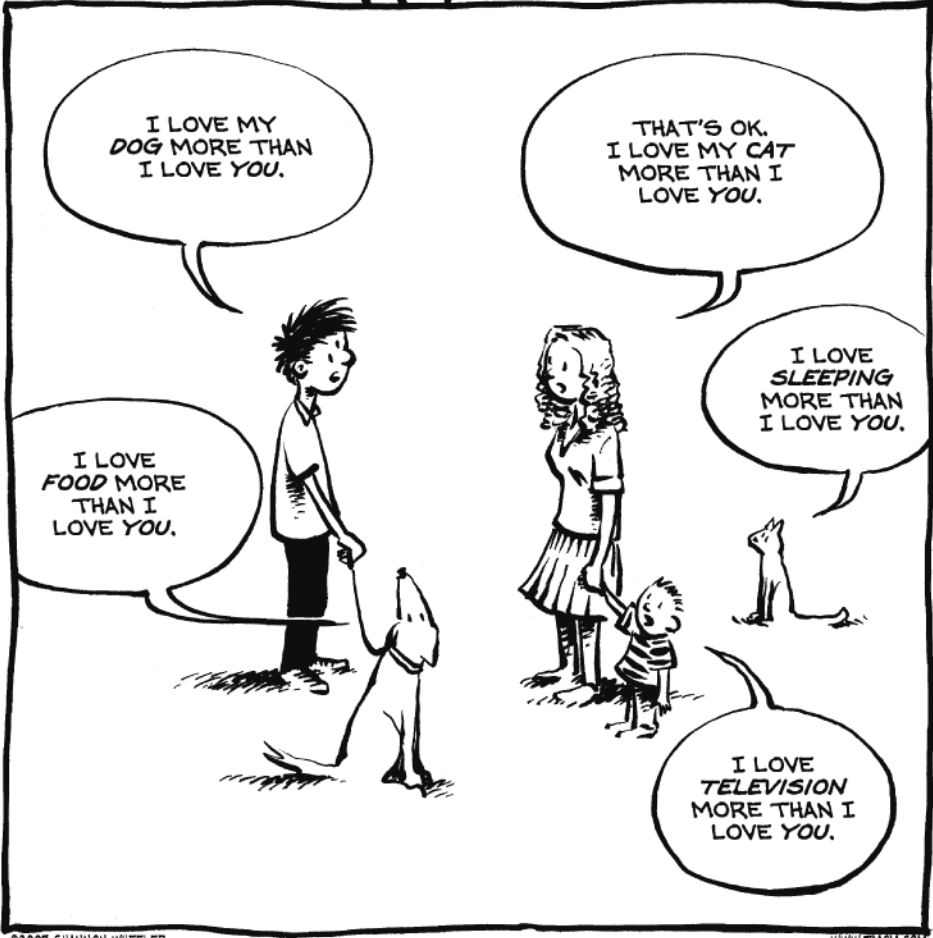
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# COMICS

## How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



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WWW.TMCM.COM

## TROUBLETOWN

MONICAS WHO BRING DOWN PRESIDENTS — A HANDY GUIDE



©2007 LLOYD DANGLE

## CATALOG POSERS

FREDDIE INVENTED IT BUT MARLYS IS TAKING THE CREDIT. 'IT'S NOT A GAME, IT'S AN EXPERIENCE' IS THE SLOGAN FOR OUR NEW THING CALLED, 'CATALOG POSE!'



IT WAS FREDDIE WHO NOTICED ONLY GIRLS GOT GOOD POSES IN THE SEAR'S SUMMER CATALOG. THE TEENS GOT THE BEST ONES, WITH GOOD FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.



HE NOTICED THE BRA LADIES ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN AND THE UNDERWEAR MEN WERE OFTEN SMILING. BUT WHO GOT THE WORST DEAL WAS BOYS.

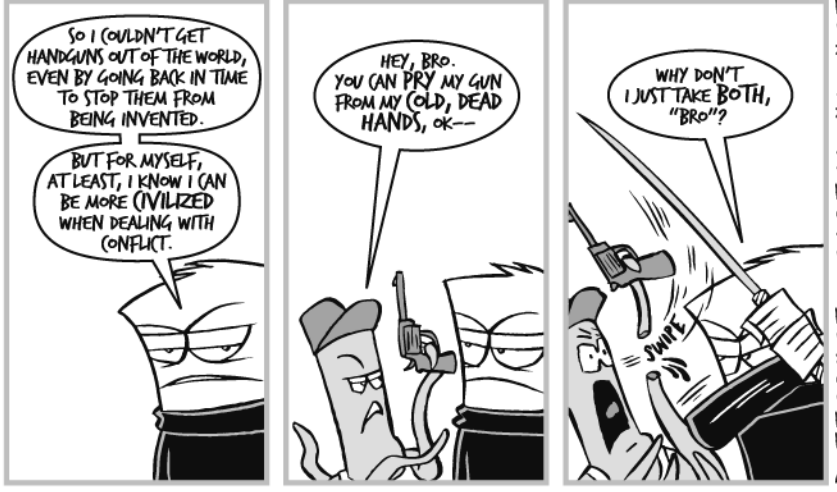


FREDDIE INVENTED IT, CALLING OUT, 'LADIE'S PAJAMAS!' OR 'GIRL'S SWIMSUITS!' AND YOU HAVE TO DO THE ACTION AND FREEZE. WHICH IS GENIUS ENOUGH. BUT THEN MARLYS GOT THE IDEA TO DO IT IN THE YARD WHERE WE CAN POSSIBLY GET FAMOUS!



## BITTER YET! IN THE CITY

JASON STOUT @ 2007



## MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Table skirts were invented during Victorian times because some men found table legs to be too sexually arousing.

Saag paneer is an Indian dish consisting of spinach and cheese. The word "saag" is Hindi for spinach, and "paneer" is derived from Persian. Omit one of the a's from the saag, and you have the Persian word for dog (pronounced the same way). Dog cheese anyone?

The late tattoo artist Rollo Banks is responsible for introducing the arm-band style tattoo.

The song "Stop in the Name of Love" was written by Lamont Dozier and brothers Brian Holland and Eddie Holland Jr. Lamont Dozier got the idea after an argument with his girlfriend. In the heat of battle, he yelled, "Stop in the name of love." They both started laughing, and Dozier had the title.

Sixty percent of Puritan women were pregnant when they got married.

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](mailto:mrpants@austinchronicle.com).

# TRADE UP

454-5767

[austinchronicle.com/tradeup](http://austinchronicle.com/tradeup)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 100 JOBS

- 110 Art/Design
- 115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
- 120 Entertainment/Casting
- 125 General
- 130 Healthcare
- 135 Hospitality
- 140 Legal
- 145 Office/Clerical
- 150 Non-Profit
- 155 Professional
- 160 Research Study
- 165 Retail
- 170 Sales/Marketing
- 175 School/Training
- 180 Technical

## 200 HOUSING

- 210 Reader Notice
- 215 Apartment/Condo/Townhome
- 220 Duplex/Houses
- 225 Vacation
- 230 Commercial
- 235 Roommates
- 240 Real Estate For Sale

## 300 BUY/SELL/TRADE

- 310 Antiques/Collectibles
- 315 Appliances
- 320 Baby/Kids Stuff
- 325 Clothing
- 330 Computers
- 335 Electronics
- 340 Free Stuff
- 345 Furniture
- 350 Garage/Estate Sales
- 355 General
- 360 Jewelry/Accessories
- 365 Pets/Pet Supplies
- 370 Recreational
- 375 Tickets/Entertainment
- 380 Tools
- 385 Trades
- 390 Wanted to Buy

## 400 SERVICES

- 410 Business
- 415 Computers
- 420 Counseling
- 425 Health/Wellness
- 430 Home
- 435 Financial
- 440 Fitness/Training
- 445 Legal
- 450 Office/Clerical
- 455 Psychic/Astrology
- 460 Travel
- 465 Miscellaneous

## 500 NEIGHBORHOOD

- 510 Activities
- 515 Classes/Workshops
- 520 Discussion Groups
- 525 Events
- 530 General
- 535 Lost & Found
- 540 Volunteers
- 545 Legal Notices

## 600 MOTOR

- 610 Cars
- 615 Trucks
- 620 SUV's
- 625 Motorcycles
- 630 Recreational
- 635 Parts
- 640 Repairs

## 700 MUSIC

- 710 Equipment for Sale
- 715 Music Instruction
- 720 Musicians Available
- 725 Musicians Wanted
- 730 Recording Studios
- 735 Rentals/Services
- 740 Shameless Promotion

## PERSONALS

- Lovers Lane
- Easy Street
- Shot in the Dark
- Messages



**115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA**

**HAIR STYLIST** needed, up to 50% commission. Ongoing training provided. Organic Hair & Beauty Center, an upscale busy salon in Round Rock. Call Nicky 255-6763

**HAIRSTYLIST** Salon has station for rent, some clientele preferred. \$110/wk. Central location w/parking 477-9166.

**HAIRSTYLIST CHAIR** RENTAL. Available at well established salon. Excellent location. Central Austin. 451-6267 or 451-1629.

**HAIRSTYLIST** Chair for lease in East Austin, great location, affordable rent, only \$700 per month. Please be Creative. Technical and Professional. Leave message 293-3444

**HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS** Lease \$130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

**SALON STAFF** Looking for professional, well-balanced massage therapist, facialist, nail tech, and hairstylist to rent a space at a long, well-run, established and friendly salon. FRENZ 454-3736 ask for Celia or Heidi.

**125 GENERAL**

**ALL GLACIER NATIONAL PARK** Spend a summer working in the Montana Rockies!

**Glacier Park Inc.** operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2007 summer season (May-Sept.):

- TOUR DRIVERS
- WAITSTAFF / SERVERS
- LINE / PREP COOKS
- RETAIL ASSOCIATES
- NIGHT AUDIT
- HOUSEKEEPING
- LAUNDRY
- WAREHOUSE
- FRONT DESK
- BARTENDERS

**120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING**

**ACOUSTIC MUSICIAN** greeters wanted. Flex hours, medical, \$8/hr. Ask for Kristin HEB 183&Braker 794-8221 Drug Free, Equal Opp.

**BODYBUILDERS WANTED** Got six-pack abs and tree trunk thighs? Make \$500-\$800/day. (512)927-2448

**CAULKING/WINDOW CLEANING** Requires great physical condition, English reliable phone and auto. Experience preferred. Call Forrest 444-5144

**COURIERS** Commission wages plus some fuel allowance. Dependable vehicle & cell phone req. M-F 8-5. 459-7472. Centex Delivery.

**DELIVERY DRIVER**

**PAID CASH DAILY** Hiring Immediately!

**Flexible Schedules** Evening & Weekend Shifts

**Restaurant Delivery Service** Use your own vehicle

Apply in person at 11673 Jollyville Rd #102

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**DRIVERS** Sign-On Bonus! Best Compensation in the Industry! More Hometown! 1 yr. OTR, CDL-A Call Today-Start Tomorrow! \*\*\*\*\*800-835-9471\*\*\*\*\*

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**DRIVERS** Driver CDL Training: \$0 Down No Worry Financing! Experienced or Not-Career you Deserve is @ Central Refrigerated: 800-567-3867

**HOME BUSINESS** Motivated entrepreneurs: hottest new business-get results. Serious only-800-897-8039.

**INTERIOR TROPICAL PLANT TECHNICIAN** Full or PT, exp and vehicle required, mileage paid. Call 385-5421

**MEALS AND HOUSING** provided for \$10/day. Added incentives for management/bonus potential. Visit our Web site at [www.gpihr.com](http://www.gpihr.com) to apply or call 406-892-6719

**MAID** Join Austin's #1 Cleaning Company! Earn \$10-15 hr. No nights/wk ends, Mon-Fri 8-5pm. Car & insurance req'd. 327-8190

**MANAGERS** Speedy Stop is hiring Managers, Assistant Managers, and Customer Service Reps at all Austin area locations. We offer flexible work schedules, paid vacation, medical/dental insurance, 401k, life insurance, and tuition reimbursement. Apply in person at your neighborhood Speedy Stop or online at [www.speedystop.com](http://www.speedystop.com).

**MERCHANDISERS** Needed to service supermarket routes in the Austin area. Fle A.M. hours M-F P/T Perm approx 12 hours weekly. Need vehicle, DL & insurance. Hourly + mileage. Call (800) 216-7909 x759. [www.ATARetail.com](http://www.ATARetail.com)

**MYSTERY SHOPPERS** Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to \$150 a day. Call 888-734-1352

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Part-Time, no experience required, perfect summer job, 10-20 hrs per week, flexible schedule. South Austin. Fax resume to 512-292-3163.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT** Dream Job! Founder of Bargain.com looking for first employee. Assist me in starting the next "big thing." MBA preferred, but BA required. Know Sales and Contracts. Email resume to [employ@fotofix.com](mailto:employ@fotofix.com).

**POST OFFICE JOBS** AVAILABLE. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K Annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacations. PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775

**RECEPTIONIST** For doctors office. Are you dependable, professional, and eager to help people? \$8/hour, full time with benefits, train and advance, Far West Optical. 343-0432

**RN/LVN/C N A/MA WANTED** Now Hiring for Openings!! Contact the Nursing Hotline Call Today 512-351-7047

**EMPLOYMENT** Looking for a new job? Have to hire a new employee? Check out the great job opportunities in this week's Austin Chronicle. If you would like information on how to place an ad, call 454-5765.

## 130 HEALTHCARE

**Jason's deli**

**Hiring Delivery Drivers & Order Takers** Drivers up to \$8/hr & Order Takers up to \$9/hr Sign on Bonus \$50

**CARING ATTENDANT** For evening and weekend help. Room & Board plus pay. 512-944-3886

**DENTAL RECEIPT ASSIST** Part Time M-Tu-Th varying hours, no early morn, slower paced office, minimal ins., must live in general area, dental exp. much preferred, close to McPac-Spicewood, must really want PT, 345-8556

**HEALTH ATTENDANT** Attention Nursing & Pre-Med majors, seeking energetic & cheerful Home Health Attendants. \$11/hr. Will train, all shifts avail. Call Cindy Mon-Fri. 8am-5pm for appt. No LATE Calls to Clinic Please. (512) 371-3036.

**MASSAGE THERAPISTS** FT/PT RMTs for therapeutic Round Rock clinic. Flexible schedule/benefits avail. Call 947-0599

**Jason's Deli** 3300 Bee Caves Rd. Austin 78746

**SANDWICH MAKER** We are hiring for AM/PM shifts at Thundercloud Subs. Must be energetic, and be able to play well with others. No experience necessary, we will teach you! We offer a great work environment. Please come by your neighborhood Thundercloud before 11:30 or after 1:30.

**VENDING ROUTE SALES CUSTOM FOOD GROUP**

is seeking a route sales driver in our vending service department in Austin, Texas. This position is responsible for the day-to-day product sales and services in coin operated snack, food, beverage, and/or office coffee machines. High School diploma or GED required. Must be 21 years or older and have a valid Texas driver's license. Ability to lift and push/pull up to 65 pounds. Salary is \$1,000.00 Bi-weekly or 8% commission whichever is greater. To apply, fax your resume to (210) 666-3293 or email your resume to [cfjjobs.st@customfoodgro.com](mailto:cfjjobs.st@customfoodgro.com) EOE/M/F/D/V Drug Test Requires/Non-Smoking Environment

**MANAGERS** Zen is growwwing and looking for great people... Interviewing these positions: general managers, asst. managers, floor managers, kitchen managers. "It's a Zen way of life." Please send all resumes to Adam at [eatzen.com](http://eatzen.com) or fax to 519-4057.

**ALL POSITIONS** Accepting applications at both Waffle House locations for Servers/Cooks. 8800 E. Hwy 290 (between Tuscany & Springdale) & 7809 E. Ben White (Riverside & Ben White). Apply between 8am-3pm.

Chronicle

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# AUSTIN






## Independent School District

*A Great Place to Learn! A Great Place to Teach!*

# Teacher Job Fair!

Public Job Fair for **CERTIFIED** Candidates

**Austin Convention Center**  
**Saturday, May 5th,**  
**12:30pm - 3:30pm**  
**500 East Cesar Chavez**

-  Representatives from 111 elementary, middle and high school campuses from across the District will be available to meet you!
-  Candidates will only be admitted by showing proof of certification. Student teachers can bring a copy of a transcript showing enrollment in student teaching. ACP participants can bring a letter from ACP program showing proof of participation.
-  A Certified Candidate is an individual who currently holds a standard, provisional or professional Texas certification or who is fully certified in another state.
-  A completed application with the Austin ISD Office of Human Resources is recommended. You may apply on-line by visiting the website listed below.
-  Please bring several copies of your résumé.

Additional information and driving directions to Austin Convention Center can be found on the Austin ISD website at: [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org)

CONTINUED **135**  
**HOSPITALITY**

ALL



Now Hiring:  
 • EXPLINE COOK (\$11+)  
 • EXP SERVERS, AM & PM  
**Upscale, fast paced. Voted Austin's Favorite Restaurant by Austin Chronicle Reader's Poll.**  
**Please Apply Mon.-Fri between 2pm-5pm.**  
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ALL POSITIONS

**Current Full and Part Time Positions available at Barton Creek Resort & Spa**  
 Apply in person Monday-Friday 8:30-5PM, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. Email resumes to [jobs@bartoncreek.com](mailto:jobs@bartoncreek.com) or fax your information to 512-329-4014. Website: <http://www.bartoncreek.com>  
 Barton Creek offers a complete benefits package & competitive wages. EOE

**ALL**  
 Tired of the same restaurant?  
**Try Japanese.**  
 Potential for big money. Hiring waiters, busboys, and chefs.  
**Kobe Japanese Steakhouse.** 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.



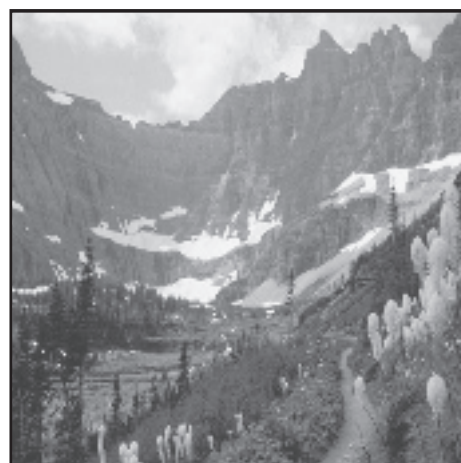
ALL POSITIONS



**Hiring**  
 • Cashiers  
 • Wok Cooks  
 Competitive pay based on experience  
 Weekends/Days/Nights  
 Flexible hours  
 Apply in person from 2-5 pm  
 Brodie Oaks: Lamar & Hwy 71  
 Tech Ridge: I-35 & Parmer  
 Hancock: 41st & I-35  
 Anderson Arbor: 183 & Anderson Mills Rd

**BARTENDER** !BARTEND! Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.  
**BARTENDERS NEEDED:** Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to \$300 per shift. Call (800) 806-0082 ext. 200. (AAN CAN)  
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**COOK** Dirty Martin's Hamburgers is now hiring an experienced line cook. Excellent references req. Apply in person, M-F, 3-5PM. 2808 Guadalupe.  
**COOKS WAITSTAFF** Cain & Abel's is now hiring experienced WAITRESSES, and LINE COOKS for all shifts. We are located at 24th & Rio Grande and serve UT-Austin's West Campus from 11AM to 2AM 7 days a week. Prefer open/flexible schedules.  
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**CREW & KITCHEN**  
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 Have you ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, and respectable business?  
 If you are interested in working for us, here is what we need. We are looking for people who have worked in the restaurant business for at least six months to one year, have experience working with the Aloha system or any other POS system, must be computer literate, must be quick learners, must be flexible with your schedule, should be able to do the job fast and effective.  
 Current openings: F/T & P/T  
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 Kitchen Staff-The Village & S. Lamar locations.  
**MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER**  
 To apply, please send resume to [constance@originalalamo.com](mailto:constance@originalalamo.com) or you may fill out an application in person at any of our locations.  
 Alamo Draffhouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006.  
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## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Spend a summer working in the Montana Rockies!

Glacier Park Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2007 summer season (May-Sept.):

- \* Tour Drivers
- \* Waitstaff / Servers
- \* Line / Prep Cooks
- \* Retail Associates
- \* Night Audit
- \* Housekeeping
- \* Laundry
- \* Warehouse
- \* Front Desk
- \* Bartenders

Meals and housing provided for \$10/day. Added incentives for management/bonus potential. Visit our Web site at [www.gpihr.com](http://www.gpihr.com) to apply or call

**406-892-6719**

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**Kent does it for the getaway.**  
 What's your reason?  
 "I enjoy the break from everyday life. Doing a study at Cedra allows downtime to watch movies, read, play games, or just chill out...and sleep! And funny stuff happens - one night we had a 'concert' with two guys snoring...like Dueling Banjos from Deliverance."

Every day, healthy people just like Kent participate in medication research studies at CEDRA Clinical Research. Some do it to help future generations and some...to make a buck. Most studies involve overnight stays in our safe, friendly environment and offer physical screenings, meals, wireless internet, computers, satellite TV, video games, and pool tables. If you're generally healthy, call us today...whatever your taste in movies.

**At our Austin clinic:**

Needed	Compensation	Study Dates
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 55	Up to \$2650	Wed, May 9 - Fri, May 11 Wed, May 16 - Fri, May 18 Wed, May 23 - Fri, May 25 Wed, May 30 - Fri, Jun 1 Wed, Jun 6 - Fri, Jun 8 Outpatient visits: May 12, 18, 25, Jun. 1, 8
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$1550	Tue, May 15 - Thu, May 17 Tue, May 22 - Thu, May 24 Tue, May 29 - Thu, May 31 Outpatient visit: Jun. 1
Healthy female nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$750	Fri, May 18 - Mon, May 21
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$900	Sat, May 19 - Mon, May 21 Outpatient visits: May 21, 22, Jun. 1
Healthy female nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$750	Tue, May 21 - Fri, Jun. 1
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Sat, May 12 - Mon, May 14 Thu, May 24 - Sat, May 26 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Mon, May 14 - Wed, May 16 Fri, May 25 - Sun, May 27 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Thu, May 17 - Sat, May 19 Mon, May 28 - Wed, May 30 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Fri, May 18 - Sun, May 20 Tue, May 29 - Thu, May 31 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$2250	Mon, Jun. 3 - Wed, Jun. 13
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$900	Mon, Jun. 3 - Wed, Jun. 5 Outpatient visits: Jun. 5, 6, 18

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**ENTERTAINERS**



MAKE LOTS OF MONEY! and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35. 218-8012.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Kerbey Lane Cafe is looking for qualified GM's that have a passion for our business. Responsibilities include daily operations, P&L results, staffing, development, & assisting in the expansion of our vision. Please email resume to [tracy@kerbeylanecafe.com](mailto:tracy@kerbeylanecafe.com).

**HOST & BUSSERS** Castle Hill Cafe is looking for AM Host and PM Bussers. Please come in between 3pm and 5pm. 1101 West 5th Street

**JUICE BAR / COFFEE PERSON** Juice bar / coffee person being hired for Timpones Market, Dripping Springs, 15 minutes from the Y, great new place, organics, fun, the best food ever, call Patrick @ 829-2200.

**PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS/ COOK** PIZZA CLASSICS: Now Hiring Delivery Drivers, and co-owners. Up to \$15/hr. Also hiring cook. Please apply in person at 604 W. 29th after 4PM.

**POOLSIDE WAITSTAFF** Needed for summer at private neighborhood dining club. Wait experience is preferred. Call 472-9410

**SERVERS** Now Hiring! Las Palomas Restaurant & Bar, Westwood Shopping Center, 3201 Bee Caves #122. Apply in Person Tues - Sat. [laspalomasrestaurant.com](mailto:laspalomasrestaurant.com)

Kerbey Lane Cafe 2606 Guadalupe location has shifts available for dinner & late nights servers. Please apply in person from 2-4 or send resume to [tracy@kerbeylanecafe.com](mailto:tracy@kerbeylanecafe.com).

**SERVERS** Chili's Restaurant @ 360 and Westlake Dr. now hiring full and part time hosts and servers. Chili's provides great benefits such as tuition assistance, meal discounts, insurance, and flexible schedules. We're a fun restaurant looking for upbeat energetic people. Apply daily or call 330-0953.

**SERVERS** 18 or over, personable with mad skill, apply in person - The RiO - 3rd and San Jacinto.

**SERVERS & CASHIERS** Mongolian Grille Downtown, 183 North, Round Rock. Call 775-2241 / Apply In Person.

**SERVERS & HOSTS** 18 & over. Fine dining experience required. Call James at Bistro 88 (512-328-8888)

**WAITSTAFF**

360 Uno, Trattoria and Wine-bar, is now hiring waitstaff. Great income!

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**WAITSTAFF** Waterloo Ice House is hiring Waitstaff our 360/2222 location. Apply in person at: 6203 N. Capital of Texas Highway (corner of 360 & 2222) 512-418-9700

# 145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

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Statewide distributor of spinal fixation implants & devices. Seeking highly motivated & organized person for customer service & accounting duties. Multiple companies fast paced & growing. Salary based on exp. plus benefits. Reply to [jobposting@ossmedical.com](mailto:jobposting@ossmedical.com)

**GOVERNMENT JOBS** \$12-\$48/Hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife & More! 1-800-320-9353 x2001. (AAN CAN)

# 150 NON-PROFIT

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The Long Center needs you to raise funds for our new Performing Arts Center. Pt Tm Eve, Great Pay! Call Bette at 391-0094. at 391-0094.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORPS**

Austin Environmental Corps - AmeriCorps Positions (Austin, TX & Some Travel) Want to work outside? Need money for college, help paying student loans, or just want to give something back to your community? Austin AmeriCorps program, Environmental Corps, is recruiting members between ages 17-28 years. Benefits include Education Award of \$2,360, health insurance, \$900/month living stipend, day care assistance, training, personal career counseling, and travel to Texas State Parks for work. Next term of service starts JUNE 11, 2007. Apply today! This is an AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE program. CONTACT: Carol Ann Chavez, AmeriCorps Recruiter at (512) 744-1913 [cchavez@americanyouthworks.org](mailto:cchavez@americanyouthworks.org)

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Seeking passionate, dedicated people to fill 2(two) paid campaign positions. Good communication skills are a must. M-F, 2-10 PM, \$1500-\$2000/Mo. + Bonus, Full Medical Benes, Pd Train., Leadership & Travel Opps, Some College, Experience Preferred. [www.texasenvironment.or](http://www.texasenvironment.or)

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**EMPLOYMENT**

Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man?

Well, we can't help you with that ... but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays.

Austin Chronicle Employment section. It's a start.

# 155 PROFESSIONAL

**MANAGEMENT VICE PRESIDENT OF FRANCHISE SUPPORT**

DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen is seeking a highly motivated and driven individual to join the team as Vice-President, Franchise System Management. 5-10yrs exp as a Senior level manager of a large department or company with a proven track record as an exceptional leader/producer. Must be an intelligent, strategic thinker, yet possess strong interpersonal skills, as well as organizational skills. A bachelors degree is preferred, franchising experience is a plus and a training background working with groups is desired. The primary responsibility is managing a franchise support team to work with franchisees to grow their businesses. This person will be someone who will count it a blessing to touch so many people's lives and help grow the department for this dynamic company. Relocation may be required.

Send resume and cover letter to Rene Masingale at [rene.masingale@dwyergroup.com](mailto:rene.masingale@dwyergroup.com) or by fax to 254-745-2566.

Austin Film Society Employment Opportunities - updated!

- An experienced Office Manager to oversee the Internship Program, office management and in-house and contract technical operations

- A part-time Web Manager with strong technical and design skills to manage the AFS web site and email marketing system

- A Facilities Manager with strong organization and customer service skills to supervise maintenance and facilities operations for Austin Studios

See full postings at [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org)

**SR. CONSULTANT**

Ascendant Technology, Austin, TX. Req.: BS (or for equiv) in Comp. Sc. or rel. + 2 yrs. exp. ILW/CM, Java/J2EE, WSAD, Websphere Appl. Infrastructure, Devel. Resume only attn.: C. Jones (File #05977) 10215 161st Pl. NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Job Order: #6020496

**RESOURCE OPERATOR**  
Generation Dispatch ERCOT Region

Brazos Electric Cooperative, an electric utility that is a QSE in ERCOT Region, is seeking applicants for the position of Resource Operator. Duties include coordinating the real time operation of power plants, power supply contracts and fuel operations. Minimum of 6 years transmission/operations/power plant experience with the knowledge of generation resources and electric power system. A bachelor's degree in a related technical or business discipline may substitute for a portion of the experience requirements. NERC and ERCOT Certification preferred. Requires working rotating shifts and scheduled hours outside the normal shift hours. Requires sitting for extended periods and repetitive manual tasks. Requires hearing, vision and quick, calm action in response to emergency situations.

Brazos Electric offers a competitive salary and benefit package. This position is located at our Waco, Texas headquarters. To apply, submit a resume to Manager-Human Resources, P. O. Box 2585, Waco, Texas 76702-2585. Email responses to [tyows@brazoselectric.com](mailto:tyows@brazoselectric.com) or FAX to 254-750-6292. An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D

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### At our Austin clinic:

Needed	Compensation	Study Dates
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 55	Up to \$2650	Wed, May 9 – Fri, May 11 Wed, May 16 – Fri, May 18 Wed, May 23 – Fri, May 25 Wed, May 30 – Fri, Jun 1 Wed, Jun 6 – Fri, Jun 8 Outpatient visits: May 12, 18, 25, Jun. 1, 8
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$1550	Tue, May 15 – Thu, May 17 Tue, May 22 – Thu, May 24 Tue, May 29 – Thu, May 31 Outpatient visit: Jun. 1
Healthy female nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$750	Fri, May 18 – Mon, May 21
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$900	Sat, May 19 – Mon, May 21 Outpatient visits: May 21, 22, Jun. 1
Healthy female nonsmokers ages 18 to 50	Up to \$750	Tue, May 21 – Fri, Jun. 1
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Sat, May 12 – Mon, May 14 Thu, May 24 – Sat, May 26 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Mon, May 14 – Wed, May 16 Fri, May 25 – Sun, May 27 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Thu, May 17 – Sat, May 19 Mon, May 28 – Wed, May 30 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$1750	Fri, May 18 – Sun, May 20 Tue, May 29 – Thu, May 31 12 outpatient visits
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$2250	Mon, Jun. 3 – Wed, Jun. 13
Healthy nonsmokers ages 18 to 45	Up to \$900	Mon, Jun. 3 – Wed, Jun. 5 Outpatient visits: Jun. 5, 6, 18

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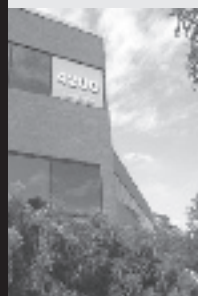
Please reference Study #207428 [www.TestWithTheBest.com](http://www.TestWithTheBest.com)

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Every day, healthy people just like Jennifer participate in medication research studies at CEDRA Clinical Research. Some do it to help future generations and some...to make a buck. Most studies involve overnight stays in our safe, friendly environment and offer physical screenings, meals, wireless internet, computers, satellite TV, video games, and pool tables. If you're generally healthy, call us today...even if you cruise on four wheels.

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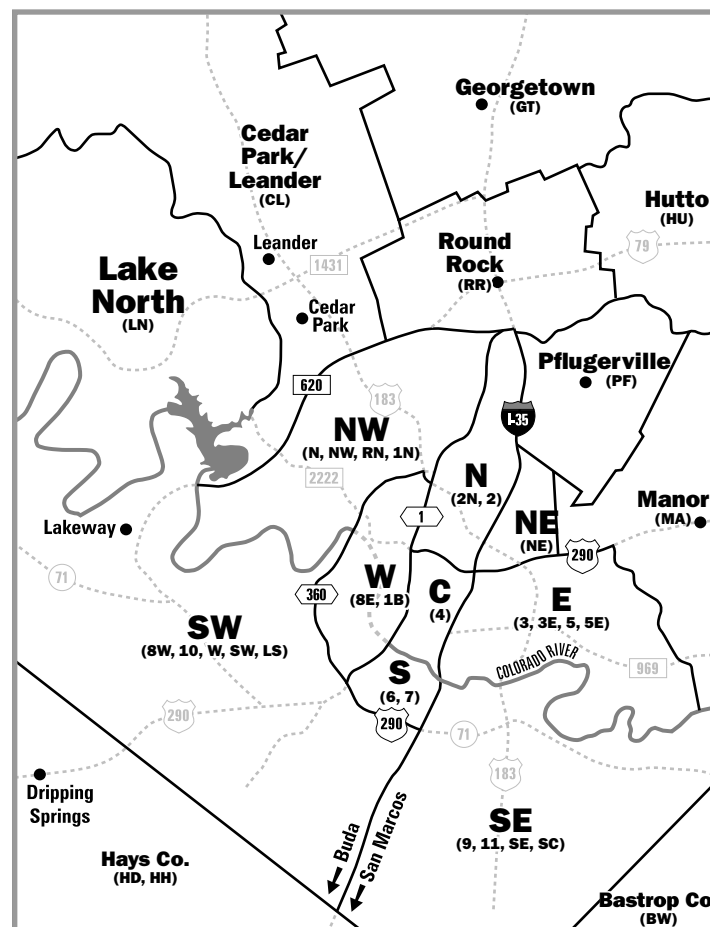
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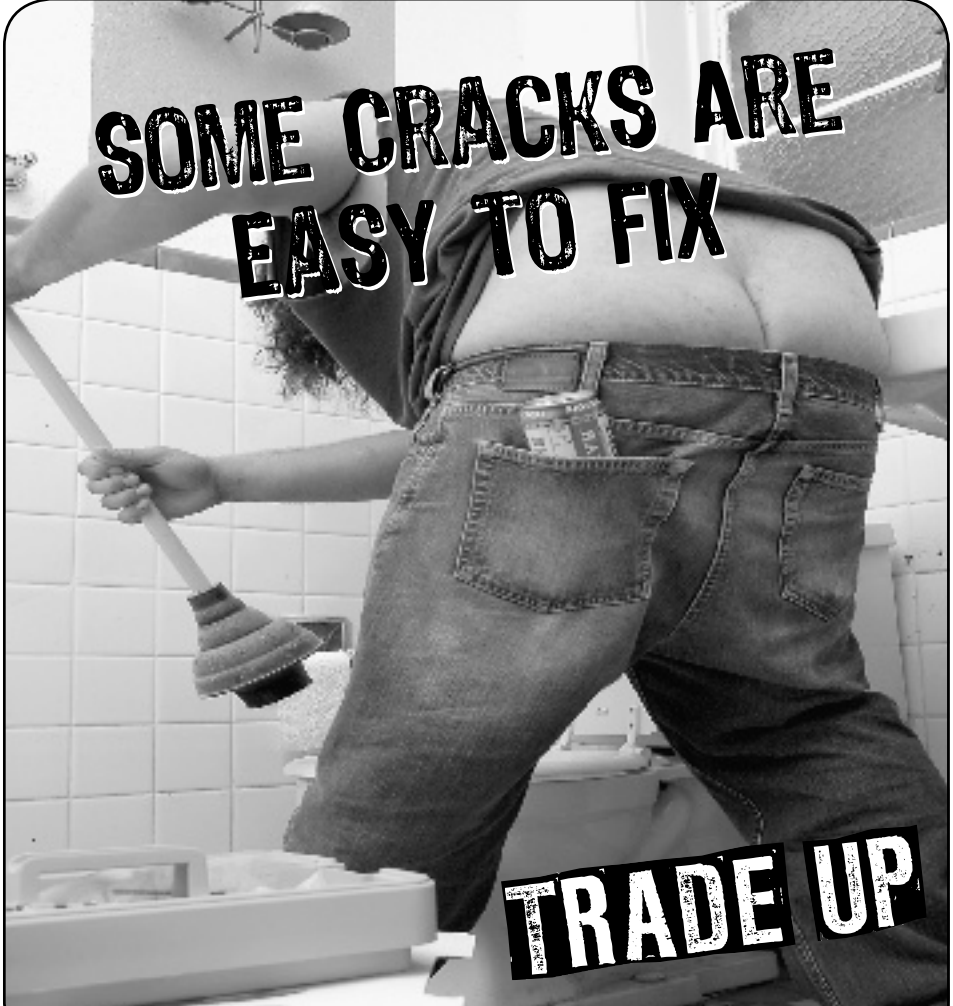
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**PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PATRICIA A. FRANZETTI were issued on April 10, 2007 in Docket Number 86425, pending in the Probate No. One, Travis County, Texas to WILLIAM SWAIL, Independent Executor. The address of record for WILLIAM SWAIL is 2402 Kathy Cove, Austin, Texas 78704. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DELORES ANN ASAL were issued on April 11, 2007 in Docket Number 86428, pending in the Probate No. One, Travis County, Texas to MICHAEL DAVID ASAL, Independent Executor. The address of record for MICHAEL DAVID ASAL is 10621 Oak View Drive, Austin, Texas 78759. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) FIRST AMENDED NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):** DIMENSIONS NETWORK, INC. fdba BETACORP MANAGEMENT, INC., a corporation; J. DAVID SPITZER, an individual; RON EDGMON, an individual; C. CLAY BOYKIN, an individual; KEYSTON ENTERPRISE, LLC, a limited liability company; OMG I, OMG IV, OMG V, OMG VI and OMG VIII, limited partnerships and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAIN-

TIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): PROVISION INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a corporation  
 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these non-profit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas

informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol)) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): PC035420 The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Los Angeles Superior Court - North Valley 9425 Penfield Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311 The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): J. Randy Dorcy Law Offices of J. Randy Dorcy 14501 Calvert Street, Ste. 202 Van Nuys, CA 91411 (818) 442-9789 DATE: (Fecha): March 05, 2007 Clerk, by (Secretario) A. Soto, Deputy (Adjunto)



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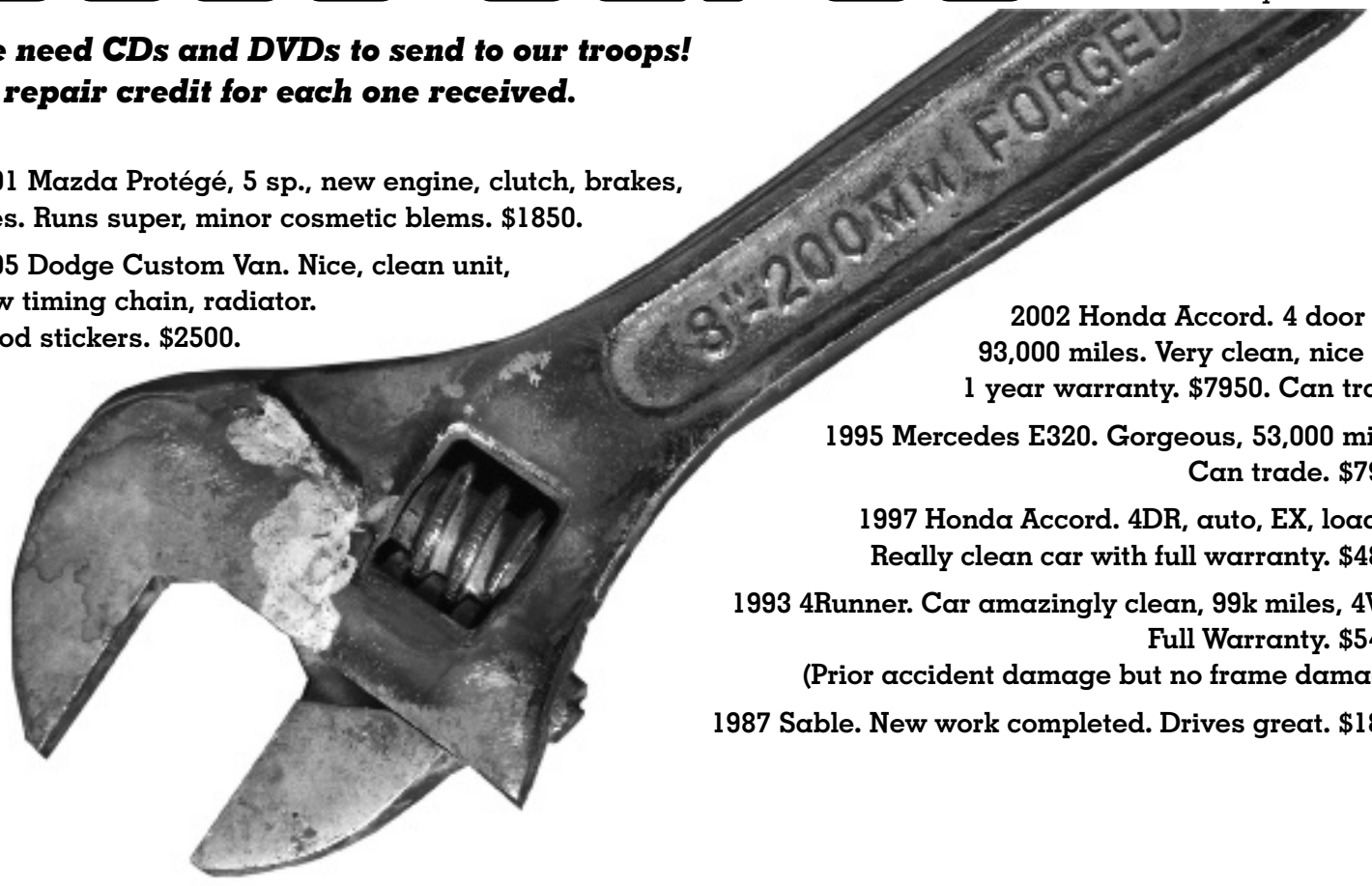
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**Downtown:** It's all about the options .....3  
**Eastside Brew:** Austin's new café district .....5  
**Central Austin:** Triangulation.....6  
**The Domain:** Getting in on the ground floor .....8  
**Single Family Home Prices** .....9  
**Buying a Home:** The 10-step plan .....10

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# It's All About the Options

SO MANY CHOICES AT DOWNTOWN'S LOFTY 2ND NEXUS

by Richard Whittaker

Ah, living Downtown. How it has changed.

If you've made for yourself a home in what used to be the southeast end of the Warehouse District, you're all set for an easy commute to work and never more than a stumble away from somewhere to party. Let's face it, there are more drinking establishments around here than you can shake a swizzle stick at. And since you live down here, and will be hoofing it all over, parking's not a worry.

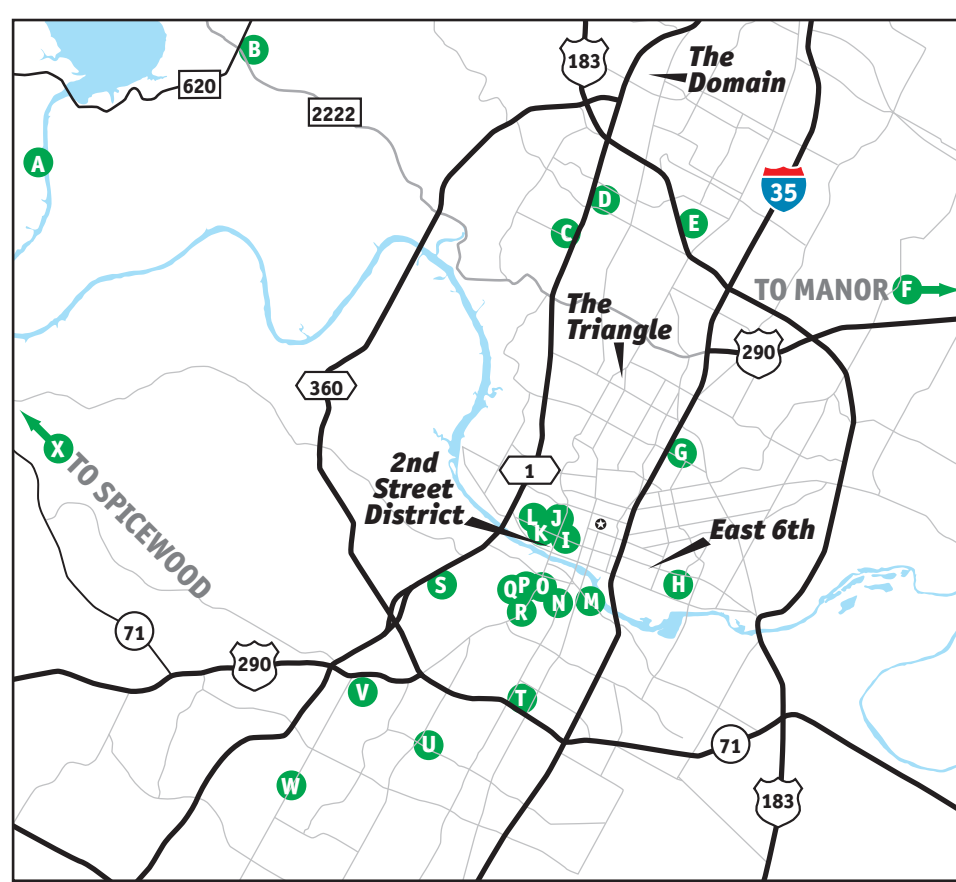
But shopping? That was never the big deal, until recently, when the 2nd Street District opened up all those street-level stores under those new condos and apartment complexes.

Now it's all about the choice. In the slab between Lavaca and Colorado, Second and Third, there's a bonanza of vending variety to choose from. Say you're thinking of decorating that shiny new (but very empty) apartment of yours. You could go for the Le Corbusier cool of Design Within Reach, where the great architect's mantra of "a house is a machine for living in" proves that design, comfort, and elegance can and should be one and the same thing. But then again, you might prefer the kitschy, lived-in, fun designs of Innovation Flooring + Design (or IF+D to the syllabically challenged). It may depend on how you want to finish the effect off. You might go with the eclectic chic of Mercury, with its sense of the global when it comes to selecting that last piece that makes the room just so; then again, you might fall for the artisan charms of Shoreline Gallery.

It's not all choices, of course. Since you'll be walking everywhere, you might be concerned about wearing out your favorite kicks. With former Drag-rats and experts in all things foot-tastic and boot-tacular, Legs Diamond, having set up their lace-up nirvana down here, you'll be glad the whole zone is so pedestrian-friendly.

If you want to be seen with all the Warehouseatti, then you just gotta, gotta, gotta go for coffee at Jo's. Under the big red ball, the centrally located branch of the SoCo landmark swaps the dog-friendly patio vibe of its elder location for stripped-down, locale-friendly

T0 P.5



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# Eastside Brew

UNIQUE CAFES ENLIVEN SIXTH STREET EAST OF THE HIGHWAY

by Abe Louise Young

In the upscale Pedernales Lofts on East Sixth, a former sex therapist named Holly Skala is fulfilling her dream of having a cafe “based on love.” Hot Mama’s Espresso Bar is tucked demurely into the large limestone complex, but its attitude is all female power and pleasure. “I befriend everyone,” Holly proclaims, “and I’d rather throw the coffee away than give you something that wasn’t made with love.” Her setting in the first of the live-work condos built on East Sixth befits her bold goal. Retail storefronts like Whetstone Audio, a high-end audio file operation, and Art + Artisans, a consulting firm, draw a steady clientele. The crowd diversifies on Thursday nights, when Hot Mama’s holds music events on one of the most seductive cafe patios in all of Austin. Under the embrace of a massive oak, the garden space comes alive with twinkling lights, black gravel, and concrete furniture. It’s East Austin chic here, the clean aesthetic of bamboo and lust.

Just two blocks down, the Villas on Sixth spring up, and we find Bossa Nova Coffeehouse & Bakery. Its story is heart-warming. Roberval and Lindalva Aguiar were second-generation bakers in Brazil. Last year, in their 60s, they won the green-card lottery. They sold all their bakeries and used

the money to immigrate to America. Their daughter and new American son-in-law Ray wondered how to help them transition to a foreign country. Voilà! They opened a Brazilian bakery and cafe. Now Roberval and Lindalva happily craft the authentic treats of their native country in the kitchen while Ray and his wife run the front-end cafe. The diverse families who rent apartments in the mixed-income Villas benefit from this collaboration – fantastic breads, sandwiches, pizzas, and samba music right downstairs. They’re not the only ones who enjoy it. The community of roughly 9,000 Brazilians in Austin finds much to like here, as do wandering reporters such as myself.

Two blocks farther down, the newest comer in the East Sixth cafe scene bursts with tropical colors and mismatched velvet furniture. Rio Rita Cafe y Cantina, a longtime Latino bar, has been transformed into a rock & roll cafe that must be seen to be believed. At 1308 E. Sixth, the walls are turquoise, pink, yellow, green, and baby blue. Dark little “booths,” each a fully themed living room, are separated by filmy satin curtains. While you’re there, drop by the Travis County Democratic Party office across the street, and find out what’s up for the ’08 election. Walk just a block to get your

ABE LOUISE YOUNG

muffler fixed or pawn your jewels or drop in for a weekly stay at a seedy hotel. The new Rio Rita has been open for just a month and provides a seamless bridge from the bar scene of West Sixth to the new cafes and clean urban living of East Sixth.

Rapid growth and condo fever on the Eastside is anything but a simple story, however. Longtime Latino and black residents here are losing their family homes faster than you can say “double latte.” No, they’re not moving into the “affordable” units at the Pedernales Lofts. Unable to pay the taxes, they’re moving – in shock and grief – to mobile homes and trailer parks near Del Valle and Bastrop, far from the community they helped build, a community experiencing such positive change, of which they would love to be a part.

Walking from Hot Mama’s to Rio Rita pondering this paradox, I encountered a stunning businesswoman in a fabulous suit, just leaving Bossa Nova. I asked for her thoughts on

East Austin transformation. Native Austinite Gigi Bryant was happy to talk. “Growth is good, and change will come. But the process has to change immediately to protect low-income residents. I think it’s tragic that people are being pushed out of their homes. This is a very good community; it’s because of their goodness that the windows here are not broken, that these buildings are not covered in spray paint every day. But families are being forced out, children are losing their homes, and Austin has an opportunity to change that trend. New York City has laws that grandfather the tax rate and rental prices so people don’t lose their homes. Austin needs to do the same thing. Put a process in place that we can be proud of. Don’t make the goodness run out.”

I walked away enlightened. Fair-housing and taxation laws that encourage growth yet protect Austin’s existing cultures and families? Now, that would help us all really enjoy a cup of joe on the Eastside.

## Downtown, FROM P.3

design. Then again, if you are looking for the midtown branch of a local classic, there’s always Austin Java in City Hall. You might even see Mayor Wynn in there, pondering the bottom of a cup of coffee. (Hey, his office is just upstairs, after all.)

You can even make toy choices. Wanna be the responsible sibling who buys sensible but fun edumacational toys for all those nieces and nephews? Then try the store at the Children’s Museum for something challenging, mechanical, wooden, whimsical, or brain-teasing for that ideal gift (always complete with free wrapping) for the kids in your life – you know, the ones you get to give back at the end of the day. That way you can feel suitably self-indulgent when you buy yourself that 12-inch imported Japanese *Star Wars* Stormtrooper and a soft vinyl Gorillaz set from inner-child indulgers Gomi.

Of course, that’s a lot of deciding, which can be very stressful. So stressful that there’s no option but to take some pampering head-on. But then, do you go for the feel-good pick-me-up of a trim at the Sage Salon, or do you commit yourself to luxuriating in the balmy pleasures of a full spa experience at Milk + Honey?

One thing’s for sure: It’s still Downtown. Even if you



ABE LOUISE YOUNG

don’t feel like a full night of Sixth Street hedonism, Royal Blue Grocery has the nibbles and the sloshes for a fine night in. Just look for the London Underground-style sign for the take-home wine selection. But then again, you

might just let someone else do the uncork, pour, glug-glug-glug for you by taking a table at Crú wine bar.

Sorry, we can’t help you make any of those choices. We’re just telling you they’re out there.

## Triangulation

WHERE LAMAR AND GUADALUPE ... AND LOFTS AND RETAIL MEET

by Richard Whittaker

You can't miss the Triangle. The big metal sculpture at the corner of Lamar and Guadalupe is an obvious sign. This rising and expanding residential development takes some of what may be best about living in Austin and brings it together. It's just close enough in to be convenient for the city center but just far enough out to be an easy drive north out of town. It looks like a Downtown development and goes all-out on the mod cons, but there are also green spaces, parks, and meeting places. The huge, 3-acre sunken lily pond at its heart is its secret garden, a quiet haven for ducks and residents alike. The courtyards and pools give it that sociable, West Campus kind of feel, but the sense of calm and neighborliness could have been borrowed straight from nearby Hyde Park. And, like the song goes, it's only just begun. The second stage of building, up along the west

side on Lamar, is currently under construction. Already, this Pythagorean development on the outskirts of Hyde Park has finessed the mixed-usage model.

Of course, with so many regular "Best of Austin" winners like EZ's, Central Market, and Austin Books in the neighborhood, the Triangle would be doing well enough without adding its own shopping experience to the mix. But if your name is Mandola's Italian Market, there's no need to sweat any off-site competition. Nestling 'neath the redbrick arcades under the apartments, this purveyor of all things gastronomically Italia has become an integral part of the social scene at the Triangle. With its open-air Mediterranean ambience, extensive menus and well-stocked grocery store, don't call it an Italian deli with a kitchen and some tables, and don't call it a restaurant with some shelves of gorgeous comestibles. This,



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as the text on the window says with a flourish, is *gastronomia*. The only concession to things Texas are the cactus mosaics on the patio tables. It's all *Italia*, right down to the little red-white-green tricolor flags that garnish the freshly grilled whole-wheat Panini. Even if you can't tell your *salumi* from your *formaggi*, the platters and dishes are an introduction to life beyond cannelloni and cannolis.

The Italian authenticity stretches to the wine racks. Like with everything else, they serve what they sell, and it's all from the land of popes and gelati. And, ah, yes, the gelati. If the name tags of these traditional, rich, handmade iced pleasures confuse you, just look for what decorates each chilled vat. Whether it's an elegantly sliced apple or an espresso cup, spilling coffee beans across the creamy concoction, it's more than soft ice cream. If the decision on how to cool down wasn't complicated enough, there's the added distraction of the freshly made pastries, from dippable

polenta biscuits to the most imperial of crème confections, the Napoleon.

Of course, if you're more on-the-fly, burgeoning healthy option sandwich chain Which Wich? has its "coming soon" sign up. But the Triangle is not all food. With the complex's residents drawing heavily on the postgraduation/prekids crowd who are still getting used to this "life in business" deal, Masa's dry cleaners gets the rumples out of that interview suit. The on-site T-Mobile store means the big decisions (grownup BlackBerry or young-at-heart Sidekick?) can be made moments from your couch. Even arbiters of taste and South Austin stalwarts Flipnotics are in-bound with a new store.

The good news for retailers with an eye on this little des res corner of town is that, even when all the current retail space goes, there's more coming. Construction continues at the sign of the giant metal triangle, and that's bound to mean more retail space. Because mixed-usage ain't just for Downtown any more.



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Product	Interest Rate	APR
<b>Conforming</b> – loan amount less than or equal to \$417,000;		
40-Year Fixed	6.375%	6.573%
30-Year Fixed	6.250%	6.480%
15-Year Fixed	5.875%	6.252%
5-Year ARM	6.000%	7.126%
3-Year ARM	6.000%	7.340%
<b>Jumbo</b> – loan amount greater than \$417,000;		
40/30 Fixed-Rate Balloon	6.625%	6.763%
30-Year Fixed	6.375%	6.525%
15-Year Fixed	6.000%	6.246%
5-Year ARM	6.125%	7.095%
3-Year ARM	6.250%	7.323%
<b>FHA</b> – loan limits vary by county.		
1-Year ARM	5.625%	7.851%

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# Getting in on the Ground Floor

NEW RETAIL EXPERIENCE ONE ASPECT OF AUSTIN'S DOMAIN

By Stephen Macmillan Moser

It's almost a joke around Austin. When someone points to a construction site and says, "What's going up over there?" the answer is usually, "Condos with ground-floor retail." Luxury residences are sprouting up all over Downtown like mushrooms in a cow pasture after a spring rain, and to avoid the soulless concrete canyon effect, the concept of "retail on the bottom" has caught on in Austin in a very big way.

Among the current Downtown projects that will incorporate residential and retail are the Austonian, the 360, Brazos Place, the Altavida, and the Monarch, to name a few. Combined with extant developments such as the AMLI, the Austin City Lofts, and the Nokonah, some Austinites look askance at this building boom. One wants to avoid the word "glut," but it's hard to avoid questions such as "Who will live in all these places?" and "Who is going to shop in these stores?"

And, of course, that's just Downtown. "We've created a second Downtown," says Kirk Rudy, a founding principal of Endeavor Real Estate Group whose grand new development, the Domain, might be more appropriately described as being uptown. Uptown implies all the qualities that are the Domain — affluence, luxury, and desirability. Its vil-lagelike layout of upscale retailers and chic restaurants with residences above is hardly a mall — it's an *entertainment district* that you can live in, part of a much larger plan that will unfold before our very eyes over the next few years.

Phase I of the Domain, which opened on March 9, features 750,000 square feet of luxury, couture, contemporary fashion and restaurant space, 85,000 square feet of office space, and 393 multifamily units. When it's complete, the Domain will have 3,400 residential units with 6,000 occupants, 3 million square feet of office space with 5,000 employees, a hotel, a 20,000-square-foot community center, a 10-acre park, and a jogging track. Throw in a grocery store, and you'd never have to leave.

With top-drawer retailers like Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co., Barney's NY Co-op, and Louis Vuitton, shopping at the Domain is more akin to driving down Rodeo Drive than it is to strolling through Highland Mall.



KATEX MESSER

But who wants to drive to go shopping when you could actually live in the middle of it all? That's the charm of the Domain. The nearly 400 apartments above the street of dreams means that you too can live where you shop. There is a certain cachet in being able to say, "I live at Tiffany's." After all, how often have you been lying around your place and thought, "Man, I really need a new diamond watch, but I can't possibly drive to the jewelry store?"

But what we have seen of the Domain is beautifully done. Easy access, interesting and diverse architecture, smart planning, abundant art, a dizzying array of retailers, and plenty of parking make it one the most creative and unusual residential/retail projects in Texas. As it grows into maturity, it will undoubtedly be a major destination.

Selected by *Money* magazine last year as being the No. 2 Best Big City in "Best Places to Live," Austin is now the 16th largest city in the country. The affluent influx is anathema to the Keep Austin Weird proponents, but most of the Keep Austin Weird bumper stickers seem to be on SUVs at Barnes & Noble anyway. The city must accommodate its burgeoning population, and the skyline will constantly reflect that.

While the construction crane may not be the State Bird of Texas, it certainly rules the roost here in Austin.

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FIGURES BELOW REPRESENT OVERALL

# Single Family Home Prices

IN THE AUSTIN AREA FOR MARCH 2007

Source: Austin Board of Realtors

AVG PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	CITY/REGION	# OF HOMES SOLD	AVG PRICE /SQFT
\$121,371	\$113,400	Bastrop Co.	17	\$66
\$129,487	\$129,900	Northeast	32	\$88
\$141,552	\$133,300	Manor	43	\$83
\$143,777	\$130,427	Southeast	99	\$98
\$143,979	\$141,525	Hutto	67	\$80
\$159,025	\$147,500	Pflugerville	112	\$81
\$160,956	\$145,000	East	92	\$126
\$174,998	\$155,000	North	104	\$147
\$183,231	\$164,000	Cedar Park	232	\$90
\$200,793	\$170,000	Georgetown	111	\$102
\$204,532	\$162,000	Hays Co.	143	\$93
\$210,294	\$177,000	Lake North	36	\$100
\$217,338	\$178,750	Round Rock	271	\$90
\$302,156	\$275,500	South	64	\$226
\$304,520	\$223,000	Northwest	234	\$122
\$308,040	\$232,000	Southwest	371	\$127
\$311,915	\$282,250	Central	91	\$251
\$702,119	\$467,750	West	94	\$260

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## Buying a Home

THE HOMEBUYING PROCESS CAN SEEM COMPLICATED, BUT IF YOU TAKE THINGS STEP-BY-STEP, YOU'LL SOON BE HOLDING THE KEYS TO YOUR OWN HOME

### 10 steps to buying a home

- 1) Figure out how much you can afford
- 2) Know your rights
- 3) Shop for a loan
- 4) Learn about home-buying programs
- 5) Shop for a home
- 6) Make an offer
- 7) Get a home inspection
- 8) Shop for homeowners insurance
- 9) Sign papers
- 10) Enjoy!

#### Step 1: Figure out how much you can afford

What you can afford depends on your income, credit rating, current monthly expenses, down payment, and the interest rate. Web sites such as **bankrate.com**, **yourmortgagecalculator.com**, and **www.hud.gov** have mortgage calculators, but it's always wise to check with a lender to find out for sure.

A housing counselor can help you figure out how to manage and pay off your debt, and start saving for that down payment! Consumer Credit Counseling Service, located at 1106 Clayton Ste. 490-W, offers home-buyer-education programs, money debt management, and post-purchase counseling. Get more information at **www.cccs.net**.

#### Step 2: Know your rights

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) – as amended – prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings and in other housing-related transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and handicap (disability). More information on the Fair Housing Act can be found at **www.hud.gov/offices/fheo**.

There is also information regarding borrower's rights. This might be the largest and most important loan you get during your lifetime. You should be aware of certain rights before you enter into any loan agreement.

- You have the right to shop for the best loan for you and compare the charges of different mortgage brokers and lenders.
- You have the right to be informed about the total cost of your loan, including the interest rate, points, and other fees.
- You have the right to ask for a good faith estimate of all loan and settlement charges before you agree to the loan and pay any fees.
- You have the right to know what fees

are not refundable if you decide to cancel the loan agreement.

- You have the right to ask your mortgage broker to explain exactly what the he or she will do for you.
- You have the right to know how much the mortgage broker is getting paid by you and the lender for your loan.
- You have the right to ask questions about charges and loan terms that you do not understand.
- You have the right to a credit decision that is not based on your race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or whether any income is from public assistance.
- You have the right to know the reason that your loan was turned down.

#### Step 3: Shop for a loan

Save money by doing your homework. Talk to several lenders, compare costs and interest rates, negotiate to get a better deal. Consider getting preapproved for a loan.

#### Step 4: Learn about home-buying programs

FHA loan programs offer lower down payments and are a good option for first-time home buyers. There are also several home-buying programs offered by the Austin Housing Finance Corporation. See **www.ci.austin.tx.us/ahfc/firsttime.htm** for more information.

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### Step 5: Shop for a home

Choose a real estate agent. You'll want to look for an agent with experience in your area, as well as the commitment to helping you find the right home.

Create a wish list of features you're looking for, as well as neighborhoods, price range, and number of bedrooms. Browse newspapers and Web sites with real estate for sale. **Realtor.com**, **www.fanniema.com**, and **www.freddiemac.com** are all national sites with listings all over the United States. There are also local sites such as **austinhomesearch.com**, **austin-chronicle.com**, and **statesman.com**.

### Step 6: Make an offer

Discuss the process with your real estate agent. If the seller counters your offer, you may need to negotiate until you both agree to the terms of the sale. Some tips for making an offer:

- **Consider who wrote the form.** Many of the forms prepared by the National Association of Realtors have hidden clauses which are anti-seller, anti-buyer, or both. They are written with the primary goal of getting the sale closed.
- **Don't be afraid to cross out the printing you don't like.** Just because something is printed on a purchase contract doesn't mean you must accept it. Either cross it out, or modify and initial the change to meet your wishes. Don't hesitate to take

the form to your attorney – preferably an experienced real estate attorney – for advice.

• **A confused mind says "no."** Buying a home is confusing enough, but reading and understanding the purchase contract plus other required paperwork can be overwhelming. That's why many home buyers (and sellers) say, "I want to think it over." They are really saying they are either overwhelmed by the complexity of the forms or don't understand something and are reluctant to admit it.

• **Start with a good printed residential contract.** Virtually any printed residential purchase contract can be easily adapted to include all the essentials of a fair agreement for both buyer and seller **tms.ecol.net/realestate/offer.htm**.

### Step 7: Get a home inspection

Make your offer contingent on a home inspection. An inspection will tell you about the condition of the home and can help you avoid buying a home that needs major repairs.

- You should ask questions like:
- What does your inspection cover?
  - How long have you been in business?
  - Are you experienced in residential inspection?
  - How long will the inspection take?
  - How much will the inspection cost?
  - Why type of inspection report do you

- provide, and how long does it take?
- Can you attend the inspection?

### Step 8: Shop for homeowners insurance

Lenders require that you have homeowners insurance. Be sure to shop around!

Web sites like **consumeraction.gov** give great advice on homeowners insurance and how to save money. You can also find information on how to find an insurer in your state, including complaints, by calling the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or visiting **www.naic.org**.

### Step 9: Sign papers

You're finally ready to go to "settlement" or "closing." Some closing costs can sneak up on you, so it's best to understand some of the charges that may apply:

**Loan origination:** This fee is usually known as a loan-origination fee but sometimes is called a "point" or "points." It covers the lender's administrative costs in processing the loan. Often expressed as a percentage of the loan, the fee will vary among lenders. Generally, the buyer pays the fee unless otherwise negotiated.

**Loan Discount:** Also often called "points" or "discount points," a loan discount is a one-time charge imposed by the lender or broker to lower the rate at which the

lender or broker would otherwise offer the loan to you. Each point is equal to 1% of the mortgage amount. For example, if a lender charges two points on an \$80,000 loan, this amounts to a charge of \$1,600. **Appraisal fee:** This charge pays for an appraisal report made by an appraiser. **Credit report fee:** This fee covers the cost of a credit report, which shows your credit history. The lender uses the information in a credit report to help decide whether or not to approve your loan and how much money to lend you.

**Lender's inspection fee:** This charge covers inspections, often of newly constructed housing, made by employees of your lender or by an outside inspector.

**Mortgage insurance application fee:** This fee covers the processing of an application for mortgage insurance.

**Interest:** Lenders usually require borrowers to pay the interest that accrues from the date of settlement to the first monthly payment.

**Escrow account deposits:** This identifies the payment of taxes and/or insurance and other items that must be made at settlement to set up an escrow account. The lender is not allowed to collect more than a certain amount.

Be sure to read everything before you sign!

### Step 10: Enjoy your new home!

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