

THE AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE

VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 17 DECEMBER 26, 2008

it's a blanket, not photoshop

## In the House

Taking Up Residence With  
a Few Austin Musicians

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER ★ P. 54

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# Workingman's Blues

The real history of labor and union organizing is ignored and largely unknown

BY LOUIS BLACK

If only oppressed groups were somehow made nobler by their oppression – nobler and better than those oppressing them. In reality, the only consistent characteristic of oppressed groups is that they are oppressed. Often they look better than the groups oppressing them, but history is filled with flip-flops that find the once-subjugated group no nobler (though perhaps different) when they are on top. In such situations, it is not uncommon for atrocities committed by the oppressed to be cited as though they justify the group's original oppression – or at least negate its claim to equality and justice.

History is open to interpretation, but there is a difference between revisionist history and complete fabrication or willing ignorance. Now, with the near-collapse of the “big three” U.S. auto companies, many have tried to misappropriate the largest portion of the blame to the unions. At least one goal of the strategy behind the reluctance of Republican senators to support the bailout is to destroy, or at least neuter, unions.

In conjunction with, as well as independent of, this discussion, there has been an assault on unions in general: questions of whether they are still needed or were ever needed; accusations that, by serving their members,

they do a disservice to the economy; and charges that they are all corrupt.

One can have serious questions about the role of labor unions in modern business without having to question the historical importance of unions: why and how they came into existence and what they've accomplished. The notion that we've gotten to the point where labor no longer has to organize in order to get a fair deal from management is questionable at best. On the other hand, unions are designed to serve their members and not the industries and businesses that employ them. Obviously, a too-greedy or unreasonable union can cause damage to employers. It should be kept in mind that management is often just as unreasonable and often rejects sensible offers as completely outrageous.

Fair compensation and benefits in nonunion businesses are often cited as proof unions are obsolete. Divorcing the existence and accomplishments of unions from that equation, as though this generosity were entirely due to the benevolence of owners, is just plain wrong. In many cases, employees are treated better than they might be otherwise – specifically so they won't unionize.

If one accepts the argument that autoworkers' hourly wages are too high (which I don't), it does not explain away all the industry's problems. As I wrote last week: “Even those who are the most strongly pro-union must realize that some of the unions' negotiating victories over the years have had substantial if unintended negative consequences. This is especially true when it comes to the benefits to which retired workers are entitled. Not

only are people living longer, but health-care expenses also continue to rise beyond all reason. One can be pro-union and still acknowledge that there are troubling issues that need to be confronted.” Left out of that statement is that in some cases, paying laid-off workers full salaries, though an inherently decent idea, may well be unreasonably costly. All these factors together may affect the cost of American automobiles, making them too expensive according to some considerations.

Still, arguing that any of the failures of American automobile businesses in terms of innovation, quality, market savvy, durability, and design are due to the unions is just silly. Management has successfully deployed lobbyists and urged its congressional representatives to keep Congress from legislating greater fuel efficiency in cars. It has neglected the tight and careful controls on the production end that once assured quality. There seems to have

been a lack of long-range planning that took into account changing fuel, climatic, and consumer concerns; instead, in considering the future, company leaders have been tightly tied to the limits of mostly just considering the last year's car sales. While resisting change and lacking any vision for the future, they have more than amply rewarded themselves financially.

This is not a claim that unions are blame-free in this current crisis – but most of the blame and concern has to be with management.

One can believe in the need for unions without arguing that management is made up of ogres or that unions are without flaw. But to argue that labor needs no protection is to go too far. It is important to keep in

mind situations like the one at American Airlines a few years back, when the entire labor force accepted cuts and cutbacks. As soon as things began to improve, there were no givebacks to those who had accepted cuts; instead, members of management granted themselves bonuses.

Unfortunately, in considering labor, we have to deal with the general perception as shaped by the culture; film, television, and books have provided the framing. Consider how in Walt Disney's animated shorts – and especially features – wild animals are anthropomorphized into cute, cuddly, and domesticated free spirits. Three or four generations, if not more, assimilated these misleading images until all too often the perception has replaced the reality, to the point where animals are thought of as noble, loyal, sweet, and friendly. Deer are noble, loving creatures rather than large annoying squirrels; bunnies have tender feelings; and chipmunks are just so damned cute. There is an enormous disconnect here that doesn't serve nature and wildlife well at all.

The situation with labor and unions is somewhat different in that, as often as not, Hollywood has produced precious few studio narrative films about these topics. There have been pro-labor and -union movies, though they were usually independently produced – films such as *Our Daily Bread* (1934), *Salt of the Earth* (1954) – made by blacklisted Hollywood talents – and two John Sayles films, *Matewan* (1987) and *Eight Men Out* (1988). Hollywood has no trouble portraying industries as corrupt and individuals as noble – along the lines of *Silkwood* (1983) – but the movies that do so are not about union organizing. Warner Bros. once specialized in pro-labor films, such as *Black Fury* (1935), and there are films that are pro-union, such as *Norma Rae* (1979), and pro-labor films such as *9 to 5* (1980).

Seemingly the most influential and generally accepted portrayals of unions show either how they became corrupted or simply address that corruption. Hollywood as often as not depicts the history of unions by using the same now widely accepted template: In the first act, the

continued on p.6

page  
two

## Season's Closings

The *Chronicle* offices will close at 3pm Wednesday, Dec. 24, and remain closed for the rest of that week. We will be open during regular business hours on Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30.

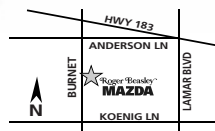
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oppression of workers that leads to the creation of the union is shown; the next two acts deal with how corrupt and mob-affiliated the unions become – witness *FLS.T.* (1978) and *Hoffa* (1992). When not dealing directly with their history, regardless of the time period, films often simply present unions as corrupt, as in *On the Waterfront* (1954), *Blue Collar* (1978), and *The Molly Maguires* (1970). Though most often labor and unions are simply not depicted in Hollywood films, when they are included (apart from the above examples), it is most often in mob and gangster movies, where they are presented in negative ways.

There is a media history of unions that has so influenced popular imagination. Unfortunately, as with too many controversial areas, the real history of labor and union organizing is ignored and largely unknown. Over the years, both management and labor have committed abuses and were responsible for atrocities. Until FDR came to power, however, the power of the state in terms of legislatures, national guard, state police, and governors' offices has been overwhelmingly and often violently on the side of management.

Unions were not pure and innocent, without fault. Still, as often as not, union outrages were limited and specific. The Industrial Workers of the World was a crucial labor organization around the turn of the last century. In many cases, they were militantly anti-management, with some members engaging in acts of sabotage as a tactic. Labor also was involved in bombings, assassinations, and the beating of strikebreakers. The misdeeds of labor, however, were those of the powerless against the powerful. This does not forgive unions at all. Still, the scale of their renegade activities paled before anti-union abuses. Management was made up, of course, of members of the economic, social, and political upper/ruling classes and usually backed by national and state governments. Organizing labor, in contrast, was a near-outlaw and often fatal activity.

What follows is a very abridged chronology of some of the more outrageous incidents during the first half of this century, which occurred as labor tried to organize. It is heavy on management misdeeds. Information about any missing incidents of unions' outrages are welcome, but their scale was usually very limited. Many may already know some or much of this; others may not, but to argue against unionism, divorced from its historical context, has more to do with fantasy fiction than relevant current events.

**1911: March 25 – New York City:** When the Triangle Shirtwaist Co., an overcrowded sweatshop with almost all female workers occupying the top floors of its building, caught on fire, 147 people died. About 50 died by jumping out of windows, the rest because they couldn't get out or trampled one another because all stairway exits were kept locked to prevent unauthorized breaks. The company's owners were indicted for manslaughter.

**1912: Feb. 24 – Lawrence, Mass.:** Women and children were beaten by police during a textile strike. **April 18 – West Virginia:** The National Guard was called out against striking coal miners. **June 11 – New Orleans:** Police shot three maritime workers (one of whom was killed) striking against the United Fruit Co.

**1914: April 20 – Ludlow, Colo.:** During a strike against the area's mines, company men hired by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and the other mine owners attacked a union tent camp with machine guns, then set it afire. Five men, two women, and 12 children died. **Nov. 13 – Butte, Mont.:** A Western Federation of Miners strike was crushed by state militia.

**1915: Jan. 19 – Salt Lake City:** Famous labor leader Joe Hill was arrested, convicted, and executed on charges that were very likely trumped-up. His dying statement was "Don't mourn; organize!" **Jan. 19 – Roosevelt, N.J.:**

Twenty rioting strikers were shot by factory guards. **Jan. 25:** The Supreme Court upholds "yellow dog" contracts, which forbid membership in labor unions.

**1916: July 22 – San Francisco:** A bomb set off during a parade killed 10 and injured 40 more. A labor organizer and a worker were convicted, but both were pardoned in 1939. **Aug. 19 – Everett, Wash.:** Strikebreakers attacked and beat picketing strikers. The police refused to intervene. When picketers struck back against strikebreakers, the police intervened. **Oct. 30:** Vigilantes forced IWW speakers to run a gantlet while whipping, tripping, and kicking them. Many became impaled against a spiked cattle guard at the end of the gantlet. **Nov. 5:** At a meeting organized by the IWW in response, the crowd was fired on; seven people were killed and 50 were wounded.

During this whole period, the beating of strikebreakers by strikers became common.

**1917: July 12 – Bisbee, Ariz.:** Thousands of armed vigilantes forced 1,185 men into manure-laden boxcars, abandoning them in the New Mexico desert. They were copper miners involved in an unsuccessful strike for better safety and working conditions, ending the unequal treatment of foreign and minority workers, and the institution of a fair wage.

**1918: Feb. 3:** The 1916 federal Child Labor Law was declared unconstitutional. (On Feb. 24, 1919, a new law was enacted but also was declared unconstitutional on May 15, 1922.)

**1919: Sept. 19 – Boston:** Looting, rioting, and sporadic violence broke out when 1,117 Boston policemen declared a work stoppage due to their thwarted attempts to unionize. Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge put down the strike by calling out the entire state militia. **Sept. 22:** A strike against the steel industry began; eventually, 350,000 steel workers would join in an unsuccessful attempt to get union recognition. **Nov. 11 – Centralia, Wash.:**

American Legion members tried to force their way into an IWW hall. Four legionnaires were shot dead by members of the IWW. Later, an IWW organizer was lynched by a mob. **Dec. 22:** During the course of a strike against the steel industry, approximately 250 strikers were deported to Russia for being radicals.

This marked the beginning of the 1920s Red Scare and the Palmer Raids, named after the attorney general who organized them.

**1920: January:** The FBI became involved in the nationwide Palmer Raids. Federal agents seized labor leaders and literature in the hopes of discouraging labor activity. A number of those arrested were turned over to state officials for prosecution under various anti-anarchy statutes.

**1920 and 1921: West Virginia:** Army troops were used to intervene against striking mine workers.

**1922: June 22 – Herrin, Ill.:** Violence erupted during a coal-mine strike. Thirty-six were killed, 21 of them nonunion miners.

**1924: June 2:** A child-labor amendment to the U.S. Constitution was proposed; only 28 of the necessary 36 states ever ratified it.

**1925: May 25 – Wheeling, W.V.:** Two company houses occupied by nonunion coal miners were blown up and destroyed by labor during a strike.

**1926: Passaic, N.J.:** After a fight with police, textile workers went on strike for a year.

**1927: Nov. 21 – Columbine, Colo.:** Picketing miners were massacred.

**1930: April 14 – Imperial Valley, Calif.:** More than 100 farmworkers were arrested for their unionizing activities, with eight subsequently convicted.

continued on p.8

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## Reader COMMENTS of the Week

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### On APD's blood-draw program:

"The conditioning of the populace to accept overbearing and invasive police tactics when gathering evidence is appalling. Is it possible that they may save a life? Absolutely. Is that one life saved worth the erosion of the civil liberties of hundreds, if not thousands, of citizens? There are fewer drunken driving related accidents than ever, historically. Do we really need more and more stringent means of enforcement of an infraction on the decline?" – Scott

"APD Blood-Draw Plan Needles Opponents," News, Dec. 19

1931: May 4 – Harlan County, Ky.: Vigilantes carrying guns attacked striking miners.

1932: March 7 – Dearborn, Mich.: Police killed striking workers at a Ford plant.

1933: Oct. 10 – Pixley, Calif.: Eighteen thousand cotton workers struck for higher wages. Four were killed before they finally won.

1934: Toledo, Ohio: Two strikers were killed and more than 200 wounded by 1,300 National Guardsmen, including eight rifle companies and three machine-gun companies.

1937: Feb. 11: General Motors recognized the United Auto Workers union following a sit-down strike. May 30 – Chicago, Ill.: Police killed 10 and wounded 30 during a strike at the Republic Steel plant. (This is usually considered as the last major act of violence during a strike.)

1938: June 25: The Wages and Hours (later Fair Labor Standards) Act was passed, banning child labor and standardizing the 40-hour work week.

1939: Feb. 27: The Supreme Court ruled that sit-down strikes are illegal.

1941: June 20: Henry Ford recognized the UAW. Dec. 15: The AFL pledged that there would be no strikes in defense-related industry plants for the duration of the war.

1946: April 1: A strike by 400,000 mine workers in the U.S. began. U.S. troops seized railroads and coal mines the following month. Oct. 4: The U.S. Navy seized oil refineries to break a 20-state, postwar strike.

1947: June 20: The Taft-Hartley Labor Act, curbing strikes, was vetoed by President Truman. Congress overrode the veto.

1950: Aug. 27: President Truman ordered the U.S. Army to seize all the nation's railroads to prevent a general strike. The railroads were returned to their owners two years later.

1952: April 8: President Truman ordered the U.S. Army to seize the nation's steel mills to avert a strike. The Supreme Court ruled that this was illegal.

1955: Dec. 5: The two largest labor organizations in the U.S. merged to form the AFL-CIO (membership of about 15 million).

One does not have to unquestioningly champion labor unions or ignore some unions' tainted history and obvious modern problems. This chronology does not include the corrupt, corrupting, or violent activities of some unions after they came to power. The history of the Teamsters is often not a proud one, and the coal-mining unions have often engaged in internal, violent conflicts. Understanding the history, need, and achievements of unions, one can still quite legitimately make an argument against their contemporary value. Even if one is pro-management and anti-labor, this history has to be known and considered, because denying that there has been an inherent and ongoing conflict between labor and management is so far beyond reality that it even blows past mere self-serving fiction. ■

## Postmarks

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

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### GREAT 'BROADCASTS VOL. 16'

Dear Editor,

I was very happy to receive and listen to my copy of *KGSR Broadcasts Vol. 16* ["Texas Platters," Music, Nov. 28]. I actually bought several copies for friends for Christmas presents. My only complaint is that the songwriting credit on track No. 1 was not given to Warren Zevon. This was a major faux pas. Thanks for putting together such a great CD!

Chris Sweeney

### BLAME THE UNIONS

Dear Editor,

The news reports that the bailout failed at the last minute because the union would not negotiate wages. A few quick fun facts:

- 1) Average union pay is \$30 per hour. With all the benefits they get, the burden rate is \$70 per hour.
- 2) Some of these workers do nothing more complicated than screwing nuts on bolts.
- 3) If you walk through a union factory and pick up a napkin off the floor and put it in the

CONTINUED ON P.10

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

<p><b>2008 YEAR IN REVIEW</b></p> <p>A WHOLLY SUBJECTIVE AND THOROUGHLY INCOMPLETE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS</p> <p><b>PART TWO: THE END OF AN ERROR</b></p>	<p>JULY 7: JOHN MCCAIN REVEALS HIS PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET.</p> <p>WE'LL USE THE MONEY WE SAVE BY WINNING THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN!</p> <p>SERIOUSLY, THAT'S MY PLAN.</p>	<p>JULY 30: OBAMA SUGGESTS KEEPING YOUR TIRES PROPERLY INFLATED; CONSERVATIVES FIND THIS HILARIOUS.</p> <p>WHAT NEXT? REGULAR OIL CHANGES?</p>	<p>AUG. 21: MCCAIN IS ASKED HOW MANY HOUSES HE OWNS.</p> <p>"I THINK-- I'LL HAVE MY STAFF GET BACK TO YOU!"</p> <p>CONSERVATIVES DENOUNCE THE "GOTCHA" MEDIA.</p>
<p>EARLY SEPT.: THE R.N.C. SPENDS OVER \$150,000 ON PALIN FAMILY WARDROBE, INCLUDING SILK BOXERS FOR TODD.</p> <p>I ONLY WEAR THEM FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAMPAIGN!</p>	<p>SEPT. 2: JOE LIEBERMAN ENDORSES THE MCCAIN/PALIN TICKET IN A PRIME TIME SPEECH AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.</p> <p>SUCK ON THIS, NED LAMONT!</p>	<p>SEPT. 10: OBAMA USES THE EXPRESSION "LIPSTICK ON A PIG"; CONSERVATIVES SPEND A WEEK PRETENDING TO BE OUTRAGED.</p> <p>CAN YOU BELIEVE HE CALLED SARAH PALIN A PIG THESE LIBERALS I GOTTA TELL YA IT'S JUST SHOCKING!</p>	<p>SEPT. 15, MORNING: MCCAIN SAYS FUNDAMENTALS OF ECONOMY ARE STRONG!</p> <p>SEPT. 15, AFTERNOON: MCCAIN SAYS FUNDAMENTALS ARE AT GREAT RISK!</p>
<p>SEPT. 17: LADY LYNN FORESTER DE ROTHSCHILD CALLS OBAMA AN "ELITIST," ENDORSES MCCAIN.</p> <p>SEPT. 18: LADY DE ROTHSCHILD EXPLAINS ON CNN THAT OBAMA DOES NOT RESPECT "THE PEOPLE... WHO ARE THE REDNECKS OR WHOEVER."</p>	<p>SEPT. 30: SARAH PALIN IS ASKED WHAT NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES SHE READS.</p> <p>"UM--ALL OF THEM!"</p> <p>AGAIN, THE "GOTCHA" MEDIA ARE TO BLAME.</p>	<p>OCT. 1: LATEST TOM TOMORROW COMPILATION IS RELEASED, BECOMES IMMEDIATE BESTSELLER.</p> <p>THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK AT IT!</p> <p>WHAT? YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THAT?</p>	<p>OCT. 12: BARACK OBAMA THREATENS TO LOWER A PLUMBER'S TAXES, MUCH TO PLUMBER'S APPARENT DISMAY.</p> <p>YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU--YOU SOCIALIST!</p>
<p>NOV. 4: AMERICANS VOTE TO END LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE; PUNDITS BEGIN 2012 SPECULATION.</p> <p>WILL SARAH PALIN CHOOSE JOE THE PLUMBER AS HER RUNNING MATE?</p>	<p>NOV. 18: DEMOCRATS VERY STERNLY ALLOW JOE LIEBERMAN TO KEEP HIS CHAIRMANSHIP.</p> <p>I'VE CERTAINLY LEARNED MY LESSON!</p>	<p>NOV. 25: N.Y. POST REPORTS THAT DUE TO A BROKEN JAW, ANN COULTER'S MOUTH HAS BEEN WIRED SHUT.</p> <p>MRRPH! MRRPH! MRRPH!</p> <p>ATHEISTS EVERYWHERE ARE GIVEN MOMENTARY PAUSE.</p>	<p>DECEMBER: COLLAPSE OF CAPITALISM CONTINUES; BLAG-OJEVICH SCANDAL ERUPTS; CHRISTMAS WARRIOR BILL O'REILLY CONTINUES HIS LONELY STRUGGLE.</p> <p>HO HO HO, DAMMIT.</p> <p>... SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!</p>

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trash, a union janitor will file a grievance against you and collect lost wages.

4) Once a union worker gets many years behind them, it is virtually impossible to fire them regardless of their actions (or lack of).

These are not myths; I have worked in more than one union shop and have personally witnessed all of this. I've read that even with the bailout, the car companies are dead in the water anyway. American workers are proud folks and have a history of doing excellent work and are still quite capable of this, but somewhere along the line, integrity was replaced by greed.

The Big 3 can thank their greedy workers for a big part of their demise.

Dan Mcallister

**CHECK OUT JERRY LYNN WILLIAMS!**

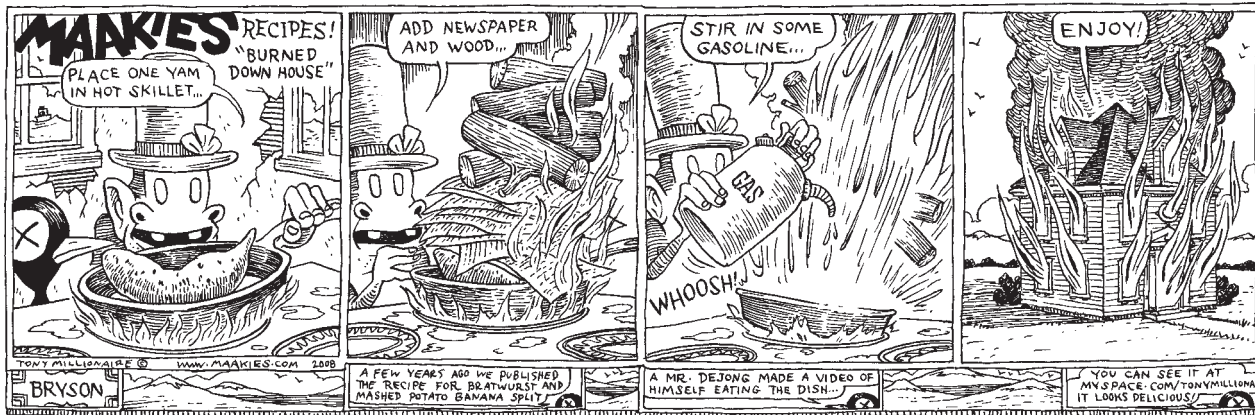
Dear Editor,

Just stumbled across Bill Bentley's article/tribute to Jerry Lynn Williams ["The Lone Ranger," Music, Jan. 27, 2006]. I've been a fan since the late Sixties when my blues-rock power trio (Ox) tried to cover his single "Crazy 'Bout You Baby" – a great record with white-hot soulful vocals and killer guitar à la Jimi Hendrix (although after reading Bentley's article, who influenced who?!). Later dug JLW's LPs which featured the likes of Nils Lofgren, Cornell Dupree, Nicky Hopkins, Bernard Purdie, Chuck Rainey, Steve Cropper, Jeff Porcaro ... Williams' version of Ketty Lester's "Love Letters" is a must-be-heard-by-one-and-all masterpiece.

It was very cool to finally meet Jerry in Toronto (late Eighties) when I was working with Johnny Winter, and Johnny went on to cover three of Williams' classics on his *The Winter of '88* LP I was saddened to hear that he's gone, but thanks for the tribute ... he lives on in his music.

Check out Jerry Lynn Williams, people!

Jon Paris  
New York City



**DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THE WORKERS**

Dear Editor,

There has been lots of talk about what went wrong with Detroit's auto industry. It seems that everyone wants the United Auto Workers to take a pay-and-benefits cut. Yet, I'm pretty sure the guy installing steering wheels doesn't have much to do with how the company was run. The much-publicized salary of an average UAW worker is \$72 an hour. This probably works out to about \$35-40 an hour on the pay-check and the rest in insurance, retirement, benefits, etc. The CEO of General Motors made \$16 million last year. I would hope he had a lot to do with how the company was run. So a simple question: Why are we asking the worker that made \$35-45 an hour to take a hit when the CEO made around \$7,692 an hour? In fact, when GM lost \$35 billion last year, why does this guy even have a job anymore?

Steven McCloud

**R.I.P. JENNIFER GALE!**

Dear Editor,

She finally made the headlines on local news. A good spirit who will be missed! Her vote totals didn't matter. She touched my and

others' souls. Folks, that is what matters. Period! To be homeless is hard enough. To be homeless *and* transgender – words probably can't convey how hard that must've been, even in Austin. Put her on the cover of the *Chronicle*! Please?!

Cary Calkins

**DISAPPOINTED BY 'FUEL' REVIEW**

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read the *Chronicle's* negative review of the film *Fuel* [Film Listings, Nov. 21]. The content of the movie is very educational and timely, and I consider it a "must see" for everyone concerned about the damage we are doing to our Mother Earth. As an alternative newspaper for Austin, I feel discouraging people from seeing such a wonderful film is irresponsible. In addition, it's just a plain good movie. It's well-edited and put together. As someone who has spent several thousand dollars advertising with your paper this year, I felt especially let down. I understand that some folks enjoy taking an oppositional approach to everything just for attention, but I question whether or not the reviewer actually saw the movie.

Jean Stokes

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- ANDY CAMPBELL

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# news

## Headlines

- Break out the **argyle sweaters**: It's officially freezing out there. We still might not get snow for the holidays – for that you need to move to Houston or New Orleans.
- In a surprising decision, UT System regents anointed Valley-born pediatric transplant surgeon **Francisco Cigarroa** the sole finalist (and therefore de facto selection) for the chancellor position vacated by Mark Yudof earlier this year. The predictable choice had been AT&T vice president and longtime political insider **John Montford**. Cigarroa will take office in January.
- Although there's no official opening yet, candidates are multiplying for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by **Kay Bailey Hutchison**. Railroad Commission Chair Michael Williams and Houston Mayor Bill White have announced for the seat, as has former Comptroller John Sharp. Hutchison's term doesn't expire until 2012, but she has said she will not run again and might challenge Gov. **Rick Perry** in 2010.
- At last count, 11 state House members were running to replace Speaker **Tom Craddick**, still the front-runner, as Republicans retain a two-vote edge, and none of the challengers has acquired sufficient pledges to eliminate the competition.

## Naked City

- **MORE ADULTS BEHIND BARS** One in every 31 adults in the U.S. was either incarcerated or under community supervision at the end of 2007, according to new prison and jail statistics released Dec. 11 by the Department of Justice's **Bureau of Justice Statistics**. The new BJS numbers for 2007 (the most recent available) show an increase in the number of U.S. residents who were incarcerated last year, up 1.5% from 2006, for a total of 2.3 million. Including individuals on parole or probation, a record 7.3 million were under control of the criminal justice system as of Dec. 31, 2007. Texas ranked No. 1 in the number of people on probation at year end (434,309) and No. 2, second to California, for the number of people on parole (101,748). Texas also earned the dubious honor of being first, by far, in the number of inmates housed in privately owned prisons, with a whopping 11% of the prison population residing in private facilities. Among the U.S. prison population, black males are still grossly overrepresented, at 39% of the prison population compared to just more than 12% of the entire male population. – Jordan Smith

- **TEXAS DEMS LOYAL AFTER ALL** Conventional wisdom says that the Lone Star State is full of loyal Republicans. But a recent study of **straight-ticket voting** by Austin Community College's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies shows that when it comes to party loyalty, Democrats do almost as well as Republicans. What tipped the state to Republicans in 2008, the study shows, was swing votes, which went for the GOP in the presidential and U.S. Senate races by about a 2-to-1 margin. Prepared by associate history professor Larry Willoughby, the report shows that straight-ticket voters – those who cast all the votes on their ballot for just one party – barely favored the Republicans, at 50.3% vs. 48.9% who voted Democratic. Straight-ticket votes accounted for 57.6% of all votes cast. Among the remaining voters who didn't stick to just one party, however, 63.1% went for John McCain for president and 63.9% went for John Corryn for senator. Democrats can possibly take some comfort, however: Texas is seeing its biggest population

CONTINUED ON P.14



SANDY CARSON

Mary Anderson and Clotilde Sofikitis (at right) console each other Sunday during a memorial service for Jennifer Gale, a notable homeless Austinite, who was found dead Dec. 17 outside a campus-area church. The service drew about 80 people, including homeless icon Leslie (wearing a "Dirty Deeds" cap), some City Council members, and other politicians. The crowd sang "Silent Night" – the last song Gale sang at a public meeting.

## A Few More Shoes

An Iraqi journalist waves goodbye to the Bush era

BY MICHAEL KING

For my last column of 2008 – next week brings our ever-anticipated Top 10s – I couldn't imagine a better farewell to the year than that offered by Muntader al-Zaidi, the brave Iraqi TV journalist who finally had enough of American imperial arrogance and greeted occupying U.S. President George W. Bush with a pair of thrown shoes and a valediction: "This is a farewell kiss, you dog. This is from the widows, the orphans, and those who were killed in Iraq."

While I hardly recommend shoe-throwing as a regular reportorial practice – among its professional drawbacks, afterward it's nearly impossible to run away – the obstreperous al-Zaidi not only delivered a morale boost to the entire planet but provided what will certainly become the most enduring international image of the lamentable Bush regime. In recent weeks, Bush and his surrogates (abetted by the media) have been musing primarily about the administration's eventual "legacy." Let it be this – Dubya dodging al-Zaidi's shoes and then ignoring the merciless beating that quickly followed. A final disgrace added to the disgraceful ledger.

Of course, our journalistic betters, who in eight years couldn't manage to throw even tough ques-

tions at El Presidente, are now tsk-tsking at al-Zaidi's breaking of professional decorum. My favorite reproof appeared in the Canadian *Globe and Mail*, where the editors intoned, "The moment world leaders think they will be the target of projectiles thrown by reporters is the moment that the privileged access will end, not just for Mr. Zaidi, but for other journalists as well, harming the vital work of a free press." That's what these guys value in their bones – "privileged access" – and therefore they never do or say anything that might endanger that privilege. For a single example, they might have asked the Supreme Leader why he is so despised throughout Iraq and the Middle East that he has to sneak by night into a country that his army "liberated" years ago.

### Government by Decree

Al-Zaidi's spectacular impertinence served to remind us forcibly that the great crimes of the Bush regime were not well-meaning "mistakes" but policies considered and enacted in full expect-

CONTINUED ON P.14

## QUOTE of the WEEK



"If [Vice President-elect Joe Biden] wants to diminish the office of vice president, that's obviously his call."

– Vice President Dick Cheney on *Fox News Sunday*, looking back on eight years of diminishing the Constitution

Roger Beasley  
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growth in urban areas, and in the nine most populous counties, Dems won straight-ticket voting 52.7% to 46.5%. This year's number of straight-ticket voters was the largest in history. — Lee Nichols

► **NEW RAIL DIVISION FOR TXDOT?** The Texas **Sunset Advisory Commission** called Dec. 16 for a new rail division within the Texas Department of Transportation — which, despite its name, has never attended to anything but roads. The move drew quick praise from the nonprofit **Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Association**. “Transportation in Texas is about much more than just roads,” said association co-Chair Nelson Wolff, a Bexar Co. judge. “It’s crucial that a division be established within TxDOT to focus on passenger and freight rail as a complement to roads.” Seven other states have similar rail agencies. The Sunset review should stir much debate among state lawmakers during the legislative session that begins in January. The association will recommend options for funding that would enable relocation and improvement of freight rail lines around the state. The coalition is pushing for state action to leverage billions of dollars in bonding authority, which could finally put monies into the voter-approved state Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund approved in 2005. On Dec. 19, state Sen. John Carona of Dallas, chairman of the Texas Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, filed Senate Bill 383, which would deposit \$200 million annually from motor-vehicle sales and use taxes into the fund — to be managed by the new TxDOT division. — Katherine Gregor

► **REAGAN’S RISING STAR** Could native Austinite **Ron Kirk’s** ascension to a cabinet position save **Reagan High School?** Austin state Rep. Dawnna Dukes hopes so, judging from her pitch last week to about 200 students and parents at a holiday dinner in Reagan’s cafeteria. Reagan is on the list of low-performing schools that Education Commissioner Robert Scott could choose to close. Dukes reminded the crowd that Kirk graduated from Reagan (as did Dukes and Rep. Donna Howard). The former Dallas mayor was tapped Dec. 18 to serve as U.S. trade representative under President-elect Barack Obama. “Let’s make sure Ron Kirk is not the last appointee to the Cabinet of the United States of America who was an alum of Reagan High School,” Dukes told the crowd. The holiday event included a video of students who talked about the impact Reagan’s closing would have on them. Community organizer Allen Weeks, meanwhile, cheerfully told of recent gains made on test scores and greater community participation in school events. — Kimberley Reeves



Ron Kirk

► **MORE FLDS CASES DISMISSED** Texas’ **Child Protective Services** has asked the Schleicher Co. court to dismiss yet more cases involving children taken last spring from the Yearning for Zion Ranch outside Eldorado, home to members of the Mormon breakaway sect the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**. More than 400 children were originally taken, but with the most recent dismissals, which involved 17 children, only 19 were left under the court’s jurisdiction at press time. Meanwhile, only one child — a girl who at age 12 was allegedly married to the FLDS imprisoned polygamist prophet Warren Jeffs — remained in foster care. “The remaining cases include three cases in which the department has temporary managing conservatorship of one or more children in the family,” CPS spokesman Patrick Crimmins told the *Deseret News*. “We are continuing to provide services to these families and to work with [them] to address safety concerns.” Meanwhile, the Schleicher Co. grand jury ended its term without issuing any further indictments against FLDS members. So far, the grand jury has indicted 12 FLDS members, including Jeffs, on charges ranging from bigamy to aggravated sexual assault of a child. — Jordan Smith

► **TWO STRIKES AGAINST UT ATHLETICS** Universities with top-notch athletic programs are dropping the ball when it comes to educating student athletes, according to a study released recently by **Higher Ed Watch**, a higher-education news website. For the second year in a row, the **Academic Bowl Championship Series** poll ranked University of Texas 24th out of 25 schools. To construct the rankings, the site used indicators such as graduation rates and Academic Progress Rates, which are a real-time measure of an athlete’s progress toward a degree. The study further deducted points for disparities between black and white players and between the team and the school as a whole. This was one area where UT took a big hit. At the average university, 55% of athletes graduate within six years or less. According to the report, UT is a perennial underachiever, graduating 40% of its players and only 27% of its black players vs. an average graduation rate of 75% for the rest of the school. The report admonished the university for failing student athletes: “Texas’ football players put the University on the national stage. And what do they get in return? Besides the precious few that will make it to the NFL, most will leave school without a degree and with few career prospects.” — Justin Ward

tation of deliberate outcomes. The devastating war on Iraq, for which there is no forgiveness, is of course the greatest of these, and virtually the entire U.S. political class, of all parties (President-elect Obama the most notable exception), participated in that outrage. Part and parcel with that largest war crime were others, most notably the official adoption of torture as a military and intelligence tactic, the abolition of due process for those accused of “terrorism,” and the use of illegal surveillance, including wholesale unwarranted wiretaps of U.S. citizens.

Not only does the administration not fear retribution for these crimes, but like the terrorists they claim to despise, they proudly take credit for them. In recent weeks, Vice President Dick Cheney has not only bragged of all these violations; he’s justified them by claiming they have prevented terrorist attacks — despite ample evidence that the war and its related crimes have instead recruited thousands more anti-U.S. militants. A few days ago, when Chris Wallace of *Fox News Sunday* asked him, “If the president during war decides to do something to protect the country, is it legal?” Cheney gave Nixon’s classic tyrannical response: “General proposition, I’d say yes.”

## Happy Days Return

This is how far we have come to a government of ruthless men, instead of one of laws. I would be perfectly happy never to have to type the words “George W. Bush” ever again. Yet in 2009, it would be only justice to report that war crimes prosecutions, or at a bare minimum congressional investigations or a truth commission, would be organized to review the long list of derelictions perpetrated over the last decade, with some hope that the thought of punishment or disgrace might deter future officials from similar crimes. It appears there is little hope of any such pursuits. The brazen Bushites are persuaded that under long U.S. tradition, explicit federal crimes as well as unconstitutional practices are in retrospect treated as nothing more than “policy disputes.” Moreover, and this is likely telling, there were sufficient numbers of high Democratic officials privy to practices like torture and illegal wiretapping who would at least be embarrassed, if not directly implicated, should any such investigations go forward.

“Point Austin” returns Jan. 9, when we welcome those charming official denizens of the Texas Capitol. Stay warm, have fun, drive carefully, and send news tips to [mking@austinchronicle.com](mailto:mking@austinchronicle.com).

And so it goes, into another era of the empire. When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Austin in July for Netroots, she punted any responsibility for investigations to Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers. We’ll see. It goes almost without saying that the Washington press corps, a diminishing but voluble mob (especially on cable TV bull fests) is much more interested in “looking forward” than considering the accumulated crimes of the Bush administration. That means the tin-pot scandal

of the week, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and the celebrity appointment of the month, would-be New York Sen. Caroline Kennedy,

take precedence over any reruns of old news, such as war crimes and constitutional violations. No thrown shoes, or even harsh reflections, for these folks. *Salon’s* Glenn Greenwald quotes *The Washington Post’s* Ruth Marcus for the peculiar shortsightedness of the Beltway crowd: “[W]hat’s most crucial here is ensuring that these mistakes are not repeated.”

And the best way to do that, of course, is to pretend they never happened.

God rest ye, merry gentlefolk, and the happiest of new years. ■

## res publica. FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.64.



Res Publica will return next week. Happy holidays!

A bicyclist keeps warm as she rides down Sixth Street, past Buffalo Billiards.

SANDY CARSON



## SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Gale's farewell hymn closes the council year

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The singing was faint in City Council chambers, but it was there, accompanying the disembodied voice following the song through whispers and murmurs. The voice belonged to **Jennifer Gale**, leading the chamber in a fittingly quiet rendition of "Silent Night" on the several video screens in the room.

Before being found dead of still-undetermined causes outside the First English Lutheran Church Wednesday, Dec. 17, council gadfly Gale had signed up to address council during its noontime citizens communications – a forum from which, over the years, she had launched untold campaign announcements, levied accolades and outbursts, and, fittingly if tremulously, sang. In tribute, the council aired footage from Gale's last appearance at a public forum, the Dec. 16 **Public Health and Human Services** Subcommittee meeting, where she delivered the holiday standard.

Whether intentional or not, the city was instructive in letting the recording of her appearance play out beyond the song, for it displayed the jumble of noble intentions and contradictions that Gale was, something lionizations of Gale as "the conscience of Austin" don't address. After singing, Gale announced, "The Bible teaches us that abortion is wrong, and if Mary had an abortion, we wouldn't have [Jesus Christ]"; called for the return of all troops from Iraq; and made an impassioned plea for more comprehensive social services and health care for the homeless. "Our obituaries are full of very young people – those are our failures, that we don't give them proactive health care," Gale said, before attacking county plans to build a low-cost health clinic in Northeast Austin over neighbors' objections.

When the clip finished, council members shared their memories of Gale. **Lee Leffingwell** remarked he felt fortunate to wish Gale merry Christmas at the subcommittee meeting, saying: "Always be kind to people because you never know when something like this is going to happen. ... I wish her godspeed on her final trip west." **Mike Martinez** spoke next, alluding to some of the

since-debunked rumors pertaining to Gale's difficulty in finding shelter as a transgender woman (see "Gale Rumor Untrue," p.19). He also made a specific plea to restart talks on building a planned RV park of permanent shelter for the homeless, derailed by neighborhood protests. "If we would have moved forward last year and built the [project] ... maybe she would have had a place to stay independently on her own." **Randi Shade** echoed Martinez's comments that "there are many more lessons to learn beyond just issues of failure to fund and failure to support services for homeless people. There is so much more to Jennifer Gale's story, including the fact as ... a transwoman that her options were significantly limited."

Laura Morrison, who ran against Gale in the spring, recalled a **Real Estate Council of Austin** candidate forum where Gale "led about 500 suits and their guests at the

Four Seasons ballroom in a rendition of "You've Lost That Loving Feeling." **Brewster McCracken**, who would have faced Gale

in the 2009 mayoral race, recalled a conversation he shared with Gale in 2006, learning she spent time in the Carolinas, served in the Marines, and that "she had always considered herself to be a woman," a fact McCracken said helped him understand "the life progression for folks who are transgendered." "Jennifer was an iconic person," said **Sheryl Cole**, recalling Gale "repeatedly would call me Sherri Crow." When Gale addressed her correctly just recently, Gale said, "I always knew your name; I just thought it might help you," according to Cole. "You never ran for mayor against Jennifer. You sort of ran with her," said **Will Wynn**, who had "the distinct privilege" twice. Like all his fellow speakers, he lamented Gale's death as "an opportunity for us to redouble our efforts when it comes to trying to deliver services to the folks who desperately need them." What will that mean in practice? It's a question the city will continue to grapple with.

"Jennifer will be sorely missed," finished Wynn. "Semper fi." ■

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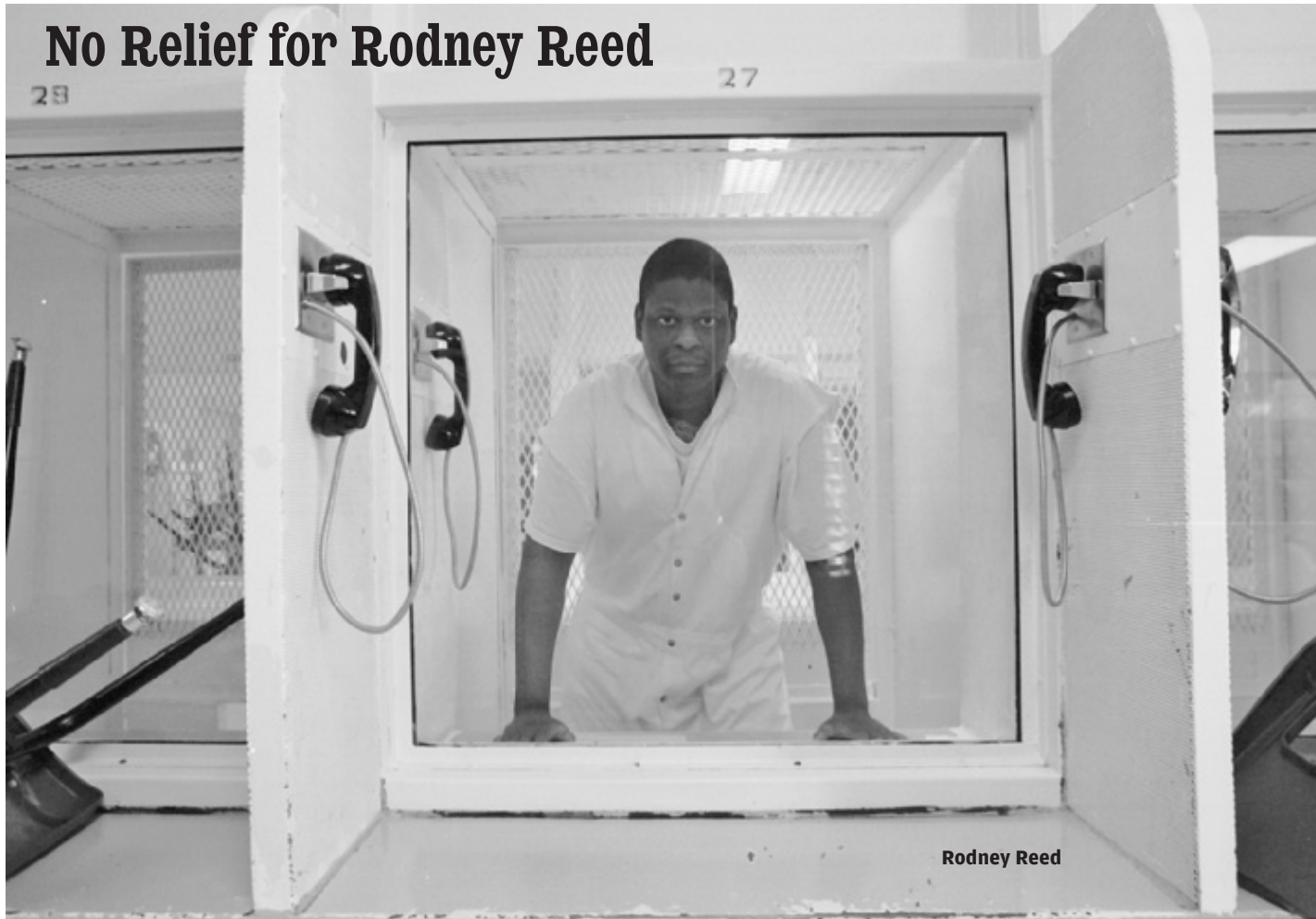


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# No Relief for Rodney Reed



Rodney Reed

JANA BIRCHUM

The Texas **Court of Criminal Appeals** ruled on Dec. 17 that death row inmate **Rodney Reed** has failed to prove that prosecutors suppressed evidence in his capital murder trial 10 years ago. In 1998, Reed was convicted and sentenced to die for the 1996 murder of **Stacey Stites**. Stites, who worked early mornings at the Bastrop H-E-B, failed to show up for work on April 23, 1996, and her body was later found dumped by the side of a county road. The pickup truck in which she allegedly drove to work – and which belonged to her fiancé, former Georgetown Police Sgt. **Jimmy Fennell** – was found parked in the Bastrop High School parking lot. DNA evidence found on Stites' body eventually led police to Reed; Reed maintains that it was there because he'd been having a consensual sexual relationship with Stites – a relationship he says Fennell knew about.

Aside from the DNA evidence, there is no other physical evidence tying Reed to the crime, and his supporters have long claimed that Fennell was a far more likely suspect. Fennell – then a cop in Giddings, where he and Stites were living – was briefly investigated by authorities working the case, but he was ultimately dismissed as a suspect. (For more on the case, see "Who Killed Stacey Stites?" May 24, 2002.) Questions about Fennell's possible involvement have persisted, and it hasn't helped that in September, he pleaded guilty to kidnapping and improper sexual conduct with a person in custody – he

was given a 10-year prison sentence for those crimes.

Reed's case has been wading through the courts for nearly 10 years; his defenders have consistently questioned whether prosecutors withheld potentially exculpatory evidence. After a 2006 hearing on the matter in a Bastrop Co. district court, Judge **Reva Towslee Corbett** (whose father presided over Reed's original trial) concluded that there was not credible evidence to suggest the state had done anything wrong. In part because the judge simply adopted whole the findings of fact provided her by the state at the conclusion of the hearing, the CCA took up Reed's appeal to decide whether certain inaccuracies in those conclusions were enough to trigger some relief for Reed.

But last week, the court ruled that they were not. A "few of the trial judge's fact findings were either unsupported by the record or appeared, in some fashion, to be misleading," Judge **Michael Keasler** wrote for the court. "Mindful of the role of an advocate, the trial judge as a neutral arbiter should have more carefully scrutinized the state's proposed findings to ensure that they accurately reflect the evidence before adopting them verbatim." Though Towslee Corbett did not do so – thus "unnecessarily complicating" its review of the case – the court ultimately found that the evidence the state withheld

was not credible and would not have swayed a jury to acquit Reed. This conclusion is puzzling to Reed's attorney **Bryce Benjet**, who wonders how the CCA could simply rubber-stamp Towslee Corbett's findings after criticizing her for accepting the state's findings verbatim.

Similarly, the court also concluded that evidence presented by Reed's defenders did not meet the "gateway" requirement for establishing a case that Reed might actually be innocent. "Initially, we note that what sepa-

**"Every time we learn a new fact ... they require you to file a new appeal," said Reed's attorney Bryce Benjet. "They force us to proceed in this fashion and then say that we haven't presented this in a coherent fashion?"**

rates this case from the majority of gateway-innocence cases is the complete lack of a cohesive theory of innocence," the court opined. "Reed's claim of innocence is seriously disjointed and fragmented – he presents numerous alternative but critically incomplete theories." In the end, Keasler wrote, "the new evidence before us fails to tell a complete, rational exculpatory narrative that exonerates Reed."

Reed's attorneys (including Benjet and former CCA Judge **Morris Overstreet**) have pointed to Fennell's recent trouble with the law – and his volatile relationship shortly

after Stites' death with another woman, who accused Fennell of stalking her – as evidence that he was unstable and violent. Even combined with other evidence (chiefly, witness statements affirming a relationship between Reed and Stites that the court deemed not credible or unpersuasive), the evidence the court has so far considered is apparently not enough to build a solid legal bridge for a claim of innocence. "Although this new evidence may indeed arouse a healthy suspicion that Fennell had some involvement in Stacey's death," the court wrote, "we are not convinced that Reed has shown by a preponderance of the evidence that no reasonable juror, confronted with this evidence, would have found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Reed attorney Benjet says the ruling is, among other things, frustrating – in part, because the court still has pending before it three other related appeals concerning misconduct in Reed's case. "What is frustrating is that every time we learn a new fact, [the court] won't just let you go tell them about it. They require you to file a new appeal," he said, and that may be part of the reason the court considers the defense's theories incomplete. "They force us to proceed in this fashion and then say that we haven't presented this in a coherent fashion?"

Indeed, still pending before the court is a claim that prosecutors had failed to disclose to the defense information about Pamela Duncan, who began dating Fennell a little more than three months after Stites was murdered. In an affidavit filed with the court, Duncan described Fennell as "abusive, possessive, controlling, and extremely prejudiced toward African-Americans." According to Duncan, after she broke it off with him in 1997, he began stalking her – yet this information never made it to Reed's defenders until recently, says Benjet. Moreover, the defense is still waiting for the court to rule on the more detailed information they've only recently been able to gather about Fennell's history and allegations of his misconduct, including the charges of sexual assault that precipitated his current turn inside. "There is a coherent story here –

that it is at least as likely that Fennell [killed Stites], if not more so," says Benjet.

When and how the pending appeals will be considered remains to be seen, but Benjet said the court could have ordered a hearing in the lower court to consider the

evidence related to Fennell. In all, said Benjet, the court has rejected as not credible 15 witnesses for the defense – including two forensic experts and nine witnesses who said they knew of an affair between Reed and Stites – in favor of the state's theory that Reed (in their estimation, a stranger to Stites) stopped her as she drove to work, pulled her out of her truck, raped her, and killed her. But why, asks Benjet, would all of Reed's witnesses lie? "Isn't it just possible that there is one person that isn't telling the truth – Jimmy Fennell, a rapist, sitting in prison?"

– Jordan Smith



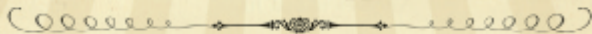
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# Are Kids Really Kicking the Habit?

BY JORDAN SMITH

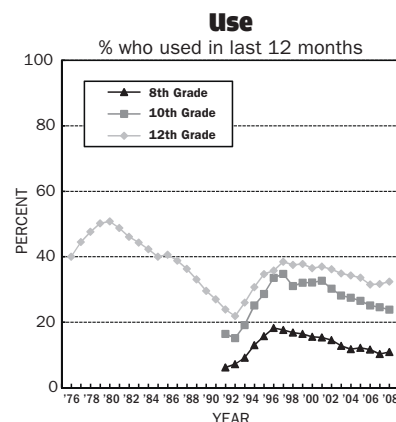
Here's a bit of good news: Teen use of illicit drugs did not increase appreciably in 2008, according to the annual **Monitoring the Future** study of kids across the country in grades eight, 10, and 12. Here's an even better bit of news: Teen booze-drinking and cigarette-smoking has declined significantly since 1991, the first year teens in all three grades were surveyed. For example, 70% of eighth-graders admitted to having used alcohol in 1991; in 2008, that number had dropped to just 39%. Equally dramatic is the decline in tobacco use: At each grade level, cigarette use has decreased by 50% since 1991. And, finally, here's a bit of not positive but nonetheless unsurprising news: Teen use of other drugs has actually increased since 1991 for all three grades (up from 30.6% in 1991 for 10th-graders, for example, to 34.1% in 2008) – as has teen use of marijuana in particular, which remains the most widely used of the government-prohibited drugs.

Those are the bare facts – a quick summary of the findings of this year's survey. So, how did President **George W. Bush** and, perhaps more importantly, federal drug czar **John Walters** (head of the White House **Office of National Drug Control Policy**) present the news to the public? Here's what Walters had to say at a Dec. 11 press conference: "The use of drugs has dropped broadly, steeply, and rapidly, while the supply of these poisons has been cut dramatically. Taken together, this impact is historically unprecedented." Wait. What? "No question there's still work to do in America, but we are making progress," said Bush. Seriously: What are they smoking?

Okay, to be fair, Bush and Walters aren't talking about the overall efforts of the **War on Drugs**. Rather, their claim that drug use is down and that progress is being made is predicated on a small subset of numbers, those for teen

reefer  
madness

Marijuana: Trends in Annual Use  
Grades 8, 10, and 12



drug use since 2001 – and, in particular, for marijuana use (against which Walters has used his office to rail for nearly a decade). Through that narrow lens it might appear that drug use has decreased among adolescents. For example, among 12th-graders, 49% reported in 2001 that they'd tried pot during their lives, while in 2008 that number dropped to 42.6%. And current use among high school seniors (that is, use within the previous 30 days), dropped from 22.4% in 2001 to 19.4% in 2008. But as with most "wins" in the drug war, it's best not to look much closer.

Indeed, if Walters et al. want to take credit for those declines, then they also have to take credit for the not-so-great news found in the most recent data – including, for

example, that current use of marijuana by eighth- and 12th-graders increased this year from 2007. And that while pot use is down in 2008 compared to the first year of the Bush presidency, use hasn't been on a steady decline; rather, use rates fluctuated over the seven years of which Walters is apparently so proud. (And, if they're going to take credit for the declines, then they'll also have to take credit for the increases posted in other areas, such as the use of LSD and other hallucinogens.) Unlike Walters, National Institute on Drug Abuse Director **Nora Volkow** was more reserved in her assessments: "While the long-term general decline is encouraging, especially for cigarettes and alcohol, some of the other findings this year amplify our concerns for potential problems in the future – especially the nonmedical use of prescription drugs." Hardly the backslapping self-congratulations offered by Walters and his crew.

Perhaps the most interesting information in this year's MTF survey is this: The percentage of teens that smoke marijuana is nearly equal now to the percentage that smoke cigarettes. The difference, of course, is that for cigarettes, the new numbers represent years of declining use, while the pot numbers reflect years of increasing use. The other difference, of course, is that cigarettes are legal – and regulated – and that pot is still a black-market product whose use is completely outside government regulation. Regulation is obviously not perfect – if it were, teens would have no access to cigarettes. But thanks in part to federal legislation passed in 1992 and implemented by the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**, illegal sales of cigarettes to minors by retailers have dropped significantly – from an overall 40% violation rate by retailers in 1997 to just 10.5% in 2008.

"Regulation isn't perfect, but it does work for the most part," says **Bruce Mirken**, communications director for the **Marijuana Policy Project**. And, notably, as long as pot remains illegal, we "have absolutely no ability to control who sells it" or who's doing it.

Can't get enough "Reefer Madness"? Visit the archives at [austinchronicle.com/reefer](http://austinchronicle.com/reefer).

## WARM FUZZIES FOLLOW AISD LINUX FLAP

For **Ken Starks**, founder and director of the **HeliOS Project**, Linux isn't just an operating system. It's a religion. So when an **Austin Independent School District** middle school teacher e-mailed Starks, threatening him with legal action for distributing the **open-source software**, his natural response was the kind of righteous indignation one would expect from an earnest zealot.

It all started when a student passed out **Linux** disks in class. The disks were provided by HeliOS, a nonprofit that donates computers and open-source software to disadvantaged children. The teacher, whom Starks will only identify as Karen, confiscated the disks. Apparently having never heard of open-source software, she believed them to be illegal, and she wrote a strongly worded e-mail to Starks expressing her concern: "I am sure you strongly believe in what you are doing but I cannot either support your efforts or allow them to happen in my classroom. At this point, I am not sure what you are doing is legal. No software is free and spreading that misconception is harmful."

Starks posted Karen's e-mail, along with his own angry response, to his blog. The blog entry found its way through the information superhighway to the tech website **Slashdot.com**, where it then reverberated throughout

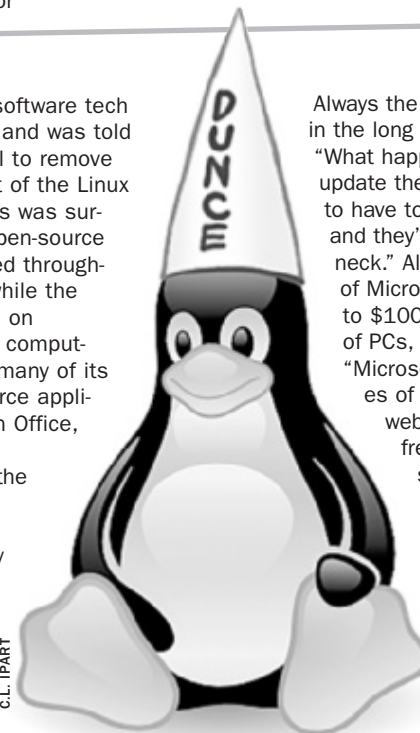
the blogosphere, generating a firestorm of outrage from concerned tech geeks around the world. Within a day of the post, Starks had received calls from the Netherlands, Croatia, South Africa, and Russia, many calling for Karen's head. Starks' blog, which he says is normally read by about a dozen people, was suddenly flooded with nearly 800 comments from incensed Linux users, some angered to the point of violence – one post said Karen should be stabbed in the face with an ice pick.

After the post, Karen contacted Starks, and the two made amends. Starks apologized on his blog for attacking her personally and subjecting her to the venom of the international open-source community. He has since gone to Karen's house and installed Linux on her computers, at her request. She was curious, he said, about what could drive people to hate her so much, and he expressed regrets about the ordeal: "If that teacher had filled in the blanks a little bit more, this whole thing could have been avoided," he said. "This thing just got way out of hand." But, he said, it was ultimately a learning experience for all involved.

Starks had previously thought Austin ISD to be hostile to open-source software, citing a past incident where a school principal had

approached an AISD software tech about installing Linux and was told that it would be illegal to remove **Windows**. As a result of the Linux flap with Karen, Starks was surprised to learn that open-source software is widely used throughout the district, and while the district uses Windows on 24,000 of its 36,000 computers, it uses Linux for many of its servers and open-source applications, such as Open Office, whenever possible.

When asked about the possibility of dumping Windows in favor of Linux, AISD technology director **Gray Salada** said that in terms of a cost-benefit analysis, it simply isn't worth it. Windows comes preinstalled on most computers, he said, so there is little savings to be realized from removing it and incurring the costs of retraining teachers and the district's 12 engineers, who are already proficient in Windows, to support Linux.



An AISD middle school teacher tried to make an example out of Linux, but the penguin got the last laugh.

Always the loyalist, Starks counters that in the long run, Linux still saves money: "What happens when they have to update their computers? They're going to have to upgrade sooner or later, and they're going to pay through the neck." Also, he added that the price of Microsoft, which ranges from \$50 to \$100, is bundled in with the cost of PCs, which he refers to as the "Microsoft tax." One of the advantages of Linux, according to Starks' website, is that upgrades are free, and they're available as soon as they're ready.

Salada said that the district is keeping close watch for developments in open-source software and ways it can be used to cut costs, but for the immediate future, district computers will continue to run Windows and Mac OS. "Maybe when things move to more browser-based applications where a student or teacher can just open up the program without knowing the operating system [we can start using Linux]. But we're just not there yet."

– Justin Ward

## GALE RUMOR UNTRUE



Jennifer Gale

ALAN POGUE

In the wake of the untimely death of perennial City Council candidate and gadfly **Jennifer Gale**, public sympathy with her homelessness – she died, of yet unconfirmed causes, while sleeping outside Wednesday morning, Dec. 17 – has led to misleading speculation about the circumstances of her death.

A Burnt Orange Report blog posting by Karl-Thomas Musselman quoted an e-mail from **Marti Bier** (aide to City Council Member **Randi Shade**) describing Gale as a “trans[gender] woman living in a trans-phobic society” and therefore with “nowhere ... to go to protect herself from the cold [last] night.”

Bier’s sympathetic rumor had become conventional wisdom by Thursday’s council meeting, and a subsequent press release by **Equality Texas** was headlined in part, “Her death can be directly attributed to lack of shelters accepting of transgender homeless.” In fact, a somewhat embarrassed Bier says now, that’s not true. She says she had confused

a story she’d heard about another transgender woman’s bad experience at a local shelter with Gale and that she has since contacted both the **Salvation Army** and the **Austin Resource Center for the Homeless**. Both shelters say they do what they can to accommodate all homeless people, regardless of gender status, although they do have to adjust accommodations to particular circumstances. “I think I was trying to call attention to the problem of transwomen accessing services,” Bier said.

Although we’re still inquiring, there is in fact currently no evidence that Gale was ever refused shelter or indeed that she had ever requested it.

– Michael King

## BFI Dustup: ‘Council Has Done Nothing Helpful’

It’s less than a month before the **Texas Commission for Environmental Quality** opens hearings on the proposed **BFI** landfill expansion in Northeast Austin. Yet, Austin City Council members still don’t know if they can oppose the expansion or whether city legal already made the decision for them.

On Dec. 11, council members instructed City Manager **Marc Ott** to use outside counsel to explore breaking the agreement, signed without their knowledge or consent by the city’s legal department, effectively ending the city’s opposition to the application (see “Council Blindsided on Landfill Deal,” Dec. 19). Council was expected to hear a preliminary report at the Dec. 18 meeting – the last of the year – but after a lengthy discussion in closed session, they decided to move the item to the next scheduled meeting, Jan. 15. Unless council calls an emergency meeting before then, there will only be two business days between a council decision and the TCEQ hearing on Jan. 20.

Now questions are being asked about the legal staff’s decision-making process. Because of the relatively small contract (only \$25,000), council could not select the attorneys, thus giving city legal the enviable job of picking its own lawyers. Rather than picking council’s original and

fully vetted choice of local firm Allison, Bass & Associates, the legal department hired three different firms, adding attorneys from Austin-based Andrews Kurth, and Dallas-based Strasburger & Price to the list.

Timing is another issue. The actual selection of attorneys was not confirmed until Dec. 16. Fewer than two days before council met, outside lawyers were still waiting on essential documents.

Now there are concerns that the city’s expert testimony filed as part of the BFI agreement may backfire in a separate TCEQ application, this time for the **Waste Management Industries** landfill near Hutto. That hearing starts on Jan. 12 – three days before council’s Jan. 15 meeting. Council staff is examining whether the city can withdraw the testimony.

If so, the **Northeast Neighborhood Coalition**, the city’s partner against the application, would be left in limbo. The group’s attorney, Jim Blackburn, called council’s nondecision “the worst of all worlds for us because we don’t know where to go. If the agreement is illegal, that’s one way to go. If it’s legal, that’s another.” By deciding to punt a decision until the new year, he said, “In terms of my clients, council has done nothing helpful to this point.”

– Richard Whittaker

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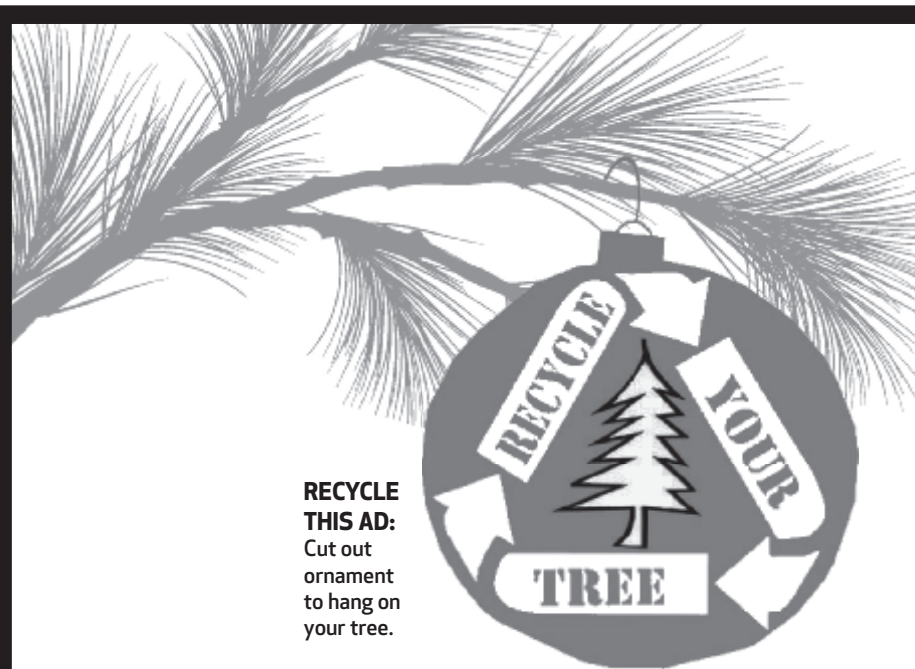
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CITY OF AUSTIN, SOLID WASTE SERVICES DEPARTMENT



## Everything Under the Sun(set)

At the final pre-session meeting of the **Sunset Advisory Commission** last week, legislators got a reminder of what they're in for when the **81st Legislature** convenes on Jan. 13. Across two long days of meetings on Dec. 15-16, the 12-member joint legislative committee continued building recommendations for the future of a slate of state agencies.

One of the biggest agencies up for review this year is the **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**. Much like last session, debate centered on getting more money into the parks, while beating up on TPWD remained unpopular as ever (as Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, explained, even her husband had criticized her for failing to protect its budget for two successive sessions). After Rep. Linda Harper Brown, R-Irving, savaged the agency over internal accounting failures and not returning her phone calls about park projects, Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy, pushed the discussion back on topic by asking TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith to name the biggest concerns facing his agency. Two consensus points rapidly emerged: First, funding needs to put less burden on hunters and fishers and more on the growing numbers of other recreational users, such as divers and bird watchers; second, somehow, the Legislature and outdoor agencies such as TPWD and the **Department of Agriculture** (also under review) must tackle what Smith called "the pronounced disconnect between people and the outdoors."

Not every agency got away so easily. The **Texas Medical Board** is not up for full review until 2016, but in 2007 the Legislature ordered an investigation into delays in licensing and disciplinary proceedings. The commission took testimony from doctors and attorneys that hearings often turned into fishing expeditions. Others warned that unresolved allegations, some dating back decades, were pushing licensed doctors out of business because they couldn't get insurance.

But all public testimony was overshadowed by what Chairman Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, called "the main event" – the **Texas Youth Commission**, its new **Office of Indepen-**

**dent Ombudsman**, and the **Texas Juvenile Probation Commission**. In their report, Sunset staff recommended that TYC and TJPC be integrated into one new agency, the **Texas Juvenile Justice Department** (see "An End to TYC's Problems ... and to TYC?" Nov. 21). Commission staffers Ginny McKay and Karl Spock said that while they had started looking at them as separate entities, they saw integration as the only way to overcome structural problems and disconnected agency policies. (Sen. Robert Deuell, R-Greenville, echoed the call for a culture change, adding that as a physician, he was deeply concerned that the lack of interagency communication led to untreated medical and psychological conditions among TYC inmates.)

But TJPC Chair **Ray West** countered that the two agencies have divergent mandates: TYC runs facilities, while his agency provides support for county probation services. Integrate them, he warned, and even though TJPC deals with 95% of children in the justice system, the emphasis will shift to incarceration, "and you're going to have kids going to TYC in droves." Isett quickly nixed that argument, noting that last session, the Legislature moved money from TYC to TJPC. While pledging to fund extra burdens placed on the

**The Legislature and outdoor agencies such as Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture must tackle "the pronounced disconnect between people and the outdoors." – Parks & Wildlife Executive Director Carter Smith**

counties, he added, "The money is not the conversation here." While he would look for efficiency savings, he said: "What we want to do is build a system that works for Texas. If we have to spend more money, then we have to spend more money."

Aside from taking testimony, the commission had to make recommendations to the Legislature. Topping that agenda was the **Texas Department of Transportation**, target of major criticism last session (and that was before the revelation in February of a \$1.1 billion "accounting error"). There was consensus for reforming what Isett called "an agency that has been gridlocked since the 1920s," but



TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith

COURTESY OF TPWD

there was little agreement on what shape reforms should take. The commission couldn't even agree on what was included in the supposedly preapproved consensus document, stripping several items out to be voted on separately. What finally passed unanimously still proposed tougher regulation, including a new legislative transport oversight committee.

Debate then turned to balancing power between the executive director, the **Texas Transportation Commission**, and external consultants and auditors. Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, D-San Antonio, said there was popular support for replacing the five-member commission with an elected commissioner of transportation, but Isett argued that it would take a change in the agency's culture, not just its leadership structure, to get it back on track. When the commissioner proposal came to a vote, it passed 7-5 – but with several senators joining him in voting nay (Deuell; Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth; Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls; and Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-Mission), Isett told McClendon, "I suspect you may have trouble getting it out of the Senate."

Of course, now the commission must present its recommendations to the rest of the Legislature – which could completely ignore them.

– Richard Whittaker

## Get Ye to the Garden

Songbirds, squirrels, and lizards: Welcome! If critters could read, that's how they'd interpret the "Certified Wildlife Habitat" signs dotting yards around Austin. The **Jester Estates** neighborhood recently took first place in the city of Austin's **Habitat Challenge**, encouraging people to create pocket habitats in their own back yards. Jester residents added 36 new **National Wildlife Federation**-certified habitats to their neighborhood within the challenge period. The Allandale and Highland Park West neighborhoods came in second and third places, respectively. The city as a whole is certified as an NWF community wildlife habitat (the program is synergistic with policies such as the Austin Climate Protection Plan and Water Conservation Plan), and schools, businesses, churches, and community gardens are eligible to become certified habitats, as well. This next month is a great time of year in Austin to put in new trees and shrubs: For info on specific topics – including habitat certifications, current community projects, invasive plant removal, and becoming a habitat steward – visit [www.keeppaustinwild.com](http://www.keeppaustinwild.com). Other helpful resources include [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife) and the city guide "Grow Green Plant Guide of Native & Adapted Plants," available at [www.cityofaustin.org](http://www.cityofaustin.org).

– Katherine Gregor



COURTESY OF DALE BULLA

One of many Certified Wildlife Habitats in Jester Estates

## Dog Days of December

It was all pooch and circumstance at City Hall Dec. 11 for the local kickoff of the **lams Home 4 the Holidays 2008 pet adoption drive**. By Jan. 5, 2,500 participating shelters and rescue organizations, including **Town Lake Animal Center** and the **Austin Humane Society**, aim to place 1 million homeless pets with new owners. On hand was Mayor Will Wynn, delivering a proclamation from Council Chambers that "Staff and volunteers ... are devoting their time, resources, and energy to placing orphaned animals into loving, lifelong homes." Outside, dogs paraded from TLAC to the plaza. Such events represent "the collaborative efforts aimed at helping all of Austin's pets," said Karen Medicus, of Mission: Orange, a project of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. TLAC has adopted out 72 cats and 124 dogs since Dec. 1, according to event spokeswoman Meredith Michelson. For info on adopting a pet this holiday season, see [www.cityofaustin.org/tlac](http://www.cityofaustin.org/tlac) and [www.austinhumanesociety.org](http://www.austinhumanesociety.org). – Patricia J. Ruland

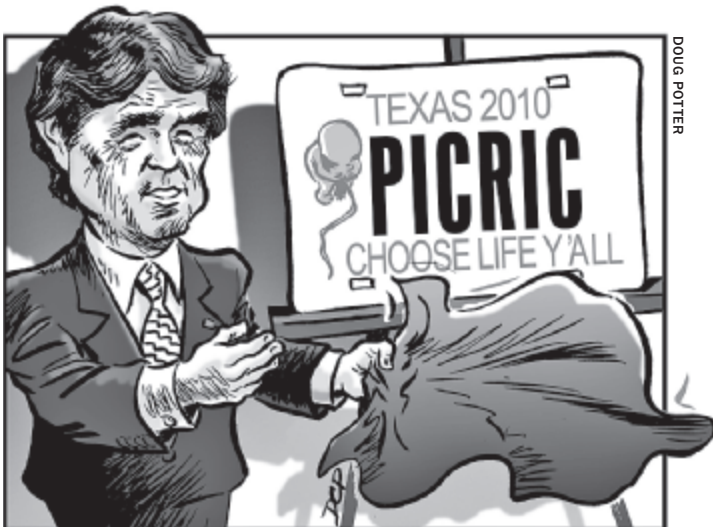
**Not to be outdone by the pooches parading at City Hall, cats got all the attention at the Austin Humane Society sleepover Dec. 11.**



COURTESY OF THE AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY

## RICK PERRY GETS A LIFE

Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 18 announced his support for a bill that would create a "Choose Life" specialty license plate. House Bill 109, filed by Rep. **Larry Phillips**, R-Sherman, marks the sixth attempt to pass legislation creating an anti-abortion license plate. If women's health advocates have anything to say about it, it'll be the sixth time the



DOUG POTTER

bill meets with defeat. "I am here today to endorse an effort that will allow Texans to support the humane choice of adoption," Perry said. "The majority of Texans believe in the sanctity of life, and this license plate will give them a means to tell the world in a subtle but meaningful way, while providing support to pregnant women making the decision to choose adoption."

Currently, 17 states issue a Choose Life plate to motorists, according to the non-profit Guttmacher Institute. Of those, 13 use plate revenues to fund adoption assistance, education, and counseling services; eight specifically forbid giving any funds from plate sales to any group that provides abortion, counseling, or referrals (read: no money for Planned Parenthood); and seven use funds to directly support so-called crisis pregnancy centers, which, by design, provide no medical services and instead offer "counseling" and "support" services to pregnant women — often steering them to other taxpayer-funded resources, such as food stamps and other public-health programs.

Phillips' bill includes each of these three restrictions — including devoting funds to pregnancy "counseling" services, which, it would seem, does little more than setting up yet another way to funnel money to fund CPCs. Already the state is diverting \$5 million over the biennium to Sen. **Tommy Williams'** pet project, the **Alternatives to Abortion** program. The program, which he created via budget rider in 2005, earmarks health-care funds to "promote childbirth" — via counseling and "support," but not with real health care. The program is administered by the **Texas Pregnancy Care Network**, which provides funding for various CPCs around the state through a contract with the Health and Human Services Commission. The network has consistently failed to meet the "performance standards" it crafted for itself under the contract with the **Health and Human Services Commission** — including the most basic requirements, such as how many providers it would sign up and how many women it would serve.

The agency's preliminary Legislative Appropriations Request, which began circulating in September, includes a \$1.5 million increase for the Alternatives to Abortion program.

To **NARAL Pro-Choice Texas** Executive Director Sara Cleveland, the Choose Life plate represents nothing but another black hole for money that could have been spent on real health care. "There are few bills that do less to help prevent unintended pregnancies, the only cause of abortions, than HB 109," she said. If the state is really interested in providing additional support for adoption providers, it should do so by appropriation, she said. (Or, perhaps, change the plate to say something more neutral, such as "Choose Adoption." That suggestion has come up in the past but has fallen on deaf ears.)

Whether the plate would pass legal muster also remains to be seen. Legal actions regarding the plates have been filed in at least four states. In Arizona and Missouri, courts have ordered the state to issue the plates, according to the Guttmacher Institute. In Illinois, the federal appeals court said the state does not have to make the plates available to motorists, and in South Carolina, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the plate offended the First Amendment through "viewpoint discrimination, by allowing only the Choose Life plate," and said that the state had "insulated itself from electoral accountability by disguising its own pro-life advocacy."

Indeed, Perry's midafternoon press conference regarding the bill — where the governor was flanked by the state's pro-life faithful and at least one crying toddler — seemed designed as little more than a moment of political grandstanding. "It's a total political ploy," said Blake Rocard, legislative counsel for Texas' NARAL. For sure, the timing, in anticipation of next year's governor's race, couldn't be better to shore up the support of the Republican Party's conservative base — especially before Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** gets back to town.

— Jordan Smith

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## Finding a Way Back Home

Whether the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan end tomorrow or continue for years, the number of military veterans returning to civilian life is certain to rise. While recent attention to this issue has centered on the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** and Obama's proposed appointment of Gen. **Eric Shinseki** as its new secretary, local agencies are also playing an increasing role in linking veterans and their families with available aid.

As the city of Austin veterans consultant – the first such position of his kind in the nation – it's **Allen Bergeron's** job to look after the human resources needs of the roughly 1,000 city employees who are either veterans, reserve personnel, or in active service. Most city departments have some servicemen and -women, though many are concentrated in the police, fire, and EMS departments. When Bergeron was hired last year, the city had received a five-star rating from **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve** (a volunteer agency within the Department of Defense) for exceeding the requirements of the **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act**. In June, it was one of only 15 employers nationwide to receive the **Department of Defense Freedom Award**. For Bergeron, making deployed staff members' departure and reintegration as painless as possible isn't just about statutory requirements. "One of the key things I tell man-

agers is use compassion and common sense," he said.

Bergeron estimates there are normally between 17 and 22 city employees on active deployment. Traumatic as it can be for them to get called, he said, it can also be a shock to their co-workers: "It can come out of the clear blue on Saturday that someone's leaving on Sunday, and we won't find out until Monday." When employees are deployed, Bergeron's focus is on taking at least one weight off their minds, he said: "City employees know that as long as they fulfill their responsibilities per USERRA, they'll have a job when they get back." But his major priority – especially with rising rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury – is cushioning the employee's return. That can involve anything from organizing a "welcome home" party to ensuring that an employee's certificates are still valid to pointing them to counseling services provided through national agencies such as **Military OneSource** or the new **Austin Vet Center**. "We're finding out that the stress level is overwhelming – something the average American can't fathom," he said. "They go from the streets of Baghdad or the mountain trails of Afghanistan to their desk at the city of Austin in a matter of a week or two."

He hopes private employers also follow best practices – least of all because USERRA non-



JOHN ANDERSON

compliance leaves them open to lawsuits. His advice to businesses is to contact Employer Support directly. "It protects employees and employers," he explained, "because both have rights and responsibilities on their end."

Other agencies provide support for veterans, including charities. In 2005, **Paul Williams** trained to become a military casework volunteer for the **American Red Cross of Central Texas** and now does military casework full-time. In October alone, his office opened 86 cases, mostly requests for emergency leave. When service personnel or civilians contracted to the Department of Defense need to return home urgently, their commanding officers require some proof of need. "They know that when a message comes in from the Red Cross, it has been verified with an independent third party," he said.

There's also financial assistance. If there's no military aid society office within 50 miles of an applicant's home, the Red Cross becomes the conduit for loan and grant applications. Williams has seen the number of applications and message requests increase as redeployments become more common. "We're having a lot more families in our nine-county area who are not within a close prox-

imity to an active-duty military base like Fort Hood," he said. "They're needing the services, and there's no one there to provide them."

National Guard families are hit particularly hard. "The person who has been activated may be making quite a bit more money in their civilian positions. But they've been deployed for 13 months, then there's their predeployment training, their post-deployment debriefing, so you're looking at anything from 18 months to two years where their financial situation may be considerably reduced." Now the Red Cross takes a pre-emptive role, providing a course called Coping With Deployment: Psychological First-Aid for Military Families. "Basically, it's trying to provide military families with ... the resources to help cope with the deployment of their loved one," said Williams.

As the first city veterans consultant in the country, Bergeron is still learning about new programs like these, but he feels people understand the purpose of his office. "When we went into this, we made sure that we let everyone know that it was not political," he said. "Regardless of who we support or what we believe in, someone has a friend or a relative or someone they know who is over there, and we're here to support them."

– Richard Whittaker

### Resources for Servicemen, Servicewomen, and Their Families

**Austin Vet Center:** Austin's official local VA facility, 416-1314, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Red Cross of Central Texas:** Emergency aid and messages, 928-4271 (select option 1), [www.centex.redcross.org](http://www.centex.redcross.org)

**Military OneSource:** Assistance and advice, 800/342-9647, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

**Texas Veterans Land Board:** Home loans, provided through the Veterans Housing Assistance Program, and information on the Texas State Veterans Home and Veterans Cemetery programs, 800/252-VETS (8387), [www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb)

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans:** National coordinating body for agencies serving homeless veterans or veterans at risk of becoming homeless, 800/VET-HELP (838-4357), [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)

**Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve:** Information on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act compliance, 800/336-4590, [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

**Hope for Heroes:** Samaritan Center-run counseling services, 800/426-HOPE (4673), [www.hopeforheroestexas.org](http://www.hopeforheroestexas.org)

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# the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## HOW TO BANKRUPT A MEDIA COMPANY AND SURVIVE

Sam Zell is a media baron – even though he knows less about the news business than a hog knows about Christmas.

His actual line of work has been real estate huckstering – buying properties on the cheap from people who are in bad straits, then selling high. This business tactic earned him a less-than-flattering nickname: the Grave Dancer.

A year ago, Zell picked up another property, the Tribune Co., which owns 10 newspapers and 23 television stations. To gain control of these media outlets, he put up only \$315 million – less than 4% of the \$8.2 billion purchase price. How did he finance the rest? By borrowing billions from Bank of America, Citigroup, and other Wall Street firms, using the Tribune Co.'s employee pension fund as his collateral.

Zell's borrowing spree put an intolerable debt load on the company – it owes \$900 million just in interest payments in 2009, for example. To pay the bankers, he's been butchering his own product by slashing newsroom staffs and trying to substitute marketing for journalism. This strategy hasn't worked, and now he has had to push the company into bankruptcy.

Zell and his banker buddies are going to be just fine, however, for they set up their arrangement so they are first in line to recover money from the bankruptcy proceedings. Citigroup, for example, already got \$36 million in fees last year for packaging Zell's purchase of the company and has grabbed millions more in payments for its loans to Zell. Now the bank expects to get most of its original investment back.

Meanwhile, the thousands of reporters and others who actually produce Zell's product are at the tail end of the bankruptcy line, and they're likely to be stiffed, losing their jobs, pensions, and other payments they earned. In a just world, Zell would not be in bankruptcy court – he'd be on trial for grand theft.

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). You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

## DIMINISHING THE STENCH IN CONGRESS

Perhaps you are as excited as I am that, at long last, our Congress critters have delivered for us!

Health care for all, you ask? No, not that. A real economic recovery program? Uh ... no. An end to the Iraq war? No, again. Instead, what the lawmakers have produced for us is (hold on to your hat, now) a new Capitol Visitor Center!

Yes, if you and your family go to Washington to absorb a bit of the majesty of our country's democratic institutions, a brand-spanking-new 580,000-square-foot facility is now open for you and me – America's hoi polloi. So, instead of standing in line outside the Capitol building to take a tour, we can stand in line inside the center. At least it's air-conditioned.

And having AC turns out to have been a big selling point to get congressional leaders to spend \$621 million for this tourist holding pen. It's not that they're concerned about the creature comfort of the 3 million folks who trek through the Capitol each year – it's that they don't want to have to smell us.

Smell us? Yes. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced that the center solves one of our country's most pressing problems: stinky constituents. At the opening ceremony for the facility, Reid offered this homage to the common citizen: "My staff tells me not to say this, but I'm going to say it anyway. In the summer, because of the heat and high humidity, you could literally smell the tourists coming into the Capitol. Well, that is no longer going to be necessary."

It's good to know that the sweaty masses will no longer be quite so offensive to our finicky salons – but wouldn't it have been cheaper just to have the guards hose us down as we enter the marble halls? Besides, with all the stench that constantly comes out of Congress, who knew that a senator's nostrils could even detect BO?



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	13492 Research Blvd.	(183 & Anderson Mill Rd.)	258-8181
	600 William Cannon		462-3868
	409 W. Front St. #100, Hutto		759-4300
	850 N. Bell #304	Cedar Park	(512)258-4990
	11126 Jollyville Rd.	(at Balcones Woods Dr.)	346-8845
	920 B. N. Austin Ave.	Georgetown	(512)930-0666
	12218 N. 620		257-0057
	4005 W. Parmer Lane, Unit C, Silver Creek Center		339-0401
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# Ike's Lessons

Galveston's land-use decisions exposed by storm's wrath



CHRISTOPHER PEARSON

BY TOM CURTIS

Despite its rich and storied history, confederate jasmine-and-oleander-scented charms, 32 miles of public beaches, and a treasure trove of Victorian architecture, Galveston has one irremediable flaw: 169 years ago, it was incorporated on the shifting sands of a barrier island.

As coastal geologists explain, the natural order of things is for these slightly elevated sandbars to roll over, inch by inch, foot by foot, from seaward to landward as every breeze and gale blows sand inland. Hydrologic processes ranging from tides and thunder-showers to leviathan storm surges also are changing the island's features, rebuilding beaches and dunes farther inland.

Because they are in constant, if slow, motion, barrier islands are inhospitable places to build cities, or even beach houses. That, plus their natural propensity to flood – now intensified due to gradually rising sea levels – is why the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change strongly opposes infrastructure development on barrier islands. As the Gospel of St. Matthew recapitulates the age-old wisdom, only fools build their houses on sand.

On the second week of September 1900, a monster storm that today would be classified as a Category 4 hurricane blindsided and devastated the island city in what is still the deadliest natural disaster in American history.

Here's the dirty little secret about Galveston's two most devastating storms: Long before the 1900 hurricane and again decades before Ike made landfall Sept. 13, the community's political leaders were warned of the dangers and advised how to mitigate them – yet they did nothing. In this era of worldwide climate disruption, these are sobering and cautionary tales for us all.

This time, thanks to modern meteorology, the mayor was able to order a “mandatory evacuation” of the city two days before the hurricane made landfall, and an estimated 60% of residents were gone by the time the storm hit. For that reason and because the storm surge on most of Galveston Island was

only 12 to 15 feet, rather than the predicted maximum of 25 feet, only 19 people on the island died as a direct result of Ike, and 10 more are still missing from Bolivar Peninsula. Flooding was intense, afflicting three-quarters of the city's structures.

Across the bay on Bolivar Peninsula, the storm surge flattened the fishing village of Port Bolivar and wrecked the resort community of Gilchrist, as well as many vacation homes on West Galveston Island and homes and businesses in Bacliff, Kemah, and Seabrook. The storm also mangled popular Galveston tourist attractions such as Moody Gardens and Schlitterbahn Waterpark. Only Moody Gardens has reopened.

## Gone Forever

Meanwhile, in Chambers and Jefferson counties alone, Ike killed an estimated 10,000 cows and calves, according to Monty Dozier, regional program director for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Hundreds of acres of pastures were damaged by the saltwater flooding, and Dozier estimates that it may take them six to 18 months to recover.

Rice farmers were hard hit. In Chambers County, east of Houston, an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 acres were inundated, said Thomas Wynn, director of market development for the Houston-based U.S. Rice Producers Association. Collectively, one industry expert said, the storm easily will cost Texas rice farmers millions of dollars, and the salty soil may cause trouble for several growing seasons to come. Ike also caused “tremendous habitat destruction” for birds, said Winnie Burkett of the Houston Audubon Society. Two days of saltwater inundation across tens of thousands of acres wiped out virtually all the insects, plants, and seeds that migrating birds live on.

Some stretches of beaches roiled by Ike may be gone forever, and some Galveston neighborhoods may never be rebuilt.

If you assumed that this storm, like so many others, had come and gone, causing only

some minor flooding and broken windows and ripped-off roofs – well, that's what a lot of officials are hoping you'll think. People in Washington, D.C., and at the governor's office in Austin aren't eager for Texans to realize the extent to which the Galveston and coast they've known and loved is damaged and changed, perhaps forever.

## Criminal Stupidity

Before Sept. 8, 1900, Galveston was Texas' fourth-largest city, a fast-growing metropolis of nearly 38,000 people perched on the east/northeast end of Galveston Island. It was a thriving resort, a center of banking and commerce, and the most important U.S. commercial port between New Orleans and San Francisco. Galveston wanted to be seen as the Manhattan of the Gulf. The city boasted more millionaires per capita than Newport, R.I., and it aspired for the Strand, its financial heart, to be recognized as the “Wall Street of the South.”

But Galveston's fin de siècle economic boom and particularly its burgeoning tourism industry had already produced the seeds of the city's near-destruction. “In its natural state,” said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a history of the island's seawall, Galveston's gulf shore “was bordered by an area of sand dunes rising to heights of 12 to 15 feet above the natural surface of the island.” The dunes protected the island from hurricane tides, the Corps history said, but by the late 1800s, development had led to removal of the dunes. The resulting danger “was realized by many people, and several plans for storm protection had been developed; however, because of financing difficulties and general public apathy, none of these plans was carried out.”

In other words, the storm's huge death toll and devastation were not only natural disasters but also environmental ones, aided and abetted by human shortsightedness, avarice, and criminal stupidity. Much of the hurricane's carnage was entirely predictable and could have been avoided, but Galveston's wealthiest citizens thought it cost too much, and the public cared too little. What did American poet and philosopher George Santayana say about those who fail to learn the lessons of history being condemned to repeat them?

The 1900 storm's 15- to 20-foot tidal surge drowned 6,000 to 8,000 people, demolished more than 3,600 houses, cut the city tax rolls in half, and put Galveston in the history books in a far different way than its leaders had hoped. Afterward, the Corps of Engineers designed and built a 3-mile-long, 17-foot-high seawall that protected the most densely inhabited part of the island from the worst effects of storms for many years. Meanwhile, Galvestonians undertook a heroic project to

raise the island's grade, jacking up existing buildings and pumping in fill beneath them. The resulting elevation was sloped so that any storm water from the Gulf that overtopped the seawall would flow northward downhill to Galveston Bay. The seawall was later extended to 10 miles, but its effective height was eventually reduced by 2 feet, due to subsidence from the extraction of oil, gas, and water beneath the island by a newer generation of robber barons.

After 1900, Galveston eventually revived and rebuilt, growing modestly to a peak of around 60,000 residents in the early 1960s. But it never achieved its earlier ambition and never became a major Texas city or regional financial center. Commenting on its 19th century architecture, saved largely because of the island's ensuing economic stagnation, the novelist Edna Ferber once memorably compared Galveston at mid-20th century to a fly encased in amber.

City leaders apparently had another chance to bolster their island's defenses. According to an article in Galveston's *Daily News*, the Corps of Engineers in 1979 had described in detail the possibility of a dangerous storm that, like Ike, flooded Galveston from the bay forward rather than from the seawall back and had recommended a federally subsidized solution: a 12.5-mile ring levee system, up to 19 feet high, running from the ends of the Galveston seawall north and curving back along Harbor-side Drive. Essentially, this would have encircled the southwest and northeast flanks and rear of the parts of the island unprotected by the seawall. That proposal, with an estimated cost at the time of \$94 million, was strongly

**Much of the hurricane's carnage was entirely predictable and could have been avoided, but Galveston's wealthiest citizens thought it cost too much, and the public cared too little.**

backed by longtime U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks of Beaumont, the powerful congressman who represented Galveston and chaired the Government Operations Committee. For that reason alone, the then-Democratic Congress almost certainly would have passed it.

But the plan required Galveston County to pick up 30% of the tab, plus provide a \$120,000 annual maintenance budget. Galveston County commissioners balked, looked at cheaper solutions, and ultimately did nothing. Or as the Corps had written about earlier warnings that were likewise ignored, the plan was dropped because of the expense and “general public apathy.”

## The Road Not Taken

Long derided as the tacky little beach town in Houston's back yard, by the summer of 2008, Galveston finally seemed to have won some of the respect its business leaders had sought so desperately for so long. Most of its Victorian houses in the East End and Silk Stocking historical districts, many of them

CONTINUED ON P.26



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crumbling wrecks as recently as the 1960s, had been handsomely and lovingly restored. When the azaleas, crepe myrtles, and other blooming trees and vines were in full flower, those neighborhoods rivaled New Orleans' genteel Garden District. Tourists flocked to ogle selected examples on popular Mother's Day weekend tours sponsored by the city's premier social charity, the Galveston Historical Foundation.

And when these 19th century places were advertised for sale for \$200,000 to \$400,000 or more, they still seemed like steals to well-heeled out-of-towners compared with, say, similarly sized period pieces in Houston's Heights or Austin's Hyde Park or Clarksville.

These new haunts of the superrich were celebrated, in the real estate pages of *The New York Times* and elsewhere last year, as Texas' version of the Hamptons. Dissidents, including coastal geologists, warned that the entire island was a geo-hazard subject to catastrophic flooding. Others fretted that by surrendering much of its housing stock to largely absentee owners with primary homes elsewhere, the community was losing its middle class and, perhaps, its soul.

"The city government has been subsidizing resort developers through tax-increment reinvestment zones, known as TIRZ," said City Council Member Elizabeth Beeton, a strong critic of these practices. "The city has also asked its middle-class residents behind the seawall to subsidize very expensive sewer systems on the west end of the city" beyond the seawall. She complained that the city also issued permits, with terms favorable to builders, for resort developments on the island's west end. These practices – reflexively backed by Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and most of Galveston's exceptionally parochial City Council – have "got to stop," Beeton argued.

Because there was money to be made and hefty property taxes to be garnered, most of the city's elected leaders seemed to adopt "caveat emptor" as Galveston's unofficial motto. Until the bursting national real estate bubble brought things to an abrupt halt earlier this year, the breakneck vacation-housing boom continued apace on the approximately 18 miles of Galveston Island west of the seawall's end – including bay houses, some with networks of canals that, geologists warned, could effectively split the island in two during storm surges and backwashes. Moreover, the beaches of the west end, even before Ike, were fast eroding, despite various efforts to stem the retreat. Experts recommended withdrawing much of the west end from further development, citing flooding dangers and the prospect that the highway serving the area was expected to be under water within the next 30 years or so.

The city didn't totally ignore its land-use problems. It commissioned a study by the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology. Those researchers advised creating buffer zones to shield beach fore-dunes, safeguard new wetlands, and defend a protective central ridge. All these measures were designed

to spare Galveston from being broken apart during the next big storm.

However, blinded by the prevailing development-at-any-cost mentality and their woeful ignorance about the environmental processes governing barrier islands, the council whiffed. In May 2007, instead of embracing the suggested land-use curbs, they voted to let those innocent new buyers of west-island properties read the study if they chose to do so, pay their taxes, and take their chances with Mother Nature.

Through 2007, Galveston's seawall admirably served its purpose, protecting the city from the worst effects of the major storms that, on average, have come ashore there every 20 years or so since 1900. But the wall also acted to interrupt the usual rollover that is an integral element of a barrier island's nature. Because of that blockage and other barriers – most notably the changes in the way the Mississippi River's and the Brazos River's silt load is dropped – the beaches beyond and beneath the Galveston seawall shrank and in some places have entirely disappeared (except for Galveston's East Beach, which is growing thanks to prevailing northeasterly tides and the jetties' action in capturing sand escaping from the western part of the island). Satisfying beachfront hoteliers' and others' demands for public beaches in front of the seawall requires periodic, expensive, and only temporarily effective beach renourishment projects. Even at its best, the seawall can do only what it was designed to do – protect the city from the Gulf's frontal assaults.

## Landfall

Fortunately, Ike defied the predictions, broadcast repeatedly in the days leading up to landfall, that it might strengthen to a Category 3, meaning Galveston would have faced a 20- to 25-foot storm surge. The surge actually reached 21 feet at a Texas City levee. Because about 20,000 Galvestonians had defied the order and stayed home, a slight westward adjustment in Ike's course could have turned a disaster in Galveston into a catastrophe.

Why did 40% of the city's population ignore the mayor's evacuation order, issued 36 hours before Ike's landfall? Perhaps it was simply because a Category 2 storm doesn't sound so bad. A quarter-century earlier, many longtime Galvestonians, including me, had stayed in Galveston for the low Category 3 Hurricane Alicia without lasting ill effects. Or perhaps many others, like me, were suffering "evacuation fatigue" this time, having fled over the Labor Day weekend less than two weeks earlier from Hurricane Gustav, which ended up veering into Louisiana and battering Baton Rouge. (Finally I too fled from Ike, heading for Austin 19 hours before it made landfall.)

A week after Ike's landfall, I visited Galveston for four hours as a reporter, leaving just ahead of a 6pm curfew. I returned nine days later, when residents were being allowed back onto the island despite the absence of electricity, natural gas, potable water, and most medical services. And in those two visits, I began to comprehend the extent of the blow the island had sustained.

Some homes and businesses were buried for a time beneath 13 feet or more of water, which often was diesel-laced and evil-smelling. The surge crushed or dismantled a number of structures near the water, especially those beyond the seawall and along it – including the Balinese Room, remnants of which ended up on Seawall Boulevard, and Murdoch's Pier, which held fast to its pilings but lost many of its walls, its contents disgorged into the water below. Ike also wrecked nearly every business in the Strand Historic District.

Almost every house had the water-stained possessions of a lifetime – furniture, beds, appliances, books, drapes, rugs, art, stereos, computers – piled outside along the curb. Every day for weeks, the old piles would be hauled off, and new ones would miraculously appear. Then came the water-damaged Sheetrock and other building material. As with Katrina, residents are dealing with a sometimes feckless Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA started off strong, but its bureaucracy has increasingly seemed to aggravate business owners' and residents' multiple frustrations in trying to return to normality.

The storm also seriously wounded a major Galveston institution and economic sea anchor. A few days after the storm, word leaked out that the regents of the UT System were leaning on the Medical Branch – the state's oldest health sciences university – to lay off almost a quarter of its staff of 12,000 due to heavy and mostly uninsured damage to the 84 buildings on its sprawling campus. UTMB, the city's largest employer, also plays another key role on the island: providing medical care to Galveston's many poor and uninsured residents. The layoff decision came Nov. 12, with regents voting to terminate up to 3,800 workers.

## The Rest Is History

On a Tuesday in mid-October, former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton stood on the badly eroded shoreline amid the wreckage of a west-island subdivision called Bermuda Beach. There, for the benefit of reporters, TV cameras, and newspaper photographers, the former presidents formally launched their Bush-Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund, designed to raise private contributions to aid victims of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. It was a reprise of their efforts in 2004 and 2005 to assist victims of the South Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, but whether it

will be as successful during a financial meltdown is problematic. With his arm draped around the shoulders of the Galveston mayor, Clinton said, "I don't think the American people understand how much [help] you still need here."

Clinton was certainly right about that – although he seemed unaware of how much of that public ignorance is owing to the actions of the mayor and the federal authorities who hunkered down with her and the media in the fortresslike San Luis Hotel during and long after the storm.

The day after Ike struck, the mayor forbade all city employees except the city manager to talk with the media. She didn't seem to want Galveston's own citizens, much less the media, to see the island in its sad dishabille – a decision that made it much harder to generate the sustained public sympathy needed to influence politicians in Austin and Washington to come across with major disaster aid. Predictably, then, almost as soon as Ike was gone, public attention was diverted from Galveston's disaster. Without a compelling picture of the city's destitution before it, the national media seamlessly shifted its focus to the world financial meltdown and presidential election.

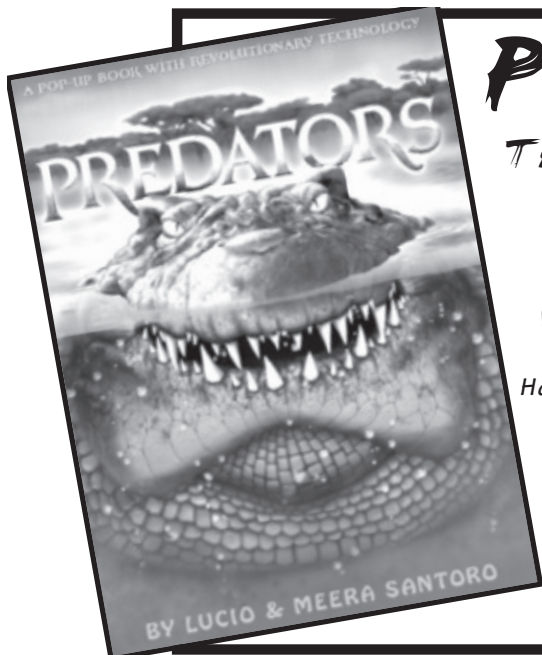
Galveston County engineer Mike Fitzgerald says the levee ring project proposed in the Seventies, which would cost \$800 million today, would have spared Galveston 90% of the damage it suffered from Ike, including a huge percentage of the \$700 million in losses at UTMB. Meanwhile, a levee system built in the Galveston Co. community of Texas City to protect its oil refineries and other industries after they were flooded by Hurricane Carla in 1961 has stood up to every storm since.

The costs of repairs from the major storms that regularly pummel Galveston are increasing. Ike will be the costliest yet, in part because properties on the west end last year were worth a total of \$1.6 billion, according to the Galveston Central Appraisal District – four times the value of all the taxable property behind the seawall. But as Ike's flooding demonstrated, not even property behind the seawall is safe when a hurricane enters the chute between the northeastern tip of Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula.

Ten days after the storm, Mayor Thomas testified before a disaster-recovery panel of the U.S. Senate, asking that the federal government pump an extraordinary \$2.2 billion into rebuilding the stricken city. In her testimony, Thomas described Galveston not as the environmentally fragile barrier island that it is or the rare and quirky end-of-the-road community its denizens treasure but in more commercial and less spiritual terms as "a viable, valuable piece of real estate" – a phrase the city's plutocrats at the turn of the century or the county commissioners in the 1970s or the City Council majority today would understand.

A levee system, however, was not part of the mayor's wish list. ■

*A longer version of this story first appeared in the Fort Worth Weekly.*



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# Urban Planning: A Roundup

How Austin is working toward getting better by design

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Conventional wisdom: An economic downcycle is the ideal time to invest in urban-planning efforts. Without the pressures of fast-paced development activity created by a go-go market, a city can make thoughtful, measured decisions and develop policies that will positively shape the next development cycle. As we bear up for this recession, the city of Austin happens to be on the cusp of starting a new comprehensive plan. Seems it couldn't come at a better time.

The Downtown Austin Plan, a number of other city master-planning and urban-design efforts, and the final push to complete neighborhood planning also all are in progress. But without development activity (and battles), Austin has sunk into planning inertia in past downcycles. Historically, it's taken a crisis to motivate us to "let's never do that again" action. Are we now a "big" enough city to stay the course and calmly sustain – even step up – our planning investment during this recession for a more livable tomorrow?

With that question in mind, it's timely to jog through a year-end review of the many urban-design and -planning efforts in play at the city of Austin.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROMA

## New Comprehensive Plan

Perhaps by February, an expert consultant will be in place to begin crafting a process for our new comprehensive plan. As the city's Request for Statements of Qualifications stated: "The new plan is needed to chart Austin's near, intermediate, and long-term future to preserve and enhance the community's cherished quality of life. The plan will need to address key themes currently at the center of civic debate such as growth and development, sustainability and climate change, environmental protection, neighborhood preservation, affordable housing, economic development, and local and regional mobility."

A tall order! City staffers currently are reviewing proposals from six firms seeking to lead the challenging 2009-2011 process. They'll use standard selection criteria in ranking applicants for the \$1.3 million assignment. Look for a council briefing and consultant presentations to council (with a community open house and Q&A session) around the end of January. Garner Stoll, assistant director of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department, noted: "The team must demonstrate experience and talent in engaging the community – in both visioning and creating implementable plans and projects. Both skills are required to create a successful comprehensive plan."

Our albatross: the negativity and mistrust toward the city that's become entrenched over 10 years of neighborhood planning. For more than a decade, the city has completed neighborhood plans yet had no formal follow-up implementation program to address the needs, priorities, projects, and visions they contain. A pattern of council-granted development variances that ignore plan provisions has soured involved citizens. Here's hoping the comprehensive-plan consultant brings a stellar community-engaging skill set, indeed.

See [www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/com\\_plan.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/com_plan.htm).

## Neighborhood Plans

Wonder of wonders, the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department this year finally began a program of Neighborhood Plan Implementation. Reports staff leader Melissa Laursen: "We now have several planners working to track plan implementation and coordinate with other city departments to get plan recommendations into the [capital improvement projects] and bond programs. We have 10 years of neighborhood plans to catch up on and are just beginning to get fully operational with this new process." Laursen said neighborhood contact teams are being contacted and reinvigorated to help identify unaddressed projects and current priorities. If City Council so chose, a future bond referendum could fund priority projects identified in neighborhood plans throughout the city – as occurred successfully in Seattle.

To complete all neighborhood planning – thus tying up loose ends before a comprehensive plan – NPZD has been cracking the whip on its laggards. Each neighborhood planning process typically takes 18 months; those with major issues drag out. The North Burnet/Gateway Master Plan was done in 2007; a new zoning district for the larger area master plan was provisionally adopted by council in October and should get final approval next year. The Oak Hill Combined Neighborhood Plan was adopted by council Dec. 11; in 2009, the fate of a few specific properties in the future land-use map will be resolved. South Lamar – which includes Barton Creek, Galindo, and Zilker NPAs –

has its neighborhood plan on semipermanent hold. (The 78704s refused to play by the same process used in other neighborhoods, citing concerns relating to notification, capacity analysis, the evolution of the planning team, and staff's stronger power to make recommendations.)

In various stages of progress are four large-scale "combined" neighborhood plans. The Central West Austin plan is targeted for completion in August 2009; it's about 80% complete but still lacks land-use and zoning sections. That neighborhood is also tracking the University of Texas master-planning process for the Brackenridge Tract, which is supposed to be done in mid-summer. The North Lamar plan began in November 2007 but isn't scheduled to conclude until next fall; a set of initial meetings was completed earlier this month, and work on land use and zoning will start in February. The contentious Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills planning process won't be done until January 2010; it's only about 20% complete. The nascent St. Johns/Coronado Hills planning process kicks off in late February; it won't be done until late in 2010.

The remaining neighborhood planning areas are "pended" until the city's new comprehensive plan is finished, according to NPZD Director Greg Guernsey. Those include: Allandale, Garrison Park, South Manchaca, Westgate, Rosedale, and North Shoal Creek.

See [www.cityofaustin.org/zoning](http://www.cityofaustin.org/zoning).

## Downtown Austin Plan

Slowly but surely, the plan is making progress – although all portions won't be completed until 2010. The ROMA Austin team delivered its "Phase One: Issues and Opportunities" report to council in February. Then council asked the consultants to focus on producing a July "Downtown Urban Rail Connections" report, which provided recommendations for a streetcar/light-rail route and approach.

That work fed into a draft "Transportation Framework Plan" completed in November and now available at [www.cityofaustin.org/downtown](http://www.cityofaustin.org/downtown). That report presents nuanced and carefully integrated recommendations for improved pedestrian, bike, transit, and vehicular mobility. Noting that streets aren't merely a way to get around, ROMA states: "Streets set up and condition the way we actually see and understand the city, how it is organized, where we find places, how we participate in city life." As Downtown evolves into a true live-work-play district, the report recommends significant improvements to sidewalks, bike boulevards, and expanded transit – while also addressing driving and parking issues. In Phase Two, ROMA will build on the plan to recommend specific projects, phasing, and a financing program.

The ROMA team now is tackling affordable housing and density bonus programs. That component will take about six months. The intent is to create true parity of value between what the city gives developers – in the form of additional building height, density, and other entitlements – and what developers give back in the form of affordable housing and other public benefits. ROMA will recommend zoning provisions to be codified by ordinance; those should put meat on the bones of earlier propos-

developing stories

als from the Design Commission and Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force.

Phase Two of the plan officially begins in early 2009. Its other components are projected to include an overarching Downtown Framework Plan, a Parks and Open Space Framework Plan, and tailored plans for individual districts. The city's consulting budget was \$600,000 for Phase One and is set at \$825,000 for Phase Two.

See [www.cityofaustin.org/downtown](http://www.cityofaustin.org/downtown).

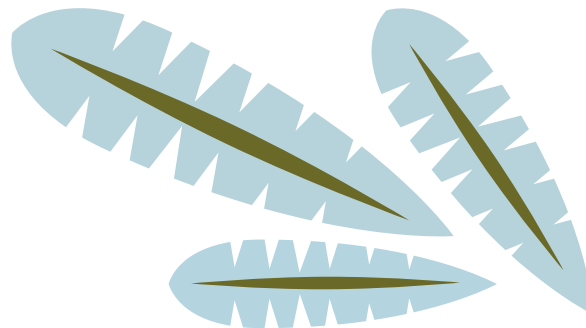
## Urban Design Projects

Within NPZD, the Urban Design division is tasked with maintaining and enhancing the aesthetics, livability, walkability, human scale, design quality, and visualization and planning of tomorrow's Austin. Led by Assistant Director George Adams, its nine professional staff members include three architects, one landscape architect, and four planners, plus an administrative assistant. The division's 2008-2009 budget is less than \$850,000. Given the scope of what Austin tries and needs to accomplish, the division is thin on staff and resources. (By contrast, the city of Portland, Ore., has the Portland Development Commission, with some 190 staffers, working on that city's urban redos.) For major projects, the city hires a national urban-design or master-planning firm to provide the firepower – but a stretched-thin in-house staff still must coordinate with them, which inevitably slows team progress.

Among current projects being handled by Urban Design (as well as other NPZD and Public Works staff) is the Great Streets Development Program for Downtown (modestly funded by about \$400,000 in parking-meter revenues, as well as private developers), and individual streetscape improvements. Recently completed is the Cesar Chavez Conversion and Promenade. In progress are improvements to the Second Street District, 23rd Street, Brazos Street, and the East Seventh Street Corridor. The I-35 makeover – a newly attractive pedestrian gateway between the Eastside and Downtown under I-35 between Sixth and Eighth streets – is scheduled to complete design next August and start construction by December. Look for more inviting sidewalks, landscaping, and sculptural lighting fixtures.

Urban Design spent much of 2008 coordinating three major projects led by outside firms: 1) the Downtown Austin Plan (and transit planning), 2) station area plans for transit-oriented development (two out of three received final council approval this month), and 3) the East Riverside Drive Master Plan Development. (The Waller Creek District Master Plan never began; the contract remains stuck at the city.) All of these projects seem to creep along at bureaucratic-iceberg pace. More staff and funding would certainly help. But so long as the planning work is well-done – and eventually gets done – all of these projects will help ensure that urban Austin remains a place where we all want to live.

See [www.cityofaustin.org/urbandesign](http://www.cityofaustin.org/urbandesign). ■



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3/27	Najee
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This project is funded and supported in part by the city of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believed that a great nation deserves great art.

## MATT BEARDEN *view from the top banana*

Dust Bowl squalls blasted the makeshift stage between Red River and 12th streets, while the sound of Bouncing Souls bled across the bank of Waller Creek. The bleary-eyed throng (clearly a contingent of cattle rustlers, bandanna-wearing bank robbers, handkerchief-masked anarchists, and Radio-Television-Film undergrads) hung on to the tales imparted by the man with the handlebar mustache. Superficially, the scene was more Steinbeck than Seinfeld, but Okies and teetotalers would have been bummed to find that, rather than a Depression-era tent revival, they had stumbled upon comedian Matt Bearden's commanding Fun Fun Fun Fest set shortly before festival headliners Tim and Eric Awesome Show. This is not to proclaim the Nov. 9 Waterloo Park gig Bearden's greatest performance, but his masterful ability to roll with the punches and win over any "room" allowed him to nimbly hurdle the howling wind, literal mud in the eye, nearby punk raucousness, and some initially ambivalent bodies. It was just another example of Bearden's seasoned chops and one more reason why he was voted Best Comedian in the *Chronicle's* "Best of Austin" 2008 Readers Poll. "Fun Fun Fun Fest made me wish I had money in the hoodie market," Bearden opines. "Honestly, comedy and the outdoors are hot death. Two days of beer and dust-huffing doesn't help, but I ended up having a blast.

Seriously. I love those Red Rivery crowds, especially when a hipster laughs until he pisses his girl-jeans." The comment exposes his typical lack of favored-nation status for punch lines, which includes putting himself squarely in the crosshairs and peppering his act with genuine self-deprecation.

Onstage, Bearden favors long-form routines and is hyperarticulate, speaking quickly and with a slightly nasal cadence tinged with the lightest Southern drawl that is the epitome of Austin slackitude. His father worked in the oil business, so Bearden moved more than a dozen times among his native Houston, Brownsville, and LaFayette, La., before moving to Austin in 1990 to attend the University of Texas. Since then, the comedian has been a linchpin of Austin's improv and stand-up scenes. His improv tenure includes the mid-Nineties troupe Monks' Night Out, as well as tutelage from Mick Napier of Chicago's Second City and Annoyance Theatre and the late Del Close (widely credited as the godfather of contemporary improv).

After playing the character Quinton on the late-Nineties MTV series *Austin Stories*, Bearden moved to L.A. for a brief stint. He's forthright about being green at the time and playing the Hollywood game poorly, but he realized that even with more showbiz seasoning, he wasn't likely to cotton to the com-

pany town. "I remember seeing Zach Galifianakis after he crashed some 'please hire our nonworking talent' showcase some management company hosted. He went up at the end and was far and away my favorite," beams Bearden. "After the show I was eavesdropping on this suit-and-glasses producer type. Zach walks by, and the dude is all, 'That guy was terrible!' People complain a lot about how much crap stand-up is out there, but they're only watching it on TV, and that dude is the one pulling the strings. It's really frustrating."

Upon returning to the town he's always considered home, Bearden became a principal behind the short-lived Bad Dog Comedy Theater (a crown jewel of a club which Bearden is loath to discuss) and pursued stand-up with a renewed fervency. He won the 2002 Funniest Person in Austin contest hosted by Cap City Comedy Club and has since racked up a panoply of film and TV credits, as well as a reputation as a gifted comic and event emcee. Asked about his storytelling style, the thirtysomething newlywed affectedly replies: "I hate answering this question! But I guess my biggest influences are Led Zeppelin, Neutral Milk Hotel, and some jazz giant. There. Does that make my band sound cool?"



SANDY CARSON

Seriously though, if people appreciate reading and get depressed in a Wal-Mart, they'll probably enjoy what I do. Funny, I think I just described the exact opposite of the average comedy-club patron." — Steve Birmingham

Matt Bearden performs Friday & Saturday, Dec. 26 & 27, 8 & 10:30pm, at Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research. For more information, call 467-2333 or visit [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com) or [www.mattbearden.com](http://www.mattbearden.com).

## AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Duck! Those Karamazovs are flying this way.

It's been a year of formidable musical challenges for the Austin Symphony Orchestra: Beethoven's *Ninth*, Brahms' *Fourth*, Christopher Theofanidis' *Field of Infinite Forms*, playing with Yo-Yo Ma. But ASO may have saved the biggest for the last two nights of 2008: playing with the Flying Karamazov Brothers. I mean, how can one be expected to play serious music with these zanies constantly throwing gags (and occasionally mallets) at one?

The Ks, a primo juggling and vaudeville team for 35 years, have lately turned to abusing orchestras with a concert that includes J.S. Bach's *Two-Part Invention #4* performed on marimba by two Karamazovs juggling three mallets each (as Johann originally intended it, they claim); an homage to Japanese *taiko* drumming played on meticulously tuned cardboard boxes; Mozart's *First Bassoon Concerto* played on the euphonium; and Rossini's *William Tell* transformed into a hip-hop comic ballet. If you've yet to witness a corps of classical musicians crack up or just want to close out the year in convulsions of laughter, this concert is highly recommended.

— Robert Faires

The Austin Symphony's Holiday Pops featuring the Flying Karamazov Brothers takes place Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 30 & 31, 8pm, at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 476-6064 or visit [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org).



## THE LAST FIVE YEARS

### A musical whose time has come

New Year's Eve is a bittersweet holiday, a time to reflect on what was and to hope for what may be. So what better way to ring it in than to catch a performance of *The Last Five Years*, a musical that celebrates both the beginning and the end of a relationship? This lover's tale is told two ways simultaneously: Jamie tells his version forward, Cathy tells her version backward, and at some point during the course of their stories, the lovers meet in the middle. The *Chronicle* chatted with director Michael McKelvey about his upcoming production of Jason Robert Brown's award-winning musical, a collaborative effort between Austin Playhouse and Penfold Theatre Company that opens on New Year's Eve.

— Hannah Kenah

**Austin Chronicle:** What drew you to *The Last Five Years*?

**Michael McKelvey:** I have been a fan of Jason Robert Brown's music for six years or so. This was the show that everyone really loved but no one was producing. It had a kind of cult following. It was through the encouragement of some important people in my life, the generosity of Don Toner and Austin Playhouse, and support of my friends at Penfold that we are able to make this terrific show happen.

**AC:** How did you deal with the crisscross time structure?

**MM:** I think that between discussions with the actors and production

team we have come up with some very clever ways to handle their two separate worlds while maintaining a connection between them.

**AC:** A two-person musical is no slight task for the performers. How has it been to work with David Gallagher and Annika Johansson?

**MM:** They have very strong chemistry. The final callback got a little steamy.

**AC:** What will this musical teach us about love?

**MM:** That's a loaded question. My hope is that every show I work on will allow the audience members to learn or reconnect with something in themselves. This show views all

of the various sides of a relationship: love, friendship, pain, miscommunication, selfishness, selflessness. You name it, it's in here. I think a lesson I have learned is the necessity for two people to truly be open, communicate, and share. We all talk about it, but to what extent do we really do it?

**AC:** Any final thoughts on what sets *The Last Five Years* apart from the crowd?

**MM:** I just think this is a show that adults, young and old, should see. Composers aren't writing shows with thoughtful adult themes anymore. The only ones I can think of are filled with some poignant songs but surrounded by comedy numbers so the show won't get too heavy. Sure, there are some heavy moments in this show, but they are surrounded by songs that contain clever lyrics and tuneful melodies that you will remember for days following. Here is a chance for people to see a mature evening of music theatre.

*The Last Five Years* runs Dec. 31-Jan. 18, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 5pm, at the Larry L. King Theatre at Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C. For more information, call 476-0084 or visit [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com) or [www.penfoldtheatre.org](http://www.penfoldtheatre.org).

# Celebrate This City

Dave Sullivan provides new direction for First Night Austin

BY ROBERT FAIRES

If anyone understands First Night – its potential for bringing a city together in a single communal celebration as well as the logistical challenges in producing such a monumental event – it's Dave Sullivan. He was on hand for First Night's conception in 1976 and saw what was initially intended as an event for just one community (Boston) and one specific celebration (the Bicentennial) evolve into an annual attempt to, as he puts it, "turn the whole New Year's Eve concept upside down." First Night took an evening geared largely toward adults consuming alcohol and made it a time for families to revel in art and culture. From serving as director of corporate relations for First Night Boston, Sullivan jumped to First Night International, the organization that now authorizes and monitors the event in more than 100 cities nationwide and dozens more outside the U.S. This summer he left his position as executive director there to become executive director of First Night Austin.

He's bringing that organization some welcome stability. In First Night Austin's first four years, it's seen three changes in leadership, which has led to some lack of continuity in the organization's direction. Sullivan has spent the last six months not just familiarizing himself with Austin and preparing for this year's event on Dec. 31 but also developing a new direction for First Night Austin, which he described for the *Chronicle* at the First Night Austin offices on Dec. 12.

**Dave Sullivan:** This board of directors did an incredible job of preparing for me to arrive here. Their search was mostly within the borders of Austin, and I was the fluke that showed up. I had posted the job notice at First Night International, and I read the posting, and in my head I went, "Do you have one more event in you, Dave?" So I applied. The irony here is I signed the license to make First Night Austin happen. I saw Ann Graham's name and Anne Elizabeth [Wynn]'s name, and I went through the paperwork and said, "Do this and this and this," and now here I am running the event. Who woulda thunk it?

**Austin Chronicle:** How has your first year been so far?

**DS:** I think the best way to describe it is to tell you the stats. We did a call to artists in the spring and received the second largest number of submissions of any city ever: 168. We have 70 performances and installations. I have employed 800 artists. And over 50 percent of our performers are from underserved populations. Most of my artists are from East Austin, and I'm saying, "Why not?" Why not? I said, if I couldn't get Manor [Road] and I couldn't get East Austin and I couldn't get the South of Austin, if I couldn't get these places in here to celebrate this urban core, then I would bail. So in my selection process, I was really thinking about the geographics, and I'm really pleased about what we're doing.

We have grown our procession from 20 elements last year to 33 or 34 elements this year, and we're taking the procession down Congress, but this year when we turn it west on Cesar Chavez, it's going to go past City Hall, around the trees, over the bridge, under the bridge, and all of the art in the procession will become the arts wall around the outside of Auditorium Shores.

**AC:** Will this year's event feel different?

**DS:** Yes. Comparisons can get you into trouble. When you're looking at stuff, you can't always say, "This is better than last year." But as a businessman, I have to make it better or different every year. That's what First Night is all about.

I want there to be a vibrancy that touches a number of different elements at the same time. So this year, I have drumming of different cultures happening throughout this entire event, when you least expect it. So you might be walking down the street, and an African drum corps will come by or a hip-hop group will go in the other direction. The idea is to hit the heart. That's why drumming is something every single culture has; it's so rhythmic, and the connection brings people together, and there's a warmth to it.

My experiment this year is: You can come to this event and be part of a workshop to learn something, but be careful, because at a particular point, a banner may come over, and your group that's doing the workshop may end up performing on the First Street Bridge.

With the procession, I've brought back some whimsical things because I really do have a whimsical sense about things. The Bibliophiles [the book-cart drill team from the Austin Public Library] are coming back, but we also have the Texas Rollergirls, and the Rollergirls are going to protect the water. And I was so struck by the passion of a lot of the nonprofits in town that we're going to have 25 nonprofits in a group called Lights on a Nonprofit. There's going to be a pedicab going through this group, and at a particular point, a spotlight is going to come on, and an executive director of a nonprofit is going to get in the pedicab and tell the crowd what he does. All of these groups have young professional groups that support their nonprofits, and they're all coming out festooned in things that have to do with lighting. For example, Emancipet is going to have a float, and some of the people are going to be wearing those surgical dog collars with lights all the way around them. I mean, how fun can that be? And their creativity is just beyond the energy there. If it isn't artistic, I don't want it. And "artistic" isn't a snobby word to me. "Artistic" is just get what's in here [points to himself] and put it out.

Keep the Night Alive is an outreach program we've created with Theatre Action Project. It's been going on since September in 34 different



Dave Sullivan

BRET BROOKSHIRE

schools. Over a hundred students have been busily making creatures of the night – lit-up spiders and lit-up bats and that sort of thing. There have been lantern-making workshops in H-E-B stores, our major sponsor, and we'll have a lantern-making project the day of the event, so if you want to make a lantern, you can be part of the procession. Why can't you be part of the procession? Everybody should.

**AC:** You've mentioned turning First Night into more than just one event one day a year.

**DS:** In our artist selection this year, we wanted to see the component of outreach at three to four months, because after this event is over, where we're moving is into incubations and think tanks. I'm presently in negotiations about creating something on the radio called *Doughnuts With Dave*. It's not about me. It's about artists talking about empowering communities and what they can do together. The idea is to listen to the artists who have a point of view, whether it's Randy Jewart [of Austin Green Art] or [First Night artist] Johnny Walker or any of these other artists. They have a voice, and their voice is about their art. I want to create as many platforms as possible.

I have plans to do other events during the year. I think the thankfulness of Thanksgiving has potential. What if we came up with an idea similar to [WaterFire on the rivers in Providence, R.I.]? We have beautiful kayaks. Wouldn't it be great to light the kayaks up, and they would come out into the water, and maybe there's spiritual music and this concept of people coming together after everybody has burped up their turkey – to come together as a community and give thanks for where we are. That's not political. That's not religious. That's people taking another moment in time and saying, "You know, we're unique and glad to be here." I see that as some of our purpose: to do things that are elements of art that bring us together.

There are other things that we're going to be doing to celebrate Austin. It's very important to celebrate this city. It's a phenomenal city. There's a vibrancy happening here, and that's why I think First Night Austin will always go on and will continue to build. ■

## FIRST NIGHT 2009 SCHEDULE

### FAMILY FESTIVAL, 3-6PM ONGOING ALL AFTERNOON

- Save Our Springs Puppet Show:** City Hall lobby  
**Circo de Fuego – The Waterloo Juggling Academy:** Esplanade, 3-5:30pm  
**HOOPiNG for ALL:** First Street Bridge, 3-5:30pm  
**Deborah Orr – Banner/Tapestry Project:** First Street Bridge, 3-5:30pm  
**Theatre Action Project – Keep the Night Alive!** Auditorium Shores  
**H-E-B – Mad Hatter Hat-Making Workshop:** Auditorium Shores and Buford Tower  
**Olivia Junell – One Thousand Cranes:** Esplanade  
**Clint Wilson – Live Screen Printing Demonstration:** Esplanade  
**Dave Umlas – Resolution Clock: A Change in Time:** Auditorium Shores

### 3-3:30pm

- Wings! – We Are Many, We Are One:** City Hall Plaza stage, 3-3:30pm  
**The Love of China School of Chinese Dance Performance:** City Hall Council Chambers, 3-3:30pm  
**Metamorphosis Arte – The Migration of the Monarch Butterfly:** Auditorium Shores, 3-3:30pm  
**SaulPaul Presents Music in 3-D:** Longhorn Stage, 3-3:45pm  
**A Close Encounter with Rah Amen:** Esplanade, 3-4pm  
**Capoeira:** HBMG Theatre, 3-3:30pm  
**The Blue Hit:** First Responder Stage, 3:15-4pm

### 3:30-4pm

- Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band:** First Street Bridge, 3:30-4pm  
**Austin Shakespeare – World's Fastest Hamlet!** HBMG Theatre, 3:30-4pm  
**Biscuit Brothers – Autograph Signing:** Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 3:30-5pm  
**The Cipher: Austin's Hip-Hop Project:** City Hall Plaza stage, 3:45-4:20pm  
**Drishti Dancers:** City Hall Council Chambers, 3:45-4:15pm

### 4-4:30pm

- Wings! – We Are Many, We Are One:** Longhorn Stage, 4-4:45pm  
**Lisali Ridley – Learn Photoshop Workshop:** HBMG Theatre, 4-4:30pm  
**Graham Reynolds & the Golden Arm Trio – DUKE!** One Congress Plaza, 4-4:30pm  
**Metamorphosis Arte – The Migration of the Monarch Butterfly:** First Street Bridge, 4:15-4:45pm  
**SaulPaul Presents Music in 3-D:** First Responder Stage, 4:20-5:05pm

CONTINUED ON P.34

### Location Key:

- One Congress Plaza,** 111 Congress  
**City Hall,** 301 W. Second  
**Esplanade,** 200 block of West Cesar Chavez  
**HBMG Theatre,** under the First Street Bridge (south end)  
**Longhorn Stage,** South First at Riverside  
**Auditorium Shores,** 920 W. Riverside  
**First Responder Stage,** west end of Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside



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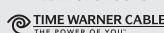


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### 4:30-5pm

**The Love of China School of Chinese Dance Performance:**  
City Hall Council Chambers, 4:30-5pm  
**DA! Theatre Collective – Heron and Crane:** HBMG Theatre,  
4:30-5pm  
**George Powell & Friends:** City Hall Plaza stage, 4:45-5:15pm  
**The Blue Hit:** One Congress Plaza, 4:45-5:15pm

### 5-5:30pm

**Connie Kirk & New Testament Choir:** City Hall lobby, 5-5:30pm  
**Nicole Whiteside – Fabric of the Hour:** City Hall lobby,  
5-5:30pm  
**Starling Experiments – Metamorphosis:**  
Longhorn Stage, 5-5:45pm  
**Lannaya West African Drum and Dance Ensemble's Rhythmic  
Celebration:** City Hall Council Chambers, 5:15-5:45pm  
**El Tule:** First Responder Stage, 5:25-6pm

### 5:30-6pm

**Graham Reynolds & the Golden Arm Trio – DUKE!:**  
One Congress Plaza, 5:30-6pm  
**Lisali Ridley – Learn Photoshop Workshop:**  
HBMG Theatre, 5:30-6pm

### 6-6:30pm

**Austin Shakespeare – World's Fastest Hamlet!:**  
HBMG Theatre, 6-6:30pm

## GRAND PROCESSION, 6-7PM

Parade from Seventh and Congress to Cesar Chavez, west to City Hall, then across the First Street Bridge to Auditorium Shores with Grand Marshals the Biscuit Brothers in the giant H-E-B shopping cart. Also marching by will be Big Chief Kevin; the Texas Rollergirls; the Austin Walkin' Band; the Austin Public Library Bibliophiles, Austin's book-cart drill team; 150 life-sized puppets from Totally Cool, Totally Art; even bigger puppets from Metamorphosis Arte and Vortex Repertory Company; hula-hoop marchers with HOOPCIRCLE; a giant snake and praying mantis from Austin Bike Zoo; the Texas Juggling Society; stilt-walkers from Cubensi; the Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band; Drishti Dancers; Rah Amen drummers; art carts created by students from the Austin Independent School District; and much more.

## EVENING PROGRAM: ONGOING ALL EVENING

**Marie Catrett – "I Will: Austin Resolutions":**  
Radisson Hotel facade, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 6-11:45pm  
**Richard Phillips – Interactive Light Painting:**  
City Hall exterior and Buford Tower, 6pm-12mid  
**Elliot Terral – Various Permutations, Colored (Austin):**  
City Hall exterior, 6pm-12mid  
**John Van Strien – Chromatic Dance Experience:**  
Auditorium Shores, 6pm-12mid  
**Christina Campbell – Aquabioluminescence: A Reflection:**  
Lady Bird Lake, 8pm-12mid  
**Austin Bike Zoo:** First Street Bridge, 8pm-12mid

### 7:15-8pm

**Chorus Austin Consort – Hope Lies Beyond a Sunset:**  
First Responder Stage, 7:15-7:45pm  
**A Change in Time: Family Finale:** First Responder Stage,  
7:50-8pm

### 8-8:30pm

**Metamorphosis Arte – The Migration  
of the Monarch Butterfly:**  
First Street Bridge, 8-8:30pm  
**Lannaya West African Drum and  
Dance Ensemble's Rhythmic  
Celebration:** Esplanade, 8-8:30pm  
**Spank Dance Company  
– Light in the New Year!:**  
One Congress Plaza, 8-8:30pm  
**Chorus Austin Consort  
– Hope Lies Beyond a Sunset:**  
First Responder Stage, 8:05-8:15pm

### 8:30-9pm

**Asylum Street Spankers  
– What? And Give Up Show Biz?:**  
City Hall Plaza stage, 8:30-9pm  
**Many Birthdays:** First Responder  
Stage, 8:30-9pm  
**Trouble Puppet Theater Company – A  
Perplexing Puppetry Puzzle:** City  
Hall Council Chambers, 8:30-9pm  
**Connie Kirk & New Testament Choir:**  
City Hall lobby, 8:45-9:15pm  
**Nicole Whiteside – Fabric of the Hour:** City Hall lobby, 8:45-9:15pm  
**Biscuit Brothers:** Longhorn Stage, 8:45-9:25pm  
**Chorus Austin Consort – Hope Lies Beyond a Sunset:**  
Esplanade, 8:45-9:15pm  
**Austin Chinese Choir:** One Congress  
Plaza, 8:45-9:15pm



Rehearsal for Light in the New Year!

BRET BROOKSHIRE

## Dancing Over Lights on Congress Avenue

In a packed rehearsal studio, Ellen Bartel fields dancers' questions about her concept. "Are we spooky?" one asks. "Should we smile?" questions another. The choreographer explains that, despite black costuming, the mood she's going for in her site-specific First Night work is one of peace. Levity. Clarity. Optimism. That said, with no fourth wall – the dancing will take place outside at 100 Congress in the midst of the First Night crowd – anything can happen. "I'm going to try to mentally prepare you for people being right in your face," she tells the dancers, who sit on the floor, some stretching, others drinking coffee, a few furrowing their brows.

Bartel doesn't want to commit to details yet, but this much is clear: Nearly 40 dancers, lit from below by the ground-level lights at the site, will do 20 minutes of structured improv. That means the dancers make up their own movements based on themes explored in rehearsals, but simultaneous changes in dynamics will be choreographed. "The beginning will have lots of stillnesses, and then we'll build into an improv where there's vocalization and more dynamics, where they may be running back and forth," says Bartel. Each dancer will use a length of black tulle both as a prop and a costume piece. Live music by local musicians Adam Sultan and Miss Darlene, over strategically placed speakers, will create a "wall of sound."

Bartel says she has always visualized dancers over the lights. Four years ago, when she first submitted her idea to First Night, it was rejected, mainly for budget reasons. (She had factored in pay for the dancers.) This year, she halved the cost and put out a call for volunteer performers, no dance skills necessary. She had no trouble getting women to sign up – curiously, no men responded – and all do have some movement experience.

"What I think will happen is that it will feel like the sidewalk is hovering," Bartel says, emphasizing that the piece is designed as much for passersby as for those who stop to watch the whole thing. Depending on their viewpoint, she says, spectators may connect with an individual dancer or be witness to moments of synchronicity that seem spontaneous. "I expect people to be really into it, to be honest."

– Jonelle Seitz

*Light in the New Year! will be performed at 8 & 9:30pm outside 100 Congress.*

## ONGOING ALL DAY, 3PM-12MID

**Solomon Perry – 3-D Illusion Chalk Art:**  
City Hall exterior  
**Framing the Masters:** City Hall exterior  
**Party Booth Pix:** City Hall exterior  
**Megan Reilly/L. Renee Nunez – Regenerate:**  
Triangle Island  
**Cory Skuldt – Wool Room:** First Street Bridge  
**John Rossini – Vertical Xylophone:**  
First Street Bridge  
**Barna Kantor – Public Address:**  
First Street Bridge and Auditorium Shores  
**Danielle and Jason Mika – Re:Growth:**  
Auditorium Shores  
**Johnny Walker – Acoustic Chandelier:**  
Auditorium Shores at the Pagoda  
**Lindsey Bailey – Sugarrush. Wishspace:**  
Auditorium Shores

### 10-10:30pm

**Austin Chinese Choir:** City Hall Plaza stage, 10-10:30pm  
**The Blue Hit:** City Hall Council Chambers, 10-10:30pm  
**Asylum Street Spankers – What? And Give Up Show Biz?:**  
One Congress Plaza, 10-10:30pm  
**Chorus Austin Consort – Hope Lies Beyond a Sunset:**  
City Hall lobby, 10:15-10:45pm

### 10:30-11pm

**Many Birthdays:** First Responder Stage, 10:30-11pm  
**Cosmic Intuition:** City Hall Plaza stage, 10:45-11:15pm  
**Stage Sanchar – Naatakam:** City Hall Council Chambers,  
10:45-11:15pm  
**Starling Experiments – Metamorphosis:** Longhorn Stage,  
10:45-11:30pm

### 11pm

**Trouble Puppet Theater Company – A Perplexing Puppetry Puzzle:**  
City Hall lobby, 11-11:30pm

### 11:30pm-12mid

**Paul Green School of Rock:** First Responder Stage, 11:30-11:55pm  
**Grand Finale:** Lady Bird Lake, 12mid

**DON'T STOP BELIEVIN':  
HOW KARAOKE CONQUERED THE  
WORLD AND CHANGED MY LIFE**

by Brian Raftery  
Da Capo Press, 223 pp., \$16 (paper)

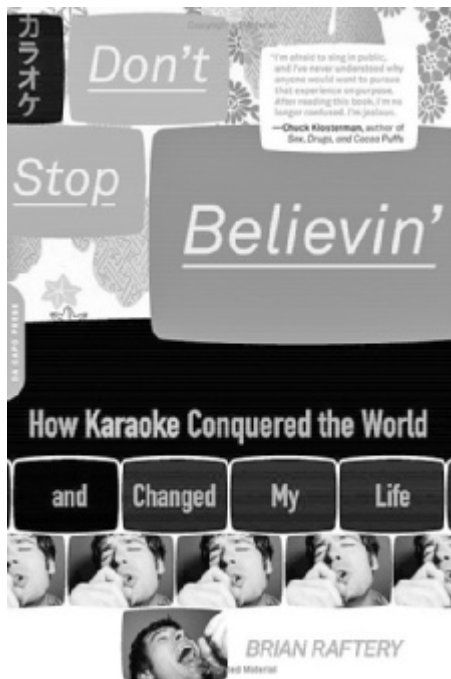
"Conquered the world?"  
I don't know about "conquered the world." Even I, admitted karaoke fanatic, drawn like moth to flame to those stanzas onscreen, would be hard-pressed to place it anywhere higher than halfway up the imaginary scale of cultural juggernauts: say, between the iPod and the Swiffer. Not that karaoke hasn't made inroads in hostile turf. Let's just agree that karaoke's warbling durability has definitely neutralized the sting of its detractors. Finally.

The breathless embellishment of his subtle notwithstanding, Brian Raftery once and for all issues the last, perhaps unintentional salvo in the bizarre culture war between karaoke lovers and haters: "To make fun of karaoke now would be about as timely and relevant as making fun of Marilyn Quayle's pillbox hats."

No kidding. For years, those of us wooed by the power of the "empty orchestra" have had to endure the pithy snark of oppressive music purists and jerks in general who could never understand why anyone in her right mind would want (sometimes pay) to watch fellow marginally talented individuals work out 15-minutes-of-fame fantasies in rooms full of strangers. The perfect marriage of irony and sincerity. From its early beginnings in Asia to its eventual migration to the Western Hemisphere, karaoke has been a lonely road for many of its devotees. And while how-tos, explorations, and ethnographies of it do exist, no one has ever really charted karaoke's curious westward trend. Until now.

For the first time, someone has bothered to research the touchstones of the genre and gather them all in one place. Raftery traveled the K-boxes of the planet to track down a better understanding of the music and its various cultural contexts. As a karaoke chronology, *Don't Stop Believin'* is encyclopedic, rich with interviews and details usually reserved for more academic tomes. Raftery tracks down inadvertent karaoke inventor Daisuke Inoue, as well as the major players behind production giants such as Sound Choice and the Singing Machine and brave (or crazy) club owners who pioneered the trend in its most wincing early incarnations in California and New York. In the introduction, the author even demystifies a bit of karaokeana lore, that yes, the Eagles' Don Henley (among other artists) forbids the translation of his work into karaoke. "Clearly, Henley's famous '80s-era ponytail was merely the mop head on a stick lodged far up his butt."

Raftery's own memoirs are the threads that bind the nonlinear chronology together. Like karaoke itself, this first-person reckoning – often documenting carousing with his best friend and karaoke mentor, Mike – is at times insightful ("Much like the porn business, the karaoke business operates in the shadow of its more mainstream counterpart"), probing ("I never know what to do when 'nigga' comes on the screen"), and even occasionally painfully awkward ("I became so tipsily consumed with an old Phil Collins tune that



she had to call the concierge, declaring a 'karaoke emergency' in our room").  
The self-indulgence is built into the book's structure, as Raftery reveals big chunks of his life story throughout "Adventures in Karaoke," minichapters inserted between the history detailing personal relationships with songs, one song per chapter. Sometimes, however, his self-indulgence distracts. For example, he has a real chip on his shoulder about baby boomers, which makes his lame-ass Eighties-centric framing as annoying as it is ill-informed. (Dude, there was life before *Alf*.)

Despite the book's schizophrenic desire to be both history and personal vignette (and this book makes a case for a coffee-table-worthy volume, with pictures and lists: Brian, have your people call my people), *Don't Stop* is at its best when it goes deep. When Raftery goes behind the scenes to profile people such as the artist who translates the sweep to text on the screen or when he devotes an entire chapter to Pioneer's early karaoke videos (which were low-budget MTV knockoffs), these artifacts of karaoke culture do not simply exist in the book as winks and nudges to us karaoke insiders: These are full-body hugs, embraces ... validation.

In finding his holy karaoke grail, Raftery also comes away with a better understanding of himself ... or at least a certain peace with his rather twisted fascination. At the end of the book, Raftery includes two lists: "Fifty Songs I'll Never Stop Singing at Karaoke" and "Thirty Songs I'll Never Find at Karaoke," a knowing and generous gesture, as much is revealed by a karaoke-er's song selection. Most intimately, he shares with us the moment he reached his personal crossroads, right after a fairly gentle karaoke deflowering: "I'd spent the last few years being terrified of karaoke. What else had I been wrong about?" – Kate X Messer

Kate X Messer is, in addition to her various duties here at the Chronicle, the host of the paper's annual holiday party karaoke and occasional KJ around town when the mood suits. Her own karaoke lists are up on our blogs: *The Gay Place Blog*, [www.austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog](http://www.austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog), and *Under the Covers*, [www.austinchronicle.com/underthecovers](http://www.austinchronicle.com/underthecovers).

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# after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

**A LIGHT DEBATE** All right, how do we really feel about the new holiday lights Downtown? For nine years I've been ragging on the city about its hideously tacky and tinselly decorations, and finally we see a change. But do we like it? It's true that the retired decorations should be publicly destroyed so that they can no longer harm anyone's sense of style – perhaps a bonfire at **Festival Beach** where every concerned citizen will be allowed to add more fuel to the fire as he or she sees fit until the offensive and tawdry decorations are nothing but a dim memory. The new lights? Well, they don't exactly make me yearn for tinsel, but nor do they make me feel as if driving up the grand thoroughfare of **Congress Avenue** was like entering the **Kingdom of Heaven** on Christmas morning. And that's really what I expect out of holiday decorations. I mean, if the lights don't make you feel festive, then they're not doing their job. Let's take a look at the new lights that span Congress, shall we? I remember the first time I realized they were up, it was twilight, and I couldn't really tell enough about them except that they were the new, efficient LED lights. I've truly gotten to love the LED lights – the big tree outside of **Sago** ([www.sagomodernmexican.com](http://www.sagomodernmexican.com), the fabulous modern Mexican food restaurant in the **Triangle**) is so brilliant it reminds me of the **Ginza** district in Tokyo ... or at least of **Times Square**. So I rather expected that when I viewed the new lights on Congress under the proper circumstances (in the dark), they would dazzle in the night and sparkle like there was no tomorrow. Traveling the length of Congress, including stopping for red lights, I saw the sort of dim mauve and light-blue lights skittering in skinny chasing patterns above me for a brief period, then they just stayed sort of mauve-ish as I traversed the rest of the avenue. Am I missing something here? Was I perhaps supposed to drive up and down Congress many times in repetition to see the



COURTESY OF MICAH KING

**Moët Hennessy's Ed Kukul, renowned artist Graydon Parrish, Texas Advocacy Project's Heath Riddles, and ASA Development Director Marilyn Willson at ASA's last Red Ribbon Dinner of 2008 at Zoot**

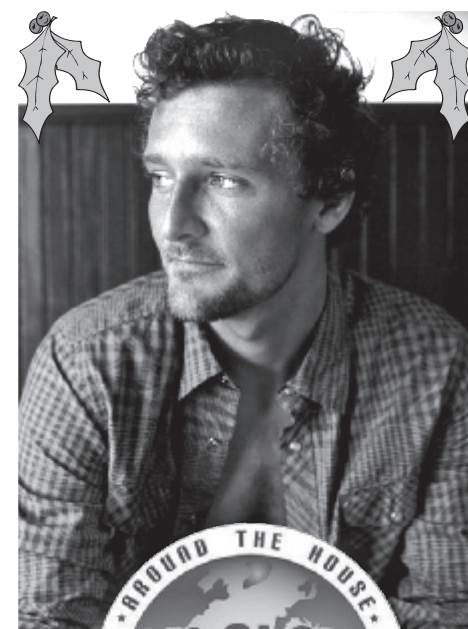
array of colors and tricks of the lights in their full glory? I'm afraid I'm too busy for that. Is it too late to return them and order new ones? Perhaps it's just the beginning of a grand scheme to annually add to the lights until heaven is created on Congress. The ugly reality is that I have no business criticizing the lights. After annually complaining, I was invited to be in on the selection committee for the new lights ... but I was somewhere far from earth at that time, even if I *wasn't* in heaven. So it's *my* fault that we have this scant display to replace the execrably awful tinsel. I shoulder the blame *entirely*. I should have done something about it when I had the

chance. But no. I was only thinking of myself. So now I ... we have to suffer for it. Forgive me.

**ZOOT SUIT** The last of the fabulous **Red Ribbon Dinners for AIDS Services of Austin** has been given for 2008 ... and it was, of course, divine. How could it *not* be divine when it was at **Zoot** ([www.zootrestaurant.com](http://www.zootrestaurant.com))? Co-owner and co-chef **Stewart Scruggs** is also co-owner of the fabulous **Wink** ([www.winkrestaurant.com](http://www.winkrestaurant.com)) and is one of the founders of ASA's Red Ribbon Dinner Series and has seen it turn into a hugely successful fundraiser. Attracting co-spon-

sors such as **Glazer's Distributors** and **Moët Hennessy**, these dinners always bring together a wide array of supporters from the ridiculous (me) to the sublime (**Robert F. Dailey**, who invited me). Speaking of which, the next Red Ribbon Dinner begins the 2009 series at **Wink** in January, and ASA's always fabulous **Viva Las Vegas** fundraiser is Saturday, Feb. 21, 8pm-12mid at the **Austin Music Hall**. This year's Viva will have a fashion show ... at which I will be making some sort of tragic appearance (tix and further details of these upcoming events are available at [www.asaustin.org](http://www.asaustin.org)).

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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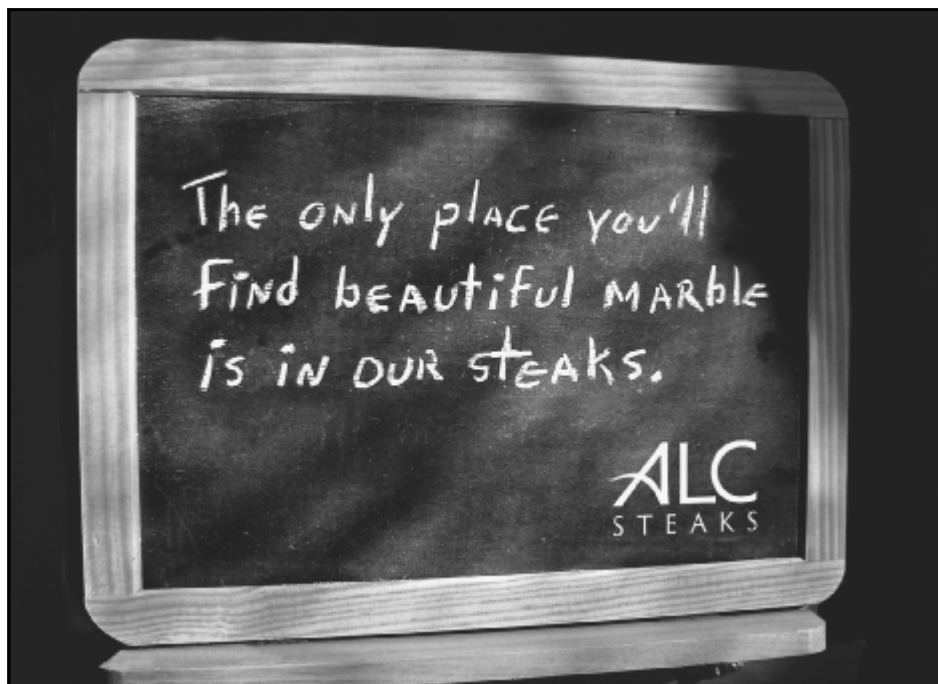
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## PARTY WINES

This year we're putting the premium on price, looking for wines that are consistently great values for the money. Wine serves two purposes during holiday parties: It's sipped as an aperitif, mainly to go along with conversation, and/or it's drunk in the traditional manner, with a meal. The former requires generous fruitiness with medium acidity, while the latter requires good acidity to cleanse the palate.

Sparkling wines are always a great aperitif. New Mexico's **Gruet Winery** makes the country's best sparkling wine less than \$15. Its **Blanc de Noirs** (\$13) is an outstanding wine full of ripe fruit flavors and tiny bubbles. **J Cuvée 20 Brut** (\$25) is a step up with more pronounced acidity, which makes it an ideal food wine. Splurgers have the world of true Champagne open to them, and there are dozens of brands available in the Austin area. **Bollinger Special Cuvée** (\$45) is my favorite less than \$75 for its massive, toasty aromas and perfectly balanced fruit and acid.

White aperitif wines should have plenty of acid; their balance should be just slightly tilted toward fruit. Most American white wines are made for this, so finding a good option should be simple. We have a bunch of great options right here in Texas.

**Ste. Genevieve's Fumé Chardonnay** (\$8 for a big bottle!) is a wine that can fool a lot of folks. Made from 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Chardonnay, it is simply yummy. **Fall Creek Vineyards' Caché** (\$20) is a blend of several aromatic grapes with just a hint of residual sugar to make it an easy drinker. California's **Bogle Chardonnay** (\$8) is a crowd-pleaser with an understated oakiness and a very smooth finish.

Red aperitif wines have similar requirements. The balance should be just slightly toward fruity. Syrah is an ideal grape, and one of the best for the price is the **Columbia Crest Two Vines Shiraz** (\$9). It comes from Washington state's Columbia River Valley, an area with the long, hot, dry days the grape loves. **Peter Lehmann's Barossa Shiraz** (\$14) is an order of magnitude greater, in all ways. Depth, density, aromas, smoothness, you name it, this wine has it. Texans in a nationalistic mood can safely pick up a bottle of **Becker Vineyards Cabernet-Syrah Reserve** (\$22), a lusty bottle sure to pick up the conversation ("This is from Texas?!").

Food wines require more acids, allowing them to cleanse the palate between bites. It's also necessary to tone down the fruit and the oak; this is supposed to be wine, not a side dish. Food wines are tougher tests of the winemaker's art, so they sometimes cost more. One useful hint is to look for European wines (often referred to as "Old World" style), 99% of which are food

wines, and with the dollar getting a tad more valuable, you can find good values in these wines.

**Masi Masianco** (\$12) and **Gentil "Hugel"** (\$12) both provide the spark of delicious acidity that makes the food taste fresh after each sip. The Hugel has a bit more aromatic fruit, while the Masi wins on mouthfeel and finish. Chile has a few die-hard, Old World-style wineries left. Cousiño-Macul sits near the top of that list, and its **Doña Isidora Riesling** (\$10) has a generous, applelike fruit balance and tangy acidity.

The same recommendations hold for food-friendly red wines. Chilean winery Concha y Toro makes the delicious **Casillero del Diablo Carménère** (\$9). The best values in French red wines come from the Rhone Valley, home to **Paul Jaboulet Aîné's Parallèle 45** (\$10), a wine like black pepper on strawberries. A bit harder to find but worth a search is **Romana Carlo's Dolcetto Brich dij Nor** (\$18), a wonderful example of Piedmont Dolcetto.

— Wes Marshall



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## Shopping List

### Sparklers

Gruet Blanc de Noirs (\$13)  
J Cuvée 20 Brut (\$25)  
Bollinger Special Cuvée (\$45)

### Aperitif White Wines

Ste. Genevieve Fumé Chardonnay (\$8 for a big bottle!)  
Bogle Chardonnay (\$8)  
Fall Creek Vineyards Caché (\$20)

### Aperitif Red Wines

Columbia Crest Two Vines Shiraz (\$9)  
Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz (\$14)  
Becker Vineyards Cabernet-Syrah Reserve (\$22)

### Food-Friendly Whites

Cousiño-Macul Doña Isidora Riesling (\$10)  
Masi Masianco (\$12)  
Gentil "Hugel" (\$12)

### Food-Friendly Reds

Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Carménère (\$9)  
Paul Jaboulet Aîné Parallèle 45 (\$10)  
Romana Carlo Dolcetto Brich dij Nor (\$18)

## Event Menu: Dec. 28-31

- **Z'Tejas Grill** (1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355) presents the **Art of the Cocktail** with distinctive cocktails created by Topsy Texan blogger **David Alan**. Live music and half-price appetizers will complement the sophisticated cocktail menu every Sunday night. Sunday, Dec. 28, 5pm to close.
- After wandering for almost two years, those wacky girls from **Ararat Mid-East Fusion** have finally found a permanent kitchen Downtown. They'll celebrate their new home upstairs at **Headhunters** (Eighth & Red River, [www.headhuntersclub.com](http://www.headhuntersclub.com)) on New Year's Eve with the full Ararat Experience (food, tarot readings, henna painting, palm reading, hookah lounge for \$15 per person before 11pm and \$10 after) and then serve dinner there Thursday through Saturday evenings starting in January. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8pm-2am.

## food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

This has been a difficult year for the Austin food community, and I for one am very glad it's coming to a close. This column isn't filled with holiday cheer, but I'm hoping the act of writing these things down and sharing them will have the desired cathartic effect, and I can proceed into the new year with a lighter heart and more creative energy for positive stories. I've written more obituaries for friends, colleagues, and businesses in 2008 than in any other of my 15 years here. There have been heartbreaking suicides, unexpected heart attacks, deadly auto accidents, and a senseless murder. I wasn't acquainted with the two gentlemen who died this month – financial planner **Charles Willis**, a recent culinary school graduate who had contacted me a few weeks before his death with a story pitch, and **Steiner Ranch Steakhouse** general manager **Chris Martin**, who was murdered by a disgruntled former employee. But within hours of each death, I was made aware of how few degrees of separation there had been between us by friends or acquaintances who knew and respected each man and were greatly saddened by their loss. Reporting regularly on the loss of local independent food businesses and restaurants is also hard, especially when readers beseech us to somehow save the failing business. While I'll grant that media coverage has the potential to influence people and events, I'm pretty skeptical about whether a newspaper story can change basic economic realities. (Ask the **Perez** sisters about this – two years of almost daily coverage of the **Las Manitas/Marriott Hotel** drama only served to delay the inevitable.) As a person who grew up around a family-owned store and then ran a small food business of my own for years, I have some understanding of the complex financial pressures that come with self-employment: There's no automatic paycheck at the end of the month until payroll (and its attendant taxes) is met and suppliers are paid, and it's often necessary to invest any profits back into the business; there are few benefits and rarely any health insurance for owners or employees. Given the rapidly escalating costs of everything from real estate to fuel and food products, coupled with an international economic crisis that's finally being felt here locally, I fully expect there will be more restaurant closures within the coming year before things begin to recover. And while it would be great to be able to save them all, I don't have any personal super powers that can successfully mitigate the financial realities. Just this past week, we received notice of two more closures. Longtime **Mars** owner **Lori Simon** spoke of her sadness at having to close the restaurant just before Christmas after a 15-year run. She explained that after a few months of deficits with no relief in sight, she had met with her financial partners and asked them to find a buyer for the restaurant, which they did. I understand her sense of loss, but I applaud her pragmatism (and good luck) in finding a buyer while the business is still viable rather than taking a chance on an eventual bankruptcy. Look for a group headed by **Lamberts** chef/partner **Larry Maguire** to open a casual seafood restaurant in the prime SoCo spot sometime after the first of the year. And we heard from Hill Country pastry queen **Rebecca Rather** reporting that she plans to close her Fredericksburg fine-dining outlet, **Rebecca's Table**, at the end of this month. Her popular **Rather Sweet Bakery & Cafe** is still going strong, but it seems she couldn't find enough qualified, reliable restaurant employees in the small Hill Country town to run both eateries simultaneously. We regret all the losses described above.

# Beyond Black-Eyed Peas

## New Year's Good-Luck Foods

BY MICK VANN



For as long as I can remember, I have never let a new year begin without consuming the traditional Southern good-luck triad of peas with pork, greens, and cornbread. “Peas for pennies, greens for dollars, and cornbread for gold,” said the old expression. “Eat poor on New Year’s, and eat fat the rest of the year,” echoed the refrain. This practice was learned at the family table, handed down for generations. Over the years, I’ve learned subtle variations on what I believed – for example, a penny should be placed under each person’s bowl of black-eyed peas to boost the luck potential. Hog jowl should cook with the peas and smoked bacon with the collards; more pork equals more luck. Some golden cheese and bits of corn in the cornbread intensifies the prospects. As I learned more about world cuisines through the years, it became apparent that every culture has its own traditions of good-luck foods, meant to ensure abundance and prosperity in the coming year. When you examine the different rules around the world, similarities begin to emerge.

One thing to consider is that the dates of the celebrations change around the world, whether New Year’s is based on the calendar used, on harvest or seasonal dates, or on religious influence. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, is in the fall. Buddhist countries vary widely. In Theravadin Buddhist countries (Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos), the new year is celebrated in April. That’s the hottest part of their year, an ideal time to purify deities and splash a lot of water on each other in the process. Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March, and in Mahayana Buddhist countries, the new year usually starts on the first full moon day in January. In Iran it’s usually celebrated on March 21.

Most of the good-luck foods around the world are supposed to be eaten on New Year’s Day, not New Year’s Eve (although the seconds right after midnight are considered fair game). In the Philippines, you need to have the table covered with as many dishes as possible at the stroke of midnight. The intent is for the good-luck dishes to be the first thing eaten right from the start, setting the standard and providing luck for the coming year. Regardless of the date used, the first day of the new year is a time of celebration and propitious food.

### Prosperity and Abundance

Universal among good-luck foods is symbolism, sometimes subtle, sometimes more obvious. Often the shape or color of a food looks like money, which is why cabbage or greens are so common in many traditions. Not every country has green currency, but green is the symbolic color of hope, and green is a color associated with natural growth: the new buds of a tree or new shoots in a rice field, for example. Collard greens (or kale, chard, mustard, or turnip greens) symbolize money in the South, cabbage and sauerkraut are eaten in Europe, and lettuce in some parts of China. They eat foods wrapped in lettuce during the Chinese New Year because the word for lettuce is similar to the word for “rising fortune.” In Bosnia and Croatia, minced beef is rolled inside large cabbage leaves to make *sarma*, said to bring health and wealth.

Dried beans and peas are very popular because their shape loosely resembles a coin. More importantly, they swell up when they cook, greatly increasing their volume, much as you want your wealth to expand during the

coming year. In the South, it’s black-eyed peas cooked with salted hog jowl. Some believe you’re supposed to eat one pea for each day of the coming year. In Italy and Brazil, lentils are eaten with pork sausages; rice cakes stuffed with sweet red beans are popular in Japan and Cambodia, and red bean dumplings in China.

Rice is also popular worldwide. The many grains signify abundance, while rice greatly increases volume when it cooks, all pointing toward growth in the coming year. In Korea, rice-cake soup is the preferred dish; eating a bowl is thought to add one full year to your life. Japanese eat cakes made from pounded sticky rice called *mochi*, topped with a bitter orange called *daidai*. The orange makes the dish doubly lucky because “daidai” also means “several generations.”

One popular New Year’s Day Southern American dish is “Hoppin’ John,” triple-blessed since it includes black-eyed peas, rice, and ham hock. A shiny dime is often thrown into the Hoppin’ John cooking pot, and the person getting the dime in their bowl is due an extra portion of good luck. On the day after New Year’s Day, leftover “Hoppin’ John” becomes “Skippin’ Jenny,” and eating it demonstrates powerful frugality, bringing one even better chances of prosperity.

Noodles are another food that swells in size and increases yield as it cooks, signifying abundance and prosperity. In China, uncut long noodles are desirable on New Year’s Day.



It is critically important to suck each strand of noodle into your mouth without breaking the strand. Long noodles signify long life and longevity; breaking the strand shortens life. In Japan they substitute long soba noodles for long life on New Year’s Eve.

### Live Like the Animals

Nothing expresses prosperity in non-Jewish and non-Muslim cultures like the pig. Pigs root going forward, symbolizing progress without dwelling on the past. Pigs can feast on scraps, bear many young, and yield lots of meat, much of which can be preserved for later consumption; fatty meat equals a fat wallet. In Austria and Hungary, roast suckling pig is the dish of choice, while many cultures include sausages and ham. Pork is also featured in many Vietnamese Tet celebration dishes, especially their luscious headcheese.

Incidentally, lobster is almost universally avoided since it walks backward. That is contradicted in Japan, where New Year’s lobster decorations are prized; the lobster’s curved back resembles an elderly person’s posture, symbolizing a wish for longevity. For the same reason, chickens are seldom included on the New Year’s platter. They move backward when they scratch, which could mean regret, and you might be scratching around for money like a chicken scratches for food on the ground. Another theory warns against eating any winged fowl because good luck could fly away like a bird.

Fish, especially those bearing silver scales, are thought to be very lucky foods for New Year’s since they symbolize silver and wealth. In Germany, carp is considered fortuitous, and some people will remove several of the scales and keep them in their wallets during the coming year for good luck. Pickled herring is a lucky food for midnight there and in Poland; in Denmark it’s boiled cod with mustard sauce. In Sweden, the New Year’s smorgas-

bord always has a variety of fish dishes for luck. In Japan, herring roe is eaten on New Year’s for fertility, shrimp for longevity, and dried sardines for a good harvest. In China, cooked whole fish signify continuity and longevity. In Vietnam, a whole carp is cooked, as the carp is thought to carry the god of good

luck on its back. Hungary is the only anti-fish country known. They refuse to eat fish on New Year’s because it means that your money could swim away or become slippery.

### From the Hearth

Lucky baked goods are popular worldwide. Going back to pre-Christian days, ring-shaped breads and cakes were always considered fortunate because they signified continuity by “coming full circle.” Many cultures today

CONTINUED ON P.42



# mellow mushroom



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## pizza

	SLICES \$2.25	EXTRA INGREDIENT \$0.75 EACH	10" Small \$7.95	14" Medium \$10.05	16" Large \$12.20
<b>HOUSE SPECIAL</b> Pepperoni, Sausage, Ground Beef, Onions, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Tomatoes, Ham, Bacon, and extra cheese..	\$12.20	\$17.30	\$23.20		
<b>GOURMET WHITE</b> Olive Oil and Garlic with Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Provolone, Mozzarella, Feta, Vine-Ripened Tomatoes and Onions.	\$11.40	\$17.10	\$23.20		
<b>MIGHTY MEATY</b> Piled high with Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Ground Beef, Ham and Bacon.	\$11.40	\$18.15	\$23.20		
<b>MEGA VEGGIE</b> Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Onions, Black Olives, Tomatoes, Broccoli, Feta, Banana Peppers, Artichoke Hearts and Tofu.	\$11.85	\$17.30	\$22.70		
<b>KOSMIC KARMA</b> Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, Feta, Fresh Tomatoes and Pesto.	\$10.70	\$15.10	\$21.50		

## calzones

**CHEESE \$7.95**  
Add in any ingredients from the list to the right. Ingredient prices for calzones are the same as for a small pizza.

**STEAK & CHEESE \$9.50**  
Grilled Steak, with Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, and Mozzarella cheese.

## cheese pizza prices

<b>MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR</b> Pesto, Button and Portobello Mushrooms, Spinach, Feta Cheese, and Jalapenos.	\$11.90	\$17.30	\$22.65
<b>FUNKY Q CHICKEN</b> BBQ Chicken, Cheddar Cheese, Caramelized Onions, and Bacon.	\$10.85	\$17.00	\$22.25
<b>PHILOSOPHER'S PIE</b> Hot Buffalo Chicken, Caramelized Onions, Kalamata Olives, Provolone, Feta, and Mozzarella Cheeses on an Oil and Garlic Base.	\$10.85	\$17.00	\$22.25
<b>CAESAR! CAESAR!</b> Olive Oil and Garlic base with Pesto Chicken, Provolone, Mozzarella and Feta Cheeses, topped with a fresh Caesar Salad and Roma Tomatoes.	\$10.85	\$17.00	\$22.25
<b>BUFFALO CHICKEN</b> Hot Buffalo Chicken, Caramelized Onions, Bacon and Mozzarella Cheese. Choice of Bleu Cheese or Spicy Ranch.	\$10.85	\$17.00	\$22.25
<b>HAWAIIAN</b> Ham and Pineapple.	\$9.70	\$12.70	\$15.40
<b>CHICKEN &amp; CHEESE \$9.30</b> Grilled or Jerked Chicken, with Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, and Mozzarella Cheese.			
<b>HOUSE \$8.30</b> Stuffed with Spinach, Vine-Ripened Tomatoes, Mushrooms, and Mozzarella cheese.			

## salads

**GREEK REG \$8.75 'LIL \$4.55**  
Iceberg, Red Cabbage, Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Feta, Kalamata Olives, Tomatoes, Pepperoncini, and Banana Peppers. Served with Esperanza dressing.

**CHEF REG \$8.75 'LIL \$4.55**  
Iceberg, Red Cabbage, Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Kalamata Olives, Tomatoes, Mozzarella, Ham, and Sprouts. Served with Esperanza dressing.

**FIELD GREEN REG \$8.00 'LIL \$4.25**  
Play the field with our Field Green Salad. This salad features assorted gourmet Lettuce, Mushrooms, Tomatoes, and Green Olives. Served with our Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing.

**TOSSED REG \$5.25 'LIL \$3.00**  
The old reliable. Lettuce, Red Cabbage, Carrots, Mushrooms, and Tomatoes. Served with Esperanza dressing. Try it with Cucumbers, Cheddar Cheese, and Bacon.

**CAESAR REG \$7.00 'LIL \$4.25**  
Traditional—with Romaine, a variety of Croutons, and Parmesan Cheese.

**THE BRUTUS REG \$8.75 • add Jerk or Teriyaki Chicken \$9.75**  
A Caesar salad with everything but the bird! Romaine and Parmesan with Kalamata Olives, Grilled Portobello, Roasted Red Peppers, Roma Tomatoes, and Feta Cheese.

**SPINACH REG \$8.00 'LIL \$4.25**  
The sailor's favorite! Spinach, Parmesan Cheese, Mushrooms, Tomatoes, and Bacon. Served with Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing.

## build your own salad

Choose your greens and ingredients

- PICK A BASE \$3.00**  
Romaine • Salad Mix • Spinach • Spring Mix OR mix any two
- LOAD UP ON VEGGIES \$0.35 EACH**  
Cucumbers • Green Peppers • Banana Peppers • Pepperoncini • Jalapeno Peppers • Roasted Red Peppers • Vine Ripe Tomatoes • Roma Tomatoes • Sun-dried Tomatoes • Artichoke Hearts • Black Olives • Green Olives • Kalamata Olives • Onions • Mushrooms • Portobello • Broccoli • Pineapple
- CHOOSE YOUR CHEESE \$0.55 EACH**  
Cheddar • Mozzarella • Parmesan • Provolone • Bleu Cheese • Fresh Mozzarella • Feta
- POWER UP ON PROTEIN \$1.50 EACH**  
Avocado • Bacon • Chicken • BBQ Chicken • Jerk Chicken • Pesto Chicken Teriyaki • Chicken Herb Vinaigrette Chicken • Ham • Salami • Steak • Tempeh • Tofu • BBQ Tofu • Turkey
- DRESS IT UP!**  
Choose your salad dressing from the list below:

## dressings

Herb Vinaigrette • Spicy Ranch • Caesar • Bleu Cheese • 1000 Island • Honey Mustard • Esperanza • Ranch • Balsamic Vinaigrette

All take away salads are served with dressing on the side. Most salads are served with Esperanza, our house dressing. Extra Ounces of Dressing are available for purchase.

## munchies

**TOMATO BISQUE Cup \$3.15**

**TORTILLA SOUP Cup \$3.15 Add Chicken \$1.00**

**GARLIC BREAD \$2.65**  
**GARLIC BREAD W/ CHEESE \$3.45**  
**BRUSCHETTA \$4.00**  
**HUMMUS \$5.05**  
**PRETZELS Half Order (3) \$4.00 • Whole Order (6) \$7.50**  
Specify Garlic and Parmesan or Honey and Cinnamon Sugar.

**MEATBALL APPETIZER \$4.00**  
Round, juicy, meaty - Eaty!

**THE CAPRI \$7.40**  
This exquisite salad features layers of juicy Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, and Basil. Served with a side of Spring Mix and Balsamic Glaze.

**STUFFED PORTOBELLO \$5.65**  
Mushroom Cap with Garlic Butter, Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach and Feta Cheese, topped with Mozzarella Cheese on a bed of Fancy Lettuce.

**OVEN ROASTED WINGS 5 for \$4.45 or 10 for \$8.50**  
Available in Hot, Mild, BBQ and Jerk

## deli hoagies

All Hoagies come with Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo. Ask about our tasty sides.

**CAPRI HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$7.50**  
Pesto Mayo with Fresh Mozzarella, Ripe Tomatoes, and Basil. Topped with Spring Mix and Herb Vinaigrette and sandwiched on Fresh Bread.

**ITALIAN HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Ham, Salami, and Pepperoni heated with Fresh Mozzarella, Caramelized Onions, Basil, Tomatoes, Spring Mix, and Herb Vinaigrette.

**MUSHROOM CLUB HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Piled high with Ham, Turkey, and Bacon, heated with Provolone Cheese, Caramelized Onions, and Mushrooms, topped with Sprouts.

**HAM & CHEESE HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$7.50**  
Premium Deli Ham heated with Provolone Cheese and Onions-topped with Sprouts.

**TURKEY & CHEESE HALF \$4.75 • WHOLE \$8.00**  
Turkey Breast heated with Provolone Cheese and Onions and topped with Sprouts.

**AVOCADO HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$7.75**  
Sprinkled with Lemon Juice, then placed on heated French or Wheat Bread with melted Provolone Cheese, Onions and Sprouts.

**B.L.T. HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$7.50**  
Provolone Cheese, Onions and Bacon, heated, topped with Sprouts.

## grilled hoagies

**IRV'S SAUSAGE & PEPPERS HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Sausage Links, stuffed with Caramelized Onions, Green Peppers, and Provolone cheese. Garnished with Deli Mustard.

**PORTOBELLO & CHEESE HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$8.00**  
A grilled Portobello Mushroom Cap big enough to wear on your head basted with Garlic Butter and accompanied by Artichoke Hearts, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, and Feta. Garnished with Sprouts.

**STEAK & CHEESE HALF \$5.00 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Grilled Steak and Mushrooms, Onions, and Green Peppers, smothered with Provolone Cheese, Try it with Bacon and extra Cheese. Or ask for the Black and Bleu-same Hoagie, but with Bleu Cheese instead of Provolone.

**MEATBALL HALF \$4.00 • WHOLE \$7.50**  
Meatballs, smothered in tangy Marinara and melty Mozzarella. Try it with grilled Mushrooms & Onions.

**CHICKEN PARMESAN HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Grilled Chicken, baked with Marinara and Mozzarella Cheese and kissed with Oregano.

**TOFU HALF \$4.50 • WHOLE \$7.50**  
French or Wheat Bread, with Teriyaki grilled Tofu, covered with Provolone Cheese and garnished with grilled Mushrooms, Onions and Green Peppers, topped with Sprouts.

**TEMPEH HALF \$5.00 • WHOLE \$8.75**  
Marinated grilled Tempeh, covered with Feta Cheese and garnished with grilled Mushrooms, Onions and Green Peppers. Served with Sprouts and Pesto Mayo.

**CHICKEN & CHEESE HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Chicken grilled with Teriyaki, Mushrooms, Onions and Green Peppers. Smothered with Provolone Cheese.

**JERK CHICKEN HALF \$5.50 • WHOLE \$8.50**  
Grilled Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, spicy Jerk Chicken, and Pineapple. With Spinach, Feta, and Pesto Mayo.

## ingredients

**bases**  
Olive Oil and Garlic  
Pesto  
Red  
Barbeque

**fruits & veggies**  
Artichoke Hearts  
Banana Peppers  
Black Olives  
Broccoli  
Fresh Basil  
Fresh Garlic  
Green Olives  
Green Peppers  
Jalapenos  
Kalamata Olives  
Mushrooms  
Onions  
Pepperoncini  
Pesto  
Pineapple  
Portobello \*  
Roasted Red Peppers  
Roma Tomatoes  
Spinach  
Sun Dried Tomatoes  
Tomatoes

Small \$.95  
Medium \$1.40  
Large \$1.70

## proteins

Anchovies  
Avocado  
Bacon  
BBQ Chicken \*  
BBQ Tofu  
Buffalo Chicken\*  
Chicken\*  
Ground Beef  
Ham  
Italian Sausage  
Jerk Chicken \*  
Meatballs \*  
Pepperoni  
Pesto Chicken\*  
Pesto Tofu  
Salami  
Steak\*  
Tofu  
Turkey

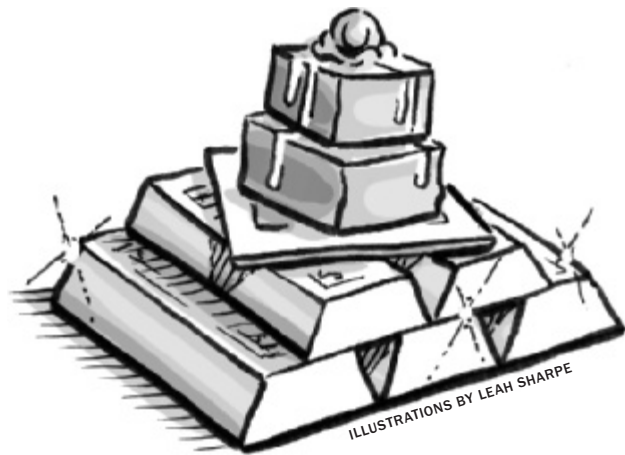
Small \$1.50  
Medium \$2.00  
Large \$2.50

## cheeses

Bleu Cheese  
Cheddar  
Extra Mozzarella  
Feta  
Fresh Mozzarella  
Parmesan  
Provolone  
Ricotta

Small \$1.25  
Medium \$1.90  
Large \$2.10

\*Counts as 2 Ingredients



hold, following down to the youngest member. Whoever finds the coin in their piece of cake will be lucky for the next year. In Holland, they feast on *olie bollen*, which are round puffed doughnuts filled with apples, raisins, and currants. In Italy, there are many sweet treats for the season, but the most interesting might be an almond-filled cake baked in the shape of a snake. The theory is that as the snake sheds its skin, it symbolizes leaving the past year behind.

Most Latin countries celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on Jan. 6, or Twelfth Night. In Mexico, the King's Cake (*rosca de reyes*) is served. The cake is baked in a ring to resemble a crown and decorated with candied fruit, with a small doll hidden in the batter. Whoever finds the doll becomes the king for the day and must select a queen. The royal couple then must host a party on Candlemas (Feb. 2), to light candles for purification of the Virgin Mary. Sweden and Norway have no shortage of baked goods, but they do have a tradition of hiding a whole almond in rice pudding; whoever gets the almond is assured great fortune in the coming year.

In Scotland, where New Year's is called "Hogmanay," they have the "first footing"

tradition, where the first person to cross your threshold after the stroke of midnight determines your luck for the coming year. The "first footer" brings symbolic gifts such as a lump of coal to keep the house warm or baked goods such as scones, currant loaf, oat cakes, or a mincemeat and shortbread crust cake called "black bun" to make sure the household always has food. Three-cornered cookies called Hogmanays are also eaten for good luck. In Switzerland, things are much simpler. A large dollop of whipped cream is dropped on the kitchen floor as a symbol of surplus food and wealth.

## The Fruits of Your Labor

Fruits play a role in global good-luck foods, as well. In China, tangerines and mandarin oranges are considered auspicious fruits because they are round and golden like the sun. Symbols of abundant happiness, they are given as gifts and used for decoration. In Vietnam, the watermelon is the ultimate New Year's fruit because the meat is red, the luckiest color. The seeds are also dyed red and toasted, to be eaten as snacks. Vietnamese families have a tray of five fruits on their altar including banana, orange, kumquat, pomelo,

make special cakes or sweets around New Year's in round shapes which symbolize coins. Often they are incredibly sweet, with the thought that overindulgence (or oversweetening) stands for a wish for abundance. Armenia has their *darin*: a large flat bread baked with a coin inside; whoever gets the piece with the coin is assured good luck for the coming year. The French indulge in a stack of sweet crepes for good luck.

For the Greeks, the most important New Year's dish is the *vassilopitta* or St. Basil's cake. Inside the cake is placed a coin, and the cake is distributed in a strict order. The first piece is for St. Basil, the second for the house, the next for the oldest member of the house-

the Feast of Epiphany on Jan. 6, or Twelfth Night. In Mexico, the King's Cake (*rosca de reyes*) is served. The cake is baked in a ring to resemble a crown and decorated with candied fruit, with a small doll hidden in the batter. Whoever finds the doll becomes the king for the day and must select a queen. The royal couple then must host a party on Candlemas (Feb. 2), to light candles for purification of the Virgin Mary. Sweden and Norway have no shortage of baked goods, but they do have a tradition of hiding a whole almond in rice pudding; whoever gets the almond is assured great fortune in the coming year.

In Scotland, where New Year's is called "Hogmanay," they have the "first footing"



Frank & Angie's might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic home-style dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date especially those on a budget. - Zagat

Friendly staff and quick service are especially good given the volume of business this pizzeria does. What shines at Frank & Angie's is the pizza. The sauce is made daily, the crust is thin and crisp, toppings are fresh, and the cheese blend is delicious, a bit salty, and caramelized beautifully at the edges. Don't miss the cannoli for dessert. It's one of the best in town. - Fearless Critic

Beautifully baked, thin, chewy crust holds sauce and mozzarella cheese packing incredible flavor. Forks up. One of the "Standouts of Austin's Best Pizza." - Dale Rice, *American Statesman*

If you think pizza parlors should be low-key, colorful - and, of course, have great pizza - you've come to the right place. - Frommer's

Frank & Angie's is the closest you can get to Brooklyn in Austin. From great pizza and excellent pasta to the Sinatra memorabilia on the walls, this place is bellissimo! - *Insite Magazine*

In defiance of the Austin area's college-fueled pizza saturation, Frank & Angie's has fought its way to the top of the pack with its unique, New York-style pizza, ingredient-intensive calzones, and a general Brooklyn-esque atmosphere. - *City Guides*

Great freakin' pizza! - *Tibetan Monks*

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and finger citron. Each symbolizes a different meaning; Pomelos promise a lucky year, banana and finger citron symbolize a protective hand, while kumquats and oranges represent wealth and success.

In Southern Italy and the Eastern Mediterranean, pomegranates are considered lucky because of their bright red color and the shape of the seeds, which represent wealth and prosperity. In Israel, apple slices are dipped into honey, and all bitter foods and fruits are avoided.

One of the more interesting lucky fruit traditions is the practice in most Hispanic countries of eating 12 grapes, one with each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve, one for each month. The sweetness of each grape will determine how good that particular month will be. Some wash them down with wine, some name each month before the grape is eaten, but remembering which sour months to avoid is the hard part, and they must all be eaten by the final stroke of the clock. In Peru, they insist on eating a 13th grape for good measure.

Armed with this wide-ranging cornucopia of global good-luck foods, I can now greatly expand the reach of my New Year's food blessings. No more will I rely solely on peas, greens, and cornbread to provide my luck for the coming year. With a whole world of symbolic dishes in front of me, can that winning Mega Millions or Lotto ticket be far behind? ■

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE  
**restaurant**  
guide



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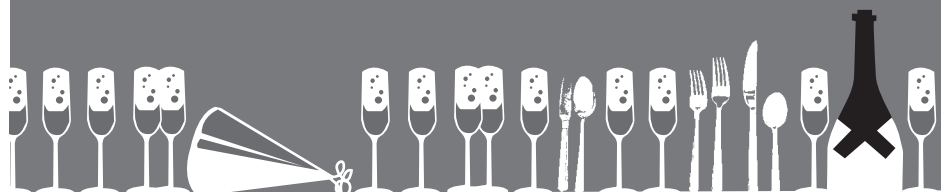


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# restaurant roulette

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**AQUARELLE RESTAURANT FRANÇAIS** 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. www.aquarellerestaurant.com. \$\$\$\$

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**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. www.astiaustin.com. \$\$\$

**BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN BAR** More than a steak house, it's a darn good restaurant, and so it seems a shame to limit oneself to steak when visiting. 21814 Hwy. 71 W., 264-2223. www.backstagesteakhouseaustin.com. \$\$\$

**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. www.thebelmontaustin.com. \$\$\$

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**CAFE CASTRONOVA** The range of this eclectic menu goes from Russian-style beef Stroganoff to jambalaya.

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**CARMELO'S RISTORANTE** offers an upscale Italian and Continental menu in a beautifully restored Downtown railroad hotel. Live accordion music five nights a week. 504 E. Fifth, 477-7497. www.carmelosrestaurant.com. \$\$\$\$

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

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## fine dining

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# screens

## WRITING 'THE READER'

Scripter  
David Hare  
on Germany's  
long reckoning  
with its past

BY KEVIN KELLY

The back flap of Bernhard Schlink's 1995 German-language *The Reader* hails it as "a novel of emotional awakening that you'll never forget." But David Hare, the celebrated British playwright who adapted Schlink's novel for the screen, says it's more about the impact of the Holocaust on succeeding generations. "That is where the book's originality lay. How do you live in the shadow of a great ethnic crime?" It's Hare's third book-to-film adaptation and his second collaboration with Stephen Daldry, who previously directed his screenplay of *The Hours*. As with that film, *The Reader* also presents a bleak look at the human condition. "[People] think of me as a depressive intellectual," admits Hare.

The first half of *The Reader* chronicles 16-year-old Michael Berg's (David Kross) introduction to sexuality, which comes in the form of Hanna Schmitz (Kate Winslet), an older woman who helps him home after he gets sick in the street outside of her apartment building. When he returns weeks later to thank her, they begin a torrid love affair.

Hanna eventually slows things down and asks Michael to start reading to her before their clandestine copulation sessions begin. Soon he's narrating everything from *Tintin* to *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. "Disgusting," she says. "Keep going." These rendezvous continue until Hanna abruptly moves away, without warning. Years later, Michael encounters her again; this time, she's the accused in a Nazi war-crimes trial that Michael attends as a law student. The third part of the film deals with the ramifications of that trial and how it affects Michael as an adult (played by Ralph Fiennes).

Although the particular criminal case in the film is fictitious, it parallels the actual trials that were occurring in Germany during that time. "In that 20-year period after the war, there was this strange silence about what had happened," Hare says. "It was broken by the Auschwitz Trials in the early Sixties. This was the first time Germany began to look at what it had done." Interestingly,



*The Reader*

Hare saw a similar struggle within the Jewish survivor community: "You find a parallel silence in Israel where the survivors, by and large, were similarly shamed at having survived when so many of their friends, family, and colleagues had died."

With the film's graphic depiction of sex, Hare worried about making the Holocaust seem pornographic. "We were very concerned – and I think this we have to be very clear about – we were worried that if the film became too sexual, we would seem to be equating Nazism and sexuality. There is nothing sexy about the Nazis, and that is not in any way what either the book or the film is about." Hare focused his attention on the book's analogy between Michael's infatuation with Hanna and Germany's infatuation with Nazism during the war. "The way that metaphor was sustained over a 30-year period, I found that pretty wonderful and really an exciting subject for a film."

This meant a lot of editing of Hare's original draft, which he claims was much more erotic. "My original script was raunchier; it would be true to say. There was more sex. There was more nudity." Even though he toned it down, the sex in the

film has been drawing a lot of attention, especially from American audiences. "I am very surprised that some American audiences have said to me: 'Oh my God. This is so bold!'" Hare says. "I don't quite know what happened to the American cinema, where saturation levels of violence are acceptable, and yet anything that is remotely erotic or sexual seems to be frowned upon. I simply don't understand what is happening in this country for that to be so."

Despite having adapted several high-profile novels for film with another in progress (he's currently working on Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections*), Hare prefers writing for theatre,

which is where he's performed the bulk of his work. (His papers – including type-script drafts, rehearsal scripts, and theatre programs – are collected at the University of Texas' Harry Ransom Center.) "I basically chose to spend my life in the theatre because it is less heart-breaking. What happens to movies is so unpredictable. It really chews you up. Whereas in the theatre there is some sort of justice, there is absolutely no justice in cinema. I see great movies which nobody goes to, and I see appalling movies which huge numbers of people go to. ... It is all a total lottery in the cinema." ■

*The Reader opens in Austin on Friday. See Film Listings for review.*

## film news

BY JOE O'CONNELL

### PERRY PUSHES EXTRA FILM BUCKS; WATCHDOG GROUP BARKS

Gov. Rick Perry is proposing a \$40 million increase to a \$62 million two-year total for the state's film incentives program aimed at attracting Hollywood back to Texas. But the nonprofit watchdog group **Texans for Public Justice** says it's a losing proposition because the real winners will be corporations and corporate bad-dies, who are behind a number of television commercials that have already benefited from Texas' current 5% incentives program (film industry lobbyists have said they'll try to convince the Legislature to up that to 15% when it convenes in January). However, TPJ's logic is of the chicken-or-egg variety. TV commercials are the main beneficiaries of the Texas film incentives program so far, simply because the program offers too little to compete with states like Michigan, which gives up to 42% incentives, for major film projects. If they don't come to Texas, they don't qualify for incentives. The biggest recipients of Texas' film incentives so far, according to TPJ's own figures? The Austin-shot TV series **Friday Night Lights**, the formerly Dallas-shot series **Prison Break** (they vamoosed back to Los Angeles this year when the storyline took a new twist), **Robert Rodriguez's** film **Shorts**, an Austin-shot HBO biopic about **Temple Grandin**, and **Terrence Malick's** **Tree of Life**. You can see TPJ's full report (which cites an article by yours truly) here: [www.tpj.org/watchyourassets/film](http://www.tpj.org/watchyourassets/film). Stay tuned to this space for more on the film incentives story as it develops in the new year.

### SXSW SEZ 'I LOVE YOU, MAN' TO OSCARS

How does a short film become eligible for an Academy Award? By being named best short at an Oscar-approved film festival, a list that now includes the **South by Southwest Film Festival**. Speaking of SXSW, the opening-night film for the 2009 edition will be **I Love You, Man**, a comedy co-written and directed by **John Hamburg** and starring tiny dancer ([www.videogum.com/archives/i-love-paul-rudd/paul-rudd-dances-seductively-w-035781.html](http://www.videogum.com/archives/i-love-paul-rudd/paul-rudd-dances-seductively-w-035781.html)) **Paul Rudd**, **Jason Segel**, and **Rashida Jones**. It's about a guy who has no close friends and has to find someone to be his best man.

### AND THE REST ...

Ten years in the making, **Kevin Triplett's** documentary **Blaze Foley Inside**, about the late Austin singer-songwriter, is complete (somewhere between a rough cut and a final cut). He got oodles of help from director of photography **Mike Nicholson**, editor **Rita Sanders**, and too many more to name... Expect an Austin screening soon for **Gary Chason's** **Everything or Nothing** starring **Natasha Melnick** of *Freaks and Geeks* fame. It recently screened at the Southwest Alternative Media Project in Houston... Texas-shot **Rockabilly Baby**, written and directed by **Ken Farmer**, has been nominated for best drama and best actor (**Denton Blane Everett**) at the Trail Dance Film Festival upcoming in January in Oklahoma...

**Skateland**, a Texas-set story of coming of age in an Eighties roller rink, recently finished a 30-day shoot in, yep, Louisiana. The good news is that its director, **Anthony Burns**; co-writer **Brandon Freeman**; and star **Heath Freeman** are all Texans, and postproduction will take place in Austin during the first half of 2009.

Send tips to [filmnews@austinchronicle.com](mailto:filmnews@austinchronicle.com).

# Auld Lang Syne at the Cinema



How Hollywood has created a holiday of unreasonable expectations and why we should probably stop buying in (but never will)

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

During the three years I lived in New York City, I didn't go on a single date where I didn't think, at least for a minute, about some Woody Allen movie. I couldn't help it. In our society, the influence of movies is so pervasive that from birth on, it's nearly impossible for us not to think of the world in relation to them. Movies don't just color our experiences; they corrupt our expectations of them. We can't go to college or lose our virginity or go off to war claiming with any real honesty that we're doing those things for the first time, because we've been through them all before, just with more attractive co-stars. Even at my father's memorial service, I couldn't help thinking about Vito Corleone's funeral scene in *The Godfather*, wondering how ours looked by comparison. (Not too badly, as it turns out. A little light on gangsters and a little heavy on rabbis, but otherwise a perfect, totally depressing scene.)

I bring this up because we're coming to that time in the movie calendar – New Year's Eve – when Hollywood really cranks up the fantasy quotient and goes out of its way to create the most unreasonable expectations for what a quality holiday experience – and, by extension, what a quality life – should be.

New Year's movies play almost like advertisements: You too can fall madly in love with the perfect girl and commemorate the occasion with a 20-minute dance number set to a Gershwin score, like Gene Kelly in *American in Paris*! You too can be blessed with

economic and creative freedom at the stroke of midnight, like Tim Robbins in *The Hudsucker Proxy*! You too can find yourself in the middle of the perfect, fleeting romantic moment just by posting a request on the Internet, like Scoot McNairy in *In Search of a Midnight Kiss*! It's fantasy after fantasy, cultivating in our minds the most absurd notions of what is and isn't possible, of what we should and shouldn't expect from ourselves, on this one arbitrary night of the year.

New Year's Eve movies are responsible for perpetuating some of the most pernicious, ridiculous, self-defeating myths in our collective unconscious. And it's important to expose them for the myths they are, even if, in the end, no one (not even me) is really listening.

Take *When Harry Met Sally*, the last scene, when Harry goes sprinting through the streets of Manhattan to proclaim his love to Sally, the woman he'd recently jilted. I call this the Myth of the 11th-Hour Conversion. It promotes the happy delusion that love conquers all – space, time, disagreement, detachment, disaffection, disillusionment, late-Eighties hairdos, even karaoke – and that the love realized just as one year is turning into another is a love that will last forever.

But in reality, what this movie shows us is that loneliness on New Year's Eve makes people do things they probably shouldn't. We've all been there. Sometimes loneliness is unbearable, which is exactly why when human beings are feeling lonely, they should be locked

in a basement until they're over it, or else they'll start running the streets, making promises they might not be able to keep. But try getting Meg Ryan to star in that movie, and good luck getting audiences to go see it.

Then there's the Myth of Secular Redemption, exemplified by *About a Boy*. In this one, a narcissistic cad named Will (played by Hugh Grant) finds his empty life of material accumulation and erotic fulfillment turned on its ear when he unwillingly befriends a 12-year-old named Marcus and then woos a beautiful woman named Rachel (ahh, Rachel Weisz) by claiming Marcus is his son, thereby proving he's a man of depth. When Rachel finds out the truth, she dumps him, of course, precipitating an existential collapse that leads Will to the realization that without people to love, life is a spiritual vacuum.

The Myth of Secular Redemption assures us that no one is beyond saving – that even the worst among us are capable of great acts of decency, especially when they fall in love on New Year's Eve. What a delightful moral for such a deviant movie to end with.

Problem is, that isn't really the moral of the movie. The practiced cynical eye can see what the sad message of *About a Boy* really is: Lying is the perfect way to start a relationship.

If Will had never lied about Marcus being his son, Rachel never would have gone out with him. Meaning she never would have dumped him. Meaning he never would have had his emotional collapse. Meaning he never would have tried to win back the people he loved by being good. Meaning she never would have taken him back. Ergo, Will's lies lead directly to his getting the woman of his dreams. Again, put that on a movie poster during the holiday season, and see what happens.

Then there's my favorite New Year's movie myth, the one I find the most ridiculous, the most unrealistic, the most delusional – yet still, after a lifetime of movie-watching, the one I find most tempting: the Myth of the Better You.

It's all over Billy Wilder's classic *The Apartment*, in which perfect gentile nebbish C.C. Baxter falls for sassy elevator girl Fran Kubelik only to learn she's having an affair with his married boss, Mr. Sheldrake. Making matters worse, Sheldrake uses Baxter's apartment as the spot for their trysts while buying Baxter's silence with promotions. On New Year's Eve, after learning that Baxter has quit his job and told Sheldrake off, Fran rushes

from Sheldrake to Baxter in a moment of moral and romantic awakening. Baxter, the newborn mensch, declares his love, and they play a game of bridge.

Beautiful, right? The perfect New Year's movie? Love triumphs over cynicism; the nice guy gets the girl; our heroes become the most decent versions of themselves?

Well, the sad truth about *The Apartment* is enough to make a grown film critic cry, so jaded is it in its view of human nature:

She's going to cheat on him.

No doubt about it.

"Shut up, and deal," will soon sound like a thousand daggers in Baxter's fragile heart.

Look, everyone is convinced they can turn over a new leaf on New Year's and become the best possible version of him- or herself. The problem is: They can't, and they won't; eventually habit and instinct will take over, and just as Miss Kubelik will end up back in the arms of Mr. Sheldrake or some other man just like him, so too will you start smoking again or drinking again or philandering again or eating chocolate again or robbing pharmacies again, etc.

Here's the thing: Hollywood consistently paints New Year's Eve as a night of redemption, hope, and possibility, when in reality it's almost invariably a night of dashed expectations, disappointment, and anxiety.

Now, I know all this to be true; years of observation and first-person experience have shown me as much. But damned if there isn't that part of me, formed in multiplexes and in front of TV sets, that *feels* that all those ridiculous, romantic notions Hollywood has injected into my brain are possible. More than that: that they are the ideal, what *could* be, this year, once and for all, at long last, now and forever, once upon a time, and happily ever after.

But – dammit! – I'm a grown man, and I shouldn't be sitting around thinking about what it would be like if Rachel Weisz happened to show up at my door this New Year's Eve dressed in a tight skirt and a low-cut yet sophisticated sweater asking if she could possibly come in and use the phone because she was on her way to a Terrence Malick retrospective and got lost, and I'd tell her that there was a slight misunderstanding with the phone company that I'm going to clear up next week, but hey, I'm going to a party, and if she'd like to join me, she's more than welcome, and she'd smile and say sure, and we'd smoke cigarettes all night and complain about conservatives, and the next morning she'd make me breakfast with bagels and scrambled eggs and the bacon fried just so ... and yet I do. Like some schmuck, I do. Fact is, I am Hugh Grant, Cary Grant, John Cusack, and Jack Lemmon all rolled into one. Minus the money, the fame, and the matinee-idol looks.

Damn the movies for making me dream about such nonsense. This New Year's, I'd be much happier if they'd just let me be miserable. ■

# Highs and Lows and Things in Between

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

The end of another year! A time for reconsidering what has past and what is yet to come. While next week's column will feature the annual Top 10 list, this week I thought I would reflect on the most interesting TV moments of 2008:

**The failure of *quarterlife* on TV and the success of *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* online.** In the future, I suspect TV media scholars will point to *quarterlife* and *Dr. Horrible* as case studies for how the TV media landscape was shifting in 2008. *quarterlife* had all the right credentials, but it failed in its move from the computer to the TV screen. When **Joss Whedon's** *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* was a bona fide online hit, it brought to the fore the enormous learning curve yet to be conquered by those who don't understand the aesthetics of new media.

**The rise of Hulu.com and other streaming video sites.** That also includes the likes of BlipTV, Blinkx, Bebo, Crackle, For Your Imagination, Sling, My Damn Channel, ON Networks, YouTube, Vuguru, Revision3, and Next New Networks. While Hulu is focused on bringing studio-backed content online, others – such as Austin-based **ON Networks** – are focused on new, independent content made specifically for the Internet. It will be interesting to see who's still standing this time next year. Also of note: the creation of technology to allow your TV to read downloaded content. My prediction is that this technology will be more prevalent and affordable in 2009.

**Sex, race, and class.** These touchy issues were addressed, surprisingly enough, on prime-time broadcast TV. ***Brothers & Sisters*** (ABC) led the way with its portrayal of a gay male couple, not as outcasts or over-the-top fops but as an ordinary couple finding its way. Alongside that was the storyline of the deeply closeted Uncle Saul (**Ron Rifkin**). When he finally came out, you could feel the full weight of generations of gay men and women who carried their secret life in shame and fear. Elsewhere, there's ***Ugly Betty's*** (ABC) Justin Suarez (**Mark Indelicato**) going through his (presumably) gay adolescence (it's never been explicitly stated that he's gay). ***Dirty Sexy Money*** (ABC) jumped the shark this year, but its inclusion of transsexual Carmelita (**Candis Cayne**) as politician Patrick Darling's (**William Baldwin**) lover was, again, not played for cheap guffaws but as an honest and loving (if doomed) relationship.

The surprising place where race and class converged, and were critiqued, was in CBS sitcom ***The New Adventures of Old Christine***. Early on, I was annoyed that **Wanda Sykes** was relegated to the black



Brothers & Sisters

sidekick role as Barb, but she's the one who brings out the clueless white liberal in Christine (**Julia Louis-Dreyfus**) and helps lampoon it, as in this standout episode: Desperate for new members at the gym the women co-own, Barb sets out to find some. Christine is thrilled that Barb's work pays off until she realizes she is now the minority among the new, black members. *New Adventures* often ends too tidily but gets high props for going to less charted territory.

**Tina Fey and Amy Poehler on *Saturday Night Live*.** Fey's spot-on impression of former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin was mind-blowing enough, but when paired with Poehler as a perplexed Katie Couric or a steely Hillary Clinton, it was almost too good to be true. Catch all of their amazing SNL performances on Hulu.com.

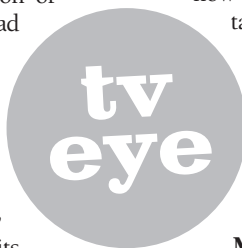
**Barack, Barack, and Barack.** Obama's now-famous "race speech," his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, and his victory speech on election night were nothing less than historic, in addition to being phenomenally poignant.

**The old man and the shoes.** When Iraqi journalist **Muntadhar al-Zeidi** threw his shoes at **George W. Bush** during a press conference, it was shocking. When the symbolism of the thrown shoes was revealed and his words translated with the toss of each shoe, it was high drama: "This is a gift from the Iraqis; this is a farewell kiss, you dog. This is from the widows, the orphans, and those who were killed in Iraq." More shocking than Bush's quick reflexes was his response: "It doesn't bother me. If you want the facts, it's a size 10 shoe." (At press time, al-Zeidi was still being held in custody and has reportedly suffered numerous injuries.)

Thank you, al-Zeidi for tripping George W. Bush on his so-called victory lap around one of the greatest debacles of the 21st century. If only you were there for his earlier "Mission Accomplished" speech.

For more memorable TV moments or to add your own, visit "TV Eye" online at the Picture in Picture blog ([austinchronicle.com/pip](http://austinchronicle.com/pip)).

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



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# music

## OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

### The Power to Change

From the housing crisis and **Wall Street** bailout to fluctuating gas prices and the presidential race, politics served as the unequivocal and unavoidable rhythm section for the soundtrack to 2008. Nowhere was that more prevalent than here in Austin, where local producer **Bruce Newman** of **Barnstormers Music** exposed archived recordings of **Ashley Alexandra Dupré**, the call girl who brought down former New York Gov. **Eliot L. Spitzer**, and **Alejandro Escovedo** made friends with **Jimmy Carter** at the **Democratic National Convention** and **Bruce Springsteen** in Houston.

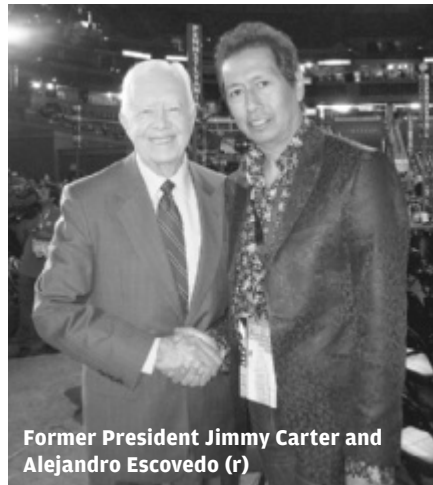
After all, **Mayor Will Wynn** proclaimed 2008 to be the **Year of Austin Music**, and **City Council** unanimously passed a resolution to create the **Live Music Task Force**. With support from **Troy Dillinger's** equally diligent grassroots campaign, **Save Austin Music**, the task force presented a massive 15-page report of findings and recommendations in November, including the creation of a **Music Department** that would essentially transform live music into an economic priority. City Council has yet to take any action on the recommendations.

Then, of course, there's President-elect **Barack Obama**, whose local music credentials included a rousing rendition of "Boogie Back to Texas" at the **Austin Music Hall** in February with **Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson**. After millions of Americans voted for change on Nov. 4, local promotion enterprise **C3 Presents**, responsible for September's impeccable **Austin City Limits Music Festival**, produced the afterparty of the decade at Chicago's **Grant Park**. According to the Nov. 29 issue of **Billboard**, the victory celebration also helped the company extend its contract for **Lollapalooza** with the city of Chicago for 10 additional events.

On the local front, **Transmission Entertainment** not only kicked up some dust and punk rock nostalgia in

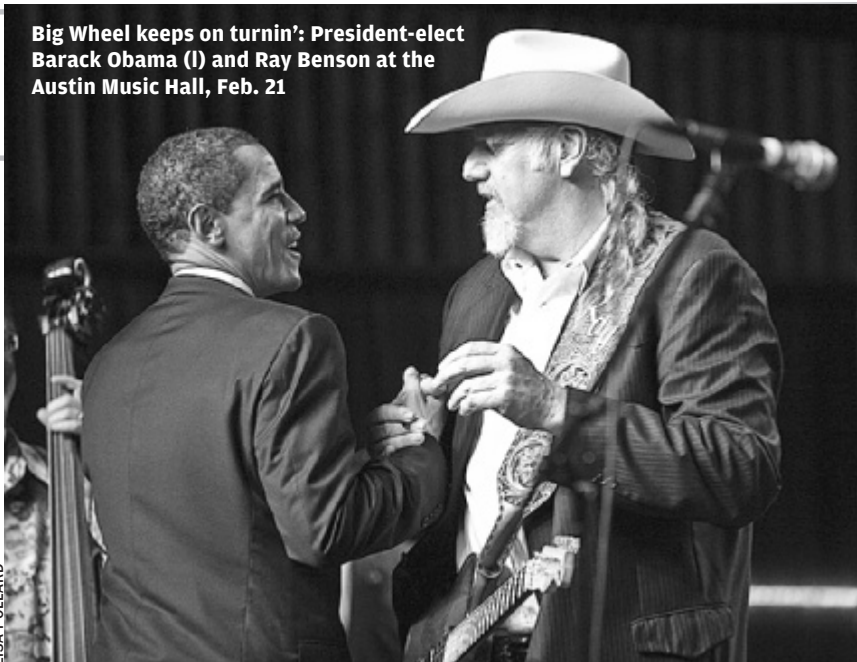
### 'Tis the Season

Don't look now, but **South by Southwest** is rumbling in the distance. The 23rd annual Music and Media Conference, scheduled for March 13-22, has announced enough preliminary acts to fill a Christmas stocking, including **Primal Scream**, Memphis' **8Ball & MJG**, **Friendly Fires**, **Seinfeld** aficionado **Wale**, and **Ben Harper**, backed by his Austin-based rock band **Relentless7**. That's not even the tip of the iceberg, though. SXSW has registered more than 10,000 applications thus far, 2,600 of which came from outside the U.S. The greatest increase in acts comes from South America and Latin American, along with parts of Africa, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. "We made a strong effort to encourage international acts to apply, but given the global economy, I was knocked out by the numbers," says Creative Director **Brent Grulke**, who's optimistically skeptical about landing the **Faces'** reunion. "This may be the first or last time these international acts come to the States, and their impression of America oftentimes comes from their experience in Austin. In a way, we're cultural ambassadors, and I take great pride in that."



Former President Jimmy Carter and Alejandro Escovedo (r)

LISA POLLARD



Big Wheel keeps on turnin': President-elect Barack Obama (l) and Ray Benson at the Austin Music Hall, Feb. 21



Butthole Surfers

JOHN ANDERSON



The Fireants

SHELLEY HIAH

**Waterloo Park** with last month's **Fun Fun Fun Fest** and the **Mess With Texas 2** free-for-all in March but altered Austin's booking landscape by acquiring both **Red 7** and the yet-to-be reopened **Radio Room. Direct Events**, meanwhile, waved goodbye to the **Backyard**, and the **Continental Club** cemented its legacy by becoming an official landmark. Not too shabby considering the **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** upheld the **2005 Smoking in Public Places Ordinance** in March, making it even more difficult for bar owners to fill a room.

All things considered, it was an unparalleled period for local music. More than 100 Austin bands helped raise \$150,000 for the third annual **Health Alliance for Austin Musicians Benefit Day** in October. Longtime South Congress staple **James McMurtry** dominated the Americana airplay charts, topped by **Hayes Carll's** *Trouble in Mind*, with the first dozen spots controlled by **Ryan Bingham** (*Mescalito*), the **Band of Heathens**, and **Reckless Kelly** (*Bulletproof*). **White Denim** single-handedly defined *Exposion*, especially in the UK, where **NME** magazine heralded the indie funk trio as one of "25 Bands Making America Cool Again." **Black Joe Lewis**

& the **Honey Bears** proved equally enterprising in signing to **Lost Highway**.

Bringing to life the art and music of **Daniel Johnston**, **Zach Theatre** staged the rock opera **Speeding Motorcycle**, featuring **Glass Eye's Kathy McCarty**. Bluesman **Gary Clark Jr.** went down to the crossroads for his silver-screen debut in **John Sayles'** *Honeydripper*, while **Possessed by Paul James** and **Scott H. Biram** both walked a hard mile in Slowboat Films' *The Folksinger: A Tale of God, Love & Redemption*, part of which was filmed at the **Oaks**, whose doors closed recently.

Celebrities such as **Rachael Ray** and **Perez Hilton** crashed another record-setting **South by Southwest**, alongside **Lou Reed**, **R.E.M.**, **Van Morrison**, and **Daniel Lanois**. **MTV** even stopped by **Beerland** long enough to declare, "Lo-fi is all the rage." Too bad the production crew didn't stick around to witness the club's garage-punk scene, which has thus far produced the likes of the **Strange Boys**, **Shapes Have Fangs**, the **Golden Boys**, and transplants **Harlem**, to name but a few.

Ushering in the second wave of Texas psych, the **13th Floor Elevators' Rocky Erickson** exorcised demons live with the **Black Angels** and **Okkervil River**, both of whom of are now reworking and record-

ing his archived material. **Shearwater**, which crafted its most grandiose album to date with *Rook*, and **Ghostland Observatory** stood briefly on the shoulders of giants – **Coldplay** and **Nine Inch Nails**, respectively. The **Sword** witnessed firsthand for whom the bells toll, touring worldwide with **Metallica**.

**Grupo Fantasma** backed **Prince** for **Coachella** and *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, anchored the inaugural **Pachanga! Latin Music Festival** in May, and earned a Grammy nod in the process.

Instrumental funk side project **Brownout**, on the other hand, continued to pick up steam, with guitarist **Adrian Quesada** concocting *The Alchemist Manifesto* via **Ocote Soul Sounds**. **Dan Auerbach** of the **Black Keys** lent instant credibility and production to **Hacienda's Loud Is the Night**, while **Talking Head Jerry Harrison** did the same for the eponymous debut from the **Black & White Years**.

As if there weren't enough new talent to be excited about, especially with the emergence of under-21 acts such as **Sahara Smith** and **Fireants**, the reunions of the **Butthole Surfers**, the **Judy's**, **El Flaco**, and the **Reivers** rattled a few skeletons out of Austin's storied closet.

Maybe the mayor got this one right.

# Open House

A lens into some local musicos' digs

It's been an exhausting year in economic and social history, a time when the panic-stricken headlines "Foreclosure" and "Housing Crisis" fought for top billing alongside "Financial Meltdown," "Bailout," and "Blagojevich." Countless Americans were swindled out of their foundations by a clueless government, but only an Iraqi journalist threw shoes at our president. The American dream never felt so surreal.

In a town with so many struggling artists, "home" is open to interpretation – couch, co-op, compound? With that in mind, we asked a handful of Austinites in the music scene to open up theirs, to illustrate how those that nurture our economy's golden goose are living at the end of this year of historical highs and lows.

— Audra Schroeder



SHELLEY HIRAW

To see more photos, visit [austinchronicle.com/earache](http://austinchronicle.com/earache).

## Parlor Trick

When it comes to Austin musical families, the Parlor's tree has many branches. Damon and Deborah Gill own the North Loop and Hyde Park Parlors and reside in a North Austin home with their children David, 13, and Nevah, 8. Deborah's daughter Singer Mayberry is the bassist/keyboardist in the Red Leaves, and Singer's sister Jasmine Mayberry played bass in hardcore punk band Signal Lost. Older daughter Autumn Spadaro and boyfriend Rich Cali (Red Leaves' drummer) moved to town three years ago. Jasmine, Autumn, David Lujan (guitarist in the Red Leaves), and Rich all bartend at the Parlor(s), while Singer does all of the live music booking for the North Loop location. Here, they gather by another family tree.



SANDY CARSON



SANDY CARSON

**Remington Steel** Bryan and Andrea Nelson's four-bedroom house off East Sixth has become a hub for the multiple projects and bands (Snake Trap, Little Bicycles) between them. It's also home to the Typewriter Museum. "We have made it into our weird, busy home," they relate. "Rumor is there was an anarchist school here, and for years it was a *Slacker*-style party house known as the Chicken Wire Ranch."



SANDY CARSON

**Viking Colony** Amanda Jones and Chad Hopper of weirdo art-poppers Night Viking rent a two-bedroom house in East Austin, with a schnauzer and colony of outside cats. Jones likes “the fact that the doors open toward the side yards instead of the street, and with both doors open, you can run straight through the house from yard to yard.” This shot came from last month’s East Austin Studio Tour, when they turned the yard into a junk maze.



SANDY CARSON

**Space Ghost** The Black Angels rent a four-bedroom house in South Austin, where they moved after their Eastside collective home was foreclosed on last year. Here, it’s Christmas year-round, singer Alex Maas and guitarist Christian Bland concurring that this is one of the special things about the house. The worst thing? Maas: “It’s not in space.” Bland: “There’s no pool.”

CONTINUED ON P.56

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## Dry Ice Dispenser

Singer/guitarist Joe Diamonds and drummer Joey Jewels play in the psych-rock group Magic Jewels, and their two-bedroom house in North Central Austin is part of the Black Fontanelle Compound, "four surrounding houses that are occupied by close friends, artists, and musicians." "Due to current economic trends, artists living like this becomes an inevitability," Jewels relates. "We all hang out and share ideas and work on the several different projects we have going on. We have a zine/comic book, two record labels, like five bands that we all play in ..."



TODD V. WOLFSON



## Bear Hug

Living a musician's gypsy life, David Garza considers photographer Todd V. Wolfson's Central Austin pad his adopted home, where his muses are always welcome.

SHELLEY HIAM



## Satyricon

Jo Carol Pierce describes the South Austin home she shares with artist/musician Guy Juke as a "ranch house. It reminds me of Lubbock because it's flat, you know, and everyone has the big circular driveways. I think I'm just attracted to the space; seeing the deer run through the yard is just too much." She's speaking of the huge, cactus-filled back yard, where this picture was taken after a Fellini-esque procession.

TODD V. WOLFSON



**Kind of Red** Of course Ephraim Owens' house is as smooth as he is, the trumpeter's two-bedroom Cherrywood-area home beckoning spare, modern, and xeriscaped - chill, clean, cool.

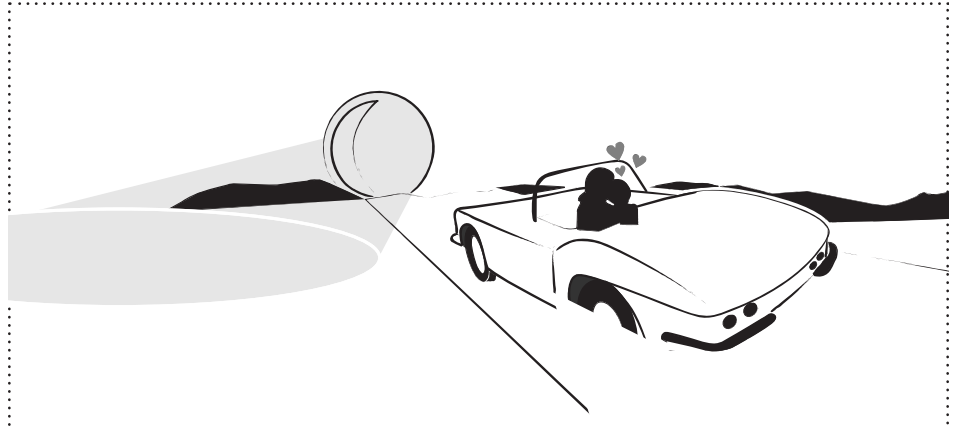
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**THE FLAMING LIPS**  
*Christmas on Mars* (Warner Bros.)

*Christmas on Mars* is for Flaming Lips disciples what *Chinese Democracy* was for Guns n' Roses fans, though only half as long in the making. Luckily for Wayne Coyne and company, their fearlessly freaky followers are more indulgent. The lo-fi space odyssey, which casts the Okies alongside friends and family, would have to ascend a few filmic strata before reaching B-movie quality, yet like the group's music, there's a philosophical and moral imperative behind the campy theatrics. Deserted on a dilapidating Mars outpost, the surviving colonists battle madness and extinction on Christmas Eve when a child is scheduled for birth at midnight. Into this den of depression and dementia drops Coyne's mute Martian, a substitute for the suicided star of the colony's Christmas pageant and salvation to the stranded star men. The allegory of civilization gone astray, and its ultimate rebirth and renewal, is dark, disturbing, and as heavy-handed as the stiff acting, but more disappointing is that the score, the CD component of the DVD package, sticks mostly to classic sci-fi sounds. Whereas the Lips' music thrives on the tension of exuberance in the face of modern absurdity, their cinematic futurism doesn't quite balance as well.

★★★ — Doug Freeman

**JOHNNY CASH**  
*The Johnny Cash Christmas Specials: 1976-1979* (Shout! Factory)

Much like Elvis, everything Johnny Cash ever accomplished will eventually be repackaged and made available in one form or other. This 4-DVD box set brings together the Man in Black's first two Christmas television specials, which came out last year as single discs, with two additional shows from succeeding years. The new installments are available individually, as well. Those expecting the adventurousness of Cash's singular TV series will be disappointed, however. There are moments to treasure with Kris



Kristofferson, Roy Clark, and Tom T. Hall, as well as the always wonderful duets with June Carter Cash. Yet in an apparent bid for higher ratings, there are also incongruent star turns from hot comics of the day Steve Martin and Andy Kaufman. The cheese quotient rises higher with the likes of Tony Orlando, Anne Murray, and Barbara Mandrell. The special from 1977 features a spectacular tribute to the then recently deceased King of Rock & Roll, with a Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Roy Orbison performance worthy of repeated viewing. Despite their historical significance, these shows will only register with the hardest Cash fans and those starved for goofy holiday joy.

★★★ — Jim Caligiuri

**THE BLACK KEYS**  
*Live at the Crystal Ballroom* (Nonesuch)

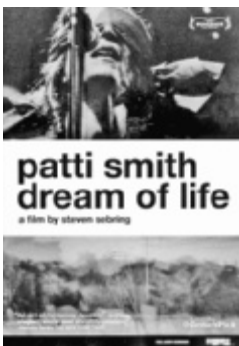
With beat magician Danger Mouse at the controls, the Black Keys' *Attack & Release* proved a transformative affair, pairing the Akron, Ohio, duo's maximum Delta blues with eerily psychedelic overtones. Live in April at Portland, Ore.'s Crystal Ballroom, the Keys strip their fifth album down to its rawest essence, revealing the startling soul of opener "Same Old Thing" before steamrolling the midset trifecta of "Oceans and Streams," "Strange Times," and "Psychotic Girl." Over a well-documented 60 minutes, guitarist/singer Dan Auerbach and drummer Patrick Carney cut an endless groove of originals, peaking with *Magic Potion's* "Your Touch" and Hendrix nod "10 A.M. Automatic," which never fizzles but doesn't really rave up either, at least not in the British Invasion sense. Still, the Black Keys prove as dynamic as their counterpart, the White Stripes, even if the former hasn't written its "Seven Nation Army," one transcendent song that single-handedly takes everything to the next level.

★★★ — Austin Powell



**PATTI SMITH**  
*Dream of Life* (Palm Pictures)

*Dream of Life* is a beautiful film. Not 8½ beautiful, but it could double as Patti Smith's New York version of Fellini. First-time filmmaker and former fashion photographer Steven Sebring got a decade-plus of amazing footage with the usually camera-shy poet/musician, which results in a collaborative dream sequence narrated by her. The beauty's in Smith – she's a creature that demands studying – so when Sebring



lingers on her, the mutual respect is palpable. The two obviously warmed to each other over the years, so when Smith takes Sebring to see her aged parents in Jersey, it's rather sweet. We see her grief, her friendships, and her son and daughter with late MC5 guitarist Fred Smith grow from awkward adolescents on the road to musicians playing with mom. Then comes her neorealist moment, reflecting in a hotel elevator on the overused phrase "rock icon": "I always think of Mount Rushmore."

★★★ — Audra Schroeder

**THE PIED PIPER OF HÜTZOVINA** (Arts Alliance America)

Women have done some crazy-ass shit for love, but few have ever made a documentary about the object of their unrequited affections. In 2004, filmmaker Pavla Fleischer met Gogol Bordello frontman Eugene Hütz during a drunken night in Prague. The result of that brief encounter is this foray into the life of a Ukrainian immigrant in search of his gypsy roots, traipsing across the Carpathian Mountains with a guitar strapped to his back and a love-struck girl with a camera filming his every move. The attraction here isn't Hütz's toxic musician's charm nor Fleischer's embarrassing narration but rather gypsy girl Zita, whose lovely face clouds over in pain, the language barrier preventing her from communicating why exactly she's so heartbroken so young. That touches on the real story of *The Pied Piper*, the plight of Eastern Europe's gypsies, preserved in the traditional music Hütz punks up with Gogol Bordello.

★★★ — Melanie Haupt



**PLANET B-BOY: BREAKDANCING HAS EVOLVED** (Elephant Eye)

The B-boys who used to breakdance to Kool Herc's beats in the South Bronx probably never thought that one day their groove would evolve into a movement with an international Battle of the Year run by a German guy. *Planet B-Boy* documents the 2005 contest held in Braunschweig, Germany, between crews from 18 countries "out to break the misconception that [as dancers] they don't know what they're doing." The focus runs on five squads – Japan's Ichigeki, France's Phase T, the Las Vegas Knucklehead Zoo, and South Korean tandem of Last for One and Gamblerz – vividly articulating how their collective passion for this art form proves their cultural differences irrelevant. Director Benson Lee, who offers his take in the bonus features, proves his chops with fresh clips of crews breaking in front of the Vegas Strip, Eiffel Tower, and Korea's 38th parallel.

★★★ — Chase Hoffberger



**TANGERINE DREAM**  
*Live at Coventry Cathedral 1975* (Respect Recordings)

Twenty-seven minutes long with chop-shop menus and no bonuses, *Coventry Cathedral* nevertheless turns up a semi-precious token in the collection plate. Three West German longhairs minutely adjusting knobs among candelabras at the altar of Britain's savior makes for action-packed sequences when augmented acidic by postproduction visuals left over from Woodstock. Tangerine Dream's 1974-75 tour of Christian masonry no doubt made usual services seem choreographed by comparison. Remarkably, despite the information and content vacuum herein, promo footage documenting one of electronica's first commercial breakthroughs actually preserves a pivotal chapter in so-called Krautrock history. *Ricochet*, whose second side is highlighted on *Coventry*, hints broadly at the aural iconography Edgar Froese's late-1960s musical vehicle would lend *Risky Business*, as well as big-screen sparks such as William Friedkin's *Scorcher*, Ridley Scott's *Legend*, and Michael Mann's *Thief*. Soundtracking underground power matrices suited Tangerine Dream to peak effect on 1976 disc *Stratosfear*. Lay eyes on the tingler.

★★★ — Raoul Hernandez

**WU-TANG CLAN**  
*Wu: The Story of the Wu-Tang Clan* (BET/Gee-Bee Productions)

Once holding court as the rawest, tightest crew in hip-hop, Wu-Tang Clan has fizzled into a commercial outlet from MC and in-house producer RZA. The Abbot even admits it here before the Staten Island collective embarks on its 2006 reunion tour, announcing, "On this mission right here, we come to get some motherfucking money." Touted as the "Official Authorized Story," *Wu* is an unfortunate excuse for an inside reveal. Director Gerald Barclay

CONTINUED ON P.62



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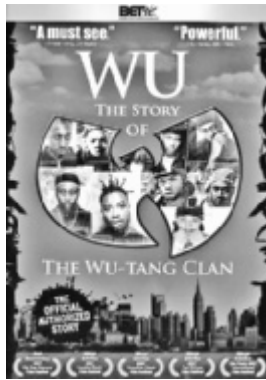


**LAND SHARK**



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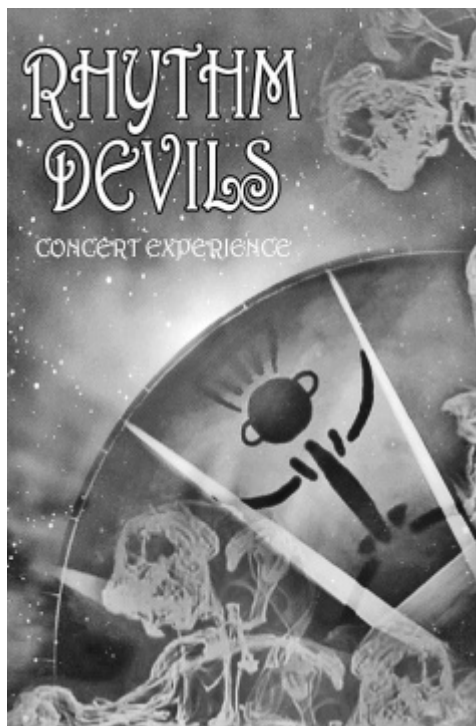
**LAGER**



relies almost exclusively on contributions from fringe players and Wu hangers-on, seeing as RZA and Raekwon are the only clansmen interviewed. Barclay, a long-time Wu ally, offsets the other seven members' absence by throwing in shoddy concert footage and inconsequential candid shots. Bonus features, including an interview with ODB's widow and the "Protect Ya Neck" video, will serve as reminders to how charismatic and essential Wu-Tang Clan once was.

★

— Chase Hoffberger



**RHYTHM DEVILS**

**Concert Experience (Star City)**

Percussionist extraordinaire Mickey Hart describes the spontaneity of Rhythm Devils as "a big rhythmic entrainment," when everything's in sync and the spiritual essence of the music flows naturally. It's always been about flow for Hart and fellow Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann, who have played together for more than 40 years and first used the Rhythm Devils moniker when providing the musical score to Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 Vietnam epic, *Apocalypse Now*. The pair, along with talking drummer Sikiru Adepolu, churn out syncopated rhythmic currents that borrow from African, Caribbean, and Middle Eastern traditions. Together they drive the tribal pulse of this Chicago performance, which includes some stunning visuals to augment the concert footage. Along with Phish bassist Mike Gordon, Jerry Garcia guitar acolyte Steve Kimock, and singer Jen Durkin, the Devilish sextet unfurls a freewheeling jam band vibe tailor-made for the world-music crowd. A 12-minute documentary and DVD booklet are both superfluous to this double-disc set.

★★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg



**PLAY YOUR OWN THING: A STORY OF JAZZ IN EUROPE (EuroArts)**

Europeans have long held a fascination with jazz, lavishing American genre giants with a respect often denied them at home. This thoughtful documentary traces the development of European jazz from World War II, when American troops brought swing music to the Continent, through the free-jazz movement of the 1960s and 1970s to the signature European sound of Manfred Eicher's ECM label. While there's priceless, if all too short, performance footage from Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bud Powell, and Don Cherry, the bulk of the film is filled with commentary and performance videos of European musicians, including Norwegian Jan Garbarek, Austrian Joe Zawinul, Italian Enrico Rava, and Pole Tomasz Stanko. The overriding issue for these musicians is how to take an African-American art form and, through their European experiences, transform it into a broader language of jazz that's uniquely their own.

★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg

**RUSH Snakes & Arrows Live (Zoë/Anthem)**

Beautifully Rotterdam-shot complement to the audio document earlier this year turns on judicious camera angles and editing, which allow you to actually watch one of the all-time great trios ply its craft ("Witch Hunt"). Old pug nose Neil Peart plods precise, Geddy Lee sings at lower latitudes, and an ever well-manicured Alex Lifeson cascades ancient riffs smoothed down into



almost progressive blues. Age has liberated the guitarist/comedian. *Snakes & Arrows* LP cuts torpedoed the second set/DVD, while a third disc fries up some 30 additional minutes onstage in Hot Lanta. Live lights: *Hemisphere's* "Circumstances," new instrumental "Malignant Narcissism," encore "A Passage to Bangkok." Retire please: "Mission." Concert video accompaniment outtakes are a genuine hoot (mon), while "Digital Man" as the second number remains an inspired piece of set-listing from 2008, just like at the Frank Erwin Center in April.

★★★

— Raoul Hernandez

**AURAL AMPHETAMINE: METALLICA AND THE DAWN OF THRASH**

(Sexy Intellectual)

In 1997, the unnamed director of *Aural Amphetamine* scored a brief interview with Lars Ulrich and James Hetfield in support of Metallica's covers collection, *Garage Inc.*, and must have spent the last decade trying to figure out what to do with it. This documentary attempts to prove the blatantly obvious — that the Bay Area thrash scene was a natural extension of the new wave of British heavy metal and that Metallica's early catalog rules — and barely succeeds. Not only does it all lack focus, especially in comparison to 2006's *Metal: A Headbanger's Journey*, but it fails to offer new insight on any front or capture the sociological impact of the movement. With the exception of Diamond Head's Brian Tatler, interviewees lack serious credentials, forcing viewers to endure dim-witted commentary from a Metallica photographer and fake-baked California DJ in between poorly dubbed music videos. Isn't that essentially the premise of *Beavis & Butt-head*?

★

— Austin Powell



**SEX PISTOLS There'll Always Be an England: Live From Brixton Academy (Fremantle Media)**

Sex Pistols videographer by way of 1980's *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle* and 2000 documentary *The Filth and the Fury*, Julien Temple shot this 30th anniversary concert celebration of the group's sole studio album *Never Mind the Bollocks*. The main feature, a cut-to-bits show at London's Brixton Academy in 2007, is augmented by



**THE WHO**

**At Kilburn: 1977 (Image Entertainment)**

"On 15 December, 1977, after a hiatus of over a year, the Who assembled in ... Kilburn, North London, to record a concert for Jeff Stein's documentary film, *The Kids Are Alright*. Shot before a select invited audience, it would turn out to be Keith Moon's last but one live performance." Who needs more intro in the face of Roger Daltrey's prime beef; Pete Townshend's windmill, pogo, und tantrum; and John "Ox" Entwistle channeling the Thames? Even Moon's penultimate thunderclaps shake the cameras at times. ("I'm gonna go backstage and OD," he jokes.) "Substitute," "My Wife" abuse, the blissfully flubbed *Who by Numbers* bauble "Dreaming From the Waist," a quakin' "Shakin' All Over," and salvaged closer "Won't Get Fooled Again" are all right, all right. Better still is the bootleg-quality second disc, London, 1969, Moon's tiny kit driving the Who's nonchalant roar, featuring what might be *Tommy's* finest hour. "This wasn't worth filming," gripes Townshend halfway through the hourlong Kilburn set. Don't be fooled.

★★★★

— Raoul Hernandez

a stupefying 97 minutes of the band wandering around London reminiscing. The performance serves as a kind of victory lap, and the Pistols deserve it, in a way. Temple captures an innocuous rebelliousness in the crowd that demonstrates how far the punk aesthetic has permeated into mainstream culture, but who wants to watch the Sex Pistols play for an hour? The parts of their notoriously thin corpus that have stood up can only support about half that, and the impudent, athletic sex appeal of their youth is long gone.

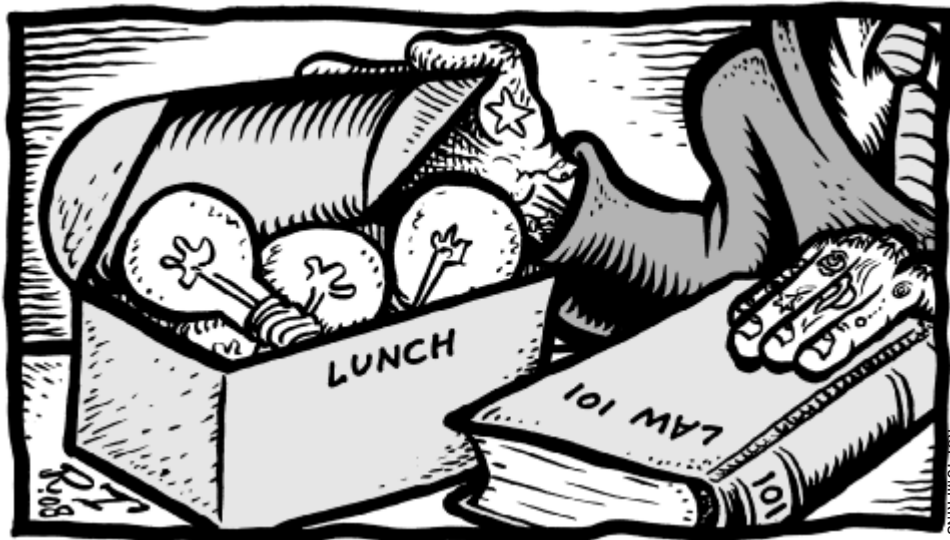
What this disc documents is the sad fact that the men have matured and left their music behind.

★★

— Daniel Mee

# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



For 15 years, Eduardo Arrocha, 46, was different from us, as “Eak the Geek,” the “Pain-Proof Man” at New York’s Coney Island Sideshow, where he lay on nails, walked on glass, ate lightbulbs, and put his tongue in a mousetrap. However, in 2007, he traded everything in for a spot in the class at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., where he is in his second year. (“From one freak show to another,” he said. “It’s the most bizarre thing I’ve ever done in my life.”) Job interviews may be tough because a threepiece suit will hide only his chest-to-toe tattoos; recruiters can’t miss the stars and planets that cover his face.

## LEAD STORY

One of the world’s best-known strategists on the game of checkers passed away in November. Richard Fortman was Illinois state champion six times and in the Seventies and Eighties published a seven-volume handbook on rules and tactics. Many people now considering the game would be astonished to know that, as in chess, there are masters and grandmasters and international rankings, that experts actually study historical opening moves and endgames, and that some play, move-by-move, via the U.S. Postal Service. A *New York Times* obituary noted that Fortman played as many as 100 games simultaneously and won games blindfolded. Until the end, according to his daughter, Fortman spent “hours each day” playing checkers online.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Serbian, who have previously, bafflingly, constructed large, reverential public statues of martial-arts actor Bruce Lee and movie characters Tarzan and Rocky Balboa, built a statue of reggae musician Bob Marley in August in the village of Banatski Sokolac. Also planned was a statue of British singer Samantha Fox, but that project fell through. One Serbian artist who helped raise money for the Rocky statue told *The New York Times*, “My generation can’t find role models [at home] so we have to look elsewhere.”

The Gorani, a small group of Muslims scattered through the former Yugoslavia, lead mostly unremarkable lives, except for their singular distinction: Every five years, they gather in southern Kosovo for Sunet, a festival of mass-circumcision of toddlers, with a history tracing back centuries. Last year, 130 boys born since the previous Sunet were circumcised for a small fee, without anesthetic, by Zylfikar Shishko. Many Gorani are apprehensive about 2012, according to an October dispatch in Germany’s *Der Spiegel*, because Shishko is 70 years old and the only skilled Gorani circumciser.

## LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

An administrative court in Sweden overruled a government agency in November, thus requiring that the Madonna of Orgasm Church founded by artist Carlos Bebeacua be registered as a legitimate religious community. “The orgasm is God,” he said, and “should be worshipped” as a “metaphor of life.” It should not be limited to ejaculation but can be taught “through art or by looking at a landscape and thinking, ‘Wow!’” Bebeacua already claims “a few hundred” followers.

The streak for the longest continuous chanting (already noted twice in *Guinness World Records*) is still active, according to an August Indo-Asian News Service dispatch from Ahmedabad, India. Clerics at the Shri Bala Hanuman temple started intoning “Shri Ram Jay Ram Jay Jay Ram” on Aug. 1, 1964 (more than 23 million minutes ago).

“Intercessionary” prayer (having other people pray for you) is proliferating on the Internet, with the oldest such broker, Unity Church, now a Web presence (200,000 requests a year) after a century’s operation by mail (500,000 last year) and telephone (another 1.3 million). Other websites also handle requests for life-saving miracles, inner peace, and financial recovery (and one, on OurPrayer.org, quoted in a November *New York Times* report, asked for success on her financial accounting exam: “This is my third attempt on this paper, and I pray that the Lord will grant me wisdom and a clear mind”).

## LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Embarrassing: 1) A 49-year-old Leavenworth, Kan., man was hospitalized in November after (according to police) using a front-end loader to pluck an ATM from the Frontier Credit Union. He was hurt when he drove to the edge of a 50-foot embankment and tried to drop the ATM, imagining that the fall would break it open, but instead, he, the loader, and the ATM all crashed to the bottom. 2) British Muslim convert Nicky Reilly, 22, pled guilty in October in Exeter, England, to attempted terrorism for detonating a home-made nail bomb in the Giraffe restaurant. The plan failed when Reilly triggered the bomb in the men’s room, intending to take it into the dining area, but then could not unlock the men’s room door to get out. (His lawyer called him perhaps the “least cunning” person ever to be charged with terrorism in Britain.)

## RECURRING THEMES

As animal hoarding goes, the 30 animals seized from Darlene Gardner’s double-wide trailer home in Kootenai County, Idaho, last year weren’t particularly noteworthy, even though two of them, deer, were living inside, each in its own bedroom. Authorities released the deer and other healthy animals into the wild and euthanized the rest, and Gardner’s husband pled guilty to one animal cruelty charge. However, in November, Darlene filed a \$2 million federal lawsuit against the county’s “jack-booted thugs,” who, acting without a search warrant, she said, had “killed my babies,” referring to the animals that “were my life and my family.”

## A ‘NEWS OF THE WEIRD’ CLASSIC (JUNE 1994)

In Toronto in March 1994, Sajid Rhatti, then 23, and his 20-year-old wife brawled over whether Katey Sagal, who plays Peg Bundy on the *Married with Children* TV show, is prettier than Christina Applegate, who plays daughter Kelly Bundy. First, the wife slashed Rhatti in the groin with a wine bottle as they scuffled, but, remorseful, she dressed his wounds, and the couple sat down again to watch a second episode of the show. Moments later, the brawl erupted again, and Rhatti, who suffered a broken arm and shoulder, stabbed his wife in the chest, back, and legs before the couple begged neighbors to call an ambulance.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at [www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com](http://www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com) (or [www.newsoftheweird.com](http://www.newsoftheweird.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

# THE S E M I T E

**LISTEN  
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recommended  
acts  
up against  
the wall this  
week.

**THE CHRONICLE** [austinchronicle.com/thelineup](http://austinchronicle.com/thelineup)

WEDNESDAY **24**

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24 TO THURSDAY, JAN 1

# calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

## ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and lord knows what else, surrounded by tunes from one of 35 musical acts performing this year. Don't worry; post office reps will be on the premises to spare you from lugging that tree-branch lamp home for the holidays. 11am-11pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 447-1605. \$3 before 7pm, \$6 after 7pm. [www.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.armadillobazaar.com).

**BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR** It's the last day to do some holiday shopping for that increasingly rare unique gift. Eighty artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. 10am-6pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 444-6655. Free admission. [www.bluegenieart.com](http://www.bluegenieart.com).

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** Join the LGBT family for some candlelit Christmas Eve services. 6 & 8pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 8601 S. First, 291-8601. Free. [office@mccaustin.com](http://office@mccaustin.com), [www.mccaustin.com](http://www.mccaustin.com).

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES** These candlelit services in the 100-year-old sanctuary will have you reaffirming your faith, if that's your thing. 5:30 & 10:30pm. University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, 478-9387. [www.uumc.org](http://www.uumc.org).

**GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** This 1½-hour walking tour of Austin's most haunted haunts features the Driskill, the Old Land Office, and the Capitol building. Learn about our city's history and honest-to-goodness ghost stories while burning off some of those holiday pounds. Tours begin and end at the Capitol Christmas tree (11th & Congress). Through Dec. 27, 7pm. 853-9826. \$20 (\$10, children). [www.hauntedtexas.com](http://www.hauntedtexas.com).

**SANTA ALL OVER TOWN** Good thing Santa can trilocate so he can simultaneously listen to kids' wishes at three different malls around town. Sitting with Santa is free; pics of that magical moment will likely cost you. Here are your last-minute options: Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S.; Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr.; Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

**THE BALL FOR JEWISH SINGLES** Roughly 800 Jewish singles (ages 21-39) are expected to schmooze, mingle, and cavort till the wee hours. Dance in the main room, or go to the rooftop patio for casual conversation and a great view. 8pm-2am. Union Park Lounge, 612 W. Sixth, 478-7275. \$30 (\$25, advance). [www.theball2008.com](http://www.theball2008.com).

**TRIBUTE TO PARIS** Please come share and honor memories of local legend and drag queen star Paris Chanel. Brandy Licious hosts a cavalcade of divas, including Kelly Kline, Olivia Vande Vega, Victoria St. James, and many more. 10pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

**A Christmas Story** @ Alamo Drafthouse South, noon  
**Christmas on Mars** @ Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm  
**Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon** @ Alamo Ritz, 7:05pm

THURSDAY **25**

**12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS** Make a date with that time-honored holiday tradition: dysfunction. Oh yes. It is time for *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas*. Get your tickets now. Or wait till the last minute, complain about it, and tell your mom it's her fault. *Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 18-Jan. 3, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

**CAP METRO HOLIDAY SCHEDULE** Buses run on a Sunday schedule today. Don't bother to call and complain, because the offices are closed, as well. 474-1200. [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org).

**DADDY WAYNE'S FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER** Holidays with family at Charlie's is a hoot. If you're stuck alone or with a few friends who do not wish to cook but you've never eaten at Charlie's and cannot fathom what an elaborate holiday meal at a gay bar is like, trust us: Just go. The food is phenomenal (not to mention, free!) and the company is always warm and friendly. 1pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.

**GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** (See Wednesday, 12/24.)

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

**Christmas on Mars** @ Alamo Ritz, 7:20, 9:40pm  
**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)  
**Miss Lavelle White's Christmas Party Momo's Dale Watson's Christmas Show & Dance** Continental Club

FRIDAY **26**

**CELEBRATE KWANZAA** with a screening of *The Black Candle* followed by a candle-lighting ceremony, a presentation of principles, food, and music. RSVP online for free tickets. 5pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. [www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com](http://www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com).

**PEOPLE UNITED** features Bonnie Tamres-Moore, a founding member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, on human rights and U.S. foreign policy. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.

**12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS** (See Thursday, 12/25.)

**GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** (See Wednesday, 12/24.)

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

**(Good) Friday** @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid  
**The Black Candle** @ Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 5pm  
**U2 3D** @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

## MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

**Pinetop Perkins** Antone's  
**Joe Ely** Saxon Pub  
**The Skunks, the Ugly Beats, Chili Cold Blood** Continental Club

SATURDAY **27**

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

**BASTROP NEW YEAR'S** This year, Africa comes to Bastrop for New Year's (four days early). The festivities start at 1pm at the Bastrop Opera House (711 Spring St.) with an award ceremony for community leaders followed by singing from local children. From there it's time to follow the procession down Main Street led by West African drummer Moussa Diabate and his band. Bring something to bang on, and join the drum circle at the parade's end. At 7:30pm the drum ensemble heads to the Hyatt to join Hannibal Lokumbe & His New York Jazz Quintet who will be playing the dance standards. Admission to the Lost Pines portion of the evening is \$45 (\$20, kids). Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234. [www.visitlostpines.com](http://www.visitlostpines.com).

**CREATIVE SPIRIT HITS THE STREETS** Meet the gang from this radically inclusive, progressive community of faith. Collect and buy some warm weather gear at Savers, and put it right in the hands of your brother- and sisterman. Warm up the winter for the folks who need it, and warm up your heart as a bonus. 5pm. Savers, 4001 S. Lamar, 527-4455. [cheatham@austin.rr.com](mailto:cheatham@austin.rr.com), [www.creativespiritucc.info](http://www.creativespiritucc.info), [www.creativespiritucc.wordpress.com](http://www.creativespiritucc.wordpress.com).

**HOLIDAY HOUSE PARTY** This family-friendly, interactive event features your hostess, Henrietta Hasselfree, and her cavalcade of crazy characters – Tex with a reindeer game, Opie with a holiday story, and Nelda the New Year's Hypnotist – that will have you laughing into the new year. 4pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$5-20.

**HORNBY BEND ECOLOGICAL LITERACY VOLUNTEER DAY** The volunteer-maintained trails need your labor. The four-hour shift consists of trail clearing and education about the ecology of the Colorado River. 9am. Center for Environmental Research, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. [www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm).

**KWANZAA CELEBRATION** African native and educator Elizabeth Kahura brings Kwanzaa to life for people of all ages. 2-4pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).

**LA CAGE AU FEAST** RSVP required for this pairing of divas and dish, aka La Cage Vegas in Austin Holiday Spectacular. Stay tuned. 8pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 696-2371. \$40. [saffiretrinity@yahoo.com](mailto:saffiretrinity@yahoo.com), [www.myspace.com/lacageaustin](http://www.myspace.com/lacageaustin).

**LET IT SNOW** Read the classic picture book *The Snowy Day* along with other tales as unique as snowflakes. Plus, make snowflakes that you can take home. 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

## gayplace

**HOLIDAY ANGELS** To some, I am in the closet. The **karaoke closet**. Yes, I am a **KJ**: I am what I play. Last week, I KJ'd the newspaper's holiday party, and I must say, this year's random lineup was stunning. From Community Listings' James Renovitch's soul-stirring "Greatest Love of All" to Gay Place blogger Andy Campbell's dirty dirty "Camel Toe," all culminating into the hip-roaring finale featuring the most stunning Simone Riviera and Saffire Trinity ripping "Lady Marmalade" a new one. OMG: Why don't they

sing all the time? Speaking of Simone and Saffire, watch for them at La Cage's dinner theatre (see Saturday). Yeah, karaoke's on the brain, as this week I reviewed a new book about the phenomenon in our books section (see Books, p.35), and I've been in talks with some folks regarding resurrecting a certain event that I used to host. For now, it's just gossip and words flickering on a portable TV screen. More details to come. In the meanwhile, check the Gay Place Blog. Oh, and happiest of holiday seasons to you, dear Gay Placers!

Send gay bits to  
[gayplace@  
austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).  
Visit  
[austinchronicle.com/  
gayplaceblog](http://austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog).



L - R: NEW YEAR'S GUIDE (P.67) | 'PLAYING THROUGH' (SPORTS, P.69) | DAVIS GALLERY (ARTS, P.70) | 'DOUBT' (FILM, P.74) | HAYES CARLL (MUSIC, P.84)

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Visit us online to learn more about the club's frequent local social activities, details about our trips and the sign-up process for them.  
[www.austinskiers.org](http://www.austinskiers.org)

**2009 EVENT**  
**AUSTIN CALENDAR**

[www.AustinFunStuff.com](http://www.AustinFunStuff.com)

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Rebecca Schaefer & Judy Arnold  
Photos by Kirk Luck



Featuring Over a Dozen New Songs This Season!

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**"This Elf Delivers Laughs!"** — *Austin American-Statesman*

David Sedaris'

**The Santaland Diaries**

Directed by Dave Steakley  
Starring Esther's Follies' **Espie Randolph** (star of ZACH's *Shear Madness*)  
With music by Meredith McCall and Jason Connor

A laugh-'til-you-cry evening of merrily subversive holiday tales & songs!

**New Songs & a New Sedaris Story Added This Season!**



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# BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*

**Texas show caves** make a great destination any time of the year. The constant temperature underground is warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and the caves stay dry in a rain storm.

**Cascade Cavern** meanders for nearly half a mile 140 feet below the Hill Country west of San Antonio near Boerne. The 45-minute-to-hourlong tour's journey to the back of the cave, where a 100-foot waterfall cascades down a rock wall.

830/755-8080,  
[www.cascadecaverns.com](http://www.cascadecaverns.com).

The **Cave Without a Name** got its moniker when the owners decided that it was too beautiful for a name. Outside of Boerne, visitors see an astonishing collection of rock formations during the one-hour tour. 888/839-2283, [www.cavewithoutaname.com](http://www.cavewithoutaname.com).

**Caverns of Sonora** can be found in West Texas southwest of Sonora off I-10 and is well worth the drive. A few years ago, the cave made national news after someone vandalized its signature butterfly formation. Most of the other formations in the cave are still growing. 325/387-3105, [www.cavernsofsonora.com](http://www.cavernsofsonora.com).

**Inner Space Cavern** was discovered during the construction of I-35 near Georgetown. Water dripping through the limestone roof has created a gallery of spectacular rock formations such as soda straws and cave bacon. Visitors are lowered into the cave on a unique cable car. 877/931-2283, [www.myinnerspacecavern.com](http://www.myinnerspacecavern.com).

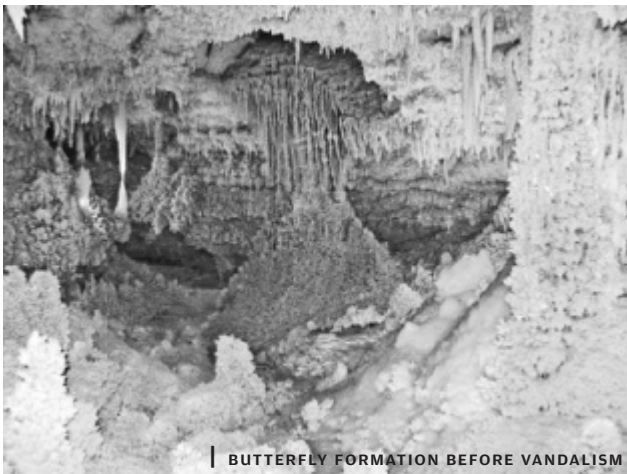
**Kickapoo Cavern State Park**, north of Brackettville, isn't technically a show cave because it hasn't been altered to accommodate tour groups. But if you're up to an adventurous two-hour hike deep underground, then there is nothing like this in the state. Reservations are required for the wild cave tours held on most Saturday afternoons. After exploring the cave during the summer months, stay for the bat emergence from nearby Stuart Cave. 830/563-2342, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kickapocavern](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kickapocavern).

**Longhorn Cavern State Park**, south of Burnet, had a number of uses before it became a state park in 1932. Formed over millions of years by underground streams, the cave does not have a large quantity of dripstone formations. When the water table dropped, it left behind smooth, sculpted walls. Over the years, the cave has been used by prehistoric animals, American Indians, and Confederates as a gunpowder factory, an outlaw hideout, a speakeasy, and a church. 830/598-2283, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/longhorncavern](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/longhorncavern).

**Natural Bridge Caverns**, north of San Antonio off I-35, has grown to include activities above ground as well as below. Despite all of the distractions, this is one of the prettiest and best-preserved commercial caverns in the state. 210/651-6101, [www.naturalbridgecaverns.com](http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com).

**Wonder Cave** in San Marcos is unusual in that it was formed along a fault line. Because of this, it has very few drip sculptures. Opened to the public in 1915, it is the oldest commercial cave in Texas. Visitors can tour the wildlife park, anti-gravity house, and observation tower after experiencing the cave. 512/392-3760, [www.wonderworldpark.com](http://www.wonderworldpark.com).

912th 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.



| BUTTERFLY FORMATION BEFORE VANDALISM

## outoftown

**FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY** chronicles the lives of seven ethnically diverse Americans during World War II, who, despite racism, sexism, and anti-immigrant sentiments, served their country in the armed forces during the war and advanced civil rights here at home. *Through Jan. 18.* UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 210/458-2330.  
[www.texancultures.com](http://www.texancultures.com).

**THE ICE RINK** Take a lap or two around the Southwest's largest outdoor ice rink. *Through Jan. 19.* Town Center, 9819 Six Pines Dr., the Woodlands, 281/419-5630. \$9.50. [www.thewoodlandsicerink.com](http://www.thewoodlandsicerink.com).

**BOXING DAY CELEBRATION** Enjoy a traditional after-Christmas holiday with fireside readings, holiday hors d'oeuvres, wine tastings, and Yuletide music by the Foxes. *Fri., Dec. 26, 10am-6pm.* Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2681.  
[www.beckervineyards.com](http://www.beckervineyards.com).

**TOYS OF YESTERYEAR** Now that you've unwrapped the latest in toy technology, take a look back at the toys your grandparents might have opened so many Christmases ago. *Through Feb. 8.* Stevens Gallery, National Ranching Heritage Center, 3121 Fourth St., Lubbock, 806/742-0498. [www.nrhcc.com](http://www.nrhcc.com).

**EVENING STAR PARTIES** Tour the constellations, and view the moon, planets, stars, galaxies, and other objects through large telescopes with trained professionals leading programs for the entire family. *Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.* McDonald Observatory, Davis Mountains, 432/426-3640. [www.mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://www.mcdonaldobservatory.org).

**CELEBRATE SAN ANTONIO** counts down the new year with music on six stages, children's activities, strolling street performers, more than 50 food and beverage vendors, and a fireworks display at midnight. *Wed., Dec. 31, 6pm.* Downtown San Antonio, 210/767-2373. [www.saparksfoundation.org](http://www.saparksfoundation.org).

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** Celebrate with Robert Earl Keen and Toni Price, enjoy free tamales and popcorn, but because New Braunfels law prohibits alcohol consumption past midnight, New Year's will be celebrated at 11pm. *Wed., Dec. 31.* Gruene Hall, New Braunfels, 830/515-1896. \$100. [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com).

**SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION** aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon.* Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 882-0129. Free. [www.austinsahajayoga.org](http://www.austinsahajayoga.org).

👑 **12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS** (See Thursday, 12/25.)

**GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** (See Wednesday, 12/24.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

(**Good Friday** @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid  
**The Rocky Horror Picture Show** @ Alamo  
Drafthouse Village, 12mid  
**U2 3D** @ IMAX Theatre, 9pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Finally Punk** Emo's  
**Old 97's** La Zona Rosa  
**Gary Clark Jr., Bavu Blakes & the Extra Plairs** Antone's  
**Transmogrify, Vitamins** Hole in the Wall  
**Eve & the Exiles** Continental Club

## SUNDAY 28

👑 **CAGED BIRDS SING** Rob Faubion and his lovely "ladies" bring La Cage, voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitney's and Barbra's done up with ridiculous flair. *Sundays, 9:30 & 11:30pm.* Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

🐛 **COUNTDOWN TO NOON** Ring in an early new year as you countdown the minutes to midday with the Biscuit Brothers and their friends Buford, Dusty, Buttermill Biscuit, and Tiny Scarecrow. One show only, because there's only one Noon Year's Eve. 11am. *Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$12 (\$10, children).* [www.scottishritetheatre.org](http://www.scottishritetheatre.org).

👑 **FAMILY FEUD AT RAIN** Two shows, every Sunday night. To sign up, see the manager on duty, who may or may not tongue kiss your boyfriend like Richard Dawson. Slots are limited, and the prizes grand. 8:30 & 9pm. *Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.* [www.rainon4th.com](http://www.rainon4th.com).

👑 **HOT BEARS BEER BUST** Pints for \$1 with the cuddliest, hairiest, most barrel-chested bigboys of the Heart of Texas Bears, a social-service group dedicated to all things "grrrrr." Get on their list for info about monthly coffees, movie nights, beer busts, etc. 4pm. *Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002.* [info@heartoftexasbears.org](http://info@heartoftexasbears.org), [www.heartoftexasbears.org](http://www.heartoftexasbears.org).

🐼 **MR. STEVE'S DRUM CIRCLE** Bring the kids and some drums, and find a place to sit and bang away. Disclaimer: This will not ensure quiet kids for the rest of the day. 10:30am. *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* [www.rutamaya.net](http://www.rutamaya.net).

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Shapes Have Fangs, Box Elders** Beerland  
**Hayes Carll** Antone's

## MONDAY 29

★ **DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: RIDING THE RAILS** Learn about young people during the Great Depression taking to the trains as hobos. Doesn't sound like a bad career choice with our current sinking economy. 7:30pm. *MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free, donations accepted.*

**HAPPY HOUR YOGA** Get your hatha flowing. *Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30pm.* *Ruta Maya, 3601*

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 9 issue is Monday, Dec. 29.** 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:

*S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* [www.rutamaya.net](http://www.rutamaya.net).

👑 **LIVE MUSIC: 'BOUT TIME** Yup. You read right. Weekly live music at everybody's fave up-north gay bar. It's ... 'bout time. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339.* [www.fusenote.com](http://www.fusenote.com).

**QI GONG** Let Dr. Tom Gore give your life force a boost through this ancient Chinese art of small, slow movements. *Mondays, 9:30am.* *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5 suggested donation.* [www.rutamaya.net](http://www.rutamaya.net).

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Riding the Rails** @ MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm  
**Wonderwall** @ Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Lou Ann Barton** Antone's

## TUESDAY 30

👑 **GIG FOR GOD** Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said, "anything." *Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm.* *Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197.*

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Beerfest With Beerlympics** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm  
**Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon** @ Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Jack Rose** Mohawk  
**Insect Sex Act** Room 710

## WEDNESDAY 31

👑 **ALLGO NEW YEARS** Welcome 2009 with Texas' statewide \*QPC group. (\*Queer People of Color.) *9pm.* *Ciao Chow, 6019 N. I-35. \$35, \$25 in advance.* [www.allgo.org](http://www.allgo.org).

👑 **LEZZIE FAIRE: FOODIES NEW YEAR** In the words of Kitty, "Get to know every single lesbian from Austin, from the state of Texas, from the USA, and beyond." *7pm.* *House Wine, 408 Josephine, 322-5210. \$5.* [beatsagogo@aol.com](mailto:beatsagogo@aol.com).

★ **NEW YEAR'S EVE LISTINGS** Make your reservations now or risk sitting at home with Dick Clark and his underling, Ryan Seacrest. Shudder. We've compiled a list of New Year's events, at right, for your perusal. If print media is beneath you, feel free to refer to our online guide at [austinchronicle.com/newyears](http://austinchronicle.com/newyears).

👑 **OCH NEW YEARS** Champagne and entertainment packages: And not just on the pretty boys. *Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**After the Thin Man New Year's Eve Feast** @ Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm

## THURSDAY 01

👑 **12 STEPS TO THE HOLIDAYS** (See Thursday, 12/25.)

★ **CAP METRO NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE** Buses run on a Sunday schedule today. Don't bother to call and complain, because the offices are closed, as well. 474-1200. [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org).

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

# NEW YEAR'S GUIDE

Drink in your options

Peruse this list online at [AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/NEWYEARS](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/NEWYEARS).

## FOOD

**ALLGO NEW YEAR'S** Welcome 2009 with Texas' statewide \*QPC group. (\*Queer People of Color.) *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm-2am. Ciao Chow, 6019 N. I-35. \$35, \$25 in advance. [www.allgo.org](http://www.allgo.org).*

**AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN: TWILIGHT FLYER** The *Flyer* takes you on a Hill Country journey complete with a full buffet meal, beer, and wine. Celebrity impersonators will have you shooting Champagne from your nose (mature content – adults only, please). First class seats are sold out, and few coach seats remain; make your reservations now. *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. 477-8468. \$85. [www.austinsteamtrain.org](http://www.austinsteamtrain.org).*

**CRYSTAL BALL** This benefit for the Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas is elegance and class all the way, and the gourmet food and ticket price make sure you don't forget it. A live auction takes place at 10pm, including tickets to the sold-out Lily Tomlin show. Show a little class for a good cause. *Wed., Dec. 31, 7pm-12:30am. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. \$150. [www.crystalballaustin.com](http://www.crystalballaustin.com).*

**DINNER AT THE DRISKILL GRILL** This classy Downtown fixture offers two prix fixe gourmet dinner seatings. The early meal consists of five courses, and the late seating offers two more than that. Wine pairings are extra, reservations required, and buckets not included. *Wed., Dec. 31, 5:30 & 8:30pm. Driskill Grill, 604 Brazos, 391-7162. \$125, early seating; \$185, late seating. [www.driskillgrill.com](http://www.driskillgrill.com).*

**FADÓ** offers two new years for the price of one. Toast at 6pm for the Irish New Year and again at midnight with a Champagne reception. Enjoy your favorite Irish dishes along with drinks, party favors, and music from the Sean Orr Band & DJ Gerry. *Wed., Dec. 31, 5pm. Fadó, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. \$10. [www.fadoirishpub.com/austin](http://www.fadoirishpub.com/austin).*

**LEZZIE FAIRE: FOODIES NEW YEAR** In the words of Kitty, "Get to know every single lesbian from Austin, from the state of Texas, from the USA, and beyond." *Wed., Dec. 31, 7pm-1am. House Wine, 408 Josephine, 322-5210. \$5. [beatsagogo@aol.com](mailto:beatsagogo@aol.com).*

**MURDER MYSTERY DINNER** Munch on garlic bread and ponder who dunnit. Catch the 7 or 10pm show. Dinner, dessert, and wine all included, but only the 10pm show features a Champagne toast at midnight. Seats are going fast, so make your reservation soon. *Mon., Dec. 31, 7 & 10pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$119. [www.capcitymystery.com/spaghetti.html](http://www.capcitymystery.com/spaghetti.html).*

**MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE** Call to make your reservation to this three-course meal and three-act thriller. A Champagne toast, live DJ, and arcade games keep you awake into the wee hours. *Wed., Dec. 31. Dave and Buster's, 9333 Research Ste. A-600, 346-8015. \$64.*

**PRIMIZIE OSTERIA** This five-course, fixed-price, reservation-worthy menu offers the modern twist on Italian you've come to expect from Primizie. Feel free to linger at the bar past midnight. A complete vegetarian menu will be available. *Wed., Dec. 31, 6-10pm. Primizie Osteria, 1000 E. 11th #150, 236-0088. \$85. [www.primizieaustin.com](http://www.primizieaustin.com).*

**STUBB'S** As if the tasty barbecue wasn't enough. Tickets include a show from Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears, a Champagne toast, and a buffet of all things slathered, smoked, and seasoned. *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm. Stubb's, 801 Red River, 480-8341. \$30. [www.stubbsaustin.com](http://www.stubbsaustin.com).*

## HOTELS

**AUSTIN SOCIAL SCENE GALA** Two parties for the price of one. Don your cocktail attire, and prepare for some elegant partying with cash bars and headliners Vallejo keeping the social interactions lubricated at the Crowne Plaza. The tux/suit and cocktail-dress crowd dance the night away with Newsboyz and Suede supplying the tunes at the DoubleTree (dress code will be strictly enforced). If your garb is up to code, you can flit between the parties. It's only a

quick shuttle trip or a two-minute walk. *Wed., Dec. 31. Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35; DoubleTree, 6505 N. I-35, 331-7890. \$60, gala only; \$300, gala and room combo. [www.austinsocialscene.com](http://www.austinsocialscene.com).*

**BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA** Rooms start at \$140, but if you want to party, you're going to have to throw down another \$60. Dinner at the 8212 Wine Bar & Grill will be \$100 (party included). The high rollers can nosh in the Hill Country Dining Room (\$140, party included). *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. Barton Creek Resort & Spa, 8212 Barton Club, 329-4000. [www.bartoncreek.com](http://www.bartoncreek.com).*

**DRISKILL GALA** Strap on your slacks and silk tie for this annual gala featuring the big band sounds of Mr. Fabulous and a gourmet seven-course meal with wine pairings. Dance the night away while awaiting the Champagne toast and balloon drop, and don't forget your party favors and souvenir photos. *Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30pm-12:30am. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. \$225. [www.driskillhotel.com](http://www.driskillhotel.com).*

**FOUR SEASONS** Enjoy a New Year's Eve meal at the Four Seasons' TRIO restaurant (\$95), or just hang in the Lobby Lounge (8pm-12mid, \$25), where house favorite Brett Cline works the keys over while you party in anticipation of the balloon drop at midnight. The next day, nurse that hangover with a delicious brunch (10am-2pm, \$55). *Wed., Dec. 31. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. [www.fourseasons.com/austin](http://www.fourseasons.com/austin).*

**HYATT LOST PINES** Packages for a family of four include tickets to the NYE party, a barbecue buffet, overnight accommodations, and breakfast the next morning. Every age group will be entertained: Kids should head to the Riversong Lawn Jamboree for games, face painting, and other activities; teens can chillax at the Total Request Teen Hangout with pool tables, music, and more; couples can two-step to live music in the LBJ Pavilion. *Wed., Dec. 31. Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234. \$369 and up. [www.visitlostpines.com](http://www.visitlostpines.com).*

**PARTY AT STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** No kegs or plastic cups, because this ain't no frat party. Step it up this year with piano music, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and some Champagne for the witching hour. Packages include a room for the night, two tickets to the party, and breakfast the next morning. *Wed., Dec. 31, 10pm. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8800. \$310 and up (\$50, without accommodations). [www.austin.intercontinental.com](http://www.austin.intercontinental.com).*

## MUSIC

See Music Listings, p.84, for more live music happenings this New Year's Eve.

**ARARAT AT HEADHUNTERS** Extustus' funky world beats fill the room downstairs, while upstairs serves as the chill-out room for an evening with Ararat serving its lamb-stuffed apricots, Yummus Bites, and spicy shortbread cookies. Henna tattoos, tarot, palm readings, and a hookah lounge make sure that your mellow is not harshed. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8pm. Headhunters, 720 Red River, 236-0188. \$15 (\$10, after 11pm). [www.myspace.com/araratrestaurant](http://www.myspace.com/araratrestaurant).*

**BALLROOM DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY** BYOB to this social dance that calls for formal attire. Olga Curd and Curtis Prevost will perform and show you how Fred and Ginger would do New Year's. To class things up even more, cash prizes and hors d'oeuvres will be available. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8:30pm. Dance Institute, 6612 Sitio Del Rio, 346-6612. \$40 (\$30, members). [www.danceinstitute.com](http://www.danceinstitute.com).*

**BEAUTY BAR NEW YEAR'S** The heated outdoor patio will be transformed into a psychedelic wonderland with trippy visuals, live painting, go-go dancing, and a retro rock lineup featuring the Strange Boys and the Ugly Beats. Don't take the brown acid. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8:30pm-2am. Beauty Bar, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943.*

**DANCE IN THE NEW YEAR** The same dance jams from the 80s, 90s, and goth songbook that you expect from this black-galled venue. Let's party like it's end days. *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm-2am. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. [www.elysiumonline.net](http://www.elysiumonline.net).*

**FANTASTIQUE MASQUERADE BALL** Prepare to get that identity-hiding mask wet with sweat on the dance floor. Two floors of high-energy electronic and salsa music that will have your body rocking. The countdown to the Champagne hour kicks off with a set by Hipnautica. *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm-3:30am. Copa Bar & Grill, 217 Congress, 479-5002. \$20 (\$30, couple). [www.copabarandgrill.com](http://www.copabarandgrill.com).*

**MASQUERADE BALL** The Gourds headline this benefit for the Capital Area Food Bank. Too bad you'll have a mask on so no one will know what a charitable soul you are. *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm. Waterford House, 2008 Brandt. \$40 (\$32, advance). [www.waterfordhouseaustin.com](http://www.waterfordhouseaustin.com).*

**MONARCH NEW YEAR'S BALL** Three rooms, three DJs, but you've only got two feet. Luckily a cash bar and a complimentary Champagne toast will keep you moving. Comedians Matt Willis, John Gard, and J.D. Styles keep the laughs coming even if you are just trying to take a disco nap. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8:30pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 990-2642. \$45 (\$35, advance). [www.monarcheventcenter.com](http://www.monarcheventcenter.com).*

**NEW YEAR'S BLUES** This semiformal affair features DJs spinning old-school R&B, blues, and jazz. A buffet and Champagne toast are also included. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8pm-2am. Archive Lounge, 6406 N. I-35 #1600, 452-1114. \$25 (\$40, couple). [www.thearchivelounge.com](http://www.thearchivelounge.com).*

### NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE

Get the party started early at happy hour (7-9pm), followed by a lineup of throwback Texas rock bands the Strange Attractors, Toko-Ri Get High, International Waters, and Wine & Revolution. The dead time between and after the bands will be filled by DJ'd sets of Fifties and Sixties rock & roll. *Wed., Dec. 31, 10pm. Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562. \$10.*

### NYE DANCE WITH ALVIN CROW

For those who are looking for a midnight whiskey toast instead of Champagne, this honky-tonk's got you covered. Alvin Crow supplies the scoot, you bring the boots. *Wed., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189. \$20. [www.brokenspokeaustintx.com](http://www.brokenspokeaustintx.com).*

**OCH NEW YEARS** Champagne and entertainment packages: And not just on the pretty boys. *Wed., Dec. 31. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

**PRINCE NITE** While partying like it's 1999 might seem so nine years ago, the purple one's tunes still bring the sexy, especially when interpreted by ped-fetishists Foot Patrol. The Funk Peepshow Dancers, turntable sets by DJ Mahealani, and interactive entertainment (watch your feet) keep you busy through midnight. The proceeds go to the SIMS Foundation. *Doors open at 9pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 480-0799. \$20 (\$15, advance). [www.rubyrco.com](http://www.rubyrco.com).*

**REV. HORTON HEAT** and White Ghost Shivers warm things up and cool things down until the cosmic odometer flips. *Wed., Dec. 31. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146.*

## THEATRE, ART, & COMEDY

**ESTHER'S FOLLIES NEW YEAR'S** Laugh in the new year with Austin's go-to troupe for all things funny and magical. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8 & 10:30pm. Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. \$20 and up.*

**FIRST NIGHT** Expect a roaring smorgasbord of art, performance, random acts of imagination littering the Downtown landscape, and wide eyes aplenty. See "Celebrate This City," p.32, for a full schedule of events. *Wed., Dec. 31. [www.firstnighaustin.org](http://www.firstnighaustin.org).*

**FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** The New Year's large-scale art spectacle that is First Night doesn't just happen. There is a cavalcade of volunteers that keeps things looking effortless and beautiful. Volunteer shifts are three hours long, which leaves you time to enjoy a large chunk of the festivities. E-mail your contact info to [firstnighaustin@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:firstnighaustin@ci.austin.tx.us) to help. *Wed., Dec. 31. [www.firstnighaustin.org](http://www.firstnighaustin.org).*

**FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS** These guys do it all: comedy, performance art, juggling, singing, improv-ing, and more. Just the smorgasbord you and the family want to ring in another year of surprises. *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 30-31, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064. \$30, bleacher seating; \$45, table seating. [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org).*

**NEW YEAR'S EVE IMPROV** Pick the early show for complimentary chocolates or the late show for a midnight toast with Champagne. Both will feature off-the-cuff hilarity to laugh in the new year. *Wed., Dec. 31, 8 & 10:30pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$20.*

**RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** We know it's a few days late, but don't pretend like you're not still in the Xmas spirit. With 26 trucks and 16 buses, this can only be described as a spectacle as the Rockettes show what it means to have a full-time job that entails having killer gams that can be launched overhead in rapid succession. *Tue., Dec. 30, 4 & 7:30pm; Wed., Dec. 31, noon & 3:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744.*

**THE NEXT FIVE YEARS** The two sides of a romantic relationship at its end are revealed in this Jason Robert Brown play, directed by Michael McKelvey for Austin Playhouse and Penfold Theatre. This opening night celebration consists of the play followed by a gala with a Champagne toast. *Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$25. [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).*

## OTHER

**24-HOUR CHANT** This New Year's might be a good time to get some God time in. Twenty-four hours, to be exact. From noon on New Year's Eve to noon on New Year's Day, participants will chant the name of god under the roof of this Hindu temple. *Wed.-Thu., Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Barsana Dham, 400 Barsana Rd., 288-7180. Free.*

## TRANSPORTATION

**CAPITAL METRO** is offering free shuttles for First Night patrons from the state garages at Colorado & Lavaca to the Downtown celebration. The general weekday bus schedules will be in effect on New Year's Eve, including the Night Owl, which runs 12mid-3am. Not sure which bus routes will get you where you need to go? You can always use Capital Metro's handy online trip planner ([www.dadnab.com](http://www.dadnab.com)) for details. *Wed., Dec. 31. 474-1200. [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org).*

**SOBER RIDE** Free rides are available for the penniless and confused. Rules apply to this Yellow Cab service, of course: You must be 21 or older, the fare is free up to \$30, and you have to be going home rather than to another bar or party. And though the ride is complimentary, make sure to tip. *Wed., Dec. 31. 657-2999 (Sober Ride); 452-9999 (regular Yellow Cab services). [www.yellowcabaustin.com](http://www.yellowcabaustin.com), [www.austinsoberride.com](http://www.austinsoberride.com).*

now ...

**FOODIES** Or as they in the know, whose love dare not speak its name, say: Women Who Love Women Who Love Food. Yuh huh. This legendary e-mail-based social network holds weekly meet-ups, private house parties, and special events for the lay-deez. Somebody has to. E-mail Kitty Poo-Poo to get on the list. [beatsagogo@aol.com](mailto:beatsagogo@aol.com).

**HELPING HANDS CENTER** needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.*

**BLOGGITY BLOG BLOG BLOG** Why wait 'til Thursday? Come visit us online throughout the holidays to watch them droppin' balls at the **Gay Place Blog**. 454-5766. [gayplace@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com), [austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog](http://austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog).

**DONATIONS FOR WINTER SEASON** With temperatures dropping, it's time to remember those without protection from the elements. New or gently used blankets, jeans, and coats are needed. Go online or call for more info. *Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.*

**SANTA'S RANCH** Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up to the North Pole. He's spending most of his time among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. *Through Jan. 1, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels, 830/743-1293. \$20/car. www.santasranch.net.*

**37TH STREET LIGHTS** Rumors of this light spectacle's demise have been greatly exaggerated. This hot mess of holiday illumination soldiers on for your traffic-jamming enjoyment. *37th from Guadalupe to Home Lane. Free.*

**YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES** Military families across the nation can capitalize on a free membership to the YMCA of their choice courtesy of the Department of Defense. Go online for more on this armed services outreach initiative. *YMCAs around Austin. www.asymca.org, www.austinyymca.org.*

**COATS FOR CUBS** is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (April 22), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them they're for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.*

**SKATING ON THE PLAZA** Lace up the rental skates, enjoy an hour of skating on Whole Foods' plaza, and act like you're a couple of latitudinal lines north. *Through Jan. 12, 10am-9pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260. \$10 per hour session, including skate rental. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.*

**SCHOOLS FOR IKE VICTIMS** The Austin Independent School District is looking for children's clothing and school supplies for students who were affected by Hurricane Ike. Drop them off at *Baker Administration Center, 3908 Ave. B, Rm. 204, between 8am and 4pm on weekdays. The deadline for donations is Jan. 30.*

**PROJECT FEEDERWATCH** Help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology track the movements of birds throughout Central Texas. Sign up online, get an instructional handbook and bird-identifying poster, and watch those bird feeders. Report the species and number of flying visitors, and get your data collected and analyzed. You could be part of the next bird breakthrough. *800/843-2473. \$15. www.feederwatch.org.*

**VOLUNTEER FOR AGLIFF WORKING GROUPS** Austin's queer film fest is organizing – big time – for the upcoming year. They've developed a strategic plan, and now all they need is you: dedicated volunteers to fill office, programming, and fundraising goals and to offer feedback to evaluate the festival's current direction. [volunteer@aglif.org](mailto:volunteer@aglif.org), [www.aglif.org](http://www.aglif.org).

**LOTS OF MILK** Gaywad gift alert! Just in time for Gus Van Sant's *Milk* biopic starring Sean Penn, Cinetic is making the excellent Rob Epstein doc *The Times of Harvey Milk* through Amazon Video on Demand and iTunes. [www.cineticmedia.com](http://www.cineticmedia.com).

SCHLITTERBAHN'S HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

If you thought Schlitterbahn was sensory overload in the summer, you should see it decked out for the holidays. There's no Lazy River to help you now. Ice skating, light shows, Rudolph's Reindeer Barn, and a winter wassail hot tub (!) all ring in the holidays for the whole family. Live shows from the professionals and concerts from local schools up the wow and cute factors respectively. One of the slides will even be repurposed as a sled run. Don't expect a silent night. *Through Jan. 4, everyday except Christmas Eve and Day. Schlitterbahn, 381 E. Austin St., New Braunfels, 830/625-2351. \$15 (\$13, children). www.schlitterbahnchristmas.com.*

**HRC 2009 GALA COMMITTEE** HRC is looking for a few good Volvos ... oops, we mean volunteers ... to assist in planning the 2009 gala to be held here in Austin in late March. *Free. volunteers@hrcastin.org, www.hrcastin.org.*

**ADOPT A MANATEE FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Or give one as a gift. Either way, you'll know you're helping save the beloved little chubs from extinction. *\$25-35. www.savethemanatee.org.*

**SCIENCE CONTEST FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS** Rochester Institute of Technology is looking for entries for its National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. See the rules and get an application online, and you might be on your way to majestic upstate New York. Submissions are due by Jan. 15. *Free. www.rit.edu/NTID/ScienceFairNR.*

**YBP CALL FOR DONATIONS** Yellow Bike Project is seeking donations to help it realize its dream of a new headquarters. YBP is more than halfway to its goal of \$250,000 but needs your help down the homestretch. [www.austinyellowbike.org](http://www.austinyellowbike.org).

**FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** The New Year's large-scale art spectacle that is First Night doesn't just happen. There is a cavalcade of volunteers that keeps things looking effortless and beautiful. Volunteer shifts are three hours long, which leaves you time to enjoy a large chunk of the festivities. E-mail your contact info to [firstnightaustin@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:firstnightaustin@ci.austin.tx.us) to help. [www.firstnightaustin.org](http://www.firstnightaustin.org).

**STEPHAN PYLES CULINARY SCHOLARSHIP COOK-OFF** Student chefs vie for the \$15,000 scholarship as they create menus based on a list of Texas ingredients. Applications are available at [www.winefoodfoundation.org](http://www.winefoodfoundation.org) and due before Jan. 26. 327-7555.

**PLANET CONNECT GRANT PROGRAM** Are you a high school student who recognizes an environmental need in your school or community? Then go to [www.planet-connect.org](http://www.planet-connect.org) for more info or to apply for one of numerous grants being offered by the Weather Channel. Your green idea must be realized before the Jan. 20 deadline.

**SOULFUL COOK-OFF REGISTRATION** As the first Austin Black Expo approaches (Jan. 31), it's time to enter yourself into the soul-food cook-off. Go to [www.austinblackexpo.com](http://www.austinblackexpo.com), and download an entry form for a complete list of rules and regulations. \$75.

& later

**AUSTIN ROUNDUP** This local non-profit hosts an annual conference (Next one slated for late January 2009) for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of AA and AI-Anon. *Journey Church, 3009 Industrial Terrace, 439-7410. chairs@austinroundup.com, www.austinroundup.com.*

**CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY** Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts Feb. 10 and meets on Tuesdays, 6:45-9:30pm. For more information or an application, visit the APD website, [www.cityofaustin.org/police](http://www.cityofaustin.org/police), or see "My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1, 2006, for *Chronicle* Associate News Editor Nora Ankrum's experience with the program. 854-4989. [vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us).

December 26, 7:30pm  
Toros vs. Tulsa 66ers  
December 27, 7:30pm  
Toros vs. LA D-Fenders

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"Steve Slaton very well may end up with a more impressive NFL career than Reggie Bush when all is said and done."

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# sports

BY MARK FAGAN listings

THE SCORE Your Base on Balls  
austinchronicle.com/sports

## THE MAIN EVENT

★ **RESOLUTION RUN 2009** What to do after a New Year's Eve spent partying? How about running a 5K? Doughnuts and coffee will be offered before the race and black-eyed peas, bananas, oranges, bottled water, coffee, and hot chocolate at the completion. Awards to winners in all age groups and T-shirts guaranteed for early registrants. Wheelchair participants, parents with strollers, and leashed dogs are welcome. Proceeds benefit the **St. Philip's Missions Fund** and the **Round Rock Senior Center**. *Thu., Jan. 1, 11am. 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock, 512/694-1446. [www.resolutionrun2009.com](http://www.resolutionrun2009.com).*

## THE HOME TEAMS

**AUSTIN TOROS** are our own professional b-ball team and S.A. Spurs' affiliate playing in the heart of Downtown. High-quality hoops for a bargain price. Vs. Tulsa: *Fri., Dec. 26, 7:30pm.* Vs. Los Angeles: *Sat., Dec. 27, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St., 236-8333. \$8-23. [www.nba.com/dleague/austin](http://www.nba.com/dleague/austin).*

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Sunyit: *Mon., Dec. 29, 3pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Dubuque: *Mon., Dec. 29, 5pm.* Concordia (Wis.) vs. Pacific Lutheran University: *Mon., Dec. 29, 7pm. Loser of Concordia/Pacific Lutheran vs. loser of Southwestern/Dubuque: Tue., Dec. 30, 5pm. Winner of Concordia/Pacific Lutheran vs. winner of Southwestern/Dubuque: Tue., Dec. 30, 7pm. [southwesternpirates.cstv.com](http://southwesternpirates.cstv.com).*

**ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Hilltopper Classic: Vs. Arkansas-Monticello: *Mon., Dec. 29, 3:30pm.* Vs. Missouri S&T: *Tue., Dec. 30, 3:30pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Midwestern St.: *Tue., Dec. 30, 7pm. [www.stedwards.edu/athletics](http://www.stedwards.edu/athletics).*

**TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball** Vs. UT-Dallas: *Tue., Dec. 30, 5:30pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. Men's Basketball* Vs. McMurry: *Tue., Dec. 30, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. [txstatebobcats.cstv.com](http://txstatebobcats.cstv.com).*

## RECREATION & FITNESS

**AUSTIN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB** Now registering for bowling and wiffleball. Coed leagues with happy-hour fun after all games. [www.austinsc.com](http://www.austinsc.com).

**HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS** Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month, including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. *Mon., Dec. 29, 6:30pm. Opal Divine's at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. Free. [www.hillcountryoutdoors.com](http://www.hillcountryoutdoors.com).*

**AUSTIN AZTEX YOUTH SOCCER CAMP** A three-day soccer camp featuring instruction from Aztex players and camp staff; a ticket voucher for an Aztex 2009 home game; camp T-shirt, soccer ball, and stadium scarf; autographs from the players; and free membership in the Aztex youth fan club. Register through *Dec. 26. Mon.-Wed., Dec. 29-31, 8:30am-noon. The Quarries. \$120 per camper, \$20 discount for each additional camper from the same household, \$140 late registration. [www.austinztex.com/calendar/39099.html](http://www.austinztex.com/calendar/39099.html).*

**WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOCIATION** is now holding registration for its Winter Soccer Skills Academy (deadline *Jan. 9*) and Lacrosse Skills and Drills clinic. See the website for details and to register. [www.waya.org](http://www.waya.org).

**ACC SPRING GOLF CLASSES** No experience nor equipment is needed, and the classes are self-paced. \$82 for about 18 hours of instruction. [www3.austincc.edu/schedule/wcell/cepr.htm](http://www3.austincc.edu/schedule/wcell/cepr.htm).

**CAMP VIE** is a four-week total body conditioning program that includes fitness instruction, nutritional education, team motivation, and training by health-care professionals. Participate three days a week, two days a week, or pay for individual sessions. *Mon.-Thu., Jan. 5-29, 12:30pm. Brushy Creek Lake Park, Cedar Park, 512/258-8880, 504/251-1128. [docm@motchiro.com](http://docm@motchiro.com).*

## RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

**CRITICAL MASS** Bicyclists have been "subverting the paradigm" in Austin since October '93 with this monthly ride celebrating two-wheeled transportation. Let's keep it civil, everybody. Held on the last Friday of each month. *Fri., Dec. 26, 5pm. Riders meet at the UT West Mall (Guadalupe between 22nd and 23rd). [www.critical-mass.info/austin.html](http://www.critical-mass.info/austin.html).*

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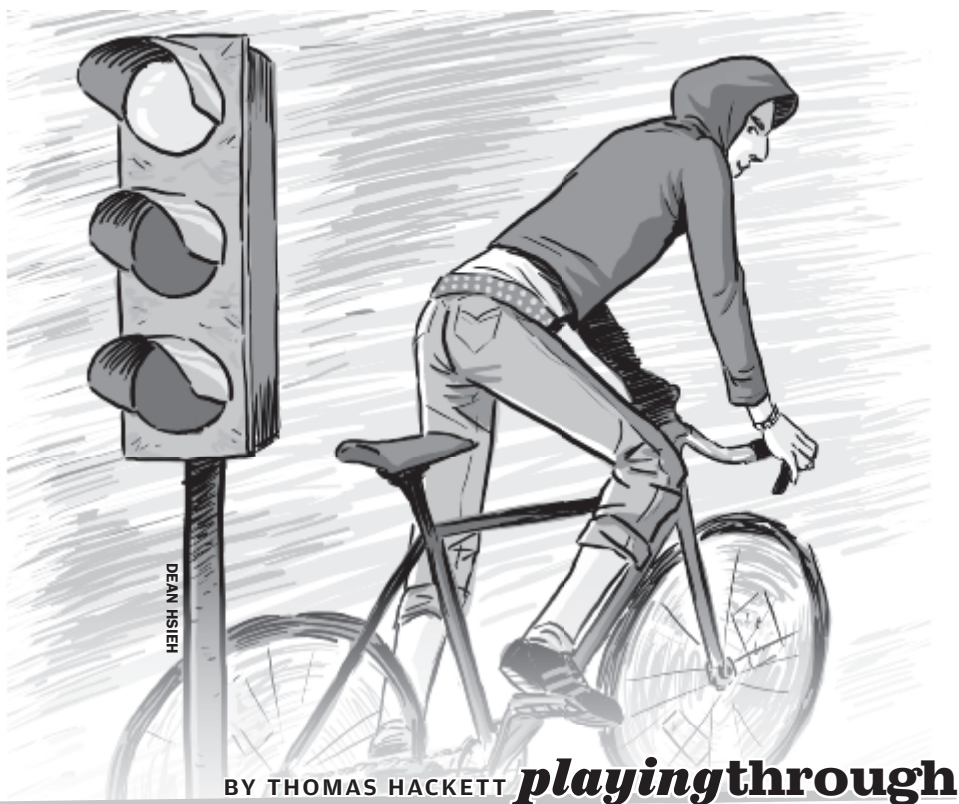
**The deadline for the Jan. 9 issue is Monday, Dec. 29.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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:

Mark Fagan (Sports):

[gamedplans@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gamedplans@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).



BY THOMAS HACKETT *playingthrough*

Look, I feel the impulse myself. I won't try to deny it. Ever since my sweet Cannondale was stolen last summer, I've been positively

covetous of these supersleek fixed-gear bicycles you're suddenly seeing all over Austin.

Coming from New York City, I've long admired these minimalist bikes and the derring-do of the messengers who ride them. But I also recognized that I had no earthly business riding one myself. For one thing, I wasn't a messenger. For another, I wasn't completely out of my mind. For example: I believe in braking, if necessary.

I suppose that makes me a wuss – but a wuss who, if nothing else, doesn't presume to be something he isn't.

Lately, I've seen a lot of Austinites who don't share my qualms. Messenger bikes – or "fixies," as they're called, since they have only one fixed gear instead of the usual 15 that come with most road bikes – have become quite the fetish item for the Austin hipster. These are bikes reduced to their barest bones: no derailleur, no brakes, no reflectors, not even a kickstand!

Except for the spoke cards tucked pretentiously in the wheels (the cards used to indicate that you participated in a dangerous, vaguely illegal alley-cat race through the hairiest city traffic, but not anymore), there's not one part on these bikes that isn't absolutely necessary.

But there's more to the fixie fetish than mere minimalism. To put it in Marxist language, they have an appeal that exceeds their use value.

No doubt, a bike is an eminently useful thing. But the hipster doesn't plunk down \$2,000 for simply an efficient mode of transportation.

He's purchasing something far more valuable to him: a claim to superior virtue. To buy a Bianchi or Masi bike or, better yet, to get one custom-made, is to make a definite statement about yourself. You're rad, a bit of a renegade. You're not some superficial materialist, caught up in a culture of conspicuous consumption. You've got the \$2,000 bike to prove it.

The irony may be lost on you, but it's not on anyone else. You went out and bought a luxury item to advertise perhaps not wealth but cool.

**Lance Armstrong** got it wrong: In an image culture, it is about the bike.

I can hear the fixie aficionados protesting as I type. No way, man – that ain't me; I'm totally against all that. I'm all about keeping it real. But let's be honest: you're buying and displaying your hipster authenticity. The only people you may be fooling are yourselves. The dudes who work in the bike shops are happy to foster your fetish and take your money, but they see it. "No one is really sure what the deal is," said **Ryan Tomeny**, a mechanic at Austin Tri-Cyclist. "It's just an easy way of saying you're alternative. And have you noticed? They all dress the same, too."

"Me, I stopped riding them when I started seeing poseurs riding them," adds **Matt McChesney**, a mechanic at Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop. "But I still think they're the shit."

So do I, I'm afraid. You may see me riding one yet.

Please write Mr. Hackett at [playingthrough@austinchronicle.com](mailto:playingthrough@austinchronicle.com).

## BY NICK BARBARO *Soccer watch*

It's a pretty dead time in the football world, with just about everybody in midwinter break – except **England**, of course, where there's the traditional full slate of games on **Boxing Day**, then another two days later on Sunday. Fox Soccer Channel will show four English Premier League games each day, but **Stoke City** fans will doubtless be at **Fadó Irish Pub** Friday morning at 6:40am to watch the Potters host Manchester United (pay-per-view only). That starts a tough stretch for Stoke: Their next games are against co-leaders Liverpool and Chelsea, plus West Ham, one of the teams they're fighting to avoid relegation.

**Manchester United** has been away from England for a bit: off in Yokohama, Japan, winning the **2008 Club World Cup**, 1-0, over South American champ LDU Quito – their third major trophy of the year, to go with the English and European championships.

The draw for this season's **UEFA Champions League** final 16 was announced this week, headlined by three **Italy-England matchups**: Arsenal-Roma, Inter Milan-Man U, and Chelsea-Juventus. Plays starts Feb. 24-25.

Next week, Top 10s of 2008; soon thereafter, the **Austin Aztex** USL-1 and Premier Development League 2009 **schedules** – said to be all but finalized, pending final sign-off from a few clubs.

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in *The Austin Chronicle*?  
Submit your sporty happening online at [austinchronicle.com/commform](http://austinchronicle.com/commform).

# arts listings



## The Santaland Diaries

Zach Theatre  
Whisenhunt  
Arena Stage,  
through Jan. 11

Running time:  
2 hr, 5 min

Sarcasm and depression are unavoidable bedfellows to joy and cheer during this strange time of the year. What is it about Christmas that brings out the psychotic in us? People spending money they don't have on gifts no one needs. People trampling a man to death at a Wal-Mart, giving new meaning to Black Friday. Parents forcing terrified children to sit on the lap of a strangely dressed stranger just to get a damn picture for the Christmas card. It's this last practice that's the focus of *The Santaland Diaries*, David Sedaris' career-making account of his time as a Macy's Santaland elf in New York City.

This year, Zach Theatre's annual production of *The Santaland Diaries* features Espie Randolph as the Macy's Little Elf (aka "Crumpet"). Meredith McCall reprises her role as songstress and performs her own holiday monologue, "The First Thanksgiving," written by Sarah Vowell. A new and enjoyable piece of the puzzle is "Six to Eight Black Men," a Sedaris piece that focuses on the bizarre customs that accompany Christmas in Holland – suffice it to say that six to eight black men arrive with the former bishop of Turkey, now St. Nicholas, and if you have been bad, they pretend to beat and kick you. These monologues and a handful of songs are the warm-up act to the real meat of the show, *The Santaland Diaries*.

Overall the production is enjoyable but feels a bit forced. Perhaps sarcasm isn't that funny when people are getting layoffs for Christmas. The holidays are providing their own irony this year. Sedaris' writing is hilarious, but it is also unflinchingly blunt – deformed children and racism are its fodder. McCall and Randolph play as if to a larger crowd in a bigger space, at times missing the intimacy needed to bring the audience into this storyteller's tale. But here's what does work: McCall hands in

classy renditions of songs about masturbation and pill-popping and provides a series of enjoyable minor characters to flesh out Crumpet's journey. And Randolph shines when he is improvising or interacting with the audience. He has taken ownership of the material, making it his own rather than an imitation of Sedaris. In line with his regular gig at Esther's Follies, Randolph makes the timely material his favorite gift to deliver – cracking on Sarah Palin or dancing like Usher or, best of all, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it nod to Michelle Obama and her two daughters. This show has many undeniably funny moments, such as watching a grown man dress down to his skivvies in order to dress up as an elf or listening to Crumpet relate stories about crowd control in Santaland. *The Santaland Diaries* makes one glad that someone of Sedaris' temperament was able to experience and relate such ridiculousness.

And, of course, it is a holiday show. After exposing the dark underbelly of Santaland's vomit corner, the tale turns its frown upside down. We meet a mysterious Santa, never seen in Santaland until the day before Christmas. And this particular Santa understands what really matters. He doesn't ask the children what they want for Christmas. Instead, he tells the children they are beautiful and asks the parents to love their children well. It is touching. But did this really happen? Or did Sedaris just feel the need to tack a positive twist on to his otherwise vicious romp? True or not, the silver lining is appreciated. In the current climate, laughter is a necessity, and plenty can be found in *The Santaland Diaries*. – Hannah Kenah

## theatre

### OPENING

**RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** Like they do it at that grand old Music Hall up in NYC? Yessirree, so we reckon it's gonna be pretty gold-urned *spectacular*, alright, what with those long-legged Rockettes a-kickin' and the orchestra a-playing holiday favorites and the light show all sparkly-like in your sugarplum eyes. Dec. 30-31. Tue., 4 & 7:30pm; Wed., noon & 3pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. [www.uterwincenter.com](http://www.uterwincenter.com).

**THE LAST FIVE YEARS** The two sides of a romantic relationship at its end are revealed in this Jason Robert Brown play, directed by Michael McKelvey for Austin Playhouse and Penfold Theatre, featuring David Gallagher and Anikka Johansson as the parallaxed lovers. (For an interview with McKelvey, see "The Last Five Years," p.31.) Dec. 31-Jan. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$15, students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

### CLOSING

**SYLVIA** This Sylvia's no goat – this one's a dog. A dog that comes between a happily married couple in this A.R. Gurney comedy classic directed by Michael Stuart for Austin Playhouse. Featuring David Stahl, Bernadette Nason, and Zach Thompson, with Andrea Osborn as Sylvia. Through Dec. 28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. No show on Christmas. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-30 (half-price for students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

### ONGOING

**12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHRISTMAS** "Set your watches back to 1993, and enjoy the New-Age Recovery Industrial Complex's favorite family, the Smiths!" That's three whole generations of Smiths, in fact, and all of them deftly embodied by the seemingly multiple-personalities **Rob Nash** (who wrote the show, too, of course). Funny as hell and as heartwarming as it is snarky, this one-man spectacle is an excellent alt-theatre treat for your happiest holidays. Through Jan. 3. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. [www.myspace.com/therobnash](http://www.myspace.com/therobnash).

**THE SANTALAND DIARIES** David Sedaris' ascerbic Christmas memories get some excellent rejuvenation in the form of new elf-star Espie Randolph (who so delightfully galvanized the Zach stage in *Shear Madness* a couple years back), with director Dave Steakley answering the knock of color-specific opportunity by adding new material, including the Christmas story "Six to Eight Black Men," to the holiday mix. There's also – hurray! – musical enhancement by Meredith McCall and Jason Connor. (See review, at left.) Through Jan. 11. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43. [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com).

**ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY** Zach's annual Motown-inflected hullabaloo, replete with the Santa-suit-bedecked babes of beehives and bodacious belting power, returns with more than a dozen new songs for your ho-ho-holiday cheer. Rebecca Schoolar, Judy Arnold, and Andra Mitrovich star with Cedric Neal ... the man who played Sportin' Life in Zach's production of *Porgy and Bess*. Through Jan. 4. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45. [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com).

### AUDITIONS

**THE HEIDI CHRONICLES** Wendy Wasserstein's award-winning play will be directed by Andy Berkovsky for City Theatre. They're looking for men and women to perform in March and April. Call or e-mail for appointment. Dec. 29-30, Jan. 3. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

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## comedy

### IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com).

**Matt Bearden** If the world were to end with the end of this year and you could see only one local comic before everything went away, we suggest that this man would be the one to see. Because he's not just smart, he's *extremely fucking smart*, and he's as funny as he is smart, and so what more do you want, anyway? Peace on earth? Someone to hold you close when times are rough and you feel like life's not worth living? Good luck with that, *habibi*. Instead, give yourself a break, and let Bearden set you up right for the coming year – end of the world or not. (For an interview with the comic, see "Matt Bearden," p.31.) Fri.-Sat., Dec. 26-27, 8 & 10:30pm.

**Cap City Open Mic** Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.

**COLDTOWNE THEATER** 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. [www.coldtownetheater.com](http://www.coldtownetheater.com).

**New Year's Day Night** Your first improv show of the new year? Why, it's the fabulous foursome called **Parallelagramophonograph**, of course. Thu., Jan. 1, 8pm. \$10.

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersfollies.com](http://www.estersfollies.com).

**Esther's Follies** The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its riotous musical comedy and sketches, now with the **Unleaded Supremes** singing "The Big Three Bailout," guest comedian **Derek Reid as Barack Obama** with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and a **new illusion** (it's called "Wet!") from master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** 617 Congress, 443-3688. [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**Friday:** It's **Threerfer Madness** time, in which three different troupes battle for improv supremacy. 8pm. \$10. Then you've got the **Double Barrel** show, with two hot gangs of improvisers playing goofball for your amusement. 10pm. \$10.

**Saturday: Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$10.*

**Same Year's Eve Improv Extravaganza** They call it an "extravaganza" because all the myriad improvisers in town step up to rock the stage for your finis annum amusement on this night. Games, scenes, longform, musical stories: It's all part of the show, and it's followed by a beer-fueled (and fully improvised) party. Tue., Dec. 30, 8pm. \$10.

**New Year's Enchanted Improv Eve** Five of Austin's finest improvisers usher the new year into your lap (or thereabouts) with a merry multiplicity of scenes and diversions. And they shower you with chocolates in the early show and share much Champagne with you in the late show. Hell of a fine way to bid farewell to old '08, we think. Huzzah! Wed., Dec. 31, 8 & 10:30pm. \$20.

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. [www.thevelveetaroom.com](http://www.thevelveetaroom.com).

**Chris Allen** Here's some chuckles for Boxing Day and beyond, with **David James** and **John Derrick** opening. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 26-27, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

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:

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

**AVAILABLE CUPHOLDERS: ALL TOGETHER NOW!** All six of the Cupholders' far-flung improv savants will be in the same city - yes, Austin! - this night and performing a show sure to knock your forehead into orbit. Go on: Make yourself Available. It's totally recommended! *Sat., Dec. 27, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$8. www.availablecupholders.com*

**THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK** features the best comics in Austin, so they suggest - right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

**KICK BUTT COMEDY ComedySportz Reunion Shows** Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cutups return to the stage with this series of tomfoolery. *Lesfoolery, actually. Saturdays, 6pm. Monday Night Mash: Improv Mondays, 8pm. Open Mic Comedy Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

**LAST GAS COMEDY** Stand-up comedy every Saturday. *Sat., Dec. 27, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.*

dance

TWO LEFT FEET

**ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES** Andrea Ariel teaches modern dance to students of all levels. Please call for more information. *Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 458-4258. \$12, drop-in; \$10, class card.*

**DANCE INTERNATIONAL** Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.*

**DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES** Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. *323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.*

**EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAKON** Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.*

**BELLY DANCE WITH FINGER CYMBALS** Stacey Lizette teaches all levels of dancers, using different cymbal rhythms with a focus on fluidity of hand and arm movements. (Finger cymbals are available for purchase or loan.) *Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.*

**SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING** Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100, 327-2869. First class free.*

**TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY ACADEMY: POLLY MOTLEY** Guest choreographer Motley leads a pair of workshops: one for finding new movement and experimenting with your own personal style, the other for "mature art makers" of all disciplines that focuses on performance. Check the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. www.tapestry.org.*

**BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE** Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

**AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS** ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round.

*Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

**THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES** Unique twists on standard favorites: Ballet NEXT, L.A. Street Jazz, Cardio Jamz, Cardio Strip-Hop, and more. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.*

**LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING** Belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar, 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.*

**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.*

**MODERN DANCE CLASSES** Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). Times and prices vary. See the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

**AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE** *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

**FLAMENCO CLASSES** Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. *923-3270.*

**ESTUDIO FLAMENCO** Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. *Beginner: Saturdays, noon-1pm. Intermediate: Saturdays, 1-2:30pm. 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.*

**SCANDINAVIAN DANCING** Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.*

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

**NIA CLASSES** The Nia technique is an energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. First class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 per class. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

**AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS** Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

**KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE** Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbuttcffee.com.*

**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. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.*

**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. \$5 (\$2, members). www.austinswing syndicate.org.*

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.  
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Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

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Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.  
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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8:00 & 10:30pm shows!

Both shows' ticket price includes a pass for two to return in '09. The late show also includes party favors & a champagne toast at midnight, plus a light appetizer selection after the show!



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January 22-24!

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## There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Dec. 13

For its 20th anniversary celebration, the Capital City Men's Chorus rang in the holiday season by returning to the scene of the vocal ensemble's very first concert.

Born of the Reagan era at the peak of the U.S. AIDS epidemic, the CCMC was founded to foster unity through performance, an antidote to the hypocrisy and fear that then dominated the national conversation.

Twenty years after 16 men first sang in St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the chorus' 50 members, handsomely clad in black ties, honored their tradition before a jam-packed, animated, standing-room-only audience.

The CCMC occupies a unique place in Austin's arts ecology. As a community organization, the ensemble covers a large spectrum of vocal talents, from the trained to the novice. Under the baton of Dr. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, though, the CCMC tackles repertoires that would challenge any professional chorus (for example, the last Austin performance of the *Agnus Dei* mentioned below was *Conspire's* showcase for the 2008 World Symposium on Choral Music).

Jones-Ragona created an eclectic lineup for this offering that skewed to the solemn, nostalgic holiday spirit – with a few samples of the ensemble's campy side thrown in for good measure.

The chorus displayed a knack for the medieval with the mysterious, well-balanced "Personent Hodie" and a gorgeous performance of Jacob Arcadelt's "Ave Maria," which built to a thrilling climax. The night's second half opened with Ray Charles' irreverent "Jingle Bells," led by assistant director Bob Wolff. The ensemble cracked smiles throughout, while nailing the piece's tricky rhythmic yo-yos.

A shout-out is due the first-rate chamber musicians who accompanied the chorus and had their solo moment in Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*. Kudos to the artistic

director for programming this piece to follow Gustav Holst's haunting "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," whose melody featured the identical three-note cell that frames the theme of the concerto.

Tucked in among these works was Samuel Barber's towering *Agnus Dei*, otherwise known as the choral setting of the *Adagio for Strings* or, put simply, one heck of a tough piece for voices. Jones-Ragona was smart to take a faster pace than a standard adagio, and though there were weak sections in the inner voices throughout, the chorus' emotion and grit prevailed. The masterwork's aching, suspended peak was magnificent, and its hushed last tones hung in the air amidst a memorable silence. This was an impressive achievement.

Ironically, the night's only major stumble was the song from which the evening took its title. The performance of "Home for the Holidays" was lackluster, rushed, and muddy and showed none of the passion or polish of the pieces surrounding it, suggesting a lack of preparation more than anything.

The concert concluded with a delightful duo of audience sing-alongs and a soaring, joyous "O Holy Night" that featured inspired solo performances by baritone Paul Scott and tenor John Keesling.

The CCMC, and the world around it, has certainly come a long way since 1988. As an endearing and clever addition to the program, Jones-Ragona invited CCMC's founding artistic director, David Weigle, and its second director, Malcolm Nelson, to the stage to conduct the group. The applause that followed came not only for the performance at hand but also for the hands that led the way and those who carry the torch into the future. – Michael Kellerman

## classical music

### OPENING

**THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS WITH THE AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** The Flying Karamazov Brothers have juggled their way through a career spanning more than 30 years, starring on stage, screen, and frequently with musicians and performing groups, including their fair share of symphonies. Bid the circus that was 2008 adieu with some onstage antics and more family-friendly sounds than you'll get in an extra-large bag of popcorn. (See "Austin Symphony Orchestra," p.31, for more.) *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 30-31, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$30-45. www.austinsymphony.org.*

### NOTES & ENCORES

**AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS** AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to orchestra students in grades K-12 from public, private, charter, and home schools who are members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Students should prepare a solo piece or étude of their choice. Scales and sight-reading may also be required. There is a \$100 fee per semester for tuition. See the website for details. *Mon., Jan. 12, 6pm (registration); 6:30pm (auditions). Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

## visual arts

### EVENTS

**CO-LAB: AMANDAY JONES** The public is encouraged to use this new installation as a place to reflect upon the agents of change at work in their lives and the gifts bestowed by them. *Sun., Dec. 28, 7-11pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.colabspace.org.*

### CLOSING

**YARD DOG FOLK ART: JON LANGFORD** The Wales-born and longtime Chicago resident Langford (of the Mekons, et al.) presents a show of his newest work. *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

**BROCCA GALLERY** Thirty new watercolors by Sara Jane Parsons. *Through Dec. 31. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

**HARRY RANSOM CENTER: THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ARCHIVE** This HRC exhibition draws on the center's extensive holdings to provide a comprehensive look at archives, the archival process, and the culture surrounding archives. Literary documents! A video of Mike Wallace interviewing Salvador Dalí! Thrills! Chills! Acid-free paper! *Through Jan. 4. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

**LOTUS GALLERY: KOOROSH ANGALI** New works of surrealism by the Iranian artist. *Through Dec. 31. 1201-B W. Sixth, 474-1700.*

**ART ON 5TH: HOLIDAY SHOW** Gallery artists have painted a special group of smaller works just for the holidays. *Through Dec. 30. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

**DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN** A selection of fine-art prints by the members of WPA. *Through Dec. 29. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org.*

### ONGOING

**LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: DARK AND LEAFLESS** New York-based painter Benjamin Butler presents new paintings that reflect his continued interest in combining varying modes of 20th century abstraction with those of the decorative arts, folk art, and "Sunday" painting. *Through Jan. 10. 360 Nueces Ste. C. www.lorareynolds.com.*

**SUPER ALRIGHT: WAY DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS** This is the nationally touring exhibition for the third anniversary of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, featuring original artwork by artists from the Big Easy and beyond, here invigorated by fine pieces by five Austin locals. Recommended. *Through Jan. 10. 301 Chicon, 524-1841. www.superalright.com.*

**EYE CONTACT ART** showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.*

**1305 POSITION GALLERY: CONSEQUENCE** This holographic installation by multimedia artist Sally Weber is the inaugural event for the new Eastside gallery. *305 E. Sixth, 495-9578. www.1305position.com.*

**AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS** Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth.*

**STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS** New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. *2309 Thornton.*

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

**GAY FAY KELLY: DICK LAVINE** Lavine organizes diptychs and triptychs based on repetition of form and color but bound by an overarching play on words. Call for appointment. *Through Jan. 28. 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.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.pablotaboadastudio.com.*

**ARTHOUSE: RAPTURE IN RUPTURE** Curator Elizabeth Dunbar presents new works by Lauren Kelley, Shiri Mordechay, Mindy Shapero, and Nicolau Vergueiro. *Through Jan. 11. 700 Congress, 453-5312. Free. www.arthousetexas.org.*

**ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z** Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. *1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.com.*

**AUSTIN ART GLASS** This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

**BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS** The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. *Through March 8. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

**BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS** Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

**THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK** is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeapaustinweird.com.*

**D BERMAN GALLERY: ANN MATLOCK & MARJORIE MOORE** Two Texas women respond through their intricate and compelling artwork to different aspects of their environment of the last few years. Gallery Talk: *Sat., Jan. 10, 1pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 24. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

**DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW** Here's another fine group show offering work by some of the most exciting artists around: Stella Alesi, Laurel Daniel, Chris De Dier, Matthew Fuller, Joseph Hammer, Sandra Langston, David Leonard, Randall Reid, Christopher St. Leger, William Wahlgren. Be still, my heart; be generous, my wallet. *Through Jan. 10. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

**DIBONA STUDIO** Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

**FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY** *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

**LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE** Eleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display through the gardens. *Through Jan. 31. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

**MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA** A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Gráfico, an independent network of Latino printmaking centers, explores the centers' diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. *Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES ART EXHIBITION** Opening reception and awards ceremony: *Thu., Jan. 15, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 14. 600 River St., 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.*



SANDRA LANGSTON'S OIL PAINTING, 'HOMEOPATHIC DIET,' IS PART OF THE EXCELLENT 'HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW' AT DAVIS GALLERY.

**MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART** presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. [www.mitchie.com](http://www.mitchie.com).

**NEW EAST GALLERY: STRING THEORY** DiverseArts presents the fiber art of Lauren Bristol: colorful, intricate, beautiful. Through Dec. 31. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. [www.diversearts.org](http://www.diversearts.org).

**REAL GALLERY: MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP** Members' holiday art exhibition. 2824 Real, 775-0458. [www.artworksbykathiherrin.com](http://www.artworksbykathiherrin.com).

**STUDIO ELY: JENNIFER ELY** The artist renders canvasses colorful with an elegant, eclectic style. Through Jan. 10. 2124 E. Sixth, 482-8680. [www.studioely.com](http://www.studioely.com).

**UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: BEN WOITENA** This exhibition covers 45 years of work by the noted Houston sculptor who studied with sculptor Charles Umlauf at UT. Through Jan. 4. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. [www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org).

## SPACES

**TEXAS FRENCH BREAD** Kristen Case's "Six by Sundown" series of figurative photographs. Through Dec. 31. 1722 S. Congress. [www.kristencase.com](http://www.kristencase.com).

**ARTWORKS GALLERY** Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

**CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD** New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. [www.rosenfieldphotography.com](http://www.rosenfieldphotography.com).

**FLIGHTPATH: WORD ON THE STREET** Vija G. Mendelson presents an exhibit of her original photo collages celebrating the unique character of Austin's streets. Through Jan. 2. 5011 Duval St., 458-4472. [www.wordonthestreetphotography.com](http://www.wordonthestreetphotography.com).

**LITTLE CITY: ENTANGLEMENT** Art by J. Lowry Doyle. 916 Congress, 476-2489. Free. [www.jlowrydoyle.com](http://www.jlowrydoyle.com).

**THE PARLOR: BIRDS, BEASTS & TEETH** New screen prints and drawings by David Lujan. Through Jan. 6. 4301 Guadalupe, 323-0440. [www.myspace.com/theparlor](http://www.myspace.com/theparlor).

**WESTS** Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

## CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

**INTERNATIONAL MAIL ART SHOW: CALL FOR ENTRIES** The theme for this show is Spaceman: Dada: Robot. All pieces received will be exhibited in the Vortex Theatre lobby during the January run of the new David Jewell and Sergio Samayoa show that's also called Spaceman: Dada: Robot. Send your art to SDR, 8003-B Tisdale, Austin, TX 78757. Deadline: Jan. 5.

**AMOA: WINTER CLASSES** The Austin Museum of Art's renowned art school offers classes in drawing, pottery, photography, and more. Recommended to drive the cold winter away with the creative spirit. See website for details. 3809 W. 35th, 323-6380. [www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org).

**STUDIO2GALLERY: CALL FOR ENTRIES** "Love's Writ" is open to all styles, artists. Artworks submitted must have been executed within the last three years to be eligible. Juror: Jacqueline May. Fee: \$25, first three entries; \$5 each additional. Deadline: Jan. 5. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. [www.studio2gallery.com](http://www.studio2gallery.com).

## litera

### WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

**THE AUSTIN FICTIONISTS** are looking for a few good writers. They meet every two weeks for workshops and reviews; they specialize in fiction but have critiqued essays and other writing; they're very selective about finding serious candidates who will commit to developing their own work and provide balanced critiques of others'. Interested? Send a sample of your writing (between 2,500 and 5,000 words) for consideration. [justincgordon@gmail.com](mailto:justincgordon@gmail.com).

**THE VOYAGE OUT BOOK CLUB** figures out that *All My Friends Are Going to Be Strangers* by Larry McMurtry. Sun., Dec. 28, 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. [www.bookpeople.com](http://www.bookpeople.com).

### OPEN MICS

**MONDAY NIGHT CAFFEINE** for poets, singer-songwriters, and storytellers. Hosted by Edgar Pace. Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. [www.cafecaffeine.com](http://www.cafecaffeine.com).

**GENUINE JOE** All acts welcome. No cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. [www.genuinejoe.com](http://www.genuinejoe.com).

**THE HIDEOUT** is hosted by Thom the World Poet. The Gnostic Prophet is your next featured poet. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC** Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. [www.myspace.com/hotmamaspresso](http://www.myspace.com/hotmamaspresso).

**RUTA MAYA POETRY** is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. [www.rmpoetryaustin.com](http://www.rmpoetryaustin.com).

**THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM** Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. [www.austinslam.com](http://www.austinslam.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MORE POETRY!** *it is & then there is what is not & what will be is born in the same instant of what follows & leads each future & past as what it is to robe & disrobe the naked of is. how nothing brackets the meat of what flows that is no matter the skin of what is as is holes stitching holes & there is nothing to say. it was nothing before it was nothing as nothing laces all & here we are with nothing to hold back in a world sewn to be made. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

## POEM OF THE ISSUE

i am wary of all businesses who beg  
so when banks and car companies  
steal billions from our trust fund  
yet say we cannot afford universal health care  
i for one wish all giving  
to become personal one on one.  
i am happy to feed my jesus on street corners.  
my buddha businessman better wait in line.  
this is the season of gift giving  
and gifting is a choice as pure as air  
and i am happy to give you this poem  
in the trust you will choose who gets your best.  
— Thom the World Poet, from "Give of Yourself"

## 'Austin Americana: The Neal Douglass Photography Collection'

Austin History Center  
Through Jan. 20



I doubt the late Neal Douglass thought of himself as a historian. Journalists rarely do, despite the cliché that our profession is the "first rough draft of history." We're all about the here and now. We cover our assignment, then move on to the next one.

But over time, somebody finally wants to look back, and yesterday's news becomes today's textbook or museum piece. However much Douglass got paid in 1935 when he took the job as the *Austin Statesman's* first staff photographer, it couldn't possibly match the debt that today's Austinites owe him for preserving this city's visual history over the next 30 years.

Douglass' work is still on display for a short time at the Austin History Center, and anyone interested in seeing the city that was should make a point to get Downtown. Posted in the front lobby and east hallway, "Austin Americana: The Neal Douglass Photography Collection" takes on the impossible task of covering the breadth of Douglass' work. Being the first shutterbug for the daily paper of course also meant, for a while, that Douglass was the only one. Even in the smaller days of our city, Austin was still big enough to keep Douglass hopping. He seemingly covered everything.

His first shots were of the great 1935 flood, captured here by a touching photo of a young boy carrying a kitten through the

water. From there, he went on to shoot politicians and celebrities (his wife-to-be was a desk clerk at the Austin Hotel who would call him whenever a notable checked in), businesses, aerial shots of the ever-changing skyline, musicians, even weddings and social events.

Browsing through this display, old-timers will no doubt have memories flood back, while younger Austinites will finally have a face to put with instantly recognizable names: Yes, Zach Scott and Walter Long were actual people, not just the names of buildings and parks. And there was a music scene before the Armadillo: I don't know much about the Mello-Tones, but judging by their 1958 photo, I'd guess they were pretty swinging. Many subjects are long gone (Sen. Lyndon Johnson and his favorite



restaurateur, Rudy Cisneros), a few are still here (the Rev. Dr. Gerald Mann, without his white hair), some are dearly missed institutions (restaurants such as the original Night Hawk and 2-J's), and others have historical value beyond just memories (civil rights pioneers such as the instantly recognizable Heman Sweatt, as well as lesser-knowns such as Emma Dyke, the first black female public accountant, and Virgil Oliver, the first African-American to

sit on a jury in the South).

Austin History Center curators must have gone insane picking shots for the collection. Unfortunately, the limited space only allowed them to hit the tip of the iceberg. A fuller, online look at Douglass' stunning body of work is hosted by the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History website, [www.texashistory.unt.edu/browse/collection/NDPC](http://www.texashistory.unt.edu/browse/collection/NDPC). The 2,111 shots there can cause a history buff to lose an entire day of work. (Ask me how I know.)  
— Lee Nichols



# film listings



D: Ron Howard; with Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Matthew Macfadyen, Rebecca Hall. (R, 122 min.)

Just when it seems the American people can't get through a single day without a new political scandal or revelation about some brazen abuse of the public trust, there comes along

a familiar old bogeyman: Richard M. Nixon. Director Howard, it seems, has gifted us this Christmas with the legend of Dick Nixon to kick around some more. *Frost/Nixon* is a behind-the-scenes account of the momentous interviews with Nixon conducted by British TV personality David Frost in 1977, three years after the former president had resigned from office in disgrace. The film is adapted for the screen by Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *The Last King of Scotland*) from his play and stars the play's two leads: Langella (who also won a Tony for this role) as Nixon and Sheen as Frost. Almost by definition, *Frost/Nixon* is a two-handed work, a psychological boxing match between the two protagonists, and Langella and Sheen, the actors, are evenly matched. Each man also counts a few coaches and assistants in his corner, making the taped interviews seem all the more like a prizefight. The purse? Frost seeks to shed his reputation as a lightweight journalist and gadabout and earn the attention of an even greater share of the worldwide English-speaking television audience. Nixon, ever parsimonious, is lured by the unprecedented interview fee of \$600,000 and the opportunity for so much television access to the American people. In Frost's corner are researchers James Reston Jr. (Rockwell) and Bob Zelnick (Platt), who are angling for the interviews to result in the Nixon apology that Gerald Ford's pardon of the president forever obviated. Viewing their anguish as they witness Frost's lackadaisical

preparation and outright defeat during the first few interview sessions is almost like watching a comical Mutt & Jeff routine. Nixon has Jack Brennan (Bacon), a spit-shined and devoted military man who is his aide and protective right-hand man, and Swiftly Lazar (Toby Jones), the Hollywood agent who brokered the deal on Nixon's behalf. It's this stuff that provides the juice for *Frost/Nixon*: the unseen effort that goes into every hour of television programming. As a director, Howard is frequently drawn to such nitty-gritty. (*The Paper* provides one of the best newsroom portraits ever filmed; *Apollo 13* shows as much, if not more, of what happens at mission control as in outer space; *Backdraft*, at times, has more information about the practice of firefighting than it does the movie's characters.) *Frost/Nixon* is at its best when it is examining this 1977 example of the fragile intersection of media and politics. On its own, I'm not sure that this story of Frost's chutzpah and Nixon's intractability is inherently that gripping, which must be why Morgan inserted a purely fictional exchange (a drunken midnight call from Nixon to Frost) into the movie's climax. Howard, no doubt, is striving for contemporary resonances about today's media/political inbreeding, but I think that after this past presidential campaign, the lessons have progressed to an even more esoteric plane. Ultimately, *Frost/Nixon* may be stuck in time – but, oh, what a time it was. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square

## new reviews

### BEDTIME STORIES D: Adam

Shankman; with Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, Russell Brand, Richard Griffiths, Teresa Palmer, Lucy Lawless, Courteney Cox. (PG, 99 min.)

After years of wandering in the wilderness of artistic obscurity – like Vincent van Gogh – misunderstood comic genius Adam Sandler has finally found his audience: 3-year-olds. It makes perfect sense, really. From setting bags of dog feces on fire in *Billy Madison* to urinating on buildings in *Big Daddy* to ogling bouncing breasts in *Click*, Sandler has always prided himself on being the poster boy for American male regression, so it was only a matter of time before he gave up the pretense of being an adult and just started making kids movies. In his latest, *Bedtime Stories*, co-written by Matt Lopez and the Man Behind the Man-Child Tim Herlihy (*Happy Gilmore*, *The Waterboy*, etc.), Sandler plays Skeeter Bronson, a goofy hotel handyman with a passion for the simpler things in life – gum balls, sports cars, laughing at little people – who is suddenly thrust into the world of adult responsibility when he learns that his haughty arch-enemy, Kendall (Pearce, for reasons passing understanding), is being groomed to take over the hotel instead of him and that his sister (Cox) needs him to look after her two young children while she's away. This kind of dabbling in adulthood is a consistent theme in the Sandler/Herlihy catalog, both men apparently convinced that a doofus trying to be responsible is the funniest thing in the world. But unlike in their previous films in which Sandler's infantile irrepressibility played like an act of rebellion against the square world, in *Bedtime Stories*, the actor's childishness, when in such close contact with the childishness of real children, comes off merely weird, if not borderline mentally challenged. By the time Skeeter starts making up stories for his niece and nephew – stories that are depicted in elaborate CGI fantasias featuring medieval knights and gunslinging cowboys and then start coming true in real life and become the blueprint for Skeeter's inevitable and heroic triumph – I was so exhausted by Sandler's rubbery-face-and-funny-voices schtick, not to mention his *Jerry Springer*-ready battles of the sexes with love interest Russell, that no amount of good-natured moralizing about the importance of family and love was going to have any effect on me. But the minds behind *Bedtime Stories* don't care if you go along with their story, because their story couldn't matter less. They've packed their movie with so much random special-effects adorability – dancing bug-eyed guinea pigs, drop-kicked elves – that all one can do is surrender to the onslaught and hope that one day America will stand up and demand that Sandler stop making movies already and just rent himself out for kids' parties. – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON D: David

Fincher; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Julia Ormond, Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, Jason Flemyng, Jared Harris. (PG-13, 159 min.)

It's quite a feat, really, to have stretched F. Scott Fitzgerald's slender, unsentimental curio into a three-hour-long – very long – major motion picture about Benjamin (Pitt), who is born with the arthritic creak of an old man and proceeds to age in reverse. Everything that was sharp in the original text has been rounded and buffed; Benjamin is no longer a "case," he's a cause, and Fitzgerald's cynical eye toward humans' fleeting attractions, and attractiveness, has been junked for a love story – you know the kind – that spans decades of rising hemlines and missed opportunities. Screenwriter Eric Roth transposes the action from antebellum Baltimore to Armistice Day in New Orleans (which accommodates an ineffective framing story involving Hurricane Katrina). When his wife dies in childbirth, a devastated Thomas Button (Flemyng) scoops up his eyesore of a son (who has the look and sound of a newly hatched pterodactyl) and abandons him on the front porch of a boarding house for aging persons. The home's caretaker, Queenie (Henson), raises Benjamin as her own, and he finds a community there, surrounded by the similarly infirm, until – well, until he doesn't. The problem with this kind of episodic (un)coming-of-age tale – as with Roth's previous Oscar bait, *Forrest Gump* – is that too often transitions, major life decisions, feel unmotivated. Set-pieces exist discretely – there Benjamin is, crewing on a tugboat; there he is, romancing a spy's wife – with only a thin connective tissue involving childhood sweetheart Daisy (Blanchett). Technically, Benjamin and Daisy are about the same age but don't look it; when they meet up in the middle – when they look and feel the same age – Fincher films them with an almost embarrassing religiosity. (Far more interesting are the early scenes, in which Pitt works in concert with the CG to convincingly portray a little boy locked inside an old man's body.) We've come to expect much darker, broodier stuff from Fincher (as in last year's brilliant and underrated *Zodiac*), and this newfound romanticism and injections of Jeunet-like sight whimsies prove an uneasy fit. He's a master craftsman, to be sure, but when he directs those talents toward, for instance, an idyllic montage set to "Twist and Shout" that plays like a highly effective cologne commercial, one can't help but feel snookered. Fincher's selling us beautifully cheekboned movie stars frolicking in bedsheets and calling it a great love. I didn't buy it for a second. – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

**DOUBT** D: John Patrick Shanley; with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, Joseph Foster II. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Playwright Shanley adapted his Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play, *Doubt*, for the movies and also decided to direct the film – an activity he hasn't pursued since his one other directorial effort in 1990, the ill-received *Joe Versus the Volcano*. The cast he gathered for *Doubt* is peerless, and if nothing else, this assemblage is always a pleasure to watch. Unfortunately, the actors don't all behave as though they're performing in the same movie. A collection of acting styles from the broad to the contained and the exacting to the unrestrained create an unevenness of tone and interpretation. Although Shanley wrote the play just a few years ago at the height of the pedophile priest scandal, the film is set in 1964, the time of Shanley's own boyhood. As much as it appears Shanley has a bone to settle with the Catholic priesthood, it seems he also has a score or two to settle with some of the dogmatic nuns of his past. Streep plays Sister Aloysius, the unwavering principal of the St. Nicholas school, run by an order that still wears the intimidating black garb and bonnets of the old-school nuns. Into her dominion comes the new young priest Father Flynn (Hoffman), who embodies everything the church reformers of the Sixties tried to bring about. In between them is the patsy, Sister James (Adams), a young, forward-thinking nun who is nevertheless uncertain of what she knows. She observes something troubling and reports it to Sister Aloysius: She suspects there might be a special relationship between Father Flynn and Donald Miller (Foster), the school's first black student. (The word "pedophilia" or anything of the like is never uttered in the movie, yet everyone knows what is being discussed.) Thus begins a true power struggle between Sister Aloysius and Father Flynn, one that carries with it all the baggage of Catholic tradition and hierarchy as well as the period's secular strife between men and women. There are many small, telling moments in *Doubt* as the viewer is yanked back and forth while the film racks up arguments for each side. Neither side presents definitive evidence, though Sister Aloysius never permits doubt to cross her stern countenance. It's a cerebral tug-



*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

of-war for the viewer, a struggle that's made only more opaque with the film's closing line of dialogue. Meanwhile, storms suddenly stir up outside, and lightbulbs repeatedly burst in Shanley's effort to cinematically underline the pent-up emotions within. There is only one thing of which I am certain, something preached by Father Flynn at the outset of the film: *Doubt* is a bond as sustaining as certainty. — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**MARLEY & ME** D: David Frankel; with Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston, Eric Dane, Kathleen Turner, Alan Arkin, Haley Bennett. (PG, 111 min.)

There are, if you're in a reductionist state of mind, only two types of people in the world: dog people and cat people. Dog people – I count myself among their ranks – will enjoy Frankel's adaptation of journalist John Grogan's bestselling account of life, love, deadlines, and death with the "world's worst dog," a yellow Labrador retriever named Marley. Marley is played, very realistically, by several actual Labs, among them Clyde and Brody, who, although I can't tell them apart, frankly, have clearly mastered the craft of animal acting. Is

## openings & ratings

*Bedtime Stories* (PG)

*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (PG-13)

*Doubt* (PG-13)

*Frost/Nixon* (R)

*Marley & Me* (PG)

*The Reader* (R)

*The Spirit* (PG-13)

*Valkyrie* (PG-13)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

🍌 La bomba

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**WILL SMITH SEVEN POUNDS**  
 COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN OVERBROOK ENTERTAINMENT ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTION A FILM BY GABRIELE MUCCINO "SEVEN POUNDS"  
 ROSALIND DAWSON MICHAEL EAZLY WITH BARRY PEPPER AND WOODY HARRISON MUSIC BY ANGELO MILI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID CROCKETT DAVID BLOOMFIELD KEN STOVITZ DOMENICO PROIACCI WRITTEN BY GRANT NIEPORTE  
 PRODUCED BY TODD BLACK JAMES LASSITER JASON HUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH WILL SMITH DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO  
 PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13  
 THEMATIC MATERIAL, SOME DISTURBING CONTENT AND A SCENE OF SENSUALITY  
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## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ

320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.

**Feast: After the Thin Man New Year's Eve Feast:** Wed, 7:30pm

**High for the Holidays: Beerfest With Beerlympics:** Tue, 10:15pm

**High for the Holidays: The Big Lebowski:** Thu (1/1), 7:30, 10:20

**Master Pancake: Christmas Show:** Fri-Sat, 6:45, 9:30

**Feast: A Christmas Story Roast Duck 'n' More Feast:** Sun, 7:45pm

**High for the Holidays: (Good) Friday:** Fri-Sat, 12mid **Henri's Rockin' New Year's Eve Sing-Along:** Wed, 10:30pm

**Let the Right One In:** Fri-Sat, 3:40pm; Sun-Tue, 4:30pm; Wed-Thu (1/1), 3:45pm

**Milk:** 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

**High for the Holidays: Pootie Tang:** Sun, 10:15pm; Mon, 7:20pm

**High for the Holidays: Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon:** Tue, 7:30pm

**Music Monday: Wonderwall:** Mon, 9:30pm

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.

**\*Bedtime Stories:** 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 11:00am, 3:00, 6:50, 10:40pm

**\*The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:30, 10:25

**\*Seven Pounds:** 11:30am, 3:20, 7:00, 10:10pm

**\*The Spirit:** 11:45am, 3:05, 7:15, 10:20pm

**Cult Thursday: El Topo:** Thu (1/1), 10:00pm

**\*Valkyrie:** 10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:30pm  
**\*Yes Man:** 12:00, 3:10, 6:45, 9:45

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH

1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

**Bedtime Stories:** Fri-Tue, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm; Wed, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45pm; Thu (1/1), 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:**

Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm;

Wed, 11:10am, 2:45, 6:30pm;

Thu (1/1), 11:10am, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm

**\*Doubt:** Fri-Tue, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55pm; Wed, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:15pm; Thu (1/1), 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55pm

**Seven Pounds:** Fri, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45,

7:30, 10:15pm; Sat, 12:00, 7:30, 10:15;

Sun-Tue, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm;

Wed, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30pm;

Thu (1/1), 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm

**Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri-Tue, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35pm; Wed, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40pm; Thu (1/1), 11:05am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35pm

**Slumdog Millionaire (open captioned):** Sat, 1:35pm

**\*The Spirit:** Fri, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40, 11:45pm; Sat, 11:00am, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40, 11:45pm; Sun-Tue, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40pm; Wed, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00pm; Thu (1/1), 11:00am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40pm

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee

"Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri-Tue, 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15; Wed, 1:45, 4:30, 7:25; Thu (1/1), 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15

**Four Christmases:** 11:10am

**\*Marley & Me:** Fri-Tue, 11:05am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00pm; Wed, 11:05am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:10pm; Thu (1/1), 11:05am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00pm

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show:** Sat, 12mid

**\*Valkyrie:** Fri-Tue, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30pm; Wed, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30pm; Thu (1/1), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30pm

**\*Yes Man:** Fri-Tue, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45; Wed, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05; Thu (1/1), 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45

## ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.

Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays.

**Doubt:** 12:00, 1:00, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:50, 9:40, 10:15

**Frost/Nixon:** 12:30, 3:20, 7:00, 9:50

**Milk:** 12:10, 3:10, 7:20, 10:10

**Rachel Getting Married:** 12:20, 3:00, 7:30, 10:05

**The Reader:** 12:40, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00

**Slumdog Millionaire:** 11:50am, 12:50, 2:50, 4:20, 6:50, 7:40, 9:45, 10:20pm

## BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

**Bedtime Stories:** 9:30am, 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00pm

**Bolt:** 9:15am, 2:05pm

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 9:15am, 12:45, 4:15, 7:45, 11:15pm

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 10:10am, 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50pm

**Doubt:** 9:35am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05pm

**Four Christmases:** 11:45am, 4:25, 7:05, 9:20pm

**Frost/Nixon:** 10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15pm

**Marley & Me:** 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm

**Milk:** 11:10am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:55, 10:50pm

**Seven Pounds:** 11:05am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40pm

**Slumdog Millionaire:** 11:00am, 1:50, 4:25pm

**Slumdog Millionaire (closed captioned):** 7:15, 10:20

**The Spirit:** 10:15am, 12:50, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05pm

**The Tale of Despereaux:** 7:00pm

**The Tale of Despereaux (closed captioned):** 9:20am, 11:40, 2:15, 4:35pm

**Twilight:** 9:30pm

**Valkyrie:** 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 8:00, 10:45pm

**Yes Man:** 10:05am, 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35pm

**BOYD VANCE THEATRE AT CARVER**

1165 Angelina, 974-4926.

**AFS, Noko: The Black Candle:** Fri, 5:00pm; Sat, 3:00pm

**CINEMARK CEDAR PARK**

1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.

**\*Bedtime Stories:** 10:45am, 12:00, 1:15, 2:40, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:25pm

**Bolt:** 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 11:00am, 2:30, 7:00, 10:30pm

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 11:30am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm

**Four Christmases:** 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:30pm

**\*Marley & Me:** 11:10am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 9:00, 10:20pm

**\*Seven Pounds:** 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

**\*The Tale of Despereaux:** 10:55am, 1:30, 4:10, 6:40pm

**Twilight:** 6:50, 9:45

**\*Valkyrie:** 10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm

**\*Yes Man:** 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 9:20, 10:35

## CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA

14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.

Call theatre for showtimes for Thursday, Jan. 1.

**\*Bedtime Stories:** Fri-Wed, 11:30am, 12:55, 2:25, 4:00, 5:25, 6:55, 8:05, 9:40, 10:45pm

**Bolt:** Fri-Wed, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:45pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** Fri-Wed, 11:15am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:35pm

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri-Wed, 11:40am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10pm

**Four Christmases:** Fri-Wed, 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

**\*Marley & Me:** Fri-Wed, 11:15am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:10, 6:45, 8:15, 9:50, 10:55pm

**\*Seven Pounds:** Fri-Wed, 12:10, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45

**\*The Spirit:** Fri-Wed, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:40pm

**\*The Tale of Despereaux:** Fri-Wed, 11:50am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50pm

**Twilight:** Fri-Wed, 7:20, 10:25

**\*Valkyrie:** Fri-Wed, 12:30, 3:35, 7:15, 10:20

**\*Yes Man:** Fri-Wed, 11:25am, 12:50, 2:05, 3:50, 5:05, 6:25, 8:00, 9:25, 10:30pm

**CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK**

2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.

Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for showtimes for Friday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 1.

**CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.**

**\*Bedtime Stories:** 9:45am, 11:10, 12:30, 1:50, 3:10, 4:30, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50, 10:10pm

**Bolt:** 10:10am, 12:40, 3:30pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 11:00am, 2:50, 7:00, 10:30pm

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 10:30am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10pm

**Four Christmases:** 9:40am, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15pm

**\*Marley & Me:** 10:00am, 11:30, 12:50, 2:20, 3:40, 5:05, 6:30, 8:00, 9:20, 10:45pm

**\*Seven Pounds:** 10:40am, 1:30, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25pm

**\*The Spirit:** 10:50am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50pm

**\*The Tale of Despereaux:** 9:30am, 11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40pm

**Twilight:** 6:15, 9:00

**\*Valkyrie:** 9:50am, 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00pm

**\*Yes Man:** 10:20am, 11:45, 1:10, 2:30, 4:00, 5:20, 6:50, 8:10, 9:30, 10:40pm

## CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

**\*Bedtime Stories:** 10:30am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:35, 4:55, 6:20, 7:35, 8:55, 10:10pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 10:40am, 12:55, 2:35, 4:30, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45pm

**\*The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 12:50, 3:30, 6:25, 9:00

**Four Christmases:** 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15

**\*Marley & Me:** 10:55am, 1:35, 3:05, 4:15, 5:45, 7:00, 8:25, 9:40, 12:15am

**\*Nothing Like the Holidays:** 9:05pm

**\*Seven Pounds:** 10:50am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm

**\*The Spirit:** 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50pm

**\*The Tale of Despereaux:** 10:45am, 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15pm

**\*Valkyrie:** 11:05am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25pm

**\*Yes Man:** 11:20am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 8:30, 9:55pm

## DOBBE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobbie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:20; Sun, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20; Mon-Wed, 7:00, 10:20; Thu (1/1), 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20

**The Spirit:** Fri-Sat, 7:40, 10:00; Sun, 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00; Mon-Wed, 7:40, 10:00; Thu (1/1), 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

**Valkyrie:** Fri-Sat, 7:20, 9:50; Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Wed, 7:20, 9:50; Thu (1/1), 1:15, 4:00, 7:20, 9:50

**Yes Man:** Fri-Sat, 7:10, 9:30; Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Wed, 7:10, 9:30; Thu (1/1), 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

## GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.

No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.

**Bedtime Stories:** Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 12:05, 2:05, 2:30, 4:35, 4:55, 7:05, 7:20, 9:25, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (1/1), 11:45am, 12:05, 2:05, 2:30, 4:35, 4:55, 7:05, 7:20, 9:25, 9:45pm

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (1/1), 12:00, 4:00, 7:45

**The Day the Earth Stood Still:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (1/1), 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10pm

**Marley & Me:** Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, 12mid; Sun-Thu (1/1), 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35pm

**Seven Pounds:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (1/1), 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm

**The Spirit:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25pm

**The Tale of Despereaux:** Fri-Sat, 10:40am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 11:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/1), 10:40am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20pm

**Valkyrie:** Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, 11:55pm; Sun-Thu (1/1), 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35pm

**Yes Man:** Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (1/1), 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

## GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700

x3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.

**\*Bedtime Stories:** 10:00am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15pm

**\*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 11:50am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:40pm

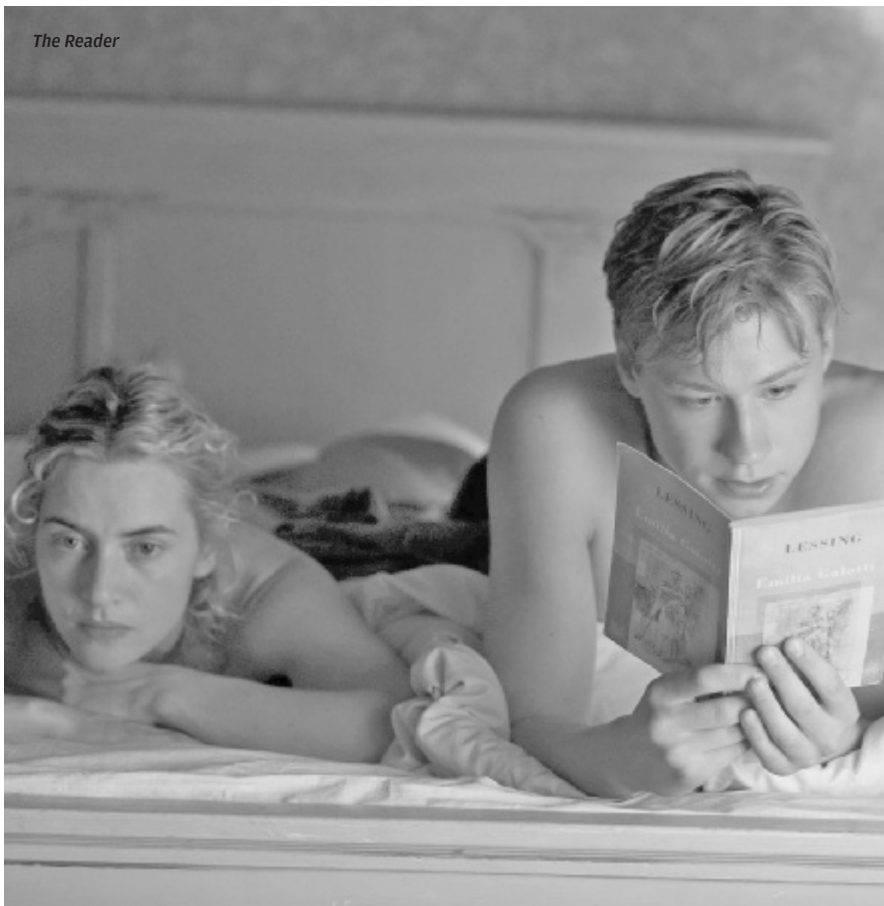
**Marley & Me:** 10:40am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00pm

**The Spirit:** Fri-Wed, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm

**Valkyrie:** 11:40am, 2:30, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00pm

## IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-IMAX.

**Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 4:00; Sun, 4:00pm; Mon-Wed, 12:00,



The Reader

which blossoms between a weary-looking, sexually rapacious streetcar ticket-taker in postwar Berlin and the sickly young schoolboy on whom she initially takes pity and then seduces, ravenously and to his great delight. Hanna (Winslet, shockingly good throughout) lives alone in a cold-water flat barely big enough to accommodate the claw-foot tub where gawky, shy Michael Berg (an enthusiastic, excellent Kross) gets his libido scrubbed raw. And then, after their (highly educational for the virginal Michael) couplings, he reads to her from, among other classic postcoital classics, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. ("That's disgusting!" objects Hanna, nude in a tub with an underage boy, before acquiescing to D.H. Lawrence's sensual wordplay.) And then one day, Hanna is gone, with no explanation, and Michael grows into a promising young law student and, later, into a sorrowful-seeming Ralph Fiennes. What appears to be sorrow and pity, however, are instead the rose-tinted echoes of the affair. *The Reader's* devastating midsection reveals Hanna's previous life as a Nazi war criminal, one who was party to a particularly horrific act. She is on trial for her life, and Michael's law class is front and center at the grueling trial, the new Germany judging the past and, by default, themselves as well. Daldry, working from a superior script by David Hare (*The Hours*), has crafted a film about guilt, love, and history and how the three

skeins create human beings or, alternately, human monsters. There is a sense of ambiguity at the core of *The Reader* that makes it all the more brutal, all the more honest in its deflowering of love and what one imagines love ought to be instead of what it too often is. The past never finishes flogging the human heart, it seems. Certainly not at the movies. (See "Writing 'The Reader,'" p.49, for an interview with David Hare.) — Marc Savlov  
 ★★★ Arbor

**THE SPIRIT** D: Frank Miller; with Gabriel Macht, Eva Mendes, Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, Paz Vega, Jaime King. (PG-13, 103 min.)

*Not reviewed at press time.* No advance screenings were scheduled for this film version of Will Eisner's classic comic-book series. It's directed by the visual stylist behind the graphic novels *Sin City* and *300*. — Marjorie Baumgarten  
 Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 (11:15 1:45 4:20) ♦  
 7:10 10:30

*THE SPIRIT*  
 (11:45 3:05) ♦  
 7:15 10:30

*VALKYRIE*  
 (10:30 1:30 4:30) ♦  
 7:25 10:30

*YESman*  
 (12:00 3:10) ♦  
 6:45 9:45

*THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL*  
 (12:15 3:30) ♦  
 7:25 10:20

*SEVEN POUNDS*  
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**VALKYRIE** D: Bryan Singer; with Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Eddie Izzard. (PG-13, 110 min.)

We all know how it ends, and that foreknowledge dooms Singer's hotly anticipated and much troubled account of the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life by his own officers in July 1944. It's always good to see Hitler threatened or Nazis getting what's coming to them – just ask Indiana Jones – but Cruise, strident, glaring, and positively burbling over with blood and honor and love of Germany's perverted promise, makes for a problematic closet hero. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, one of a handful of officers who together plan a suitcase-bomb attack to be carried out at the Wolf's Lair retreat, is fitfully dour. There's more honest suspense in waiting for him to crack a smile (he doesn't, or at least not the famous Cruise version) during all the scheming than there is in anything having to do with the actual assassination attempt. Director Singer, who helmed the far more perverse (and infinitely more entertaining) *Apt Pupil* back in 1998, pays scrupulous attention to period detail and the mechanics of desperation. His cabal, among them Nighy as the terminally indecisive Gen. Friedrich Olbricht and the great Stamp as governmental overseer Ludwig Beck, gives the accounting some seriously weighty gravitas, but as multiple clocks tick down and the tricky plan to mobilize Berlin's reserve army against the SS begins to fray, *Valkyrie* topples beneath the weight of memory, and history. Following Hitchcock's "bomb under the desk" dictum to the bitter end just doesn't work out to anyone's satisfaction here. Like the ditty from the same era popularized by Spike Jones, both the film and the explosives do little but fizzle in "Der Fuehrer's Face." – *Marc Savlov*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



## Wonderwall

**Wonderwall (1968)** D: Joe Massot; with Jane Birkin, Jack MacGowran, Iain Quarrier, Irene Handl, Richard Wattis. (NR, 75 min.) **Music Monday.** Sitara George Harrison is on the soundtrack with Eric Clapton, Ravi Shankar, and Ringo Starr in this trippy journey into disintegrating boundaries. Jane Birkin/Serge Gainsbourg preshow before feature. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 9:30pm.

## first runs

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com). Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

**AUSTRALIA** D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Brandon Walters, David Wenham, David Ngoombujarra, Bryan Brown, Ray Barrett. (R, 170 min.)

Luhrmann has never been afraid to go big, and with this, his long-awaited follow-up to 2001's *Moulin Rouge*, his canvas stretches as wide as the continent it chronicles. But the bigger the scope and the bigger the ambition, the less control Luhrmann seems to have over his epic productions. *Australia* is a fairly straightforward and occasionally quite involving love story between a man and a woman, a woman and an orphaned child, a people and the land. It's an overpacked film, to be sure, and Luhrmann front-loads the best stuff in the first of the film's three distinct sections, including a break-neck cliffside cattle stampede that ends in a gorgeous, three-person clutch. Luhrmann wants it all – comedy and tragedy, bombast and wet-eyed sentimentality. When it works, his kid-in-a-candy-store giddiness is infectious. When it doesn't – when he goes from silly to turgid in 60 seconds flat – he punctures *Australia's* proportions down from epic to simply overwrought. (11/28/2008) – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ Metropolitan

**BOLT** D: Byron Howard, Chris Williams; with John Travolta; Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)

Bolt, an animated American White Shepherd (voiced by Travolta), has been born and raised on a film studio lot and truly believes himself to possess those "radical canine enhancements" that his character displays every week on TV. Bolt is completely oblivious of his status as a flesh-and-blood nipper, so when he ends up accidentally shipped from his closed Hollywood environs to "the real world," aka New York City, the stage is set not only for a classic Disney road trip but also for a series of alternately comic and wistful revelations regarding the true nature of heroism, friendship, and love. The writing team of Dan Fogelman (*Cars*) and co-director Williams (*Mulan*) has concocted one of the most witty and often hilarious Disney outings in years. Add to that the beautifully nuanced vocal work from all involved, plus some of the most deliriously inspired animation to come out of Disney in years, and the end result is, to quote Rhino, *awwwwesome*. (11/21/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

**CADILLAC RECORDS** D: Darnell Martin; with Adrien Brody, Jeffrey Wright, Gabrielle Union, Columbus Short, Cedric the Entertainer, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Eamonn Walker, Mos Def, Beyoncé Knowles, Eric Bogosian. (R, 108 min.)

*Cadillac Records* is a music portrait of the musicians, such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Chuck Berry, and Etta James, who gravitated

to postwar Chicago, and the Chess Records label, which recorded and promoted so much of their work. Although writer/director Martin's movie plays loose with many of the historical facts, her aim is dead-on in terms of nailing the spirit of the thing. *Cadillac Records* bobs and weaves, strides and duckwalks, samples and smiles on the sounds that made urban Chicago such a blues melting pot. It's best to not get too hung up on the purity of every single ingredient that goes into the pot, because that will only get in the way of the dish's overall taste, and *Cadillac Records* has flavor galore. The actors cast as the bluesmen and -women are spectacular – again, not so much for their physical mimicry but for their spiritual inhabitation of the historical figures. (12/12/2008) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Tinseltown South

## THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

D: Scott Derrickson; with Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly, Kathy Bates, Jaden Smith, John Cleese, Jon Hamm, Kyle Chandler. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Unsurprisingly, this loud, hammy, and, above all, pointless do-over only serves to point out the genius of the original. Screenwriter David Scarpa sticks to the rudiments of Edmund H. North's 1951 script but garnishes the film's overriding and still-resonant message with wooden warnings from the equally wooden Reeves and then ladles on the CGI destruction to little effect. Reeves displays precious few emotions and even less acting. He plays the character of Klaatu (who is, lest we forget, the potential destroyer and/or savior of all mankind) as though he were on robot-pilot. Connelly does her best as the sci-gal whose rocky relationship with her preteen stepson eventually leads to tears, hugs, and the redemption of all mankind (maybe). But even she – or a stern Bates or a decidedly unsilly cameo by Cleese – can't save this dull, unnecessary film from its total lack of "Gosh, wow!" sense of wonder. (12/12/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## FOUR CHRISTMASES

D: Seth Gordon; with Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Jon Favreau, Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Jon Voight, Kristin Chenoweth, Dwight Yoakam, Tim McGraw, Katy Mixon. (PG-13, 82 min.)

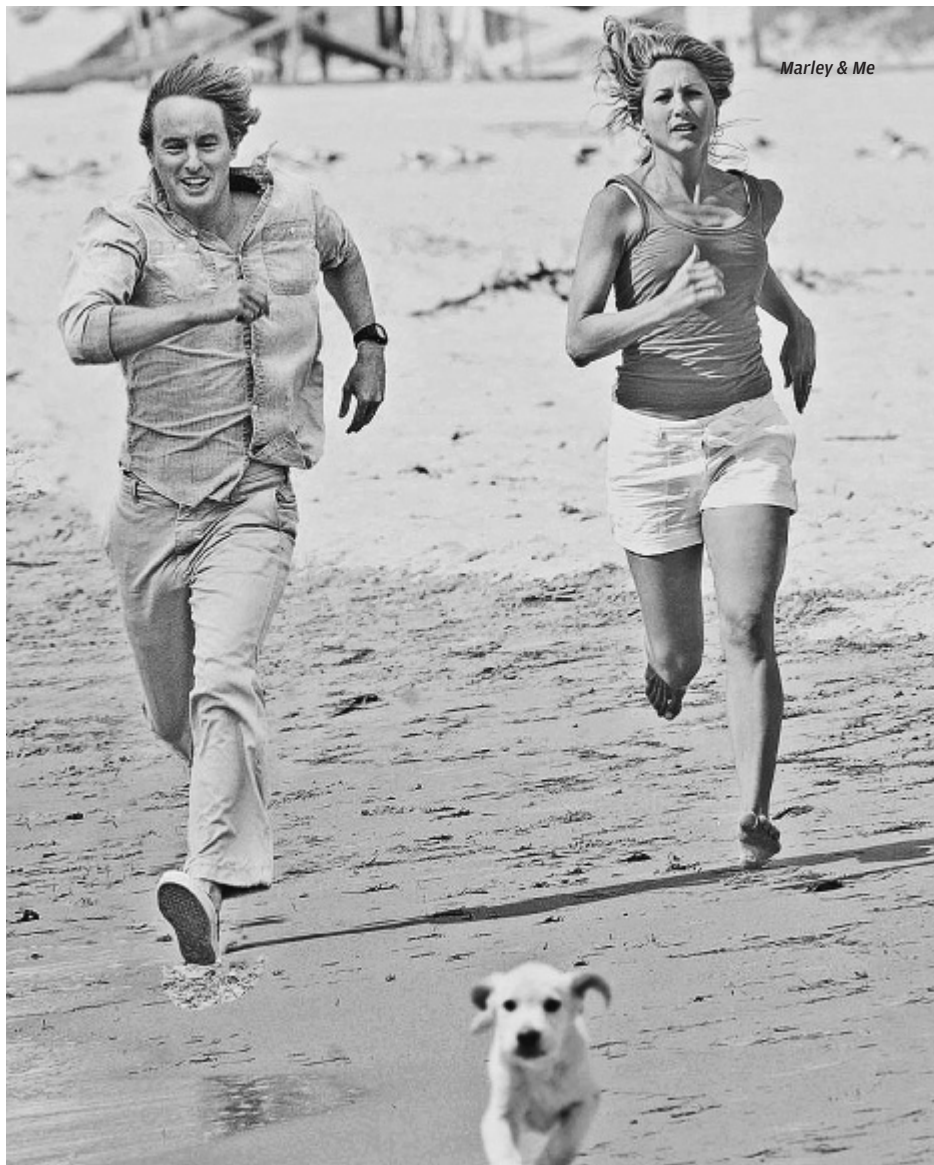
No yuletide season would be complete without the crappy Christmas movie. This year's entry in this lowly subgenre is *Four Christmases*, a D-list comedy with A-list actors. (No doubt, the five Oscar winners in the cast were motivated by an easy paycheck and the audience exposure found in a critic-proof movie starring Vaughn.) Generously speaking, *Four Christmases* plays like a series of skits randomly connected to one another. So, when the script turns a serious corner to impart a warm and fuzzy message about the importance of a traditional holiday with the family, the sentimentality starts to smell. Vaughn and Witherspoon make for a cute couple – the height difference between the two alone is worth a good laugh – but their different approaches to comic acting clash onscreen. Maybe moviegoers are still keen on Vaughn, but his incessant prattling is quickly becoming stale. (11/28/2008) – *Steve Davis*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## LET THE RIGHT ONE IN

D: Tomas Alfredson; with Kåre Hedebrant, Lina Leandersson. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

Knives, fangs, and budding desire; corpses in corpses and snowbound ire: Ah, young love. This multi-award-winning Swedish film could be summarized as a vampire tween romance, but that cheap and tawdry sum-up does zero justice to the magnificent emotional resonance of this gemlike bloodstone of a film. The film is a complex examination of what it means to be a young outsider, and its bracing honesty in these matters is on par with Gus Van Sant and Larry Clark.



It's creepy in the same way that a youngster's first stirrings of adolescent desire are creepy – both to them and often more so to their elders – when strange attractors come into play and everything seems frighteningly freighted with the surreal, the mysterious, the forbidden. Oskar (Hedebrand), a blond wisp of a bullied, shy boy, and a strange young girl name Eli (Leandersson) are the adolescent outsiders. Their story creates a beautiful horror film and, more important, a beautiful film. (11/14/2008) – Marc Savlov  
★★★★ Alamo Ritz

**MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA** D: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath; with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer, Andy Richter, Bernie Mac, Alec Baldwin, Sherri Shepherd, Will.i.am. (PG, 89 min.)  
*Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa* extends what *Madagascar* did best: fill up the screen with computer-generated visual novelty. The slapstick humor remains, as does the slack plotting. Introducing only a few new characters that are unfortunately unmemorable, this sequel is likewise a decent diversion that's not much worth talking about afterward. The visual cleverness arises foremost from the central quartet of friends – lion, zebra, hippo, and giraffe – which gets placed strategically in the frame to create funny tableaux. But

★★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South  
**MILK** D: Gus Van Sant; with Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco, Alison Pill, Victor Garber, Denis O'Hare. (R, 127 min.)

Van Sant's very fine biopic restricts itself to the last decade of Harvey Milk's life, when the semi-closeted insurance man living in New York moved to San Francisco's Castro district and embarked upon a historic campaign (four, in fact) to become the first openly gay man elected to public office. Technically, *Milk* is a knockout, and the film is terrifically acted, top to bottom. Still, when the focus of the script (by first-timer Dustin Lance Black) turns almost exclusively to the Proposition 6 fight and Milk's last days, the film loses much of its loose-limbedness. *Milk* is a more conventionally satisfying picture than Van Sant's previous Aughties output, which consisted of aggressively experimental films that didn't always work but got under the skin something fierce. The deeply heartfelt *Milk* is

more of a surface skim: a fairly standard biopic – if a very fine one, indeed – but never the transcendent work we hoped for. (12/05/2008) – Kimberley Jones  
★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Westgate

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS**  
D: Alfredo De Villa; with Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, Freddy Rodríguez, John Leguizamo, Luis Guzmán, Jay Hernandez, Melonie Diaz, Vanessa Ferlito, Debra Messing. (PG-13, 99 min.)

This overly sentimental family Christmas drama, featuring a veritable checklist of prominent Hispanic actors, falls victim to the shortcoming so prevalent in similarly ethnic-themed movies with similar casts

– everything and everyone is so damn serious. Here, old wounds reopen and sibling rivalries resurface as the Puerto Rican Rodriguez clan comes together and then apart at the family home in Chicago over the holidays. The steady stream of confrontations, secrets, and other little dramas jam-pack the movie's script (three screenwriters are credited) in a manner that suggests amateurishness rather than insight, with the ultimate message being (of course) that no matter how many times you scream at your relatives, blood will always be thicker than water. Although he captures the film's Chicago setting in a way that feels authentic, director De Villa seems to have little clue of how to capture the subtleties of human emotion. (12/19/2008) – Steve Davis  
★★ Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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## Riding the Rails

**Riding the Rails (1997)** D: Lexy Lovell and Michael Uys. (NR, 72 min.) **Documentary Night.** The filmmakers document the history of hobo culture through old news footage and movies, interviews, and excerpts from the letters of more than 3,000 surviving rail riders and focus on the teenagers who took to the rails during the Depression to escape crushing poverty, abusive homes, or just plain boredom. @MonkeyWrench Books, Monday, 7:30pm; free, donations accepted.



## The Black Candle

**The Black Candle (2008)** D: M.K. Asante Jr.; narrated by Maya Angelou. (NR, 71 min.) **Austin Film Society and Nokoa.** Presented as part of a citywide celebration of Kwanzaa, the film is the first feature documentary about the history of the global, pan-African celebration of the holiday. Since the Friday show has sold out, an encore screening has been added on Saturday. People will be able to assume reserved seats until 2:45pm, at which time seats will be made available to walk-up patrons. @Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, Friday, 5pm; Saturday, 3pm; free, reserve tickets at [www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com](http://www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com).



### QUANTUM OF SOLACE D: Marc

Forster; with Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric, Judi Dench, Giancarlo Giannini, Jeffrey Wright, Gemma Arterton. (PG-13, 106 min.)

Craig's onscreen charisma and exquisitely thugish charm are such that he could likely revitalize any number of flagging film franchises with little but a three-second cameo. *Quantum of Solace* proves that *Casino Royale* was no fluke. Director Forster may have seemed an odd choice initially, yet he proves more than up to the task of shepherding James Bond and new Bond girl Kurylenko through a convoluted but not unmanageable plot as both ricochet around the globe in parabolas of vengeance. *Quantum* opens mere minutes after *Casino Royale* ends, and this Bond is bloodier and more enraged than we've ever seen him. Paul Haggis' script (with Neal Purvis and Robert Wade) focuses not on the wages of sin but of vengeance. *Quantum* is a grim, dark, and relentlessly violent film – James Bond as Terminator rather than Templar – but it delivers the goods in bloody high style. (11/14/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

### RAB NE BANA DI JODI D: Aditya

Chopra; with Shahrukh Khan, Anushka Sharma. (NR, 167 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this new Bollywood romance, polar opposites find themselves drawn together by fate. (12/12/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

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### RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eyed, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father, Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spotlight. (10/31/2008) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

### SEVEN POUNDS D: Gabriele Muccino; with

Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, Barry Pepper, Elpidia Carrillo, Robinne Lee, Joe Nunez. (PG-13, 120 min.)

Smith plays Ben Thomas, a once-successful engineer who now leads a desperate life of self-loathing and regret. Seeking out the most effective and productive means of self-flagellation, he devises an elaborate scheme of charity/contribution designed to save strangers' lives through the abandonment of his own. Director Muccino (reuniting with his *Happyness* star) and writer Grant Nieporte have gone

through pains to keep viewers in a state of suspended half-confusion, but it is safe to reveal that Ben's work involves helping damaged souls, in particular a beautiful young woman (Dawson) who has a congenital heart defect but enough heart to nudge Ben toward something resembling absolution. Throughout the film, Smith proves himself adept in the art of conflicted melancholy – always speaking at the wrong volume, rarely looking people in the eye, and full of forced smiles – and Muccino responds to his star's seriousness with enough darkness and moral ambivalence to keep the story from toppling into heartwarming, pay-it-forward mawkishness. (12/19/2008) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE D: Danny

Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

*Slumdog Millionaire* is a mad, thrilling, and perversely luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*. It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and

Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. (12/12/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square

### THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

D: Sam Fell, Rob Stevenhagen; with the voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, William H. Macy, Stanley Tucci, Ciarán Hinds, Robbie Coltrane, Tony Hale, Frances Conroy, Frank Langella, Richard Jenkins, Christopher Lloyd, Bronson Pinchot. (G, 93 min.)

The lesson learned from *The Tale of Despereaux* is that an overabundance of vocal talent does not a good cartoon make. Adapted for the screen by *Pleasantville* and *Seabiscuit* director Gary Ross from the 2004 Newberry Medal-winning novel by Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux* adds up to much less than the sum of its parts. The animation looks decent enough, but the narrative is a choppy story that bobs among human characters in the human kingdom of Dor, where soup seems to be its inhabitants' main preoccupation, and the rodent residents of the separate municipalities of Mouseworld and Ratworld. The movie becomes so intent on introducing characters and revealing the dark chambers of the Ratworld dungeon (enough so that the G rating should be called into question) that it loses many of the book's messages about individuality and valor. Most crippling is the narration by Weaver, which ladles out platitudes by the heaping spoonful. (12/19/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



**TWILIGHT** D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Cam Gigandet, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 120 min.)

I've had mosquito bites that were more passionate than this undead, unrequited, and altogether unfun pseudo-romantic riff on *Romeo and Juliet*. Based on the hideously readable (or so my dark beloved tells me) series of "don't call them young adult" novels by Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* is the first in what promises to be a lengthy cinematic franchise featuring sexy vampire boys who just say, "No, I don't drink ... you." When broody-but-cool

teen Bella Swan (Stewart) moves to the permanently overcast town of Forks, Wash., she becomes romantically involved with pallid school hunk Edward Cullen (Pattinson), who is one-sixth of a local vampire "family" which has sworn off the human populace in favor of other sources of the crimson. Bella and Edward's courtship is played out with plenty of dreamy, slo-mo nuance, but Pattinson's cheekbones keep getting in the way of the story, and the third-act arrival of a trio of "bad" vampires appears out of nowhere and goes nowhere, too. (11/28/2008) — Marc Savlov  
 ★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**YES MAN** D: Peyton Reed; with Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, Rhys Darby, Danny Masterson, Terence Stamp. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Carl (Carrey) is in a funk. Then he discovers a life-changing mantra: Say "yes" to every opportunity that presents itself. This plot gimmick veers suspiciously close to the 1997 Carrey vehicle *Liar Liar*, in which his character compulsively tells the truth, even though supernatural intervention is the cause. In contrast, *Yes Man* believes in free will, with Carl at first struggling to agree to requests small and large, whether it be friends getting him to pick up the bar tab or a homeless person asking for a

ride. But soon he's showered with rewards, including a pretty new girlfriend played by actor/singer Zooey Deschanel, who's wide-eyed and good-hearted but without a lot of range — a fair description of the film itself. As the good results roll in and Carl starts uttering "yes" without hesitation, *Yes Man* becomes less a story and more a collection of set-pieces. (12/19/2008) — Theresa Everline

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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# special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (\*) indicates full-length reviews available online: [austinchronicle.com/film](http://austinchronicle.com/film).



Dark Side of the Rainbow

## THURSDAY 25

**Black Christmas (1974)** D: Bob Clark; with Olivia Hussey, Keir Dullea, Margot Kidder, John Saxon. (R, 98 min.) **Terror Thursday.** Featuring a solid cast, this is a prototype slasher movie in which the killer targets a sorority house for destruction, bumping off girl after girl, while the sisters are also plagued by a rash of crank calls. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

**Christmas on Mars (2008)** D: Wayne Coyne, Brad Beesley and George Salisbury. (NR, 82 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Psychedelic rock band the Flaming Lips perform and provide the score for frontman Coyne's directorial debut. It's full of sci-fi trippiness about a space colonist's hallucinations during a Christmas pageant. @Alamo Ritz, 7:20, 9:40pm.

## FRIDAY 26

**The Black Candle (2008)** D: M.K. Asante Jr.; narrated by Maya Angelou. (NR, 71 min.) **Austin Film Society and Nokoa.** See p.80.

**Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater.** After a two-year absence, it's the return of the seasonal show that features Master Pancake and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. Owen Egerton and regulars John Erler and Joe Parsons orchestrate the fun. @Alamo Ritz, 6:45, 9:30pm.

**(Good) Friday (1995)** D: F. Gary Gray; with Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Anna Maria Horsford, Regina King, Bernie Mac, John Witherspoon. (R, 91 min.) This is a cleaned-up version of the urban comedy with all the profanity stripped out and ridiculous voices dubbed in by Foleyvision's Buzz Moran. It's comedy on a whole other level. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

## SATURDAY 27

**The Black Candle (2008)** @Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 3pm; free, reserve tickets at [www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com](http://www.wecelebratekwanzaa.com). See p.80.

**Christmas Show** @Alamo Ritz, 6:45, 9:30pm. (See Fri., 12/26.)

**(Good) Friday (1995)** @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Fri., 12/26.)

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see [www.austinrocky.org](http://www.austinrocky.org). @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

## offscreen

**501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre** 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen.

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**Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries** The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (\$20 fee): Jan. 30. Deadline (\$40 fee): Feb. 12. [www.cinelasamericas.org](http://www.cinelasamericas.org).

**Screen It Like You Mean It** Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. [www.austinstudios.org](http://www.austinstudios.org).

**The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Registration** All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. **Screenwriting Fundamentals** Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-Feb. 24. \$250 (\$235, if registered by Dec. 31). **Screenwriting Master Class** Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-March 31. \$450 (\$425, if registered by Dec. 31). Also, private instruction and story consultation packages, 7½ hours of instruction, \$390. See website for more options. [www.thescreenplayworkshop.org](http://www.thescreenplayworkshop.org).

## SUNDAY 28

**A Christmas Story Roast Duck 'n' More Feast (1983)** D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon. (PG, 93 min.) **Feast.** See [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com) for menu. @Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm.

**Pootie Tang (2001)** D: Louis C.K.; with Chris Rock, Lance Crouther, Wanda Sykes, Robert Vaughn, David Cross, Conan O'Brien, Andy Richter, Mario Joyner, Jennifer Coolidge. (PG-13, 72 min.) **High for the Holidays.** This is a nutty story about the life of the fictional ghetto hero Pootie Tang, whose struggles against corporate America after selling out become the stuff of legend. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

## MONDAY 29

**Pootie Tang (2001)** @Alamo Ritz, 7:20pm. (See Sun., 12/28.)

**Wonderwall (1968)** See p.78.

## SPACES

**Riding the Rails (1997)** See p.80.

**Santa With Muscles (1996)** D: John Murlowski; with Hulk Hogan, Don Stark, Robin Curtis, Garrett Morris. (PG, 97 min.) Hogan plays an amnesiac who thinks he is Santa Claus. @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

## TUESDAY 30

**Beerfest With Beerlympics (2006)** D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Chandrasekhar, Will Forte, Kevin Heffernan, Cloris Leachman, Steve Lemme, Mo'Nique, Eric Christian Olsen, Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske. (R, 110 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Before Broken Lizard's comedy film about the underground world of competitive beer drinking, there will be live Beerlympics games to get your juices flowing. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

**Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon** D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Margaret Hamilton. (G, 101 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Is there really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*? Find out for yourself at this synced-up saunter to the dark side of the rainbow. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm.

## WEDNESDAY 31

**After the Thin Man New Year's Eve Feast (1936)** D: W.S. Van Dyke; with William Powell, Myrna Loy. (NR, 117 min.) **Feast.** There were six *Thin Man* movies in all, but this first sequel has the most spark and plausibility. Here's to our all-time favorite threesome: Nick, Nora, and Asta. Each food course will be paired with libations. @Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm.

**Henri's Rockin' New Year's Eve Sing-Along** A mix of the top music videos of the year and tunes from the past year's sing-alongs. Ticket includes Champagne for a midnight toast. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

## THURSDAY 01

**The Big Lebowski (1998)** D: Joel Coen; with Jeff Bridges, Sam Elliott, John Goodman, Ben Gazzara, Jon Polito, Tara Reid, Steve Buscemi, John Turturro, David Huddleston, Philip Seymour Hoffman. (R, 117 min.) **High for the Holidays.** A case of mistaken identity embroils the supremely go-with-the-flow character of the Dude (Bridges) in an intersecting mix of kidnapping, pornography, German nihilists, sultry women, gumshoes, missing money, and missing toes. White Russians on tap. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:30, 10:20pm.

**El Topo (1970)** D: Alejandro Jodorowsky; with Jodorowsky, Brontis Jodorowsky, Mara Lorenzio. (NR, 125 min.) **Cult Thursday.** One of the first midnight cult movies, *El Topo* is a perfect choice to kick off the Lake Creek's new weekly cult-movie series. Spanish filmmaker Jodorowsky plays the title character, and, fittingly, his son plays his son in this strange Western about life, death, sex, and religion. Exactly what the movie is saying remains obscure to many, but its images remain majestic and unforgettable. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 9 issue is Monday, Dec. 29.** 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).

## imax

**Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk (2008)** D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Robert Redford. (NR, 40 min.) The river at risk is the Colorado. Water-conservation advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. joins ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis and their 18-year-old daughters for a rafting trip down the river to the parched Colorado delta. Fri.-Sat., noon, 4pm; Sun., 4pm; Mon.-Wed., noon, 4pm.

**Texas: The Big Picture (2003)** D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Fri.-Wed., 10am.

**The Light Before Christmas (2008)** D: Nathan Smith and Christopher Robin Miller; with the voices of Miller, Brock Holman, Ruby Chase O'Neil, Ken Sansom. (NR, 34 min.) In this animated film, two children are rescued by an old sage who imparts wisdom, hot chocolate, and stories. *Last day: Sun., Jan. 4.* Fri.-Sat., 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8pm; Sun., 1, 3, 7, 8pm; Mon.-Wed., 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8pm.

**U2 3D (2008)** D: Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens. (G, 85 min.) In 3-D and on the IMAX screen, these Irish rockers really rattle and hum. *Last day: Sat., Jan. 3.* (\*) Fri.-Sat., 9pm.

**Wild Ocean 3D (2008)** D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Fri.-Wed., 2, 6pm.



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# music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



## Hayes Carll

Antone's, Sunday 28  
The Band of Heathens opens.

2008 has been a year of highs and lows for Hayes Carll. The local songwriter's third LP and debut for Lost Highway Records, *Trouble in Mind*,

garnered accolades across the board, topping the Americana radio charts and taking home Song of the Year honors from the Americana Music Association for the hilarious romp "She Left Me for Jesus."

"It's been a crazy year," Carll affirms. "It's definitely been gratifying, whenever anybody likes what you do. It's sort of a weird thing in that you make a record and put it out, and then a lot of it is kind of out of your hands. I don't listen to the record that much. We go out and do all the touring, and you sort of forget what's driving it, so eight months later when people start talking about it, I guess it's like having kids – you create 'em and let 'em go, and whatever they do, they do. In this case, this one's grown up pretty good."

Carll was also faced with the destruction of his former home in

Crystal Beach, Texas, as Hurricane Ike hammered the Bolivar Peninsula this summer. Carll cut his teeth along that strip of shoreline, its distinctive characters still populating his country tales and the town hosting his annual Stingaree Festival, which he plans to make a benefit next summer.

"I was in Europe when it hit, so I got there about five weeks after," he relates. "My family had been down and shown me pictures of where my house used to be, and I thought I was prepared for it, but there's just no preparing yourself for seeing the way that it is. It looks like a bomb went off. Everything is destroyed, just debris and destruction everywhere. [With the festival] we just want to remind people what's going on down there, that there are a lot of people without their homes or livelihoods." – Doug Freeman

MISS LAVELLE WHITE  
Momo's, Thursday 25

DALE WATSON  
Continental Club, Thursday 25

The family is bickering, the uncles are drunk, and the turkey carcass is starting to smell. Time to tuck in the sugarplums and celebrate like a true Texan. Momo's carries on a longstanding tradition begun at the Saxon Pub with Miss Lavelle White's smooth, soulful Christmas Party. If rough and rowdy is more your style, the Continental has Dale Watson & His Lone Stars' honky-tonkin' Christmas Show & Dance. Go work off those seconds. – Darcie Stevens

JOE ELY Saxon Pub, Friday 26

Can't think of a better way to spend the night after Christmas than with Joe Ely and Joel Guzman – their *Live Cactus!* was one of the best local releases of 2008. With Ely's guitar and tall tales augmented by Guzman's sly, expressive accordion, the duo is guaranteed to transport the Saxon to lost highways of the West Texas flatlands with a fiery presence larger than the club's tiny stage. – Jim Caligiuri

PRINCE KLASSEN

Beauty Bar, Friday 26

DJ JESTER THE  
PHILIPINO FIST

Lamberts, Friday 26

... And all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Fortunately, there's always a DJ around. With Austin emptied for the holiday, the day after Christmas proves a particularly sweet spot out on the local music scene, especially since it falls on Friday, the first day of Kwanza. (Forgot that one, didn't you?) One expects these two San Antonio natives turned Bat City steel wheelers to mix and match all the colors and hues of a waning year giving way to the new dawn of Jan. 20. – Raoul Hernandez

Run, Keith Richards, Run at  
austinchronicle.com/earache

GARY CLARK JR.,  
BAVU BLAKES  
& THE EXTRA PLAIRS  
Antone's, Saturday 27

Don't worry that Santa didn't bring what you wanted for Christmas; local hip-hop provocateur AustinSurreal.com has you covered. Bavu Blakes & the Extra Plairs knock wood first with soulful Texas hip-hop, and second servings come by way of Gary Clark Jr., whose fat-toned fretwork should go over well with those still blue about getting that ugly sweater.

– Chase Hoffberger

FINALLY PUNK TOUR  
KICKOFF

Emo's, Saturday 27

Jonesing for some post-holiday trouble to take the edge off? Local favorites Finally Punk kick out the No Wave screampcore jams indoors at Emo's to christen their West Coast tour. Cry Blood Apache and Total Abuse support with absurdist goth and blistering, harmonically astute hardcore, respectively. The show doubles as a record release for Total Abuse's new self-titled LP *Spooky* electronic wedding-haters No Mas Bodas and Tennessee thrashers Life Trap open.

– Daniel Mee

SHAPES HAVE  
FANGS, BOX ELDERS  
Beerland, Sunday 28

Omaha trio Box Elders ape the popular retro garage sound, but the songs on their sole 7-inch have a level of pop sophistication not usually seen from bands named after bugs. They're supported here by groovy local oddballs Harlem and reverb junkies Woven Bones, who have an upcoming split with Miami's the Jacuzzi Boys coming out in '09. Smart 1960s throwbacks Shapes Have Fangs headline. – Daniel Mee

JACK ROSE,  
SHAWN MCMILLEN,  
RALPH WHITE

Mohawk, Tuesday 30

Headlining a summit featuring three of contemporary folk's most notable string theorists, Philadelphia guitarist Jack Rose hosts with the avant-picking of his Fahey-esque fretwork cut against Eastern influences. Local experimentalist and Rubble-rouser Shawn McMillen opens with mesmerizing acoustic psych and tonal contortions, while former Bad Liver Ralph White delivers his off-kilter backwoods visions via banjo, fiddle, kalimba, and accordion.

– Doug Freeman

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER **soundcheck**

PINETOP PERKINS

Antone's, Friday 26

The Nonagenarian and friends key up an early show. 8pm.

OLD 97'S

La Zona Rosa, Saturday 27

Perennial Dallas rockers *Blame It on Gravity*. The Drams open.

TRANSMOGRAPHY,  
THE VITAMINS

Hole in the Wall, Saturday 27

Free show, free noise, from the junkyard and graveyard.

SCOTT H. BIRAM,  
JOHN SCHOOLEY

Red Eyed Fly, Saturday 27

One-man bands kick blues in your face, with Jeff Pinkus' Pure Luck.

LOU ANN BARTON

Antone's, Monday 29

Texas soul on Monday, with the Blue Tuesday Band.

INSECT SEX ACT

Room 710, Tuesday 30

Scratch Acid spawn, 8pm.

live music venues p.86 ● roadshows + club listings p.88



TODD V. WOLFSON



SANDY GARRISON



AUBREY EDWARDS

L - R: PINETOP PERKINS (FRI., 12/26) | JOE ELY (FRI., 12/26) | TRANSMOGRAPHY (SAT., 12/27) | SHAPES HAVE FANGS (SUN., 12/28) | RALPH WHITE (TUE., 12/30)

# OPEN CALL for SXSW 2009 CASHIERS



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th**

**Hilton Hotel Downtown, Room 602 (5-6pm)**

We need paid cashiers to work at venues during the SXSW Music Festival (March 18-21). Please bring a resume and a photo ID with you to the open call. Get paid, hear music and have fun at SXSW this year!

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**34 YEARS OF ROCKING AUSTIN**  
**2538 GUADALUPE**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 23RD.**  
**THE IN & OUTLAWS,**  
**THE DOOLINS,**  
DOUGLAS KENT, & ROGER WALLACE 9PM  
HAPPY HOUR:  
**THE MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA**  
FEATURING WILL SEXTON, SPEEDY SPARKS, MIKE BUCK & MORE 6PM.

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24TH.**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE WITH**  
**MIKE DUBOSE & FRIENDS!**  
(DIANA BRUSCHKE, MIKE SOLO ACOUSTIC, MIKE JUNE, TROY DILLINGER, MIKE DUBOSE AND THE DISSIDENTS)  
9PM (THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW)

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH.**  
**CHRISTMAS KARAOKE**  
W/ RUSTY TRAPPS & MORE 9PM  
OUTSIDE: BILLY DAVE WAMMO 9-11PM

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH.**  
**FREE SHOW: BRIDGE FARMERS,**  
**BETAPLAYER & MORE 10PM**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH.**  
**FREE SHOW: TRANSMOGRAPHY**  
**THE VITAMINS & MORE 10PM**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH...**  
**BETH LEE 12AM,**  
**NICK KRAUS & HIS AUSTIN TORPEDOES,**  
**& THE SLACKY FAMILY BAND 10PM**  
**ALL SHOWS THIS WEEK FREE!!**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 29TH...**  
**TITO AND THE MAN,**  
**CONTEXT CLUES,**  
**& BAREBONES ORCHESTRA 10PM**  
HAPPY HOUR:  
THE MCKAY BROTHERS ALL STAR BAND  
W/ DAVE INSLEY & BRENNAN LEIGH 7PM  
OUTSIDE SHOW: BOURLAND 9PM

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 30TH.**  
**THE BREAD, BRIDGE FARMERS,**  
**& ROGER WALLACE 9PM**  
HAPPY HOUR:  
THE TX MAVERICKS W/ ALVIN CROWE 7PM

**...NEW YEARS EVE...  
DECEMBER 31ST**  
**"END OF THE YEAR FEST!"**

WITH  
**SCOTT BIRAM**  
**JOHNNY HOOTROCK**  
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POLLY WANTS A POPGUN  
**\$15 COVER**  
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Little Honey
- 2) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO  
Real Animal
- 3) GRUPO FANTASMA  
Sonidos Gold
- 4) LOS LONELY BOYS  
Christmas Spirit
- 5) CAROLYN WONDERLAND  
Miss Understood
- 6) TODD SNIDER  
Peace Queer
- 7) VARIOUS ARTISTS  
Happy Holidays from Austin
- 8) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO  
Live Animal
- 9) RODNEY CROWELL  
Sex & Gasoline
- 10) ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL  
Santa Loves to Boogie

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**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
SERVICE INDUSTRY PARTY

**THURSDAY 12/25**  
**CLOSED**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

**FRIDAY 12/26**  
**SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS**  
10PM-2AM  
DOWNSTAIRS

**SATURDAY 12/27**  
**BLACKTOOTH**  
10PM-2AM  
DOWNSTAIRS

**ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE**  
10PM-2AM  
UPSTAIRS

**SUNDAY 12/28**  
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAY  
**WITH SAM**

**MONDAY 12/29**



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# 2009

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	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINERS 9-30
THU 25	closed	
FRI 26	TRENT DAVE	suede
SAT 27		LC ROCKS
SUN 28		megan TUBB
MON 29	IN THESE SHOES	Jeremy nail & the incidents
TUE 30	LIZ MORPHIS	JACK ROWE TRIO
WED 31	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS

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STREET  
COURTYARD**

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## live music venues

- 311 CLUB**, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630  
**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)  
**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)  
**ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS**, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)  
**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN**, 10401 Anderson Mill, 293-5563  
**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE**, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777  
**ANTONE'S**, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE**, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283  
**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER**, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735**, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA**, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB**, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335  
**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER**, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907  
**BB ROVERS**, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504  
**BEAUTY BAR**, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943  
**BEERLAND**, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625)  
**THE BELMONT**, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300  
**BOAT HOUSE GRILL**, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200  
**BOTTICELLI'S**, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315  
**'BOUT TIME**, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339  
**BROKEN SPOKE**, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189  
**THE BROWN BAR**, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330  
**CACTUS CAFE**, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515  
**CAFE MONDI**, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634  
**THE CANARY ROOST**, 11900 Metric, 836-6360  
**CARLOS'N CHARLIE'S**, 5973 Hiline Rd., 266-1683  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE**, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790  
**CEDAR STREET**, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE**, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777  
**CHEZ ZEE**, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666  
**CLUB 21**, Hwy. 21, Umland, 512/398-2901  
**THE COCKPIT**, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB**, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444  
**COOL RIVER CAFE**, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010  
**COTTON CLUB**, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700  
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**CUBA LIBRE**, 409 Colorado, 472-2822  
**DARWIN'S PUB**, 223 E. Sixth, 474-7399  
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**THE DRISKILL HOTEL**, 604 Brazos, 474-5911  
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**EL SOL Y LA LUNA**, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770  
**ELEPHANT ROOM**, 315 Congress, 473-2279  
**ELYSIUM**, 705 Red River, 478-2979  
**EMO'S**, 603 Red River, 477-3667  
**EVANGELINE CAFE**, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586  
**FADÓ**, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172  
**FIDDLER'S HEARTH**, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 535-5008  
**THE FIFTH GALLERY**, 305 E. Fifth, 669-6558  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA**, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE**, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE**, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646  
**FRIENDS**, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193  
**GARRISON PARK HARBOR**, 730 W. Stassney #120, 462-2664  
**GIDDY UPS**, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON**, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813  
**GREEN PASTURES**, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747  
**GRUENE HALL**, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077  
**GÜERO'S TACO BAR**, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688  
**HANOVER'S**, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617  
**HEADHUNTERS**, 720 Red River, 236-0188  
**HILL'S CAFE**, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300  
**HOLE IN THE WALL**, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747  
**JO'S COFFEE**, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800  
**JOVITA'S**, 1619 S. First, 447-7825  
**JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE**, 119 E. Masin, Round Rock, 512/310-7777  
**KEY BAR**, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389  
**LA PALAPA**, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729  
**LA ZONA ROSA**, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146  
**LAMBERTS**, 401 W. Second, 494-1500  
**LAS PALOMAS**, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889  
**LATITUDE 30**, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335  
**LOUIE'S 106**, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997  
**LUCKY LOUNGE**, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE**, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399  
**MAGGIE MAE'S**, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541  
**MANSSION AT JUDGES' HILL**, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS**, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261  
**MEAN-EYED CAT**, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326  
**MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL**, 14106 N. I-35, 674-0404  
**MOHAWK**, 912 Red River, 482-8404  
**MOMO'S**, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848  
**MOONRIVER**, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB**, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747  
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**MUGSHOTS**, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008  
**MULLIGAN'S**, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305  
**NASTY'S**, 606 Maiden, 453-4349  
**NUEVO LEÓN**, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097  
**NUNO'S NORTH**, 12408 MoPac N., 837-6866  
**NUNO'S ON SIXTH**, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE**, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR**, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121  
**PALMER EVENTS CENTER**, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500  
**THE PARISH**, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474  
**THE PARLOR**, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN**, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663  
**PLUSH**, 617 Red River, 478-0099  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL**, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318  
**RACK DADDY'S**, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577  
**RAIN ON 4TH**, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE**, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115  
**RED 7**, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100  
**RED EYED FLY**, 715 Red River, 474-1084  
**RED FEZ**, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120  
**RILEY'S TAVERN**, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132  
**ROADHOUSE**, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813  
**ROOM 710**, 710 Red River, 476-0997  
**RUTA MAYA**, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637  
**SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER**, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT**, 2115 Allred, 282-0083  
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**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT**, 7010 Hwy. 71 W. #180, 579-0726  
**SHENANIGANS**, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL**, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443  
**SHINER'S SALOON**, 422 Congress, Ste. D, 448-4600  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS**, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060  
**SPEAKEASY**, 412 Congress, 476-8017  
**STARDUST CLUB**, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590  
**STUBB'S**, 801 Red River, 480-8341  
**THE STUDIO**, 5804 S. I-35, 467-7900  
**SÃO PAULO'S**, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL**, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ**, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304  
**THUNDERBIRD COFFEE HOUSE**, 1401 W. Koenig, 420-8660  
**TRIPLE CROWN**, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236  
**TROPHY'S**, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969  
**VICTORY GRILL**, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057  
**VINO VINO**, 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282  
**THE WATER TANK**, 7309 McNeil Dr., 331-9831  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360**, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700  
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**Z'TEJAS**, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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AUSTIN'S 80'S ROCK  
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Doors open at 7pm, December 31

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Music  
Early ...



Late  
Night  
Loungin'

**Lucky**  
lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

AUSTIN'S HOTTEST TUESDAY NIGHT FEATURING:  
**DJ RAPID RIC** OPENING FOR

TUE, DEC. 23, 10PM

**BOOMBOX**

8th Annual



AT THE LUCKY LOUNGE

WED, DEC. 24, 9PM

**MERRY XMAS!**

We're closed, see you tomorrow for Rival City at 9pm

THU, DEC. 25

**RIVAL CITY**

DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS 'TIL 2AM

FRI, DEC. 26, 9PM

**BEAUX LOY BAND**

DJ PROTEGE SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SAT, DEC. 27, 9PM

**MODELO MONDAY**

BEER SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG

**THE OTHER DUDES & THE SPOILED**

OPENS FOR THE

**BEAUX LOY BAND**

AUSTIN'S HOTTEST TUESDAY NIGHT FEATURING:

**DJ RAPID RIC** OPENING FOR

MON, DEC. 29, 10PM

**BOOMBOX**

COME JOIN US FOR A LUCKY

**NEW YEARS BASH**

New Years Eve, Dec. 31st - 8pm till close.

Complimentary Champagne and Party Favors, \$15 Cover.

209A West 5th St. 479-7700

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TUE, DEC. 30, 10PM

**BOOMBOX**

COME JOIN US FOR A LUCKY

**NEW YEARS BASH**

New Years Eve, Dec. 31st - 8pm till close.

Complimentary Champagne and Party Favors, \$15 Cover.

209A West 5th St. 479-7700

Call us to book your private party!

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# STUBB'S

801 RED RIVER  
480-8341

SAT DEC 27 — DOORS 9PM

**MIKE DILLON'S  
GOGOJUNGLE  
AND SPOONFEDTRIBE**

SUN DEC 28 —

GOSPEL BRUNCH  
WITH  
**THE SHIELDS OF FAITH**

WED DEC 31 — 9PM

101X/NEXT BIG THING PRESENTS  
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH



**BLACK JOE LEWIS  
& THE HONEY BEARS**  
WITH **HACIENDA**  
TICKET INCLUDES A BBQ BUFFET  
AND CHAMPAGNE TOAST

SAT JAN 3 — DOORS 9PM

**FREE SHOW  
TINY VIPERS**

WITH **BALMORHEA  
AND PRECIOUS BLOOD**

THU JAN 8 — DOORS 9PM

**SONS OF WILLIAM**  
WITH **THE HEYDAY**

FRI JAN 9 — DOORS 9PM

**HOMER HICCOLM  
& THE ROCKETBOYS**  
WITH **THE SOLDIER THREAD  
AND WIRE TREE**

SAT JAN 10 — DOORS 9PM

BORN TO RUN ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
**NEW DISASTER**  
WITH **SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS  
THE VALENTINE FAILURES  
AND J.T. HABERSAAT**

THU JAN 15 — DOORS 9PM

**TUEN**  
WITH **TOAST  
FUNKOTRON  
AND THE CONSCIENCE**

FRI JAN 16 — DOORS 9PM

**SPINALLEY**  
CD RELEASE  
WITH **DRIVER  
DOWNSID  
AND ZLAMDUNK**

SAT JAN 17 — DOORS 9PM

**TWILIGHT BROADCAST**  
WITH **JEREMY NAIL  
AND THE INCIDENTS  
AND COURIER**

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ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

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alternative lounging  
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603 RED RIVER

**BUY ADVANCE TIX SHOWS SELLING OUT**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**

**FREE WEEK**

INSIDE: EL PASO HOT BUTTON • HARLEM UME • THE BLACKS

OUTSIDE: OFF WITH THEIR HEADS  
BROKEN GOLD • DESKONCIDOS  
GHOST KNIFE • SEND HELP

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**

**FREE WEEK**

INSIDE: **ATTAK (IN)FORMATION**  
THIS HORN OF AFRICA (EX-ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE)  
BEE VS. MOTH • SERIOUS TRACERS • CHE ARTHUR

OUTSIDE: STRANGE BOYS • SPECIAL GUESTS  
WHITE WHITE LIGHTS • THE TEENERS • MAN STAMPS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

**FREE WEEK**

INSIDE: THOSE PEABODYS • THE CRACK PIPES  
SHAPES HAVE FANGS • RED LEAVES • WINE & REVOLUTION • A GIANT DOG

OUTSIDE: SPECIAL GUESTS PLUS: DJ REMY MAC  
(RAMESH FROM VOXTROT) • THE BLACK • INTERNATIONAL  
WATERS • THE MINOTAURS (EX-SOUND TEAM) • CRY  
BLOOD APACHE • BEAR CLAW

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

**HOMEGROWN 101X:**

INSIDE: AUX • ELECTRIC TOUCH  
NEW ROMAN TIMES

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

QUIET COMPANY • MAGNOLIA SONS • CHANDELIERS

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

INSIDE: THE LAST GASP CD RELEASE  
THE MERCERS • PAUL BANKS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

INSIDE: THE HELL ON HEELS TOUR  
VON IVA • SEMI PRECIOUS WEAPONS • NICO VEGA

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**

INSIDE: REVEREND DEADEYE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**

INSIDE: LIONS • PJ AND THE BEAR CD RELEASE  
PARTY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

OUTSIDE: AMEBIX • SEVERED HEAD OF STATE  
SUB OSLO • DESKONCIDOS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS:  
BADFISH • SCOTTY DON'T  
FULL SERVICE • GRIMY STYLES

INSIDE: KILLOLA • THE ACTION DESIGN

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

MAIN STAGE:  
CORE DISORDER III METAL FEST  
SAD WINGS • BANGLADESH  
COURSE OF RUIN • DEBRIS • STIR THE  
SILENCE • REND • CRITICAL ASSEMBLY

INSIDE: WITHIN CHAOS • SHRAPNEL  
DEAD EARTH POLITICS • BLOOD RED  
DISCIPLE • LUG • KILLING IN APATHY

**COMING SOON:** 2/4 THE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS (FEATURING DUANE DENISON OF THE JESUS LIZARD) • 2/11 STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO / AWS / THE SWELLERS / THE STITCH UP (OUTSIDE)  
/ VALENCIA W/ HOUSTON CALLS, ARTIST VS. POET (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/12 REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND (INSIDE) • 2/15 MILLIONAIRES WITH CASH CASH / I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE / WATCH  
OUT! THERE'S GHOSTS (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/16 MYCHILDREN MYRIDE / THE GHOST INSIDE / FOR TODAY / BROADCAST THE NIGHTMARE / TBA (INSIDE) DOORS 6PM • 2/20 GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM  
(INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/21 A.A. BONDI (INSIDE, ON SALE 12/20) • 2/27 FIUVA & MIBAGI (INSIDE, ON SALE SAT 12/20) • 2/28 DELTA SPIRIT W/ OTHER LIVES / DANIES (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/7 TAKE  
ACTION TOUR W/ CUTE IS WHATWE AIM FOR, MEG & DIA, BREATHE CAROLINA AND EVERY AVENUE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE SAT 12/20) • 3/8 LUDU W/ SING IT LOUD, THIS PROVIDENCE, AND THE MORNING LIGHT  
(INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/25 AC4 MODERS TEMPLE W/ SONIC SUICIDE SQUAD (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)

\*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [emosoastin.com](http://emosoastin.com), Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records

# club listings

**TUE 23**

**ABIA: HIGHLAND**

LAKES BAR Kacy Crowley (3:30)

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (10:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned, Ponty Bone, Albert & Gage (12:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BEERLAND Jonathan Grande & the Gift

THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Bo Porter

CONTINENTAL CLUB Planet Casper (6:30), David Garza (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL**

Lobby Bar: Anthony Farrell, Josh Perdue, Bill Carter (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Ron Wilkins Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Thad Beckman (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis Singer-Songwriter Showcase, Bound, the Heroine

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, [clubs@austinchronicle.com](mailto:clubs@austinchronicle.com).

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to [austinchronicle.com/register](http://austinchronicle.com/register). Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

**HOLE IN THE WALL**

Roger Wallace, the Doolins (9:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MOMO'S Jennifer Sullivan, Patrice Pike & Joy Davis, Francis, Infinite Particles (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Alan Haynes (10:00)

## roadshows

### december

**TUE 23**

Ron Wilkins Quartet, Elephant Room  
Joy Davis, Momo's  
Prince Rama, Salvage  
Vanguard Theater

**WED 24**

Matt Wilson, Key Bar  
Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

**FRI 26**

Jordan Mitchell, Flamingo Cantina  
Smokin' Toads, Headhunters  
DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Lamberts  
30FootFall, Avitia, Red 7  
Cas Haley, Saxon Pub

**SAT 27**

South Texas Destroyers, Cheatham Street Warehouse  
Life Trap, Emo's  
Rodney Hayden, Gruene Hall  
Underwood, Headhunters

Old 97's, the Drams, La Zona Rosa  
Cas Haley, Momo's  
Life Trap, the Parlor  
Golgotha, Combat Shock, Red 7  
Aaron Beavers, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten  
Mike Dillon's Go-Go Jungle, Spoonfed Tribe, Stubb's  
De los Muertos, Hollow, Triple Crown

**SUN 28**

The Box Elders, Beerland  
Jackie Bristow, Flipnotics Coffeespace  
Life Partners, Mohawk

**MON 29**

Jackie Bristow, Botticelli's  
Contrabandits, Headhunters  
Fight to Die, Mohawk  
Emily Elbert, Momo's  
Basin Alders, the Parlor  
Freedy Johnston, Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

**TUE 30**

The Union Line, Beauty Bar  
Funkternity, Beerland  
Todd Snider, Gruene Hall  
Dick Wiggler & the Cattle Guards, Headhunters  
Jack Rose, Mohawk  
Joy Davis, Momo's  
The Flying Karamazov Brothers, Palmer Events Center

**WED 31**

Taddy Porter, Creekside Lounge  
Toni Price, Gruene Hall  
Matt Wilson, Key Bar  
Reverend Horton Heat, La Zona Rosa  
The Flying Karamazov Brothers, Palmer Events Center  
Speedealer, Blood of the Sun, Red 7  
Hacienda, Stubb's  
PJ & the Bear, Lost Soul Review, Trophy's

## january

**THU 1**

Taddy Porter, Continental Club

**THREADGILL'S**  
*South* 512.472.9304  
301 West Riverside Dr.  
World Headquarters

Gospel Brunch with  
**Sunday 12/21 Bells of Joy**  
11:00am Indoors/Free

Order your  
Holiday feast today!

**THREADGILL'S** **North**  
Old No. 1  
6416 N. Lamar Blvd.  
512.451.5440

Bluegrass Brunch with  
**Sunday 12/21 Rod Moag & Texas Grass**  
11:00am Indoors/Free

New Years Eve Dinner  
Wed 12/31 with **Jimmy LaFave**  
Limited Seating 7:00pm call 451.5440 for details!  
[www.threadgills.com](http://www.threadgills.com)

**Poodie's Hilltop** *No Bad Days*  
**ROADHOUSE**

Thu., Dec. 25 **CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS**

Fri., Dec. 26  
**CAROLYN WONDERLAND & BLUES MAFIA**

Sat., Dec. 27  
**FEVER TREE RISING**  
OTIS COLEMAN & JOAQUIN TAH  
OPENER

Mon., Dec 29  
**BRENT MOYER**

Wed., Dec. 31  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
w/ **RAY WYLIE HUBBARD**  
tickets available at [www.frontgatetickets.com](http://www.frontgatetickets.com)  
CASH ONLY! general admission

Mon. FOOTBALL ON BIG SCREENS  
RU COLEMAN & TEXAS BOOGIE  
Tues. THE TROUBADILLOS  
Wed. OPEN MIC W/ RU COLEMAN  
Thu. LADIES' NIGHT - FREE POOL  
\$2 WELL DRINKS & DOMESTIC BEERS & \$1 1ST  
DRINK FOR LADIES W/ OUT OF TOWN DRIVERS LICENSES

Hwy 71 West • 264-0918  
SPICEWOOD, TX Free Wi-Fi  
[www.poodies.com](http://www.poodies.com)  
BEST DRESSED BURGER IN A  
COSMIC COWBOY HONKY TONK  
- 'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' RESTAURANT POLL 2006

**Riley's** SINCE 1933 **TAVERN**

FRI 12/26 **KYLE WAYNE KUTSCHER BAND**  
SAT 12/27 **OPIE HENDRIX & THE TEXAS TALLBOYS**  
SUN 12/28 **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**  
MON 12/29 **TIM BRUTON & FOREST WAYNE ALLEN**  
TUE 12/30 **JACK HIGGINBOTHAM**  
WED 12/31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH JOEL HOFMANN**  
FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST

8894 FM 1102 • HUNTER, TX • 512.392.3132  
[WWW.RILEYSTAVERN.COM](http://WWW.RILEYSTAVERN.COM)

**MONARCH EVENT CENTER**

3D ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
**NEW YEARS EVE BASH**  
3 ROOMS - 3 DJs - 3 COMEDIANS  
**12.31.08**  
dj wild bill - j. hunt - dj doc  
matt willis - john gard - jd styles  
hosted by: albert im

**MONARCH EVENT CENTER**  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
**MEL WAITERS**  
SAT JAN 10, 2009 doors open at 8 pm  
[www.monarcheventcenter.com](http://www.monarcheventcenter.com)  
[myspace.com/monarchaustin](http://myspace.com/monarchaustin)  
512.371.1711 6406 N. IH-35 SUITE 3100  
info@monarcheventcenter.com Located in the Lincoln Village Shopping Center behind Highland Mall

**OLD 97'S**  
WITH THE DRAMS  
**12.27**  
LA ZONA ROSA  
100X

**REVEREND HORTON HEAT**  
With White Ghost Shivers  
**DEC 31**  
LA ZONA ROSA  
- TABLES AVAILABLE -  
100X

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GETTIX OUTLETS INCLUDING WATERLOO RECORDS.  
OF CO-OP AND HUNTER LOCATIONS ORDER BY PHONE: 1-800-777-7777  
FOR INFO: 512-267-4146 - [WWW.GETTIXEVENTS.NET](http://WWW.GETTIXEVENTS.NET)

**Jovita's**  
LIVE MUSIC VENUE  
1619 S. 1st Street • 447-7825

**LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE**

**FRIDAY, 12/26** NO COVER!  
**CORNELL HURD BAND**

**SATURDAY, 12/27** \$10 COVER  
**HAPPY HOUR WITH DANIEL DAVID** 6-7:30pm  
**AMANDA LEPIRE** 8-9:30pm  
**NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS** 10pm-12

**SUNDAY, 12/28** \$5 COVER  
**EVERY SUNDAY!** 7-10pm  
**DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!**  
**THE BREW**

**TUESDAY, 12/30** NO COVER!  
**PRE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!**  
**BOCA ABAJO** 7-8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY, 12/31**  
**THE EGGMEN!** 2 GREAT SHOWS!  
Early Family-Friendly Show! 4-6:30pm  
\$8 Adults / \$5 Kids at Door  
**NYE BASH!** Doors at 7:30pm  
\$20 at Frontgate Tickets: [www.frontgatetickets.com](http://www.frontgatetickets.com)  
**OUCH!** 8:15pm  
**THE EGGMEN** 9pm-1am  
PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS!  
**THURSDAY, 1/1**  
**CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**SATURDAY, 1/3**  
**GREAT BLUES! NO COVER!**  
**BROTHER MAGNUM** 9:30-11pm

**SUNDAY, 1/4, 1/11, 1/18 & 1/25**  
**EVERY SUNDAY IN JANUARY!**  
**THE BREW** 7-10pm \$5 COVER  
NO COVER! **WEDNESDAY, 1/7 & 1/28**  
Bolero Night with  
**VITERA** 1st & Last Wednesdays!

**FRIDAY, 1/9** \$5 COVER!  
**The Quebe Sisters** 9-11pm

**BILL DEE** opening: 7-8:30pm  
\$5 COVER! **SATURDAY, 1/10**  
**IZZY COX** 9:30-11:30pm  
**HAPPY HOUR 4-7**  
**TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY!**  
[www.jovitas.com](http://www.jovitas.com)



**CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EYE WITH THE EGGMEN**

2 GREAT SHOWS!  
At JOVITAS

**EARLY SHOW... FAMILY FRIENDLY!!**  
\$8 ADULTS / \$5 KIDS AT THE DEER  
SHOW STARTS AT 4  
WE'LL BRING IN THE LONDON NEW YEAR  
(6PM LOCAL TIME)

**NEW YEAR'S EYE BASH!!**  
GEN. ADMISSION \$20 (NO TABLES)  
TIX: FRONTGATE.TICKETS.COM  
(CLICK ON DEC. 31ST)

Doors @ 7:30PM / OUCH! @ 8:15PM  
EGGMEN 9 TIL 1AM

WWW.JOVITAS.COM WWW.EGGMEN.COM

**BROKEN SPOKE**  
WE DON'T FANCY, BUT WE EARN SHINE COUNTRY!

3201 S. LAMAR  
442-6189

PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

THU, DEC 25 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS OPEN AT 4PM  
**JESSE DAYTON 9PM**

FRI, DEC 26 **GARY P. NUNN**

SAT, DEC 27 **DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM**  
**DALE WATSON 8-9PM**

TUE, DEC 30 **DEBRA PETERS**  
ACCORDIAN ROUNDUP

WED, DEC 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE TIX ON SALE DEC. 2 @ BAR**  
**ALVIN CROW**

**THE Parish**

SAT 27 DEC

**ILLUSIONIST ELECTRIC ORCHESTRA**  
w/ DJ MANNY & CHRYSTABELL

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2009!**  
"TOP SHELF OPEN BAR" "MUSIC VIDEO PREMIERE" "BALLOON DROP"  
"CHAMPAGNE TOAST" "RAFFLE PRIZES"  
"PRIVATE PARTY/MUST PURCHASE TIX IN ADVANCE"  
FEATURING DJ BABY G, HOST PAUL SAUCIDO (METV)  
AND GRAMMY AWARD NOMINEES:

**GRUPO FANTASMA!**

**UPCOMING SHOWS:**  
1/9: Soul Sessions w/ Eric Roberson 1/10: Ember w/ Atomic Alive & Project H 1/15: WILD LIFE w/ Richard Gear, Joshua Distance, King Louie, & Glasnost 1/16: Dremnt the End w/ Murder, My Sweet, & Language Room 1/17: Orchard Lounge w/ DJ Gobot 1/18: Public Offenders w/ Blacklisted Individuals, DJ Notion, & DJ Aspect 1/19: Jon McLaughlin 1/23: Vibesquad w/ Ana Sia & Nosaj Thing 1/29: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Tapes 'N Tapes w/ Wild Light 1/30: 101X Presents: Los Campesinos! w/ Titus Andronicus 1/31: Saturday Night Dance Party w/ DJ MEL 2/6: Deejer w/ Ember 2/7: Ring the Alarm w/ Jah Mighty, DJ Baby G, & Jr. Vibes 2/9: Joshua Radin 2/13: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Annuals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield & What Laura Says 2/20: Matt Wertz **THEPARISHROOM.COM**

**Roux**  
"Cajun Con-fusion"

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR  
**ROUX'S SECOND ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH**  
W/ FINESSE ONE & RAY C!  
FOR TICKETS, GO TO:  
**ROUXAUSTIN.COM**

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

- DARWIN'S PUB** Johnny Austin (8:00)
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Patricia G. (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Jon Blondell (9:30)
- GIDDY UPS** Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Christmas Eve w/ Mike Dubose (9:00)
- KEY BAR** Matt Wilson (8:00)
- LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas
- LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
- LOUIE'S 106** Red Young (6:30)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Mazel Ball (10:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem (9:00)
- MAGGIE MAE'S** Patrick Fleming (8:00)
- MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL** Suede (8:00)
- MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
- NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Clay Jefferies (8:00)
- ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H PROJECT STREET** Will Dunlap (7:00)
- PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)
- PLUSH** Weight w/ the Herd
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Ru Coleman
- REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
- ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D.
- RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
- SAXON PUB** Bo Porter (6:00), Paula Nelson, Waylon Payne, George Devore (8:00)
- SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)
- SHINER'S SALOON** Jeremy Steding (10:30)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Molly Hayes (6:00)
- TROPHY'S** Solstice
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Ptarmigan (7:00)
- ANTONE'S** Best Love in Town, Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Los Armadillos (9:00)
- AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Slim Richey, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Texana Dames (12:30)
- AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Hosea Hargrove
- BEERLAND** Christmas Karaoke
- THE BELMONT** The Motts (7:00)
- CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave, the Spazmatics (6:00)
- CHEZ ZEE** Jacinta (7:00)
- THE COCKPIT** Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)
- CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
- DARWIN'S PUB** Johnny Austin (8:00)
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Patricia G. (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio
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- TROPHY'S** Solstice
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Ptarmigan (7:00)

THU 25

- BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Dale Watson & His Lone Stars Christmas Dance (10:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Derrick Edmonson (9:30)
- MOMO'S** Miss Lavelle White's Christmas Party
- SAXON PUB** Monte Montgomery (7:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Bob King (6:00)

FRI 26

- ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Red Dawg (3:30)
- ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Tim Curry & Will Dunlap (3:30)
- ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET** Julieann Banks (1:00)
- ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS** George Enslé (1:00)
- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Earl Hinton & the Jokers (10:00)
- ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Bo Porter
- ANTONE'S** Pinetop Perkins, Del Castillo
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Jodi Adair
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Alan Haynes
- BEAUTY BAR** Prince Klassen
- BOAT HOUSE GRILL** Hosea Hargrove
- BOTTICELLI'S** Chicken Strut
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Element
- BROKEN SPOKE** Gary P. Nunn
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole
- CARLOS'N CHARLIE'S** Michael Reaux & the Outriders (7:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30); Chili Cold Blood, the Ugly Beats (9:30)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** Newsboyz
- COTTON CLUB** People's Choice (9:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Sam Lipman, Patricia G. (8:00)

available for  
**PRIVATE EVENTS**  
CONTACT ANTONES@GMAIL.COM

# Antones



**TUESDAY DECEMBER 23**  
**MIKE FLANIGIN'S B3 TRIO**  
FEAT. DEREK & FROSTY  
WITH GREYHOUNDS

**WED DECEMBER 24**  
**CHRISTMASEVE**  
**ERIC TESSMER'S LOS ARMADILLOS**  
with  
**ERIN JAIMES BAND**  
THE BEST LOVE IN TOWN

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 26**  
**EARLY HOLIDAY SHOW**  
**PINETOP PERKINS**  
**ALL STAR BAND**  
VIP TABLES ON SALE NOW!

**LATER**  
**DEL CASTILLO**  
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**SATURDAY DECEMBER 27**  
**GARY CLARK & JUNIOR**  
**BAVUBLAKES & THE EXTRA PLAIRS**  
w/ DJ KEVIN COFFEY (BUTTHOLE SURFERS)  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 28**  
**HAYES CARLL**  
WITH THE  
**BAND OF HEATHENS**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**MONDAY DECEMBER 29**  
**SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW WITH**  
**LOU ANN BARTON**  
PLUS MALFORD MILLIGAN  
DEREK O'BRIEN & THE BLUE MONDAY BAND  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 30**  
**THE SCABS**  
DJ MEL • GOOD LUCK ACADEMY  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**NEW YEARS EVE!**  
Champagne Toast @ Midnight  
**BOB SCHNEIDER**  
PERFORMING LIVE  
**THE BLACK & WHITE YEARS**  
**THE SOLDIER THREAD**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND**  
**BROWNOUT!**  
FEAT. MEMBERS OF GRUPO FANTASMA  
**FLYJACK FUNK!**  
**MINGO-FISHTRAP**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUESDAY JANUARY 06**  
**BLUES JAM • BLUE TUESDAY**  
**MALFORD'S FAREWELL SHOW**

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 07**  
**nelo**  
THE STEPS  
HIGHTIDE BLUES  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH**  
**JUNIOR BROWN**  
LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND OPENS  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**JANUARY 16 & 17**  
**NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL STARS**  
W/ HILL COUNTRY REVUE  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY JANUARY 23**  
**TEXAS GUITAR WOMEN**  
WITH SUE FOLEY  
CAROLYN WONDERLAND  
THE BLUEBONNETS & MORE  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SAT 03 JAN**  
**MICKY & THE MOTORCARS**

**FRI 14 JAN**  
**THE HOOT STRIKES BACK!**  
**80's Hoot Night**

**SAT 24 JAN**  
**WIDEAWAKE CD RELEASE**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST**  
**JJ GREY & MOFRO**  
**ORANGE BLOSSOMS TOUR**  
w/ JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE 03 FEB**  
**RUTHIE FOSTER**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH**  
**SON VOLT**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI 30 JAN**  
**THE GOURDS**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**THU 19 FEB**  
**LYKKE LI**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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**FRI 06 FEB**  
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**FRI 27 FEB**  
**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
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**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20TH**  
**MISSY HIGGINS & JUSTIN NOZUKA**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE 10 FEB**  
**COREY SMITH**  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**DOORS OPEN @ 8PM**  
**SHOW @ 8:30**  
**\$35 SINGLES**  
**\$65 COUPLES**  
**3D Entertainment Presents**  
**NEW YEARS new years eve BASH**  
31. Dec. 08 Party & Show

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**3 ROOMS 3 DJS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**  
DJ WILD BILL IN THE TEXAS ROOM  
J. HUNT SPINNING 70S & 80S  
DJ DEX PLAYING THE BEST URBAN JAMS  
R&B PERFORMANCE LIVE BY TONEY  
**FEATURING SOME OF AUSTIN'S TOP COMEDIANS**  
GURANTEED TO MAKE YOU LAUGH  
MATT WILLIS, JD STYLES, JOHN GARD, DAVE NEGRON, & SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY LUCAS MOLANDES HOSTED BY ALBERT IM  
**FOR MORE INFO CALL 512.990.2642**

## Happy New Years

**THURSDAY 8pm-12am**  
**KARAOKE NEW CONTEST LEAGUE**  
WILL BEGIN 1/08/09  
**SUNDAY**  
**Poker League 5:30-8:30pm**  
Cash Prizes for 1ST and 2ND  
**FRIDAY (12/26)**  
**KARAOKE**  
**SATURDAY Live Music (12/27)**  
**CAP MCBRIDE** No Cover  
**DEAD PYRATES SOCIETY**  
**WEDNESDAY Live Music (12/31)**  
**PIMPZ 'N HOEZ NEW YEAR BASH**  
W/ COSTUME CONTEST &  
**ERIC TESSMER BAND**  
**FRIDAY Live Music (1/2) NO COVER**  
**ATOMIC STRAWBERRY**  
**SATURDAY Live Music (1/3) NO COVER**  
**JOHNNY HOOTROCK**  
W/ BURLESQUE GIRLS  
**FRIDAY (1/9)**  
**STIL SICK**  
**SATURDAY Live Music (1/10) NO COVER**  
**J&L BROTHERS BAND**

**HAPPY HOUR**  
Happy Hour Weekdays from 2pm-7pm  
Every day: \$2 Domestic Bottles & Draft,  
\$3 Import Bottles & Draft  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
Courts available 7 days a week.  
**NEW BAR HOURS**  
M-F 2pm-2am; Sat/Sun 11am-2am

**OUTDOOR BIER GARTEN**

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 • 10PM • \$5

# 2 HOOTS & A HOLLER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 • 10PM • \$5  
**TIESCO DEL REY**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 6:30PM  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX**



**8106 BRODIE LANE  
282-2586**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

**BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM  
KEVIN GALLAUGHER  
& GREG ANDERSON 8PM**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 7PM  
OLD FARTS EARLY NEW YEARS EVE  
**CLEVE & SWEET  
MARY HATTERSLY**  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 • 10PM  
LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS

SEARCH FOR BANDS, BROWSE BY GENRE, LISTEN TO MP3S,  
COMMENT ON YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS, VIEW UPCOMING SHOWS

# MUSICIANS REGISTER

[austinchronicle.com/musicreg](http://austinchronicle.com/musicreg)

HEY BANDS:  
UPLOAD YOUR  
MP3S

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

611 E. 7TH



FRI 12/26 @ 9PM

**30FOOTFALL** w/ Avatia, Al Shire and the Henchmen, The Anchor

SAT 12/27 @ 8PM

**SLOWLY TRUTH DIES**

w/ Death Kings, Combat Shock, Golgotha

WED 12/31

**New Year's Eve w/ SPEEDEALER**, Dixie Witch, Blood of the Sun, The Bexar County Bastards // outside: Van Buren Boys, Consider the Source, Kill City, Fulton Read

**FREE WEEK!**: 1/2-1/10

FRI 1/2

inside: **CAPITAL SCAM** w/ Spittin' Bullets, Blank Generation, Sleezus Fist // outside:

**SUMMER OF BLOOD** w/ The Ends, Deadly Companions, The No No No Hopes

SAT 1/3

inside: **THE APE SHITS** w/ Gospel Truth, Bottle Service, The Autons // outside:

**BROADCAST SEA** w/ Camp X-Ray, We'll Go Machete, Beta Valentine, Monuments

900 RED RIVER



**FREE WEEK!**: 1/2-1/10

FRI 1/2 @ 9PM

**ALICE ROSE** w/ Midgetmen, Blasé Faire

SAT 1/3 @ 9PM

**TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY**

w/ Hollywood Gossip, Ichi Ni San Shi

WED 1/7 @ 9PM

**CORTO MALTESE** w/ Great Nostalgic, The Authors

THU 1/8 @ 9PM

**LOXSLY** w/ Haunting Oboe Music, Peel

FRI 1/9 @ 9PM

**LA SNACKS** w/ Cry Blood Apache, Weird Weeds, DJ Miss Manners

SAT 1/10 @ 9PM

**SHAPES HAVE FANGS**  
w/ Cavedweller

912 RED RIVER



THU 12/25

**Happy Holidays!**

FRI 12/26 @ 10PM

**THE DIVING CAPTAIN** w/ Wiretree

SAT 12/27 @ 10PM

**SHALLOW'S AD**

SUN 12/28 @ 10PM

**GABE HASCALL** w/ Visitors, Solomon & Tumbler, Lifepartners plus an acoustic set with EKE fam

MON 12/29 @ 10PM

**SLUMLORD** w/ Blank Generation, Fight to Die, Capital Scam

TUE 12/30 @ 10PM

**JACK ROSE** w/ Shawn David McMillen, Ralph White

WED 12/31 @ 10PM

**AUSTIN NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY & INDIEROKE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**

**FREE WEEK!**: 1/2-1/10!

FRI 1/2

**LOW LINE CALLER** w/ Calm Blue Sea, L.A.X., AUX (outside) // PartyEnds.com presents: **BUILT BY SNOW** w/ The Always Already, Zlam Dunk

401 WEST 2ND



TUE 12/23

**GLOVER TANGO @ 7PM**

THU 12/25

LAMBERTS IS CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

FRI 12/26

**UNWRAPPED** w/ DJ Jester the

Filipino Fist & Richard Henry @ 10:30PM

SAT 12/27

**BEE'S KNEES @ 7PM**

SUN 12/28

**JAZZ NIGHT** w/ Ephraim Owens,

Brannen Temple, & Red Young

TUE 12/30

**GLOVER TANGO @ 7PM**

WED 12/31

**NYE PARTY** w/ DJ Chicken George

& The Moonhangers @

10:30PM

THU 1/1

LAMBERTS IS CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

upcoming shows

FREE WEEK: 1/2 - Low Line Caller (Mohawk), PartyEnds.com w/ Built by Snow (Mohawk), The Alice Rose (Club Deville), Capital Scam (Red 7), Deadly Companions (Mohawk), 1/3 - Riverboat Gambler (Mohawk), Bankrupt and the Borrowers (Mohawk), Til We're Blue or Destroy (Club Deville), Camp X-Ray (Red 7), The Ape Shits (Red 7), 1/4 - Serious Tracers (Mohawk), The Anchor (Red 7), The Kickback (Red 7), 1/5 - Bridge Farmers (Mohawk), 1/6 - Frantic Clam (Mohawk), Scorpion Child (Red 7), 1/7 - Tia Carrera (Mohawk), Model UN (Club Deville), Pocketful of Deng (Red 7)

[www.transmissionentertainment.com](http://www.transmissionentertainment.com)



## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

**CLUB** LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE**  
Lucky Strikes

**ELEPHANT ROOM** The Brew  
(9:30)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Two Hoots & a Holler (10:00)

**FADÓ** Mysterious Ways (10:00)

**THE FIFTH GALLERY**  
John Gomi (9:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey, Stacy Steger, Jordan Mitchell (9:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE**  
Jane Bond, Jeff Gallagher (9:00)

**GARRISON PARK HARBOR**  
Don Turnley (9:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Bear & the Essentials (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Zach Walther & the Cronkites, Eli Young (8:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR**  
Eve Monsees (6:30)

**HEADHUNTERS** Wolf Dog, Jamie Thomas, Smokin' Toads, Full Stride, Ramifications

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Betaplayer, Bridge Farmers (10:00)

**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

**LAMBERTS** DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Richard Henry (10:30)

**LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Rival City, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS**  
Leeann Atherton (7:00)

**MOHAWK** Wiretree, the Diving Captain (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Kalu James, Ginger Leigh, Patrice Pike (8:00)

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN**  
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Karaoke w/ Bruce Newman

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Derrick Davis CD Release (10:00)

**THE PARLOR** Et Al (9:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL**  
Blues Mafia, Carolyn Wonderland

**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

**RED 7** The Anchor, Al Shire & the Henchmen, Avitia, 30FootFall

**RILEY'S TAVERN**  
Kyle Kutscher

**SÃO PAULO'S** Three Jazz Collective (7:30)

**SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Joe Ely, Cas Haley (9:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** The Fuss

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS**  
Roman Holiday (9:00)

**SPEAKEASY** Dysfunkshun Junkshun

**THE STUDIO** All U Need (9:00)

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL**  
Roger Len Smith

**TRIPLE CROWN** Mark Jungers, Scott H. Biram

**SAT 27**

**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Alan Mayes & LaDonna (10:00)

**ANTONE'S** DJ Lord Fyre, DJ King Coffey, Bavu Blakes & the Extra Plairs, Gary Clark Jr. (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sieker Band (7:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB**  
Venson & Lee

**THE BELMONT** DJ Boss Ross (10:00)

**BOAT HOUSE GRILL**  
The Sevilles

**BOTTICELLI'S** Kevin Fox

**'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Dale Watson

**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** South Texas Destroyers

**CLUB 21** Sam Bentley

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Redd Volkaert (3:00); No Show Ponies, Pink Nasty, Li'l Cap'n Travis (10:00)

**COOL RIVER CAFE** Suede

**COTTON CLUB**  
The Debonaires (9:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL**  
Lobby Bar: Rigel Thurston, Patricia G. (8:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE**  
Kris Kimura Quartet

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jeff Lofton Quintet (9:30)

**EMO'S** No Mas Bodas, Total Abuse, Cry Blood Apache, Life Trap, Finally Punk

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Teisco Del Rey (10:00)

**FIDDLER'S HEARTH**  
Poor Man's Fortune

**FLAMINGO CANTINA**  
The Raspas, Subrosa Union

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE**  
Jeremy Pena, Ben Mallott (9:00)

**GARRISON PARK HARBOR**  
Ma Ferguson (9:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jim Stringer (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Erik Hokkanen, Gary Claxton (1:00); Rodney Hayden, Aaron Watson (9:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Too Blue (6:30)

**HEADHUNTERS** Underwood, the Little Morts, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

**HILL'S CAFE** Alan Goodman

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Vitamins, Transmography (9:00)

**JOVITA'S** Daniel David, Amanda Lepre, Nakia & His Southern Cousins (6:00)

**JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE**  
Lynn Stokes & Sol Surfers (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

**LA ZONA ROSA** The Drams, Old 97's

**LAMBERTS** Bees' Knees Revue (7:00)

**LATITUDE 30** Jabarvy (9:00)

**LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Beaux Loy, DJ Protege (9:00)

**MOMO'S** Cas Haley, Jon Dee Graham, Dan Dyer (8:00)

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN**  
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE**  
Big John Mills

**Nuno's** Bar and Grill

Fri 26 **Jo Hell 10pm**  
 Dec Strawberry Blondie 8pm  
 Doors open at 6

New Location 12408 N. Mopac at Parmer  
 Austin, Tx 512-837-6866 New Location

Dec 31 **New Years Eve**  
**Malford Milligan 11pm**  
 Farewell to Austin Show  
 Clay Jeffrey Band at 8pm  
 tickets on sale now  
 Doors open at 6

Downtown Location  
 422 E. Sixth Street

Christmas Day Blues Show  
**Jo Hell** with Special Guests 9pm  
 Live Blues 7 Days a week

**NEW YEARS EVE**  
**JT COLDFIRE 10:30PM**  
**FRANKLIN'S BLUES 8PM**

**AUSTIN DAZE PRESENTS Ruta Maya WEEKENDS**

THURS 12/25 **HAPPY XMAS FROM THE AUSTIN DAZE & RUTA MAYA**

FRI 12/26 **RAKS HELWA BELLY DANCERS 6PM-9PM**  
**NICK D & JUMBO PRESENT THE 512** ALWAYS THE BEST HIP HOP SHOWZ!!!  
 9:30PM-2AM

SAT 12/27 **FLOUNDERS WITHOUT EYES WITH ZEEROCK & THE IMMIGRANTS 9:30PM-2AM**

www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends  
 3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin, (Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

**Ruta Maya**

SUN 12/28 **FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY**  
 2 PM Salsa Lessons

MON 12/29 **7 PM Moonticca And the Texas Clocks**

TUE 12/30 **TUESDAY OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!**  
 6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music  
 Happy Hour All Night Long!

WED 12/31 **CUBAN DANCE NIGHT**  
 FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM  
 Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

**Fresh Organic Coffee!**  
**FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar**

IT'S ALL AT... **CONTINENTALCLUB.COM**

**The CONTINENTAL Club**

THUR DEC 25 **DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS** 10PM  
 DOORS 9PM SHOWTIME 10PM

MONDAY DEC 29 **MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND** HAPPY HOUR

TUESDAY DEC 30 **ELECTRIC PLANET** HAPPY HOUR 6:30

WEDNESDAY DEC 31 **DAVID GARZA** NO HAPPY HOUR FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE DOORS OPEN AT 9PM!!  
 THE CONTINENTAL CLUB CELEBRATES OUR 21ST ANNIVERSARY! CHAMPAGNE & PARTY FAVORS

FRIDAY DEC 26 **THE UGLY BEATS** H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

THURS JAN 1 **JAMES MCMURTRY** 10PM  
**JON DEE GRAHAM** 12AM  
 THURS JAN 1 DOORS AT 9PM

FRIDAY JAN 2 **HONKY TADDER PORTER** 11:30PM  
 HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

SATURDAY DEC 27 **CHILI COLD BLOOD** 10PM  
 WARREN HOOD & FRIENDS 12AM  
**BILL CARTER AND THE BLAME** 10PM  
 FEATURING **DENNY FREEMAN & CHARLIE SEXTON**

SUN DEC 28 **EVE AND THE EXILES** 10PM  
**REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL** 10:45PM

SATURDAY JAN 3 **TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER** 12:15AM  
**REDD VOLKAERT** MATINEE 3-7PM  
**Li'l Cap'n Travis**

COMING SOON 1/8 **KATHLEEN EDWARDS** 1/10 • TWO SHOWS! **ELVIS B-DAY BASH** TUES. IN JAN. **DAVID GARZA**  
 w/ **TED RODDY & SHAUN YOUNG**

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 TAP ROOM & BREWERY

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Celebrate New Year's Eve at Lovejoys w/ DJs, a free buffet and a champagne toast at midnight. No Cover. No Reservations Necessary.

**THE SCOOT INN**

11 LOCAL DRAFTS \* 2 FULL BARS \* 2 STAGES

SATURDAY, DEC. 27 **THE SIN CITY SOCIAL CLUB**  
 HOLIDAY HO DOWN WITH **SHAWN NELSON, AARON BEAVERS (SHURMAN) & GUESTS**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31 **PRINCE NITE NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008**  
 STARRING **FOOT PATROL THE FUNK PEEPSHOW DANCERS**  
**DJ MAHEALANI**

COMING IN JANUARY:  
 THE HEX DISPENSERS  
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MISS THURS DEC 25 / MERRY XMAS

**LAVELLE**

**WHITE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

WITH **MALFORD MILLIGAN** DOORS 7 SHOW 8  
**WC CLARK & LZ LOVE**



FRIDAY DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

**PATRICE PIKE**

11:30 PM \$12



*Ginger Leigh* 9 PM \$12

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

**DAN DYER** 10 PM \$10

**JON DEE GRAHAM** 12 PM \$10

*Cas Haley* (of Woodbelly) 8 PM \$10

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

**Fallon Franklin** CD Release 8 PM \$5

**Milkdrive** 9:15 PM \$5  
*Jarrett Schaub* 10:15 PM \$5

MON DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

**EMILY ELBERT** 8 PM \$10  
**DAN DYER** 9:30 \$10  
**STARCASTIC PHEROMONE** 11-15

*Angel Ferrer* 12:30

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

**PATRICE PIKE & JOY DAVIS** 8  
**AMANDA PEARCY** 7:15

*Robin Smith* 11  
*Amanda Mora* 12:15

WED DEC 31<sup>ST</sup> - NEW YEAR'S EVE

LAST AUSTIN SHOW!

**SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND** 11:30



TIX AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**DUSTIN WELGH** 9 PM \$20

UPCOMING SHOWS

**WARREN HOOD** JAN 3  
**DEXTER FREEBISH** JAN 9

**SETH WALKER** JAN 10  
**BELLEVILLE OUTFIT** JAN 16

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Eric Tessmer (10:00)

**THE PARLOR** Life Trap (9:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Joaquin Tah, Otis Coleman, Fever Tree Rising

**RED 7** Combat Shock, Golgotha, Death Kings, Slowly Truth Dies

**RED EYED FLY** John Schooley, Scott H. Biram

**RED FEZ** DJ Kurv (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Opie Hendrix & the Texas Tallboys

**SAXON PUB** Guy Forsyth, Driver, Warren Hood

**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Sin City Social Club's Holiday Ho Down w/ Aaron Beavers, Shawn Nelson (9:00)

**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Chase Holbrook & the Porch Cats (8:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** The Fuss

**SPEAKEASY** Rotel & the Hot Tomatoes

**STUBB'S** Spoonfed Tribe, Mike Dillon's Go-Go Jungle

**THUNDERBIRD COFFEE HOUSE** Will T. Massey (9:30)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Hollow, De los Muertos, the Belgraves

SUN 28

**ANTONE'S** Band of Heathens, Hayes Carll

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Billy Bright (6:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

**BEERLAND** Woven Bones, Harlem, the Box Elders, Shapes Have Fangs

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)

**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Brian

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found (9:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Cheatham Street All-Stars (4:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Heybale! (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Red Young (9:30)

**ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Jackie Bristow, Todd Deatherage (8:00)

**FRIENDS** Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

**GARRISON PARK HARBOR** Patterson Barrett, Jimi Lee

**GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

**GRUENE HALL** Mike Barfield (1:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Chicken Strut (3:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob

**JOVITA'S** The Brew (8:00)

**LAMBERTS** Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)

**LATITUDE 30** Luke Jackson (9:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Austin Homegrown (8:00)

**MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Ryan (9:00)

**MOHAWK** Life Partners, Solomon & Tumbler, Visitors, Gabe Hascall (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Fallon Franklin CD Release (8:00)

**NUEVO LEÓN** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

**NUNO'S NORTH** Singer-Songwriter Jam (7:30)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Java Jazz (11:00am)

**THE PARLOR** Pastor Cory Cross & the Good Ole' Band (8:00)

**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

**RAIN ON 4TH** Hedda Layne (6:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Krupt (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

**SAXON PUB** The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D

**TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360** Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

MON 29

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Teri Joyce & Roger Wallace (3:30)

**ANTONE'S** Lou Ann Barton, Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Plutonium Farmers (8:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Heard Showcase

**BEERLAND** World-Famous Karaoke

**BOTTICELLI'S** Jackie Bristow

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Battle of the Bands (9:00)

**CHEZ ZEE** Rich Demarco (6:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** The Hudsons (8:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Dan McCoy (1:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)

**HEADHUNTERS** Contrabandits

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Barebones Orchestra, Context Clues, Tito & the Man (10:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LATITUDE 30** Carson Alexander (9:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** The Other Dudes, the Spoiled, Beaux Loy (10:00)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

**MOHAWK** Fight to Die (10:00)

**Cheatham Street WAREHOUSE**  
Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos  
www.cheathamstreet.com

TH CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS  
SA **SOUTH TEXAS DESTROYERS**  
MO **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
WE *New Years Eve*  
**WITH KYLE PARK**  
**TEXAS FX OPENING**  
**"GOOD LUCK" BLACK-EYED PEAS**  
**SERVED AT MIDNIGHT**

119 CHEATHAM ST., SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF SAN MARCOS  
**TRIPLE CROWN**  
(512) 396-2236 / triplecrownlive.com

Th 25 Bob King 6pm  
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Fr 26 Mark Jungers 6pm  
Scott Biram 9pm

Sa 27 The Belgraves, De Los Muertos, Hollow 10pm

Su 28 Steve Slim's B-Day Bash 6pm  
Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 29 Bruce Curtis Band 6pm  
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Tu 30 RC Banks 6pm  
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

We 31 Erickson 6pm  
Kallisti Gold, The Christophers 9pm



**CELEBRATE**  
**2009**  
**@ 219**

**Details at 219west.com**

Bine Early  
Play Late



Restaurant Lounge Nightclub

219 W. 4th st.  
(512) 474-2194  
www.219west.com

**speakeasy**  
ON THE AVENUE

Tuesday, December 23rd **ELR Band** 9:30pm

December 24th & 25th **Happy Holidays!**  
Speakeasy will be closed Wed. & Thur.

Friday, December 26th **Dysfunkshun Junkshun** 9:30pm

Saturday, December 27th **Rotel & The Hot Tomatoes** 9:30pm

Monday, December 29th **BARENYE** Doors Open At 8:00pm

Tuesday, December 30th **James Moran** 9:30pm

**8th Annual**

**BAR AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE NEW YEARS EVE**

MONDAY December 29th  
8:00 pm  
Complimentary Drinks

*Pre-Party everyone welcome*



featuring the sounds of  
**DJ Abe, DJ Holland, Space Rockers**  
DTrain & DJ Toddy B

412 D. Congress Ave.  
Call 47-Party for more

RESOLUTIONS ARE MEANT TO BE BROKEN

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Don't start '09 waiting in line!  
PURCHASE YOUR NYE PRE-SALE TICKETS TODAY!

LIVE MUSIC  
PARTY FAVORS  
MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Featuring  
**Mingo Fish Trap**  
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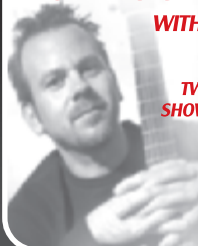
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THURSDAY DEC 25

## MONTE MONTGOMERY

WITH HIS BAND



DOORS 7:00  
TWO SEPARATE  
SHOWS 8 & 10:30

\$15 /ADVANCE  
\$15 /DOOR  
ON SALE NOW  
AT FRONTGATE  
TICKETS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

## JOE ELY



WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
ELEISHA EAGLE

\$25 ADV, \$25 DOOR  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
FRONTGATETICKETS.COM  
DOORS 7:00, SHOW 8:00

FRIDAY DEC 26

Cas Haley  
from  
Woodbelly  
& America's Got Talent  
DOORS 11, SHOW 12. \$10 COVER

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

**GUY FORSYTH**  
\* 8:00 SHOW \* \$10 ADV / \$12 DOOR \*  
FRONTGATETICKETS.COM  
TWO SEPARATE SHOWS  
**WARREN HOOD**  
12:00, \$10 COVER  
**DRIVER** 10:30, \$10 COVER

SUNDAY DEC 28

10:15 \$10  
**BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL**  
**THE RESENTMENTS**  
7:30 \$7  
**THE SALINGERS**  
12:00 \$5

MONDAY DEC 29

THE  
**ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS**  
\* 8:00 \* \$10 \*  
**FREEDY JOHNSTON & HIS ALL-STAR BAND**  
10:00 \$10  
**WAYLON PAYNE**  
12:00 \$5

TUESDAY DEC 30

**MALFORD MILLIGAN'S BIG GOODBYE SHOW**  
8:00, \$10  
www.FRONTGATETICKETS.com  
No Cover Happy Hour at 5:30  
**ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

TUESDAY DEC 30

**MONTE MONTGOMERY**  
10:00 \$10  
**KUDZU KARNIVAL**  
12:00 \$10

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve  
with  
**Carolyn Wonderland**  
11:00 SHOW, \$20 ADVANCE, \$20 DOOR  
AVAILABLE AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM  
**PAULA NELSON** 8:00

**JANUARY 2 - THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT**  
**JANUARY 7 - PAPA MALI**  
**JANUARY 8 - PATRICE PIKE & JOY DAVIS**  
**JANUARY 9 - IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND**  
**JANUARY 23 - RAY WYLIE HUBBARD**  
**JANUARY 30 - SETH WALKER**  
**BOB SCHNEIDER RETURNS TO MONDAYS IN JANUARY!**

## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

### CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

**MOMO'S** Emily Elbert, Dan Dyer, Plank, Starcastic Pheromone (7:00)

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson & Joley Flowers

**MUGSHOTS** Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

**NUNO'S NORTH** Open Blues Jam (9:00)

**THE PARLOR** Basin Alders (9:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Brent Moyer, Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

**RED FEZ** Komson (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Forest Wayne Allen, Tim Bruton

**ROOM 710** Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)

**SAXON PUB** Waylon Payne, Freedy Johnston

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Brent Wood

**SPEAKEASY** Jonathan Terrell

**TRIPLE CROWN** Bruce Curtis

**VINO VINO** Kevin Lovejoy, Ephraim Owens

**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Anthony Farrell; Bill Carter, Will Sexton & Stephen Doster (8:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Stan Killian (9:30)

**ELYSIUM** '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh (6:00); Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

**GIDDY UPS** Gregg Duffy

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jim Stringer (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Dedringers, Todd Snider (8:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)

**HEADHUNTERS** Bill Davis, Clay Jeffries, Devil's Hollow, Dick Wiggler & the Cattle Guards

**HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Roger Wallace, the Bread (9:00)

**JOVITA'S** Boca Abajo, Haydn Vitera (7:00)

**KEY BAR** Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LAMBERTS** Glover Tango (7:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Damon Bramblett (8:00)

**MOHAWK** Ralph White, Shawn David McMillen, Jack Rose

**MOMO'S** Amanda Percy, Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Robin Smith (7:00)

**PALMER EVENTS CENTER** The Flying Karamazov Brothers w/ the Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos

**RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Jack Higginbotham

**ROOM 710** Insect Sex Act (8:00)

**RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

**SAXON PUB** Robbie & the Rogues (5:00); Malford Milligan, Monte Montgomery, Kudzu Karnival (8:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Five Ways From Sunday

**SPEAKEASY** James Moran

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Paul

**TRIPLE CROWN** R.C. Banks (6:00)

**TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Will Dunlap (7:00)

## WED 31

**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Elizabeth Wills (3:30)

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Los Texas Wranglers (3:30)

**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Alan Mayes & LaDonna (10:00)

**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Andrea Marie & Magnolia

**ANTONE'S** The Soldier Thread, the Black & White Years, Bob Schneider

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)

**AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Joe Richardson

**BEAUTY BAR** Petals, the Boxing Lesson, the Ugly Beats, Dans la Lune, the Strange Boys

**THE BELMONT** The Motts (7:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** About: Blank

**BROKEN SPOKE** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Alvin Crow

**CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave, the Spazmatics (6:00)

## TUE 30

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Kevin Carroll (3:30)

**ANTONE'S** Good Luck Academy CD Release, DJ Mel, the Scabs

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Suzanne Smith

**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

**BEAUTY BAR** Local Natives, the Union Line

**BEERLAND** Este Vato, Space Donkey, Southern Villains, Funkternity

**THE BELMONT** Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Joe Faulhaber

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Blue Squeeze Box

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Planet Casper (6:30)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA**  
 21 AND UP WELCOME  
 515 E. SIXTH ST. 512.494.9336  
 BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO AUSTIN FOR 17 YEARS

FRIDAY DEC 26 \*ROCK\* DOORS 9:00  
 FEMALE VOCALIST SHOWCASE  
 JORDAN MITCHELL, STACEY STEGER  
 THE MAGICALLY DELICIOUS SMOKING SKUNK MONKEY  
 YEAR OF THE BANDIT

SATURDAY DEC 27 \*REGGAE\* DOORS 9:00  
**SUBROSA UNION**

WEDNESDAY DEC 31 \*DUB & REGGAE\* DOORS 9:00  
 FLAMINGO CANTINA'S ANNUAL  
**NYE REGGAE BALL**  
 (WINSTON'S FAMOUS CARIBBEAN KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN)

**2009** New Years Eve Ball  
 Flamingo Cantina  
 December 31st, 2008  
 GRIMY STYLES  
 THE MAU MAU  
 CHAPLAIN!

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

01.02: RYAN SCROGGINS & THE TRENCHTOWN TEXANS, GREEN BOOM ROCKERS, DOUBLE BARREL SNOSYTM, PROPER VILLAIN SNOSYTM  
 01.03: AQUAFOUCS, VAN BUREN BOYS  
 01.02: THE BEAT MACHINE  
 01.02: TRISHULA, THE FINE AND WINE, RYAN YOUNG  
 01.09: DON CHAN, AND DAILY BREAD DUB  
 01.10: SONI / AKASHA PERFORMS SHOWCASE WITH DCEE E OF THE SOUTH PARK COW JIKIN, HATCH, SMAKROKA, DIRTY WORMZ AND NECKBONE  
 01.11: NOBODY'S BUSINESS & CARTER ARRINGTON TRID

[WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM](http://WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM)

**the Peacock Lounge**

*Happy Hour*  
 \$1 off All Mixed Drinks and Bottled Beer  
 Until 9PM Every Night

*Martini Monday*  
 \$3 Tito's Martinis All Night

*Tuesday*  
 \$3 Well Drinks All Night

*Boilermaker Wednesday*  
 \$5 for a Lone Star Pint and Whiskey Shot

*Thursday Industry Night*  
 Happy Hour Prices All Night  
 \$1 off All Mixed Drinks and Bottled Beer

*Sunday*  
 \$3 Margaritas

*All Day, Every Day*  
 \$2 Lone Star Pints

*New Year's Eve*  
**GREAT GATSBY PARTY**  
 No Cover, Free Champagne Toast

515 Pedernales (corner of E. 6th)  
 Fri 7PM to 2AM, Sat - Thurs 8PM to 2AM  
[www.peacock-austin.com](http://www.peacock-austin.com)

**WATERLOO Ice House**

☆ ☆ **THIS WEEK** ☆ ☆

**6TH & LAMAR**  
 EVERY WEDNESDAY 6-9PM  
 BERNARD ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS:  
**"UNSIGNED GIANTS"**  
 EVERY THURSDAY, 6:30-9:30PM  
**THE HUDSONS**

**38TH & MEDICAL**  
 SUNDAY, DEC. 28:  
**SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH  
 THE JEFF LOFTON QUARTET  
 WILL DUNLAP'S JAM**

**9600 ESCARPMENT**  
 THURSDAY, DEC. 25: **WE'RE CLOSED  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
 FRIDAY, DEC. 26:  
**BLACKTOP BEND**

**SOUTHPARK MEADOWS**  
 FRIDAY, JAN. 1:  
**WYNN TAYLOR LIVE!** 10PM-1AM  
**FREE TX HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS 9 & 11:30PM**

SATURDAY, JAN. 3: **BOBBY KENNEDY LIVE!**  
 10PM-1AM

SUNDAY, JAN. 4: **SOUTHPARK SERVICE  
 INDUSTRY SUNDAYS WITH THE  
 JUKE BOX HEROES LIVE!** 10PM-1AM

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7:  
**KARAOKE NIGHT** 10PM-1AM

[WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM](http://WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM)

**Buffalo Billiards**

**SATURDAY**  
 DEC 27TH, 9PM  
 THE ULTIMATE 2008  
 RESERVE VIP  
 SEATING BY  
 CALLING  
 479-7665x201

**UFC 92**

201 E. SIXTH 479-POOL  
[BUFFALOBILLIARDS.COM/AUSTIN](http://BUFFALOBILLIARDS.COM/AUSTIN)

**Buffalo Billiards**

**WEDNESDAY**  
 CHAMPAGNE  
 TOAST AT  
 MIDNIGHT  
 \$5 COVER

**NEW YEARS EVE**

201 E. SIXTH 479-POOL  
[BUFFALOBILLIARDS.COM/AUSTIN](http://BUFFALOBILLIARDS.COM/AUSTIN)



**NOMAD**  
BAR LOUNGE PATIO

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
TO ALL CULTURES & TRADITIONS!

WE WILL BE OPEN NORMAL OPERATING HOURS  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE & WILL OPEN AT 8:00PM  
ON CHRISTMAS DAY

COME TRY OUR NEW SPECIALTY  
CHOCOLATE & PORT PAIRINGS!

1213 Corona Drive + 512.628.4288

**Dirty Dog Bar** myspace.com/dirtydogbar 505 E. 6th St

Thursday 12/18 <b>drink specials</b>	Friday 12/19 <b>Soulkitchen</b>
Saturday 12/20 <b>drink specials</b>	Sunday 12/21 <b>Shut Up &amp; Sing!</b>
Monday 12/22 <b>drink specials</b>	Wednesday 12/24 <b>drink specials</b>
Tuesday 12/23 <b>drink specials</b>	

**ALWAYS FREE POOL, SHUFFLEBOARD AND AIR HOCKEY**  
Downtown Austin's Largest Independently Owned and Operated Live Music Venue

**LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market**

<b>FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY</b> 6:30 - 9 PM	<b>@ CENTRAL PARK</b> 40th and North Lamar call 512.206.1000 for details	<b>@ WESTGATE</b> 4477 South Lamar call 512.899.4300 for details	<b>WEDNESDAY &amp; THURSDAY</b> 6:30 - 9 PM
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12:30 - 3 PM			<b>SUNDAY</b> 12:30 - 3 PM

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
**THAD BECKMAN**  
*americana*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
**RUMBULLION**  
*french cafe music*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
**JIMI LEE BAND**  
*blues*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**  
**HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN**  
*hot jazz, TX fiddle*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
**SEAN HOPPER, MARC DEVINE TRIO**  
*jazz*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1**  
**DANNY BRITT**  
*americana*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**  
**THE LUCKY STRIKES**  
*jazz*

<b>upcoming at central park:</b>	<b>upcoming at westgate:</b>
JAN 3 - SUZZANA CHOFFEL	JAN 7 - COMBO MAHALO
JAN 4 - JITTERBUG VIPERS	JAN 8 - JUST DESSERTS
JAN 9 - FLOYD DOMINO	JAN 11 - ACOUSTIC JUNGLE
JAN 10 - WENDY COLONNA	JAN 14 - TX EASTSIDE KINGS
JAN 11 - RIDGETOP SYNCOPATORS	JAN 15 - JIMI LEE BAND
JAN 16 - LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA	

café open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations.  
FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYScape

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

**CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY**

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Texas FX, Kyle Park

**CHEZ ZEE** Jacinta (7:00)

**THE COCKPIT** Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** New Year's Eve Bash w/ James McMurtry & Jon Dee Graham

**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (8:00)

**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Sideshow Tragedy, Dertybird, Taddy Porter

**CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

**DARWIN'S PUB** Johnny Austin (8:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (8:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharaohs (6:00); Paul White, Ephraim Owens (9:30)

**EMO'S** T-Bird & the Breaks

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Ole Farts New Year's Eve w/ Cleve & Sweet Mary (7:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Mau Mau Chaplains, Grimy Styles

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Blue Squeeze Box (8:00)

**GARRISON PARK HARBOR** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Street Legal (9:00)

**GIDDY UPS** Roadhouse Rockers

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Roger Wallace (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Toni Price, Robert Earl Keen Jr. (8:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)

**HEADHUNTERS** Wolf Dog, Year of the Kid, Amplified Heat

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Polly Wants a Popgun, Rockabetty Burlesque, Johnny Hootrock, Scott H. Biram (9:00)

**JOVITA'S** The Eggmen Family Show (4:00); Ouch!, the Eggmen NYW Show (8:30)

**KEY BAR** Matt Wilson (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LA ZONA ROSA** Reverend Horton Heat

**LAMBERTS** New Year's Eve Party w/ DJ Chicken George, the Moonhangers (10:30)

**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

**LOUIE'S 106** Red Young (6:30)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem (9:00)

**MAGGIE MAE'S** Patrick Fleming (8:00)

**MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL** Breast Cancer Resource Centers Benefit, Crystal Ball w/ Midnight Extravaganza

**MEAN-EYED CAT** New Year's Eve Throwdown w/ Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (9:00)

**MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL** Suede (8:00)

**MOMO'S** Dustin Welch, South Austin Jug Band (9:00)

**MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Clay Jefferies (8:00)

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** 11-Fingered Charlie (10:00)

**PALMER EVENTS CENTER** The Flying Karamazov Brothers w/ the Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

**THE PARISH** Grupo Fantasma

**PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Ray Wylie Hubbard

**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

**RED 7** Blood of the Sun, Dixie Witch, Speeddealer

**RILEY'S TAVERN** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Joel Hofmann band

**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D.

**RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

**SAXON PUB** Paula Nelson, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)

**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Austin Poetry Slam (8:00); Prince Tribute, SIMS Foundation Benefit w/ DJ Mahealani, Foot Patrol (10:00)

**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** The Faders, Fredy Argir, Smitty City (8:30)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Mingo Fishtrap

**SHINER'S SALOON** Jeremy Steding (10:30)

**SPEAKEASY** Dysfunkshun Junkshun

**STARDUST CLUB** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Sam Bentley

**STUBB'S** New Year's Bash w/ Hacienda, Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Bitu Blue

**TRIPLE CROWN** Erickson, the Christophers, Kallisti Gold

**TROPHY'S** Lost Soul Review, PJ & the Bear (6:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Ptarmigan (7:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

**THU 01**

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Jerry Lightsey

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Jimi Lee

**BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Taddy Porter, Honky (10:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Tejas Brothers, Band of Heathens, Guy Forsyth (1:00)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Brooks Alan Brannon, Time Out (8:00)

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Andy McIntyre & the Primal Groove (10:00)

**THE PARLOR** James & the Douchebags, Cheap Fire (9:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Chris Boss

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) for complete listings.

606 E 7th St. 480.5988

# CREEKSIDE LOUNGE

Mon-Fri 5pm ★ Sat-Sun 4pm  
HH til 9pm & All night Thr

WED DEC 12/31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**  
DJ'S Element, Baby G  
Orion, & Pagame  
@ THE LOUNGE - NO COVER

## CREEKSIDE LIVE

SAT DEC 12/27

10PM **Hit by a Car**  
The Flood  
Crapulence, Taunto

WED DEC 12/31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW**  
10PM **Taddy Porter**  
Derty Bird  
The Sideshow Tragedy  
MIDNIGHT WHISKEY TOAST  
Hosted By: Represent Austin

Booking Thr 3-6pm 480.5988  
WoodyBooking@TheCreeksideLounge.com

★ THECREEKSIDELOUNGE.COM ★

**THE 04 LOUNGE**  
NOW OPEN IN SOUTH AUSTIN  
THE 04 LOUNGE  
3808 S. Congress Ave.  
Everyday noon-2am, HH til 8pm

# RED RIVER DISTRICT

## LIVE MUSIC

7 days a week

NOW OPEN EARLIER!  
5PM-2AM M-F  
7PM-2AM SAT & SUN

## the side bar

(EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE ON THE SIDE)

602 EAST 7TH ST.  
322.0697  
WWW.THESIDEBARAUSTIN.COM

# Beauty BAR

## DECEMBER

BEST PHOTO BOOTH IN AUSTIN

**12/25 XXX-MAS PARTY**  
W/ HER MITTS & CRUSHES + DJ SCORPIO  
DJ SCANDALIZER

**12/24 TIGHTEN UP**

**12/27 Glasnost**

**12/31 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**  
INSIDE - DJ MEL W/ TBA  
OUTSIDE **STRANGE BOYS**  
W/DANS LA LUNE / UGLY BEATS  
VOTED #1 BIKE RACK IN AUSTIN  
BOOKING HOLIDAY PARTIES  
617 E 7th myspace.com/beautybaraustin  
www.beautybar.com 512.391.1943

# HEADHUNTERS

720 Red River www.headhuntersclub.com (512) 236-0188

12/25 (T) HAPPY HOLIDAYS-CLOSED XMAS DAY

12/26 (F) RAMIFICATIONS, FULL STRIDE, SMOKIN TOADS, JAMIE THOMAS, WOLF DOG

12/27 (S) CHAD THOMAS AND THE CRAZY KINGS, THE LITTLE MORTS, UNDERWOOD (FEAT: BILL DAVIS)

12/28 (S) THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORESE OPERA, NFL FOOTBALL ALL DAY(P)

12/29 (M) KONTRABANDITS, MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL-SIN NIGHT SPECIALS!

12/30 (T) DICK WIGGLER & THE CATTLE GUARDS, DEVILS HOLLOW,  
CLAY JEFFERIES BAND, BILL DAVIS SINGER SONGWRITERS(P)

12/31 (W) "HAPPY NEW YEARS SHOW": AMPLIFIED HEAT, YEAR OF THE KID, WOLFDog,  
ARARAT MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD & DJS-DANCERS (Patio): Starting 8pm: LAMB & STUFFED APRICOTS,  
Yummus & Spicy Shortbread, HOOKAH Lounge, TAROT Bazaar, Henna & Palm Readings

# ROOM 710

710 Red River St.  
476-0997  
21+ Up  
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Lounge Side + Stage Side = Freaking Original

Thu 12/25

## HEART & SOUL SOUND SYSTEM

The Afterbirth of the Nazarene Child

Fri 12/26

## ENGAGED IN MUTILATING BAT CASTLE

### HIS OWN DEMISE

IMPULSE TO DEVOUR  
or Black Metal for Kwanzaa

Sat 12/27

## HOODRATS

### THE NEGATIVES + TBA

Sun 12/28

## MOUSE ABOUT TOYLAND

Mon 12/29

## HEART & SOUL SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 12/30

## INSECT SEX ACT + TBA

Wed 12/31

Sympathy for the Trademark Industry  
Presents:

## MAGNIFICO

NOV YEAR'S EVE 2008

## BIG BALLS

## SUICIDE SOLUTION

UPCOMING SHOWS  
1.1 Duke, Hazard of the Industry, Shiner Threat, E!AI 1.2 Hit by A Car, Micah & the Mutants, Zenth Flood, 1.3 Brad's B Day, 1.6 Grave Robber

# BEER LAND TEXAS

711 1/2 RED RIVER 479-ROCK

th 24 Christmas Eve Karaoke with Nathan Black!

th 25 closed

fr 26 Austin Comedy Trainwreck Boxing Day Special

sa The Last Chicken Wire Cage Show  
27 Nathan Black & his One Man Band,  
John Wesley Coleman III, GOSPEL  
(fea. members of COUNTRY),  
Destroyed for Comfort, Kathax  
Shapes Have Fangs, Box Elders,

su 28 Harlem, Woven Bones

mo 29 BEERLAND'S LEGENDARY ROCK N ROLL KARAOKE!

tu 30 Funkternity, Southern Villans, Space Donkey, Este Vato

BROWSE OUR INTERACTIVE WEBSITE @  
**BEERLANDTEXAS.COM**  
& CHECK OUT A BAND YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

# RED EYED FLY

Live Music

715 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS  
WWW.REDEYEDFLY.COM

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 25 **NO BANDS**  
LOUNGE OPENS AT 9PM  
MATTHEW STARS AS BOB CRATCHIT

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 26 **SECONDS FROM WAKING FOR THE MOST PART**  
TOMBSTONE UNION LOUDER THAN LUNACY IN THE TRENCH

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 27 **SCOTT A. BIRAM**  
JOHN SCHOOLEY AND HIS ONE MAN BAND  
PURE LUCK

SUNDAY-DECEMBER 28 **WOOLES SPIN BEAT DOWN**  
SECOND 2 LAST  
CURB CHECK

MONDAY-DECEMBER 29 **SPIDER WOOKIE**  
GARRY NARANJA TRIP MONGOLAIN WATER TORTURE  
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL IN THE LOUNGE

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 30 **TOYLAND**  
BIG LEAGUE  
AMANDA LEPRE  
VENSON'S FIXINS

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 31 **THE STUMMIES**  
BORN TO LOSE  
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS  
THE IRISH GOODBYE  
DEVILS & DUST  
FRIDAY-JANUARY 2 **TRASHY & THE KID**  
AUTOMATIC CYCLE  
HIGH LINES  
THE STOIC  
EL CHARCO

UPCOMING SHOWS  
01/09 - SSIK, BROKEN TEETH, ADRENALINE FACTOR  
01/10 - BRINK OF DISASTER, SCRAPS OF LIFE, LUG, KEEFER  
01/10 - RENEGADES OF DISASTER CITY, THE BANNER YEAR  
01/17 - DEAF EARS, MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL FIVE  
PURE LUCK MONDAYS IN JANUARY. FREE SHOW EVERY MONDAY.  
\$2.00 LONESTAR TALL BOYS AND \$3.00 JIM BEAM  
for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

# ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

Thursday • Dec 25 **CLOSED**

**CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Happy Holidays from everyone at Elysium!

Friday • Dec 26 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

www.devival.com presents  
**FNORD**  
Friday Night of Random Dancing

Saturday • Dec 27 **HAVEN**

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE  
**HAVEN** WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER  
W/ SPECIAL GUEST DJ PROPHET

Sunday • Dec 28 **REGRESSION**

RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's  
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday • Dec 30 **CLOSED**

...one more week...

Wednesday • Dec 31 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008**  
**CONFUSION**  
featuring the best of Elysium dance music  
to close out 2008 and BRING in the new year!  
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & ED MINISTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu. Jan 1 • **HAVE A NICE DAY** - 60's & 70's Funk, R & B, Soul and Disco

Fri. Jan 2 • **Live!** CHLOE DAY, gfire & TBA

Thu. Jan 8 • **Live!** The Clouds Are Ghosts 1 AM  
Rescue Mission 12 AM, Low Technicians 11 PM  
Dichotomy 10 PM

Fri. Jan 9 • **Live!** The Dry Season 12 AM

Thu. Jan 15 • **Live!** The Triggermen 12 AM

Fri. Jan 16 • **Live!** DEVISION, SEABOUND,  
IRIS - tickets available now at Secret Oktober

Tue. Jan 20 • **Live!** COMBICHRIST

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified  
more detailed information available at:  
www.clysiumonline.net • (512) 478-2979  
• www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin •



# GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SWING

WITH A TURN ON TO EASY STREET

*If you're looking for a relationship that's a bit...unconventional, you need to turn on to Easy Street. 24 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, looks at pictures, read profiles - all absolutely free. So don't dream about it, do it.*

**Plus, if you place a profile with a picture by 5pm, Monday, January 5, you'll be automatically entered to win a \$150 PRIZE PACKAGE from FORBIDDEN FRUIT!**



THE **AUSTIN CHRONICLE**

[austinchronicle.com/easystreet](http://austinchronicle.com/easystreet)

## FREE FRIDAY SUPER BUFFET

with this ad before noon



## LATE NIGHT MENU 10PM-1AM

### 1/2 LB STEAK & FRIES \$5

Half pound sirloin grilled to order and fresh french fries

### BUFFALO WINGS \$5

Spicy chick wings served with ranch dressing

### CHICKEN NACHOS \$5

Fajita chicken on our piled high bean and cheese nachos

### CHEESEBURGER & FRIES \$5

1/3 pound ground sirloin grilled to order with all the fixings

### BREAKFAST TACOS \$5

Three egg tacos, one with bacon, one with potato and one with chorizo. Any combination. Salsa on the side.



# Perfect 10 Men's Club

16511 BRATTON LANE AUSTIN, TX  
512.238.7700 WWW.SUGARSPERFECT.COM

# XTC Cabaret

18 & UP | B.Y.O.B.

MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS

**\$5 DANCES**

7 - 11PM

TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS

**\$10 DANCES**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

**OIL WRESTLING**

MATCHES AT  
10:30PM & 12:30AM

**\$10 COVER**

WITH COUPON ON WEDNESDAY

**\$2.99**

STEAK & FRIES  
UNTIL 6pm

## FRIDAY & SATURDAY

# \$10 COVER

OPEN TO 10PM

# \$10 ENTERTAINER HOUSE FEES

6PM TO 9PM

## OUR GIRLS PARTY NAKED

3501 Andree Blvd. • 512.929.3558

**AAA News XXXcite! AAA News XXXcite! AAA News XXXcite! AAA News XXXcite! AAA News**

Four Convenient Locations • Best Prices • MC/Visa/Amex/Disc Discreet Processing • 10% Military Discount  
 Visit [www.aaanews.com](http://www.aaanews.com) & [www.xxxcite.biz](http://www.xxxcite.biz) for more info!



**END OF YEAR - 50% OFF CLEARANCE SALE!!**  
**Top Studios! Beautiful Babes! Terrific Prices!**



**Austin's Best Toy Selection for Hot, Loving Couples and Do-It-Yourselfers!**

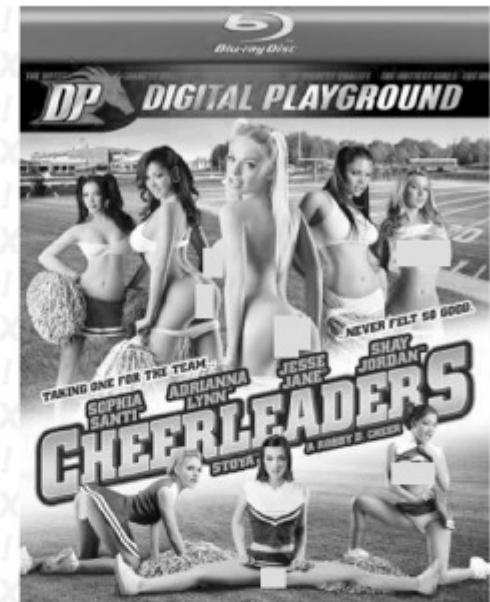
**Thousands of New Movies from Top Studios with the Hottest Starlets from Around the World!**  
**Were \$30 to \$40, NOW \$15 to \$20!!**  
**Check the Deal! This Sale Will Blow You Away!**



**Check out the newest Starlets on DVD!**  
**New Releases Daily!**



**All Lubes 20% OFF!!**



**Need Blu-rays for Your New Player?**  
**Check our Selection!**

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 At Marker 248  
 990-2144

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 440-8626

# ADULT SERVICES

## ESCORTS

### PRETTY 36-D!

SLENDER BRUNETTE

**346-3333**

### SWEET SEXY BRUNETTE

Soft, Silky Skin, 125 lbs.  
38D, 5'5, 40's, In Call Only  
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Delightful, upscale, sensual  
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Great Hands! Total  
Satisfaction! BBW In/Out  
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www.Austinagp.com

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### SWEDISH, SWEET

Light touch. Full body rub.  
Exquisite, Feels so good.  
Tel:441-4019 In calls only

### RUBDOWNS PRIVATE ROOMS

#### NEW GIRLS & GUYS!

Mon-Thu 10am-2am  
Fri-Sat til 3am, Sun Noon-  
1am, Daily Specials before 6!  
SUNDAY \$10 OFF ALL DAY!  
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Very busty  
Home Alone All Day!  
CALL 512-963-1705

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Open 11am-3am  
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Exotic, Sexy, Island Beauty,  
5'5" 38c 24 36  
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North Location

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### SWEET GIRL

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### XXX SHE-MALE

Olivia 699-7630

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(NAUGHTY OR NICE)

Quickies, Fantasies, Body-  
rubs & More! Treat Yourself  
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Gentlemen & Couples  
Welcome

### EVERYDAY SPECIALS!

Hwy 183 @ Duval

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Open 10am - 3am  
AMEX/VISA/MC

"We aim to please"

### DREAM

North Location

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5'3" 115lbs, 18yrs old  
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Service as you like it.  
Attractive, friendly, inshape.  
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All HOT SEXY BABES  
talk dirty on After Hours!  
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Ladies Talk to Men Nation-  
wide

1-800-856-TALK FREE!

#1 SEXIEST Chat!  
Join the party with local  
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FREE to try! 18+

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Absolutely HOT chat! 18+

FREE to try!

Locals singles waiting!

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**EARLY DEADLINE:**  
Jan. 2 issue:  
Monday, Dec. 29 at noon

Make a Genuine Connection  
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DAILY SPECIALS BEFORE 6PM!

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**NEW LOCATION!**  
3209 VALLEY PIKE  
NEW MANAGEMENT!  
NEW YOUNG HANDSOME MEN  
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*NightLine PERSONALS*

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**24 HRS!**

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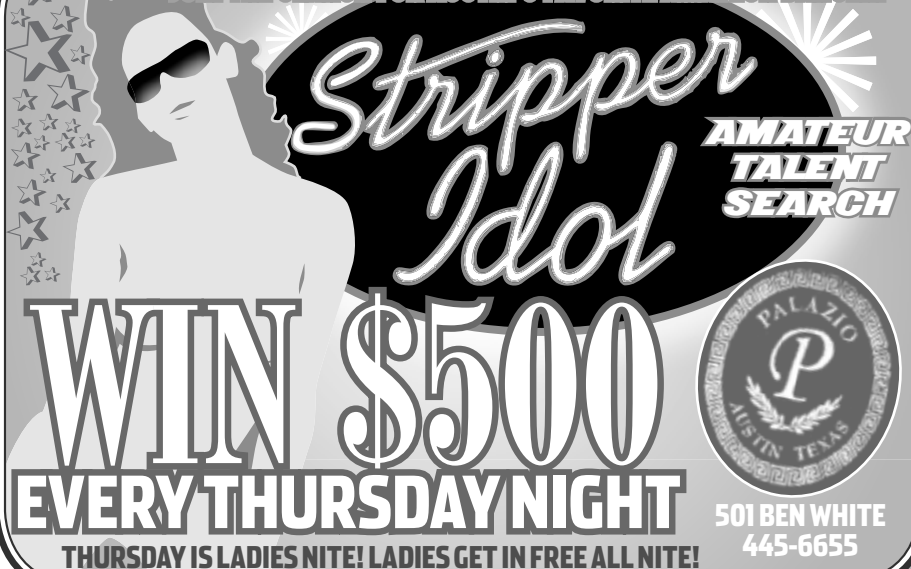
**IN CROWD TUESDAYS**

**\$3<sup>99</sup> STEAK & FRIES**  
EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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**COUNTRY WESTERN NIGHT**  
TIGHT JEANS CONTEST

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE FOR NEW YEARS EVE**

JOIN THE SEARCH FOR AUSTIN'S FAVORITE AMATEUR DANCER!



**Stripper Idol**  
**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH**

**WIN \$500**  
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THURSDAY IS LADIES NITE! LADIES GET IN FREE ALL NITE!

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AUSTIN'S ONLY 2 STORY CABARET

**LOCO WEDNESDAY**

**\$3 PATRON & \$3 CORONA** ALL DAY & NIGHT

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**\$3 CROWN & \$3 GREY GOOSE** OPEN TIL CLOSE

**\$3 WELLS | \$4 CALLS | \$5 PREMIUMS**  
FROM OPEN TO 9PM EVERYDAY

**\$5.99** 8oz STEAK & JUMBO SHRIMP

**\$10 DANCES**  
SUNDAY & MONDAY

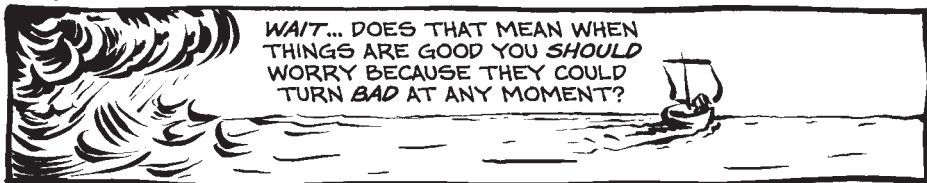
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How to Be Happy (CUTIE ISLAND) 17 OF 8 by Shannon Wheeler

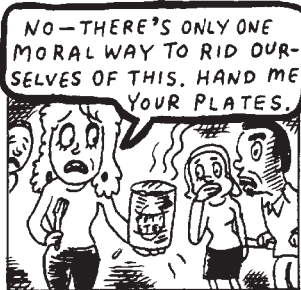
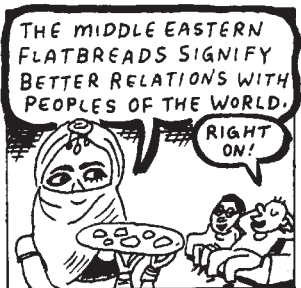


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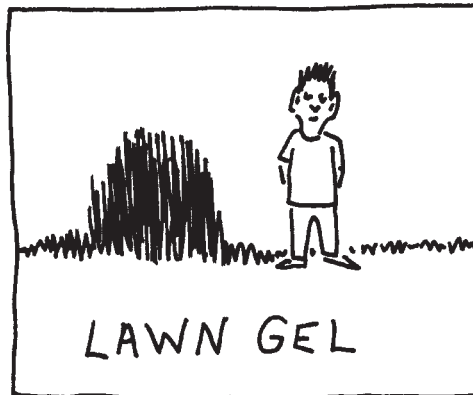
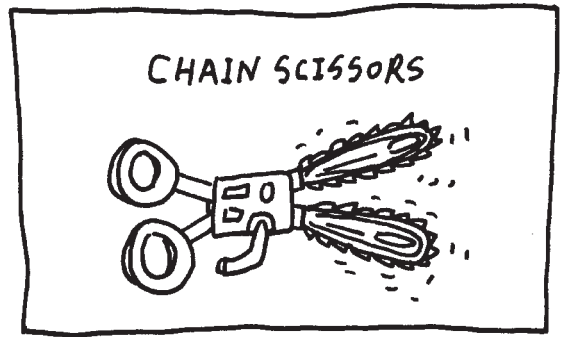
HOLIDAY FEAST TROUBLETOWN STYLE!

BY LLOYD DANGLE



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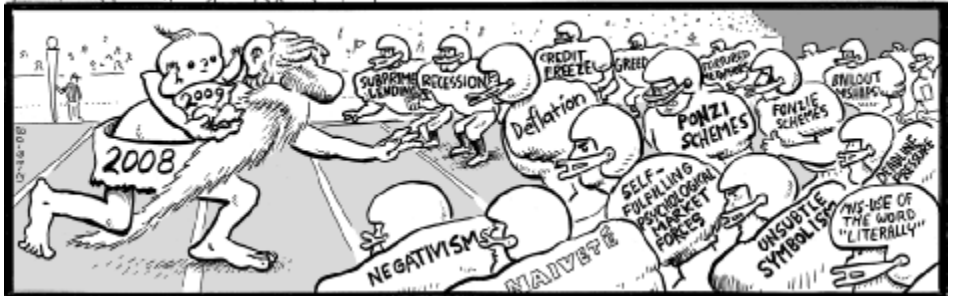
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MVILLER

EYEBEAM

by Sam Hart



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



The original *Captain Kangaroo* theme song was an instrumental called "Puffin' Billy." It was written by Edward G. White and referred to a British steam locomotive.

A study from Ohio State University suggests that THC may help fight Alzheimer's disease and other forms of age-related memory loss. A UCLA study suggests that red wine also wards off Alzheimer's.

A household lightbulb emits about 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 photons of light per second.

Studies suggest that women prefer the scent of males whose major histocompatibility complex genes differ from their own.

The kilt was invented by an Englishman, Thomas Rawlinson, who came to Scotland in the 1720s to manage an ironworks in the Highlands and found it handy and convenient for his workmen.

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
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- 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
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- 230 Commercial
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- 240 Real Estate For Sale

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- 315 Appliances
- 320 Baby/Kids Stuff
- 325 Clothing
- 330 Computers
- 335 Electronics
- 340 Free Stuff
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- 410 Business
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- 445 Legal
- 450 Licensed Massage
- 455 Psychic/Astrology
- 460 Travel
- 465 Miscellaneous

## 500 NEIGHBORHOOD

- 510 Activites
- 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

## 130 HEALTHCARE

### JOBS

## 115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

**HAIRSTYLIST**  
**J Thomas Salon**  
has one chair available (booth rental) for experienced Stylist with clientele. Fax resume to 494-5475. Serious inquiries only. No drama! Professionals only.

**HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS** Lease \$130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

**STYLIST** Needed for Hip, Downtown Salon in the heart of market dist. Booth Rental, FT & PT avail. Call Stephen at Tsunami Salon 320-0050.

## 120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

**MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED!!**  
All looks and ages wanted. No experience necessary. Part-Time Income \$150.00 - \$300.00 p/day. CALL NOW! 1-888-268-5474 x 401 (AAN CAN)

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**ASSEMBLY \$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$** Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 ext. 150 <http://www.easypay.com> (AAN CAN)

**COPIER OPERATORS** High Speed Copier Operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 shifts available. Call 472-5353.

**PRINT SHOP** Full Time document preparation positions available in UT-area printshop from mid-December to late January. Training provided. \$8.00 and up based on experience. Call 478-3334.

**PRINT SHOP** 30 individuals needed in campus area copyshop for various temporary positions including copy clerk, binding, computer help, and cashier. From \$7.50/hr. Call 478-0871.

## 130 HEALTHCARE

**DIRECT CARE STAFF NEEDED!** \$400 Sign on bonus after 6 months! We need staff to work at least 20 hrs/wk working with clients with cognitive challenges in north Austin. Flexible hours. Call Dana @ 1-800-867-0047. Apply in person at 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 250W. Fax resume to 512-338-1555 or email to [dmcbride@empowermentoptions.com](mailto:dmcbride@empowermentoptions.com)

## 135 HOSPITALITY

**HOOVER'S ONLINE**

Hoover's cooking is now hiring food servers for AM & PM shifts

Please apply M-F 8am-11am and 2pm-5pm 2002 Manor Rd.

**ALL** Freddy's Frozen Custard is Now Hiring: Cooks, Cashiers & Bussers. FT & PT/ AM & PM Shifts Available. Also Hiring Managers! Austin Area. Call for more info 210-289-0701. Fax resume to 210-822-2276 or email [gary.nail@yahoo.com](mailto:gary.nail@yahoo.com)

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## SEASON'S CLOSINGS

The *Chronicle* offices will close at 3pm Wednesday, Dec. 24, and remain closed for the rest of the week.

On Wednesday, Dec. 31, we will close at 3pm and remain closed through that weekend. We will resume regular business hours (and days) on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

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**MEN AND WOMEN HEALTHY?**

Generations of men and postmenopausal or surgically sterile women have helped test investigational medications by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

To qualify for research study 8200-239 involving an investigational medication you must be:

- A man or postmenopausal woman age 18 to 50
- A non-smoker
- Available for 2 inpatient periods of 4 nights/5 days

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and compensation up to

\$2200 for time and participation. Think you can help? Then call

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For more info, please call

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All calls are confidential.

**WOMEN****POSTMENOPAUSAL?**

Generations of postmenopausal or surgically sterile women have helped test investigational drugs by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

You may qualify for research study 8200-332 involving an investigational drug if you are:

- A postmenopausal or surgically sterile woman age 35 to 70
- Available for four inpatient study periods of 4 days/3 nights PLUS 8 outpatient visits

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and payment up to \$4650 for time and participation. Think you can help? Then call

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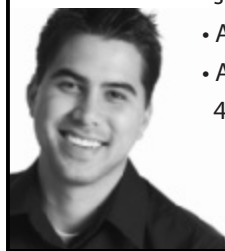
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Generations of men and postmenopausal or surgically sterile women have helped test investigational medications by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

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- A non-smoker
- Available for 2 inpatient periods of 4 nights/5 days

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and compensation up to \$2200 for time and participation.

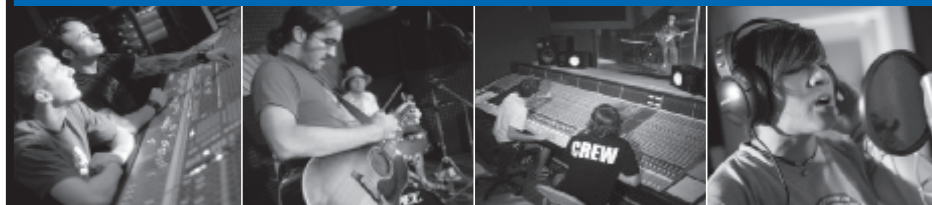
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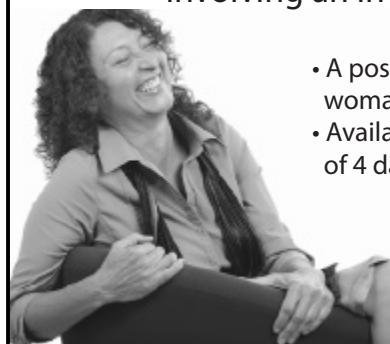
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Generations of postmenopausal or surgically sterile women have helped test investigational drugs by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

You may qualify for research study 8200-332 involving an investigational drug if you are:

- A postmenopausal or surgically sterile woman age 35 to 70
- Available for four inpatient study periods of 4 days/3 nights PLUS 8 outpatient visits

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and payment up to \$4650 for time and participation.

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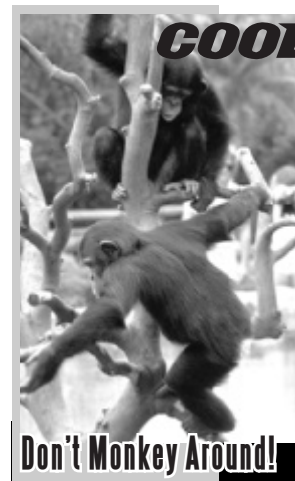
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141 Turkey Ridge Cove  
3.38 acre lot, use any builder, clean lot with large oak trees. \$50,000

404 Hammack  
2/1, Brick house with fruit trees & native plants, near Lamar & 2222. \$185,000

**\*\*\* FOR LEASE \*\*\***

8011 Logwood  
3/2/2 house, quiet street in Allandale, Recent Remodel, Fresh Paint, Tile, etc.

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**535**  
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D-1-GV-06-001480

### CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

#### REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001480, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Healthcare District and Water Control Improvement District No. 15 are plaintiffs, and M.D. Shelton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of M.D. Shelton and State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Section (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$11,466.87 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 28, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**117.28 acres out of the J.A. Navarro Grant (Abstract 18) Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102464 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

**Billing Number: 599063**  
**\$48,864.63** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenors, in the 261ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 24, 1998.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**117.28 acres out of the J.A. Navarro Grant (Abstract 18) Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

**Billing Number: 599063**  
**Lots 7, 8, 13 and 14, Town of (Oakmanville) Oak Hill, Plat No. X/242, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 151389 = \$28,419.63 and Billing Number 599063 = \$48,864.63** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.  
BRUCE ELFANT,  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-08-000027

### CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

#### REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-08-000027, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District,

YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-002177

### CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

#### REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-002177, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Healthcare District and Water Control Improvement District No. 15 are plaintiffs, and M.D. Shelton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of M.D. Shelton and State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Section (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$11,466.87 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 28, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**107.28 acres out of the J.A. Navarro Grant (Abstract 18) Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102464 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

**Billing Number: 599063**  
**\$48,864.63** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenors, in the 261ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 24, 1998.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**117.28 acres out of the J.A. Navarro Grant (Abstract 18) Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

**Billing Number: 599063**  
**Lots 7, 8, 13 and 14, Town of (Oakmanville) Oak Hill, Plat No. X/242, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2005102467 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 151389 = \$28,419.63 and Billing Number 599063 = \$48,864.63** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.  
BRUCE ELFANT,  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

Lago Vista Independent School District-County Education District, Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District No. 1, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Shirley Bradford, Trustee and Individually, Ralph W. Wilson (In Rem Only), if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Ralph W. Wilson and Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Austin Community College, FM Road, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$24,213.39** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 28, 2008.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**Lot 71, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 38/22 as described in Volume 10520, Page 99 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$24,213.39** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**NOTICE** Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: Wells Branch Parkway Improvements CIP # 8071-6207-9061, bidding January 15, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Areas of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Asphalt / Paving, Concrete, Photography, Fencing & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

**GV-001547**  
**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**  
**REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2008 in a certain cause numbered GV-001547, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John W. Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of John W. Williams, Matrel Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Matrel Williams, City of Austin (In Rem Only), K A Slider d/b/a Tretops Apts. (In Rem Only) and Austin Sales, Inc. d/b/a Austin Sales and Scaffold (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Billing Number 108068 = \$16,088.86 and Billing Number 108069 = \$1,098.54** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that be-

ing the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 10, 2005.

I, on the 3rd day of December, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

**Billing Number: 108068**  
**Lot 10, Block 23, St. Johns College Addition, Plat No. 4/71 as described in Volume 4247, Page 1492 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

**Billing Number: 108069**  
**Lot 9, Block 23, St. Johns College Addition, Plat No. 4/71 as described in Volume 3709, Page 1962 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Billing Number 108068 = \$16,088.86 and Billing Number 108069 = \$1,098.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of December, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT,  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**NOTICE** Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: Wells Branch Parkway Improvements CIP # 8071-6207-9061, bidding January 15, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Areas of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Asphalt / Paving, Concrete, Photography, Fencing & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

**NOTICE**  
**Project Name: The Coves at Sky Ranch**  
**Applicant Name & Address: Hinman Development Company LLC**  
**6309 Sanderson Ave**  
**Austin, TX 78749**  
**Site Location:**  
**3901 Pace Ben Road**  
**Travis County, Texas**  
**Project Description: Subdivision infrastructure for 14 single family lots on 36.70 ac**

An application has been made to LCRA for approval of the following: Development Permit at this location. LCRA has determined that the application is administratively complete. Any person may comment on the application. Written comments should be either mailed or delivered to the LCRA no later than 15 days from the date on this notice in order to be considered in the review of the application.

Mail:  
LCRA - Watershed Management  
Mail Stop L-421  
P.O. Box 220  
Austin, TX 78767  
Delivered:  
LCRA - Watershed Management  
3700 Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78703  
Mail Stop L-421

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES** Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.

**Garagekeeper: Pinkies American Towing Inc**  
**8917 Circle Dr**  
**Austin TX, 78736**  
**512-233-4869**  
2003 Ford Mustang, California plates AZED2U, Vin # 1FAFP42R53F49173

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES** Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 15300 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless

charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1989 Lincoln, no LP, 1LNBM84FY171611, \$1517.50 owed as of 12/22/08.

1996 Nissan, no LP, JN1CA21DXTM408318, \$986.25 owed as of 12/22/08. 1972 Air Flo Trailer, no LP, 506902722577, \$338.75 owed as of 12/22/08.

**NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS PROPOSES THE APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: STOP SIGN ON BEE HIVE LANE EAST BOUND AT R O DRIVE, AND A STOP SIGN ON BUMBLE BEE DRIVE NORTH BOUND AT BEE CREEK ROAD IN BEE CREEK HILL, SECTIONS 1 & 2.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS PROPOSES THE APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: STOP SIGN ON CHRISTINA GARZA DRIVE SOUTHEAST BOUND AT LEXINGTON STREET, STOP SIGN ON CHRISTINA GARZA DRIVE NORTHWEST BOUND

AT LEXINGTON STREET, STOP SIGN ON LEXINGTON STREET SOUTHEAST BOUND AT SHADOWGLEN TRACE, STOP SIGN ON JOHN MICHAEL LANE NORTHWEST BOUND AT CRAVEN LANE, STOP SIGN ON JONES COURT NORTHWEST BOUND AT CRAVEN LANE, STOP SIGN ON CHRISTINA GARZA DRIVE SOUTHEAST BOUND AT CRAVEN LANE, STOP SIGN ON EDWIN REINHARDT DRIVE SOUTHEAST BOUND AT CRAVEN LANE, AND STOP SIGN ON EDWIN REINHARDT DRIVE NORTHWEST BOUND AT LEXINGTON STREET IN SHADOWGLEN PHASE ONE SECTION 12 & 13.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS PROPOSES THE APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: STOP SIGN ON ARBOR HILL COVE WESTERN BOUND AT SHADOWGLEN TRACE, STOP SIGN ON GREEN LODGE COURT SOUTHEAST BOUND AT VOELKER REINHARDT LANE, STOP SIGN ON FALCON TRAIL COURT NORTHWEST BOUND AT ARBOR HILL COVE, STOP SIGN ON VOELKER REINHARDT LANE SOUTHWESTERN BOUND AT ARBOR HILL COVE, AND STOP SIGN ON WINDSTONE

COURT AT VOELKER REINHARDT LANE IN SHADOWGLEN PHASE TWO SECTION 14A.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS PROPOSES THE APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: STOP SIGNS ON PECANGATE WAY NORTHWESTERN BOUND AND NORTHEASTERN BOUND AT FALLSPRINGS WAY, STOP SIGN ON PINE ARBOR TRAIL NORTHWESTERN BOUND AT PECANGATE WAY, STOP SIGN ON CROWNSTONE LANE NORTHWESTERN BOUND AT PINE ARBOR TRAIL, AND STOP SIGN ON STONE BRIDGE MEADOW DRIVE SOUTHWESTERN BOUND AT SHADOWGLEN TRACE IN SHADOWGLEN PHASE TWO SECTION 15A.

ANY RESIDENT OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AGRIEVED BY THIS PROPOSED ACTION MAY MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A MANDATORY PUBLIC HEARING. SUCH REQUEST MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 1748, AUSTIN, TX, 78767 AND MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS OF THIS NOTICE.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION** A Public Auction will be held to satisfy landlord's lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. **Sales will be held January 17, 2009. A sale will be held at 9:00 a.m., at A-A-A Storage 227 Park 35 Cove North, Buda, Phone 512-312-2227. A sale will be held at 11:00 a.m., at 4405 IH 71 East, Del Valle, Phone 512-247-9708. A sale will be held at 1:00 p.m., at Hwy 183, 8956 Research Blvd, Austin, Phone 512-338-9900. A sale will be held at 3:00 p.m., at 10707 IH 35 North, Austin, Phone 512-977-9775. All units will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid. Sales include items from the following tenants' storage spaces: #437 Mary Esquivel: misc. #481 Jose Careaga: bedroom/living room furniture and misc. boxes. #113 Mandy Simpsons: boxes, misc. items. #476 Blair Boies: shelf's, misc. items. #319 Cortni Fuson: furniture, lamps, vacuum, misc. #5604 Patrick Lusk: VHS 2, furniture, boxes. #2318 Sara Wilson: misc. #2351 Carlos Reyna: household. #6317 Dorothy Kinchion: furniture. #6332 Marilyn Robinson: household furniture. #6406 Brad Turner: guitar and misc. #6410 Peter Polson: household misc.**

#6419 Julio Triston: toys, clothing, and misc. #6855 Fredrick Battle: bike and household misc. #7022 Ashley Mims: household. #7055 Christopher Dove: furniture. #8006 Daniel Goodson: household misc.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

U-STORE-IT hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **January 5, 2009** beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the U-STORE-IT located at 10025 Manchaca Road Austin, Texas. This sale will continue to each designated address location listed below after the completion of the beginning sale. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

**U-Store-It #753**  
**10025 Manchaca Rd**  
**Austin, TX 78748**  
**512-292-1760**

## AV0108 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

**JANUARY 8, 2009 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745**

083250636	1991	HOND	2DR	HSD10N	TX	1HGCB7266MA003956	085064516	1984	CHEV	4DR	516RFG	TX	1G1AN69H6EX104789
083250680	****	CAPRI				TRAL	085064518	1990	ACUR	4DR	CPV706	TX	JH4DB1566LS003877
**						*****	085064553	1992	GEO	2DR	R57JCX	TX	2C1MR2467N6797098
083250680	1998	BAVLINER	BT	2467JB	TX	USHB82CEA898	085064554	2004	TOYT	4DR	5SQY299	CA	4T1BE32K4U2339685
083361396	1987	CADI	2DR	451VBJ	TX	1G6CD1185H4304279	085065290	1994	CADI	4DR	D06JKY	TX	1G6KS52Y5UR824359
085061673	1997	HMDE	UT	142PRW	TX	*****	085065295	2001	MAZD	LL	824NHR	TX	4F2U07151KM03824
085061694	****	****				TRAL	085065307	1987	FORD	4DR	7SLLK	TX	1FAPP2894HT147091
**						*****	085065311	1988	LINC	4DR	FJG919	TX	1LNBM81F6JY742576
085062110	1985	PLYM	VN	GYM053	TX	2P4FH41G8FR219725	085065314	1993	DODG	4DR	JLT435	TX	2B3ED46T6PH669562
085062131	2000	MIT	2DR	H82SKC	TX	4A3AC34G7YE077075	085065579	1977	PONT	2DR	M26MFT	TX	1G2NW127CV750166
085062151	1976	LINC	PK	05ZVCS	TX	7F10GLC57513	085065580	1993	BUIC	4DR	Z73GMX	TX	1G4HP53L8PH513053
085062154	1991	FLORD	4DR	405ZCY	TX	1LNCM9846MY792977	085065583	1992	GEO	2DR	525XXN	TX	2C1MR2461N6789594
085062156	1994	HOND	4DR	510GWH	TX	JHMCD5639RC065455	085065584	2001	MIT	2DR	373IME	FL	4A3AC44G01E156793
085062757	1985	TOYT	4DR	726BJX	TX	JT2MX73E0F0045356	085065590	1995	DODG	VN	087PRS	MS	2B6HB21X7SK556378
085062772	****	HMDE				DRILLING RIG	085065893	1993	DODG	VN	MJV95L	TX	1B4GH44R8PX689274
**						114965	085065894	1987	ACUR	2DR	Z61MFX	TX	JH4DA1851H5017859
085063909	1994	FORD	PK	04PRP5	TX	1FTCR10A0RTB16702	085065897	1989	FORD	PK	24CJH3	TX	1FTDF15N6KNB78625
085063910	1991	GEO	2DR	C20BMX	TX	JG1MR3364MK612567	085065899	1988	MAZD	2DR	HNJ670	TX	1YVGD31A2J5108596
085063912	1996	FORD	4DR	V92CFX	TX	1FASP14J8TW124666	085065901	****	****				BT
085063913	1996	DODG	PK	08TLP7	TX	1B7HC16y6TJ149833	**						*****
085063915	1992	FORD	4DR	M28YXZ	TX	1FACP52U1NG270638	085065901	****	HOLSCLAW				TRAL
085063917	1991	STRICK	4DR	R71TNN	TX	WDBDA28D8MF842636	**						*****
085064140	1969	SERVIC	TRAL	48346V	TX	117475	085065903	2000	PLYM	VN	317KZE	WI	2P4GP44G9YR586610
085064300	1995	NISS	4DR	929GKR	TX	JN1CA21D2S0T13330	085065916	1981	CHEV	PK	29GK3	TX	1G6DCD1469BF314106
085064382	1996	PONT	4DR	760FMC	TX	1G2JB524977563057	085065923	1995	HYUN	4DR	GJV965	TX	KMHCF24T1SU257428
085064384	1999	PONT	VN	K77SFH	TX	1GMDX03EXXD231782	085066646	1997	FORD	4DR	HNB972	TX	1FALP13P1VW310935
085064485	1994	FORD	PK	7XXK72	TX	1FTCR14U9RCP06542	085067053	1978	OLDS	4DR	R02VFG	TX	3V69R8M116803
085064500	1998	DODG	LL	LFL483	TX	1B4HS28YXWF165785	085067055	1979	OLDS	4DR	C10GKY	TX	3N69R9X122841
085064504	1991	FORD	LL	225MVY	TX	1FMDU34X6MUC82394	085067057	1979	OLDS	2DR	238UTC	TX	3M47H9R494553
085064507	1987	SHOP	TRAL	01YKTN	TX	*****	**						*****
085064508	****	FORD				TRAL							



by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

## WHY TOPPING OFF THE TANK IS A BAD IDEA

Dear Tom and Ray:

I got into an argument recently concerning whether I should top off when I fuel up. You know what I mean – the pump shuts off, and I can either stop or put another half a gallon more in. Is that OK, or not? I notice some pumps say not to top off, and I was wondering why. Most reasons I have found online discuss fuel expansion, which, it seems to me, would be rather minimal. So now I am asking the experts. Can you point me in the right direction? – Kurt

RAY: Was the “argument” with a spouse, by any chance, Kurt? Who else would you ever get into an argument with at a gas station? Anyway, you owe her an apology, Kurt.

TOM: Vaporization is the problem. In the old days, gas caps used to have holes in them so gasoline vapors could escape. The vapors went right into the atmosphere, creating smog and preventing Sarah Palin from seeing Russia from her home in Alaska. Oh, and the other problem with smog: lung disease.

RAY: To solve the problem, the Environmental Protection Agency required that all cars come with a vapor recovery system. A key piece of that system is something called a charcoal canister, which is attached to the gas tank.

TOM: When the gasoline in the tank expands and creates vapors, those vapors are absorbed by the charcoal. They're held there in the charcoal until the next time the car starts, and then the vapors are sucked back into the intake air, and burned by the engine during the combustion process.

RAY: When you top off your tank, you take the chance that you'll force liquid gasoline into the charcoal canister, ruining it. And what does that mean? At least 300 bucks, Kurt.

\* \* \*

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Tom and Ray can help! Order “How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows.” Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

\* \* \*

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on



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## CONTINUED 545 LEGAL NOTICES

Joe G. Acosta - Tables, Washing Machine, Love Seat  
Juan Hernandez Arroyo - Baby Stroller, Bicycle, Fan, Tubs

Earth Action Lawn & Landscape - Weed Eaters, Wood chipper, Hedge Clippers, Pressure Washer, Lawn Mowers, Leaf Blowers

Earth Action Lawn & Landscape - Safe, Grinder

**U-Store-It #751**

**610 E. Stassney Lane Austin, TX 78745**  
512-441-8300

Sergio Guerrero - Bookcase, Chairs, Desk, Dressers, Pictures, Shelf, Speakers, Table, Totes

**U-Store-It #748**

**12006 RR 620 N Austin, Tx. 78745**  
512-336-5333

Richard Guthrie - Bed Frame, Bicycles, Boxes, Cabinet, Chest of Drawers, Desk, Ladder, TV, Car Jack, Guitar, Computer, Weights.

Jason Wells - Dresser, Speakers, Hard Drives, Speakers, Pillow, Hot Plate, Shoes

Leticia Trahan - Boxes, Desk, Dresser, Microwave, Table, Tires, Toolbox, Cooking Utensils, Dolly, Propane Tank, Flashlight

Chris Koozekanani - Washer, Dryer, Sofa, Tool Boxes, TV, Doll House

Xavier D. Washington - Microwave, Sofa, TVs, Desk, Futon

Lorraine Pomeroy - Bicycle, Boxes, Chairs, Lamp, Pictures, Tables, Shelving, Totes

**AUCTIONEER: KENNETH HIERHOLZER 6568**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 7th of January 2009 or on about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

**Wednesday, January 7th 2009.**  
**9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748**  
0122 CRAIG BOUTWELL, SOFA, LAWNMOWER, STEREO  
0204 ELIZABETH STARK, CHAIR, BED, TABLE  
0212 NAYELI LISETT DELOSSANTOS, TRAMPOLINE, BAGS, RECEIVERS  
0304 MARIA ROCHA, WASHER, DRYER, BOXES  
0408 CASSANDRA CHAPA, FUTON, BOXES, TOTES  
0424 HAROLD PERRY, STOOL, BOXES  
0443 ERNEST QADIMASIL, SUITCASE, CHAIRS, BOXES  
0546 MICHELLE THOLE, BOXES, BICYCLE, BAGS

**9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745**  
C085 WESLEY DANSBY, SOFA, DRESSER, TABLE  
E158 JANET HARRINGTON, LADDER, ARMOIR, STEREO  
N435 COURTNEY WHIDDON, TOTES, VACUUM, OTTOMAN  
O469 DENISE CANALES, TABLE, BED, BOXES

10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

134 MICHAELA VILLENEUVE, LADDER, TABLES, BOXES  
431 CHANCELLOR SMITH, SOFA, CHAIR, BOXES  
551 DANNY BENOIT, CHAIR, CHINA CABINET, BOXES  
612 JOHN RODGERS, BOXES, BOOK CASE, BICYCLE  
631 JAMES LAWRENCE, SOFA, CHAIR, BOAT  
642 JIMMY REYNA JR, SOFA, DRESSER, CHAIR  
670 ELIZABETH MORALES, TOOLS, SPEAKERS, BOXES  
697 KELLIE SIKES, DRESSER, TABLE, STOOL  
709 SHAKONDA DEARMAN, BOXES, BED, TOTES  
739 CONNIE NOEL, BED, BOXES, CHINA CABINET

**11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741**  
2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, SOFA, HAND DOLLY, BOXES  
2048 DANIEL SOLIZ, TABLE, SOFA, BED  
2123 PLATEAU PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, BOXES  
2129 PATRICIA FREEMAN, TABLE, BOXES, SPEAKERS  
2167 FRANCIS HERNANDEZ, SPEAKERS, TABLE BOXES  
3037 TERRY TAYLOR, DESK, CHAIR, BOXES  
3084 MELISSA OVERY, SOFA, BOXES, ENTERTAINMENT CTR  
3140 KARA THOMPSON, DRESSER, TABLE, TOTES  
3190 DONTA TUCKER, DESK, SPEAKERS, COMPUTER

**12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741**  
C113 VIRGINIA CANO, DRESSER, BOXES, TABLE  
C136 JAYME BROWN, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT  
C179 MELISSA ANN FABIAN, CHAIR

C217 JEANETTE MOTA, WASHER, DRYER, BOXES

C256 ANGELICA HERNANDEZ, BOXES, LAMP, BOOKCASE  
C283 STACY ANTEE, TABLE, CHAIR  
C292 JO NUMOZ, CHAIR, BOXES, CHINA CABINET  
C299 ALLISIN MCFARLAND, BED, TABLE, TOTES  
C322 BRENDA CARRINGTON, SOFA, DRESSER, STEREO  
C326 KEATON DUCKWORTH, SOFA, BOXES, TOTES  
E005 EVETT RUIZ, DESK, TABLE, LADDER  
E023 LORI URESTE, WASHER, DRYER, DRESSER  
E1230 p.m. Public Storage @ 2120 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

0104 AUSTIN FLOOR, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT  
1008 SHAWN LLOYD, BOXES, FISH TANK, SUITCASE  
1015 RACINE GOODE, BOXES, TABLE, LADDER  
4019 CATHRYN WOZENCRAFT, DRESSER, BOXES, BED  
4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, TV, WASHER, DRYER  
4109 DANA LIMON, STEREO, BOXES, BAGS  
4110 MELISSA CRUZ, DRESSER, TABLE, BOXES  
**1:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703**  
2021 PATRICIA HILL, CLOTHING, BAGS, SUITCASE  
2039 SONJA SCOTT, BOXES  
2133 JOSEPH SCHALK, LOVE SEAT, TRUNK, SHELVING  
3050 CORNERSTONE PROMOTIONS, BOXES, TOTES, FILING CABINET  
5098 TOYA HALEY, BOXES, ARMOIR, TABLE  
**1:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 3911 RR FM 620 S, BEE CAVE, TX 78738**  
2112 MELODY DALTON, CHAIR, BOOK CASE, BOXES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Delinquent Tenants**  
PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 8th & 9th of January 2009 or on about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

**Thursday January 8th 2009**  
**9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751**  
1057 MICHELLE CHRISTIAN, BAGS, SAFE, CLOTHING  
2026 BRENDA OCHILTREE, SOFA, DRYER, WASHER  
2035 BERRI MCBRIDE, CHAIR, BED, BOXES  
2053 KATHLEEN ATWOOD, SOFA, BOXES, LAWN EQUIPMENT  
3035 CHRISTOPHER STRAIT, BOXES, DRESSER, WASHER  
3053 PAUL MASSAY, BICYCLE, BED, SPORTS EQUIPMENT  
4178 TERRY EAST, BOXES, TOTES, STOOL  
5045 JASON MOORE, TV, BOXES, TOTES  
5063 SUSAN SCHMUKER, BOXES, BAGS, SUITCASE  
**9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753**  
1012 Tiffany Brisenno, Sofa, Dryer, Washer  
1062 Michelle M Jones, Stereo, TV, Bed  
2002 James Battle, Sofa, Dresser, Love seat

2041 Bernard Thacker, TV, Bed, Suitcase  
3025 Latacha Willis, Chest of drawers, Coffee Table, Vacuum  
3079 Jonathan Vasquez, Sofa, Bed, Suitcase  
3093 Ron Winch, Toys, Bicycle, Boxes  
5000 Janie Sanchez, All items in unit  
5038 Gerardo Vela Contreras, Sofa, Bicycle, Computer  
8027 Melissa Venegas, Clothing, Microwave, Stereo  
**10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753**  
C051 Herman Gentry, Kitchen table, Kitchen chairs, Bed  
C090 Mariah Jackson, All items in unit  
D115 Ricky Hervey, Stereo, Coffee Table, TV  
D133 Milton Havins, Chest of Drawer, Washer, Vacuum  
E047 Melba Noble, Stereo, Vacuum, Boxes  
E051 Ruthie Harper, All items in unit.  
H006 Harold & Latonya Byrd, Vacuum, Stove, Boxes  
**10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reinli, Austin, TX., 78751**  
139 Donna Harris, Chest of Drawers, Boxes, Dresser  
164 Richard Dunning, Bags, Totes, Comforter set  
193 John Shackles, Sofa, Bags, Boxes  
247 Greg Chandler, All items in unit  
335 Weldon Cowan, Clothing, Bags, Suitcase  
407 Bernadette Urdy, Boxes, Totes  
507 Chris Laverty, Dresser, Lawn Equipment, Microwave  
520 Lawrence Tezeno Jr., Stereo, Washer, Dryer  
722 Michael Shelly, All items in unit  
748 Yvette Patton, Dresser, Entertainment center, Boxes  
920 Leonard Maxwell, Bed, Sofa, Desk  
**11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753**  
103 Kayla Mays, Toys, Clothing, Bags  
444 Glenn Hames, China Cabinet, Totes, Dresser  
551 Abraham Coe, Clothing, Boxes, Fan  
631 Mark Christian, Boxes, Dresser, Microwave  
647 Annette G. Luna, Bicycle, Bags, Clothing  
1201 Russell Wilson, Desk, Piano, Upholstered chair  
1505 Craig Gatewood, All items in unit  
1607 Charles Burtis, Weights, Lamp, Lawnmower  
3206 Luz Chavez, TV, Vacuum, Bed  
N1301 Malana Gibbs, Chest of Drawers, Power wheels, TV  
N3360 Stevin Woody, All items in unit  
N3362 John Hernandez, TV, Sofa, Bed  
S1112 Richard Williams, Microwave, Desk, Bed  
S1125 Santiago Cisneros, Clothing, Bags, Totes  
S1129 Raneem Hourani, Pictures, Fan, TV  
**12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753**  
A002 Charlotte Cooper, Clothing, Boxes, Totes  
A006 Daniel Parra, Entertainment Center, TV, Toys  
A031 Mark Brown, Tool box, Drafting Table, Band Saw  
A035 Melvin Perez, Toys, Suitcase, Baby Chair  
A036 Paul Havranek, Totes, Toys, Tile  
A052 Gina Mendez, End Table, Toys, Boxes  
A056 Raenita Sawyer, Suitcase, Speakers, Boxes  
A096 Alex Villalva, Suitcase, Desk, Clothing  
B022 Sheila Horton, Vacuum, Kitchen Table, Stereo  
B034 Tiffany Allen, All items in unit

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
C018 William Voges, All items in unit.  
C021 Eva Asantoh, Microwave, Boxes, Bags  
C035 Patricia Codd, Loveseat, TV, Kitchen  
C045 Diana Gail Bonner, TV, TV stand, Bed  
E002 McKenna Wright, Armoire  
E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
G008 Ismael Garcia Colin, All items in unit  
**11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758**  
B106 Laura Caraveo, Headboard, Coffee Table, Books  
D498 Romy A. Zarate, Boxes, Toolbox, Exercise equipment  
**12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758**  
A044 Cynthia Vega, Toys, Clothing, Bags  
A214 Janae Robinson, TV, Boxes, Totes  
A215 Carl Robinson, Bed, Clothing, Boxes  
C068 Pearl Robinson, Stereo, Boxes, Bicycle  
D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Pyburn, Pictures, Headboard, Chest of Drawers  
D061 James Nowell, Lawn equipment, Boxes  
D114 Rachael Depina, Lawn Equipment, Sofa, Dresser  
E031 Edward Miller, Microwave, Vacuum, Kitchen Table

1015 RACINE GOODE, BOXES, TABLE, LADDER  
4019 CATHRYN WOZENCRAFT, DRESSER, BOXES, BED  
4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, TV, WASHER, DRYER  
4109 DANA LIMON, STEREO, BOXES, BAGS  
4110 MELISSA CRUZ, DRESSER, TABLE, BOXES  
**1:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703**  
2021 PATRICIA HILL, CLOTHING, BAGS, SUITCASE  
2039 SONJA SCOTT, BOXES  
2133 JOSEPH SCHALK, LOVE SEAT, TRUNK, SHELVING  
3050 CORNERSTONE PROMOTIONS, BOXES, TOTES, FILING CABINET  
5098 TOYA HALEY, BOXES, ARMOIR, TABLE  
**1:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 3911 RR FM 620 S, BEE CAVE, TX 78738**  
2112 MELODY DALTON, CHAIR, BOOK CASE, BOXES

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
C018 William Voges, All items in unit.  
C021 Eva Asantoh, Microwave, Boxes, Bags  
C035 Patricia Codd, Loveseat, TV, Kitchen  
C045 Diana Gail Bonner, TV, TV stand, Bed  
E002 McKenna Wright, Armoire  
E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
G008 Ismael Garcia Colin, All items in unit  
**11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758**  
B106 Laura Caraveo, Headboard, Coffee Table, Books  
D498 Romy A. Zarate, Boxes, Toolbox, Exercise equipment  
**12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758**  
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A214 Janae Robinson, TV, Boxes, Totes  
A215 Carl Robinson, Bed, Clothing, Boxes  
C068 Pearl Robinson, Stereo, Boxes, Bicycle  
D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Pyburn, Pictures, Headboard, Chest of Drawers  
D061 James Nowell, Lawn equipment, Boxes  
D114 Rachael Depina, Lawn Equipment, Sofa, Dresser  
E031 Edward Miller, Microwave, Vacuum, Kitchen Table

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
C018 William Voges, All items in unit.  
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E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
G008 Ismael Garcia Colin, All items in unit  
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D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Pyburn, Pictures, Headboard, Chest of Drawers  
D061 James Nowell, Lawn equipment, Boxes  
D114 Rachael Depina, Lawn Equipment, Sofa, Dresser  
E031 Edward Miller, Microwave, Vacuum, Kitchen Table

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
C018 William Voges, All items in unit.  
C021 Eva Asantoh, Microwave, Boxes, Bags  
C035 Patricia Codd, Loveseat, TV, Kitchen  
C045 Diana Gail Bonner, TV, TV stand, Bed  
E002 McKenna Wright, Armoire  
E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
G008 Ismael Garcia Colin, All items in unit  
**11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758**  
B106 Laura Caraveo, Headboard, Coffee Table, Books  
D498 Romy A. Zarate, Boxes, Toolbox, Exercise equipment  
**12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758**  
A044 Cynthia Vega, Toys, Clothing, Bags  
A214 Janae Robinson, TV, Boxes, Totes  
A215 Carl Robinson, Bed, Clothing, Boxes  
C068 Pearl Robinson, Stereo, Boxes, Bicycle  
D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Pyburn, Pictures, Headboard, Chest of Drawers  
D061 James Nowell, Lawn equipment, Boxes  
D114 Rachael Depina, Lawn Equipment, Sofa, Dresser  
E031 Edward Miller, Microwave, Vacuum, Kitchen Table

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
C018 William Voges, All items in unit.  
C021 Eva Asantoh, Microwave, Boxes, Bags  
C035 Patricia Codd, Loveseat, TV, Kitchen  
C045 Diana Gail Bonner, TV, TV stand, Bed  
E002 McKenna Wright, Armoire  
E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
G008 Ismael Garcia Colin, All items in unit  
**11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758**  
B106 Laura Caraveo, Headboard, Coffee Table, Books  
D498 Romy A. Zarate, Boxes, Toolbox, Exercise equipment  
**12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758**  
A044 Cynthia Vega, Toys, Clothing, Bags  
A214 Janae Robinson, TV, Boxes, Totes  
A215 Carl Robinson, Bed, Clothing, Boxes  
C068 Pearl Robinson, Stereo, Boxes, Bicycle  
D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Pyburn, Pictures, Headboard, Chest of Drawers  
D061 James Nowell, Lawn equipment, Boxes  
D114 Rachael Depina, Lawn Equipment, Sofa, Dresser  
E031 Edward Miller, Microwave, Vacuum, Kitchen Table

C011 Yvonne Carmean, Bed, Upholstered chair, Stereo  
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C035 Patricia Codd, Loveseat, TV, Kitchen  
C045 Diana Gail Bonner, TV, TV stand, Bed  
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E007 David Crum, Headboard, Chair, Suitcase  
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A215 Carl Robinson, Bed, Clothing, Boxes  
C068 Pearl Robinson, Stereo, Boxes, Bicycle  
D034 Stephanie McFarlin, Filing Cabinet, Bed, Boxes  
D053 Christobel Longoria, All items in unit  
D058 James Py

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Pauline

Carruth a/k/a Frances Pauline Carruth, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2008, in Cause No. 89,157, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Judy Carruth.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Law Offices of Guy F. Gebbia, P.C.

1505 W. Koenig Lane  
 Austin, TX 78756

Dated the 18th day of December, 2008.

/s/ Guy F. Gebbia, Attorney for Judy Carruth

State Bar No.: 07786380

1505 W. Koenig Lane  
 Austin, TX 78756

Telephone: (512) 450-1422  
 Facsimile: (512) 450-1799

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruth C.

Sullflow, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2008, in Cause No. 89,682, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Jicki Lynn Sullflow.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Law Offices of Guy F. Gebbia, P.C.

1505 W. Koenig Lane  
 Austin, TX 78756

Dated the 18th day of December, 2008.

/s/ Guy F. Gebbia, Attorney for Vicki Lynn Sullflow

State Bar No.: 07786380

1505 W. Koenig Lane  
 Austin, TX 78756  
 Telephone: (512) 450-1422  
 Facsimile: (512) 450-1799

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Scot W.

Alexander, Deceased, were issued on August 28, 2008, in Cause No. 89005 pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas to: Ron Dusek.

Gilman & Clarke, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100  
 Austin, TX 78701-1537

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: December 15, 2008.

GILMAN & CLARKE, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100  
 Austin, TX 78701-1537

512/469-9450 (Telephone)  
 512/469-5850 (Facsimile)

/s/ D. Kevin Clarke

SBN: 24029482

Holly J. Gilman

SBN: 07952010

**ATTORNEYS FOR THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

On December 2, 2008, Edwin M. Tompkins, Jr. was issued letters testamentary for the Estate of Etha Margaret Tompkins a/k/a Etha Taylor Tompkins, Deceased, in Cause No. 89521, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the independent executor is c/o Tricia Gray, Hopper & Associates, P.C., 400 W. 15th St., Suite 408, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Edwin M. Tompkins, Independent Executor of the Es-

tate of Etha Margaret Tompkins a/k/a Etha Taylor Tompkins, Deceased  
 By: /s/ Tricia Gray, Attorney for the Independent Executor

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters of administration for the ESTATE OF RICHARD A. YOUNG, deceased, were issued on November 3, 2008, in Cause Number 89,392, ESTATE OF RICHARD A. YOUNG, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to SHERRY YOUNG, Independent Administrator.

The address is: c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Williamson County, Texas 78750. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 17th day of December, 2008.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

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DATED the 17th day of December, 2008.

**Chalmers W. Williams**

c/o John W. Brodnax  
 John W. Brodnax, P.C.  
 1202 Lakeway Drive, Suite 1  
 Lakeway, Texas 78734

(512) 261-0101

DATED the 16th day of December, 2008

/s/ John W. Brodnax  
**ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**

**OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Culvert Pipe, B090064-DR  
 Opens: January 5, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

2. USGA Golf Sand and Assorted Sands, B090076-NB  
 Opens: January 5, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

3. Erosion Control Materials, Seed and Sod, B090078-NB  
 Opens: January 5, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

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DATED the 17th day of December, 2008.



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**NEW!!! 1998 Toyota 4Runner, 4 cyl. Clean, nice, warranty.** \$5,500.

**NEW!!! 2000 Tacoma V-6, X-tra cab, great work truck.** Warranty. \$4250.

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**SLOWBURN**  
 Flirtatious. Coy. Devious. Erotic. Sensual. Immediate. Urgency. Explosion. Calm. Relaxed. Slowburn. Second coming. Exhausted. **tit4tat**, 37, ☐, #128725

**VERY PLEASING**  
 I'd love to find a couple to explore my body together. I want pampering and to be dominated. I'm petite and love to be thrown into various positions. **lovely**, 26, ☐, #128592

**ADVENTUROUS HIPSTERBISEXUAL**  
 I'm a laid-back bisexual female who prefers to be with a guy. I'm looking for a bisexual male who prefers women. Let's hang out. **Dreamin-Pisces**, 21, #127920

**FUN LOVING**  
 looking to have a good time...FUN!! **jccc**, 33, #127045

**INTELLECTUAL SUBMISSIVE**  
 If you have a decent vocabulary, a dry sense of humor, and an I.Q. in the triple digits, in addition to a dominating flair in the bedroom then write me. **Bella34**, 35, ☐, #126130

**JUST PEAKING**  
 Wow didn't know this was out there. I am single and would love to meet my "match". Tend to be attracted to that tall mr. all american type but with a devil inside. **bettyboo**, 36, #124984

**WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS**  
 Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transsexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. **pleime**, 42, #122521

**AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN**  
 I see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 21, #119431

**IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS**  
 I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpar-tyguri1985**, 23, ☐, #119045

**DISCREET FUN**  
 SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. **Funtimes01**, 30, #117862

**OUR FIRST THREESOME**  
 We've never had a threesome before but dying to have one, any girls wanna show us the ropes? NO GUYS. **EndZoneDance304**, 23, ☐, #128614

**HOT CPL4LADY**  
 Depending on the chemistry we are open to anything from friends with benefits to serious relationship. In special instances would we be open to one-time casual encounters. **jezebella83**, 25, ☐, #128442

**CLASSY COUPLE FOREPLAY**  
 Attractive couple in 30s looking for Woman/Couple. Attracted to you & you to us. For fun drama free erotic pleasure. Should be Open-minded, discreet, playful not pushy. I'm bi, he's straight. **TexasSugar**, 34, ☐, #128373

**BROADENING HORIZONS**  
 We are a couple looking to spice up our love life. We have decided to try a threesome with another woman to see if it is something we're interested in. **gandf**, 27, ☐, #128323

**CUTE COUPLE DATEING**  
 Hi! poly couple seeking third. cute and curvy /lean and muscular seeking fun energetic girl to date. **CultLeader**, 21, ☐, #128309

**FUN NIGHT**  
 Black couple seeking interested female for a night of fun! M y first time so seeking a female who is interested in making this experience one i will not forget! **muffinberries**, 24, ☐, #128156

**DIRTY DADDY'S GURL**  
 We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. **srcn4fun**, 31, ☐, #128004

**NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!**  
 Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! **ATX-Couple4you**, 32, ☐, #127995

**DISCREET COUPLE SEEKING...**  
 Couple of 7 yrs seeking female for the hubby. **pandp**, 33, ☐, #127831

**BI-CURIOS FEMALE**  
 I am a very sexy, very fit female looking to explore my bi-sexual fantasies with another woman/women in front of my boyfriend. He is fit, hung, & fun. **looking4fun**, 29, ☐, #127762

**B OUR PLAYMATE**  
 Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex, and more sex. **newbies**, 36, ☐, #127079

**SEXY ADVENTUROUS COUPLE**  
 We're a couple in love but looking for erotic experiences with beautiful women. We're relatively new to this, but are up for a delicious sexual experience if you are interested... **foxyloxyngrizzlybear**, 22, ☐, #127025

**NAUGHTY GIRLY-GIRLS?**  
 Like shame and humiliation? Want to be walked on a leash? We are your couple... **goodgirlkitty**, 26, ☐, #126722

**AWESOME COUPLE LOOKING**  
 We are a happy couple that have been together 8 years. We are looking for female playmates. You won't be disappointed. **delvallefun**, 38, ☐, #126459

**SEXY COUPLE LOOKING**  
 Sexy young couple, looking for a hot lady to get frisky with. A little girl on girl action to start. We would love to be as discreet as possible. **luckyone**, 24, ☐, #126216

**COUPLE SEEK BI-GAL**  
 oh, where do we start this ad? we want a real guy, bi-sexual. a guy that is looking for a couple. 35-55 years old we are 40's. we are cute. **saustincouple**, 45, ☐, #125567

**FIRST TIME COUPLE**  
 we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or females only. **080764**, 44, ☐, #124403

**SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE**  
 We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experiencing with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 49, ☐, #123217

**WANT TO SHARE**  
 We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris\_and\_jack**, 35, ☐, #122165

**COUPLE INTO FUN!**  
 We're happy couple that is into new encounters with others. He straight, She bi, open minded and ready! **Up4fun**, 45, ☐, #120283

**SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER**  
 You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustinpl**, 32, ☐, #121712

**GIRL PLAYMATES**  
 Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 31, ☐, #119900

**GOOD KARMA GIRL**  
 I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art from. **vron**, 42, ☐, #128575

**FUN KINKY DISCREET**  
 I need to be spoiled I'm into all kinds of play. No lovemaking and can be difficult to keep interested. So if you think you can, let the games begin. **sugar\_baby\_69\_lover**, 23, #128304

**WILD CHILD**  
 I am an eighteen-year-old health conscious bisexual female. I am looking for a emotionally-balanced professional couple who would welcome another female into their sexual life. **sweeteighteen**, 19, ☐, #128243

**SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER**  
 My master will control and teach me. He should be successful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean-42DDD**, 37, ☐, #127400

**WETLIPS**  
 im a wild sex kittin with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for sexy e-mails, ill talk dirty! **highheels23**, 22, ☐, #126858

**SHAVED STILETTO STUD**  
 W/M, shaved in stockings and stiletto seeks 3 similar males for 4-some who crave studs in erotic feminine attire while empowering true inner femininity and enjoying our exotic & erotic experiences. **SexyStillettoStud**, 51, ☐, #128746

**EXPERIMENTAL OLDER MAN**  
 I am a 61 year old 6' 200 lb man work out regularly. Like to meet a man or woman for discrete sexual encounters/email. I think I am bi-sexual. **Old**, 61, ☐, #128430

**AN INTELLIGENT STONER???**  
 It's been a long while since my last relationship, so I'm just looking for a chill older (20-30ish) guy to chill and have fun with. Open for almost anything. **Word. interstate420**, 19, ☐, #127967

**UP FOR ANYTHING**  
 48, gwm, 6', 180#, blk/brn, moderately hairy, partnered but play. looking for men hairy or smooth, uncut preferably, for occasional playtime. seeking all types of experiences. **oscar**, 48, ☐, #127611

**IN ABILENE, TEXAS:**  
 SWM, 46, 6'2", 190, 34w, br/gr, handsome, masculine and honest. Seeking a tall, white, handsome, masculine, honest man 35-50 to hang out and see where it goes. **iamluckyru**, 46, ☐, #125068

**HOTGUY LOOKING FOR**  
 Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger. 46yrs. **antonio\_3638**, 44, ☐, #118402

**LOOKING FOR GUY?**  
 Are you an older bi or gay guy, 45+, looking for a discreet guy? Attractive professional, WM, 54, wants to meet one funloving guy. Safe sex, nonsmoking. **115704**, 54, ☐, #115704

**SOMETIMES A SISSY**  
 5'10", long blonde, babyblues, love lingerie, makeup and heels. Looking to explore my feminine feelings and desires with one caring woman, must respect limits. Help me be me, pretty, please. **billypilgrim4montana**, 43, ☐, #127369

## TIT4TAT

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## THE LUV DOC

Hayes Carll and the Band of Heathens • Sun., Dec. 28, 8pm • Antone's • 213 W. Fifth • [www.antonenes.net](http://www.antonenes.net)

In the immortal, drug-addled words of the Grateful Dead, "What a long, strange trip it's been." Tough year. Ugly ending. Now, poised on the precipice of what will surely be the most rigorous, white-knuckled anal rogering of the American populace in decades, it's difficult to look back on the Bush administration with anything but bitterness and contempt. After half a decade of dropping roughly \$300 million a day fucking up somebody else's country, America finally looked inward and found that it was fucking itself in the process. In the past few months, American citizens finally let out a well-deserved, collective "Doh!" Of course, easy as it is to engage in hindsight finger-pointing, assigning blame is unproductive. Ultimately, the finger of blame points squarely at the American electorate. We were all busy having the time of our lives, racking up credit-card debt on crappy consumer goods so worthless they probably even dusted the child laborers who manufactured them. Now that the orgy of misplaced materialism is sputtering out, Americans need to pull together. Maybe we should print up some brand-new Uncle Sam posters that feature an old, gray-haired, slightly Asian-looking dude standing with his pockets pulled inside out, the zipper of his striped pants undone, with a caption that reads "I WANT YOU ... to kiss the bunny." Yes, we're all going to have to put in some quality knee time servicing the enormous Asian debt we've pumped up. So begins the long, slow slog back to fiscal responsibility. Work local; pay global. It's pretty much the model we've unwittingly been living under for the past five years anyway. The good news for Austin is that our economy will probably fare better than most. We have the government, the university, and very shortly lots and lots (buildings and buildings, too) of brand-new condos. In fact, just a few long years from now, Austin might set the record for the city with the most available affordable housing and the highest number of homeless people. We'll probably still be the live music capital of the world, though. There's no reason to think that musicians won't keep moving to Austin in droves. If you're going to be broke anyway, you might as well be broke in a city where you can do something you love for no money. Musicians will probably be attacking cars on street corners like squeegee men and streetwalkers. On the bright side, it might be kind of cool to drive around with a shoe-gazer indie band as your living hood ornament for 50 cents an hour. Until then you'll have to pay at the door, just like everyone else. Might as well support live music in Austin while you still can. This Saturday, you can do just that by taking your folding money to Antone's, where local faves the Band of Heathens and Houston songwriter Hayes Carll share the bill. It's been a long, ugly year, but both acts' fortunes seem to be on the upswing. Who knows? Maybe Obama will toss a fourth quarter Hail Mary and put America on an upswing, as well.

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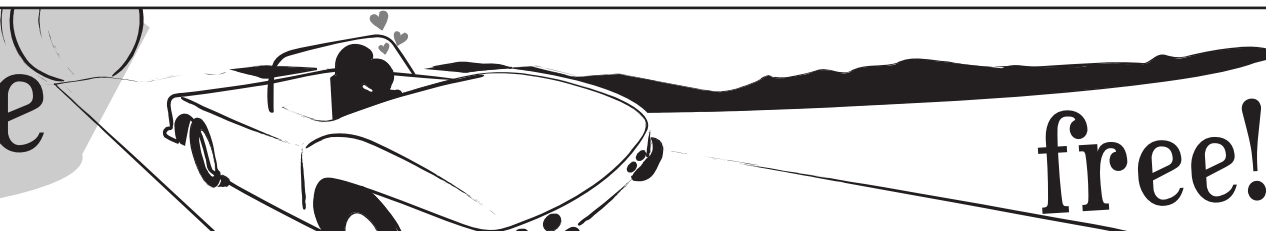
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# Lovers Lane



## women SEEKING men

### JACKASS SEEKS SAME.

I am a fan of "Smokey and the Bandit" and David Lee Roth. I am a native Austinite and am smart, quick-witted, understanding, outgoing, generous, and a horrible karaoke singer. **holyshit\_44**, 33, [\[icon\]](#), #128747

### SUN TEA

I am a woman who enjoys good reads and concerts. I laugh at Dilbert comics and quirky greeting cards. Willing to play revolving doors at a good coffee house. **Aina12**, 30, [\[icon\]](#), #128719

### THAT GIRL

I am for sure atypical in a variety of ways, fun interesting and curious! **lovelieatxgirl**, 33, [\[icon\]](#), #128362

### SEXY,SASSY,COOL

woman of my word will always say what i mean and mean what i say. I will support you mentally, emotionally and physically. Im not afraid of being in love. **mchllgreen**, 44, [\[icon\]](#), #128717

### CREATIVE, ECCENTRIC, DREAMGIRL

Although apprehensive, I hope to find someone to spend mutually beneficial time with. I am loyal and do not discriminate or judge. I promise to always be honest and true. **readyfredy**, 23, [\[icon\]](#), #128714

### WEIRD VENEMOUS CREATURE

If your weird and socially different we might get along. I like to travel and break glass bottles. I'm not meant to live in this world. Are you? **Waxette**, 25, [\[icon\]](#), #128706

### AWSOME SINGLE MOM

Outgoing, trusting, and loyal person. Loves to have fun, always out doing something with my son. Love kids, Enjoy going out with friends, sports, outdoors and chilling. **blueyed-blonde**, 32, #128677

### GUCCIGIRL

I am quick witted, sincere & thoughtful. I like to play sports, read, eat key lime pie & visit art galleries. Am looking for someone that shares these interests. **Guccigirl**, 42, [\[icon\]](#), #128675

### CHECKING THIS OUT....

I am just seeing what is out there... I am the down-to-earth, girl next door type who is looking for an honest, hard working man who can make me laugh. **TexasKas**, 31, [\[icon\]](#), #128652

### INTERESTED IN CO-CREATING

Seeking a relationship that's easy, drama-free, happy, supportive, loving, adventurous, fun, passionate, and affectionate. We have an enduring friendship and can be independent together. Arts events, music, travel, town lake... **crimson-cat**, 42, #128634

### LIFE AMONG BIRDS

This is my only line. **JuniperTree-house**, 35, [\[icon\]](#), #128623

## men SEEKING women

### GOURMET CHEF

Looking for a friend, I cook for a living and live to cook, if you love to eat, I would love to cook for you. **Chef\_CJ**, 49, [\[icon\]](#), #128769

### THANKSGIVING IS PAST..

I won the Wishbone pull so I'm waiting for my wish to come true....where are ya? **SnuggleKing**, 40, [\[icon\]](#), #128726

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### SINCERE, ATTORNEY, CONTENT

Just hoping to find emotionally stable company of a good guy with similarities and common goals. low maintenance kind of girl with an eye towards staying fit and happy. **legalangel**, 54, [\[icon\]](#), #125192

### HIPPIE-METAL MAMA

Live music, all kinds. The wilderness. Zombie flicks and dark humor. Other people in general. Dogs! Like all of these things. Give me a shout. **HerDudeness**, 26, [\[icon\]](#), #128609

### MY THREE WORDS.

I'm Kay. I'm a hairdresser, pretty into music, and like to play too (guitar). Looking for someone who can just hang out and still have a good time. **kaykaliah**, 20, [\[icon\]](#), #127829

### BAWDY BOOKREADING BABE

Seeking simple, single, soulful, sinful, scintillating, spiritual, serene specimen for active symbiosis. Grab a dictionary and apply if you dare... **Bahira**, 44, [\[icon\]](#), #128583

### INTELLIGENT, CURIOUS, FUN

Let's play! Optimistic, kid-at-heart looking for someone to go places, hike, cook with. Life is an adventure - suit up, show up and try something new! **yellowrose**, 55, [\[icon\]](#), #128551

### EXTRA EXTRA

Devote a lot time to music. Laid back guy, always ready to have fun. Quiet, but very assertive. Interesting conversation and sexy curiosity are things of beauty. **musicfarmer**, 24, [\[icon\]](#), #128767

### DIVINITY-PURSUEING LINGUIST SEARCHING

I am a yoga teacher/student/linguist, and I want a full, productive, interesting, peaceful life. I want to share my life with partner and child. Share my desires, dreams, and ideas! **shiva\_caelius**, 37, [\[icon\]](#), #128763

### YEP, THAT'S ME.

I'm yet another one who's often told I look much younger. Does it seem that there is a much higher incidence of this in these profiles than in real life? **JetS165101**, 57, [\[icon\]](#), #128751

### NATURES BOY

Someone who believes that everyone can make a difference it the world, all that is needed is more people who understand love and peace instead of fear and hate. **tlzyz**, 42, [\[icon\]](#), #119825

### FOLLOW YOUR HEART...

I am a soda can that just got shaken up and is ready to break free! I chose to follow my heart. Will you do the same? **one2believe**, 29, [\[icon\]](#), #128727

### IS ANYONE THERE?

30 words is not a lot of time; there never seems to be enough time. If you want more, i can give you some of mine. that's it, i guess. **blueyed**, 25, [\[icon\]](#), #128720

### HMM WHAT NOW

Yea so I am really just throwing this up for fun. Never posted one of these before. **mxair2001**, 24, [\[icon\]](#), #128718

### ARE YOU READY?

Looking for great new friends. Love to go out in this town & take in all it has to offer, live music, local arts, restaurants & watering holes. **wallyt**, 45, [\[icon\]](#), #128712

### FUN, HONEST GUY

5'7, 150 lbs Athletic Musician (please dont hold that against me, we aren't all douche bags) Good Job Homeowner Travel extensivley Have a dog Honest, considerate and a gentleman. **landree6677**, 31, [\[icon\]](#), #128708

### PHILOSOPHICAL HIPPY GEEK

I'm tall and I have my own place and transportation. I like nature adventures and being artistic. I am very positive and easy-going and like to be affectionate in relationships. **GeekyHippy**, 28, [\[icon\]](#), #128699

### FUN-OUTGOING-SPONTANEOUS

Im very generous, optimistic, with a great attitude. Im described as fun, spontaneous, confident, decisive, risk taker, take charge will always lead you to an adventure which you never anticipated. **cookie10245**, 44, [\[icon\]](#), #128698

### MIDWEST TRANSPLANT

I want someone to be an equal to me. I'm rather strong and independent, yearning for someone that can stand up to me and with me through difference and adversity. **atxtransplant**, 28, [\[icon\]](#), #128695

### LONESTARHIKER

I like to stay up late, to look good, and talk about things that are normally too taboo for the majority of folk. Everything else, you'll just have to ask. **TimeFliesWhen**, 24, [\[icon\]](#), #128684

### GOOD PEOPLE SEARCHIN

Just lookin for cool people to appreciate life with. Prefer active people who like the outdoors. **stranger**, 37, [\[icon\]](#), #128681

### YO

...ME hu? im pretty chill, friends and relationships mean alot. Honesty and a good sense of humor are pretty important to me. I like creativity and pretty eyes. **jaydee000**, 20, [\[icon\]](#), #128665

## women SEEKING women

### TRANSFORMATIVE SM EXPERIENCE.

visiting. like to find someone i'm spiritually drawn to who's interested in doing a scene to release some blocked energy. i'm queer, you must be too. tranny or dyke-yum. **radical\_rupture**, 23, [\[icon\]](#), #128740

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## men SEEKING men

### NOT HIBERNATING YET

People accuse me of having a huge heart, 50s bearish male seeks younger bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff, kissing and making out. **ronintex**, 57, [\[icon\]](#), #115402

### HONEST AND LOVING

i am honest and loving looking for the same, i will take care of you and will be ready for you as i am a bottom looking for top clean ddf. **chcito**, 63, [\[icon\]](#), #128299

### AUSTIN BORN

I'm emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I'm looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. **jmnzprck**, 41, [\[icon\]](#), #127798

### HOPE DIES LAST

haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! **Blue**, 23, [\[icon\]](#), #101322

### LOOK HERE, PLEASE!

Looking for friendship, dating. Interests include camping, biking, theater, movies, reading, canoeing, traveling. Politically progressive, romantic, passionate, humorous, and do community work Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine. **AusAbogado**, 62, [\[icon\]](#), #124933

### GUY IN BUDA

seeking nice and outgoing men for fun in and out of the bedroom. men who stay active or just quiet time at home, lets get busy or just relax. **rudyinbuda**, 42, [\[icon\]](#), #126941

### YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN

I'm a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? **inuyasha86**, 21, [\[icon\]](#), #125037

### BES1971

GBM 6'0 175lbs black/brown. Told I have a nice smile. Like to cook/bake, sing, dance, travel, read, theater/ movies, hiking/camping, swimming, bowling. Looking for W/H/M to start out as friends That may lead to LTR. Serious reply. **NIUU**, 37, [\[icon\]](#), #124639

## Misspeacock

### ICONOCLASTIC, PASSIONATE, CIRCUMSPECT

Austin native - Typically very private person trying to get out there. College NYC. Lover of photography, art, architecture, design, music. Lover of my friends, black coffee, happy hour, reading, the 4 mile loop around Town Lake, Bravo, CNN, Hamilton Pool, any beach, my pug, Obama and eating out (equally happy at El Sol y La Luna or Uchi)

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## FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for Dec. 26-Jan. 1

### PAPIMORENO

Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268, 56, ☎, #124268**

### SOUTHASTINGUITARSLINGER

I am new to this kind of thing. I have one kid who I share custody with. If kids turn you off don't bother. Always do the next right thing! **austinguitarman, 30, ☎, #128682**

### ROCK SHOWS ROLFBALL

I'm looking for friends to play rolfball with me, which is the best game ever, I'll teach you how. or someone to go to punk/rock shows with or free alamo movies. **teejinator, 25, ☎, #128642**

### KICKING AROUND

Looking for friends who have healthy and active lifestyles. Interests: biking, swimming, frisbee, TownLake, movies, dining out, cooking great vegetarian meals. Love laughing and am almost always in a great mood. **bec22, 55, ☎, #122698**

### EFFIN-A COTTON

I just moved here, and don't know too many people. I'm into all kinds of music, Radiohead, Underoath, Muse, and Sufjan Stevens are a few of my favorites though. **s\_g\_brian, 20, ☎, #128417**

### LETS NAVELGAZE TOGETHER!

Quirky, cute, creative, intelligent and affectionate. I love food and music, coffee shop conversations and smelling the roses. Laid back gal looking for a companion to hang out with. **U? ScarlettPepper, 31, ☎, #128322**

## messages

**JEY BACK AND** forth forever michelle

## JUST friends

### THE APPLE EATER

Just see me in action at work and you will see my true nature. I am a giver and a nurturer. I am realistic, proud, joyous, adventurous, outgoing... **brookerhymeswith, 24, ☎, #128765**

# a Shot in the Dark

### SUNBUSTERS T-SHIRT GUY

I remember you, me short dark hair, you said my smile made you melt. we saw each other at rudys, I was in uniform. Lets have that coffee! **When: Friday, November 28. Where: rudys 183 and duvall. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903694**

### BRIDGEPOINT EGG ADVICE

Parking elevator. You blond, blue sweater, tried to advise me on free-range eggs, but it happened too quickly to follow. Would love to properly meet and discuss the issue further. **When: Thursday, December 18. Where: Bridgepoint parking elevator. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903693**

### APOLOGY

Hanging out with Mike J. at Long Branch. Then without him. Woke up realizing I made you walk home in the cold, in short sleeves. I am beyond sorry. **When: Saturday, December 20. Where: Long Branch Inn. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903692**

### BRENDA W/CASH TSHIRT

Brenda, met you at Travis' at Bannister Ln. You were wearing a Johnny Cash t-shirt. Had your dog w/you. If u ever see this, send me a message! **When: Monday, May 2, 2005. Where: Bannister Ln.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903691**

### 1431 HEB

YOU: checking out groceries and ME?... ME: checking out movies and YOU! \*wink\* ...you know, vanilla and chocolate make a nice combination... ps.. some FOOD for thought? **When: Saturday, December 20. Where: 1431/Parmer HEB. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903690**

### CATCH MY DOG!

thanks for helping me rescue my dog! maybe next time we can walk him together and not chase him. and maybe explore our neighborhood more... ps.. nice bike hair! **When: Saturday, December 20. Where: behind mothers cafe. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903689**

### DAMON BONAPPETIT

Former student reconnects with favorite BonAppetit Veg Chef and wishes he would call. So call. Our future excursion will consist of: good smokes and good (veg) eats. How about it? **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: Creekside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903680**

### YOU ARE DAVE

Dave, we talked and shared a digit at Central Mkt. You had to go to work. Gave you my email. Really want to talk some more. Second chance? **7 When: Thursday, December 18. Where: Central Market N. Lamar. You: Man. Me: Man. #903688**

### DUDE EMAIL ME

Hey Dave, we exchanged a number. You had to run to work. Gave you my email, but haven't heard from you. Up for whatever! Second chance? **7 When: Thursday, December 18. Where: Central Market - Central Park. You: Man. Me: Man. #903687**

### THE PARLOR

I saw you wearing a formal dress jacket and you had nice wavy dark black hair at the parlor. I wanted to talk to you but I was to shy. **When: Saturday, December 13. Where: The Parlor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903686**

### COFFEEBEANS AND BEANIES

Best barista at the Oltorf Starbucks who compliments my hat and goes in halvesies on a toffee almond bar. Since we work with coffee, maybe Ice Cream one day? **When: Thursday, December 18. Where: Starbucks on Oltorf. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903685**

### SHOULD HAVE SAID...

I often noticed you instead of the game. This is me doing everything in life once. I would like for you to be next. It's worth a shot I think. **When: Friday, December 19. Where: Slick Willie's Burnet Rd.. You: Man. Me: Man. #903684**

### STUMBLING BEAUTY

bender. you move and fall with untouchable grace and beauty. I love you lady. Sushi? **When: Tuesday, December 16. Where: bender. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903683**

### WRONG CHRISTMAS CARD

Received card from a friend that was taped close. The card inside wasn't signed by Mollie, it was signed by Sibyl M\* & family. Want me to send it back? **When: Sunday, December 14. Where: in the mail. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903682**

### DON QUIXOTE RECOMMENDATION

Spoke too briefly with you and your slightly shorter friend outside 219 West. Would love to chat books with you! **When: Thursday, December 18. Where: Outside 219 West. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903681**

### DINNER FOR 2

You were the cute blonde and I was the guy with the black jacket whom you recommended a skillet dinner to. How about dinner for two? **When: Thursday, December 16. Where: HEB- Mopac & Parmer. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903679**

### GINGER @ PARLOR

It's Michael. It was really nice talking with you. My caller I.D. failed so I don't have your #. I hate telephones. Call me! **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: The Parlor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903678**

### HELLO NURSE!

RN at Seton 38th 3FL., with blonde hair (me too) - helped my friend during discharge at 2:30. You definitely brightened my day! Love to hear from you!! **When: Tuesday, December 16. Where: Seton. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903677**

### BUD CORT LOOK-ALIKE

Saw your "Local Neighborhood Celebrity" ad in The Flea. Smitten I tried to locate your record at monarch mart, but to no avail. Want to make a trade in person? **When: Sunday, December 14. Where: Quacks on 38th. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903676**

### GRAPSEED OIL HEB

Me: tall thin guy, sweater and news-boy cap contemplating olive oil. We talked of grapeseed oil. I'd like to know more. I hope you see this, I hope you respond. **When: Saturday, December 13. Where: HEB 7th Street. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903674**

### LOVE A LOONEY

Your vulgarity, it all makes me quite insane! **When: Wednesday, December 10. Where: Bouldin Creek. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903673**

### BEARDED DRUMMER: ANTONE'S

You: bearded drummer with beanie at Antone's Friday night 12/12 Me: extremely tipsy blonde in the black dress who kissed you! Would love to buy you a beer sometime. **When: Friday, December 12. Where: Antone's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903672**

### LOBBY AMLI SATURDAY

Sitting with my friend in the lobby Saturday night...you walked in. You smiled, caught my eye for a second. I have curly hair and was wearing a long winter coat. **When: Saturday, December 13. Where: AMLI on 2nd. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903671**

**CHIVALRY'S NOT DEAD.** Sunday 12/14 after hours, you helped my GF and me after her car had been towed from behind your work. Thank you again. You were a true gentleman & earned some big karmic points that night. Rock on with yo' bad self into a great New Year!

**DEAR NIÑO DIOS:** Save the children in the Hutto concentration camp, and forgive Archbishop José Gómez for he has forsaken us many times. --Paul Avina.

**JGR- MAY YOU** know the peace and comfort this heartfelt thought imparts; the ones we love are never gone, for they live within our hearts.AAF

### MEGHAN ACC

I knew the answer was wrong, I kept messing it up on purpose to be last to leave so I could tell you I think you're pretty :) But you left. **When: Thursday, December 4. Where: physics lab. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903670**

### BEARDO SEEKS RAGDOLL

You were bo peep/ragdoll/polar bear with a riding crop outside of Rhizome Collective last Friday night. I was bearded/hooded/uncommunicative. Couldn't float a conversation to save my life. Try again? **When: Friday, December 12. Where: Rhizome Collective. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903669**

### RASCAL REDHEAD JO'S

Love at first sight thursday-purple tights, fur boots-wow, reading a chronicle in the sunny afternoon, your friends on laptops-hope you read this chronicle,was behind you trying to focus-never seen such beauty! **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: Jo's Coffee on South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903667**

### CAFE GIRL

From one S in the Dark reader to another. You seemed cool, so I thought you would like your own S in the Dark message. Hope this makes your day. **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: Magnolia Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903666**

### CENTRALMARKET S.LAMAR

You: Employee, dark skin & tattoos, gorgeous long dreeds. Us: 2 good gals that passed you twice today. We have a crush on you! **When: Thursday, December 11. Where: Central Market, S.Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903665**

### DEAR AMBER

Fantastic Sam's, IH35 and Parmer, 12/09/2008. Me: 24, Dirty Blonde, black jacket. Your friend said you wanted a "new Amber" hairdo. Sorry for overhearing, but more for being shy. Coffee? **When: Tuesday, December 9. Where: Fantastic Sam's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903664**

### ALSO ONLINE:

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The most expensive bat mitzvah in history took place at New York's Rainbow Room in November 2005. David Brooks, a billionaire defense contractor, spent \$10 million on his daughter's rite of passage. Among the stars he hired to perform at the bash were Aerosmith, Tom Petty, Nelly, and 50 Cent. Promise me, Capricorn, that if you get wealthy in the coming year, you won't blow your money on ridiculous "luxuries" like that. Here's a secret: The more high-minded you are in cultivating your dreams, the greater the likelihood that you'll get richer quicker.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Imagine you're driving down a very wide highway that's 50 lanes across, though there are no lines dividing one lane from another. Speed limit signs aren't posted, and some vehicles are zipping along in zigzag paths at more than 100 mph while others crawl along like old-lady turtles. Now and then you've got to weave your way through a congested area where many on-ramps all feed into the road simultaneously. You haven't seen an off-ramp yet, and you're not sure where to get off anyway. I figure, Aquarius, that 2008 had some resemblance to the scenario I just described. Luckily, I predict that no later than your birthday, you will find an off-ramp and exit onto an uncluttered backroad with great scenery.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "How do you slay the dragon?" Journalist Bill Moyers asked mythologist Joseph Campbell in an interview. By "dragon," he was referring to the dangerous beast that symbolizes the most unripe and uncontrollable part of each of our lives. In reply to Moyers, Campbell didn't suggest that you become a master warrior, nor did he recommend that you cultivate high levels of sleek, savage anger. "Follow your bliss," he said simply. Personally, I don't know if that's enough to slay the dragon - I'm inclined to believe that you also have to take some defensive measures - but it's definitely worth an extended experiment. Would you consider trying that in 2009?

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Most people spend their entire lives immersed in three modes of awareness: waking, sleeping, and dreaming. But there are many other modes that have been explored down through the ages by the pioneers of consciousness. Some of them aren't very interesting to me - like those sought out by people who use cocaine or methamphetamines, for instance - while others are states I aspire to inhabit, like lucid dreaming, deep meditation, and a visceral perception of the fact that love is the fundamental law of the universe. I bring this line of thought to your attention, Aries, because I believe that in 2009 you will have excellent opportunities to open up your mind to levels of consciousness that are beyond the basic three. No drugs are necessary to take advantage - only a driving curiosity to tune in to realities that are currently outside of your field of vision.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** In the original Constitution of the United States, adopted in 1787, each black slave living in America was counted as three-fifths of a person. Seventy-eight years later, the Thirteenth Amendment conferred the missing two-fifths on all who had up until then been regarded as partial humans. I predict that a comparable milestone will come for you in 2009, Taurus. Where in your life have you been marginalized or perpetually unfinished? What fragmented role have you been compelled to play? What situation has prevented you from being all you can be? You will have an excellent chance of completing the circuit in the coming months.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** According to novelist John Gardner, there are just two kinds of stories in literature: You go on a journey, or a stranger arrives in your world. According to my analysis of your destiny in 2009, you will reap rich rewards by including both of those plotlines in your life story. So let the brainstorming begin, Gemini: What's the best journey you could choose for yourself - a journey that will educate, challenge, and delight you? And what can you do to attract the best kinds of strangers into your world - strangers who will educate, challenge, and delight you?

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** To get ready for 2009, I invite you to fantasize in depth about the fertile alliances that might be possible for you to cultivate in the coming months. These lively, inspiring bonds could be with people you haven't met yet. They could be with acquaintances you barely know but would like to know better. And they could be with friends, collaborators, and loved ones you're already intimate with but want to become even closer to. The coming year has the potential to bring revolutionary advances in the quality and intensity of your relationships, so it will be smart for you to work hard on making that happen.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "What do I long for?" should be a core question for you - always, of course, but especially in 2009. Are you adventurous enough to look beyond the status symbols your ego is attached to and the transitory wishes that constantly flit through your imagination? If so, you'll prime yourself to establish a root connection with your soul's deepest yearnings. And when you're in daily touch with those primal motivators, the obstacles in your life will seem less overwhelming, the lies you tell yourself will dissolve, and you will consistently have crisp intuitions about what your next move must be. Life may not necessarily be a breeze, but it'll be profoundly magical.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** When I predict that liberation will be one of your primary tasks in 2009, Virgo, I'm not speaking about it in the usual way. The definition I'm working with is one that writer David Foster Wallace articulated: "The really important kind of freedom involves attention and awareness and discipline, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them over and over in myriad petty, unsexy ways every day." I hope you'll be moved to add other nuances and flourishes to that approach as you experiment with it liberally in the coming months.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** "I saw the angel in the marble, and I carved until I set him free." That was Michelangelo talking about how he approached his work as a sculptor. He didn't build the statue, in other words, but got rid of the unnecessary stuff that was surrounding it. I suggest that you try this approach in 2009. You have the potential to create a great thing - maybe even two great things - by chiseling away the extraneous material that's obscuring their unique beauty.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** In 2009, don't just tune in to your hunches now and then. Be more diligent and intense than that. Check in with your intuition at least three times a day on all 365 days of the year. Be precise in the questions you pose it. Gather its clues craftily. Have fun as you joke and play with it. Conscientiously experiment with the suggestions it provides. This will be the year you can establish a steady, reliable connection with your inner voice. Be devout in your dedication to the cult of your intuition!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Want to supercharge your luck in 2009? Get yourself some vivid new superstitions. The more outrageous they are, the more likely it is they'll generate lots of crazy sweet karma. You might want to draw inspiration from pro football player John Henderson, for instance, who swears he can trick destiny into working in his favor if his trainer smacks him in the face before each game. Former hockey player Bruce Gardiner might also be a worthy role model. To rev up his good fortune, he always shoved his hockey stick into a toilet prior to skating out onto the ice. *Just kidding, Sagittarius!* In fact, I hope you will make 2009 your least superstitious year ever. Let's drink a toast to lucid logic, impeccable objectivity, and cool, clean reason! Add some compassionate sarcasm and loving satire into the mix, and you will generate lots of crazy sweet karma.

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