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You Go Where You Have to Go

Welcome to the new year ... same as the old year?

BY LOUIS BLACK

"I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow,
I feel my fate in what I cannot fear.
I learn by going where I have to go,

"We think by feeling. What is there to know?
I hear my being dance from ear to ear.
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow."
— "The Waking," Theodore Roethke

"I hear my being dance from ear to ear." I live in a world with strange boundaries. Some have to do with work — my work and the work required for business — others with family, friends, interests, and small realities. But as often as I can, I enter into sleep, living in the world of dream songs and imagined journeys, all of which make absolute sense when you are in the midst of them, only to fade like disappearing ink when you wake.

Don't believe what you might have heard; life never gets simpler. It always gets more complicated. It never gets familiar but always insists on slapping you upside your head with the strange. Sure, this doesn't have to happen. Life can be homogenized and pasteurized until it is void of surprise and discomfort. But why? Bleeding the uncertainty, unexpected, disorienting, and mysterious out of life can offer one some grounded sense of security, but then doesn't the fun bleed out as well?

"I learn by going where I have to go." Nothing else makes nearly as much sense. You go where

you have to go. And you know where that is. I'm not amazed, exactly, but maybe disappointed at the pervasiveness of the surface-skimming, anti-technology view commonly espoused by too many new Luddites. Or is it the Luddites reborn? "Luddite" refers to an Englishman who destroyed a knitting frame, fearing the mechanized future was designed to make him obsolete.

"New Luddites" does sound like an oxymoron. I bring this up because the positives of technology seem to far outweigh the negatives. Most of the strongest Luddite sentiment always seems to have to do more with a nostalgia for a phony past than real hatred of new technology. The addiction to this past that was supposedly so much better than today comes out of no reality but rather opium dreams and personalized hallucinations. In many ways, this is the worst epidemic of our time, a disconnect from reality that has many arguing that civilization and the world as we know it are plunging straight into hell.

Everything is getting worse, according to this point of view. It's not that we are no longer in Kansas (because we very much are) but that we're no longer in Oz. Talking about the perfect past is like arguing that if cows could fly, it would be easier to move them around. But cows can't and never could fly. The past was just as much occupied by humans as the world today is, so thinking things were better — politics were cleaner, communication was more honest, decency and civility prevailed, and people were more educated, engaged, and understanding — is like arguing for those wings on our bovine friends.

What is amazing is the amount of time and energy some people put into constructing their own roadblocks — which, no matter how flawed in the construction, they find insurmountable. Pointing this out or suggesting easy ways around just incurs wrath.

Now, I don't block myself in obsessively or professionally, but on those occasions when I do, I'm far more interested in mourning my fate and lamenting my predicament than in entertaining ideas of ways to bypass the blockade I've just built to hinder myself.

These blockades are always more of one's own making than real, but they may well serve a purpose. Sometimes, staying still is not only what is desired but also what is needed.

We all tell ourselves stories. Most of us live in the stories we tell. Most other people exist in the stories we think they are living.

There are many who insist on darkness, who desire that the road forward be treacherous, discouraging any movement forward. The favorite emotional weather report each morning is for doom and gloom all day long. In this state, the necessary belief is that the very existential hopelessness of life is from the outside imposed on the individual. Gamblers know the run; they've practiced the two-step, and they don't buy it but are willing to sell any vision that gives them an edge. Con men and poets drink and laugh, musicians make music, and dancers dance — all around this mythic darkness, not overwhelmed but perhaps entertained.

"In a dark time, the eye begins to see"

— "In a Dark Time," Theodore Roethke

In the darkest of times, eyes adjust. In the worst of times, resilience is the antidote for despair, simply moving forward the solution for drowning. Surrender is easy — especially if it is not just unnecessary, but when there is nothing to surrender and no one to surrender to.

In my dream fevers, I dance like Fred Astaire. In life, I make Babar seem graceful and legitimize the ballet-dancing hippos in *Fantasia* as being not surreal but all too mimetic.

"Dark, dark my light, and darker my desire.
My soul, like some heat-maddened
summer fly,

Keeps buzzing at the sill. Which I is I?
A fallen man, I climb out of my fear."

— "In a Dark Time," Theodore Roethke

You play the black, and the red comes up. You feel lucky, so you bet it all and lose everything. Never put more on the table than you can readily afford to lose. Caution in the midst of daring, and even during the most insane adventures, provides security no matter how crazed the storm. I don't gamble, since I not only expect to lose but know I will — then it's not really gambling, is it? I expect the universe to be against me, though really in my life it's been more disinterested than anything else.

The idea is that we all "learn by going where [we] have to go." Not only should we not stop ourselves, but in addition, we should learn not to try to stop others as well. Building walls is easy, hating others easier, and hating the unknown (the future) the easiest.

I'm glad I went north when I did some number of decades back. Moving to Vermont was a way to breathe after I had been buried for so long that not breathing had become breathing. Late at night, I would take long walks down deserted country roads where cars were more infrequent than falling stars. Walking in the deep dark, I would lose track — of time, of where I was, and of where I was going.

The dark everywhere, lost inside my head, I'd sometimes think that the time might be autumn, with the leaves changing colors so that mountains would look as though they'd been styled by a crazed kaleidoscope. It could have been autumn, but it was dark, and I couldn't remember. It was night; I couldn't see and didn't want to.

Often I'd just walk, not even thinking about leaves or color or autumn, not thinking about her back in the city or love or even about any kind of romance. I'd just walk down the road, alone, not going anywhere but still leaving despair far behind. I remembered how those nights smelled and tasted, though I don't remember where I was.

Sometimes knowing where you are is the most important thing in the world, but other times it doesn't matter at all.

page
two

HOLIDAY HIATUS

The Austin Chronicle offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

The offices will be open for regular business hours from Monday, Jan. 4, 2010, until we decide to take another day off (probably sometime in May).

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2009-2010
MUSIC POLL
BALLOT p.75

The night, snow, roads, cold, hot, moon, and you and I. And "Which I is I?"

"I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow." Sleep is sacred, and it is salvation. I've slept through so much of my life - through relationships, friendships, work, and even play. Having slept and slept, I often found myself so exhausted from all that sleeping that I had to sleep some more.

I snore. And I do so very, very loudly. I was visiting my friends John and Maggie in Hoboken. I slept in the basement, they slept on the third floor, and at breakfast John commented that my snoring was so loud it was like I had been in the next room all night long.

Staying on a small island owned by the parents of a friend, I slept in a little shack out back away, maybe 25 yards, from the main house. In the morning, everyone complained about the noise.

Having nothing to say, I still make too much noise. Without content, I am still annoying.

I'm not sure I do much, but things get done in my wake. Trailing me, there is a creative churning, violent small explosions of ideas and inventions. I wouldn't think I was involved in stirring these things up in my wake were it not for the turmoil and activity behind me. But maybe it's just a reaction to loud snoring?

Welcome to the new year. Same as the old year? Different? It's best to just keep on keeping on, without thinking too much about the present or speculating on the future.

Best to just take it as the march of time, the progress of days. The one thing I promise is that at some point soon in this column, I'll finish the series I'm writing on Otto Binder. ■



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Postmarks

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TOP 9
letters of
2009



We're doing something a little different this year. In the name of fun we've chosen nine letters from the calendar year '09 that readers may find amusing, insightful, regionally topical, or none of the above. Unfortunately, we did not have space to include our readers' tributes to some of the local heroes who passed on this year (Rusty Wier, Lou Perryman, Carlos Rivera Pineda, Bill Narum, and the list unfortunately goes on), but we do hope you read through these and ponder the good, the bad, and the ugly of 2009. Now where's my Shot in the Dark?
— Mark Fagan

1) SOUND ORDINANCE HURTS LIVE MUSIC (JUNE 8)

Dear Editor,

On Thursday evening [June 4] between 8 and 10pm, my band the Gourds performed a free show at Shady Grove on Barton Springs Road. As a crane pivoted overhead like something from an H.G. Wells novel, Shady Grove was cited for a sound-ordinance violation. The irony was not lost on anyone there. In its race, which is already lost, to move people Downtown, this city is going to lose something that cannot be replaced. Music in Austin is a well-known quality-of-life element that draws unique people and businesses to live here. It is remarkable that up until now we have been able to maintain such a vibrant musical scene with the artificially overvalued real estate market. Before we lose control of it, the sound ordinance needs to be replaced by neighborhood-specific agreements between businesses and residents. In a rapidly growing city like ours, the police and fire resources wasted on call and response to this nonissue is ridiculous. And when it is more acceptable to have cranes undertaking major construction projects than it is to have a local band playing music for the citizens of Austin, I think we are at a serious crossroads. I hereby call on all musicians, music industry professionals, and supporters of local music to make some serious noise about this issue. If we do not, then those who call it "noise" will have their way. And all will be lost.

Kevin Russell
The Gourds/Shinyribs

2) CLOSURE NEEDED FOR A SHOT IN THE DARK STORIES (AUG. 4)

Dear Editor,

A Shot in the Dark: What about success stories? We've all done it. We've all opened the *Chronicle* and turned straight to A Shot in the Dark. Perused for the chance that it's us they're looking for. Lamented the ad placer's timidity in BookPeople.

Vicariously been that alluring reader in jeans and a white shirt flipping through the Turkey travel guide. We identify. We hope. And we wonder. Will the book lovers connect? Well, what if you told us? I propose that *The Austin Chronicle* begin A Shot in the Dark success (or failure?) stories section. Because don't we all want to know if it ever works out in the end?

Jamie Lippman

3) TEXAS RELAYS GIVEN THE COLD SHOULDER (AUG. 5)

Dear Editor,

Two weeks ago, South by Southwest was met with open arms from nearly every business in town, along with the cooperation of city officials and the Austin Police Department. This past weekend a very different host greeted the patrons of the Texas Relays. Bars all around the Downtown party district shut their doors on what could have been a very lucrative weekend, presumably out of fear of violence. Highland Mall evicted its customers and shut down early. Police barricaded exits, roads, and parked cars on both the upper and lower decks of I-35, shining their high beams on the cars in gridlock traffic with gobs of police on foot daring pedestrians to act up. People will argue that crime rates spike every year during Texas Relays and preventative measures need to be taken, but agitating partygoers by treating them as criminals out on recess is not the way to go about solving the problem. As a business in this time of economic uncertainty, there was no reason not to capitalize on this weekend unless you were a whites-only bar. I think a lot of Austinites pride themselves on being more progressive than the rest of Texas, but the acts of Austin businesspeople and the APD showed that there is really nothing weird about Austin at all. We're just as racist as the rest of the state.

Marshall Hamilton

CONTINUED ON P.8

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4) WALKING IS A MAJOR FORM OF TRANSPORTATION (NOV. 13)

Dear Editor,
When will the city of Austin recognize that walking is a major means of transportation? The simplest, cheapest, and cleanest way to move around is eternally neglected here.

For the price of the recently approved water plant, Austin could have sidewalks – legitimate walking space – on both sides of every street block. But it seems that we will never have this. “Green transportation” in Austin means a few hybrid cars, a not-yet-operable diesel-powered train, and too-narrow bicycle lanes on a few streets. It does not include safe, comfortable space for walking around the city.

In the picture accompanying the latest of Copenhagen article [“Climate, Meet Mobility,” News, Nov. 6], we can see that pedestrians get as much street space as cars, bicyclists get a full-sized street lane, and buses get their own lane. The Austin system is to block every single street lane with cars, and on most streets to give pedestrians no space at all.

There are no plans to finish Austin’s sidewalk system in less than 200 years. Nor are there any plans to allocate street space to pedestrians. Even right next to elementary schools there are no sidewalks. Unlike most U.S. cities of our size, we don’t regularly close park roads to motor traffic on weekends. When it comes to transportation, Austin is stuck in the 1950s.

This is a sad waste of resources. Austin has an excellent climate and natural landscape for walking and bicycling. Yet cities without our natural advantages devote much more space to human-powered transportation. Why are we so backwards and at the same time so self-congratulatory?

It is contradictory nonsense to praise “green transportation” while ignoring its greenest and most basic form. Walking is fundamental. Let’s start recognizing that. Finish the sidewalks. Help people cross streets. Without these basic steps, “green transportation” is empty talk.

Yours truly,
Amy Babich

5) ‘I SWALLOWED MY TONGUE’ (OCT. 27)

Dear Editor,
I am writing to you regarding the phantasmagorical review of *Fits* by Raoul Hernandez [Record Review, Music, Oct. 23]. His rendered regaling of unexplainable, ubiquitous prose led me down a befuddled, topsy-turvy rattled path of extreme mystification as to how one could conjure up said thoughts after listening to White Denim’s newest LP. Somehow synthesizing senses, a media mephitic bubbled forth as written words cunningly coalesced into crap. His perineal pining was a crappy clanging cacophony of theosaurohalucigenic preposterity. It evoked an arrhythmic nauseopshychosis in my rockish rollish selfsame soul. My predispository boogieviebe is woundsmacked beyond consolatory rehabilitation ... and yeah, dude, I swallowed my tongue.

Rhett Flowers

6) FILM SUPPORT LIKE A COOL SHOWER (AUG. 27)

Dear Editor,
Kudos to the Austin Film Society for its continued generous support of emerging Texas filmmakers [“TFPF Announces Grant Recipients,” Screens, Aug. 21] and to *The Austin Chronicle* for its coverage and encouragement of local filmmakers. Our film *No No: A Dockumentary*, about controversial Seventies-era baseball player (and notorious LSD-induced no-hitter hurler) Dock Ellis, was one of the TFPF grant recipients, and that support is like a cool shower in the dog days of the hottest summer likely ever to be recorded here. Hot as it is, there’s no place we’d rather be making films than in Austin.

Cheers,
Jeffrey Radice, producer
Mike Blizzard, co-producer

CONTINUED ON P.10

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2009 THE YEAR IN CRAZY PART THE SECOND

JULY 1: JOE THE PLUMBER ANNOUNCES THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO RUN FOR OFFICE.
“I TALKED TO GOD ABOUT THAT AND HE WAS LIKE, ‘NO!’”
NON-BELIEVERS ARE GIVEN MOMENTARY PAUSE.

JULY 3: SARAH PALIN ABRUPTLY RESIGNS GOVERNORSHIP. INVENTIVE RATIONALIZATIONS ENSUE.
REAL LEADERS DON’T WASTE TIME LEADING!
THEY PURSUE BOOK DEALS AND SPEAKING FEES!

MONTH OF AUGUST: TEABAGGERS ATTEND TOWN HALL MEETINGS. SHOUT ABOUT SOCIALISM, BIRTH CERTIFICATES, AND THE GOVERNMENT FLU VACCINE CONSPIRACY.
ALSO, ACORN HAS BEEN STEALING MY UNDERPANTS!

AUG. 7: EX-GOVERNOR PALIN WARNS OF GOVERNMENT “DEATH PANELS.”
I GOT TWO WORDS FOR YA: **SOYLENT GREEN!**

AUG. 19: PROFESSING DOUBT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT’S CITIZENSHIP, TOM DELAY SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OBAMA’S “GIFT CERTIFICATE.”
I BET IT’S FROM A KENYAN DEPARTMENT STORE!

SEPT. 7: RIGHT WING COLLECTIVELY FREAKS OUT OVER PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH TO SCHOOLCHILDREN. YOU KNOW WHO ELSE LIKED TO GIVE SPEECHES?
HITLER!!

SEPT. 12: LIBERALS UNFAIRLY PORTRAY “9-12” PROTESTORS AS RACISTS BY SHOWING PICTURES OF THE SIGNS THEY HELD.
AND I’LL PLUG ANY VARMINT WHO SEZ **OTHERWISE!**

SEPT. 30: NEWSMAX COLUMNIST SUGGESTS THE “OBAMA PROBLEM” COULD BE SOLVED WITH A **MILITARY COUP.**
HEY--I’M JUST SAYIN’!

OCT. 2: CONSERVATIVES CHEER WHEN COUNTRY LOSES OLYMPIC BID.
WE LOVE AMERICA--WE JUST HATE **CHICAGO!**
ALONG WITH THE EAST COAST, THE WEST COAST, BIG CITIES, BLUE STATES, COLLEGE TOWNS--

OCT. 27: JOE LIEBERMAN THREATENS TO FILIBUSTER ANY HEALTH CARE BILL WITH A PUBLIC OPTION. WHAT CAN I SAY? I’M JUST AN ASSHOLE.

EARLY NOV.: TOWN HALL TEABAGGERS HECKLE WOMAN WHOSE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND UNBORN GRANDCHILD DIED DUE TO LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE.
WHAT LOSERS! SUCH MISFORTUNE COULD NEVER BEFALL ME!

NOV. 23: NOT-AT-ALL-CRAZY GLENN BECK ANNOUNCES “100 YEAR PLAN” TO SAVE AMERICA FROM VAST SOCIALIST CONSPIRACY ONLY HE CAN PERCEIVE.
THE VOICES IN MY HEAD EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME!

NOV. 24: DANA PERINO TELLS SEAN HANNITY-- “--WE DID NOT HAVE A TERRORIST ATTACK ON OUR COUNTRY DURING PRESIDENT BUSH’S TERM!”
SERIOUSLY, SHE SAID THAT.

DECEMBER: ANNUAL WAR ON FICTIONAL WAR ON CHRISTMAS COMMENCES. WAIT--WE’RE OUT OF SPACE ALREADY??
WHAT ABOUT ONLY TAITZ? NAZI SYMBOLS? “GOING ROGUE”? THE CENSUS? ETC. ETC!
...SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

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The readers get their say in The Austin Chronicle’s “postmarks” section.

Brenda Thompson

Read their ruminations and check out the nifty new online design at **austinchronicle.com/postmarks**.

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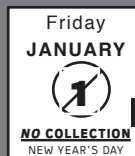
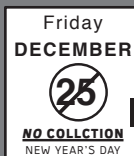
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7) SOMETHING IS WRONG AT KUT (AUG. 21)

Dear Editor,
 Something is gravely, gravely wrong at KUT these days ["Media Watch: Unwinding the Twine at KUT," News, Aug. 7]. Paul Ray's and Larry Monroe's hours have been badly cut and Aielli Unleashed has been canned. This is killing the golden geese. Paul Ray, Larry Monroe, John Aielli are KUT. They are its heart and soul. They are what make KUT listeners come across with 85% of KUT's ever-growing budget, twice a year, regular as clockwork.

The word from KUT is that if *Phil Music Show* and *Paul Ray's Jazz* were as "successful as other music programs," they wouldn't have been cut. How do you measure success? A devoted listenership, reliable underwriters, and massive outcry when they're threatened – that sounds like success to me.

I don't understand how KUT's \$5 million budget paid for Ray, Monroe, and Aielli last year and how its \$5 million-plus budget can't this year. However, it cuts really need to be made, cut David Brown. Cut management, in pay and in positions: They are not what KUT is about and clearly can't be trusted with its future.

KUT has become the best in the nation by sticking to the basics: great people, great music, local control. It's about hiring and keeping wonderful people like Aielli and Monroe and Ray and giving them the time and room to do what they do well – play music that interests, inspires, amuses, exasperates, delights, and unites Austin.

Reinstate all of Monroe's and Ray's hours and benefits! Bring back *Aielli Unleashed!* Restore our trust in KUT!

Julia Welch



8) THE UNBIASED AND THE SNIDE (MAY 22)

Dear Editor,

I was pleasantly surprised to actually read a well-informed and unbiased account of the gun-rights issues prevalent today from *The Austin Chronicle* ["Gun Crazy!," News, May 22]. Thank you very much, Ms. Smith, for this "breath of fresh air" when other biased, misinformed, and insulting editorials run rampant in other news sources. You managed to present the issues without prejudice in either direction and with factual information. It is much appreciated.

I can only hope the person(s) responsible for the snide jab related to Senate Bill 1164 (concealed firearms on campus) in the article "When Good Things Happen to Bad Bills – and Vice Versa"

[News, May 22] can learn from your sterling example in factual reporting. As a college student and spouse to a law-enforcement officer, I am completely for concealed carry on campuses across the U.S., as is my husband, and we both heartily object to the author(s) blindly including us and friends in some blanket statement claiming we would be against such things. Hopefully the author(s) can come to terms with the fact that the NRA is not some faceless entity but is made up of people working at universities, students, law enforcement, mental-health officials, as well as thousands of other law-abiding U.S. citizens. One should not deal in absolutes and claim that all of these groups are completely against concealed carry on campuses.

Cassie Fulton

9) SENSATIONALIST RHETORIC AND SCARE TACTICS (JUNE 27)

Dear Editor,

While Marc Savlov's article on crime Downtown is a worthy subject and something that everyone should be aware of, what is with the sensationalist rhetoric and scare tactics throughout the article ["Crime and the City Solution" Music, June 26]? Marc Savlov and business owners characterize Sixth Street and Red River like it's a death trap waiting to steal your wallet and eat your children, when that just isn't the case. Buried deep within the accounts of rampant drug dealing and violence is the statistic that crime is down 14%, so why the tagline "Murder, shootings, and crack dealers on every corner"? Of course there's crime Downtown, but is this kind of language really necessary?

Nick Hennies

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TERESITA FERNÁNDEZ
 — BLIND LANDSCAPE —
 NOVEMBER 1, 2009–JANUARY 3, 2010

DRAWN TOWARD LIGHT
 NOVEMBER 1, 2009–
 JANUARY 3, 2010

Hurry, show closes January 3, 2010!

Teresita Fernández: Blind Landscape is a survey of recent works from this internationally celebrated contemporary artist.

Stephen Antonakos, Paul Chan, James Turrell, and Leo Villareal explore the use of light as a medium in *Drawn Toward Light*.

The Blanton The University of Texas at Austin | **MLK at Congress** | Austin, TX 78701 | www.blantonmuseum.org | (512) 471-7324

Teresita Fernández: Blind Landscape is organized by the USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa. The exhibition is curated by David Louis Norr, Chief Curator, USF Institute for Research in Art. Project assistance is provided by Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council. Major support for the exhibition at The Blanton is provided by Jeanne and Michael Klein and the Linda Pace Foundation. Funding is also provided by Lora Reynolds and Quincy Lee in honor of Jeanne and Michael Klein. | *Drawn Toward Light* is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: *Teresita Fernández, Drawn Waters (Borrowdale)*, 2009, Natural and machined graphite on steel, 121 x 43 x 86 in., Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, NY; *Stephen Antonakos, Untitled (Blue Neon Circle)*, c. 1974, Neon tube (cobalt blue), 35 in. diameter, Blanton Museum of Art, Gift of Vera Simons

news

Headlines

› A South Austin man was fatally shot at his home Monday after an Austin Police Department officer and a Travis County sheriff's deputy, responding to a domestic disturbance call, opened fire on **Roger Tyrone James**, the father of four children. Police say James pointed a handgun at APD Officer Justin Berry and Sheriff's Deputy Theodore Ramsey; both have been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.



JOHN ANDERSON

› **Emma Barrientos** (above left), an arts and social justice advocate and wife of retired Austin Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos**, died unexpectedly Monday after a brief illness. A behind-the-scenes player in a number of Democratic political campaigns, Barrientos, 67, led the push for the city's Mexican American Cultural Center and served as a founding board member of the Mexic-Arte Museum. See "Res Publica," p.14, for details on services.

› New Year's Eve is upon us, and Downtown revelers should note the city's (scaled-down) **First Night** festivities mean several street closures. Visit www.cityofaustin.org/specialevents for more details. And if you're driving, don't drink ... and if you're drinking, don't drive. See "Res Publica," p.14, for driving alternatives.

› Speaking of driving while impaired, the city's new ban on **texting while driving** – which also prohibits using any mobile apps while you're moving – goes into effect Jan. 1. Police will allow a 30-day grace period for citations, with suspected violators receiving warnings instead of fines.

› **City Council** doesn't meet again until Jan. 14. The meeting is the first since new notification rules from Mayor Lee Leffingwell took effect, meaning the council agenda will be publicly posted nearly two weeks in advance (as opposed to less than a week, previously).

› After pressure from investors, controversial Whole Foods Market CEO **John Mackey** has announced that he will be relinquishing his role as chairman of the Austin-based company's board of directors. CtW Investment Group, a shareholder advocacy group dealing in union pension funds, had previously called him "a liability" to the firm because of his attacks on health care reform.



CONTINUED ON P.14

Lee Leffingwell became Austin's mayor in 2009.

JOHN ANDERSON

TOP 9 QUOTES OF THE WEEK 2009

1) "I'M PLEASED TO SAY that there were more smiles in the House chamber for this opening day swearing-in than I've seen in recent years."

– Austin Rep. **Elliott Naishtat** on new House speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio (Jan. 16 issue)

2) "THE SAFEST PLACE FOR A WOMAN to live is married to a man."

– **Texas Freedom Network's** "Just Say Don't Know" report quoting one of various abstinence-only sex-ed programs taught in Texas public schools (Feb. 27)

3) "THEY CAN'T TAKE OUR DOLLARS FOR GRANTED the whole year, then treat our people with such disrespect that one weekend. ... We're going to encourage folks to make our dollars talk."

– Austin NAACP President **Nelson Linder** on Highland Mall's closure during Texas Relays weekend (April 10)

4) "TO PARAPHRASE W.C. FIELDS, all in all, I'd rather be in St. Louis."

– **Brewster McCracken**, in his concession to Lee Leffingwell after taking a beating in the polls (and a verbal beating from St. Louis residents offended by his campaign ad slighting the Midwestern city) (May 15)



JOHN ANDERSON

5) "WE DID NOT GO INTO A BOX OF CRACKER JACKS and pick the first thing that came out."

– AISD board member **Cheryl Bradley** (r), accusing the Texas Education Agency of "micromanaging" the hiring of a new Pearce Middle School principal (Aug. 14)

6) "AS ONE OF HIS SHAREHOLDERS and regular customers, I think John should stick to Whole Foods, because he certainly offers no formula for Whole Health Care Access."

– U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, on Whole Foods CEO John Mackey's *Wall Street Journal* op-ed decrying "socialist" health care reform and instead proposing "free market"-based reforms (Aug. 21)

7) "I REGRET WE EVER ESTABLISHED A SCHEDULE!"

– (Now former) Capital Metro CEO **Fred Gilliam**, in reference to the scheduled, then delayed, start date of MetroRail (Oct. 2)

From: **Demo, Chris**
To: **Harlin, Christian**
Cc: **Gallagher, Harlin; Connor, Pat**
Subject: **Novel Ideal**
Date: **Wednesday, May 13, 2009 8:01:12 PM**

Let's get Sander's probationary records. Also check for records on others. See if he/they were in compliance and what conditions were. If he/they violated curfew and/or carrying a gun/using/carrying drugs, we can make him/them a causation of the entire event...GUEZZ I am so smart I scare myself.



JANA BIRCHUM

8) "MAKE NO MISTAKE, this is a difficult decision and one I would rather not have to make."

– Travis County District Attorney **Rosemary Lehmborg**, on moving to dismiss murder indictments against the two last defendants in the 1991 yogurt shop murders (Oct. 30)

9) "GUEZZ I AM SO SMART I SCARE MYSELF!"

– From an internal Austin Police Department e-mail sent by Detective **Chris Dunn**, trying to gather evidence to justify a police officer's fatal shooting of Nathaniel Sanders II. Dunn has since been fired. (Nov. 13)



Ski Shores Waterfront Cafe

HEADLINES CONTINUED FROM P.13

- ▶ Another Austin institution bids farewell. The **Ski Shores Waterfront Cafe**, a Lake Austin burger and live music joint, is closing its doors after many decades. Owners George and Diane Levy notified patrons and friends of the closing in a mass e-mail Tuesday, signing off, "Goodbye to all, good health and god speed."
- ▶ Rep. **Elliott Naishtat**, D-Austin, became the last member of the Travis County legislative delegation to file for re-election when he submitted his paperwork on Dec. 23, 2009. Filing for the March 2 primaries closes at 6pm on Jan. 4.
- ▶ Former White House counsel and loyal Bushie **Karl Rove** has been granted a divorce from his wife, Darby, after 24 years of marriage. Family spokesperson and former White House press secretary Dana Perino told Politico.com that it was a mutual decision. Rove, whose autobiography is due out in March, is rumored to be heading back on the Texas campaign trail.
- ▶ *Je t'aime*: Embarrassment for U.S. Rep. **Pete Sessions** after *The Miami Herald* uncovered an e-mail from the Republican Texas congressman to banker Allen Stanford that said, "I love you and believe in you," sent seven hours after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission charged the financier with defrauding investors of \$7 billion.
- ▶ Democrats are scrambling to find a candidate for the 10th Congressional District after front-runner **Jack McDonald** unexpectedly dropped out. The 2008 Democratic nominee, attorney Larry Joe Doherty, said he is considering another shot at incumbent GOPer Mike McCaul.



Pete Sessions

Naked City

- ▶ **TXI DUST NOT YET SETTLED** Residents of the **Hornsby Bend** area got at least an acknowledgement of their concerns regarding a proposed **sand and gravel mining project** in their neighborhood last week, but not much else. Travis County commissioners, knowing their hands are essentially tied by state laws, called for the formation of a committee to monitor environmental conditions at the quarry owned by **Texas Industries Inc.**, to be composed of neighbors and staffers from TXI and the county. TXI spokesman David Perkins emphasized that the county has "no statutory authority" on the quarry but said the company will try to address neighbors' concerns. "We don't even know if they will go through with it," worried **Suzanne McEndree**, whose property would be surrounded on two sides by the project. McEndree said she and her neighbors are particularly worried about silica dust and that any health problems it causes might not show up for years – and the TXI quarry is expected to be a 20-year project. "Kids live out here," McEndree said. TXI's Perkins said that the material being mined will already have a great deal of water in it, and he doesn't expect dust to be a major concern. "The bottom line in all this, if it's not gonna be this, it's the ethanol," said 1st Precinct Commissioner **Ron Davis**, referring to another recent industrial project in eastern Travis. "All these unwanted land uses happening in the unincorporated areas of Precinct 1 has to stop. Unfortunately, it's a case-by-case basis as far as the county because the state Legislature will not grant counties enough authority." – *Lee Nichols*
- ▶ **PRIMARY DEADLINE LOOMS** With less than a week to go before the Jan. 4, 6pm, deadline for a slot on the March 2 primary ballot – and little indication of a last-minute flood of applications – the opportunity for announced candidates to become real contenders is shrinking. At the state level, retiring Sen. **Eliot Shapleigh**, D-El Paso, removed his name from the list of potential candidates for higher office when he announced Dec. 22, 2009, that he will not be on the 2010 ballot. However, **Marc Katz**, owner of the never-klozing Katz's Deli & Bar on Sixth Street, confirmed that he will be filing Dec. 30, 2009, to run against former Travis County District Attorney **Ronnie Earle** for the right to challenge incumbent Republican Lieutenant Governor **David Dewhurst** next November. Over in the House, travel consultant **Marilyn Jackson** filed Dec. 22, 2009, to become the first Republican challenger ever to face Rep. **Eddie Rodriguez**, D-Austin, in his House District 51 seat. Yet the busiest local primary remains the Democratic race for State Board of Education Place 5, with four candidates filed so far. – *Richard Whittaker*
- ▶ **CRIME DROP IN EARLY 2009** According to early numbers released this week by the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**, violent crime in the U.S. dropped more than 4% during the first six months of 2009. The preliminary half-year uniform crime report also reflects a 6% decline in property crime, including burglary and auto theft. A 10% drop in murder led the decrease in violent crime, while a whopping 18.7% decline in motor vehicle theft led the drop in property crime. The newest crime report does not contain information from the **Austin Police Department**. APD wants to make sure its crime reporting is as accurate as possible, spokesman Cpl. Scott Perry told us in an e-mail, and as such only submits a year-end report "when we know that the data is finalized and accurate." Meanwhile, federal prosecutions rose 9% in 2009, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. The number of federal prosecutions this year (a total of 169,612 cases) reached an all-time high, up 42% from five years ago and an increase of nearly 90% since 1999. A 15.7% increase in immigration cases led this year's increase, with charges of illegal entry and re-entry to the U.S. making up the vast majority of cases, TRAC reports. Interestingly, the number of nonimmigration crimes has actually dropped over the last five years. Drug crimes, for example, currently make up just 16% of all prosecuted federal crimes. – *Jordan Smith*
- ▶ **THE MORE TEXANS THE MERRIER?** Texas gets a little fuller but no richer: In its last population estimate before the 2010 census, the **U.S. Census Bureau** reported Dec. 23, 2009, that Texas gained 478,000 residents between July 2008 and July 2009, bringing the total population to 24.8 million – an increase of 1.97%. While that was the largest number of new residents for any state, Wyoming had the largest percentage population growth (2.12% over the period), and California remains the nation's most populous state with 37 million residents. Texas now has its largest ever employable population, with the **Texas Workforce Commission** estimating a civilian labor force of 12.1 million. However, that population increase may not have translated into a stronger economy. While the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped in November from 8.3% to 8%, sales tax collections fell 14.4% between November 2008 and November 2009, and dropped 5.1% in total for the year to date. That will put more pressure than normal on the pre-Christmas receipts for December, due in early January. – *R.W.*

res publica

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



JOHN ANDERSON

THURSDAY 31

CAPITAL METRO NIGHT OWL For the low, low price of a day pass (\$1.50), you can ride the bus as many times as you'd like tonight. Beware: Because of First Night street closings, some bus routes will be detoured this evening; see www.capmetro.org for details. Since we know you're not going to bed early, we suggest you also check out the six **Night Owl** routes that run 12mid-3am.

SOBERRIDE If the bus isn't taking your tipsy ass where it needs to go, try a taxi ride home with SoberRide, which offers free trips up to the value of a \$30 fare. 11pm-3am. 657-2999. www.austinsoberride.com.

FRIDAY 01

EMMA BARRIENTOS PUBLIC VISITATION honors the late wife of retired Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos. (See Headlines, p.13) 4-7pm. *Mission Funeral Home, Serenity Chapel, 6204 S. First.*

SATURDAY 02

ACTION FOR ANIMALS MEETING Help plan the group's winter/spring outreach events with a focus on the anti-fur campaign. 11am. *Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562. Free. www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.*

EMMA BARRIENTOS BURIAL MASS (See Friday.) 10am. *St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic Church, 126 W. Oltorf.*

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE Those of you who are not Pay-as-You-Throw customers can still recycle your Christmas trees: Just drop them off at Zilker Park. 10am-4pm. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 2-3; Sat., Jan. 9. 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields).* All trees will be ground into mulch, which will be given away for free in the new year. See www.cityofaustin.org/parks/christmas-tree.htm for details. **Live in Round Rock?** Turn

over your tinsel-free tree today in return for a complimentary tree seedling. *Sat., Jan. 2, 9am-6pm. Round Rock Brush Recycling Center, 310 Deepwood Dr., Round Rock, 512/218-5540.*

SUNDAY 03

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Fred Edwords, the national director of the **United Coalition of Reason**, discusses jumping on the bandwagon of reason. 10am. 5555 N. Lamar Ste. L-137, 835-9008. *Free. www.esoa.org.*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Travis County Precinct 5 Constable **Bruce Elfant** discusses criminal justice issues and the upcoming census. 11:30am. *First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

TUESDAY 05

PEAK WORKSHOP FOR ADULT LEADERS Nature club organizers, adult scout troop leaders, and afterschool program instructors are invited to learn about the tenets of Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids. E-mail cjefri@rei.com to reserve your seat. 6:30pm. *REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. Free. www.rei.com.*

SIERRA CLUB MEETING features a talk on the Best Tent Camping in Texas: How Car Campers Can Avoid RVs, Concrete Slabs, and Loud Portable Stereos. 7pm. *Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.*

WEDNESDAY 06

HIGH NOON TALKS Every month, hear a less-than-often-told tale about the history of Texas. This month, hear about the rise, fall, and resurgence of Luby's cafeterias. Noon-1pm. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with admission to museum. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

Luby's

TEXAS NORML MEETING convenes monthly to discuss the latest developments in marijuana-law reform. You'll probably want to stick around for some live reggae afterward. 8pm. *Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. Free. www.texasnorml.org.*

Dems' District 10 Disappointment

The great knight who was supposed to rescue the kingdom apparently decided the dragon's breath is a little too hot: last week Democrat **Jack McDonald**, CEO of the technology consulting company Perficient, backed out of his challenge to Republican Congressman **Michael McCaul**. Texas Democratic Party Chairman **Boyd Richie** was unavailable for comment, but the move no doubt stunned the party – McDonald was seen as a serious candidate who could actually raise the kind of money it would take to eke out a win against überwealthy McCaul in **District 10**, one of the Tom DeLay-gerrymandered districts, stretching from West Lake Hills through Pflugerville and east to the suburbs of Houston.

Indeed, McDonald had already raised almost \$1 million, nearly the entire sum that the 2008 Democrat, **Larry Joe Doherty**, raised for that election. Why would the seeming golden boy drop out? McDonald isn't saying, other than an opaque statement: "After careful consideration, and with the January 4 filing deadline approaching, I have decided that this is not the right time for me to run and I will not be filing to enter the race. This was a difficult decision for me and one I did not make lightly."



Jack McDonald



Michael McCaul

McDonald said he would attempt to return the contributions he had received thus far.

So is it guaranteed that **Northwest Austin Democrats**, missing the pterygermander District 10 when they were represented by **Lloyd Doggett**, are stuck with McCaul for another two years? TDP deputy spokesman **Rick Guerrero** tried to put a brave face on it: "Michael McCaul has proven to be ineffective for Texas, and others know that, and we do expect there will be another Democrat who will challenge him."

On Sunday, Austin Democratic blogger Rachel Farris (aka "Mean Rachel") reported that she had received an e-mail from Doherty saying that he is looking at polling data and might himself take another crack at McCaul. "You may tell all interested that I'm interested," he wrote. Farris has since created a "Draft Doherty" page on Facebook.

But to win, Doherty will have to establish quick access to tons of cash. So far, his was the best attempt to unseat McCaul, first elected in 2004, and even Doherty couldn't do better than 43% (to McCaul's 54%). Following his defeat, Doherty estimated that, to knock off the Republican, it would take twice the \$1.2 million he had raised. Doherty will have to decide quickly: The filing period ends Jan. 4. — Lee Nichols

ONGOING

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn what it's like to enforce the law! The next session starts March 2. For details or an application, call 974-5941 or see www.cityofaustin.org/police.

BARTON SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PLAN SURVEY The Parks and Recreation folks need your input on Barton Springs. Fill out the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ksqyrbw.

PBS PETITION With stalwart PBS shows *Now* and *Bill Moyers Journal* set to go off the air in April, media watch group FAIR is lobbying the station to "find worthy replacements." To participate, see www.fair.org.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING IN A BOX The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town, and it's created a kit with all the tools you need to host a get-together to collect the input of your neighbors and friends, too. You can download the whole kit (in English or Spanish) from www.imagineaustin.net, or contact Kathleen Fox (974-7877, kathleen.fox@ci.austin.tx.us) to collect one at *One Texas Center*,

505 Barton Springs Rd. #500. Feeling a little partied out? Just fill out the survey at www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm. *Deadline: Jan. 29.*

H1N1 FLU CLINICS Call 972-5520 with questions or to make an appointment. www.cityofaustin.org/health.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY The city of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office wants your input on how to prioritize funds made available through its Housing Financing Programs. See www.cityofaustin.org/housing.

NOMINATE A HERO Know someone who deserves recognition for their heroism? The **Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation** is accepting nominations through Feb. 12. See www.citizenserviceaboveselfhonors.org for details.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. Conserve now and save money all next year. See www.cityofaustin.org/water for details.

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TOP 9 LOCAL STORIES

BY MICHAEL KING, LEE NICHOLS, AND RICHARD WHITTAKER



Tea party protesters at the Capitol

JANA BIRCHUM

1) WET OR DRY? For it or agin' it, the 25-years-in-the-planning Water Treatment Plant No. 4 dominated city politics for several months, with City Council finally voting narrowly to move forward with the massive multi-phase project. Come hell or high water – more likely both – something tells us we haven't heard the last of the local water wars.

2) TEA-BAGGED "Tea Party Patriots" opposing health care reform (etc.) disrupted town hall meetings around the nation, including Austin, where angry wingers shouted down Congressman Lloyd Doggett. YouTubing of the

event and similar episodes elsewhere made national news; the tea-baggers' tactics left them looking like asses but provided Fox News the illusion of a grassroots uprising.

3) SEEKING NEW COUNCIL The biennial City Council changeover resulted in a new mix but no grand break with precedent: Mayor Lee Leffingwell joins veterans Mike Martinez, Sheryl Cole, Randi Shade, and Laura Morrison with newcomers Bill Spelman (a return trip) and Chris Riley. In a very tough budget year, Shade has emerged as a swing vote on a handful of vexing questions.

TOP 9 CITY COUNCIL STORIES

BY WELLS DUNBAR

1) GOODBYE, WILL Anticlimax was the order of election day, as Lee Leffingwell took the mayor's office. Brewster McCracken's forward-thinking campaign couldn't coalesce constituencies, and his endgame had no game. (Brewster Nation, anyone?) Carole Keeton Strayhorn was a nonstory, and downballot was even less exciting, with Bill Spelman running unopposed and Chris Riley blowing Perla Cavazos outta the water.

2) WTP4 ON TAP After dozens of years, millions of dollars, and innumerable arguments, Water Treatment Plant No. 4 is finally in the pipeline. An unprecedented town hall debate was a highlight, but Spelman's subsequent dizzying, 25-minute dissertation from the dais against the plant – held before the final 4-3 vote – was the defining moment in the new council year.

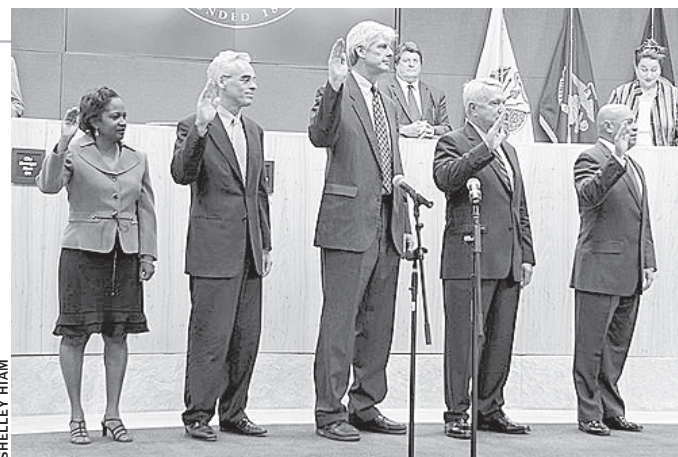
3) STRIPPING THE CITY BUDGET Forgive the mixed Eastern metaphors, but this year opened the kimono on the Kabuki theatre of budget planning. Public forums in which citizens prioritized city services were both praised for transparency and panned as

cover for controversial cuts. However, with a last-minute windfall, the city closed the estimated \$30 million gap with minimum service cuts, just like last year ... and the year before last ... and ...

4) (DON'T) STOP THE MUSIC Despite the "live music capital" sloganeering, the city repeatedly hit sour notes. Changes to outdoor sound permitting flared up right around South by Southwest, allowing neighborhood opposition to threaten various long-running concert series, and council efforts to create a city music department were rebuffed at every turn. No encore, please.

5) CITY WEBSITE RE-REBOOT One day we'll have a new city website. We already kinda do, thanks to an in-house streamlining. But a long-delayed, ground-up redesign, slated for award last spring, was halted by council – when local techies learned a California firm would land the contract – creating talk of a local, cloud-built relaunch. After another round of rebids, in December the council hired a local company.

Mayor Lee Leffingwell (second from right) is sworn in with new and returning council members.



SHELLEY HIAM

6) CONSERVATION CONUNDRUMS Former Solid Waste Services head Willie Rhodes – considered behind the city's evolving, eco-friendly reimagining of SWS – fell upward to helm the new Code Compliance Department, so the city could get cracking on its zero-waste goals. Meanwhile, inspired by the WTP4 debate, council tasked the Austin Water Utility with getting serious about saving water.

7) PULLING OUR PUDS Omnibus development projects preoccupied the zoning agenda, with the now approved South Shore/Grayco planned unit development evolving from a waterfront setback skirmish to a fight over affordable housing – resolved in December. Similarly, questions over development fees – like affordable housing in the still-in-draft Downtown Austin Plan – hung over the dais. One knuckle-duster didn't happen: Wildflower Commons, which quietly dropped off the agenda.

died when their scaffold collapsed under them. In December 2009, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ruled neglect on the part of four contractors, and the APD continues a criminal investigation. The men's legacy may be increasing vigilance on worker safety and perhaps a renewed local union movement.

9) TEXAS MUSIC MATTERS NOT KUT 90.5FM radio management cut the hours of veteran deejays and local radio legends Paul Ray and Larry Monroe, sparking a "Save KUT" movement to which the business planners largely remain deaf, insisting they're focused on the long-term future of the station. A future that apparently doesn't include the folks who over many years made the station and its locally steeped sound. Ostensibly about music, money, and planning, it was also a story about lifelong loyal staffers thrown away like worn-out transmitters.

Honorable Mention: ARA BLUES REVIEW

The Austin Revitalization Authority has come under steady criticism over the years for accomplishing too little Eastside redevelopment with city resources, and a city audit this year formalized that judgment, albeit without a resolution. The city manager's office said it is "not advisable to continue the relationship as currently structured nor to bring to close our partnership." Meanwhile, longtime President Byron Marshall debarked for Richmond, Va., and what the refigured "partnership" should look like is yet to be determined; City Council should decide on that sometime in the next few months.

8) THE HUSTLE GETS MOHAWKED This column's personal campaign trail highlight was the *Chronicle's* own "Hustle for Mayor" forum at the Mohawk, where Leffingwell, McCracken, and yours truly traded questions and, yes, rhymes on the issues facing Austin. If only Brewster's freestyles had come a little harder ...

9) HELLO, LEE The new mayor came in with a lengthy laundry list of meeting efficiencies. Some – like capping staff presentations and breezing through the consent agenda – proved uncontroversial, but moving zoning hearings to 2pm (while moving controversial cases later in the day) garnered grumbles, and limiting regular citizen communication speakers to one in three meetings produced howls of protest – from the speakers, natch.

city
hall
hustle



Still waiting for the train

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

TOP 9 CAP METRO DERAILMENTS

BY LEE NICHOLS

1) DING, DONG, THE WITCH IS DEAD The seven-year tenure of Fred Gilliam as Capital Metro's president/CEO saw a labor strike, a financial crisis, and a commuter rail system that still hasn't debuted two years after its originally scheduled start date – few tears were shed when he waved goodbye.

2) NO, THIS TIME WE MEAN IT The debut of MetroRail has had so many delays and setbacks that for a while, Cap Metro quit predicting a date. Now it's shooting for the first quarter of 2010.

3) BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A FEW MILLION? The quick spend-down of Cap Metro's reserves unfortunately coincided with a global economic crisis and downturn in tax revenues. Oops.

4) NEW MOTTO: LESS FOR MORE In keeping with No. 3, Cap Metro hiked fares while simultaneously cutting back on some routes to balance the budget.

5) KILLING THE 'DILLO If the new rail ever starts, Cap Metro will need a Downtown cir-

culator more than ever – yet it chose this moment to “suspend” the 'Dillo service.

6) STICKING IT TO LABOR I In a naked move to pay workers less, routes were shifted from the better-paying StarTran labor contractor to the lower-wage Veolia Transportation and First Transit.

7) STICKING IT TO LABOR II Almost as bold: The transit agency fired the union leader, Jay Wyatt, on some murky charges of sexual harassment – still to be reviewed.

8) NONPROFITS NONINTERESTED The agency wants to start a nonprofit to see to the needs of low-income, transit-dependent citizens. Charities reply: “Isn't that your job?”

9) BEAT IT Depending on who you believe, contractor Veolia Transportation has either been a cause of MetroRail's delays or a scapegoat. Cap Metro says firing the France-based company in December will ensure MetroRail gets launched in time; we'll see.



MetroRail seats remain empty.

AMOA

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART



Photo: Jimmy Jalapeno

DAVID BATES

ALSO
ON
VIEW

New Works: Jade Walker

Collection Selections

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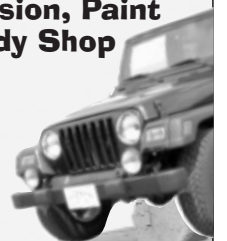
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TOP 9 STATE STORIES

BY LEE NICHOLS, RICHARD WHITTAKER,
AND AMY SMITH

1) FORT HOOD RAMPAGE A routine day at a Central Texas Army base turned deadly Nov. 5, when a gunman suddenly fired on a crowd of people in a processing center. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, has since been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder.

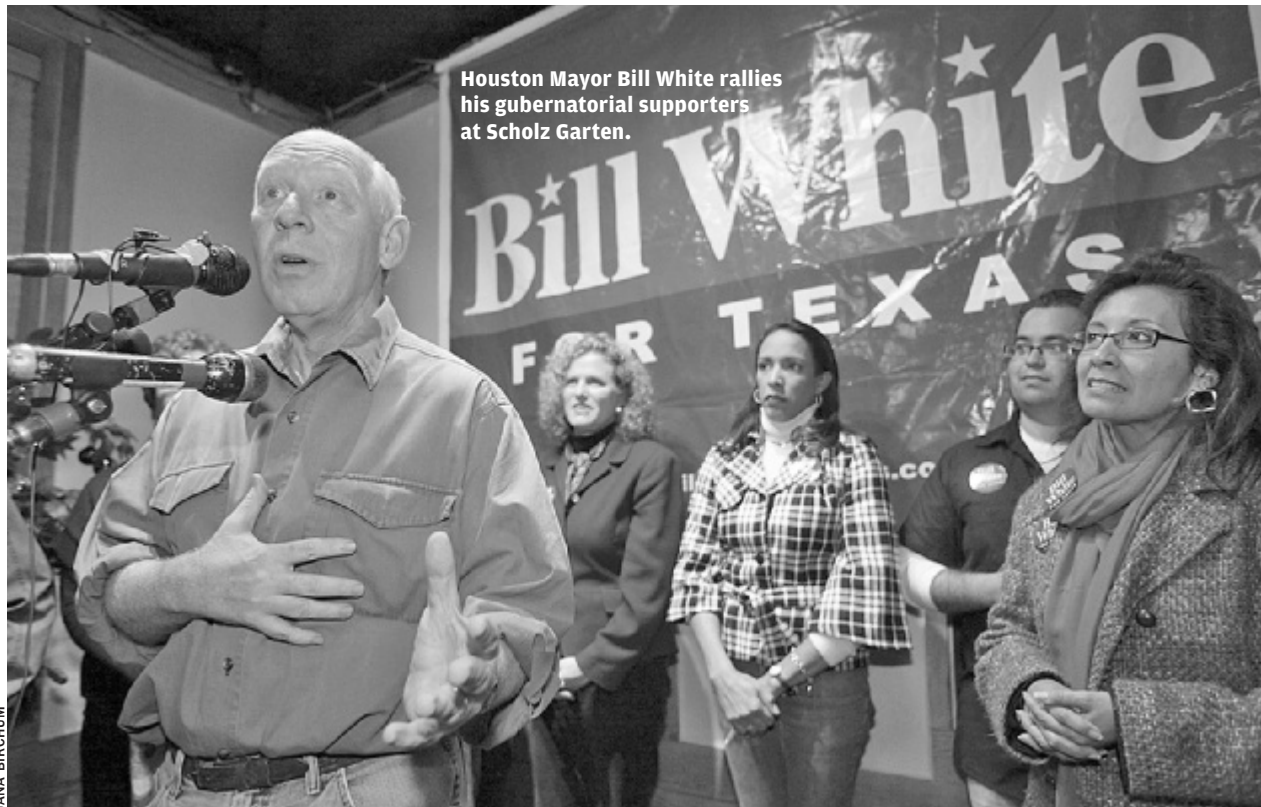
2) TEXAS TUMBLE It turns out Texas wasn't so recession-proof after all. Unemployment hit 8.3% by October, the backlog of food stamp applications swelled beyond control, and sales-tax receipts started a yearlong decline, dropping more than 14% between November 2008 and November 2009.

3) TEA, ANYONE? The secession question took center stage when Gov. Rick Perry, toying with the emotions and votes of reactionary tea-partiers, mused about the prospect of an independent Texas. Unfortunately for him, the Constitution says no dice, so the tea party crowd pinned its hopes on the God-'n'-guns stylings of primary challenger Debra Medina instead.

4) DECK CHAIRS ON THE TITANIC The 2010 primaries turned into the Mad Hatter's tea party. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison filed to run for governor but refused to give up her seat in D.C.; Ambassador Tom Schieffer jumped into the governor's race, then jumped out; Houston Mayor Bill White wanted to be a U.S. senator, and now he wants to be governor; and ex-gubernatorial hopefuls Hank Gilbert and Kinky Friedman are fighting to be ag commissioner.

5) COMMUNIST PLOT State conservatives wrapped their tinfoil hats extra tight when President Barack Obama's back-to-school speech was broadcast to students Sept. 8. Claiming it was some form of indoctrination, they went on to picket his Oct. 16 speech on volunteerism to Texas A&M students.

6) STATE BOARD OF WHAT? Fundamentalists on the State Board of Education tried to push through language watering down the teaching of evolution back in the spring, making Texas a national laughingstock. They were only partially suc-



Houston Mayor Bill White rallies his gubernatorial supporters at Scholz Garten.

JANA BIRCHUM

cessful. Now they're setting their sights on social studies, and the culture wars rage on.

7) NICE TRADE-OFF One of the biggest perks of Texas governors is their ability to turn campaign contributors into powerful appointees, regardless of their lack of qualifications. In Rick Perry's case, the gov denies that the \$5 million he'd received in donations from several of his 2009 appointees affected his decision to reward them for their generosity.

8) PANDEMIC OR PANIC? Protective face masks became the wardrobe accessory of the year as swine flu swept across Texas with a vengeance, prompting schools to temporarily shutter their doors and cancel sporting events.

9) DANCING WITH THE (FALLEN) CZAR You can't keep a bad man down, especially if he's light on his feet, as former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay demonstrated during his brief tenure on *Dancing With the Stars*.

TOP 9 LEGE STORIES

BY LEE NICHOLS AND RICHARD WHITTAKER



House Speaker Joe Straus takes the oath of office.

1) TIME TO KILL THE KING With the House split 76-74, the imperial rule of Speaker Tom Craddick came to an end. When it became clear that he wouldn't survive the bipartisan ABC (Anyone But Craddick) Alliance, he withdrew, yielding the gavel to user-friendly Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio.

2) SHIFTY RICK Gov. Rick Perry made a big deal about rejecting \$555 million in federal stimulus cash for unemployment benefits and then – seemingly without irony – touted his signing of a supposedly balanced state budget that was back-filled with \$16 billion in stimulus dollars.

3) WAS IT SOMETHING SHE SAID? Rep. Betty Brown, R-Terrell, left jaws on the floor of the House Elections Committee when she asked Ramey Ko of the Organization of Chinese Americans, “Do you think that it would behoove you and your citizens to adopt a name that we could deal with more readily here?”

4) SPARING THE ROD Reports of the death of Austin-bashing at the Lege may be greatly exaggerated, but the constant criticism of the capital city faded a bit under the dome in the 2009 session.

5) THE AGE OF DINOSAURS How to suitably celebrate changing the official state dinosaur from *Brachiosaurus Sauropod*, *Pleurocoelus* to *Paluxysaurus jonesi*? By having Reps. Mark Homer and Mike “Tuffy” Hamilton dress up as dinosaurs on the House floor while the resolution is read. A memorable moment in a session most people are still trying to forget.

6) BACK SO SOON? The House gavelled out June 1, thinking everything was settled. But the Senate pulled a fast one, rejecting House measures to keep state agencies operating and provide \$2 billion in transportation bonds, thus forcing a special session. Sine die? Sine don't.

7) NOT SO SPECIAL With the main session chubbied to death, there was a load of pending business that the Legislature could have settled in a special session. Instead, Gov. Rick Perry called lawmakers back for only four issues. They returned on July 1, passed two of the four, and fled the midsummer heat wave after 31 hours.

8) IDENTITY ISSUES The Republicans were determined to stop the phantom voter impersonation problem, even if it meant grinding the Lege to a halt. First they forced an all-nighter to suspend venerable Senate rules to get voter ID through the Senate, then they nearly killed the entire session in the House when they forced Democrats to endlessly chub to protect voter rights.

9) HALF-COCKED Lawmakers came dangerously close to overturning the ban on firearms at state university campuses, but sanity ultimately prevailed. Gun-toting Garland Rep. Joe Driver was among those angling to reverse the ban, arguing: “If it's a concealed handgun license, nobody's gonna know who has a weapon. That's part of the beauty of the concealed handgun license.”

JOHN ANDERSON

on the
lege

TOP 9 MEDIA STORIES

BY KEVIN BRASS

1) WETBACK SETBACKS KLBJ-AM morning hosts Todd Jeffries and Don Pryor were suspended after Pryor repeatedly used the term "wetback" on the air. Faced with protests from the Hispanic community, parent company Emmis Communications condemned the language and vowed to become more culturally sensitive. A few months later, Emmis management proved its politically correct resolve by suspending 101X's *The Morning X* deejays, Jason Dick and Deb O'Keefe, for joking about "wet vacs."

2) 'STATESMAN' NOT FOR SALE For a year, Cox Newspapers entertained offers for the *Austin American-Statesman*. But with the newspaper industry in full spiral, Cox didn't like the lowball bids and ultimately decided to take the paper off the market. Staffers applauded. Readers yawned.

3) BMP IMPLODES In a tumultuous year for local radio, not one element affected Austin more than the collapse of Border Media Partners, which dreamed of creating an empire of Spanish-language stations, including seven in Austin. BMP moved to create a Mexican-flavored edge to the local dial, with new formats like La Ley. Instead the company was taken over by its lenders in 2009 and La Ley was La Bye Bye.

4) KLRU WOES Public broadcasting affiliate KLRU's financial issues were hardly a surprise, but few knew the extent of the problem. In the spring, the station said it was facing a shortfall of almost \$1 million; 20% of the staff was jettisoned, and a chunk of the station's slim roster of local programming was suspended while management tried to regroup.

5) TV NEWS LITE The slimming down of local TV news continued with CBS-affiliate KEYE and Fox affiliate KTBC both trimming staff. KEYE dropped its morning show in favor of the *JB & Sandy Morning Show* and added a 4pm show apparently geared for viewers with a fifth-grade edu-

cation. The exception to the trend: NBC affiliate KXAN, which actually moved to bolster its government coverage and in-depth reporting.

6) WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS ... As the year drew to a close, the local radio stations exploded into a game of musical chairs. Jammin' was toast. The Beat was back. Sports talk appeared on the FM dial. Crusty Sammy Allred returned to the air. KGSR switched frequencies. And, strangely, when all the moves were done, radio still sounded the same.

7) KUT CONTROVERSY Perhaps management of the public radio station thought no one would notice when they decided to cut back longtime disc jockeys Larry Monroe and Paul Ray. Instead fans organized a protest against the station, raised money, staged events, and recruited more than 1,700 Facebook fans. Management said the protests didn't affect fundraising, but the controversy raised serious issues about the station's direction and the broader role of public radio.

8) DENBERG DEPARTS Jody Denberg's voluntary exit from KGSR signaled the end of an era. For 19 years he represented the blend of blues, rock, and country that has developed into a distinctly Austin sound. Low-key, knowledgeable, and well-connected, he was an Austin fixture and undoubtedly the only local deejay who could get Yoko Ono on the phone.

9) TEXAS TRIBUNE LAUNCHES In a bleak landscape for news organizations, the Texas Tribune emerged to offer hope for the future. A nonprofit with serious sugar daddy funding and former *Texas Monthly* Editor Evan Smith at the helm, the Tribune hired a roster of veteran reporters and launched into the world. The result is a good-looking site and a stream of interesting stories, suggesting that an alternative model might emerge to develop serious news for serious people.

media watch



The Austin American-Statesman building

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TOP 9 DEVELOPING STORIES BY KATHERINE GREGOR

1) PLANNING-A-GO-GO This year saw a harmonic convergence of major planning efforts shaping the region. If properly synced up, they could herald a tipping point – a course correction for Central Texas' future. The city of Austin is progressing on a comprehensive plan, Strategic Mobility Plan, Downtown Austin Plan, and Waller Creek District Master Plan; it also completed a Comprehensive Housing Market Study. Travis County embarked on a comprehensive planning effort too, and it's preparing a master plan for its central campus Downtown and other facilities. To aid in wise land conservation, we also gained the completed Central Texas Greenprint for Growth.

2) THINKING COMPREHENSIVELY Notable unto itself, Austin finally began the process of creating a new comprehensive plan. The last one was adopted in 1979. Consultant WRT was hired and began work, a citizens' advisory group (which ballooned to 38 members) was named, and an Imagine Austin campaign kicked off.

3) MULLING 'GOOD' DEVELOPMENT Are central Austinites determined to remain anti-developer, no matter what? That's still a question as we uneasily embrace new development patterns. This year saw increased acceptance (or at least discussion) of national models for density-over-sprawl embraced elsewhere: New Urbanism, transit-oriented development, and form-based code.

4) SPRAWL AND GROW Round Rock grew by 8.6% – making it the second fastest-growing city in the nation, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures released in July. Other 'burbs grew fast, too. The change for Austin was just 2.5%; that translated to a net gain of more than 18,000 people, making us the No. 9 city for population gains nationwide, and now the 15th largest U.S. city, according to U.S. Census Bureau 2007-2008 data released in August.

5) DODGING THE BUBBLE Development was mostly not happening in 2009, thanks to the financial market's meltdown. Building cranes are becoming an endangered species Downtown. Nevertheless, Austin enjoyed some of the most stable home values in the U.S.

6) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PROJECTS PLOD ALONG Mueller, which took more than 15 years to break ground, enjoyed steady 2009 progress and earned sustainable neighborhood certification. The design process for the new Central Austin Library began – after the city took nearly 10 months to finalize the architects' contract. The \$300 million W Austin Hotel & Residences project on Block 21 finally started construction, then lost its financing, then found replacement financing. All is silent on the Green Water Treatment Plant redevelopment, awarded to a Trammell Crow team; sealed negotiations continue, but no deal was inked. Worst of all, Seaholm is still a year away from breaking ground. The city's public-private deals drag out forever – suggesting the need for tougher “do it or lose it” contracts.

7) A TRANSPORTING YEAR The new Austin Transportation Department made rapid strides on mobility: a more sustainable roadway, bikeway, walkway, and transit system. It completed a circulation study of Central Austin that confirms roads leading into Downtown can't handle any more cars – we need other modes. It launched a Strategic Mobility Plan and an Urban Rail Program. We gained miles and miles of bike lanes. In progress: preliminary engineering and environmental work needed to allow a November 2010 transportation referendum, to include rail and other projects.

8) DOWNTOWN PERCOLATES Despite the recession, loads of people still patronize Downtown entertainment, dining, and drinking venues. Only about 400 under-construction condo units remain unsold. On the Downtown Austin Plan, major compo-

nents completed in 2009 include a parks and open space plan, a transportation framework plan, an affordable housing and density bonus strategy, and a proposal to protect the Warehouse District. But the 'Dillo died, commuter rail never arrived, and the long-discussed rail transit for the central city remains uncertain.

9) PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BLOOM New director Sara Hensley hit her stride in the Parks and Recreation Department; she even managed to forge an amicable resolution of the controversy over removing aged Barton Springs trees. The Walk for a Day trail became real, receiving more than \$400,000 in federal funds. The Lady Bird Lake Trail saw many improvements; the boardwalk plan progressed – but wasn't awarded any federal funds. The new PARD boathouse got a design rehash and a promise to open bidding to more potential users. The Austin Parks Foundation completed Phase I renovations of Republic Park, while Waterloo Park began a place-making intervention from Project for Public Spaces. Plant a New Year's tree, people!

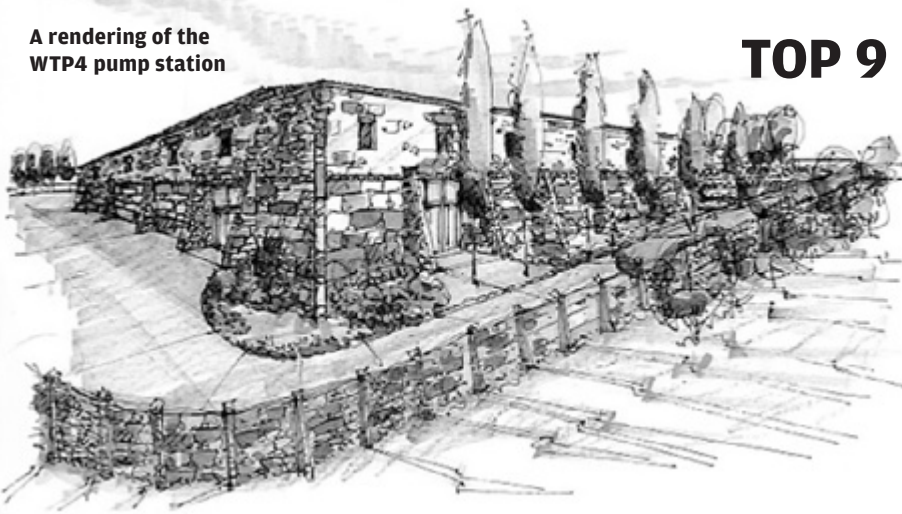
DEVELOPING
stories



The Mueller neighborhood won certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

JANA BIRCHUM

A rendering of the WTP4 pump station



1) DROUGHT DEVASTATION A hotter 'n hell summer and the driest period since the Fifties prompted city and regional utilities to enforce mandatory water restrictions – until steady autumn rains washed us out of the danger zone. Meanwhile, the Lower Colorado River Authority set about fashioning a forward-looking regional water plan with a special emphasis on conservation.

2) WTP4 DEBATE The half-billion-dollar Water Treatment Plant No. 4 got the City Council go-ahead despite a recession, a record-breaking drought, an incomplete environmental-impact study, and opposition from environmentalists and Lake Travis businesses. Great news for supporters of the plant; not so great for those who believe conservation could do the trick without the price tag – and without the hit to a waning precious resource.

TOP 9 ENVIRO STORIES BY AMY SMITH AND NORA ANKRUM

3) TIME TO ROLL ON COAL? Austin Energy's proposed generation plan sparked debate about how soon is too soon to get out of coal – and how much is too much to invest in a clean energy future. City Council will address that question in 2010.

4) SAVING THE TREES All hell broke loose when city parks officials announced that 28 trees at Barton Springs Pool would get the axe because their aged and diseased state threatened the health and safety of the public. After loud protests, Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hensley did something different: She listened and compromised. In the end, only three trees had to come down.

5) NOW THAT'S SOLID Acknowledging a serious lack of progress on Austin's recycling program, the city booted its old-school Solid Waste Services director upstairs and hired a new green-minded leader to revamp the department.

6) FLUSH IT The Austin Water Utility yanked the reins on rebating apartments and businesses for low-flow toilets, and Austin Energy was forced to rethink its solar rebate program, as the number of rebate applications

exceeded the cash available to fund the popular subsidy programs.

7) GRIDDING FOR THE FUTURE It may have started out as a pipe dream, but the ambitious Pecan Street Project picked up a \$10.4 million boost from the U.S.

Department of Energy to develop a smart-grid demonstration in the Mueller neighborhood; former City Council Member Brewster McCracken will lead the PSP effort.

8) A HEAP OF TIRE TROUBLE The state environmental agency and the Austin Police Department launched investigations into city-owned scrap tires languishing in a field southeast of Downtown, in violation of state law. The man-made paradise for mosquitoes and snakes is also a sign of deeper management trouble at the Fleet Services Division.

9) QUARRY NOT SO HUNKY-DORY Travis County commissioners punted a decision on the proposed TXI gravel quarry into the new year; meanwhile, a committee will review the quarry's potential impact on nearby subdivisions in this unincorporated area east of Austin, hoping for mediation where the county has few regulatory tools.

TOP 9 AUSTIN WEIRDNESSES

- 1) **CAROLE SPRINGS ETERNAL** Grandma Keeton Strayhorn, Austin's political Energizer bunny, just keeps on running.
- 2) **TEXAS TEA-TIME** Rick Perry panders to loonies and ponders secession.
- 3) **ALLRED AND ALL RIGHT** Exiled Sammy returns to radio as a "Big Talker" – with Glenn Beck!
- 4) **MUD MUSIC** Austin City Limits Festival + major downpour = stinking sea of sludge.
- 5) **JOSIAH FOR MAYOR** With Jennifer Gale gone, Ingalls picks up the torch.
- 6) **MACK "MO' MONEY" BROWN** Country, state, and university in fiscal crisis – but not the football coach!
- 7) **CRENSHAW VS. KITE** Ben and Tom, two golf icons, take opposite sides of "Save Munny" fight.
- 8) **TWO HALF-WIT MEN** Charlie Sheen and Alex Jones form a New World Order of Lunatics.
- 9) **TOP 9S** The *Chronicle* can't count to 10!

TOP 9 FINAL EXITS

- 1) **ROY BUTLER** The former mayor engaged his city until the end.
- 2) **LOWELL LEBERMANN** From boardrooms to politics to beer, an Austin mover and shaker.
- 3) **MINA BREES** departed under curious circumstances, estranged from life.
- 4) **SCOTT OZMUN** Risen to the bench, then abruptly gone.
- 5) **24 DEATH ROW INMATES** Executed for political reasons, their blood is on all our hands.
- 6) **FARRAH FAWCETT** Texas ex immortalized in stone by Charles Umlauf – forever young.
- 7) **ROBIN SHIVERS** Cut short much too soon after a life of generosity.
- 8) **IRIAS, RAMIREZ, AND LOPEZ** Young high-rise workers killed by corporate neglect.
- 9) **TRAVIS LARUE** The other dead former mayor – at 96 years, and a few days after Butler.



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TOP 9 CRIMINAL JUSTICE STORIES

BY JORDAN SMITH

1) ANOTHER EASTSIDE SHOOTING In May, Austin Police Officer Leonardo Quintana fatally shot 18-year-old Nathaniel Sanders II in the parking lot of the Walnut Creek apartments. With a federal civil lawsuit pending, this story will linger in 2010.

2) DAMAGED GOODS In the fallout from the Sanders shooting, Police Chief Art Acevedo fired Internal Affairs Detective Chris Dunn, for two e-mails demonstrating his bias toward Quintana in the shooting investigation. Dunn will appeal, so expect to read this, too, in the new year.

3) AN END TO THE NEVER-ENDING CRIME STORY? Eighteen years after the grisly murder of four teen girls at a North Austin yogurt shop, new DNA evidence forced District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg to dismiss all charges against the two remaining defendants in the case, Robert Springsteen and Michael Scott.

4) ROBES OFF, ROBES ON After her handy 2008 victory, in January Lehmberg was sworn in as the county's first female district attorney. As the year closed, Criminal District Judges Wilford Flowers, Bob Perkins, and Charlie Baird all announced they would retire in 2010, heating up the spring race for the benches.

5) THOU SHALT NOT DISCRIMINATE After three years of legal wrangling, the city won the lawsuit brought by former APD Officer Ramon Perez, who alleged he was forced to resign not because he underperformed but because his supervisors didn't care for his religious beliefs. A federal jury just didn't agree.

6) NEVER TOO LATE TO CORRECT THE RECORD In February, Judge Charlie Baird handed down the state's first posthumous exoneration of a wrongfully convicted man. Timothy Cole was convicted for a 1985 rape in Lubbock that he did not commit; he had died in prison before he could clear his name. Gov. Rick Perry has said Texas law prohibits him from formally pardoning Cole, much to the consternation of Cole's family – brother Cory Session says he'll dog the governor until his brother is officially cleared.

Funeral for Nathaniel Sanders II



JOHN ANDERSON

Yogurt shop defendants Michael Scott and Robert Springsteen leave the Travis County Jail.



JANA BIRCHUM

7) THE FIRE THIS TIME Did the state of Texas execute an innocent man based on junk fire-science? That's the question in the case of Cameron Todd Willingham, executed in 2004 for the arson-murder of his three young children. The state's Forensic Science Commission was about to address that question when Perry replaced three members of the commission just two days before it was slated to hear expert testimony. Adding oxygen to the flames, Perry appointed as chair Williamson County District Attorney John Bradley; unsurprisingly, Bradley has put on indefinite hold the commission's review of the use of fire science in Texas courts.

8) LEGITIMATE PUBLIC CONCERN In March, the *Chronicle* won a lawsuit against the city of Austin, forcing the release of the Austin Police Department offense report connected to the infamous 1991-1992 Fran and Dan Keller day-care child abuse case. The report revealed a shoddy inquiry by credulous investigators who believed every allegation a child made – no matter how ludicrous or impossible.

9) SHOOTING FANS IN A BARREL Angry about missing their stage time at the now-defunct Spiros nightclub, Brandon and LaBaaron Hutchison, two Central Texas rappers with the LG Allstarz, got rough with the promoter and then, ejected, retaliated by brandishing pistols and shooting randomly into the crowd of fans trying to leave the club. Eight people were shot; all recovered. That was that for the Hutchison boys – and for Spiros, which surrendered its liquor license and was soon shuttered.

TOP 9 JOINTS

BY JORDAN SMITH

1) PATIENTS FREE TO INHALE

Keeping a presidential campaign promise, President Barack Obama's Department of Justice sent out an official memo to federal prosecutors in October advising them to end raids on patients using medi-pot in compliance with state law.

2) SOME LIKE IT POT

A home movie of Marilyn Monroe that purports to show the blond bombshell taking a joint while lounging on the couch hit the Internet this fall. Suffice to say, the sleepy-eyed actress can even make sniffing an armpit look sexy.

3) DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S

SMOKING Rep. Charles "Doc" Anderson, R-Waco, did his rootin' too-tin' best to criminalize the sale of *Salvia divinorum* – the most potent naturally occurring hallucinogen – but his colleagues just weren't buying it. Researchers think the plant might have potential to treat schizophrenia and other mental illnesses, which is why they want to ward off threats to its availability. In the end, lawmakers made only its sale to minors illegal.

4) FRUSTRATED FARMERS JAILED Hemp farmer hopefuls were arrested in October for digging up the lawn at the headquarters of the Drug Enforcement Administration to plant industrial hemp, a non-narcotic crop the DEA considers to be nothing more than dope. Among those arrested was North Dakota farmer Wayne Hauge, who is licensed to grow the crop but whose efforts to do so have been stymied by the DEA. Hauge has been battling the DEA for several years in federal court, and now the farmers are looking to Congress to take action. You can bet this story will germinate through 2010.

5) CRACKING THE COCAINE DISPARITY

Congress finally voted in favor of ending the infamous 100-to-one crack-to-powder cocaine sentencing disparity codified in 1986. The new law would eliminate any distinction between crack and powder in federal law and significantly do away with the mandatory minimum five-year turn in the clink for possession of just 5 grams of crack. The change in law isn't final yet – and there's certainly more hand-wringing on tap from lawmakers who don't want to appear soft on drugs – but it's as close to a done deal as you'll find on the otherwise grim drug war landscape.

6) PRICKS KILL NEEDLES ... AGAIN

Once again, a bill that would let local health departments establish anonymous one-for-one needle exchange programs died a frustratingly slow death at the Capitol, meaning Texas remains the only state in the country without some form of legal needle exchange to combat the spread of communicable disease.



7) WE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT IN EL

PASO Apparently there are some things not up for debate in El Paso – at least that's the lesson members of the City Council learned this year when they tried to jump-start a conversation about drug prohibition. On the front line of the drug war, the city was looking to offer support to its sister city, Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. But that ain't cool, said members of the city's Lege delegation, who said such a discussion would be embarrassing to the city. As it turned out, with the story gaining national attention, the truncating of open debate was far more shameful.

8) POT FROM COAST TO COAST

In an effort to boost the state's seriously ailing budget, drug-law reformers in California worked to get a legalize-and-tax-and-regulate pot initiative onto next year's ballot, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger even said it's time to debate the merits of legalization. Meanwhile in D.C., federal lawmakers put the district one step closer to enacting a medi-pot law that voters there approved in 1998. At the time, Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia (now a flaming Libertarian) penned a measure that would strip the city of its budget should it try to implement the law. This summer, lawmakers finally voted to revoke the Barr Amendment, restoring at least a modicum of sovereignty to the city.

9) YOUR CHOICE: TREATMENT OR JAIL

After years of hearing the nation's drug czar jaw on and on about how potent pot is sending more tokers in search of medical help to quit their habit, the feds this year released a new set of statistics showing that – surprise, surprise! – 56% of people admitted to rehab for pot use have actually been sent there by the criminal justice system, as an alternative to going to jail for drug possession. Back to the drawing board, Mr. Czar.

reefer
MADNESS

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

POUTING POLITICAL FUNDERS

People are miffed. Many of Barack Obama's strongest supporters are getting angry at his policies, and they are beginning to speak out about their frustrations.

I don't mean those of us who are somewhere between dismayed and outraged about Obama's equivocating, establishment-appeasing policies on such huge issues as health insurance reform, the Wall Street bail-out, and the escalation of his Afghanistan war. No, I'm talking about some of his wealthiest campaign funders.

It seems that they're in a deepening pout because the president is not giving them the attention they feel they so richly deserve. Some are practically having hissy fits that Obama's rather stringent ethics policies are excluding them from getting such perks as sleepovers in the Lincoln Bedroom or such plum jobs as ambassador to the Island Republic of Nirvana. "I've had almost no communication with the White House," whined a funder from Miami who had raised \$5.5 million for Obama. "There is no connection between the administration and money people ... as far as the fun stuff," he moaned.

Likewise, a Hollywood funder who had bundled beaucoup bucks for Obama complained that all he has received is an invitation to a policy briefing in Washington. "Is that a perk?" he asked incredulously. "Under Clinton," this donor pointed out, "we did spend time in the White House. We did spend time in Camp David." But under Obama, he says with palpable frustration, "there's so much less of that than I think ever occurred in the past."

No doubt you share their pain. Or, perhaps you share my delight that instead of coddling big money donors with business-as-usual favors, Obama has had the integrity to say: "Thank you, but no." As one sensible fundraiser put it, "It would be silly for me to say we wouldn't all love to be invited to the White House, but it isn't why we [support him]. I have no aspiration to [get] the perks." And that's how it should be.

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

NUTTY FOR HEALTH CARE

One advantage of seeing our stalwart solons engage in such a heated, drawn-out legislative tussle as the present health care debate in Congress is that it's so edifying for the masses. The debate allows many ordinary citizens to see firsthand that their own representative is, indeed, dumber than a dust bunny.

Take Jim Inhofe. Please! Known as "the dumbest senator of them all" (a hotly contested honor), this Oklahoma Republican conceded to a local reporter that while he doesn't like the Democrats' health insurance bill at all, he really knows nothing about what it actually does. "I don't have to read it or know what's in it," Inhofe explained. "I'm going to oppose it anyways."

And they say there are no more giants under the Capital Dome.

Moving from ignorant to spooky, several lawmakers fall into the Twilight Zone, reading things into the reform bill that aren't there. Rep. Steve King of Iowa, who seems to gargle every morning with a tall glass of goofiness, told MSNBC that the House bill "cancels every [health insurance] policy in America." Uh ... sir, no such thing exists in the bill.

But, wait - Rep. Michele Bachmann says she's seen this apparition, too. Known as the "Wacko of Central Minnesota," Bachmann ominously warned on Fox News that the bill will outlaw the "purchase [of] private health insurance." Later, apparently struck by a megaton surge of wackiness, Bachmann got so feverish that she blathered to a crowd: "What we have to do today is make a covenant to slit our wrists, be blood brothers on this thing. This will not pass."

These Congresscritters who are so dead-set against extending good health coverage to you get excellent socialized health care for themselves, courtesy of you and me, the taxpayers. Luckily, their coverage does include mental health benefits.



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My Top 10 of All Top 10s

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

An exercise in “know thyself”: List the Top 10 cultural artifacts that shaped you most. Be honest and unembarrassed. That’s the dare. Try it first thing this New Year’s.

Here I go, listed in reverse order. (Should it concern me that my Top 10 all found me by age 15?)

10) ‘100 SELECTED POEMS’ BY E.E. CUMMINGS At 14, I began to explore the cacophonous funkiness that was Times Square. There was this bookstore, half porn, half not. The counterman’s weary eyes didn’t care I was a kid. In that neighborhood, child molestation was a misdemeanor, but the human wreckage in this joint posed no threat. Why did I pick up Cummings? To pretend interest in a real book while ogling dirty mags. Read a page for show. Wow. Fairly skilled at petty theft, I filched the book. What a find. Language could misbehave! Language could play! Language could dance burlesque or ballet. And they called that “poetry.” And it opened worlds.

9) ‘THE WAR OF THE WORLDS’ (1953), DIRECTED BY BYRON HASKIN Scientists find the key to defeating the Martians just as the death machines descend on Los Angeles. They pile stuff into two trucks for a getaway to finish research that is Earth’s last chance. A mob jumps the trucks, pummels the scientists, smashes their devices. Hope is lost. I’m 7 or 8 years old. Utterly shocked. The behavior onscreen feels genuine. I look about the dark theatre with a wordless “You can’t trust these muthafuckas!” – sensing for the first time the disconnect between our intelligence and our fear.

8) At age 12, in one gulp, I read **ANDRE NORTON’S ‘STAR MAN’S SON,’ ‘STAR BORN,’ ‘THE STARS ARE OURS,’ AND ‘STAR GUARD.’** On every page I’m thinking, “She’s way better than Robert Heinlein!” It’s her prose. Nuanced, sonorous, not flat like Heinlein’s. By 12, I wanted to be a writer, and this was my first great discovery: How you shape a sentence matters. Rhythm and sound are one with meaning. That’s when I began to understand my mother’s instruction: “Remember, words are music.”

7) TV’S ‘HAVE GUN – WILL TRAVEL’ Richard Boone played the gunfighter Paladin. He wasn’t a WASP! He looked like my people. And he wasn’t taciturn. Paladin was intellectual and spoke well. Ideas mattered to him (many scripts were by Gene Roddenberry). Intellectuals could be tough! I’m 12. For the first time onscreen, here was someone I could imagine as me. It gave me a sense (boyish as it was) of the man I wanted to be.

6) ‘MINGUS AH UM’ Louis Armstrong’s music (see below) was all the worlds that are. Rock & roll was a piece of my world. The music of Charles Mingus was *the* world, the world of any room or street I knew. Madness, violence, tenderness, thought, love, hate, depth: It was all in his music, a survivor’s jazz, a jazz of survival, sounds I grasped but couldn’t articulate, hearing Mingus while getting drunk for the first time with Dave, age 15. Mingus meant for his music to teach, and this it taught me: To be a survivor doesn’t mean merely to survive; it means you survive and remember and make your remembrance matter.

5) TV’S ‘THE BIG BEAT’ AND ‘AMERICAN BANDSTAND’ You came home from school, turned on the TV, and watched those kids dance. Alan Freed’s *The Big Beat* had black and white kids on the same dance floor – which is why he was canceled. Dick Clark’s *American Bandstand* had white dancers but black and white performers (Jackie Wilson, Wanda Jackson, Chuck Berry), and the integrated group, the Impalas (“Sorry (I Ran All the Way Home)”). It was the late Fifties, early Sixties. Rock & roll hadn’t fragmented into niches. You heard and saw it all, live, every weekday. Watching kids your age dance, imitating the dances, inventing your own moves – there was something to it, a thrilling bodily communication that has gone largely unheralded (perhaps because most critics I know can’t dance a lick). Elvis had been the breakthrough, moving in public as no white man had dared, but this daily dancing, this almost-taken-for-granted celebration, set something free. By age 14 I could really dance. You can’t learn anything more wonderful. To dance is, as Lawrence Durrell put it, “a beautiful behavior.”

4) ‘THE FIVE PENNIES’ (1959), DIRECTED BY MELVILLE SHAVELSON A corny biopic with Danny Kaye as band-leader Red Nichols, but, oh my God, Louis Armstrong. His horn went right through me. That is not a cliché. His sound tuned and realigned my spinal cord (which I typed just now as “chord” – more to the point). Armstrong is, to use Duke Ellington’s highest phrase of praise, “beyond category.” His tone astounds. His liberty is absolute. What he does rises so far above its source it exists on another plane entirely. Used any money I’d earn or steal to buy Armstrong records, and, on the way, any record with a trumpet on the jacket, such as Miles Davis’ *Kind of Blue*. My first serious tries at writing were prose poems about jazz. Jazz became my template for how I try to play the page.



JASON STOUT

3) ‘HONDO’ (1953), DIRECTED BY JOHN FARROW I’m this effeminate kid, very fey, never won a fight. I won’t survive unhumiliated on the mean streets of home the way my Creator made me. But look at John Wayne in *Hondo*. How he walks, how he looks people in the eye – not defiantly, just evenly, almost solemnly. Westerns rated my serious attention. Wayne, Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott. I see they’re not messed with because they know how to walk, how to stand, how to look eye to eye. Starting with *Hondo*, I imitate them. Took me a while, but once I got it down, the bad boys stopped messing with me. Which, in a way, was comical. I still couldn’t win if they fought me, but they didn’t know that anymore. If you stand a good stance and can meet a guy’s eyes – not challenging, just meeting – you likely won’t have to fight him. Where I’ve been, where I still sometimes go, that’s important. Blessings on John Wayne. He showed me how to save my own life.

2) TV’S ‘ROUTE 66’ (1960-1964), WRITTEN BY STIRLING SILLIPHANT BEFORE HE WENT SAPPY In 1956 Gogi Grant had a No. 1 hit with “The Wayward Wind,” a song about a rambler. It stirred me – even at age 10 or 11, I wanted to get out, get away, somewhere, somehow. To make the break, I needed a story, a model. Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road* was fine, but I couldn’t see myself in its characters. I was after something more than Kerouac’s

“kicks.” *Route 66*’s Tod (Martin Milner) and Buz (George Maharis) took to the road in search of meaning. Worked odd jobs wherever they went. Met incredible, marvelously crazy women – Lois Smith, Lois Nettleton, Julie Newmar, Tuesday Weld. And everywhere they went they found a piece of meaning, a fragment. Insights, not answers. Silliphant’s Tennessee-Williams-on-the-jukebox dialogue blew my young mind. Tod saying: “We have to become lost before we can find ourselves, Buz. That’s the kind of map you make up as you go along.” So in high school they’re asking me about careers: “I want to roam the country, work as I find work, meet gloriously crazy women, and write.” They said I wasn’t being practical. But I wanted nothing else, and it’s what I finally did. All in all, it’s worked out pretty well.

1) A WESTERN PROGRAM ON THE RADIO Learned to tell time waiting for it. Maybe *Red Ryder*? Can’t recall. I’m 3, 4 years old. Mama and I would listen, so intent, while she smoked and I had milk and cake. Program over, we rearrange the furniture, act out what we’d heard, playing all the roles. She was 29-ish, gorgeous, brilliant. Nothing is more beautiful or more fraught with danger than a mother with her firstborn. I remember no details, only the cushiony sofa arm that was my horse. But my wee imagination in play with her wondrously strange mind – I suspect I learned more than I’d ever learn again. ■



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THE arts

MORE THAN SURVIVED

In dismal 2009, Austin's arts scene fared better than you might think

BY ROBERT FAIRES

Well, that wasn't a very good year, was it?

So goes the thinking of most people, in the arts community and outside it, and considering the economic shitstorm we were all in throughout 2009, who can blame them? Still, the final year of the Distaught Aughts was not quite the calamity for Austin's cultural scene that many feared. Our larger institutions are still standing – are, in fact, still on pretty solid footing financially. There have been painful cutbacks and layoffs, yes, but no tsunamis of red ink swamping them as in many other cities. What losses Austin suffered were regrettable but not catastrophic: the Austin Museum of Art's cancellation (again) of its new Downtown home, Conspirare's postponement of a new work, testsite going into hibernation, Geppetto Dreams Puppet Company closing shop. We lost Arturo Palacios' gallery Art Palace, true, but to Houston, where he moved it, not to a treacherous economy.

When you review the year, Austin's arts scene was full of more good news than bad: Bass Concert Hall reopening after its 20-month shutdown; Arthouse breaking ground for its renovation; the University of Texas Department of Art and Art History building its new Lake|Flato-designed Visual Arts Center; Zach Theatre expanding its campus and getting designs for the Topfer Theatre; the hirings of Ned Rifkin at the Blanton Museum of Art, Kathy Panoff at the UT Performing Arts Center (now Texas Performing Arts), and Ann Hume Wilson at Conspirare; and more flurries of national recognition for local creatives: Conspirare's PBS special and fifth Grammy nomination, Latino Comedy Project's Emmy nomination, David Bologna's Tony nomination, Okay Mountain's Pulse Contemporary Art Fair prize, Cap City Comedy Club's Best Club to Work nod at the Aspen Rooftop Comedy Festival, UT grad student Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig's two major playwriting prizes.

Our true losses were people – those who gave so much to make our creative scene one to which the rest of the country increasingly pays attention: Tina Marsh, Bill Narum, Robert Dale Anderson, Lou Perryman, Bernard Gastler, Lucia Rodriguez, Gina Ducloux, Emma Barrientos, Sara Medina-Pape, Carlos Rivera Pineda, and Shekhar Govind. They will be deeply missed, but the work they did – and the work being done by so many – helped ensure that our cultural community did more than survive this past year. It thrived. ■



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TOP 9 THEATRE PRODUCTIONS OF 2009

THAT DID ASCEND THE BRIGHTEST HEAVEN OF INVENTION BY ROBERT FAIRES

1) 'BOBRAUSCHENBERGAMERICA' (MARY MOODY NORTHEN THEATRE) Modern art's master of collage celebrated in a theatrical mash-up of chicken jokes, picnics, pingpong ball cloud-bursts, lovers' spats, boot-scootin' Whitmanesque rhapsodies, and more. As offbeat, vibrant, and eager to see wonder in the mundane as Rauschenberg's work, this boisterous joyride was so exhilarating that when it ended, I wanted it to start all over again.

2) 'SPRING AWAKENING' (TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS) Even the vastness of Bass Concert Hall couldn't diffuse the raw, intensely personal energy of this Broadway touring show as its 19th century teens suffered their adolescent angst and sexual confusion. Duncan Sheik's pumping pop/rock score and Bill T. Jones' thumping choreography caught the racing pulse of youth in revolt.

3) 'DIONYSUS IN 69' (RUDE MECHANICALS) The Rudes' archaeological expedition into Sixties avant-garde theatre – re-creating, move for move, the Performance Group's boundary-busting original production – proved as full of life as the group's original works, drawing us inside an ancient Greek drama to experience its tragedy personally. Bravely performed by a committed cast.

4) 'HOUSE OF SEVERAL STORIES' (IMAGINE THAT PRODUCTIONS) A family portrait from the Albee album, i.e., caustic verbal combat drenched in booze with a double shot of absurdism. John Boulanger's homegrown prize-winning script was made thrilling by Lauren Lane, Martin Burke, and Meredith McCall, three of our top actors, playing off one another in breathtaking style.

5) 'THE PSYCHE PROJECT' (UT DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE) The mythic romance of a mortal and the god of love rebooted in modern times with an irreverent wit and a questioning air. This imaginative, whip-smart, wickedly funny student work wondered provocatively if an ancient myth of love still has meaning in 21st century America.

6) 'CYRANO DE BERGERAC' (MARY MOODY NORTHEN THEATRE) A grand romantic adventure grandly realized. Michelle Polgar's staging flowed as smoothly as poetry from the lips of Rostand's hero with the prodigious proboscis, played here with rousing verve and panache by David M. Long.

7) 'THE JUNGLE' (TROUBLE PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY) Connor Hopkins distilled Upton Sinclair's novel of immigrants ground up by the meatpacking industry into a sepia-tinted tone poem, made hauntingly human by puppets of paper and string.

8) 'BLACK SNOW' (TUTTO THEATRE COMPANY)/'MURDER BALLAD MURDER MYSTERY' (TUTTO THEATRE COMPANY)/'VORTEX REPERTORY COMPANY) The link is director Dustin Wills, who seems able to forge theatrically ingenious, tautly acted ensemble pieces from any work, be it a dusty satire of show folk in Moscow or a new musical of ghost-faced killers in the swamp.

9) 'THE LAST FIVE YEARS' (PENFOLD THEATRE COMPANY/AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE)/'SHOOTING STAR' (ZACH THEATRE) A pair of two-handers, each an anatomy of a failed romance etched in performances of heartbreaking virtuosity, the former by David Gallagher and Annika Johansson, the latter by Jamie Goodwin and Barbara Chisholm (full disclosure: my wife).

HONORABLE MENTIONS

'SPACEMAN:DADA:ROBOT' (ELECTRONIC PLANET ENSEMBLE)

'ARTHURIOSIS' (GETALONG GANG PERFORMANCE GROUP)

'THE GRAPES OF WRATH' (ZACH THEATRE)

'THE METHOD GUN' (RUDE MECHS)

'I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY' (RUDE MECHS)

'CONFIDENCE MEN: IMPROVISED MAMET' (CONFIDENCE MEN)

TOP 9 DANCE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC TREASURES OF 2009 BY ROBERT FAIRES

1) 'THE TRASH PROJECT' (FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS) Allison Orr's epic team-up with Solid Waste Services yielded so much loveliness: garbage trucks like elephants on parade, stunningly graceful cranes, poignant odes to creatures killed by cars, Graham Reynolds' funky and tender score, and, best of all, thousands of Austinites crowding onto the Austin Studios tarmac to celebrate and honor the sanitation workers of our city.

2) WELCHER: 'SYMPHONY NO. 5' (AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA) A symphony of the old school – sweeping, lush, robust – scored with notable complexity by local hero Dan Welcher, whose dear friend Peter Bay propelled its premiere to stirring heights through ASO's full-bodied performance. A work I'm eager to hear again.

3) RACHMANINOFF: 'VESPERS' (CONSPIRARE) The acclaimed choir at its most focused: three dozen vocalists crafting sounds as exactly as master jewelers carving gems. Their meticulous treatment of

these chants transported me to the heart of Mother Russia, into an ancient chapel hushed and holy.

4) 'HAMLET' (BALLET AUSTIN) In the 2009 revival, Stephen Mills' Shakespearean ballet proved more powerful than I remembered, its portrait of a court awash in grief and rage visually arresting and emotionally intense.

5) 'DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES' (AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA) In a fine season for ALO, the finest work. This test of faith in the fires of the French Revolution was exquisitely staged and sung, its music and drama building as one to a theatrically stunning finale.

6) 'IMPERMANENCE' (BLUE LAPIS LIGHT) In sending more aerial dancers skyward than ever before and having more of them partner together, choreographer Sally Jacques created new wonders in the heavens, airborne duets that intertwined mortality and infinity.

7) ANTON NEL (LONG CENTER) One man, one piano, one recital, and more pleasures than I can count. Nel's virtuosic readings of

Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schubert, and Brahms enchanted and amazed, carrying us through sunshine and storms with peerless artistry.

8) RATCLIFF: 'ODE TO COMMON THINGS' (AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/CONSPIRARE) Poems by Neruda in a most uncommon setting – a choral-orchestral work of monumental sound and musical complexity – delivered by ASO and Conspirare with a force and majesty to blow Dell Hall's roof off.

9) 'BODIES IN URBAN SPACES' (FUSEBOX FESTIVAL) Scampering through Downtown after a crew of daredevil performers to find where they'd wedged themselves into parking garages and trash cans coupled the thrill of new dance and the joy of an Easter egg hunt.

9.1) REYNOLDS/FOUNTAIN: 'BETWEEN STEEL AND STARDUST (SONGS OF TEXAS WOMEN)' (BUTLER SCHOOL OF MUSIC) Its playful way of honoring state heroines from Barbara Jordan to Mary Kay Ash made this song cycle a five (Lone) Star delight. Yee-haw!

CONTINUED ON P.28

TOP 9 CREATIVE ARTS, AH, THINGS I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

1) 'THE METHOD GUN' (RUDE MECHANICALS) Even after all the months of hype and the international changes wrought by the show's restless creators, this deconstruction-and-extension-of-A *Streetcar Named Desire*-by-way-of-investigating-methods-of-performance-and-theatre-myth surpassed expectations and proved to be a brilliant distillation of all the gambits the Rudes had succeeded with before.

2) 'HERE WE ARE: CHRISTA PALAZZOLO AND BRIAN HALLORAN' (BIG MEDIUM) Stunning figurative studies in pigmented oil, rendered in ways that could make actual photographs seem lacking in soul or something otherwise human.

3) 'LORDY RODRIGUEZ: STATES OF AMERICA' (AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART) Cartographic renditions of our country's various states – psychological states, mythological states, joined with permutations of actual border-bound geographical entities – were as gorgeous and intriguing as they were huge.

4) OUT OF BOUNDS COMEDY FESTIVAL Seven nights, four venues, and more than 75 troupes from all over the country. Somehow it all ran smoothly(!), with the usual core of

improv and the expanded sections of sketch and stand-up comedy thrilling many standing-room-only crowds.

5) 'GUILDS OF STEEL'/'DUSK' (GNAP! THEATER PROJECTS) Gnap! pwned the local improv scene with *Guilds of Steel* – a serial set among the players and avatars of a *World of Warcraft*-like virtual reality, as directed by Bryan Roberts and Michael Joplin – and with *Dusk*, the Shana Merlin-led take on the *Twilight* series of vampire soap-operatics.

6) 'MISTER Z LOVES COMPANY' (RUBBER REPERTORY) Matt Hislope and Josh Meyer led a fearless Rubber Rep cast in this reprise, a physical-comedy (and musical!) exploration of identity confusion and anal violation that had audiences squealing, covering their eyes, applauding, and tapping their toes.

7) 'THE JUNGLE' (TROUBLE PUPPET THEATER COMPANY) Upton Sinclair's 1906 expose of the meatpacking industry was brought to dark, violent life by Connor Hopkins and his highly professional Trouble Puppet Theater. We can't make the italics bend far enough for sufficient emphasis here: It was only a workshop production and will return, even stronger, in 2010.

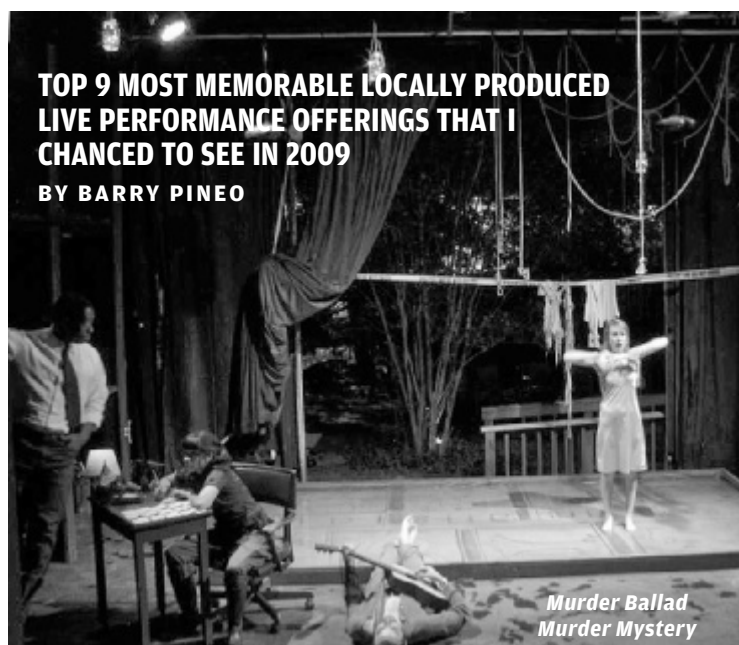


Rude Mechanicals' *The Method Gun*

COURTESY OF BRET BROOKSHIRE

8) ARTHUR SIMONE'S 'DEAR FRAILTY' ColdTowne Theater's darkest part took the stage alone for an hour and brought the audience into a world of twitchy paranoids and quirky malcontents, giving Austin a view of what an ex-Nawlins improviser and abstract painter and Air Sex champion can do with a self-written script.

9) 'LAUREN LEVY: BENEATH THE PALM OF MY HAND' (D BERMAN GALLERY) In this exhibition, the artist's most recent three-dimensional marvels of buttons and wire and fabric were joined by flatter works evoking many-edged rivers, scissors and their bizarre variations, and more. We eagerly await the territories of stitching and design that Levy's careful explorations discover next.



Murder Ballad *Murder Mystery*

COURTESY OF KIMBERLEY MEAD

1) 'DIONYSUS IN 69' (RUDE MECHANICALS) Ritual performance. Sensuality, nudity, birthing. Group dancing, heterosexuality, homosexuality, orgy. A fitting dismemberment. Cunning. Joyful. Transcendent. Theatre at its absolute best. Directed by Madge Darlington and Shawn Sides.

2) 'MURDER BALLAD MURDER MYSTERY' (TUTTO THEATRE COMPANY/VORTEX REPERTORY COMPANY) A hillbilly band, a pool of water, a fire in a night yard. Ladders and ramps, people swingin' from the ceiling, dancin',

singin', murderin', and livin' to tell about it. Directed by Dustin Wills.

3) 'HOUSE OF SEVERAL STORIES' (IMAGINE THAT PRODUCTIONS) A mother (Lauren Lane), a daughter (Meredith McCall), and a son (Martin Burke) bouncing like absurd, comic human bullets around the walls of a Thanksgiving suburban home. Directed by John Boulanger.

4) 'SHOOTING STAR' (ZACH THEATRE) A really sweet and simple Steven Dietz story about love lost, then found, then lost again, with two oh-so-sweet performances

by Barbara Chisholm and Jamie Goodwin. Directed by Dietz.

5) 'KILLER JOE' (CAPITAL T THEATRE) Disgusting, repulsive, irredeemable – but what would you expect from a trailer trash odyssey like this? What I won't forget: Joe Reynolds as the patriarch and Travis Dean's ultraviolent fight choreography. Directed by Mark Pickell.

6) 'LA BOHÈME' (AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA) Few things can compete with pure spectacle, and few companies in Austin can produce a spectacle so worthy of Puccini's famous tragedy. Directed by Garnett Bruce and conducted by Richard Buckley.

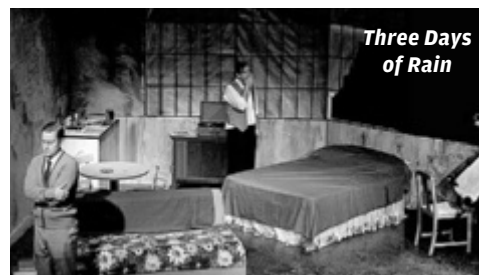
7) 'RABBIT HOLE' (CITY THEATRE COMPANY) A Pulitzer Prize-winning script and an ensemble of able actors, especially Michael Schnick, treated death gently and wisely. Directed by Stacey Glazer.

8) 'THE PAJAMA GAME' (MARY MOODY NORTHERN THEATRE) Boys! Girls! Love in a pajama factory and all of the usual Broadway song and dance, pulled off neatly by a cast of students. Directed by Michael McKelvey.

9) 'AS YOU LIKE IT' (SCOTTISH RITE THEATRE) Lovers. Clowns. Shakespeare! What more could you require? Well, how about the perfectly set Scottish Rite Theatre and Robert Matney as Jaques? Directed by Beth Burns.

TOP 9 WAYS TO DECORATE A SET BY ELIZABETH COBBE

1) ANNE MCMEEKING FOR 'THREE DAYS OF RAIN' (PENFOLD THEATRE COMPANY) There was rain on stage. Like, actual falling water. At the Hideout. The rest of the set – a shabby loft apartment – was pretty cool, too.



Three Days of Rain

2) LISA LARATTA FOR 'BLACK SNOW' (TUTTO THEATRE COMPANY) A little of this, a little of that, a little of freaking everything in a huge heap that complemented the breakneck speed and reckless abandon of the performance.

3) STEPHEN PRUITT FOR 'CYRANO DE BERGERAC' (MARY MOODY NORTHERN THEATRE) Mirrors, mirrors everywhere! Plus, Kim H. Ngo's costumes were to die for.

4) MICHAEL RAIFORD FOR 'THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE' (ZACH THEATRE) The cafeteria table alone was enough to take you back to your days of sixth grade lunchroom hell.

5) ROBERT FAIRES AND DIRECTOR CATHERINE WEIDNER FOR 'HENRY V' (RED THEN PRODUCTIONS) Simple is not only effective but brilliant in this minimalist, one-man production by *Chronicle Arts* Editor Faires.

6) CONNOR HOPKINS FOR 'THE JUNGLE' (TROUBLE PUPPET THEATER COMPANY) Actually, Hopkins designed the set and the puppets, which is sort of scenery and sort of not, but either way the puppets made from paper were pretty cool.

7) JESSE KINGSLEY'S PUPPETS FOR 'THE LONG NOW' (SHREWD PRODUCTIONS) Speaking of puppets, try some shadow puppets, too – for creep-effect.

8) CURTIS PHILLIPS FOR 'THE MUSIC MAN' (ZILKER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS) The transition from monochrome to color, color everywhere practically told the story of the show by itself.

9) ANNE MCMEEKING FOR 'THREE DAYS OF RAIN' (PENFOLD THEATRE COMPANY) Sorry, but did you get that? There was rain in the Hideout! Rain! In the Hideout! Dude.



JOHN ANDERSON

TOP 9 FUNNY HA-HA 2009 NOTABLES (IN NO ORDER)

BY STEVE BIRMINGHAM

1) CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB IS VOTED 'BEST CLUB TO PLAY' at the 2009 Aspen Rooftop Comedy Festival Awards (clearly awarding the great Cap City staff and Austin audiences and not architectural design).

2) MATT BEARDEN AND MATT SADLER, TWO OF AUSTIN'S BEST COMICS, land KLBJ gigs.

3) COMEDY LEGENDS PAUL MOONEY AND DON RICKLES MAKE THEIR FIRST-EVER AUSTIN APPEARANCES (at Cap City and the Paramount, respectively).

4) THE AUSTIN INVASION Local comics Daniel Kilpatrick, Eric Krug, Andy Ritchie, and Chuck Watkins appear on Comedy Central's *Live at Gotham*; Mike MacRae,

Krug, and Ritchie perform at Montreal's prestigious Just for Laughs Festival; and Doug Mellard is featured on *Laugh Squad With Bob and Ross* on *The Jay Leno Show* website.

5) STAND-UP GETS SOME SERIOUS FESTIVAL ATTENTION with supremely stellar bookings from South by Southwest and Fun Fun Fun Fest. Hey Austin City Limits, maybe Galifianakis over G. Love for once?

6) THE AD HOC WWW.LASTGASCOMEDY.COM CHAMPIONS AUSTIN'S COMEDY SCENE Hopefully, committing to a caliber of content in 2010 will temper occasional bouts of lazy writing and bitchy inside baseball.

7) NEKO CASE REVEALS HER TOUR BUS BACCHANALIA AND THE SECRET TO A WOMAN'S HEART It's chocolate milk and *The Bob Newhart Show* DVDs, the ridiculously charming singer told a crowd at Stubb's.

8) THE 24TH ANNUAL FUNNIEST PERSON IN AUSTIN CONTEST was Exhibit A for the size and strength of our stand-up scene. The finals made 2009 a bar-raising year with a bounty of deserving title contenders, so all the more congrats to winner Bryson Turner.

9) HATS OFF TO THE VELVEETA ROOM, THE (NEWLY OWNED) HIDEOUT, COLDTOWNE, ESTHER'S FOLLIES, CAP CITY, 'MISPRI' MAGAZINE, and every other comedy venue/outlet that was able to stay afloat during the Great Recession of Aught Nine. Cheers.

TOP 9 LASTING IMPRESSIONS IN DANCE FROM 2009

BY JONELLE SEITZ

1) 'IMPERMANENCE' (BLUE LAPIS LIGHT) Four stories up, seemingly lit by phosphorescence against the infinity of night, harnessed dancers floated through perpendicular somersaults like rotating stars. Spectacle, yes, but the pinnacle of spectacle: the creation of an engrossing otherworld.

2) CRANE SOLO, 'THE TRASH PROJECT' (FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS) Don Anderson, crane operator, transformed the machine into a sensitive creature that balletically soared and stretched – with awesome musicality. See also No. 8.

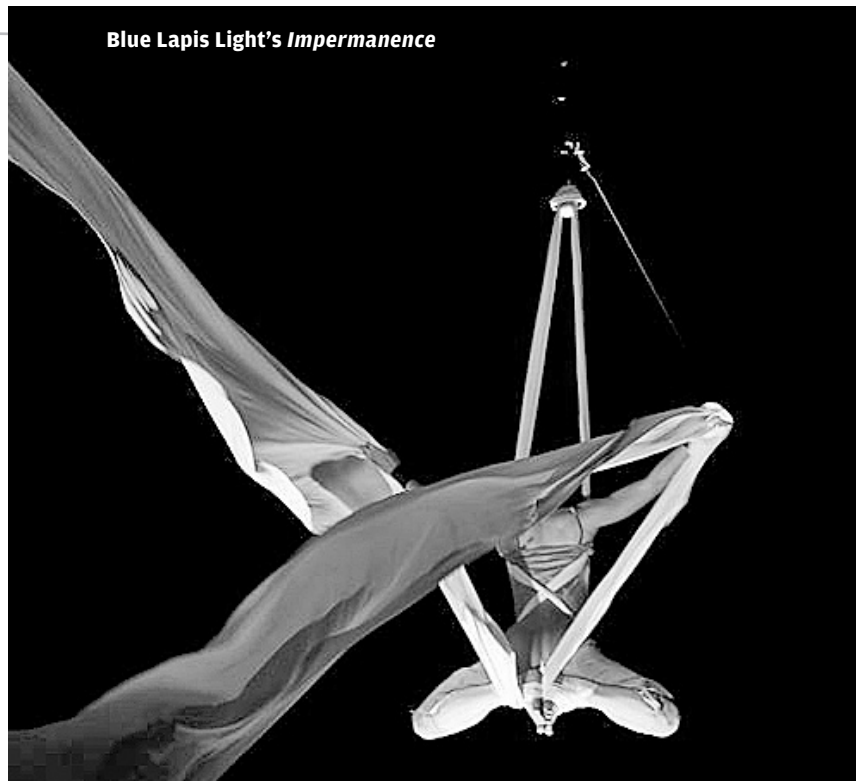
3) 'FOR YOU LUCIA' (BALLET EAST DANCE COMPANY) Sharon Marroquín's solo tribute to the late dancer Lucia Rodriguez was beautiful, organic, raw, and heartrending in unexpected but completely relatable ways.

4) 'FIX ME, JESUS,' 'REVELATIONS' (ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER) While parts of Ailey's signature work are interesting only when you remember that it premiered in 1960, this duet is still stunning, and dancers Linda Celeste Sims and Jamar Roberts beautifully embodied the works' stoic spiritualism.

5) 'BODIES IN URBAN SPACES' (FUSEBOX FESTIVAL) How fun it was to hurry through the city, chasing brightly clothed performers to their next sculpture spot, whether it be upended in a trash can or perched several stories up on the side of a parking garage.

6) AARA KRUMPE AS THE TITLE ROLE IN 'THE FIREBIRD' (BALLET AUSTIN) Krumpe brought exoticism, refinement, and power to the role, making it her own while honoring its history.

7) PROGRAM C, IMPROVISATION (BIG RANGE AUSTIN) Director Adam Sultan and a group of diverse and interesting dancers created a wholly fun and surprising evening.



8) 'THE TRASH PROJECT' (FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS) See No. 2. This colossal collaboration between director Allison Orr, Austin's Solid Waste Services department, and others deserves its own mention.

9) 'MI MADRE Y YO' (DANCE UMBRELLA) This dance-theatre exploration of the mother-daughter relationship by Sònia Gómez, performed alongside her septuagenarian mother, was cheeky and touching.

CONTINUED ON P.30

Great Fun This Holiday Weekend!

David Sedaris'

The SantaLand Diaries

Thru Jan. 10!

Directed by Dave Steakley

Starring Esther's Follies'

Espie Randolph

(star of ZACH's *Shear Madness*)

With music by Meredith McCall and Erik James

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

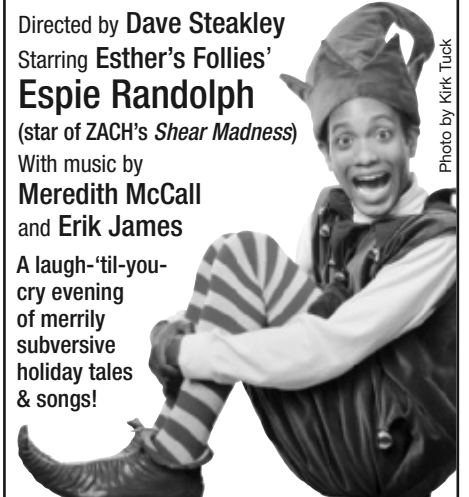


Photo by Kirk Tuck

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TOP 9 (PLUS ONE) MOMENTS OF BUSTIN' OUT IN '09 (IN NO ORDER)

BY MADELINE IRVINE

1) ARTHOUSE'S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Sometimes it takes breaking something down to come up with something new, and that is what Arthouse is doing in this molting year. The contemporary art *kunsthalle* will be bustin' out in a newly renovated building next fall.

2) ART PALACE'S MOVE TO HOUSTON Arturo Palacios' gallery is bustin' out in a big way by relocating to the big city – but its step up leaves a big hole in Austin's art scene.

3) PRE-COLUMBIAN POTTERY AT UT The University of Texas' Fine Arts Library is bustin' out of the traditional image of what a library is and does by displaying art along with art books.

4) ROSELEE GOLDBERG'S LECTURE ON PERFORMANCE ART (ARTHOUSE) One of a number of worthwhile lectures around town, this one made anyone and everyone feel like an expert in the history of performance art in 60 scintillating minutes.

5) XAVIER SALOMON LECTURE (BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART) The Dulwich Picture Gallery curator entertainingly explicated the detective work necessary to reunite the Petrobelli Altarpiece.

6) TERESITA FERNÁNDEZ AND JOAN JONAS LECTURES (BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART) Jonas was disarming in presenting and talking about her early work as a pioneering video artist, while Fernández elucidated more of her work to complement the exhibition "Blind Landscape."



7) THE PETROBELLI ALTARPIECE (BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART) In scale, in skill, in pieces – still breathtaking, by Paolo Veronese. It makes my heart soar to see such great painting here in town.

8) THE WORKS OF COLLECTORS EXTRAORDINAIRE MICHAEL AND JEANNE KLEIN Like the Petrobelli Altarpiece, we need more great art in town on a regular basis. Great art is exactly what these terrific and generous collectors provide at the Blanton.

9) 'STACKED WATERS' (BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART) Welcome this year is the transformation of the Blanton's atrium with Fernández's installation.

10) NED RIFKIN AS BLANTON DIRECTOR A quantum leap for the Blanton, UT, and Austin. Talking at a members' reception about how he sees the Blanton, Rifkin said: Past highlights are well and good, but it is now that matters most – what we do, not what we did. So let's link arms and move forward.

TOP 9 (PLUS THREE) MEMORIES & BEST HAPPENINGS IN 2009



BY RACHEL KOPER

1) BOB 'DADDY-O' WADE'S 40-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE (SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE)

2) DAMIAN PRIOUR'S 30-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE (UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN & MUSEUM, CURATED BY CLINT WILOUR)

3) JILL PANGALLO'S 'LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU' (TEXAS BIENNIAL)

4) STANDING OVATION FOR KELLY FEARING at Michael Duncan's Texas Biennial lecture.

5) MEMORIAL SPEECHES FOR ROBERT DALE ANDERSON at Okay Mountain and the Austin Visual Arts Awards

6) DOMY BOOKS bustled with events and brought in great out-of-town artists.

7) ROI JAMES' SO SWEET THANK-YOU SPEECH at the Austin Visual Arts Awards.

8) THE 'PIECED TOGETHER' GROUP GRAFFITI SHOW TOURED THE U.S. with curator Nathan Nordstrom taking Texas wildstyle to Cali and NYC.

9) EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR – making art headlines where art headlines have never been printed before.

10) CO-LAB INSTALLATIONS! There is something nice about a whole room full of noncommercial art.

11) BILL DAVENPORT SITTING AT THE GIANT MUSHROOMS ON AUDITORIUM SHORES Nice. The temporary outdoor sculpture project between Art in Public Places and the Texas Biennial was new but turned out successful.

12) TALKING ART WITH HAMZA WALKER (ARTHOUSE) The juror for "New American Talent 24" was outgoing and hilarious, saying things like, "You can parachute me into a city, and I will find the artists."

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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

TOP 9s 2009

TOP 9 CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

(In no particular order)

TEXAS 4000 Texas 4000 Tribute Gala

BALLET AUSTIN Ballet Fête*ish '09

ZACH THEATRE Red, Hot & Soul

OCTOPUS CLUB Octo Tea Dance XIV

AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY Texas Film Hall of Fame

ANTONE'S Help Clifford Help Kids

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN Garden Party

BREAST CANCER RESOURCE CENTER

Champagne Brunch & Auction

HOSPICE AUSTIN Beauty of Life

CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION Dancing

With the Stars Austin

Okay, so I listed 10. Sue me.

TOP 9 MOST VILE PEOPLE THAT I'D LIKE TO NEVER SEE AGAIN

1) MILEY CYRUS There. I said it. This vile, gnomish, pole-dancing tweenie has a bright future ahead of her ... as a pole-dancing gnome. You know Her Vileness didn't fall far from the tree.

2) BALLOON BOY AND FAMILY So vile. Those 15 minutes fly by, don't they?

3) TIGER WOODS Schadenfreude at its finest. The harder they fall, *indeed*.

4) SARAH PALIN Unspeakable vileness. I'm pretty much ready to let her go.

5) JON AND KATE GOSSELIN Just. Go. Away. We hate you and your children.

6) TAREQ AND MICHAEL SALAHI Vile. The most transparent people alive. Off with their heads.

7) PAMELA ANDERSON Looking older than old. She's the Zsa Zsa Gabor for the new century.

8) CARRIE PREJEAN, MISS CALIFORNIA, PROTECTOR OF ALL THAT IS SACRED Stupid, vile slut.

9) LIL' WAYNE Omigod, a year in jail? My dream already came true.



TOP 9 CELEBRITY DISASTERS

1) FARRAH FAWCETT dying on the same day as Michael Jackson. Love you, Farrah, but it was a bad move.

2) LINDSAY LOHAN What else can I say? I always expect that the next photo I see of her will be the photo of her arriving DOA at the hospital.

TOP 9 PROGNOSTICATIONS FOR BELOVED CELEBUTARDS

1) THE THREE-HEADED HYDRA KNOWN AS KOURTNEY, KIM, AND KHLOE KARDASHIAN Perhaps the most loathsome of all celeb-butards. I'm seeing a future of trashiness ahead for them. Now that they've begun spawning, someone will give them a special on three hysterectomies. It can be the final episode of their vile televised activities: *The Day Their Tubes Stood Still*.

2) THE BECKHAMS, DAVID AND VICTORIA Becks and Posh. Yeah. We know he's hot. But she looks like my elderly teacup Chihuahua. I'm seeing something ugly on the horizon for them. You know it, too, don't you? Scientology, perhaps?

3) TOM CRUISE. AND KATIE HOLMES. AND PROBABLY LITTLE SURI, TOO.

A train wreck that's happening in slow motion. I'm imagining another Scientological breakdown, this one involving his "clear" close friends, Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith and John Travolta and Kelly Preston Travolta, which will scandalize the sextet and send them plunging into obscurity.

4) PRINCESS RIRI AKA RHIANNA The fembot entertainer promises to bring lots more drama for 2010. Count on it.

5) JESSICA SIMPSON I predict we'll see more and more of her (as she gains weight) as we see less and less of her (as her star wanes).

6) LEVI JOHNSTON We've never wanted to see less of him than we do now. I predict T.O. (total obscurity) for 2010.

7) TARA REID AND BROOKE HOGAN will die in a horrible tanning booth accident. Burnt to a crisp in every way possible.

8) ADAM LAMBERT will rightfully win the Aren't You That Homo Singer Award for 2010.

9) MICHELLE DUGGAR WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHILD (No. 20) AND MOVE IN WITH OCTOMOM (No. 14) and they will raise their 34 children together.

3) MICHAEL JACKSON
The ongoing postmortem.

4) AMY WINEHOUSE See Lindsay Lohan.

5) SUSAN BOYLE'S BREAKDOWN
Poor sweetie. Not at all ready.

6) GOV. MARK SANFORD, DAVID LETTERMAN, SEN. JOHN ENSIGN, AND TIGER WOODS Just keep it in your pants, boys.

7) LEVI JOHNSTON NO-SHOW SPREAD
Something's going to happen to him, and it's not good.

8) CHRIS BROWN Chris Brown. Chris Brown.

9) BROOKE HOGAN



TODD V. WOLFSON

TOP 9 PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

(In no particular order)

FARRAH FAWCETT

ROBIN SHIVERS

PATRICK SWAYZE

NATASHA RICHARDSON

JOHN HUGHES

SOUPY SALES

WALTER CRONKITE

LES PAUL

MARY TRAVERS

ELLIE GREENWICH

FRANK MCCOURT

ANDREW WYETH

DOMINICK DUNNE

Okay, so that's more than nine, too. It's but a drop in the bucket of the talent we lost in 2009. R.I.P.

TOP 9 MEMORABLE MOMENTS FOR ME

1) GETTING ARRESTED

2) SELLING OFF THE TREASURES OF MY LIFE

3) MOVING INTO MY SISTER'S HOUSE

4) A TEARFUL REUNION WITH MY BROTHER

5) SENDING MY NEPHEW OFF TO BOOT CAMP

7) BEING HOSPITALIZED FOR HEALTH PROBLEMS

8) SETTling MY LEGAL MESS

9) CHRISTMAS WITH ALMOST ALL OF MY FAMILY

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Was It Good for You?

The year in books

I read half of *A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 33 Great Writers on Why We Read Jane Austen* (Random House) before I kicked it under my bed, bored and peevish. The essayists tended to say the same glowing things about Jane Austen and her books; the unintended effect was to send me away from the book and straight to my shelf to reread the real deal. Because, really: Life is short, and reading is so often a luxury. If you've got the time, why waste it on books that don't give you pleasure?

So then, in no particular order, the nine books that got me most jazzed this year:

Wells Tower's debut collection *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned: Stories*, for one. The North Carolina native did surprising things with plot (Viking marauders? Really?) and downright shocking things with language, putting words together in a wondrous way (did I imagine the kinship with Saul Bellow?). Language was key, too, in Thomas Fallon's erudite, hugely enjoyable study *Yours Ever: People and Their Letters* (Random House), but it was the pictures that rose to the fore in David Mazzucchelli's graphic rumination *Asterios Polyp* (Pantheon).

Most critics called the history-bending novel *Homer & Langley* (Random House) lesser E.L. Doctorow, but most critics, frankly, can go suck it: Doctorow's final lines read like Greek tragedy to me. For actual Greek tragedy, there was Anne Carson's lively new translation of *An Oresteia* (Faber & Faber). Even Lorrie Moore's *A Gate at the Stairs* (Knopf) spelled *katastrophe* in a post-9/11 Midwest and rejiggered to Moore's signature wordplay.

Lev Grossman's *The Magicians: A Novel* (Viking Press) fell short of the fun implied in the advance buzz – "it's like *Harry Potter* for grownups!" – but, still, it was nicely four-lettered and moody, a welcome spot of darkness to the summer reading list. Certainly



Padgett Powell's *The Interrogative Mood*

you'd expect *Lit*, Mary Karr's memoir about addiction and religious conversion, to be pitch-black, and it was; it was also lippy and comic and, naturally, poetic.

And then there was Padgett Powell's *The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?* (Ecco). A curiosity in every sense of the word, it surely doesn't qualify as a novel; novels tend to have plots. And periods. Powell's cheeky query, on the other hand, consisted of 164 pages of questions – "Do you miss Tab and do you fully comprehend its disappearance? ... Are you surprised at the low number of people crazy or the high number of people crazy? Do you know offhand whether a hippopotamus sweats?" – with nary an answer in sight. It's the world's weirdest conversation starter (that is, for a conversation with yourself), and every few pages you'll want to pause to pursue a path some question turned you onto. Is it exhausting? A little frustrating? But also a pleasure?

Would I have mentioned it otherwise?

– Kimberley Jones

Going Underground

Could be my burrowing tendencies talking, but two of my favorite books this year seem to have excavation at their cores. Jonathan Lethem's *Chronic City* (Doubleday) foregrounds the havoc wreaked by a wayward tunneling machine (or possibly a giant tiger) in an off-kilter Manhattan and provides endless layers of identity, reality, and high-wire flurries of cultural signifying to dig into. Alice Munro's *Too Much Happiness: Stories* (Knopf) tucks into a different brand of subterranean horror and, occasionally, cautious wonder; her masterful stories unearth the kinds of buried experience that make all the difference in a life. The oddest and most surprisingly fascinating read – Leann Shapton's *Important Artifacts and Personal*

Property From the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris, Including Books, Street Fashion, and Jewelry (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) – also has an archaeological bent: It's a literal if fictional catalog of a romance between a freelance photographer and the author of a *New York Times* column dedicated to (yes) cake. The detail and knowingness that Sharpton put to the project blow past the conceit's preciousness; her perfectly pitched document of a relationship's arc – from mix CDs and vintage lingerie to a hammer-damaged white-noise machine and angry, handwritten notes on the back of gallery invitations, photographed, described, and priced as if for a post-breakup auction – unspools a suspenseful, human story, well-told.

On the home(ish) front, Michener Center grad James Hannaham's tale of a clos-



eted gay man's stabs at new identity, *God Says No* (McSweeney's), captures a rarely heard voice with empathy and wit. Family memoir *The Kids Are All Right* (Harmony), co-written by former *Chron* colleague Diana Welch and her siblings, is unpretentious, entertaining, and touching. And the devastating honesty and surprising imagery of *An Ocean of Despair* (Monofonus Press), Thor Harris' account of debilitating depression – illustrated and packaged with his instrumental soundtrack – moved me to my soul.

– Cindy Widner

Rock, Bebop, Etc.

Arthur Phillips' *The Song Is You* (Random House) opens with a riveting prologue that not only stands on its own as a brilliant short story about musical obsession but also sets the stage for similar mania in our iPod generation. While the novel works on many levels, at its core this is a story about music. In this case, rock & roll, but any music, really: how it affects us emotionally and psychologically; how we obsess over it, surrender to it; how the artists who create it cast a spell over us. It's a lesson about why music matters in our lives and why it plays such a powerful role in chronicling our lives.

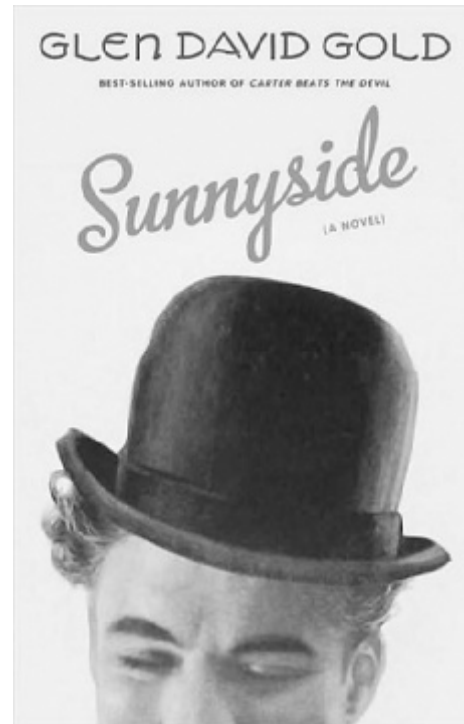
The German Mujahid (Europa Editions) by Algeria's Boualem Sansal has been called "the first Arab novel to confront the Holocaust." The author also draws direct parallels from Nazism to modern Muslim fundamentalism. Banned in Sansal's home country, this award-winning novel tells the story of how two Algerian-born brothers, who grew up in the Arab ghettos outside of Paris, deal with the realization that their father, a hero in Algeria's War of Independence, was a Nazi war criminal during World War II.

Thelonious Monk was the first jazz musician to really capture my imagination, and so I absolutely luxuriated in all 588 pages of *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* (Free Press) by Robin D.G. Kelley. In what is surely the most exacting and comprehensive biography to date on this thoroughly fascinating and monumentally creative pianist/composer, we come to understand how his idiosyncratic innovations laid the foundation for modern jazz.

Most Arduous Read: Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*. So much for some historical insight into our endeavor along the Afghan/Pakistani borderlands.

Guilty Pleasure: Rereading Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* after 30 years. His frenetic, bebop prose is still a rush.

– Jay Trachtenberg



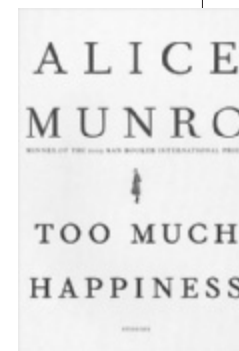
Lin and the Tramp

Maybe I'll choose Thomas Pynchon's *Inherent Vice* (Penguin Press) as my book of the year. Writing a detective novel (not to mention voicing your own book trailer) was an inspired move by one of America's great novelists. Who wouldn't root for a Pynchon who dropped some of his more elliptical tendencies for something more like *The Big Lebowski*? But I didn't read *Inherent Vice*, which I'm told excludes it from inclusion.

Tao Lin's *Shoplifting From American Apparel* (Melville House) is inspired. With his fresh approaches to financing his work, not to mention the sheer depth of his blog, Lin marks quite possibly the future, or death, of print literature. However, discussing the life or death of print culture is passé. If only this were 2004.

So then, why not choose the one book I read this year that I'd happily read again: Glen David Gold's *Sunnyside* (Knopf). In his historical novel, Gold spins several memorable yarns with Charlie Chaplin at their centers. By creating believable human characters – even if they do have recognizable names like Mary Pickford and William McAdoo – Gold draws parallels between the cult of celebrity in the early 20th century and in the early 21st century. From there, he links these cults to nationalism and how that can lead to wars (in *Sunnyside*'s case, World War I). This is a long way of saying that Gold has some literary tricks up his sleeve that can easily go unnoticed. And that's his greatest trick.

– James Renovitch

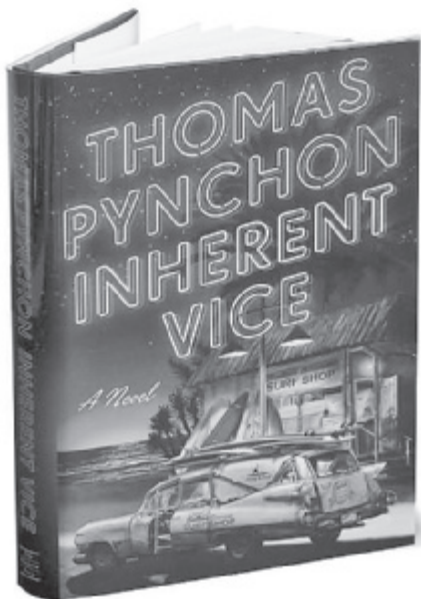


Listomania

The year in books, sure, we can wrap it up just like that, all lickety-split and Chaucer's-your-uncle, right? Readah, please.

Remember, though, the Harry Ransom Center's exhaustive and illuminating "From Out That Shadow" exhibition (presented in conjunction with the University of Virginia but built mostly from the HRC's vast holdings) documenting the life and works and death of that genre genius and social reprobate Edgar Allan Poe; recall literary fabulist Margaret Atwood headlining (as they say in the biz) the Texas Book Festival in support of her post-apocalyptic thriller *The Year of the Flood: A Novel* (Nan A. Talese); access memory of a new Thomas Pynchon opus (*Inherent Vice: A Novel*) with a plot carousing its quirky characters through a Seventies version of Raymond Chandlerland, the ubiquitous and seemingly eternal Kirkus Reviews going belly up among other gasping concerns in the economy's fetid fish tank, former Austinite Michael Schaub editing his first issue of Bookslut.com, the garish travesty of celluloid adaptation visited upon Alan Moore's acclaimed *Watchmen*, the milieu of Charles Dickens brought vividly to local stages via improvisations by Parallelogramphonograph, and e-books finally coming into their own with the Kindle and other user-friendly devices.

Also, despite that much of the year was spent in intense training under the mentorship

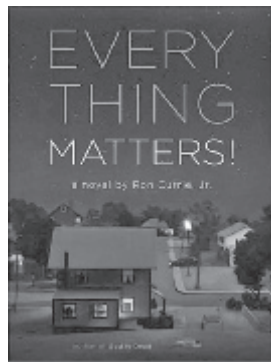


of a voodoo houngan and in the informative company of several aged herbalists, the bio-mystical machinations undertaken after those studies proved insufficient to restore vitality to even the most potentially viable corpse, and so our plans, our grand scheme toward organic reanimation, has failed, and thus David Foster Wallace is still dead and will likely remain so and, as far as modern letters go, oh, how that continues to totally, relentlessly suck. — Wayne Alan Brenner

Fire It Up

I'm aghast that some people are calling 2009 the year of the Kindle, but apparently some people – not booksellers, mind you – would like us to think that the demise of the traditional paper-and-glue variety of book is at hand (a hand I gladly and ferociously bite). For me, a born reader since Richard Scarry and A.A. Milne, the Kindle represents neither progress nor some sort of literary evolution, but a cheap po-cultural power grab by an already insanely wealthy and far too influential corporation desperate to keep ahead of some imagined bottom-line curvature. Its bland design puts one in mind of a cheapie B-movie sci-fi prop, or a Soviet-era not-so-great leaps forward. Even Ray Bradbury, who wrote the classic novel of a bookless future society, *Fahrenheit 451*, has chimed in on the debate, saying that "E-books smell like burned fuel." (As opposed, one assumes, to the headier and more melancholically aged smokiness of printed matter. Oh, the irony.) The most salient – and potentially fun to explore – question is this: At what degree Fahrenheit does the Kindle auto-ignite? Buy me one, and I'll let you know via YouTube.

Enough hating, though. One honest-to-goodness book that rocked my world



this year was Ron Currie Jr.'s *Everything Matters!* (Viking), a strange and beautiful novel about a young man who learns while in utero that the Earth will cease to exist in 36 years, 168 days, 14 hours, and 23 seconds, thanks to a rogue comet that will impact the planet. Currie previously wrote the excellent short story collection *God Is Dead*, and his nuanced characterizations, darkly comic asides, and sheer powers of imagination render this debut novel less a doomstruck downer than a celebration of a life lived in the shadow of mortal inevitability. Highly recommended, this one.

Not so with Stephen King's 1,000 pages-plus *Under the Dome* (Scribner), which is in reality a terrifically overdone and ultimately dull reworking of "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," a chestnut of an old *Twilight Zone* episode written by Rod Serling circa 1960. King overkills on Serling's original idea – alien forces fuck with American small-town folk causing the precepts of civilization to vanish overnight – and it turns out to be King's weakest work since the similarly themed *Tommyknockers* two decades back. Makes one helluva doorstop, though.

— Marc Savlov

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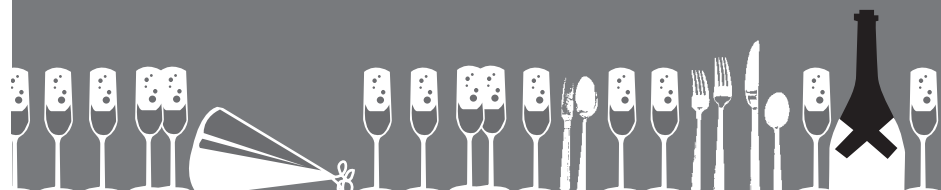


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Virginia's Top 9 Savory Bites of 2009*

1) BARBECUED PORK FROM SNOW'S BBQ in Lexington – the best menu item at the joint *Texas Monthly* named the best barbecue joint in the state.

2) CHICKEN-FRIED RICHARDSON FARMS RIB-EYE STEAK with cream gravy at Olivia – huge, tender, and absolutely delicious.

3) BISON TENDERLOIN AND ANCHO STOUT MASHED POTATOES napped with a tangy beurre blanc that Hudson's on the Bend served at Stars Across Texas – a delectable piece of protein paired with the most amazing mashers ever.

4) CREAMED CORN AND GRILLED ASPARAGUS side dishes at Perla's were simple and fresh, evoking summer on the plate, even making a more lasting impression than the excellent seafood there.

5) FRIED CHICKEN AT FLYING FALAFEL & PO-BOYS on the Drag is juicy and spicy under a crisp mahogany crust with a seductive aroma capable of stopping traffic.



Dai Due's custom breakfast sausage

6) SCALLOP AND PORK APPETIZER A plate with one lovely seared scallop and a square of perfectly crisped pork belly in a seductive foie gras sauce was the appetizer presented by Driskill Grill chef Jonathan Gelman at the Film & Food gala – it was eyes-rolling-back-in-your-head marvelous.

7) DAI DUE'S CUSTOM BREAKFAST SAUSAGE on a homemade biscuit with peppery cream gravy is a dynamite Saturday morning breakfast at the Austin Farmers' Market Downtown.

8) STREAT'S VOLUPTUOUS THAI CARROT SOUP with coconut milk was my favorite thing at the Empty Bowl pre-

view party – I'm glad to hear Streat will be opening for business close to the *Chronicle* office soon.

9) BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP Complex and savory, garnished with a local goat cheese mousse, and created by the chef of the Hyatt's SWB, this was the highlight of the Go Texan local chef challenge this fall in my estimation.

&) ALEXANDER FAMILY FARM TURKEY For the first time this year, we enjoyed an absolutely fresh, truly local, pastured turkey from Alexander Family Farm, and were we ever thankful!

– Virginia B. Wood

Virginia's Top 9 Sweet Bites of 2009*



Mama Roux's Signature Tabasco Cheesecake

1) THE SIGNATURE TABASCO CHEESECAKE at Mama Roux was my favorite restaurant dessert discovery of the year – subtle and delicate with a tantalizing chile tingle that tickled the tongue.

2) KAKAWA'S CARAMELIZED CACAO NIBS The toasted sugar and dark chocolate crunch of the caramelized cacao nibs from Kakawa turned out to be the missing ingredient for a pie I've been

making for more than 30 years. I liked them so much that this year I learned to caramelize my own nibs!

3) TÈO'S GELATO CAKE with layers of peppermint and chocolate hazelnut gelato dressed up nicely with a salty bourbon caramel sauce at Thanksgiving dinner.

4) ICED BLENDED MOCHAS FROM IT'S A GRIND Where have you gone? This was not a habit I wanted to break.

* plus a lagniappe

5) MILK AND DARK CHOCOLATE CARAMEL HEARTS from the Whole Foods candy department were my favorite local Valentine's treat this year, running neck and neck with the chocolate-covered caramel pecan patties from Wiseman House Fine Handmade Chocolates in Hico.

6) LEMON CURD CAKE BALL The folks at Austin Cake Ball developed a lemon curd cake ball this year and asked me to check it for quality control – they really knew the way to my heart.

7) KATY FRANCESCHINI'S BUTTERMILK PIE was my favorite thing at the Faraday's Holiday Baking Contest – homey, plain, and absolutely delicious.

8) A SCRUMPTIOUS CHERRY PIE made by 10-year-old novice baker Kendall Carlisle came close to being a winner at Faraday's. I can't wait to see what she enters next year.

9) DRISKILL'S CREAMSICLE The chefs from the Driskill Grill served a remarkably innovative pop-up Creamsicle at the Film & Food gala; I wanted several more.

&) ALEX MANLEY'S CARAMEL ICE CREAM outshines anything it's paired with at Perla's. Don't ever pass it up.

– V.B.W.

Kate Thornberry's

Top Austin Food Blogs

Austin has a very active food blog community; in making up this Top 10, I sifted through close to 200 local sites. To be perfectly fair (and despite their undisputed excellence!), I've decided to mention, but not include, the food blogs of the *Chronicle* staff: Claudia Alarcón's *Chile y Limón Adventures*, Wes Marshall's *Wes on Wine*, Lee Nichols' *I Love Beer*, and my own blog, *Hungersauce*.

1) EDIBLE ARIA (www.ediblearia.com) This blog's modest goal is to describe the author's "efforts to eat a mostly healthy (hopefully), interesting diet on a reasonable budget," but the content goes so much further: gorgeous photos and exciting, well-written recipes posted on a daily basis.

2) AUSTIN FOOD JOURNAL (www.austinfoodjournal.com) This blog is extremely professional and focused. The author, Christian Bowers, posts several times daily, and although his posts are short, they cover home cooking, recipes, restaurant reviews, and local food news in real time, making this site very useful.

3) LISA IS COOKING (www.lisaiscooking.blogspot.com) This extremely popular blog focuses on home cooking, with tons of photos and a new recipe nearly every day. Lisa describes herself as "addicted to cookbooks, food writing, recipe collecting, and cooking," and her love for her subject matter just lights up the page.

4) THAI COOKING WITH JAM (www.thaicookingwithjam.blogspot.com) Jam Sanichat of Thai Fresh has no qualms about sharing the recipes that have fueled the popularity of her restaurant. On this charming blog, she shares her cooking secrets, along with beautiful photos of ingredients, dishes, and events around town.

5) BOOTS IN THE OVEN (www.bootsintheoven.com) Married pair Rachel and Logan keep up an awesomely steady stream of foodie content on this site, covering home cooking, recipes, local restaurants, and travel with such passion that I think they must blog about meals while they're still seated at the table. Always inspiring.

6) THE COSMIC COWGIRL (www.thecosmiccowgirl.wordpress.com) The Cosmic Cowgirl just can't stop cooking, and in addition to lovely photos and an engaging personality, she has a knack for posting really interesting recipes that you just can't wait to try yourself, like tamale dressing and cranberry buttermilk cake.

7) COOKING INSIDE THE LINES (www.cookinginsidethelines.blogspot.com) In this extremely useful site, blogger Emily, who "loves to cook, but sadly has no ability to create a recipe on her own," strictly follows recipes from cookbooks and popular magazines such as *Bon Appétit*, *Cooking Light*, and *Food & Wine*, documenting and reviewing the results, "so you don't have to."

8) MAGGIE'S AUSTIN (www.maggiesaustin.com) Written by "the self-proclaimed concierge of Austin," Maggie's Austin covers the Austin restaurant and music scene, keeping readers up to date on all the new and happening destinations around town.

9) EATING IN A BOX (www.eatinginabox.com) Blogger Ironjack documents his continuing avocation of preparing *bento* boxes for his wife and her co-workers. Throughout this blog, his interest in preparing well-balanced meals provides charming, inspirational, and fun reading.

10) APPETITE (www.pennydelosantos.wordpress.com) Renowned photographer and local luminary Penny de los Santos shares her amazing world-class photographs from all over the globe, along with recipes. The photos alone are well worth the trip and redefine the word "stunning."

CONTINUED ON P.36

Mick Vann's Top Sandwiches of 2009

With the economy being in the dumps this past year and my having even less free time than normal, I found myself eating more sandwiches than usual. The examples below, in no particular order, prove you don't have to sacrifice flavor to save a little money and get portable eats.



1) TÂM DELI & CAFE (8222 N. Lamar Ste. D-33, 834-6458) Rich, spiced, grilled lemongrass beef; cucumber; jalapeño slivers; pickled carrot; cilantro; and tart mayo, all wrapped in crispy, crusty fresh bread for \$4.99. The best *banh mi* in town. Available in many other delicious versions also.

2) SPEC'S (4978 Hwy. 290 W., 366-8260) The Reuben-to-Die-For and the muffaletta and the Texas BLT and the Hermenater Burger (1-pound patty on a muffaletta bun for \$8.99) are all freakin' deelyish! The biggest selection of booze in town also comes with great eats.

3) FLYING FALAFEL (2001 Guadalupe Ste. A-1, 494-1400) With family roots sprouting directly from the Middle East and New Orleans, you know that both sides of the menu rock, but the Cajun-style roast beef po'boy with extra "debris" and the crawdad-and-oyster po'boy are both so over the top.

4) FRICANO'S DELI (104-C E. 31st, 482-9980) Picture a Reuben Dog: a quality frank wrapped in corned beef, topped with sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and Swiss cheese. How about the Jonah: a grilled Italian club with spinach, onions, pepperoncinis, and olive tapenade. A small, very friendly spot with huge, quality sandwiches.

5) LONGHORN PO-BOYS & FALAFEL (2901-B Medical Arts, 495-9228) With its huge menu, these can't help but stand out: the Puerco Manchego, with roasted and pulled pork tenderloin, *jamón serrano*, Manchego cheese, green-apple slices, paprika aioli, sautéed shallots, and mesclun mix, and its first cousin, the Don Corleone Burger, with a half-pound patty, *jamón serrano*, roasted shallots, roasted tomato, fresh mozzarella, and arugula.

6) PHOENICIA BAKERY & DELI (2912 S. Lamar, 447-4444) Ed Ward had it right years ago, this is (still) the best chicken sandwich on the planet. The roasted chicken shawarma features moist, spicy chicken; tomatoes; and lettuce in the freshest of warm flatbreads, all of it literally dripping with Malek's amazing garlic sauce. Superb, and it could be the least expensive of the whole list.

7) FOODHEADS (616 W. 34th, 420-8400) Quirky FoodHeads offers two must-have faves: garlic-and-herb-roasted leg of lamb (toasted ciabatta with lettuce, tomato, grilled eggplant, feta cheese, and *tzatziki*) and the spicy apple pork tenderloin sandwich (grilled pork tenderloin on a toasted baguette with smoked Gouda, spinach, spicy apple relish, and honey dijon).

8) COUNTER CAFE (626 N. Lamar, 708-8800) This place has a great burger, but we love the grilled pimento cheese (toasty nine-grain bread, a mix of cheeses and roasted peppers, topped with tomato, red onion, and lettuce), perfect with a side of its excellent sweet spud fries.

9) LITTLE DELI & PIZZERIA (7101-A Woodrow, 467-7402) Great hot and cold sammies and dynamite pizza too, but when I want to get my veggie on, this is it: the Vegetarian (avocado, artichoke hearts, roasted eggplant, mozzarella, Swiss, provolone, cheddar, Parmesan, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, and tapenade, served on a toasted kaiser roll).

10) EL PRIMO TACO TRUCK (2101 S. First, north of Live Oak, in the convenience store parking lot) Tacos be damned! Go here for the al pastor torta: a bolillo roll sliced open, slathered with some mayo and refried beans, and topped generously with sweet and spicy al pastor pork and then avocado, queso, lettuce, tomato, onion, and cilantro. Messy and *mucho sabroso*.

Claudia Alarcón's Top Cocktails of 2009

To the delight of those of us who are always on the lookout for exciting flavor combinations, Austin has evolved into a mixologist mecca. While there are many capable bartenders who can make a perfect margarita or dry martini, my quest here was for unique signature drinks that inspire, quench a thirst, or instigate an appetite. Congrats to all the creative forces behind these drinks. Keep 'em coming!

1) REDBUD AT PAGGI HOUSE Homegrown mariachi peppers muddled with sea salt, mixed with Tito's vodka, grapefruit bitters, house-made grenadine, and lime juice, garnished with fresh pomegranate seeds. My No. 1 at the Austin Cocktail Throwdown.

2) GAZPACHO MARTINI AT FINO El Jimador tequila infused with a mélange of roasted vegetables, mixed with tomato juice and lime. They go down way too easy on a summer afternoon.

3) ZANAHORITA AT EAST SIDE SHOW ROOM Tequila *reposado*, fresh carrot juice, agave nectar, cilantro, served on the rocks in a mason jar with a Turkish salt rim. Gorgeous, good, and good for you. Love the play on words!

4) ALMA BLANCA AT LA CONDESA Habanero-infused Siembra Azul *blanco* tequila, Domaine de Canton ginger liqueur, agave nectar, pineapple juice, muddled fresh corn and *hoja de hierba santa*, with a hibiscus-rose-infused salt rim. Just try it.

5) YULE THYME MARTINI AT THE FOUR SEASONS LOBBY LOUNGE Dripping Springs vodka infused with fresh sage and thyme, topped with a dash of Oban scotch and a slice of smoked maitake mushroom. Killer aperitif, inspired by the flavors of turkey stuffing. Wow.

6) CAESAR AT PERLA'S A classic drink up north, unfortunately bypassed around these parts. The combination of Tito's vodka with Clamato, lime juice, and spic-

es, garnished with pickled green beans and a celery salt rim, is lighter than a Bloody Mary, so you can actually enjoy more than one. Great with seafood!

7) FRENCH 75 AT JUSTINE'S While many local bars offer this newly popularized classic, Justine's is right on — not too fizzy, balanced on the citrus, and boozy enough. Plus, it comes in a large martini glass. *Pas mal!*

8) ENDLESS SUMMER AT THE GOOD KNIGHT I don't think they make a bad cocktail at this awesome gastropub, but the combination of smoky mescal, muddled pear and fresh jalapeño, pear brandy, and sparkling wine was just incredible. Garnished with thin slices of fresh pears and seedless jalapeño strips, it's refreshing like a summer drink but made with seasonal fall pears.

9) RED HEADED STRANGER AT FRANK Bacon-infused Dripping Springs vodka mixed with house-made Bloody Mary mix, garnished with a celery-salt rim and a skewered jalapeño-stuffed olive, pepperoncino, and a cheddar cheese cube, with a strip of crispy bacon as a "stirring stick." It has a double dose of bacon, people!

10) WATERMELON SAKE COOLER AT TOMODACHI SUSHI Simple, refreshing, palate-cleansing mix of fresh pressed watermelon juice, chilled sake, a touch of citrus, and a *shiso* leaf garnish. Another one that goes down easy and pairs incredibly well with Tomodachi's fabulous fish fare.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Red Headed Stranger at Frank

Wes Marshall's

Top Tequila Blancos

This has been a great year for new tequilas. And while the conventional wisdom is that the best are from the *reposado* and *añejo* classes, my heart belongs to the *blancos* (aka silver, platinum, or any other idea the marketing folks can come up with to describe a clear tequila). The extra fruitiness and agave intensity is muted in the aged versions. I'm sure to get plenty of guff about this from the tequila conservatives. Sorry, give me a young, vibrant blanco, and I'll be a happy *bebedor*. By the way, if price is an absolute issue, the Jose Cuervo silver at \$17 is a great bottle of tequila. In a price-is-no-object world, these are the 10 best blanco tequilas I've tried this year, arranged alphabetically.

- 1) CABO WABO (\$35)
- 2) CHINACO (\$45)
- 3) CORAZÓN DE AGAVE (\$35)
- 4) CORZO (\$46)
- 5) DON JULIO (\$40)
- 6) 1800 (\$27)
- 7) EL TESORO PLATINUM (\$45)
- 8) GRAN PATRÓN (\$175)
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- 10) Z (\$30)



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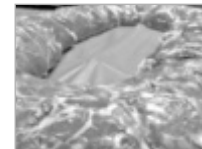
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OPAL DIVINE'S MARINA This menu features some seasonal seafood items in addition to favorite Opal's staples. 12709 N. MoPac, 733-5353. www.opaldivines.com. \$\$\$

SHOAL CREEK SALOON A Cajun oasis next to Shoal Creek, with great South Louisiana chow, ice-cold beer, and a warm and fuzzy ambience. It's the friendliest sports bar in town. 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805. www.shoalcreeksaloon.com. \$\$\$

TEXAS CHILI PARLOR An Austin legend serving good burgers, sandwiches, Tex-Mex, and, of course, chili in many varieties to satisfy all tastes, even vegetarian. Laid-back atmosphere with a very eclectic patronage. 1409 Lavaca, 472-2828. www.cactushill.com/TCP/home.htm. \$

TEXAS EMBASSY The owners of Habana Calle 6 may have changed its name, but they kept a few Cuban favorites on the new menu. Also, look for chicken-fried steak and enchiladas while you catch a game on TV. 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252. www.texasembassyaustin.com. \$\$\$

WALTON'S FANCY AND STAPLE This florist and gift shop is also a bakery, coffee shop, and sandwich counter. You'll find Niman Ranch, Applegate Farms, and Applewood deli meats; and Maytag blue, imported Stilton, Saint-André, Brie, and Vermont cheddar cheeses. 609 W. Sixth, 542-3380. www.waltonsfancyandstaple.com. \$

NORTH

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAKE CREEK This Alamo location shows first-run movies with the same delicious menu as its fellow theatres. 13729 Research, 219-5408. www.draffhouse.com/lakecreek. \$\$\$

BABY ACAPULCO NO. 4 Try this place for great enchiladas and popular flavored margaritas that should come with warning stickers: "Muy bueno!" 13609 N. I-35, 670-9111. www.babyacapulco.com. \$\$\$

CHINA CAFE The food is good here, and the delivery is fast. 13729 Research #695, 331-7747. \$

GAMMAD ORIENTAL STORE A complete Filipino grocery with a thriving *turo-turo* steam table scene as well. Shoppers tend to get prepared food to go with their cooking supplies, and many call ahead for family-sized portions. 2309 W. Parmer, 973-8745. \$

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

PAPPADEAUX SEAFOOD KITCHEN Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled, with a variety of side dishes. 6319 N. I-35, 452-9363. www.pappadeaux.com. \$\$\$

EAST

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DE LAS CASAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT Try this kid-friendly, homey spot for large portions of freshly prepared favorites, as well as surprises that include eggplant and fried avocado. 1209 E. Seventh, 542-9294. \$\$\$

EL CHILE CAFE Y CANTINA The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several Interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. 1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900. www.elchilecafe.com. \$\$\$

EL CHILITO TACOS Y CAFE Fresh, fast, and portable is what you can expect from this festive corner taquería. Don't miss the *cochinita* in fresh corn tortillas or the great *paleta* selection. 2219 Manor Rd., 382-3797. www.elchilito.com. \$

KARIBU ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT & BAR Here you can find quality Ethiopian cuisine, served inside or on the patio. The service is gracious, and the food is as delicious as it is exotic. 1209 E. Seventh, 320-5454. www.ethiopianrestaurantaustin.com. \$\$\$

LAKE

BROTHERS BAKERY & CAFE The pastry cases are filled with cinnamon rolls, sausage kolaches, cookies, brownies, croissants, and Danish pastries. The lunch menu features hearty sandwiches, tasty soups, and a variety of inviting salads. 519 Hwy. 281 N., 830/798-TART. www.brothersbakery.com. \$

HUDSON'S ON THE BEND A lakeside fine-dining fixture for two decades, specializing in game of all descriptions - rabbit to rattle-snake, pheasant to frogs' legs - in a romantic ambience. 3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369. www.hudsonsonthebend.com. \$\$\$\$

LOS PINOS Tex-Mex with a bit of Southwestern cuisine mixed in for flair. Be sure to try the fish *borracho*: tilapia swimming in chipotle cream sauce, corn, and mushrooms. 4919 Hudson Bend Rd., 266-3231. \$\$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

ARPEGGIO GRILL Try this much-loved neighborhood spot's 25 flavors of tasty wings, an interesting selection of pizzas, and a full complement of Mediterranean dishes prepared from family recipes. 6619 Airport, 419-0110. www.araggiolaustin.com. \$

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

TEXAS PIZZA, PASTA & MORE A large selection of salads and pasta dishes makes the cornmeal-cardboard pizza crust less of a heartbreaker here. 6929 Airport #158, 419-0006. www.txpizza.net. \$\$\$

VINO VINO Comfy decor, great wines, surprisingly good food, and reasonable prices keep everyone coming back. 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282. www.vinovinotx.com. \$\$\$

SOUTH

CAFE CAFFEINE You'll find the basics here: The most popular coffee order is for drip, with sandwiches, wraps, and empanadas filling out the bill of fare. 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com. \$

GREEN MUSE CAFE Drinks, pastries, gatherings, bands, wi-fi, and movies make this coffee shop a community hangout. 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789. www.myspace.com/green_muse. \$

JOVITA'S is part community center, part restaurant, part music venue, and all fun. This place offers honest Tex-Mex and ice-cold beer. Check out Cornell Hurd on Thursdays. 1619 S. First, 447-7825. www.jovitas.com. \$\$\$

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS This funky little joint with the brightly decorated patio is the heart and soul of South Austin. Arrive early! Hundreds of breakfast-taco variations, great migas, great hot sauce, and a full bar. 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261. www.tacopress.com. \$

THAI FRESH This combination restaurant/deli/grocery/cooking school draws patrons from beyond South Austin for some of the best Thai in Texas. 909 W. Mary Ste. B, 494-6436. www.thai-fresh.com. \$\$\$

TORCHY'S TACOS The crowds gathering at all hours attest to the loyal following Torch's has developed. Try the Little Nookies: deep-fried chocolate chip cookies. 2809 S. First, 444-0300. www.torchystacos.com. \$

UT

MILTO'S This longtime UT-area institution serves both Italian and Greek specialties. The wonderful weekday lunch specials are both filling and cheap. 2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021. www.miltosmediterraneancafe.com. \$\$\$

SÃO PAULO'S offers Tex-Mex dishes as well as Brazilian cuisine, such as its version of the national dish, *feijoada*. São Paulo's constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. www.saopaulos.net. \$\$\$

THAI KITCHEN The Drag location of this respected local Thai restaurant chain is popular with student diners, and the authentic food is fresh, spicy, and affordable. 3009 Guadalupe, 474-2575. www.thaikitchenofaustin.com. \$\$\$

TRUDY'S TEXAS STAR offers a wide range of Tex-Mex with a slightly contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The half-pound burgers are tasty and massive, and the menu also offers chicken-fried steaks. 409 W. 30th, 477-2935. www.trudys.com. \$\$\$

WEST

CAFE LAGUNA This cafe's menu of salads and sandwiches is provided by Eddie Bernal's 34th Street Catering operation. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191 x211. www.amoa.org. \$

FABI + ROSI Here diners are treated to European classics such as escargots in garlic butter, *moules marinieres*, steak frites, and paella, all at shamefully reasonable prices. 509 Hearn, 236-0642. www.fabiandrosi.com. \$\$\$\$

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



Tall, Dark, and Brylcreemed

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Instead of breaking up this year's list into comedies and dramas, I'm lumping them into one master list. Why? Because dramadies like *Nurse Jackie* make the dichotomy bothersome. Good is good, isn't it? We'll see what you think after you've taken a glance at my list of the best TV had to offer in 2009.



Still mad about the boy: Jon Hamm in *Mad Men*

1) 'MAD MEN' (AMC) There is simply no comparison. Yes, my *Breaking Bad* "TV Eye" readers, I still can't say enough about this drama. No, I don't think it will solve the world's problems, but it makes me forget about them for one glorious hour. Honorable mention: *Damages* (FX). The second season is not as brilliant as the first. Still, I'm a fan.

2) 'MODERN FAMILY' (ABC) All the praise everyone has been heaping on *Glee* I've been saving for *Modern Family*. Goofy and often touching, this half-hour sitcom makes me laugh out loud at least once per episode. Honorable mention: *The Middle* (ABC). Largely overlooked (in order to hype *Cougar Town*), this **Patricia Heaton** vehicle is often very funny, capturing the life of a harried mom from middle America with just enough sass to make it interesting, but not so totally "Lois" (you know, **Jane Kaczmarek** from *Malcolm in the Middle*) that you slap your forehead.

3) 'THE OFFICE' (NBC) Strong season, strong writing, strong performances. I will now officially stop making comparisons between this and its British precursor.

4) 'FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS' (NBC) Just when I forget about it, it returns and makes me fall in love with it all over again.

5) 'FRINGE' (FOX) While I finally gave up on *Heroes*, and I still don't believe the folks at *Lost* know where the hell they're going, this **J.J. Abrams** series has kept me riveted, providing a highly satisfying season-ending cliffhanger.

Yes, the promos are unrelentingly mysterious. Ignore them. The cast, led by the refreshingly understated **Anna Torv**, is terrific. Honorable mention: *V* (ABC). I think I'm the only person in America who likes this remake. What's not to like? Action, aliens, snarly teens, **Elizabeth Mitchell** (*Lost*), and, last but not least, **Morris Chestnut**, baybee! I drop my drawers, um, I mean, my jaw, every time he comes on screen.

6) 'CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM' (HBO) I had lost my patience with this series, but it found its groove again last season. I especially liked the sly way it handled the *Seinfeld*

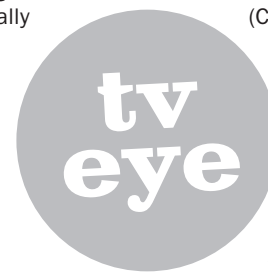
reunion and how it commented on the **Michael Richards'** gaffe with just enough oomph. And the season closer, tying up Larry's effort to win back his ex? Priceless.

7) 'NURSE JACKIE' (SHOWTIME) I admit it: I am enthralled with **Edie Falco**. Feisty, complicated, earnest, sad, and a little bit wacky, Falco's Nurse Jackie is the person you want to have on your side, no matter what.

Honorable mention: **The Good Wife** (CBS). While I hate courtroom dramas, this one doesn't get under my skin. Perhaps because **Julianna Margulies'** Alicia Florrick plays a victim without being victimized.

8) 'COMMUNITY' (NBC) Also overlooked, but often very funny. Its freshman season was much stronger than what's happening on **30 Rock** (NBC), which, aside from some great individual performances, seems to have lost the wind in its sails.

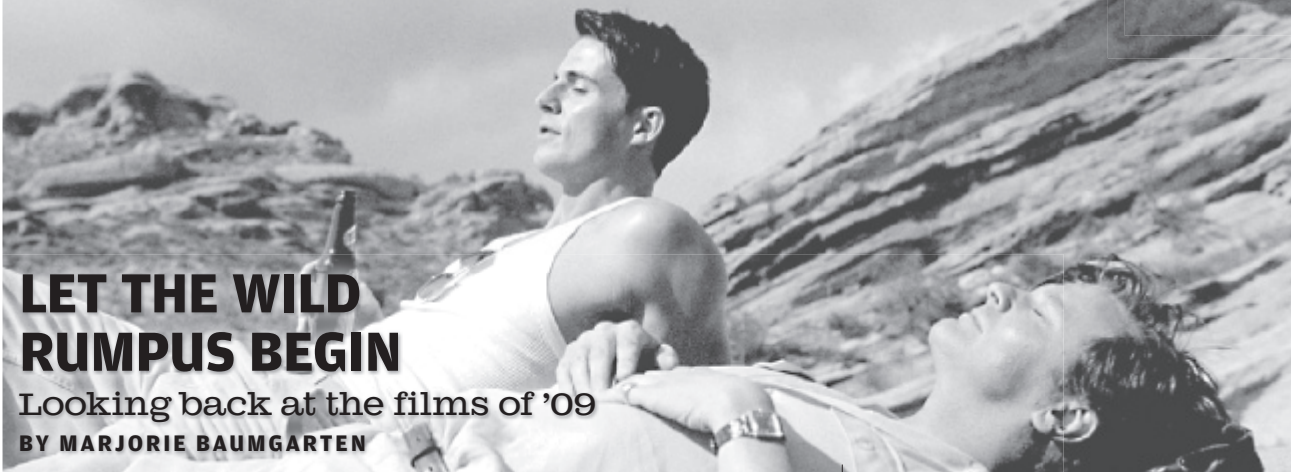
9) 'MERCY' (NBC) Here are the interesting, positive female characters on TV. Less ooky than *Saving Grace* (there is no tobacco-chewing guardian angel) and more serious than *Grey's Anatomy*, this hospital drama features a likable, complicated lead (**Taylor Schilling** as Nurse Veronica Callahan), who is all too human without being overwhelming bitchy or cloy.



Did I get it right? Tweet me your corrections, additions, or concurrences @ChronicleTVEye.

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

screens



A Single Man

LET THE WILD RUMPUS BEGIN

Looking back at the films of '09

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

In the world of film, it was the year of the number nine. There was the animated film 9, the sci-fi parable *District 9*, and the musical *Nine* (itself an outgrowth of the movie *8½*). All these films are worthwhile projects, one was among our top picks, and each is aimed at moviegoers older than the age of 9. For these things we are grateful, but here's the rub: We are ready to move beyond nine. So, contrary to the lists in the other editorial departments of the *Chronicle*, we are sticking with Top 10 lists. Call us troublemakers or call us conventional; let the wild rumpus begin.

The only film to appear on all three *Chronicle* reviewers' lists is *The Hurt Locker*. Usually, that causes a movie to be a shoo-in for the No. 1 spot in the group's combined tally. Yet *The Hurt Locker* came in at the No. 4 spot on the combined list, leaving the top contenders to films that appeared on only two individual lists but high in each reviewer's ranking. Our combined No. 1 movie, *A Single Man*, opens next Friday, Jan. 8, in Austin. Other titles are still in the theatres, while many others are already available for rental. All told, we think these lists offer a good picture of the *Chronicle* reviewers' tastes and provide a lot of good suggestions for movies to catch up with. ■

For individual Top 10 lists from Marjorie Baumgarten, Kimberley Jones, and Marc Savlov, see p.42.

IN PRAISE OF BINGE-WATCHING

TV we consumed in dangerously large quantities

Netflix, I Luv Video, Hulu, TiVo, BitTorrent, black-market – so many ways to watch so many TV shows. And by watch, we mean consume in large quantities over long weekends, aka binge. Personally, we subsisted on a steady diet of British imports (Holla, BBC America and BBC Video press reps! Cuddles to you, too, PBS!). We found tender vittles in seasons past and/or present of *Doctor Who*, *M1-5*, *I'm Alan Partridge*, *Gavin & Stacey*, *The Mighty Boosh*, *Shameless*, and *Saxondale*. Um, to name a few. (Surely, England, this qualifies us for some sort of honorary citizenship papers, right? Or maybe a dameship? We've already nailed the royal "we.")

Turns out our officemates have the binge bug pretty bad, too. Here's what lured them to the TV trough this year.

– Kimberley Jones

The rebel in me resisted the *Mad Men* pitch until this fall, when I consumed a season and half over the course of a few days. It was convenient and entertaining to watch it swish styl-

ishly by in concentrated form, but I found myself indifferent to its characters and smirking at the buffoonish sexism relentlessly on display (I mean, really, has it reached the point where we can only believe that phenomenon exists/existed if it's in cartoon form?). It's not *Mad Men*'s fault, but I'm more convinced than ever to take my shows when they're broadcast, please, before the flush of the moment fades.

– Cindy Widner

We lapped up all five seasons of *Rescue Me* on DVD: Its post-9/11 New York Fire Department milieu is the definitive guide to modern maleness in all of its variegated, vitriolic, and venal forms. Pitch-black comedy meets pithy, blacker tragedy, and comes up smelling like burnt roses dipped in booze, broads, and endless self-abuse. Required viewing for those females of the species who'd like to finally figure out why men are such seemingly clueless jerks even as they're desperately trying to be better human beings overall. Love burns. – Marc Savlov

'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' TOP FILMS OF '09

- 1) 'A SINGLE MAN'
- 2) 'A SERIOUS MAN' (tie)
- 2) 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE' (tie)
- 3) 'MOON'
- 4) 'THE HURT LOCKER'
- 5) 'IN THE LOOP'
- 6) 'ANTICHRIST' (tie)
- 6) 'THE BEACHES OF AGNÈS' (tie)
- 6) '12' (tie)
- 7) 'BAD LIEUTENANT: PORT OF CALL NEW ORLEANS' (tie)
- 7) 'GOODBYE SOLO' (tie)
- 7) 'UP' (tie)



Alan Partridge? More, please, yes.

Not having cable or an antenna keeps me out of the loop with respect to new shows, but it didn't stop me from streaming the first three seasons of *Friday Night Lights* via Netflix. (Sadly, it only took me two weeks to watch all three years fly by.) And my PlayStation3 has an Internet browser that lets me watch entire seasons of shows no one else was interested in (*Jack & Bobby*, anyone?). Side note: Screw you, Hulu, for not playing nice with PS3 browsers.

– James Renovitch

DVR plus FX original series equals TV win. The final season of *The Shield* dragged the characters to hell, *Sons of Anarchy* got both wheels on the ground in season two, and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* is like *Saïd* with fart gags.

– Richard Whittaker

Gaming's Nine to Five

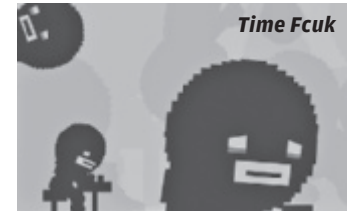
BY JAMES RENOVITCH

Just to make things more confusing, I've decided to choose the Top 5 video games for our No. 9-themed Top 10s issue. Don't worry, everything's numbered.

1) FREE BROWSER GAMES

Cop-out? Maybe. It could be that I have a weekly blog column covering the world of games readily playable with a working Internet browser

and an updated version of Flash. However, 2009 was not kind to the major players in the gaming world despite what you might infer from the *Call of Duty* sales figures. Most developers played it safe with their franchises. Meanwhile indie gamemakers were giving the year's best titles away. Some, such as *Canabalt*, were lightning-quick retro excursions and quickly grabbed up by the iPhone App Store. Others had one-of-a-kind gameplay, like *Closure*. But the real gem this year was from the mind of Edmund McMillen (among others), creator of list-worthy games like *Meat Boy* and *Aether*. *Time Fcuk* is an eerie 8-bit trek through time, space, and insanity with the standard run-and-jump archetype turned on its ear. Add the ability to create levels for others to play, and you have my favorite game of the year. Did I mention that it's free? See for yourself: www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/511754.



2) 'DJ HERO' All I need to say to piss everyone off is that *DJ Hero* is better than similar guitar-based games – I'm talking to you, *The Beatles Rock Band*. The creators of *Guitar Hero* didn't cut any corners on the quality of the original mixes (from DJ Shadow, for chrissakes!) or the plastic turntable peripheral. Take the financial plunge at \$100, and play a rhythm-based game with music that is actually rhythm-based.

3) 'NEW SUPER MARIO BROS. WII' However many mediocre games are released for the Wii, Nintendo can always count on two Italian brothers to save the day. It's a dash of the original game mixed with *Super Mario Bros. 3*, except four people can play at a time. It also balances absurdly difficult levels with the ability to have Luigi (aka the computer) finish the level for you. It may be the weak person's way out, but, trust me, you'll want the option at some point.

4) 'UNCHARTED 2: AMONG THIEVES' Everyone's talking about *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*, but *Uncharted 2* was sexier, more engrossing, and just more fun. It's not the missing link between gaming and movies that some critics have called it, but it still deserves end-of-the-year accolades. And, be honest with yourself, when you want to have fun in front of your TV, do you want to play the gaming equivalent of *Saving Private Ryan* or *Indiana Jones*?

5) 'SCRIBBLENAUTS' This one gets the spirit award. The execution isn't perfect, but the audacity of the game's creators is laudable. Every level has a simple goal, but the fun is that you can write anything on your Nintendo DS to get you there. Anything. Think a cantaloupe can get that star out of the tree? Write it. Need a dinosaur to get you across a puddle? Why not? If you can think it – and spell it – you can play it. ■

Read James Renovitch's regular online column on free browser games, "This Week's Waste of Time," at austinchronicle.com/pip.



Where the Wild Things Are



A Serious Man



A Single Man

MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

KIMBERLEY JONES

MARC SAVLOV

<p>1</p>	<p>Where the Wild Things Are The No. 1 spot is reserved for the movie that took my breath away, a most involuntary response. <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> did and does.</p>	<p>A Serious Man Forget somebody to love – what Larry Gopnik wants is somebody to give him a lousy break. With the Coens playing God to his Job, it isn't likely. Still, this is their most challenging, forgiving, and <i>likable</i> film in a long time.</p>	<p>A Single Man Tom Ford's delirious meditation on the life, death, and rebirth of desire is, simply put, a flawless and exhilarating debut.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>The Beaches of Agnès Agnès Varda's beaches are festooned with mirrors and scarves and her courtyard with sand and umbrellas. Her film autobiography, like her life, is alive with possibility, passageways, and progress.</p>	<p>In the Loop Inspired by the American-Anglo ramp-up to the Iraq invasion, this deliciously nasty piece of work roasts the feckless, double-speaking politicos behind it all. And, oh, such sweet poetry in profanity: "Fuckity-bye!"</p>	<p>12 This Russian reconceptualization of the Sidney Lumet classic <i>12 Angry Men</i> is just as talky but infinitely more poetic and a slow-burning thing of enormous, post-Soviet beauty.</p> 
<p>3</p>	<p>A Single Man Acclaimed fashion designer Tom Ford (who was born in Austin) delivers a first film that defies expectations of dilettantism and proves that there can be second acts in American life.</p>	<p>Moon The buddy picture of the year! No, really: Sam Rockwell's one-man-in-a-tin-can is an unshowy masterpiece, and supporting players Sam Rockwell and Sam Rockwell are pretty terrific, too.</p>	<p>Moon Sam Rockwell redeems himself for the ill-conceived <i>Gentlemen Broncos</i> by playing multiple hands of paranoia solitaire in this trippy little gem.</p> 
<p>4</p>	<p>A Serious Man Apart from enjoying the Coens' engagement in ontological questions, this film, more than any other, filled me with the joy of identity: Jewish culture and Jefferson Airplane. <i>L'chayim!</i></p>	<p>Where the Wild Things Are The creatures are true to the spirit of Sendak and a technical knockout, but the real marvel is in how sensitive Spike Jonze is to childhood's confusion, ache, and appetite for sensation.</p>	<p>Antichrist The <i>other</i> fantastic Mr. Fox growls the all-too-truism, "Chaos reigns!," while Dafoe and Gainsbourg savage each other and us as well. Love is hell.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The Hurt Locker So taut, no movement unpurposed: This movie shows what it really takes to be ready for war.</p> 	<p>Goodbye Solo Ramin Bahrani's microindie study in human decency is perfectly lovely.</p> 	<p>Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans The most deliciously unhinged performance of Nicolas Cage's career (at least since <i>Vampire's Kiss</i>) in Werner Herzog's most amoral morality tale since <i>Cobra Verde</i>. Kinski would be pleased.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Summer Hours This French film is a lovely rumination on the meaning of things, one that reminds us that meaning is created by human beings and not inherent in the objects themselves.</p>	<p>Adventureland A sweet coming-of-age comedy with deceptive breadth. Sure, there's a virgin in crisis and a serial nut-puncher, but also lower-middle-class kids having to take care of parents too soon and knowing their future isn't any brighter.</p>	<p>The Cove A riveting indictment of not only the Japanese who slaughter dolphins in the titular cove but also of an allegedly civilized planet that condones, via inaction, such inhuman atrocities.</p> 
<p>7</p>	<p>An Education Like <i>A Serious Man</i>, <i>An Education</i> is, for me, another experience in identity filmmaking. I recognize too well this movie's young girl who wants nothing more than to shed her mediocrity.</p>	<p>La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet How do you explain the potency of this 3½-hour, French-language, observational documentary about dance? Easy. Frederick Wiseman made it.</p>	<p>The Hurt Locker Bigelow has made one helluva war movie, but it's her highly personalized depiction of the hyperadrenalized addiction to danger that really blows you away.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Up An instant classic: From the second this one was out of the gate, you could see it was going to be a timeless family jewel, one that spanned generations and seasons.</p> 	<p>Inglourious Basterds If Tarantino had shown a little more restraint, this would have been an unqualified masterpiece. Then again, who wants temperance from QT? Still bloody fantastic as is.</p>	<p>Up Pixar's most lovely and affecting film yet. Candy-colored melancholy meets the spirit of adventure (and talking dogs).</p> 
<p>9</p>	<p>Antichrist Agony, guilt, and psychological suffering are fearlessly expressed by Lars von Trier, Willem Dafoe, and Charlotte Gainsbourg. They truly go where angels fear to tread.</p>	<p>The Hurt Locker Precision work on- and off-camera, and maybe the most queasy-making movie, top to bottom, I've ever seen.</p>	<p>Inglourious Basterds Not just another badass Jews vs. craven Nazi scum exploitation flick, Tarantino's film is as much an ode to the power of cinema as it is an alt-history World War II bloodbath.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Bright Star Sensuous and voluptuous, Jane Campion's story of the tubercular poet John Keats and his lady love Fanny Brawne recasts the hackneyed old stanza in refreshing new verse.</p>	<p>The Brothers Bloom The third act falls apart, but so what? <i>The Brothers Bloom</i> is a beautiful gift – singular, spry, and terribly tender. Somebody please keep giving Rian Johnson money to make movies.</p>	<p>In the Loop Dark Brit comedy meets even darker Brit reality. Probably not in Tony Blair's Netflix queue.</p> 

	MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN	KIMBERLEY JONES	MARC SAVLOV
NEAR MISSES	<i>Inglourious Basterds</i> , <i>District 9</i> , <i>Goodbye Solo</i> , <i>The Baader Meinhof Complex</i> , <i>Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire</i>	<i>A Single Man</i> , <i>Bright Star</i> , <i>We Live in Public</i> , <i>Mary and Max</i> , <i>District 9</i> ▶	 <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> , <i>Burma VJ</i> , <i>Bronson</i> , <i>Sin Nombre</i> , <i>District 9</i>
MOST OVERRATED	<i>Paranormal Activity</i> , <i>Observe and Report</i> , <i>Up in the Air</i>	<i>Up in the Air</i> , <i>Invictus</i> , <i>The Proposal</i>	<i>The Blind Side</i> , <i>Funny People</i> , <i>The Informant!</i>
MOST UNDERRATED	<i>The Limits of Control</i> , <i>Brüno</i> , <i>Drag Me to Hell</i> ▶	<i>Away We Go</i> , <i>Mystery Team</i> , <i>Bandslam</i> ▶	<i>Tokyo!</i> , <i>Thirst</i> , <i>Crank: High Voltage</i> ▶
ACTING KUDOS (MALE)	Colin Firth (<i>A Single Man</i>), Christoph Waltz (<i>Inglourious Basterds</i>), Stanley Tucci (<i>Julie & Julia</i> , <i>The Lovely Bones</i>), Alfred Molina (<i>An Education</i>), Jeff Bridges (<i>Crazy Heart</i>)	Tom Hardy (<i>Bronson</i>), Michael Stuhlbarg (<i>A Serious Man</i>), Sam Rockwell (<i>Moon</i>), Souleymane Sy Savane (<i>Goodbye Solo</i>), Adam Scott (<i>The Vicious Kind</i>)	Nicolas Cage (<i>Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans</i>), Tom Hardy (<i>Bronson</i>), Colin Firth (<i>A Single Man</i>), Peter Capaldi (<i>In the Loop</i>), Sam Rockwell (<i>Moon</i>)
ACTING KUDOS (FEMALE)	Vera Farmiga (<i>Up in the Air</i>), Anna Kendrick (<i>Up in the Air</i>), Carey Mulligan (<i>An Education</i>), Julianne Moore (<i>A Single Man</i>), Catherine O'Hara (<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>)	Mo'Nique (<i>Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire</i>), Mélanie Laurent (<i>Inglourious Basterds</i>), Helen Mirren (<i>The Last Station</i>), Maya Rudolph (<i>Away We Go</i>), Marion Cotillard (<i>Public Enemies</i>)	Charlotte Gainsbourg (<i>Antichrist</i>), Abbie Cornish (<i>Bright Star</i>), Sigourney Weaver (<i>Avatar</i>), Mélanie Laurent (<i>Inglourious Basterds</i>), Nisreen Faour (<i>Amreeka</i>)
BEST DIRECTOR	Spike Jonze (<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>), Joel and Ethan Coen (<i>A Serious Man</i>), Agnès Varda (<i>The Beaches of Agnès</i>) ▶	Kathryn Bigelow (<i>The Hurt Locker</i>), Spike Jonze (<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>), James Cameron (<i>Avatar</i>)	◀ Werner Herzog (<i>Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans</i>), Nikita Mikhalkov (<i>12</i>), Tom Ford (<i>A Single Man</i>)
BEST SCREENPLAY (ORIGINAL)	 ◀ <i>Bright Star</i> (Jane Campion), <i>A Serious Man</i> (Joel and Ethan Coen), <i>The Hurt Locker</i> (Mark Boal)	<i>A Serious Man</i> (Joel and Ethan Coen), <i>Inglourious Basterds</i> (Quentin Tarantino), <i>Cold Souls</i> (Sophie Barthes)	<i>Inglourious Basterds</i> (Quentin Tarantino), <i>12</i> (Nikita Mikhalkov and Aleksandr Novototsky), <i>Up</i> (Pete Docter and Bob Peterson)
BEST SCREENPLAY (ADAPTED)	<i>A Single Man</i> (David Scarce and Tom Ford), <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> (Spike Jonze and Dave Eggers), <i>An Education</i> (Nick Hornby)	<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> (Spike Jonze and Dave Eggers), <i>In the Loop</i> (Armando Iannucci, Jesse Armstrong, Tony Roche, and Simon Blackwell), <i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i> (Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach)	<i>The Road</i> (Joe Penhall), <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> (Spike Jonze and Dave Eggers), <i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i> (Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach)
WORST FILM	<i>The Ugly Truth</i> . This reactionary movie about acquiescing to outdated sexual stereotypes in order to find happiness is also indicative of the bad screen choices made by America's newest rom-com princess Katherine Heigl.	No home field advantage here: Austin's own Matthew McConaughey with <i>Ghosts of Girlfriends Past</i> and Sandra Bullock with <i>All About Steve</i> proved suckage is an equal-opportunity employer.	<i>Paranormal Activity</i> . Not a 10th as creepy as Spanish imports <i>[Rec]</i> or <i>[Rec] 2</i> , this overhyped, underwhelming mockusuckumentary makes Uwe Boll's oeuvre seem downright transgressive in comparison. Back to YouTube, you!
WILD CARD	 Ensembles Make the Movie: <i>Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire</i> , <i>A Serious Man</i> , <i>The Hurt Locker</i> , <i>Summer Hours</i> , <i>An Education</i> , <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Studio Dunce Cap: Summit Entertainment did well by <i>The Hurt Locker</i> but totally mismanaged the marketing and release of three films that needed special handling – <i>Bandslam</i> , <i>The Brothers Bloom</i> , and <i>Next Day Air</i> – and sucked the fun out of the <i>Twilight</i> franchise by canning original director Catherine Hardwicke.	Coollest "What the Fuck?!" Homage to an Obscure Ishirō Honda Masterpiece: Jason Statham's <i>War of the Gargantuas/King Kong vs. Godzilla</i> slo-mo electrical substation monster mash-up in <i>Crank: High Voltage</i> .



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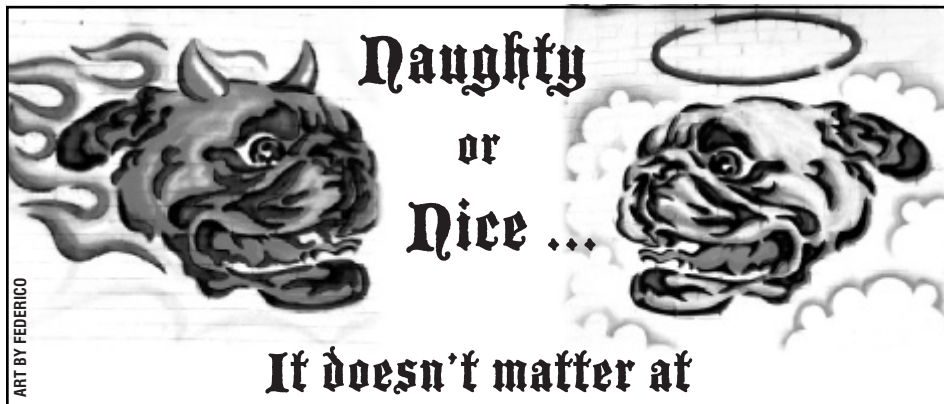


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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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Number Nine, Number Nine, Number Nine

2009 by the numbers

BY **RAOUL HERNANDEZ**

Sept. 9, 2009, dawned like any other morning in Austin. Except it was raining.

Mostly I was in denial. A Tuesday morning constitutional on Town Lake might keep me sane during high Austin City Limits Music Fest season. By the time I reached Sixth and Lamar, the light drizzle had heaved. Shit. That's when I saw the line outside Waterloo Records.

I knew what day it was, in fact. I'd put in a call the night before. Growing up, I hooked my star to the Rolling Stones and my best friend Steve became a Beatles scholar. Our crossroads met at the Who. We loved each other's No. 1 every bit as much as our own, but collecting, that was black and white: Beatles or Stones. Steve didn't hesitate when asked the \$64,000 question.

"Mono." (And I'm paraphrasing here.) "The Beatles oversaw the mono mixes themselves. They just pop better. Get the *Abbey Road* reissue for stereo and the *The Beatles in Mono* box set."

So there I stood, under Waterloo's awning with a half-dozen other middle-aged 9amers. Exercise had been the first order of business, with maybe a stop-in at the record store on the way home, to eyeball the goods. I couldn't afford either the stereo or mono box set of reissues anyway. Unfortunately, I had a credit card.

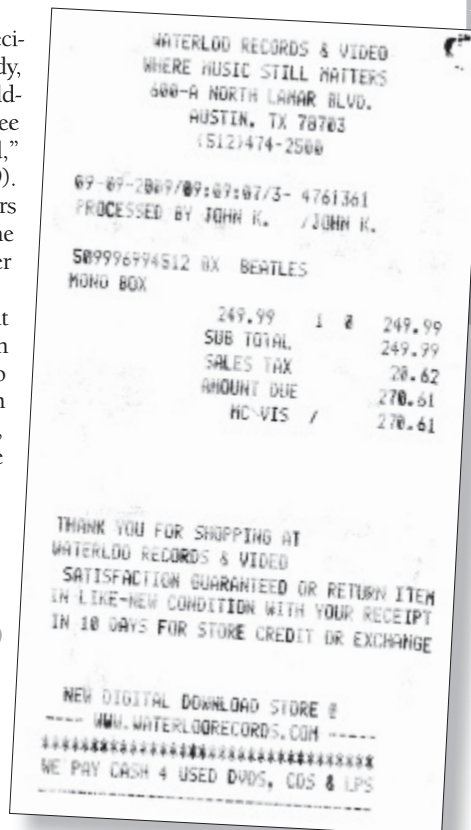
John Kunz, Waterloo fountainhead, waved me forward to the register. He thought it appropriate that my purchase should be recorded at 9:09am on 9/9/09. It is, bless him. The second receipt is time-stamped 9:28am.

I'm still not sure why I flipped a U-turn once I was northbound on Lamar, *The Beatles in Mono* beside me. Given that *The Beatles* stereo box was an additional \$227.31, in this the year of our box set lords (Beatles, Neil Young, 13th Floor Elevators), I dropped almost \$500 that gray misty morning. Was it 9/9, or, as far as my checking account was concerned, 9/11?

Steve applauded the decision. So did Jeff Tweedy, as we talked about building iPod civilizations (see "Shouting Across the Void," Music blog, Oct. 1, 2009). Now, "the Cloud" appears on the horizon, an iPhone jukebox app to render iPods as useless as CDs.

"Take this, brother, may it serve you well," injects John Lennon seven minutes into the soup of "Revolution 9," mind-warp in stereo, Mansonesque in mono (see "Box Sets," Oct. 2, 2009). Imagine no albums. I wonder if you can.

Imagine no
albums.
I wonder if
you can.



Raoul Hernandez

TOP 9 NATIONAL

- 1) SLAYER** *World Painted Blood* (American)
- 2) SONIC YOUTH** *The Eternal* (Matador)
- 3) MEAT PUPPETS** *Sewn Together* (Megaforce)
- 4) NEKO CASE** *Middle Cyclone* (Anti-)
- 5) VIEUX FARKA TOURÉ** *Fondo* (Six Degrees)
- 6) DEATH ...** *For the Whole World to See* (Drag City)
- 7) MORRISSEY** *Years of Refusal* (Lost Highway)
- 8) BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN** *Working on a Dream* (Columbia)
- 9) MARCO BENEVENTO** *Me Not Me* (Royal Potato Family)



TOP 9 AUSTIN

- 1) THE FLATLANDERS** *Hills and Valleys* (New West)
- 2) ROSIE FLORES & THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS** *Girl of the Century* (Bloodshot)
- 3) SARAH JAROSZ** *Song Up in Her Head* (Sugar Hill)
- 4) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 5) HEARTLESS BASTARDS** *The Mountain* (Fat Possum)
- 6) BROWNOUT** *Aguilas and Cobras* (Six Degrees)
- 7) IRON AGE** *The Sleeping Eye* (Tee Pee)
- 8) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown Music)
- 9) THE STRANGE BOYS ...** *And Girls Club* (In the Red)



9 AUSTIN SLEEPERS

- 1) MONAHANS** *Dim the Aurora* (Misra)
- 2) BRAZOS** *Phosphorescent Blues* (Autobus)
- 3) LYMBYC SYSTM** *Shutter Release* (Mush)
- 4) ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS** *B.F.D.* (Fantom)
- 5) THE STORY OF** *Until the Autumn*
- 6) LEE BARBER** *Thief and Rescue*
- 7) UME** *Sunshower* (Hulga)
- 8) LOXSLY** *Tomorrow's Fossils*
- 9) STREET LIGHT SUZIE** *Red River Revival*



Audra Schroeder

TOP 9 NATIONAL

- 1) THE COATHANGERS** *Scramble* (Suicide Squeeze)
- 2) THE CLEAN** *Mister Pop* (Merge)
- 3) THOSE DARLINS** *(Oh Wow Dang)*
- 4) BLUES CONTROL** *Local Flavor* (Siltbreeze)
- 5) ST. VINCENT** *Actor* (4AD)
- 6) THEE OH SEES** *Help* (In the Red)
- 7) THAO WITH THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN** *Know Better Learn Faster* (Kill Rock Stars)
- 8) ALELA DIANE** *To Be Still* (Rough Trade)
- 9) MICACHU & THE SHAPES** *Jewellery* (Rough Trade)



TEXAS TOP 9

- 1) ROSIE FLORES & THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS** *Girl of the Century* (Bloodshot)
- 2) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown)
- 3) TOTAL ABUSE** *(Deranged)*
- 4) RUSTED SHUT** *Dead* (Load)
- 5) HEARTLESS BASTARDS** *The Mountain* (Fat Possum)
- 6) THE HEX DISPENSERS** *Winchester Mystery House* (Douchemaster)
- 7) THE STRANGE BOYS ...** *And Girls Club* (In the Red)
- 8) MANIKIN** *Stop the Sirens* (Super Secret)
- 9) UME** *Sunshower* (Hulga)



LOCAL CHORUS LINE

- 1) LEE BARBER** *Thief and Rescue*
- 2) DARLING NEW NEIGHBORS** *Rocket* (Monofonus Press)
- 3) FOLLOW THAT BIRD!** *(Monofonus Press)*
- 4) WOVEN BONES** *The Minus Touch*
- 5) ELVIS** *Heavily Decorated*
- 6) BROWNOUT** *Aguilas and Cobras* (Six Degrees)
- 7) BABY ROBOTS** *Probably Portions and Fortunes*
- 8) LOW RED CENTER** *(Instincto)*
- 9) THE GARY** *Chub*



Critics Poll

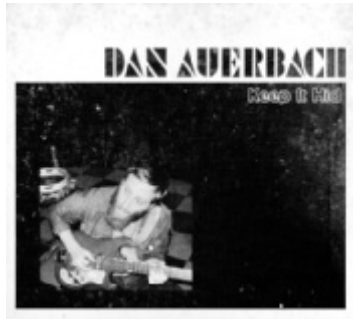
BEST LOCAL SHOW

- CHURCHWOOD** Hole in the Wall (Greg Beets)
THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT/THE FIREANTS Momo's (Jim Caligiuri)
THE RELATIVES Continental Club (Thomas Fawcett)
OKKERVIL RIVER *Austin City Limits* taping (Doug Freeman)
PACHANGA! LATINO MUSIC FESTIVAL Fiesta Gardens (Raoul Hernandez)
WHITE DENIM Antone's (Chase Hoffberger)
MOTHER FALCON Momo's (Margaret Moser)
THE DICKS Austin Music Hall (Austin Powell)
GIRLS ROCK CAMP SHOWCASE Parish (Audra Schroeder)
CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY ORCHESTRA'S TRIBUTE TO TINA MARSH St. James' Episcopal Church (Jay Trachtenberg)

BEST ROADSHOW

- MAYYORS** Spiros (Greg Beets)
KASEY CHAMBERS & SHANE NICHOLSON Cactus Cafe (Jim Caligiuri)
OS MUTANTES La Zona Rosa (Thomas Fawcett)
MY BLOODY VALENTINE Austin Music Hall (Doug Freeman)
JAY-Z Frank Erwin Center (Raoul Hernandez)
DR. JOHN One World Theatre (Chase Hoffberger)
THE DECEMBERISTS Stubb's/Zilker Park (Margaret Moser)
METALLICA Stubb's; **THE JESUS LIZARD** Waterloo Park (Austin Powell)
LEONARD COHEN The Long Center (Audra Schroeder)
CHARLES LLOYD NEW QUARTET Hogg Auditorium (Jay Trachtenberg)

CONTINUED ON P.47



CRITICS POLL CONTINUED FROM P.46

LOCAL VENUE YOU VISITED MOST

- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** (Greg Beets)
- CACTUS CAFE** (Jim Caligiuri)
- MOHAWK** (Thomas Fawcett)
- MOHAWK** (Doug Freeman)
- RED 7** (Raoul Hernandez)
- MOHAWK** (Chase Hoffberger)
- ANTONE'S** (Margaret Moser)
- EMO'S** (Austin Powell)
- MOHAWK** (Audra Schroeder)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** (Jay Trachtenberg)

LOCAL ACT YOU SAW THE MOST

- THE SERVICE INDUSTRY** (Greg Beets)
- UNCLE LUCIUS** (Jim Caligiuri)
- BROWNOUT** (Thomas Fawcett)
- LEATHERBAG** (Doug Freeman)
- PACK OF WOLVES/BUICK MACKANE** (Raoul Hernandez)
- GREYHOUNDS** (Chase Hoffberger)
- THE AVIATORS** (Margaret Moser)
- HARLEM** (Austin Powell)
- HARLEM** (Audra Schroeder)
- T BIRD & THE BREAKS** (Jay Trachtenberg)

BEST NEW LOCAL ACT

- THE GARY** (Greg Beets)
- HECTOR WARD & THE BIG TIME** (Jim Caligiuri)
- HARD PROOF AFROBEAT** (Thomas Fawcett)
- TV TORSO** (Doug Freeman)
- WHITE WHITE LIGHTS** (Raoul Hernandez)
- THE HAPPEN-INS** (Chase Hoffberger)
- MOTHER FALCON** (Margaret Moser)
- FOLLOWED BY STATIC** (Austin Powell)
- NO MAS BODAS** (Audra Schroeder)
- STATION IDENTIFICATION** (Jay Trachtenberg)

BEST REISSUE/BOX SET

- 'WHERE THE ACTION IS!: LOS ANGELES NUGGETS 1965-1968'** (Greg Beets)
- 'THE TIFFANY TRANSCRIPTIONS'** Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys (Jim Caligiuri)
- 'LEGENDS OF BENIN'** (Thomas Fawcett)
- 'THE STONE ROSES'** (Doug Freeman)
- 'NEIL YOUNG ARCHIVES VOL. 1 (1963-1972)'** (Raoul Hernandez)
- 'CHECK YOUR HEAD'** Beastie Boys (Chase Hoffberger)
- 'SIGN OF THE 3 EYED MEN'** 13th Floor Elevators (Margaret Moser)
- '... FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE'** Death (Austin Powell)
- 'DO WHAT YOU WANT BE WHAT YOU ARE'** Hall & Oates (Audra Schroeder)
- 'THE TIFFANY TRANSCRIPTIONS'** Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys (Jay Trachtenberg)

CONTINUED ON P.48

National Top 9s

GREG BEETS

- 1) GIRLS** *Album* (True Panther)
- 2) HEAVY TRASH** *Midnight Soul Serenade* (Big Legal Mess/Fat Possum)
- 3) RAINY DAY SAINTS** *Reflected* (Get Hip)
- 4) YO LA TENGO** *Popular Songs* (Matador)
- 5) DIRTY PROJECTORS** *Bitte Orca* (Domino)
- 6) TINARIWEN** *Imidiwan: Companions* (World Village)
- 7) PISSED JEANS** *King of Jeans* (Sub Pop)
- 8) THE LOVE ME NOTS** *Upsidedown Insideout* (Atomic a Go Go)
- 9) CRYSTAL ANTLERS** *Tentacles* (Touch and Go)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) LEVON HELM** *Electric Dirt* (Vanguard)
- 2) SON VOLT** *American Central Dust* (Rouner)
- 3) PATTY LOVELESS** *Mountain Soul II* (Saguaro Road)
- 4) BEAUSOLEIL** *Alligator Purse* (Yep Roc)
- 5) GUY CLARK** *Somedays the Song Writes You* (Dualtone)
- 6) KRIS KRISTOFFERSON** *Closer to the Bone* (New West)
- 7) RADNEY FOSTER & THE CONFESSIONS** *Revival* (Emergent)
- 8) DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE** *A Friend of a Friend* (Acony)
- 9) ELVIS COSTELLO** *Secret, Profane & Sugarcane* (Hear Music)

THOMAS FAWCETT

- 1) LEE FIELDS & THE EXPRESSIONS** *My World* (Truth & Soul)
- 2) BROTHER ALI** *Us* (Rhymesayers)
- 3) UGK** *UGK 4 Life* (Jive)
- 4) MOS DEF** *The Ecstatic* (Downtown)

- 5) MAYER HAWTHORNE** *A Strange Arrangement* (Stones Throw)
- 6) RAEKWON** *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx ... Pt. II* (ICEAL)
- 7) DAN AUERBACH** *Keep It Hid* (Nonesuch)
- 8) EL MICHELS AFFAIR** *Enter the 37th Chamber* (Truth & Soul)
- 9) WALE** *Attention Deficit* (Interscope)

DOUG FREEMAN

- 1) GRIZZLY BEAR** *Veckatimest* (Warp)
- 2) THE FLAMING LIPS** *Embryonic* (Warner Bros.)
- 3) THE AVETT BROTHERS** *I and Love and You* (Sony)
- 4) DEER TICK** *Born on Flag Day* (Partisan)
- 5) THE FELICE BROTHERS** *Yonder Is the Clock* (Team Love)
- 6) JAY FARRAR & BENJAMIN GIBBARD** *One Fast Move or I'm Gone: Music From Kerouac's Big Sur* (Atlantic)
- 7) MONSTERS OF FOLK** (Shangri-La)
- 8) DANGER MOUSE & SPARKLEHORSE** *Dark Night of the Soul*
- 9) TINY VIPERS** *Life on Earth* (Sub Pop)

CHASE HOFFBERGER

- 1) DANGER MOUSE & SPARKLEHORSE** *Dark Night of the Soul*
- 2) ACEYALONE & THE LONELY ONES** (Decon)
- 3) BEN KWELLER** *Changing Horses* (ATO)
- 4) BLAKROC** (V2)
- 5) MOS DEF** *The Ecstatic* (Downtown)
- 6) M.O.P.** *Foundation* (Koch)
- 7) DAWES** *North Hills*
- 8) UGK** *UGK 4 Life* (Jive)
- 9) ALBERTA CROSS** *Broken Side of Time* (ATO)

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) THE DECEMBERISTS** *The Hazards of Love* (Capitol)
- 2) AMONG THE OAK & ASH** (Verve Forecast)
- 3) THE DECEMBERISTS** *The Hazards of Love* (Capitol)
- 4) PAT MACDONALD** *Purgatory Hill*
- 5) THE DECEMBERISTS** *The Hazards of Love* (Capitol)
- 6) DAVIE ALLAN & THE ARROWS** *Retrophonic* (Arrow Dynamic)
- 7) THE DECEMBERISTS** *The Hazards of Love* (Capitol)
- 8) ONE ESKIMO** (Artist First)
- 9) THE DECEMBERISTS** *The Hazards of Love* (Capitol)

JAY TRACHTENBERG

- 1) DAN AUERBACH** *Keep It Hid* (Nonesuch)
- 2) COURTNEY JOHN** *Made in Jamaica* (Fiwi Music)
- 3) EXTRA GOLDEN** *Thank You Very Quickly* (Thrill Jockey)
- 4) BILLY HARPER** *Blueprints of Jazz, Vol. 2* (Talking House)
- 5) STEVE LEHMAN OCTET** *Travail, Transformation, and Flow* (Pi)
- 6) NOVALIMA** *Coba Coba* (Cumbancha)
- 7) ENRICO RAVA** *New York Days* (ECM)
- 8) TOM RUSSELL** *Blood and Candle Smoke* (Shout! Factory)
- 9) ALLEN TOUSSAINT** *The Bright Mississippi* (Nonesuch)

Texas Top 95

GREG BEETS

- 1) NEON INDIAN** *Psychic Chasms* (Lefse)
- 2) THE STRANGE BOYS ... And Girls Club** (In the Red)
- 3) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown)
- 4) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 5) THE KRAYOLAS** *Long Leaf Pine (No Smack Gum)* (Box)
- 6) THE BAND OF HEATHENS** *One Foot in the Ether* (BOH)
- 7) WILD MOCCASINS** *Microscopic Metronomes*
- 8) GLEESON** *The Very Very Best of Gleeson* (Almost There)
- 9) OPPOSITE DAY** *What Is Is?* (Future Banana Replacement)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 2) UNCLE LUCIUS** *Pick Your Head Up* (BooClap)
- 3) SARAH JAROSZ** *Song Up in Her Head* (Sugar Hill)
- 4) CHARLIE ROBISON** *Beautiful Day* (Dualtone)
- 5) SLAID CLEAVES** *Everything You Love Will Be Taken Away ...* (Music Road)
- 6) THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT** *Time to Stand*
- 7) ROBERT EARL KEEN** *The Rose Hotel* (Lost Highway)
- 8) THE FLATLANDERS** *Hills and Valleys* (New West)
- 9) LYLE LOVETT** *Natural Forces* (Lost Highway)

THOMAS FAWCETT

- 1) OCOTE SOUL SOUNDS** *Coconut Rock* (ESL)
- 2) BROWNOUT** *Aguilas and Cobras* (Six Degrees)
- 3) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 4) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown)
- 5) LITTLE JOE WASHINGTON** *Texas Fire Line* (Dialtone)
- 6) T BIRD & THE BREAKS** *Learn About It*
- 7) SOUTHBOUND** *Seasons Change*
- 8) MATT THE ELECTRICIAN** *Animal Boy*
- 9) GARY FLOATER** *A Hero Never Learns: The Songs of Gary Floater* (Gary Floater Worldwide Entertainment)



DOUG FREEMAN

- 1) STEVE EARLE** *Townes* (New West)
- 2) BALMORHEA** *All Is Wild, All Is Silent* (Western Vinyl)
- 3) THE STRANGE BOYS ... And Girls Club** (In the Red)
- 4) ST. VINCENT** *Actor* (4AD)
- 5) BRAZOS** *Phosphorescent Blues* (Autobus)
- 6) BILL CALLAHAN** *Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle* (Drag City)
- 7) SLAID CLEAVES** *Everything You Love Will Be Taken Away ...* (Music Road)
- 8) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown)
- 9) SAM BAKER** *Cotton*

CHASE HOFFBERGER

- 1) SOUTHBOUND** *Seasons Change*
- 2) WHITE DENIM** *Fits* (Downtown)
- 3) THE STRANGE BOYS ... And Girls Club** (In the Red)
- 4) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 5) THE ARCHIBALDS** *Easy Living* (Super Pop)
- 6) BRAZOS** *Phosphorescent Blues* (Autobus)
- 7) ZEALE** *Haterz and Robotz*
- 8) TEE DOUBLE** *Bio-Music* (Kinetic Global)
- 9) C.O.D.** *Ova the Stove, Volume 3*

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) SARAH JAROSZ** *Song Up in Her Head* (Sugar Hill)
- 2) BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS** *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!* (Lost Highway)
- 3) BOB SCHNEIDER** *Lovely Creatures* (Kirtland)
- 4) SHELLEY KING** *Welcome Home* (Lemonade)
- 5) JOEL GUZMAN & SARAH FOX** *Conjuntazzo* (Guzman Fox)
- 6) CHARLIE ROBISON** *Beautiful Day* (Dualtone)
- 7) THE STEPS** *Take It All In*
- 8) ROSIE FLORES & THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS** *Girl of the Century* (Bloodshot)
- 9) THE DAYLIGHT TITANS** *Boom and Chime*

JAY TRACHTENBERG

- 1) BROWNOUT** *Aguilas and Cobras* (Six Degrees)
- 2) BILL CALLAHAN** *Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle* (Drag City)
- 3) KAT EDMONSON** *Take to the Sky* (Convivium)
- 4) JEFF LOFTON QUARTET** *Jazz to the People*
- 5) MONAHANS** *Dim the Aurora* (Misra)
- 6) GURF MORLIX** *Last Exit to Happyland*
- 7) WILLIE NELSON & ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL** *Willie & the Wheel* (Bismieux)
- 8) OCOTE SOUL SOUNDS** *Coconut Rock* (ESL)
- 9) T BIRD & THE BREAKS** *Learn About It*

CRITICS POLL CONTINUED FROM P.47

BEST SOUNDTRACK

- 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE'** (Greg Beets)
- 'THROW DOWN YOUR HEART'** Béla Fleck (Jim Caligiuri)
- 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE'** (Thomas Fawcett)
- 'ONE FAST MOVE OR I'M GONE'** Jay Farrar & Benjamin Gibbard (Doug Freeman)
- 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE'** (Raoul Hernandez)
- 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE'** (Chase Hoffberger)
- 'BANDSLAM'** (Margaret Moser)
- 'CAPTAIN CLEGG & THE NIGHT CREATURES'** (Austin Powell)
- 'THE ROAD'** Nick Cave and Warren Ellis (Audra Schroeder)
- 'RUDO Y CURSI'** (Jay Trachtenberg)

BEST MUSIC DVD

- 'ANVIL: THE STORY OF ANVIL'** (Greg Beets)
- 'ASHES OF AMERICAN FLAGS'** Wilco (Jim Caligiuri)
- 'SLEEPWALKING THROUGH THE MEKONG'** Dengue Fever (Thomas Fawcett)
- 'ANVIL: THE STORY OF ANVIL'** (Doug Freeman)
- 'SLEEPWALKING THROUGH THE MEKONG'** Dengue Fever (Raoul Hernandez)
- 'THE BAND THAT WOULDN'T DIE'** (Chase Hoffberger)
- 'KANDI'** One Eskimo (Margaret Moser)
- 'ANVIL: THE STORY OF ANVIL'** (Austin Powell)
- 'ANVIL: THE STORY OF ANVIL'** (Audra Schroeder)
- 'MASTERS OF AMERICAN MUSIC, VOL. 3: AMERICAN COMPOSER'** Thelonious Monk (Jay Trachtenberg)

R.I.P.

- MICHAEL JACKSON**, Sky Saxon, Ron Asheton, Lux Interior, Koko Taylor (Greg Beets)
- STEPHEN BRUTON**, Amy Farris, Rocky the dog (Jim Caligiuri)
- MICHAEL JACKSON**, Eddie Bo, Joe Cuba, Mercedes Sosa, Roc Raida (Thomas Fawcett)
- STEPHEN BRUTON**, Robin Shivers, Paul Skelton, Jay Bennett, Vic Chesnutt (Doug Freeman)
- RON ASHETON**, Stephen Bruton, Tina Marsh, David "Fathead" Newman, Les Paul (Raoul Hernandez)
- JAY BENNETT**, Les Paul, Mike Jackson (Chase Hoffberger)
- BILL NARUM**, Ellie Greenwich, Stephen Bruton, Robin Shivers, Rusty Wier (Margaret Moser)
- SKY SAXON**, Ron Asheton (Austin Powell)
- RON ASHETON**, Lux Interior, edginess (Audra Schroeder)
- TINA MARSH**, Stephen Bruton, Bill Narum, David "Fathead" Newman, Claude Jeter (Jay Trachtenberg)

LEAD STORY

But What If the Device Falls Into the Wrong Hands? A 55-year-old British man whose bowel was ruptured in a nearly catastrophic traffic accident has been fitted with a bionic sphincter that opens and closes with a remote controller. Ged Galvin had originally endured 13 surgeries in a 13-week hospital stay and had grown frustrated with using a colostomy bag until surgeon Norman Williams of the Royal London Hospital proposed the imaginative operation. Dr. Williams, who was interviewed along with Galvin for a November feature in London's *Daily Mail*, wrapped a muscle transplanted from Galvin's leg around the sphincter and attached electrodes to tighten or loosen the muscle's grip.

UNREFORMED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections decided in October that it (i.e., taxpayers) should fund complex facial reconstruction surgery for inmate Daryl Strenke, who is serving 30 years after pleading guilty to murdering his girlfriend. Strenke had shot himself in the face in apparent remorse for the killing, severely disfiguring his mouth and jaw and making it nearly impossible for him to eat or speak normally.

BRITAIN'S SAFETY WEENIES

In November, the Solihull Council in Britain's West Midlands county ordered a flooring store to remove the festive balloons it had pinned out front to attract business, calling them hazards. One councilor explained that drivers may be distracted by the colors, and another was concerned that if a balloon came loose, it might possibly float into traffic and lure a child to follow it.

In October, Britain's Association of Chief Police Officers prepared a guidebook of instructions for bicycle-duty officers on how to ride a bike. The book was 93 pages long, containing such assistance as a diagram on how to turn left or right ("deployment into a junction"). Following widespread ridicule, the association decided in November not to release it.

Examiners from Britain's Health and Safety Executive, inspecting bowling alleys for hazards, considered recommendations (according to a November *Daily Mail* report) that included erecting barriers over the lanes to prevent bowlers from wandering the alleys and perhaps getting caught in pin-setting machines or, feared one inspector, bowlers injuring themselves trying to knock over pins by hand. The barriers would leave space for the ball to roll under.

THINGS YOU THOUGHT DIDN'T HAPPEN

British Museum officials announced in September that the hoard of 7th century Anglo-Saxon gold and silver treasure discovered on land in Staffordshire (at least 1,500 pieces, including crosses and parts of helmets and daggers) would take a year to evaluate fully but could be worth "many times" the 1 million pounds (\$1.6 million) archaeologists initially estimated. The treasure was discovered by an unemployed 55-year-old man using one of the widely ridiculed, hand-held metal detectors that beachcombers favor to recover loose coins in the sand.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



ROY TOMPKINS

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Better Planning Needed: 1) Brier Cutlip, 22, and Paul Bragg, 25, who were on parole and prohibited from possessing firearms, were rearrested in December in Elkins, W. Va., when they showed up for a parole appointment. However, they had just come in from a day of hunting and were still wearing orange vests, alerting the parole officer to the fact that they had been firing guns all day. 2) Grandville Lindsey, 30, on probation in Beaumont, Texas, after a child-sex conviction and prohibited from visiting any "social" websites, was rearrested in November when he sent a Twitter alert to a woman he had met while in the probation office, asking to include her as an online "friend."

MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT SEPTIC SYSTEMS

After six years of total obstinacy, Janet and Lowell Carlson finally agreed in October to upgrade their farm's septic system in Camden Township, Minn. Until then, the couple had ignored numerous inspections, sheriff's visits, and court orders even though a new system had already been paid for (by escrow funds left by the owner who sold them the farm). The Carlsons' inspiring principle throughout the six years of living with failed plumbing was to challenge the county for its "inconsistent" enforcement of septic upgrades.

Scottish pig farmer Peter Roy, 72, is embroiled in a longstanding dispute with the Perth and Kinross Council over who has the responsibility for repairing the sewage system on his farm in Craigmuir, but has taken a more hardcore approach than the Carlsons. He has saved his sewage in oil barrels stored on his property (now numbering about 80) to the outrage of neighbors. Roy has also periodically stepped up his protests to include leaving full barrels around town.

THE SCIENCE OF SEX

Wake Forest University's Institute for Regenerative Medicine, which has successfully grown human bladders in the lab using only a few extracted cells sprayed onto a chemical frame that mimics the body's tissues, has so far been unsuccessful at regenerating penises because of the organ's complexity. However, it announced in a November journal article a success with rabbit penises. Four of the 12 rabbits with lab-grown phalluses successfully impregnated females, and in an unexpected finding, the new penises appear not to lessen sexual desire, in that all 12 of the rabbits began mating within one minute of meeting females.

Occasionally, people lose their short-term memory following vigorous sex, according to doctors interviewed for a November CNN report on "transient global amnesia." The condition occurs because blood flow to the brain is restricted by the strenuous activity, temporarily disabling the hippocampus from recording new memory. One sufferer, "Alice," recalled her experience, recounting how she initially cracked a joke about being unable to remember how good the sex was that she just had, and then supposedly repeated the joke over and over, each time as if she had just thought of it.

PEOPLE WITH TOO MUCH MONEY

After Nicolas Cage filed a lawsuit against him for mismanaging the actor's money, Cage's former business manager Samuel Levin filed his defense in November, charging Cage with creating his own problems by disregarding Levin's budgetary advice. According to Levin, Cage's 2007 purchases included three houses (costing \$33 million), 22 cars (including nine Rolls-Royces) and 47 works of art. By 2008, said Levin, Cage owned 15 houses, four yachts, a Gulfstream jet, and an island in the Bahamas.

A 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' CLASSIC (APRIL 2001)

Hillsborough, England, was the site of a soccer stadium disaster in 1989, in which 96 fans were crushed to death. In March 2001, the government revealed that a police officer who worked at that site beginning in 1998 nonetheless acquired post-traumatic stress disorder from continually imagining the 1989 carnage and for that received a disability settlement from the government of the equivalent of about \$560,000. That amount, according to a report in London's *Guardian*, is more than 100 times what was paid to any of the families of the 96 people who were killed at the site.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
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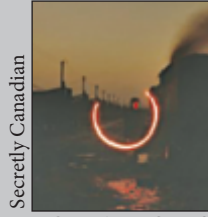

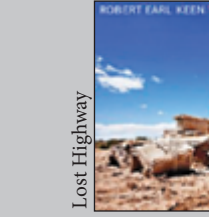






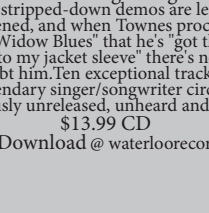
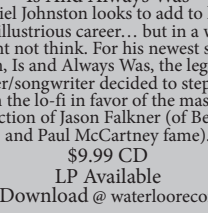
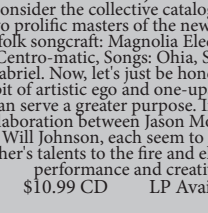
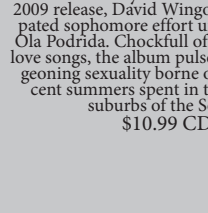
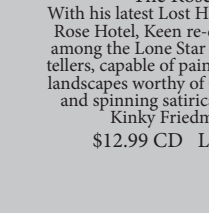
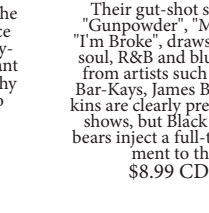
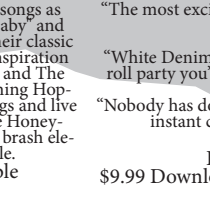
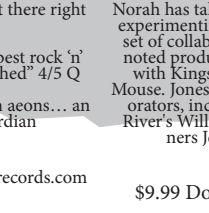

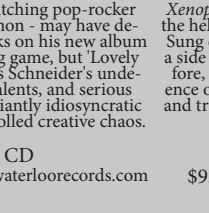




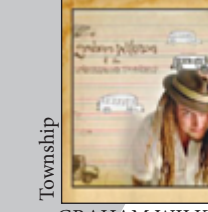



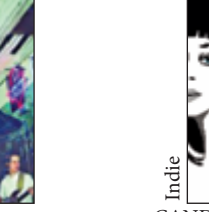
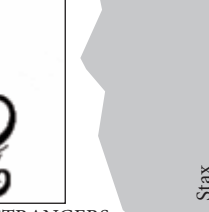


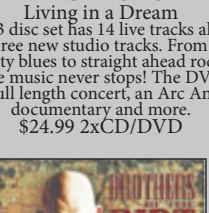
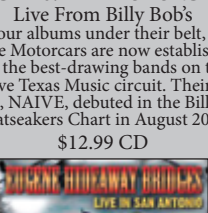
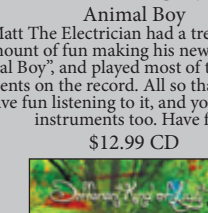
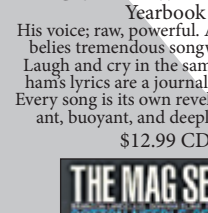
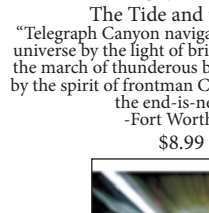
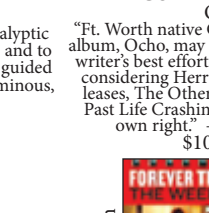

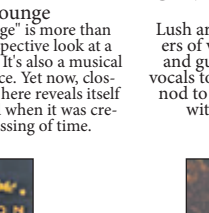
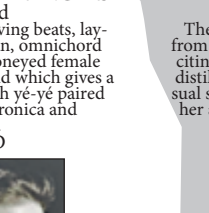
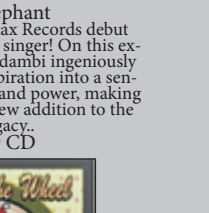
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NOW ON OUR LISTENING STATIONS: GREAT NEW MUSIC FROM THE LONE STAR STATE

 <p>TOWNES VAN ZANDT In the Beginning</p> <p>These stripped-down demos are lean and enlightened, and when Townes proclaims in "Black Widow Blues" that he's "got the blues sewn into my jacket sleeve" there's no reason to doubt him. Ten exceptional tracks from the legendary singer/songwriter circa 1966, previously unreleased, unheard and unreal! \$13.99 CD \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>DANIEL JOHNSTON Is and Always Was</p> <p>Daniel Johnston looks to add to his already illustrious career... but in a way you might not think. For his newest studio album, <i>Is and Always Was</i>, the legendary singer/songwriter decided to step away from the lo-fi in favor of the masterful production of Jason Falkner (of Beck, Air, and Paul McCartney fame). \$9.99 CD LP Available \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>MOLINA & JOHNSON Consider the collective catalogs of these two prolific masters of the new American folk songcraft: Magnolia Electric Co., Centro-matic, Songs: Ohia, South San Gabriel. Now, let's just be honest. A little bit of artistic ego and one-upmanship can serve a greater purpose. In this collaboration between Jason Molina and Will Johnson, each seem to hold the other's talents to the fire and elevate both performance and creativity. \$10.99 CD LP Available</p>	 <p>OLA PODRIDA Belly of the Lion</p> <p>2009 release, David Wingo's much anticipated sophomore effort under the name Ola Podrida. Chockfull of unsentimental love songs, the album pulses with the burgeoning sexuality borne of feral adolescent summers spent in the sprawling suburbs of the South. \$10.99 CD</p>	 <p>ROBERT EARL KEEN The Rose Hotel</p> <p>With his latest <i>Lost Highway</i> album, <i>The Rose Hotel</i>, Keen re-confirms his place among the Lone Star State's great storytellers, capable of painting rich, poignant landscapes worthy of Cormac McCarthy and spinning satirical yarns that do Kinky Friedman proud. \$12.99 CD LP Available</p>	 <p>BLACK JOE LEWIS Tell Em What Your Name Is</p> <p>Their gut-shot style, felt in such songs as "Gunpowder", "Master Sold My Baby" and "I'm Broke", draws directly from their classic soul, R&B and blues influences. Inspiration from artists such as Otis Redding and The Bar-Kays, James Brown and Lightning Hopkins are clearly present in their songs and live shows, but Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears inject a full-tilt, unabashedly brash element to this old-school style. \$8.99 CD LP Available</p>	 <p>WHITE DENIM Fits</p> <p>"The most exciting rock act out there right now" Mojo "White Denim sound like the best rock 'n' roll party you've ever gate crashed" 4/5 Q "Nobody has done it this well in aeons... an instant classic" The Guardian \$11.99 CD LP Available \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>NORAH JONES The Fall</p> <p>Norah has taken a new direction on <i>The Fall</i>, experimenting with different sounds and a new set of collaborators, including Jacquire King, a noted producer and engineer who has worked with Kings of Leon, Tom Waits and Modest Mouse. Jones enlisted several songwriting collaborators, including Ryan Adams and Okkervil River's Will Sheff, as well as her frequent partners Jesse Harris & Richard Julian. \$13.99 CD LP Available \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>BOB SCHNEIDER Lovely Creatures</p> <p>Bob Schneider - bewitching pop-rock and Austin phenomenon - may have devised many of the tracks on his new album through a songwriting game, but <i>Lovely Creatures</i>, exemplifies Schneider's undeniable songwriting talents, and serious knack for writing brilliantly idiosyncratic songs out of this controlled creative chaos. \$12.99 CD \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>OMAR RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ Xenophanes</p> <p><i>Xenophanes</i> is the first album which finds him at the helm vocally and lyrically, as well as musically. Sung entirely in Spanish, <i>Xenophanes</i> showcases a side of The Mars Volta guitarists rarely seen before, allowing for a much more gestural experience of the man rather than simply the musician, and truly distinguishing this album from its myriad of predecessors. \$10.99 CD LP Available \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>	 <p>STEVE EARLE Townes</p> <p>The songs selected for Townes were the ones that meant the most to Earle and the ones he personally connected to. Some of the selections chosen were songs that Earle has played his entire career (Pancho and Lefty, Lungs, White Freightliner Blues) and others he had to learn specifically for recording. \$13.99 CD LP Available \$9.99 Download @ waterloorecords.com</p>
 <p>ARC ANGELS Living in a Dream</p> <p>The 3 disc set has 14 live tracks along with three new studio tracks. From down and dirty blues to straight ahead rock and roll, the music never stops! The DVD has the full length concert, an Arc Angels documentary and more. \$24.99 2xCD/DVD</p>	 <p>MICKY & THE MOTORCARS Live From Billy Bob's</p> <p>With four albums under their belt, Micky and the Motorcars are now established as one of the best-drawing bands on the lucrative Texas Music circuit. Their last album, <i>NAIVE</i>, debuted in the Billboard Heatseekers Chart in August 2008. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>MATT THE ELECTRICIAN Animal Boy</p> <p>Matt The Electrician had a tremendous amount of fun making his new CD, "Animal Boy", and played most of the instruments on the record. All so that you will have fun listening to it, and you will play instruments too. Have fun. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>GRAHAM WILKINSON Yearbook</p> <p>His voice; raw, powerful. A rawness that belies tremendous songwriting craft. Laugh and cry in the same song. Graham's lyrics are a journal of discovery. Every song is its own revelation; exuberant, buoyant, and deeply reflective. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>TELEGRAPH CANYON The Tide and the Current</p> <p>"Telegraph Canyon navigates the pre-apocalyptic universe by the light of bright acoustic rifts and to the march of thunderous beats, everything guided by the spirit of frontman Chris Johnson's ominous, the end-is-near lyrics." -Fort Worth Weekly \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>COLLIN HERRING Ocho</p> <p>"Ft. Worth native Collin Herring's newest album, <i>Ocho</i>, may well be the singer/songwriter's best effort. And that's saying a lot considering Herring's past couple of releases, <i>The Other Side of Kindness</i> and <i>Past Life Crashing</i>, were stellar in their own right." -Dallas Observer \$10.99 CD</p>	 <p>SOULHAT Live at the Black Cat Lounge</p> <p>Soulhat's "Live at the Black Cat Lounge" is more than just a delightful and revelatory retrospective look at a then young band coming into its own. It's also a musical journey back to another time and place. Yet, closing in on two decades later, the music here reveals itself as timeless, sounding as fresh as it did when it was created, maybe even more so with passing of time. \$11.99 CD</p>	 <p>CANDI AND THE STRANGERS Self Titled</p> <p>Lush arrangements, driving beats, layers of vibraphone, organ, omnichord and guitar mix with honeyed female vocals to produce a sound which gives a nod to the bright French yé-yé paired with haunting electronica and shoegaze. \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>N'DAMBI Pink Elephant</p> <p>The long-awaited Six Records debut from the stirring soul singer! On this exciting new album, N'dambi ingeniously distills soul-deep inspiration into a sensual style of elegance and power, making her a fundamental new addition to the Stax legacy. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>BOB SCHNEIDER Trunks</p> <p>Live from Waterloo Records 7 tracks recorded live at Waterloo Records on 9-22-09 in celebration of the release of <i>Lovely Creatures</i>. This CD is a Waterloo Records exclusive. \$6.99 CD</p>	 <p>LYLE LOVETT Natural Forces</p> <p><i>Natural Forces</i> showcases Lyle's unwavering songwriting alongside amazing songs from such Texas writers as Eric Taylor, Don Sanders, Tommy Elks, David Ball, Vince Bell, Robert Earl Keen, and the legendary Townes Van Zandt. Produced by Billy Williams and Lyle Lovett. \$12.99 CD</p>
 <p>BRANDON JENKINS Brothers of the Dirt</p> <p>Red Dirt Music gets its name from the blood red soil and surrounding landscape of Stillwater, Oklahoma, the place many hail as the Mecca of Red Dirt Music. Brandon Jenkins has grown up on that sound, and in <i>Brothers of the Dirt</i> Brandon brings together the best of the Dirt with guests artists that include Cody Canada from Cross Canadian Ragweed, Jason Boland, Randy Rogers, and Mike McCure. With a voice as big as Texas and guitar chops (and beard) that would make Billy Gibbons proud, Jenkins takes his rightful place as one of the shining stars of not only Red Dirt, but American music. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>EUGENE HIDEAWAY BRIDGES Live in San Antonio</p> <p>Eugene is a nomadic musician living his life on the road. His home is wherever the next performance takes him and every year this is from America through Europe to Australia, with many stops in between. Born in 1963, the son of the blues guitarist Hideaway Slim, Eugene is the fourth child of five. His mother was from the Bullock family, the same as Anna Mae Bullock better known as Tina Turner. Eugene claims he got his guitar skills from the Bridges side and his voice from the Bullocks. To follow the four CDs recorded with a full band since 1998, his last self titled release <i>Hideaway</i> Bridges featured Eugene playing solos and duos with friends and fellow musicians who he has met on the road. \$13.99 CD</p>	 <p>THE STATESBORO REVUE Different Kind of Light</p> <p>Stewart Mann is in the process of re-defining rock and roll, refusing to let blues and country, the real roots of rock music, fall by the wayside. Stewart and the Statesboro Revue are trying to remind America what rock music is really all about: soul, Mann's voice, songs, and band, have that in spades. -Andrew Fersch, Vail Daily \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>MAG SEVEN Cotton Needle Sessions</p> <p>THE MAG SEVEN are, in the Texas manner of speaking, "instrumentalists for hire", musical gun slingers, playing everything from Punk-Surf and Spaghetti Western themes to Jazz. Their influences range from Black Flag and the Descendents to John Coltrane and Ennio Morricone. The Ventures and Stravinsky. Together, they are a musical tour-de-force, an excellent instrumental ensemble capable of mastering any style. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>JONNY BURKE The Long Haul EP</p> <p>A collection of 5 songs with subject matter ranging from the dark to the desirable, melodies and arrangements akin to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and the Stones, tones inherited from T. Rex, poetic lyrics often compared to Dylan and Townes Van Zandt, and vocal performances that are all his own, it's sure to make you move and groove with your body and soul. \$5.99 CD</p>	 <p>FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS The Weekend: Friday</p> <p>FTSK are a rock band from Dallas, Texas signed to Universal Motown Records Group. In Alternative Press, the group was named the number one underground band in the "22 Best Underground Bands (That Likely Won't Stay Underground for Long)". \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>AARON WATSON Deep in the Heart of Texas</p> <p>2009 CD/DVD live release. On a hot evening, deep in the heart of Texas, Aaron Watson played to a crowd of several thousand and recorded the magical night both on film and audio tape. It's been four years since his last live CD was issued, and in that time the singer that's been dubbed The Honky Tonk Kid has released two albums, sold hundreds of thousands of tickets, and toured all over the country. \$12.99 CD/DVD</p>	 <p>DELBERT MCCLINTON Acquired Taste</p> <p><i>Acquired Taste</i> is the thirteenth studio album in the career of Texas roots music legend and Grammy-winning artist Delbert McClinton. The album is produced by Grammy-winning producer Don Was (Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt). It is the first new studio recording by McClinton in over four years. \$13.99 CD</p>	 <p>ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL Santa Loves to Boogie</p> <p>Recorded in the Fall of 2007, this CD includes guest stars Willie Nelson, Dale Watson, Kevin Fowler, and Jon Dee Graham. Featured in the Washington Post as one of "The Twelve Discs of Christmas." \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>THE STAN LAURELS Death of the Sun</p> <p>Lush, multi-layered, super-melodic psychedelic-prog-pop concept album in the classic genre of "boy meets girl/boy gets abducted by aliens." \$10.99 CD</p>	 <p>BEAUTIFUL SUPERMACHINES Shut Up</p> <p>Veteran musician-producer David Williams makes a stunning debut album that has already found it's way to a very receptive critical response. <i>Shut Up</i> burrows its way into your ears and begs for repeated listens. Williams has made a very dense, understated, and yet sweeping, hooky record, that indie fans deserve to hear. \$11.99 CD</p>
 <p>STEVE BROOKS Chasing Grace</p> <p>These haunting melodies and finely-crafted stories will appeal to fans of Slaid Cleaves, with whom Brooks wrote the anthem "One Good Year", included with 11 other originals. \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>FIVE TIMES AUGUST Life as a Song</p> <p>"Fans of Jack Johnson and Jason Mraz will dig <i>Five Times August</i>." - PEOPLE Magazine "This is smart pop-rock with cool guitar." - Guitar Player Magazine; "A new generation artist with buoyant melodies and just enough rasp in his voice to sound ardent." - USA Today \$10.99 CD</p>	 <p>JENNIFER ELLEN COOK A Storytelling of Crows</p> <p>"Talented sultry-voiced songwriter with roots in alt rock and '60s soul. Reviews include "sensational vocalist" and "lethally interesting." Featuring guest guitarist Stephen Doster." \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>AMANDA PEARCY Waitin' on Sunday</p> <p>"Certainly to be noted for your personal wish list... a pure debut, full of integrity, where everything falls into place" - rootsville.be "It smacks of authenticity and a bit of road weary living." - Dan Alloway, "Folk Fury" \$9.99 CD</p>	 <p>THE LAUGHING Fever</p> <p>"Densely layering post-punk guitars, huge Congo percussion, and various African accents, the LP alternately shakes Byrne & Eno's <i>My Life in the Bush of Ghosts</i> with the pop playfulness of Paul Simon's <i>Graceland</i>." -Austin Chronicle \$8.99 CD</p>	 <p>OVERNIGHT These Days Are Over</p> <p>"Jabbing, post-punk guitar and fuzzy, spoken word verses give way to a delicate, even pretty, indie pop choruses. Recommended if you like... Bloc Party, Nada Surf." - SPIN "Steady paced rock that marches on behind commanding vocals." - CMJ \$9.99 CD</p>	 <p>THE BLIND PETS Smashed</p> <p>Losers always whine about there best, winners go home and bang the drum queen. \$6.99 CD</p>	 <p>ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL Live at the Wheel</p> <p>Recorded in the Fall of 2007, this CD includes guest stars Willie Nelson, Dale Watson, Kevin Fowler, and Jon Dee Graham. Featured in the Washington Post as one of "The Twelve Discs of Christmas." \$12.99 CD</p>	 <p>THE STAN LAURELS Death of the Sun</p> <p>Lush, multi-layered, super-melodic psychedelic-prog-pop concept album in the classic genre of "boy meets girl/boy gets abducted by aliens." \$10.99 CD</p>	 <p>BEAUTIFUL SUPERMACHINES Shut Up</p> <p>Veteran musician-producer David Williams makes a stunning debut album that has already found it's way to a very receptive critical response. <i>Shut Up</i> burrows its way into your ears and begs for repeated listens. Williams has made a very dense, understated, and yet sweeping, hooky record, that indie fans deserve to hear. \$11.99 CD</p>	



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👑 'BOUT TIME NEW YEAR'S

Champagne toast at midnight with Austin's happiest family neighborhood bar. 9pm. *'Bout Time*, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339.

👑 FIERCE & FABULOUS NYE Champagne packages available now: The Britney for \$500, the RuPaul for \$1,500, and the Madonna for \$2,010. If the menu had been set by gayer men, there'd prolly be a Lady Gaga for \$10,120.10 and a \$3 Adam Lambert. 9pm. *Kiss & Fly*, 404 Colorado, 476-7799. www.kissandflyaustin.com.

👑 COCH NEW YEAR'S Champagne and entertainment packages – and not just on the pretty boys. 9pm. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

👑 RAIN ON 4TH NEW YEAR'S Champagne and ticket package presales available right now. 9pm. *Rain on 4th*, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.

👑 DONATE TO FAMILY: WIN A CRUISE Win a seven-day Mexican Riviera cruise and make a year-end donation to the national org that reps our family's families. You are not required to donate to enter. To enter the drawing without a donation, send your e-mail, name, and phone number to info@familyequality.org before *Thu.*, Dec. 31. *Family Equality Council*, PO Box 206, Boston, MA 02133. www.familyequality.org.

MCCOY ANIMATED CHRISTMAS DISPLAY has 40,000 lights synchronized to 10 holiday classics that you can listen to on your radio while you watch the lights fantastic. Donations go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. *Through Dec. 31*, 5:30-10:30pm. 8300 Roan. Donations appreciated. www.mccoyleftlights.com.

🌟 NEW YEAR'S EVE LISTINGS For all you last-minute New Year's party-people, we've compiled a list of New Year's events. Check out our abbreviated guide on p.55, or go to austinchronicle.com/newyears for the complete list.

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. Get in the car, and join in the festivities. *Through Jan. 2*, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, *New Braunfels* (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall), 830/743-1293. \$20/car. www.santasranch.net.

👑 THE HOLIDAY 12 STEP Rob Nash's holiday compulsion, *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas* is back. Get your tickets now. Or wait till the last minute, complain about it, tell your mom it's her fault, then get some therapy, yo. *Through Jan. 2*. *Thu-Sat.*, 8pm. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-LAVA. \$10-30. therobnash@aol.com. www.vortexrep.org.

WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS has 7 acres of lights designed by more than 100 local businesses. Roast a weenie or a marshmallow before jumping on the Jingle Express with the kids. Today is your last chance to be enlightened. 6-9pm. *The EmilyAnn Theatre*, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free (donations appreciated). www.emilyann.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **New Year's Eve Bash: *The Apartment*** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

The Black Candle @ Carver Library, 10am, 2pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Duke Ellington Orchestra** *Palmer Events Center New Year's Eve!* Everywhere

THURSDAY, DEC. 31 TO THURSDAY, JAN. 7

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

FRIDAY 01

👑 ROSE'S BUFFET & FIND FRED Fit for a queen – who may no longer be “fit” after this indulgence. Then stay for Find Fred. Kind of like *Where's Waldo?* but with color-coded name tags. *Fridays*, 5:30pm. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

👑 THANK GOODNESS I'M BI It's the ambisexualerous happy hour! Look for room directly across from the dartboards. *First and third Fridays of every month*, 7pm. *Opal Divine's Freehouse*, 700 W. Sixth, 370-9573. www.main.org/binetaustin.

MIX 'N' MASH ART SALE More than 100 artists were invited to produce a 12-inch square creation. Now that art hangs on the walls waiting for someone with a C-note to snatch it up. The money raised goes to Mexic-Arte's exhibition and education programs. *Through Jan. 3*. *Mexic-Arte Museum*, 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

SANTA'S RANCH (See Thursday, 12/31.)

👑 THE HOLIDAY 12 STEP (See Thursday, 12/31.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) ***The Big Lebowski*** @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Free Week!** *Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Pinetop Perkins* *Antone's* **Chuck Prophet** *Continental Club*

SATURDAY 02

ACTION FOR ANIMALS MEETING Help plan the group's winter/spring outreach events with a focus on the anti-fur campaign. 11am. *Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe*, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562. Free. www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.

🌟 TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB This open house will have a Lionel model train setup with all the fixin's. Come watch the choo-choos and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. You might even be allowed to sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the the tip jar. Held over until Jan. 16 by popular demand. *Through Jan. 16*. *Saturdays*, 11am-5pm. 117 Lavaca (next to Ill Forks). Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.

BEER TASTING & TOUR Get a tour of the Independence Brewing Co. and sample the fruits of its workers' labor. Bring cash for food or a pint glass. 1pm. *Independence Brewery*, 3913 Todd Ln., 707-0099. Free. www.independencebrewing.com/events/brewerytour.html.

🌟 RECOMMENDED

👑 YOUNG ONES

👑 GAY PLACES

👑 CIRCUS CHICKEN DOG'S CLOWN CALAMITY Are the kids crashing from their holiday high? Give them a little hair of the dog with juggling, unicycles, dog tricks, magic, and even balloon animals made by a Great Dane. *Sat-Sun.*, *Jan. 2-3*, 1 & 2:30pm. *Dougherty Arts Center*, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 771-8836. \$8 (\$6, advance). www.chickendog.net.

👑 SCULPTOR-TO-BE WORKSHOP Kids learn to use parallelograms and balsa wood to turn their visions into reality. Reservations are recommended. 1:30pm. *Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum*, 605 Robert E. Lee Rd., 445-5582 x101. \$12. sheila.fox@umlaufsculpture.org. www.umlaufsculpture.org.

👑 EMPEROR JAKE'S UNDERGROUND BIRTHDAY SHOW You don't have to dig to find it: He'll be the one surrounded by all the hot high heels and even higher hair. Party at 8:30pm and United Court Show at 9:30pm. 8:30pm. *Kiss & Fly*, 404 Colorado, 476-7799. www.unitedcourtofaustin.org.

👑 HOT ART HIP KIDS Your 6- to 12-year-old explores Blanton's latest exhibition and learns what's cool about nature and light. Activities, tours, and music keep things from turning uncool. *Sat-Sun.*, *Jan. 2-3*, 1-4pm. *The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress*, 471-7324. Free. www.blantonmuseum.org.

👑 NAKED YOGA FOR MEN Ongoing and open to all men, but it's endorsed by Gay Place because gay men teach it, and gay men are encouraged to attend. Let it all hang out, baby. (Ask about the clothing-optional co-ed option.) *Sundays*, 10:30am; *Mondays*, 7:45pm; *Wednesdays*, 8:30pm; *Saturdays*, 10am. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 750-8211. \$12. nudeyoga@texas.net. www.austinnakedyoga.com.

🌟 RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE Those of you who are not Pay-as-You-Throw customers can still recycle your Christmas trees: Just drop them off at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields); *Sat-Sun.*, *Jan. 2-3*; and *Sat.*, *Jan. 9*, 10am-4pm. All trees will be ground into mulch, which will be given away free in the new year. See www.cityofaustin.org/parks/christmastree.htm for details.

🌟 ROUND ROCK CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Get all the tinsel off your tree and bring it to get pulverized into mulch. In return, get a free tree seedling. *Saturday, Jan. 2*, 9am-6pm. *Round Rock Brush Recycling Center*, 310 Deepwood Dr., Round Rock, 512/218-5540.

MIX 'N' MASH ART SALE (See Friday.)

SANTA'S RANCH (See Thursday, 12/31.)

👑 THE HOLIDAY 12 STEP (See Thursday, 12/31.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) ***The Big Lebowski*** @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Marcia Ball *Antone's* **Free Week!** *Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Club de Ville, Stubb's, Beerland* **Chuck Prophet** *Continental Club*

SUNDAY 03

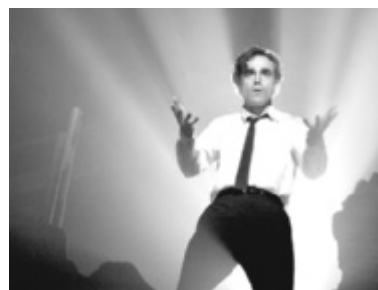
ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Fred Edwards, the national director of the United Coalition of Reason, discusses jumping on the bandwagon of reason. We blame Obama for all this reason-mongering. 10am. 5555 N. Lamar Ste. L-137, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Travis County Constable for Precinct 5, Bruce Elfant, discusses criminal justice issues and the upcoming census. *Sundays*, 11:30am. *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.

👑 PRIME TIMERS LIKE FINE WINE Mature gay men meet monthly. Hola, Papi! 2pm. *Austin History Center*, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.austintpw.org.

👑 EDGAR'S MIMOSA HAPPY HOUR Give Edgar a dolla. He'll make ya holla (at how cheap his mimosas are). *Sundays*, 4-9pm. *Sister's Edge II*, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.

👑 PRISM: UT LGBT CATHOLICS Explore what it means to be Catholic and gay, or even gay-friendly. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting: 100% open-hearted fellowship. 6pm. *University Catholic Center*, 2010 University Ave., 476-7351. prism@longhorncatholic.org. www.utcatholic.org.



L - R: MIX 'N' MASH ART SALE (SEE FRIDAY) | TEXAS STARS (SPORTS, P.57) | CHARLES DICKENS UNLEASHED (ARTS, P.56) | NINE (FILM, P.60) | CHUCK PROPHET (MUSIC, P.68)

gayplace

BY KATE X MESSER

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

TOP GAY 9S This year, the **Gay Place Blog** crew grew to handsome and historic proportions. So much so that many of our other writers (as in, non-Kate) did the heavy lifting of this year's stories. It seems most fitting then to direct you to our online presence for the full buttload of Top 9s from our various writers and to simply summarize our faves here in print. As the year draws to a close, many thanks go out to my dedicated and virtual colleagues of 2009: **Andy Campbell, Frank Rivera, Ash Bell, Lola Houston, Kate Getty, Dacia Saenz, and Steve Rivas.** I look forward to working with the ones returning as well as with some new wordmeisters who shall pepper the mix in 2010. Here's but a smattering of what you will find online (keep it queer, new year!).

SAD/CRAZY GAY SH*T OF 2009

- 1) UGANDA** The country that brought you Idi Amin Dada again defies every human rights law ever in existence, wants to kill gay people, and (surprise!) has American Christian fundamentalist connections.
- 2) SUMMER/YEAR OF VIOLENCE** Against whom, you ask? Why, us, of course. The Rainbow Lounge, James Lee Whitehead, Chico's Tacos in El Paso, now this kid in Terlingua. These events defined the year, sadly.
- 3) THE WORST DAY-AFTER-PRIDE AUSTIN HAD EVER SEEN**
- 4) PEREZ VS. PREJEAN** The smackdown without nearly enough smackin'
- 5) OBAMA'S AGENDA** Not gay enough
- 6) WE LOST ANA SISNETT AND MONA LITTLEMORE.**
- 7) WE LOST BEA ARTHUR, PEOPLE.**
- 8) ADAM LAMBERT** freaks out 98% of all straight folks, about 75% of all gay ones, about 5% of all the queers.
- 9) FEWER REPUBLICAN TOILET OUTINGS** Did you notice the downturn this year? Seemed most fingers caught in the Appalachian pie were boringly straight.



LARRY CRAIG

HOT GAY SH*T OF 2009

- 1) THE BEST PRIDE AUSTIN HAD EVER SEEN**
- 2) HOUSTON'S OPENLY GAY MAYOR** The Bayou City is the largest city to elect one.
- 3) THE EMERGENCE OF CRISTEENE "CUMDUMP" VALE** Heeeeeeey!
- 4) 'MILK'** Technically a 2008, but what with the awards and all ...
- 5) LESBIANS ON MSM** The mainstream media message is all about the "L" word (despite this being the last year of Showtime's *The L Word*): Ellen on Oprah's mag, Wanda Sykes, and Rachel Maddow. Pinch me.
- 6) HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION**
- 7) NATIONAL EQUALITY MARCH ON WASHINGTON** No matter what Barney Frank says
- 8) SEEING PROSPECT.1 IN NEW ORLEANS** Especially Pierre et Gilles' photos and Skylar Fein's most achingly brilliant "Remember the Upstairs Lounge"
- 9) THE YEAR OF THE GAGA** As in, the Lady who always gives it up for the gays



RACHEL MADDOW

SWEET, HOT, AWESOME/CRAZY GAY SH*T TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2010

- 1) GAY MARRIAGE** New strategies, learning from mistakes, and with every year, a new generation of accepting, enlightened people
- 2) GAY UTOPIA** Local venue opens its heart and doors.
- 3) DOMA & DADT** It can't come fast enough, but hey, lighten up: Obama's only got two hands (and 60 Democratic senators, and ...).
- 4) AN INCREASE OF REBECCA HAVEMEYER, SAFFIRE TRINITY STONE, BEN AQUA, SIMONE RIVIERA, AND GRANNY P SIGHTINGS**
- 5) 'OUTCAST'** Now your friendly neighborhood Gay Place also stinks up your airwaves.
- 6) MORE NURSE JACKIE** Yummy. Yummy, yes, please, mommy.
- 7) THE SUPERIONS** Even gayer B-52 baby
- 8) NEW GP BLOGGERS RICKY HILL, LOLA HOUSTON, AND STEPHEN M.!** OMG, it's about to get cuh-razy on our blog.
- 9) MORE HOLLYWOOD ALLIES** Yes, please: à la Gaythering Storm's answer to the pitiful Gathering Storm blowback

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. 15 issue is Monday, Jan. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Kate X Messer (Gay Place):

gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

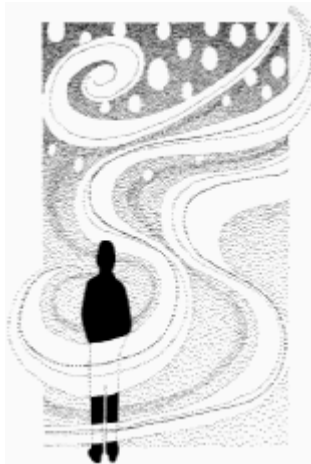
Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

James Renovitch (everything else):

calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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

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



Spiritual Techniques to Change Your Life

Use Spiritual Principles to Make Real Change
January 2nd 2:00-3:30pm

Create the Change You Want
January 9th 2:00-3:30pm

How the Spiritual Laws Can Work for You
January 16th 2:00-3:30pm

Free Workshops: Saturdays 2:00-3:30pm

ECKANKAR Center of Austin
223 W. Anderson Lane, Suite B-206
453-0331 • www.eckankar-texas.org

Hwy 183 Access Road at Northcrest, between Lamar and IH-35,
behind the Red Lobster. Call for Directions.

Janette Grainger 9-24-42 to 5-11-2009



Janette Grainger was an adventuresome spirit; her hyper-intelligence, riotous sense of humor and regard for all life cultivated 50 years of progressive accomplishments around the world. At 15 years old Janette escaped the confines of conservative London, England and embarked on what would be a rich and uninhibited life as a global citizen, journalist, activist, and mother. In the late 1950s, Janette worked at New York University and with the civil rights movement; during the 60s she traveled to Vietnam as a journalist; in Amsterdam during the 70s, she immersed herself in the counter-culture

movement, started the world's first head shop, and contributed to the local porn magazine 'Suck.' Here, Janette authored the book 'Living Guide to Amsterdam,' and her two homes operated under an open door policy for travelers, hippies and musicians.

Janette's fierce presence prevailed despite ever-changing environments, each episode of her life instigating the next. In 1977 she brought her worldly knowledge, and newborn son Jonah Mesritz, to Austin, Texas, where she resided until 1997. Perhaps the city she most considered 'home,' in Austin Janette was a flagship video-journalist, environmental activist and mainstay within the 'Keep Austin Weird' movement. She donated office space to Austin Public Television, mentored local journalists, organized political action committees, and dedicated herself to environmental protection causes including the preservation of Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and the overall improvement of Austin environmental causes. Janette worked endless hours composing educational tabloids and making TV commercials urging the defeat of bond issues that would result in infrastructure harmful to the environment, all the while urging Austin citizens to elect political candidates who promised earth-friendly agendas. One of her greatest protests involved preventing a waste-to-energy incinerator from being built; through persuasive writing, activism, and organization, the Austin City Council abandoned its \$34 million dollar project, convinced of the harmful effects it would pose to the environment.

Janette wasn't only a committed civil servant, but a woman passionate about music, the arts and animals. In both Holland and Austin, her specialty store Folk Toys featured the artisanal dollhouses, trains and other educational toys. Also in Austin, she co-authored the book 'Natural Insect Repellents for Pets, People and Plants' which served as a guide to living free of chemicals. In 1997 Janette moved from Austin to Hawaii and then to San Diego for a short period; during this time she bought and sold Thai Hill Tribe jewelry, operating a lucrative e-commerce business.

In 2006, Janette traveled one last time to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Here Janette lived in a mostly male ex patriot community, where she was accepted as confidant and teacher. No matter where in the world Janette Grainger was, her tenacity didn't just touch people's lives, it changed them; she voyaged through life resolute, and surrendered to death with similar fearlessness in May of 2009.

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

Looking back at 2009, it was a year of drought, change, and some exciting new opportunities for day-trippers.

1) A DROUGHT OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS scorched much of the Southwest, drying up swimming holes and burning crops. In Texas, the hardest hit area stretched from the Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. By mid-August, all of the public boat ramps on Lake Travis were closed. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department reported that wildlife from the pronghorn antelope in West Texas to alligators and ducks on the upper Texas coast were severely affected. For the first time in seven years, the number of endangered whooping cranes at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge declined.

2) PASSPORTS or other approved travel documents are now required when returning from excursions to Mexico. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's rules drove another spike into the already depressed border economy. Between the threat of violence from warring drug cartels and the new travel restrictions, many small businesses in border towns that cater to tourists are being forced to close.

3) THE TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS AT FAIR PARK was already a hidden jewel in Dallas, and it got better with the addition of the new Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium.

4) THE WACO MAMMOTH SITE, discovered in 1978, finally opened to the public. The new climate-controlled pavilion provides viewing of the largest known concentration of prehistoric mammoths that died in the same event.

5) THE PEDERNALES RIVER NATURE PARK opened for limited day use as the Lower Colorado River Authority's newest park. The 222-acre riverfront tract will ultimately be developed with a range of recreational facilities.

6) THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION moved to Denton from Austin. This by itself had little effect on day-trippers, but the organization's plea for funds to continue the Handbook of Texas Online was a scare for explorers who like to get the history behind the places they visit. The handbook is also a great place to find the hidden treasures of Texas.

7) 'TERRA COTTA WARRIORS: GUARDIANS OF CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR' visited the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Not only was this a great exhibit with limited appearances in the U.S., but it shows what world-class museums we have in Texas.

8) PHIL DUROCHER RETIRED from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department after 35 years of service to wildlife and recreation in Texas. As director of the Inland Fisheries Division, he implemented limits on catches and increased the role of the state's fish hatcheries.

9) MARGARET CAMPBELL BAMBERGER was a teacher, environmentalist, and the soul of Bamberger Ranch Preserve outside of Johnson City. Along with husband J. David Bamberger, they turned an abused piece of the Hill Country into a garden and showed thousands of others how it could be done.

965th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

LAKE TRAVIS IN AUGUST

outoftown

HUG-IN & VALENTINE BALL encourages everyone to get back to the basics of love with some boot-scootin'. Sat., Feb. 13. Luckenbach, 888/311-8990. www.luckenbachtexas.com.

KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL is the longest continuously running music festival of its kind in North America and features singer-songwriters of varying styles. May 27-June 13. Quiet Valley Ranch, Highway 16, south of Kerrville, 830/257-3600. www.kerrville-music.com.

FORT GRIFFIN FANDANGLE is Texas' oldest outdoor musical, celebrating the taming of the West. Thu.-Sat., June 17-19 & 24-26. Outdoor Prairie Theater, Albany, 325/762-3838. www.fortgriffinfandangle.org.

ASIAN FESTIVAL showcases Far Eastern cultures with an educational and entertaining approach. Sat., Feb. 20, 10am-5pm. Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, 210/458-2224. www.texancultures.com.

TEXAS is a musical drama as big as Texas, staged in the nation's second largest canyon. Tue.-Sun., June 4-Aug. 14. Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon, 806/655-2181. www.texas-show.com.

INTERNATIONAL CHILI CHAMPIONSHIP crowns the world champion chili cook with lots of partying in the desert. Sat., Nov. 6. Rancho CASI de los Chisos, Terlingua. www.chili.org/terlingua.html.

MARFA FILM FESTIVAL screens more than 50 features, shorts, and experimental works in outdoor and indoor theatres. Wed.-Sun., May 5-9. Marfa, 432/729-1948. www.marfafilmfestival.org.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL features more than 40 ethnic communities from around the state sharing their cultures' music, dance, and food. Thu.-Sun., June 11-13. Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, 210/458-2224. www.texancultures.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR EDITION

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

CIRCUS CHICKEN DOG'S CLOWN CALAMITY (See Saturday.)

HOT ART HIP KIDS (See Saturday.)

MIX 'N' MASH ART SALE (See Friday.)

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE (See Saturday.)

THE HOLIDAY 12 STEP (See Thursday, 12/31.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Wilco Live: Ashes of American Flags @ Alamo Ritz, 8:10pm

Auntie Mame @ Alamo Ritz, 1pm

Stingray Sam @ Alamo Ritz, 10:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week! Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Club de Ville, Beauty Bar

McLemore Avenue Ruta Maya

Carley Wolf Momo's

MONDAY 04

LONE STAR LAMBDAs GLBT square dancing in Austin? Heck yeah and yeeee-haw! Nothing square about this group. Every week. Get in on the ground floor, do-si-do. 7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 418-1629. info@lonestarlambdas.org, www.lonestarlambdas.org.

LOCAL FOODMAKER FAIR Local food producers and chefs show off and demonstrate their skills every day this week. Get a fish or get taught how to fish (symbolically speaking) and make your own. 4-7pm. Whole Foods Market Gateway, 9607 Research #300, 345-5003. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Stingray Sam @ Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week! Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Beauty Bar

TUESDAY 05

PEAK WORKSHOP FOR ADULT LEADERS Courtney Jeffries, REI Austin

Downtown's outreach specialist, invites nature club organizers, adult scout troop leaders, and afterschool program instructors to learn about the tenets of Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids. E-mail cjeffri@rei.com to reserve your seat. 6:30pm. REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. Free. www.rei.com.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING This month's meeting features a talk on the Best Tent Camping in Texas: How Car Campers Can Avoid RVs, Concrete Slabs, and Loud Portable Stereos. 7pm. Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

KARAOKE WITH MARGARET North Austin's fave neighborhood gay bar may not offer cash to winners, but someone might offer you \$\$ to stop singing. Tuesdays, 9pm. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.

LOCAL FOODMAKER FAIR (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

The Gates of Hell @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

Stingray Sam @ Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week! Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7

Nic Armstrong The Ghost Room

WEDNESDAY 06

COMPOSTING SEMINAR Learn about the containers, contents, and uses of compost. 11am. Travis County AgriLife Extension, 1600-B Smith, 854-9600. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

HIGH NOON TALKS Every month, hear a less-than-often-told tale about the history of Texas. This month, hear about the rise, fall, and resurgence of Luby's Cafeterias. Noon-1pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with admission to museum. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

THE AWESOME AND GREAT READING SHOW Authors Tod Goldberg, Amelia Gray, and Jill Alexander Essbaum present new works inspired by a song. To make things even, Kacy Crowley plays a new song inspired by a short story. 7pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 312/493-2387. \$2.

BROWN BAG PARTY A toy party with games and prizes. You know, "toys," as in the kind you might like to carry out in a brown bag. Wednesdays, 8pm. Sister's Edge II, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.

TEXAS NORML MEETING convenes monthly to discuss the latest developments in marijuana-law reform. And since it's Good Vibes Wednesday why not stick around for live reggae? First Wednesdays, 8pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. Free. www.texasnorml.org.

DRIVE THAT CHAIN Hump und bump mit Telepathik Friend, Baby Robots, und Megafauna. 10pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. Free. www.myspace.com/1chaindrive.

GATEWAY TO RECOVERY No registration is needed for this two-part class which explains the social, physiological, emotional, and mental effects of addiction. First & second Wednesdays of the month, 7-9pm. Austin Recovery, 8402 Cross Park Dr., 697-8500. Free. www.austinrecovery.org.

LOCAL FOODMAKER FAIR (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

The Big Lebowski @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:10pm

Les Contes d'Hoffmann @ Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Megafauna, Baby Robots, Telepathik Friend Chain Drive

Free Week! Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Club de Ville,

Beauty Bar, Beerland

Hug, Punk Bunny Headhunters

THURSDAY 07

LISA MARSHALL ROCKS This voice could coax blood from a stone, butter from a duck, and something darned tasty from a turnip. Make it a habit: It's a regular residency. 10pm. T.C.'s Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200. www.lisamarshallmusic.com.

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

LOCAL FOODMAKER FAIR (See Monday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Dougherty Arts Center

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week! Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Club de Ville, Stubb's, Beauty Bar, Beerland

Wisebird Continental Club

now . . .

2010 FAERIES DATE CALENDAR Hey you alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae, check out the new Radical Spaces calendar for sale. www.osoconscious.com, tribes.tribe.net/texasfaeries.

BARTON SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PLAN SURVEY The Parks and Recreation Department needs your input to get a better idea of the use patterns at Barton Springs Pool. If you don't participate, you can't complain if PARD decides to install heaters in the pool.

sabina.mora@ci.austin.tx.us, www.surveymonkey.com/s/ksqgyrbw.

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

COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING MARKET STUDY The city of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office is trying to set priorities and shape Austin's housing market into an equitable landscape. Go online to see the office's findings to date and perhaps take a survey to help assist it in its goals. www.cityofaustin.org/housing/apr08chms.htm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town. Don't hold anything back; that would be counter-productive. It's not just a complaining contest though; offer suggestions for the future. Go to www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm to participate.

FINANCIAL COACHING Mondays through Saturdays, individuals earning less than \$25,000 and families earning less than \$50,000 can get free, one-on-one help reducing debt, fixing credit, and clarifying other money matters. *Foundation Communities*, 3036 S. First #200, 610-4026.

financialcoach@foundcom.org, www.foundcom.org.

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

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

LAND GRANTS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION The latest exhibit, "A Hero's Reward," displays artifacts and historical documents that illuminate how soldiers of different races and backgrounds were compensated for their participation in Texas' struggle for independence. *Capitol Visitors Center*, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

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

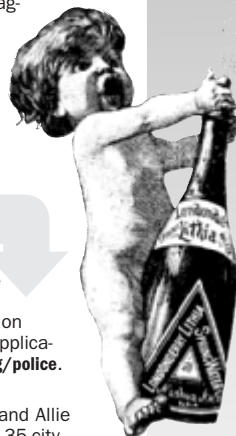
POINT FOUNDATION LGBT SCHOLARSHIPS Hey students! Apply to the nation's largest scholarship-granting org for LGBT students of merit. *Applications available now*. Deadline: Fri., Feb. 12. shannon@pointfoundation.org, www.pointfoundation.org.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. If you weren't conserving already, now's the time to do it and save money for all of next year. Go to www.cityofaustin.org/water to find out more or learn the specific dates for your averaging.

& later

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts March 2. For more information or an application, visit the APD website. www.cityofaustin.org/police. 974-5941. dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us.

HER HRC Grrlz will be BoiZ, Holly Lorka, and Allie Rolison entertain this Austin installment of a 35-city concurrent party. Get your tickets now. Sun., Jan. 17, 8pm. *El Sol y la Luna*, 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770.



NEW Year's GUIDE REDUX

Peruse our expanded and unadulterated listings online at

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/NEWYEARS

END OF LESBIAN 'DECADE'NCE: 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." Plus, plenty o' party "favors." That's what she said. Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. *House Wine*, 408 Josephine, 322-5210. \$10. beatsagogo@aol.com.

FOOD & FUNK AT THE HIGHBALL Come early for a five-course meal, cocktails, and even a funny hat before the doors are opened to the masses at 11pm, for dancing to the DJ'ed funk and disco of DJ Resinhol. No dress code, but the Alamo folks recommend you dress to impress. You want to have someone to kiss at midnight, don't you? Thu., Dec. 31. *The HighBall*, 1120 S. Lamar, 383-8309. \$120 (meal and party), \$25 (party only). www.thehighball.com.

LIVE AT SEAHOLM There are so many electricity puns running through our head about a dance party in the old power plant that we can't choose one. Flosstradamus, Car Stereo (Wars), and SHIV bring the beats that keep you moving long past midnight. Get a

great view of the fireworks or just linger by the bar for hors d'oeuvres and Champagne. Thu., Dec. 31, 9pm-3am. *Seaholm Power Plant*, 214 West Ave. \$79 and up. www.liveatseaholm.com.

RIVER BOAT CASINO PARTY may be a misnomer since you'll be on dry land the entire time, but Lamberts will have the house rocking with a Vegas Buffet, casino games, an open bar, and live music upstairs. Thu., Dec. 31, 9pm-2am. *Lamberts*, 401 W. Second, 494-1500. \$135. www.lambertsaustin.com.

FIRST NIGHT Expect a roaring smorgasbord of art, performance, random acts of imagination littering the Downtown landscape, and wide eyes aplenty. For those with some spending cash, there's a party at the Long Center (\$20) with music, dancing, and an open bar. Thu., Dec. 31. www.firstnighaustin.org.

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 to midnight on New Year's Eve and from 6am to 6pm on New Year's Day, participants will chant the name of God under the roof of this Hindu temple. Thu.-Fri., Dec. 31-Jan. 1. *Barsana Dham*, 400 Barsana Rd., 288-7180. Free.

SOBERRIDE 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. 657-2999 (*SoberRide*); 452-9999 (*regular Yellow Cab services*). www.yellowcabaustin.com, www.austinsoberride.com.

BRAVE NEW YEAR Film, live music, aerial performance, dancing, yoga, and all the merriment one could need to start the new year off right. Thu., Dec. 31, 7pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$5. bravenewyear@gmail.com.

events

BCS CLASS OF THE MONTH Ballet Austin has yoga and Feldenkrais classes through the end of January (go online for a schedule). Even better, your first class is free. *Ballet Austin's Butler Community School*, 501 W. Third, 476-9051. www.balletaustin.org/community/yoga.php.

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS Folks with physical limitations (the elderly, those with fibromyalgia, etc.) who still want to increase their flexibility and relaxation can strike a yoga pose while remaining seated. *Wednesdays*, 1pm. *Dittmar Recreation Center*, 1009 W. Dittmar, 712-4451. Free.

FAMILY YOGA Bring the little yogis. It's never too early to start. *Saturdays*, 10-11am. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.

NEW YEAR'S YOGA Kick off your year with 108 sun salutations (1pm, come and go as you please), gong relaxation (2:30pm), and a community potluck (3:30pm). Fri., Jan. 1, 1pm. *Yoga Yoga*, 4477 S. Lamar #420, 358-1200. Free. www.yogayoga.com.

NAKED YOGA is for those who find even their loose yoga pants too constricting. Go online for a schedule of R-rated classes for beginners and experts alike. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. www.austinnakedyoga.com.

OUTDOOR YOGA Forget the studio. Try hatha yoga in lovely Butler District Park. See www.outdooryoga.org for a schedule of instructors and the exact times and location. \$5 suggested donation.

studios

BREATH & BODY YOGA offers a slew of classes, boot camps, and special events. 4800 Burnet Rd. #440, 374-1021. www.breathandbodyyoga.com.

YOGA SHALA Enjoy intimate yoga sessions in a hand-built palapa surrounded by a garden setting. 1205 Hillside, 443-5377. www.oneyoga.us.

AUSTIN YOGA INSTITUTE specializes in Iyengar yoga with daily classes for varying skill levels. If your skill level is high enough, the institute has teacher training to prepare you for certification. 1122-C S. Lamar, 923-4643. www.austinyoga.org.

ONEYOGA.US This donation-based community studio offers 60 classes a week. Go online for instructor bios and a schedule. www.oneyoga.us, 1122-C S. Lamar, 707-2565. www.oneyoga.us.

DHARMA YOGA has classes seven days a week from basics courses to vinyasa yoga for the experienced posers. *Dharma Yoga*, 41st & Guadalupe, 420-0009. www.dharma-yoga.net.

YOGA FOR HEALTH Gentle classes led by certified exercise physiologist and yoga instructor Paul Smith every Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. *Austin Yoga for Health at Remedy Center*, 4910 Burnet Rd., 452-6623. www.austinyogaforhealth.com.

NIASPACE Specializing in yoga, Pilates, and a blending of several fitness disciplines, NiaSpace has lots of, well, space (both parking and studio space) right on South Congress. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. www.niaspace.com.

DAVILA YOGA Davila's unique system of yoga and physical therapy is designed to improve health and vitality. Group classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Go online for rates. *Davila Center for Yoga & Holistic Wellness*, 3202 W. Anderson, 762-9548. www.davilayoga.com.

BEA LOVE YOGA Brandy hosts regular classes all over town as well as special events and private instruction. Call or go online to sign up. 609-9230. www.bealoveyoga.com, www.bealoveyoga.com.

PEACE STUDIOS Take one of the many studio courses or get yourself to Shipe Park (off 45th Street between Avenues F & G) for by-donation yoga. 1607 Sage Hollow Circle, 294-5524. www.yogainthepark.net.

YOGA RX Caroline McCarter offers specialized classes and personalized attention to ensure that your stretching and posing suits your needs. *Yoga Rx*, 2200 S. Lamar, 554-3988. www.yoga-rx.com.

LOVE YOGA CO-OP Get the full yoga treatment with classes and workshops that help center the body and mind. Go online for a complete list of courses and to meet the instructors. *Love Yoga Co-op*, 2525 S. Lamar (behind Maria's Taco Xpress), 310/866-0874. www.loveyogacoop.com.

CLEAR SPRING STUDIO Down in the increasingly hip South First strip lies this house of yoga, tai chi, meditation, and massage. *Clear Spring Studio*, 605 Copeland, 231-9644. www.clearspringstudio.com.

YOGA YOGA With five locations and 350 weekly classes Yoga Yoga has something for all levels of ability. It also offers yoga-teacher training and special events all year round. info@yogayoga.com, www.yogayoga.com.



KULA YOGA CENTER Calling itself "Austin's Family Yoga Center" isn't a misnomer, what with its infant/parent classes and other kid-friendly courses. Also look out for its special classes for dancers, athletes, and even students (for PE credit no less). *Kula Yoga*, 2415 Exposition, 542-3334. www.austinkulayoga.com.

EASTSIDE YOGA Your Eastside yoga options are pretty limited, but the aptly named Eastside Yoga has hatha yoga, meditation, and health workshops for the east of I-35 crowd. *Eastside Yoga*, 1050 E. 11th. www.eastsideyoga-austin.com.

YOGA VIDA Heated power vinyasa flow yoga seven days a week for all ability levels. *Yoga Vida*, 3620 Bee Caves Rd., 482-0800. www.yogavida.net.

SANIEH YOGA Sanieh teaches classes all over town or even in your own home if you're so inclined. Go online for a schedule or e-mail to schedule a house call. 470-2362. sanieh@saniehyoga.com, www.saniehyoga.com.

BODHI YOGA Varying classes ranging from vinyasa to hot yoga (in a heated room) all at the convenient campus-area location. *Bodhi Yoga*, 2905 San Gabriel, 478-2909. www.bodhiyoga.com.

SACRED STREAMS YOGA recently moved to its new Crestwood location, but it still offers the usual classes, specialized series, and personal meditation and yoga practice. 2013-A W. Anderson. jen@sacredstreamshealing.com, www.sacredstreams yoga.com.

arts listings



Charles Dickens Unleashed

The Hideout Theatre
Dec. 26

“Unleashed” is precisely right, as in “Cry Dickens and let slip the dogs of improv!” This just-passed December brought to the Hideout Theatre a Victorian serial drama in full costume, featuring the madcaps of Parallelogramophonograph and their cronies

performing a brand-new Dickensian tale of orphans-and-their-plucky-triumphs each night, with each show made up, naturally, on the spot.

We were fortunate to catch the final show of the run; we offer this review for your interest and in case the troupe decides – yes, please, just a bit more – to bring the format back next Yuletide.

There were six (or was it seven?) improvisers creating tangle-plotted, long-form antics from the audience suggestion of “book-binder” as the protagonist’s occupation. The story raveled and unraveled onstage boisterously and goofily, the players committing scenes in pairs, trios, and quartets, relaying the story of a young adopted boy (Kareem Badr, resplendent in fancy suit and Pickwickian muttonchops) turned out of his strict and well-to-do adoptive family to seek his own way in the big dirty city of London. Helping guide the narrative, when necessary or opportune, was the Narrator, the wisely chosen Curtis Luciani: He interceded during momentary lulls or when inspiration struck him, shifting the coalescing plot and sparking scenes with lunatic gambits, moving the action toward wherever his and the players’ choices would finally take it.

(It was a skillful give-and-take, the interplay between the narrator and the players, especially given the subject – the works of Mr.

Dickens – being paid a twisted homage. As the *Statesman’s* own arts critic Jeanne Claire van Ryzin has cannily noted, the progression of the improv worked much like the progression of an actual Dickens serial, in which that author would often pull wacky coincidences from nowhere and warp plot and circumstance as necessary to gain the most powerful, emotional, audience-impacting punch.)

Thus did we learn of the orphan Michael Leatherbinder’s tribulations in the harsh factory where books were stripped of leather (to be fashioned into whips!) and of his rescue by an officer of the London police force, of his growing romance with that police officer’s daughter, of his eventual revenge against the evil proprietor of the whip factory, and of the discovery that said proprietor was, in fact, his own presumed-dead father! Of course he was!

So, yes, this evening of impromptu narrative – with exceptional performances by Valerie Ward, Mark Majcher, and Roy Janik – was enjoyed by all. Well, except for one dubious, frowning couple in the front row who seem to have been expecting *Larry the Cable Guy’s Git-R-Done Xmas Hoedown* instead. Cor blimey, no: This was schmaltzy Victorian costume-drama improv, gamely and rather adroitly rendered – and God bless us, every one. – Wayne Alan Brenner

theatre

OPENING

RAW THEATRE This Vortex Resident Artists’ Workshop series is a sort of enhanced open mic for company members to present snippets of their upcoming side projects – readings, dance, music, diverse performance – and is open for public attendance on the first Tuesday of each month. *Tue., Jan. 5, 7pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free. www.vortexrep.org.*

CLOSING

HAMLET The Austin Drama Club presents its version of the Shakespearean chestnut, directed by the indefatigable Japhy Fernandes. E-mail for location information. *Through Jan. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Donations accepted. japhyfernandes@live.com.*

A TEXAS CHRISTMAS CAROL Nothing particularly Dickensian going on here, mind: This is a star-studded, locally grown variety show sure to get your toes a-tapping even as your heart’s cockles are being warmed with holiday goodness. Featuring performances by PBS’s **Biscuit Brothers**, **Tish Hinojosa**, **Austin Lyric Opera**, **Austin Classical Guitar Society**, **Ballet Austin**, **Tapestry Dance Company**, the **Zach Theatre Showstoppers**, **St. Martin’s Handbell Choir**, and surprise guests. *Jan. 1-3. Fri.-Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., 1 & 6pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$20-65 (half-price, ages 11 and younger). www.thelongcenter.org.*

12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHRISTMAS That talented rapschallion Rob Nash returns with his popular and many-charactered one-man show, illuminating the true, darkly twisted, hilarious meaning of Christmas in one family not terribly unlike your own. (Unless y’all were, like, *normal* or something.) (Doubtful, right?) Recommended. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

ONGOING

THE SANTALAND DIARIES This music-spiced staging of David Sedaris’ popular tale of a reluctant Macy’s Christmas elf is directed by Dave Steakley and features an effervescent **Espeie Randolph** as the child-besieged Crumpet. Here’s a thoroughly enjoyable performance that goes beyond its source material and will make you believe in the joy of holiday cynicism all over again. *Through Jan. 10. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

AUDITIONS

CHANTEUSE is a new musical about folk singers in 1960s Greenwich Village, to be presented at Cafe Caffeine in April. Needed: Two women (ages 20-40) who can act, play guitar, and sing and one man (age 40-60) who can act and sing are needed for the April production at Cafe Caffeine. Call for details. See website. *Sun.-Mon., Jan. 10-11, 6:30pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 973-3885. www.caliche.net.*

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM Michael Floyd will direct the Chaotic Theatre Company’s production of this Shakespeare classic. Prepare a one-minute, Bard-flavored monologue. E-mail for details. *Wed., Jan. 6, 1-5pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. mo_floyd@hotmail.com.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FREE IMPROV WORKSHOPS Tom Booker, the artistic director of the renowned Institution Theatre, presents two – count ’em: two – free workshops in the art of improvisation. All skill levels welcome, no experience necessary. *Tue.-Wed., Jan. 5-6, 7-9pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth, 895-9580. Free. www.theinstitutiontheater.com.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Justin McKinney McKinney falls (local reference, get it?) (Falls, see ... McKinney Falls?) (No?) (Okay, fuck it.) into that category of touring professional comics who 1) are based in L.A. and 2) have appeared numerous times in various sectors

of Comedy Central. But you can’t pigeonhole him, see? Because this man *hates* pigeons, and if you try to put him in a hole where a pigeon’s been, whoa, *watch out, pal*, he’ll dislocate your occipital ridge with a cinder block. No pigeons at Cap City, though, so we reckon it’ll be safe and enjoyable to catch McKinney doing his stand-up there. And **Bryson Turner** opens. *Dec. 31-Jan. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they’ve slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

Ryan Hamilton This touring stand-up man’s won himself a couple of national comedy contests, no wonder Cap City’s got him leading off the new year. With **Bryan Gutman** opening. *Jan. 6-9. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

The New Year’s Eve Show isn’t even gonna be at ColdTowne Theater, because how could that popular but smallish venue contain crowds for a show this fierce? See our **But Wait – There’s More** section for the deets. *Thu., Dec. 31, 7pm.*

ESTHER’S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther’s Follies: Folly Jolly Christmas The most popular troupe in town brings you the magic of **Ray Anderson**, **Sarah Palin’s Family Christmas Special**, and **Michelle Obama Sings the First Lady Blues**. George Bush is visited by the ghosts of presidents past, present, and future in **A Christmas Carol in Crawford**, and there’s **The Year in Review: Swine Flu, Tea Parties, Barack’s Peace Prize, and White House Beer Summits**. **Sand Scheff** opens the show with his musical comedy and cowboy croonin’. *Reservations highly recommended. Jan. 1-2. 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.

It’s New – I Say – New Year’s Eve at the

Hideout, Son! Early Show Here’s an evening of improv games and scenes, featuring some of the best and brightest performers in town bidding the old year adieu. *Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. \$20.* And then it’s **All the Way to 2010** with improv shenanigans galore and that traditional Champagne toast at midnight – after which you’ll already be right Downtown in the midst of Austin’s biggest New Year’s celebration. *Thu., Dec. 31, 10:30pm. \$20.*

Saturday: Austin Secrets Every week, an improvisational exploration of the secrets that define who we are. Off the cuff and in your lives. *8pm. \$10.*

Maestro is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. Highly recommended, because it brings out the wackiest. *10pm. \$10.*

BUT WAIT - THERE’S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK Stand-up comedy – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

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. 15 issue is Monday, Jan. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy, visual arts. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

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

TOP 9 LOCAL SPORTS STORIES OF 2009

1) UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EVERYTHING

There's no denying it, the University of Texas athletics programs rule this town – and the country. Colt McCoy was Austin's athlete of the year and has led the Horns to another national championship game. But don't sleep on UT's volleyball (came in second in the country), basketball (currently ranked No. 2), baseball (preseason No. 1 ranking), swimming (also currently ranked No. 1), and every other sport you can imagine's program. Longhorn fans are starting to take winning for granted, and they can live with that.

2) TEXAS STARS' INAUGURAL SEASON

Hockey has returned to Central Texas in a big way. With parent club the Dallas Stars just a few hours away, the Texas Stars are boasting NHL-caliber play in their new state-of-the-art arena, the Cedar Park Center. Hockey translates very poorly to TV, and the Ice Bats' play was outright sluggish at times, so do yourself a favor, hockey newbie, and get your tickets for a Stars game now.

3) LAKE TRAVIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

picked up its third straight Class 4A Division I championship, while Westlake fell short in overtime for the Class 5A Division I title. Congratulations to both programs for a stellar year.

4) ROUND ROCK EXPRESS' 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Here's hoping the Texas Stars can retain the loyal fan base that the Houston Astros' AAA franchise has engendered. The Dell Diamond has proven itself a Central Texas landmark with the Express continuing to nurture big-league talent, such as 2009 standout starting pitcher Bud Norris.

5) ROLLER DERBY REVOLUTION

Who brought Roller Derby back from the dead? Why, Austin did, of course. The Lonestar Rollergirls hosted the second-ever banked-track tourney, and the flat-track Texas Rollergirls took second place at the Women's Flat Track Derby Association tourney in Philly. See "Electric Skaterland," Nov. 27, 2009, for more.

6) EX-LONGHORNS TAKE BERLIN

From our track-and-field correspondent Lee Nichols): Americans Sanya Richards (400 meters) and Trey Hardee (decathlon) and Jamaican Melaine Walker (400 meter hurdles) all claimed world championships in Germany this year. At the end of the season, Richards was named Women's Athlete of the Year by *Track & Field News*.

7) AUSTIN TOROS

They don't play in Cedar Park; they don't play in Round Rock; they play right here in Downtown Austin, allowing fans an opportunity to hit Sixth Street (or Red River, if so inclined) after catching the Spurs' NBA D-League club in action.

8) JAMES KIRKLAND BATTLES HIMSELF

It's been a tough year for local up-and-coming boxer Kirkland. The light middleweight champ should be fighting in front of national audiences on HBO but is currently serving time after being arrested April 19, 2009, for possession of a firearm by a felon (he was eventually sentenced to two years in prison).

9) AUSTIN AZTEX'S INAUGURAL SEASON

See Nick Barbaro's "Soccer Watch," below, for more on the Aztex, but they were just too impressive in their first year to not make my Top 9 list. — Mark Fagan

COURTESY OF PORTRAITS BY DEENA AND CO.



Greg Rallo

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** Vs. Houston: *Wed., Jan. 6, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARS. \$9-50. www.texasstarshockey.com.*

★ **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball** Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi: *Sat., Jan. 2, 3:30pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45. Women's Basketball* Vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff: *Sat., Jan. 2, 11am. Vs. UT Arlington: Tue., Jan. 5, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$5-16. Men's and Women's Swimming* Vs. Auburn: *Thu., Jan. 7, 3pm. Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. www.texasports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball St. Ed's Holiday Classic: SE Oklahoma State vs. Missouri S&T: *Wed., Dec. 30, noon. Central Oklahoma vs. St. Edward's: Wed., Dec. 30, 8pm. Vs. Dallas Baptist: Sat., Jan. 2, 7pm. Vs. Arkansas-Fort Smith: Mon., Jan. 4, 8pm. Vs. Incarnate Word: Thu., Jan. 7, 8pm. Women's Basketball* Hilltoppers New Year's Classic: Vs. Texas Woman's: *Wed., Dec. 30, 2:30pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville: Thu., Dec. 31, 2:30pm. Vs. Arkansas-Fort Smith: Mon., Jan. 4, 5:30pm. Vs. Incarnate Word: Thu., Jan. 7, 5:30pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Mississippi College: *Thu., Jan. 7, 7:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5. Women's Basketball* Vs. William Smith College: *Wed., Dec. 30, 5:30pm. Vs. Mississippi College: Thu., Jan. 7, 5:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5. athletics.concordia.edu.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Colorado College: *Sat., Jan. 2, 1pm. Vs. Austin College: Sun., Jan. 3, 1pm. Corbin J. Robertson Center. Men's Basketball* Vs. Colorado College: *Sat., Jan. 2, 3pm. Vs. Austin College: Sun., Jan. 3, 3pm. Corbin J. Robertson Center. www.southwesternpirates.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

RESOLUTION RUN is a certified chip-timed 5K race through the Brushy Creek neighborhood. *Fri., Jan. 1, 11am-1pm. St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock, 512/694-1446. \$20. www.resolutionrun2010.org.*

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN NEW YEAR'S EVE RUN Join the RunTex crew as it burns some calories before the First Night Austin festivities. *Thu., Dec. 31, 10pm. South First Street Bridge. www.active.com/running/austin-tx/first-night-austin-2009.*

BY NICK BARBARO **soccer watch**

TOP 9 SOCCER STORIES OF 2009

1) LE MAIN DE DIEU DEUX A Thierry Henry handball knocked Ireland out of next year's World Cup Finals (and put France in), sparked calls for rule changes, almost caused a diplomatic incident, and gave the Irish something to cry in their beers about for the next four years.

2) AZTEX BRING PRO SOCCER TO AUSTIN I could make a Top 10 list just out of Aztex highlights – but suffice it to say, management keeps making one smart move after another. House Park, here we come!

3) UNITED-DIVIDED SOCCER LEAGUES The USL's year started on a high – with Montreal and Puerto Rico advancing deep into the CONCACAF Champions' League – and ended on a low: a massive teams/owners revolt that remains unresolved.

4) LONGHORNS GO PRO With three-quarters of last year's back line (Stephanie Logterman, Kasey Moore, and Jill Gilbeau) making a living this year in Women's Professional Soccer, it's little surprise that this was a rebuilding season for the Horns.

5) HILLTOPPERS RULE THE HEARTLAND

The St. Edward's men and women both seemed to get better as the season went on. The men won the Heartland Conference for the first time since 2000; the women advanced to the NCAA regional final before losing in penalty kicks.

6) BARCELONA WINS EVERYTHING Led by World Player of the Year Lionel Messi, the Catalans are reigning champions of Spain, Europe, the world, and all the available cups therein. If this is not the best team ever, at least this has been the best year any team has ever had.

7) STOKED The Aztex's big brothers, the Stoke City Potters, finished strong in their first season in the English Premier League, made some good moves in the offseason, and seem to be avoiding a sophomore slump.

8) YANKS A LOT The U.S. men had a great pre-World Cup year – highlighted by a Confederations Cup run where they snapped No. 1 Spain's record winning streak – but unfortunately ...

9) 5-0! ... the single game that most stands out was a stunning 5-0 loss to Mexico in the Gold Cup final in New Jersey.

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'Teresita Fernández: Blind Landscape'

Blanton Museum of Art, through Jan. 3
MLK & Congress, 471-7324, www.blantonmuseum.org

Perhaps because we can't see it in its common state, streaming through the air, we don't tend to think of light as one of the more valuable implements in a visual artist's toolkit. But when you look at Teresita Fernández's art, well, it's all about the light.

As is evident in the solo exhibition "Blind Landscape," many of the other materials that the artist employs – graphite, polished steel, aluminum, glass beads – are meant to catch the light and play off it, to glint or glimmer as you pass by, to draw your attention with that flash of radiance, to suggest that in some unlikely way, a fixed and solid object is fluid, capable of motion. Glance down into the floor-mounted circle of *Eruption*, with its minuscule glass beads of orange, yellow, red, and violet, and the colors appear to shift, as if this were indeed a pool of lava you're peering into, its thick, volcanic stew an angry swirl. Move past *Projection Screen*, with its onyx beads loosely organized into a rectangle on the wall, and the pinprick reflections that follow you in a lazy arc over the surface of the beads work with their arrangement and the negative space between them to create a buzzing field of atoms, constantly vibrating and jostling themselves into new patterns. Reproduce these works in flat, dull hues, remove the source of illumination, and they would likely be static. Light is the invisible conspirator behind their animation, the intangible catalyst that brings Fernández's work to life. It's what causes the 14,000 graphite pebbles of *Epic*, set high along one wall of the gallery, to sparkle as you stroll from one end to the other, transforming it from an interior installation of unliving stone to a galaxy of dark stars against a bright sky – the Milky Way in negative. It's what makes the irregular, foliagelike cut metal of *Portrait (Blind Landscape)*, *Portrait (Blind Water)*, and *Vertigo (Sotto in su)* look like parts of trees lightly stirred by a breeze, the gaps between leaves opening and closing, the shadows stretching and shrinking.

Of course, light isn't the only agent responsible for this illusion of motion. There

is the thing that's actually moving around these works: you, the viewer. But as we tend not to think of light as a tool of the artist, we tend not to think of ourselves as part of the artist's toolkit. And yet we are. It's our movement toward, past, and away from this art that allows the light to play off these reflective surfaces the way it does. We are as integral to the effects that Fernández is after as graphite or glass. And she happily reminds us of that repeatedly in this show. The layers of steel in *Vertigo (Sotto in su)* extend from a wall horizontally just above most people's heads, creating a small arbor that you're simply drawn to step under. And when you do and you look up (as you're bound to do), you see yourself hanging in the "tree" above you, the polished metal as reflective as the surface of a pool. With *Ink Mirror (Landscape)*, the artist is considerably more straightforward about it; you stare at the long, tall slab of black fiberglass set in a snowbank of marble dust for any length of time, and you wind up staring at yourself.

It can be a bit startling and even disconcerting to catch your reflection in a work of art, but it's useful. We can all stand to be reminded that where art is concerned – and by that, I mean any creative endeavor – our role is not just to be a consumer, ingesting what someone else has produced; we're completing a circle that began with the creative spark within the artist's mind, closing a circuit that, just like an electrical connection, creates a charge. Like the light that plays across the works in "Blind Landscape" – and in *Stacked Waters*, Fernández's marvelous installation of liquid blue and white tiles that fills the Blanton Museum's atrium – we activate the art. It's something to ponder as you regard *Epic*'s epic gray constellation or go swimming in the atrium's liquid expanse. – Robert Faires

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Yes, and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. Also, variety shows! Live music! So much goodness in this venue, in fact, that we'll be expanding this listing for the new year. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

GAG REFLEX NEW YEAR'S COMEDY BASH Sketch comedy from Dale Roe and his gang of zanies will help you usher in the annus novus with a good laugh. Admission includes beer and wine – woo-hoo! – and the late show adds Mangia pizza and a Champagne toast at midnight to cap off the old year with a bangity-bang. *Thu., Dec. 31, 7:30 & 9:30pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$20 (\$35 for the late show). www.sockmonkeymedia.com/gag.*

COLDTOWNE NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW isn't even gonna be at ColdTowne Theater, because how could that popular but smallish venue contain, in one night, crowds for the likes of SNL's **Rich Talarico**, the sketch revue called **Eye for an iPhone**, and the flirtatious crooning and tuning of **Le Sexy**? This shindig's at the United States Art Authority, yes, and admission here also gets you into the Spider House celebration – with live bands and DJs – that immediately follows. *Thu., Dec. 31, 7pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. \$15. www.coldtownetheater.com.*

dance

BIG RANGE DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS The annual gathering of contemporary dance, movement-based performance art, and dance video that turns this city into an epicenter of creative kinesis – produced by Spank Dance Artistic Director Ellen Bartel – has four programs to choose from (and choreographers are compensated, yes). Out-of-towners are also welcome to apply. See website for details. Application deadline: Jan. 30. www.bigrangeaustin.org.

classical music

OPENING

MUSIC APPRECIATION FOR GROWNUPS You – yes, you – can learn how to enjoy and find meaning in classical music. No musical experience is required. *Saturdays, 2-3pm. Classes begin Jan. 9. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd., 474-2331. \$160 for ten weeks. www.austinyricopera.org.*

LA FOLLIA: FAVORITE BAROQUE CONCERTOS AND ARIAS Hear your favorite La Follians perform as soloists in well-known concertos by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, and Telemann, featuring a full string ensemble and **Nathaniel Mayfield** on Baroque trumpet. *Sun., Jan. 3, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. \$5-18. www.lafollia.org.*

CLOSING

AUSTIN SYMPHONY POPS: THE DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA Get ready to dance when the Duke Ellington Orchestra and Freda Payne take the stage with ASO in this New Year's Eve Pops event. *Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-6064. \$30-45. www.austinsymphony.org.*

visual arts

OPENING

CECILIA LING: MY SECRET GARDEN Photography of natural aquatic scenes from Austin, France, China, and more. Opening reception: *Sun., Jan. 3, noon-3pm.* Exhibition: *Through Feb. 28. 360 Gallery, 6720 N. Cap. of TX Hwy, 346-6789. www.360galleryofaustin.org.*

CHILDHOOD: AN INTERNATIONAL PHOTO EXHIBITION The Texas Photographic Society presents an exhibition curated by the actress Jamie Lee Curtis. Exhibition: *Jan. 7-28. Reception: Thu., Jan. 14, 6-8pm. Buttridge Gallery, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.*

CLOSING

A LEGACY OF QUILTS: THE JOYCE GROSS COLLECTION This exhibit, on loan from UT's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, spans more than 100 years of the enduring American art form and features 29 quilts made approximately between 1844 and 1950. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. 1800 Congress, 936-4639. \$4-7. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

ART ON 5TH: SMALL WORKS The gallery's contingent of local artists, Texas artists, and national artists have painted a special group of smaller works for this show. *Through Jan. 2. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: ROBERT SCHULTS This elegant gallery of photography features the artist's black-and-white images: Like architecture's fever dreams of shattered symmetry, some of them, and uniformly stunning in their composition and rendition. *Through Jan. 2. 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.nowlingallery.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY New paintings and sculptures by local and international artists Kathleen Wilson, Gary Yarrington, Mary Morse, Tom Bishop, Bob Coffee, Augusto Brocca, and Carlos Estevez. *Through Dec. 31. 1103 E. Sixth, 971-3643. www.broccagallery.com.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: MY WICKED TWISTED SENSE OF LOVE A globally diverse group of artists presents works on paper, videos, sounds, and mixed-media installations exploring the nuances of personal relationships, the fear of dying alone, and emotional indifference. *Through Jan. 7. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: NORIKO AMBE The New York-based artist wields surgical skill to transform already beautiful books into objects of even greater and surreal beauty. Curated by Glenn Fuhrman and highly recommended. *Through Dec. 31. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS: HOLIDAY SALE More than 20 artists represented with ornaments, collages, painting, drawings, sculptures, poetry, music, cards, magnets, prints, mobiles, jewelry, and more. *Through Jan. 9. 3710 Cedar #7, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.*

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.

ART IN A NUTSHELL This is the gallery of Ismael Cavazos, a Local Colorful Character and the creator of "The Old Man in the Peanut," featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. And work by other artists, too. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.

CHAN CHAN: PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS OF CUBA The photography of Piercarlo Abate and the paintings of Luis Abreu show a side of Cuba that's seldom seen. 81 San Marcos St. www.piercarloabate.com.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

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.

STUDIO2GALLERY: TRANSLATIONS: NAVIGATING CULTURE THROUGH PAPER Juror and featured artist Benné Rockett presents new works from a group of artists from across the country who have explored the possibilities of expression via paper – as sculptural material or ground for color or, well, so many evocative forms in this excellent show. *Through Jan. 8. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102. www.studio2gallery.com.*

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaobadastudio.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

AMOA: DAVID BATES AND JADE WALKER The large and expressive oil paintings of David Bates – vivid scenes of nature, near-documentary images (based on broadcast video) of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina – are paired with new sculptures and installations by Austin's own Jade Walker, she of UT's Creative Research Laboratory. *Through Jan. 31. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

AMOA LAGUNA GLORIA: CASSANDRA JAMES "Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water" is an intimate exhibition of sketchbooks and paintings. *Through Jan. 10. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.amoa.org.*

BLANTON MUSEUM: THE PETROBELLI ALTARPIECE This work by Venetian master Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) was recently identified as a fragment of the head of Saint Michael, the central figure in the so-called Petrobelli Altarpiece from 1565. *Through Feb. 7. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.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 appointment. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepaustinweird.com.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: CHILL Cold, sh mold: This exhibition features work by a gathering of artists who know how to warm up a venue with intricate visual beauty: Cynthia Camlin, Sara Frantz, Jennifer Maestre, Leslie Mutchler, Raychael Stine, Steve Wiman, and Sydney Yeager. *Through Feb. 6. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW This array of the gallery's stellar regulars – David Leonard, Julie Speed, Dianne Grammer, and Stella Alesi among them – also features new work by Susu Meyer and Caprice Pierucci. *Through Jan. 9. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

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

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA A curator-led tour of this museum's quirky and delightful "Impermanent Collection" is one of the hidden wonders of Austin. Tours: *Saturdays, 1-4pm. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: DAMIAN PRIOUR'S WATERSPARKS Priour is best known for his elegant sculptures using fossilized limestone, glass, and rusted metal – the beach treasures he grew up with on the Texas Gulf Coast. His work is on fine display in this third in the Umlauf's series of annual exhibits of work by contemporary sculptors who studied at the University of Texas. *Through Jan. 3. 605 Robert E. Lee Rd., 445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

CHINATOWN New works by Matt Bowman, Zita Raymond, Phillip Wade, and Allison Young. *Through Jan. 15. 107 W. Fifth, 637-8888.*

EASTSIDE BOOKS Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. www.eastsidebooksaustin.com.

PICTURING AMERICA FROM EAST TO WEST Photographs of America and its art, in a periodically changing display. *Through May. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. www.wblibrary.org.*

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

LITTLE CITY: BARRY GEORGE Metal sculptural works by this multitalented local make for a more interesting cafe. *Through Dec. 31. 916 Congress, 476-CITY. www.littlecity.com.*

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

WET: JESMINDA COLE Paintings, bones, plaster, and lead. Oh, oh my. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.



JENNIFER MAESTRE'S SILKIE IS PART OF D BERMAN GALLERY'S 'CHILL' SHOW.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

LOU BERNEY presents his *Gutshot Straight*. *Wed., Jan. 6, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

EXPRESSIONS: NEW YEAR NEW VOICES featuring Tova Charles, Korim, Christopher Michael, Brent Caballero, Joe B. Doris Davenport, Jawhir, Jomar, Shake, Justin Time, Dee, Shay Harris, and Eric B. with backing music by DJ Eyeone. Bring a dish for the potluck or cans for Poets Pantry. *Bahá'í Faith Center, 4317 Airport, 459-4417.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents "Lucille Clifton on Poetry," taped at the Dodge Poetry Festival in 2008. This program airs every week in December on Channel 10 and 16. See website for exact air time. www.channelaustin.org.

CLOSING THIS WEEK: FROM OUT THAT SHADOW The Harry Ransom Center has teamed up with the University of Virginia to present this **Edgar Allan Poe** show – an expansive and remarkable collection of manuscripts, letters, first editions, illustrations, and other storied ephemera concerning one of the country's most famous writers. *Through Jan. 3. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

NORTH AUSTIN KNITTERS meet weekly to knit and discuss great books. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.*

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME (formerly Writing From the Heart) is a long-running, just-for-fun, noncritique writing practice group that meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. *Sat., Jan. 2, 10am-noon. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.minutesoffame.wordpress.com.*

7% SOLUTION CLUB prepares for the May release of the final book in the trilogy of thrillers by the late Swedish novelist Stieg Larsson by reading *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. *Mon., Jan. 4, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB bows its head for *The Given Day* by Dennis Lehane. *Wed., Jan. 6, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

OPEN MICS

THE LIVING ROOM: LIVE STORYTELLING Amparo Garcia-Crow presents this spoken-word series that brings together an eclectic mix of stories around a specific theme. Call for reservations or to sign up as a storyteller. *Sat., Jan. 2, 8pm. Alleywood Studios, 1902 S. Congress, 441-6085. Donations accepted. www.amparogarciacrow.com.*

FRIDAY NIGHT MIC for poetry, music, drama, and stories. Hosted by Bear Man Poet. *Fridays, 8-10pm. JP's Java, 2803 San Jacinto.*

GENUINE JOE *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom Moon 10 and features *American Green Te* as read by Michael Casares. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.*

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. www.myspace.com/hotmasespresso.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pmo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast. *Wednesdays, 8pm. The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com.*

THE OPEN SECRET This is a new venue hosted by John Hawk, held on the first Tuesday of each month. *Tue., Jan. 5, 7pm. Kick Butt at the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe. Free.*

SPOKEN & HEARD Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. ASL Sign Language interpreter available. Hosted by the Crew. *Every Sunday, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.*

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.*

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Lee Leteff with Jena and family. Also, Michael McClanahan and Kathleen Romana. Next feature is Madeleine Mercier and Edgar Pace with Poe's "The Raven." *Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ARDENT! POETRY IN THE ARTS seeks your poetry submissions. Poems not used will be destroyed, not returned. Include "permission to use" statement with submissions. Include name, complete mailing address, e-mail, and telephone with submission and any subsequent correspondence. Send up to three unpublished poems for consideration to: *Dillon McKinsey, 1909 Hollow Ridge Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613-6729. rimer777@gmail.com.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Oh, you can't feel the impact these black marks on newsprint are making on your optic nerves as you read, but it's happening. You can't fully ken the changes being wrought in the skein of existence, but you know that The World Ain't Quite What It Used To Be, Is It? Brother, there's not a paradigm you can spare that won't continue to be shifted by technological and political progression in the coming year. Sister, be healthy and wise and vote Democrat or pretty much kiss control of your own uterus goodbye. Nobody reads anymore – and yet who are you, here, now, parsing this text? Knowledge is power, and every letter of the alphabet is another bullet in the bandolier of strength. Every budding gunner should be gunning for the Buddha: E pluribus, you numberless horde! Seize the day's eyes and burn like the stars you are! Namaste. Huzzah. Fuckin' A.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Someone needs to pull
a quagga from the mire
& some dodos out the dendrites
& some ammonites from where
the active axons form a wreath.
Because extinction's an affliction
without any jurisdiction
& reduced to just a fiction
beyond the myelin sheath.

The myelin, the myelin,
It is why the brain is smilin' –
'cause even all the heavy truckin'
dumping its synaptic luck in
still can't thwart that motherfuckin'
myelin sheath!

– Wayne Alan Brenner,
from *Zuckerman's Book of Faces 2009*



Avatar



Me and Orson Welles



Fantastic Mr. Fox



Marjorie Baumgarten

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
ME AND ORSON WELLES
AN EDUCATION

Kimberley Jones

AVATAR
FANTASTIC MR. FOX
ME AND ORSON WELLES

Marc Savlov

FANTASTIC MR. FOX
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
AVATAR (IMAX)

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

D: Betty Thomas; with Zachary Levi, David Cross, Jason Lee, Wendie Malick; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney, Anna Faris, Christina Applegate, Amy Poehler. (PG, 88 min.)

It's a rare but not unheard-of event for a sequel to top its predecessor. This is not one of those sequels, however, and director Thomas, working from a script by returning screenwriter Jon Vitti and *Kung Fu Panda* scribe Jonathan Aibel, does little to improve on 2007's original "film/rebranding event." While *The Squeakquel* might be appreciated by filmgoers ages 10 or younger, the rest of us should be investing heavily in d-CON and working feverishly through the night to build a better rodent trap. This time out, the all-singing, all-dancing, all-CGI chipmunks – rebel with paws Alvin (Long), wise guy Simon (Gubler), and tubby emo vermin Theodore (McCartney) – wind up in a contrived "squeak-off" with a new trio of singing female chipmunks, cruelly dubbed the "Chipettes" by down-on-his-luck record exec Ian Hawk (Cross, returning from the original in search of a paycheck and not much else). Muskrat love, of a sort, is in the air. (12/25/2009) – Marc Savlov

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ ANTICHRIST D: Lars von Trier; with Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg. (NR, 104 min.)

Possibly the best argument against couples therapy ever, *Antichrist* is a tour-de-force trip inside the mind of a dangerously depressed man. That man is von Trier, and his film speaks the language of madness with astonishing fluency. Dreamlike and possessed of a terrible, doom-laden beauty, *Antichrist* is a flawed masterpiece and an example of highly personal auteurism that will either make you mad or drive you mad; either way, you're complicit in von Trier's vigorously compelling nightmare of love, death, and despair. Dafoe and Gainsbourg are fearless in their absolute commitment to their respective roles as He and She, a couple in the throes of immense, obliterating grief. They seek therapeutic escape at their cabin in the woods. He is a therapist and arrogantly assumes he can assuage She's pain in this act of withdrawal. But She is beyond such psychological salves, and, as von Trier steers his couple into the dark forest primeval, *Antichrist* becomes a genuine horror movie. (11/20/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Doble

ARMORED D: Nimród Antal; with Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne, Amaury Nolasco, Fred Ward, Columbus Short, Skeet Ulrich, Andre Kinney, Milo Ventimiglia. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Neither the best heist movie of the new millennium (that would be *The Bank Job*) nor the worst (Tony Scott's snoozy remake of *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* gets that honor), *Armored* is a serviceable and solid slab of testosterone, gunfire, and seriously impregnable trucks that aims low and scores higher than you'd think. It's like the Schlitz of caper movies – it goes down easily, buzzes around your brainpan for a couple of hours, and then vanishes from your memory within 24. *Armored* continues Antal's penchant for generic, single-word film titles, but it's such a streamlined suspenser that you can forgive the doozy bits and go with the good-men-gone-bad flow of the film. Dillon plays an armored-car guard who,

together with a crew of five others (among them Fishburne, who appears to be having a ball, and *The Professional's* Reno), plans an inside job worth a cool \$42 million. (12/11/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Tinseltown South

ASTRO BOY D: David Bowers; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage, Nathan Lane, Donald Sutherland, Kristen Bell, Eugene Levy, Bill Nighy, Samuel L. Jackson, Charlize Theron. (PG, 94 min.)

Osamu Tezuka's pioneering Japanese *manga* and animé series about the coolest robot kid ever finally achieves Americanized big-screen status. Although something has been lost in the translation, this *Astro Boy* remains true to the heart and soul of the original. Screenwriter Timothy Harris comes up with a few new twists on Tezuka's original – most notably the nascent romance between Astro and plucky surface-dweller Cora (Bell) – and this *Astro Boy* moves along at least as snappily as its rocket-powered protagonist. But ultimately, Bowers' take on the animé legend feels too indebted to the far superior *The Iron Giant* and overstreamlined in both story and animation. It's a totally serviceable reboot for young people who are just discovering the joys of manga, but I can't help but miss the raw animation and even rarer emotional aesthetics of the original televised animé series. (10/23/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8

★ AVATAR D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.)

At 162 minutes and a cost of somewhere between \$250 million and \$300 million, Cameron's ne plus ultra of futuristic mechanized mayhem and seamless CGI trickery is both a cinematically spectacular slab of virtually nonstop action and an unmistakable diatribe against corporatized American imperialism. There are the usual muscled-up boys (and equally powerful girls) with big-bang toys, crying havoc and letting slip the dogs

of war, to be sure, but at its heart this mammoth film is ... a chick flick. Despite a script that at times leaves its most interesting characters delivering some of the most banal lines in a Cameron film thus far, somehow it all holds together. As a purely visual experience, it's like nothing you've ever seen before: a lush, sexy, primal world created entirely by Cameron's legions of CGI masters. *Avatar* is thrilling, lovely, sad, and explosive in all the right ways. (12/18/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ BAD LIEUTENANT: PORT OF CALL NEW ORLEANS

D: Werner Herzog; with Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes, Val Kilmer, Fairuza Balk, Jennifer Coolidge, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Xzibit, Shawn Hatosy, Denzel Whitaker, Tom Bower. (R, 121 min.)

The singular talents of director Herzog and star Cage coalesce here into something mercurial, creating a movie that is mutable, unpredictable, and, above all, original. *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, is not a sequel, prequel, remake, or follow-up to Abel Ferrara's 1992 film. This new "bad lieutenant" is bad in many of the same ways as Ferrara's (rampant cocaine and narcotics use, gambling addiction, and flagrant abuse of the badge), but gone are the Catholic guilt, the New York City streets, and the naked, howling Harvey Keitel. The new film is set in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It seems to be on the constant verge of going off the rails, which makes the film a gas to watch. However, it's somewhat disconcerting for a movie about debasement and redemption to be so entertaining. Still, Cage delivers his best performance in ages, and Herzog demonstrates, once again, that he is capable of virtually anything. (12/11/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

THE BLIND SIDE D: John Lee Hancock; with Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron, Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, Jae Head, Lily Collins, Ray McKinnon, Kim Dickens. (PG-13, 126 min.)

Writer/director Hancock (*The Rookie*) overcomes most of the built-in problems inherent to inspirational sports dramas. Also in the film's plus column are two standout performances: from Aaron, as the sweet-mannered but largely uncommunicative football player Michael (Aaron does some very subtle body work, using the way he carries his heft as an emotional signpost), and Bullock, as the prickly, straight-talking Memphis socialite who welcomes Michael into her home and eventually makes him a part of the family. This is a dream role for Bullock – finally, a job that requires her to be adult, tart, and smart, all at once – and she makes good use of it. It's not an altogether convincing portrait, but it is an entertaining, even moving one, and the forcefulness of her presence goes a long way in pulling the film back from the brink of cuddliness. (11/20/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE BOONDOCK SAINTS II: ALL SAINTS DAY

D: Troy Duffy; with Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus, Billy Connolly, Clifton Collins Jr., Julie Benz, Judd Nelson, David Della Rocco, Bob Marley, Brian Mahoney, David Ferry. (R, 118 min.)

Director Duffy's wickedly bloodthirsty and strangely humorous *The Boondock Saints* was a cult hit waiting to happen that somehow didn't. As a post-post-Tarantino hipster-shoot-'em-up, it seemed oddly dated back when it received a microrelease from Miramax before heading straight to video and developing a substantial following, in part due to the canny documentary *Overnight*, which chronicles the *Boondock* director's meteoric nonrise to and ego-fueled fall from indie cinema heaven. The original is all muzzle flash and zero smarts, but its loopy storyline, which has hard-drinking, harder-fighting Boston-Irish sibling vigilantes Connor and Murphy MacManus (Flanery and Reedus) laying waste to both the Italian and Russian mobs in modern-day Beantown, is delirious, brutish, testosterone-fueled un-fun. *All Saints Day*, from its dullish title on down to its final bullet, is the sort of outrageously bad filmmaking that defines the phrase "unnecessary sequel." Even fans of these blood-soaked bouncing Murphys might think twice before giving the downward-spiraling director a third chance. (12/04/2009) – Marc Savlov

✦ Tinseltown South

BROTHERS D: Jim Sheridan; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire, Sam Shepard, Mare Winningham, Bailee Madison, Taylor Geare, Clifton Collins Jr. (R, 110 min.)

Inferior in practically every way to Danish director Susanne Bier's original *Brødre* – but now with more U2! – *Brothers* draws from two rampaging traditions, Greek tragedy and romantic melodrama, and renders both weirdly inert. Maguire plays the elder Cahill brother, Sam, a captain in the Marines; an attentive husband to his high school sweetheart, Grace (Portman); and a devoted father to two little girls. *Brothers*, in its most effective and engrossing stretches, examines the malleability of the roles the various Cahills are assigned, either by themselves or by others. All the actors do well enough, but they don't mesh at all – it's as if everyone's acting in his or her own movie – and there's simply no lived-in quality to the film. Sheridan and scripter David Benioff stick closely to the bullet points of the original but can't seem to translate the rich complexity of the characters and the choices they make. (12/11/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Tinseltown South

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

D: Phil Lord, Chris Miller; with the voices of Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan, Andy Samberg, Bruce Campbell, Mr. T, Neil Patrick Harris, Benjamin Bratt, Al Roker, Lauren Graham. (PG, 90 min.)

The wildest fantasy of every hamburger-happy kid is realized in this zippy, lippy animated adaptation of the popular children's book. When a misunderstood inventor named Flint Lockwood (voiced by Hader) cooks up a contraption that converts water into food, causing all matter of epicurean delights to fall from the sky, he transforms overnight from town pariah to boy hero. The smart, lightly snarky *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* is a visual feast, impressively rendering in 3-D ingenious sights such as a spaghetti tornado and a Jell-O funhouse. And the sounds – including cheeky voice work by Mr. T, Harris, and Bratt – are a blast. All told, this is spirited play with unlabeled lessons about good citizenship and the power of pluck that slide down as easily as the ice cream snowdrifts that blanket the ground. (09/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Movies 8

COUPLES RETREAT

D: Peter Billingsley; with Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Jon Favreau, Faizon Love, Malin Akerman, Kristin Davis, Kristen Bell, Kali Hawk, Jean Reno, Peter Serafinowicz, Carlos Ponce, John Michael Higgins, Ken Jeong. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Intelligence is insulted at every turn in this date movie from former "swingers" Vaughn and Favreau, who now write themselves roles as middle-aged men grown flabby in both body and spirit. Vaughn also produces and, as the film's top-lined star, plays the only happily married man in this story's quartet of couples who attend a weeklong couples retreat. Random sequences follow in succession: a badly choreographed shark attack, a massage that requires a self-serve happy ending, ridiculous therapy sessions, a Fabio look-alike yoga instructor (Ponce) who provides the requisite homophobic sight gags, and a renegade excursion to the singles' side of the resort where, magically, everything resolves. Logic and credibility are defied at almost every opportunity. Even so, some of this might have worked if the script was, say, funny. The scenery looks good enough to be a screensaver, as one of the characters exclaims, and of course, the background offers an endless array of scantily clad hardbodies. (10/09/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

● Movies 8

openings & ratings

No new openings

- ★★★★★ 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

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

D: Marc Lawrence; with Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Elliott, Mary Steenburgen, Michael Kelly, Elisabeth Moss, Jesse Liebman, Wilford Brimley. (PG-13, 103 min.)

From its difficult-to-remember title on down, *Did You Hear About the Morgans?* is a forgettable and lackluster fish-out-of-water rom-com. The film exploits tired stereotypes about city and country folks while being propped up by the kind of irrational narrative logic that can only exist in the movies. Paul and Meryl Morgan (Grant and Parker) are a New York City couple who, though separated, together witness a homicide. The authorities decide to place the Morgans in the Witness Protection Program and ship them to Wyoming. Of course, a week cooped up together out West reminds the couple of how much they still love each other. The movie's wan script by writer-director Lawrence almost makes the viewer wish that actors Grant and Parker, who each here underplay their signature stammering and bubblyness, were allowed free reign to infuse their characters with greater liveliness. Used with even less regard for character definition are the supporting actors. (12/18/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate




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"HUGH GRANT AND SARAH JESSICA PARKER ARE A PERFECT COMBO!"

Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

Hugh GRANT
Sarah Jessica PARKER

Did You Hear About The **MORGANS?**

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT/BANTER FILMS PRODUCTION
"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?" SAM ELLIOTT MARY STEENBURGEN ELISABETH MOSS MICHAEL KELLY WILFORD BRIMLEY
WRITTEN BY THEODORE SHAPIRO PRODUCED BY MELISSA WELLS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANTHONY KATAGAS RYAN KAVANAUGH PRODUCED BY MARTIN SHAFER LIZ GLOTZER
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COLUMBIA PICTURES

NOW PLAYING
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

showtimes

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ

320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Action Pack: 1999 Sing-Along: Thu (1/7), 11:00pm
aGLIFF: Auntie Mame: Sun, 1:00pm
High for the Holidays: The Big Lebowski: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:10; Wed, 9:00pm
Terror Tuesday: The Gates of Hell: Tue, 9:45pm
Music Monday: Let Me Be Your Band: Mon, 9:45pm
Weird Wednesday: Poor Pretty Eddie: Wed, 12mid
Action Pack: Pulp Fiction Quote-Along: Thu (1/7), 7:00pm
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Sat, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:25; Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 6:45, 10:10; Mon-Tue, 7:00, 10:20; Wed, 5:30, 7:00, 10:20
Singsray Sam: Sun, 10:45pm; Mon-Tue, 7:30pm
Wilco Live: Ashes of American Flags: Sun, 8:10pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Wed, 11:00am, 12:00, 3:00, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:45pm; Thu (1/7), 11:00am, 12:00, 3:00, 4:00, 8:00pm
The Blind Side: Fri-Wed, 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50; Thu (1/7), 12:20, 3:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Wed, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Thu (1/7), 1:45, 4:30
***It's Complicated:** 11:45am, 3:15, 6:30, 9:40pm
Cult Thursday: The Nightmare Never Ends: Thu (1/7), 10:00pm
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Sun, 1:00, 4:20, 7:45, 11:00; Mon, 12:30, 7:45, 11:00; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:00, 4:20, 7:45, 11:00
Up in the Air: 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH

1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 11:15am, 12:30, 3:00, 6:45, 9:15, 10:30pm; Wed, 3:00, 6:45, 9:15, 10:30; Thu (1/7), 3:00, 6:30, 10:10
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans: Fri-Wed, 4:30, 10:00; Thu (1/7), 3:25pm
The Blind Side: Fri-Mon, 12:25, 3:35, 7:00; Tue, 12:35, 3:35, 7:00; Wed, 3:35pm; Thu (1/7), 3:20pm
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 4:10, 6:45pm; Tue, 4:15, 6:45; Wed, 4:10, 6:45; Thu (1/7), 4:10pm
***It's Complicated:** Fri-Tue, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15pm; Wed, 4:20, 7:30, 10:25; Thu (1/7), 3:40pm
The Road: Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 7:35, 10:20pm; Wed, 7:35, 10:20; Thu (1/7), 4:30pm
***Up in the Air:** Fri-Tue, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05pm; Wed, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05; Thu (1/7), 7:20, 10:05

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.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 3:15, 6:45, 10:30pm; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:45pm; Thu (1/7), 11:30am, 3:00, 6:45, 10:30pm
***Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:00, 6:00; Mon-Wed, 12:15, 4:30, 7:30; Thu (1/7), 12:15, 3:45
Invictus: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 8:45pm; Mon-Wed, 1:15, 10:15; Thu (1/7), 12:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri, 12:00, 1:00, 3:25, 4:20, 7:10, 7:45, 10:20, 11:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 1:00, 3:25, 4:20, 7:10, 7:45, 10:20, 11:00; Mon-Wed, 1:00, 3:40, 4:20, 7:10, 7:45, 10:20, 11:00; Thu (1/7), 12:45, 3:25, 4:05, 7:30, 10:45

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.
Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
An Education: 11:55am, 5:15, 10:20pm
Nine: 12:05, 1:00, 3:00, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:40, 10:10
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: 12:30, 3:10, 6:55, 9:45
The Road: 1:25, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
Up in the Air: 11:45am, 12:40, 2:25, 4:00, 5:05, 7:05, 7:45, 9:50, 10:25pm
The Young Victoria: 12:15, 12:50, 2:50, 4:15, 7:25, 7:55, 10:00

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE
austinchronicle.com/film.

> **An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.**

> **Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.**

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm week-days and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: Fri-Sat, 9:55am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:05, 2:35, 3:35, 4:55, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50pm; Sun, 9:55am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:05, 2:35, 3:35, 4:55, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 12:15, 1:05, 2:35, 3:35, 4:55, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50
Avatar: Fri-Sun, 9:30am, 10:25, 12:55, 4:30, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 12:55, 4:30, 8:00
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 3:10, 6:45, 10:25
The Blind Side: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 2:25, 5:25, 8:25, 11:25pm; Sun, 11:25am, 2:25, 5:25, 8:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:45, 4:50, 7:35, 10:35
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40
Invictus: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:30, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45
It's Complicated: 4:45, 7:40, 10:30, 1:50am
It's Complicated (closed captioned and descriptive video): Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
Nine: Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45
The Princess and the Frog: Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 11:15, 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:15pm; Sun, 10:15am, 11:15, 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15
Up in the Air: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. Whiteshstone, 800/FANDANGO.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 10:30
***Avatar:** Fri-Sun, 12:40, 2:00, 4:10, 5:30, 8:00, 9:00; Mon-Thu (1/7), 2:00, 4:10, 5:30, 8:00, 9:00
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 3:00, 6:50, 10:20
The Blind Side: 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Tue, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Wed, 2:10pm; Thu (1/7), 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
***Invictus:** Fri-Wed, 9:20am
***It's Complicated:** Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann: Wed, 6:30pm
The Princess and the Frog: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:30, 3:50, 6:30, 8:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:30, 3:50, 6:30, 8:50
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 12:10, 1:40, 3:10, 4:50, 6:10, 7:50, 9:10, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:40, 3:10, 4:50, 6:10, 7:50, 9:10, 10:40
***Up in the Air:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** 11:15am, 12:05, 12:55, 1:45, 2:40, 3:30, 4:15, 5:05, 6:05, 6:45, 7:35, 9:15, 10:05pm
Avatar: 12:15, 1:30, 4:05, 5:20, 7:40, 9:00
***Avatar (3-D):** 11:00am, 2:50, 6:30, 10:10pm
The Blind Side: 12:50, 4:00, 7:20, 10:25
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55pm; Wed, 11:10am, 1:50pm; Thu (1/7), 1:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55pm
***Invictus:** 8:30pm
***It's Complicated:** 12:30, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann: Wed, 6:30pm
Nine: 12:45, 3:40, 7:00, 10:00
The Princess and the Frog: 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15
***Sherlock Holmes:** 11:00am, 12:35, 2:15, 3:45, 5:30, 7:05, 8:45, 10:20pm
***Up in the Air:** 11:20am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
Astro Boy: Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:30, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:50, 4:15, 7:30, 9:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30
Couples Retreat: Fri-Mon, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:40; Tue-Thu (1/7), 3:45, 7:00, 9:40
C-Force: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:00; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:45, 5:00
Law Abiding Citizen: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Paranormal Activity: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:00; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:00
The Stepfather: Fri-Mon, 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:20; Tue-Thu (1/7), 3:30, 6:45, 9:20
Where the Wild Things Are: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:05
Zombieland: 8:00, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK

4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 12:00, 12:40, 1:40, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:00, 6:00, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:30, 9:50, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 12:40, 1:40, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:00, 6:00, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:30
Avatar: Fri-Mon, 9:45am, 12:20, 1:30, 4:00, 5:10, 8:00, 9:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:30, 4:00, 5:10, 8:00, 9:00
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 2:40, 6:30, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:40, 6:30, 10:10
The Blind Side: Fri-Mon, 9:50am, 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:50, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 12:45, 3:30, 6:50, 9:30
***Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 9:10pm
***It's Complicated:** Fri-Mon, 10:50am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:50, 10:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40
***Nine:** Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
The Princess and the Frog: Fri-Mon, 9:40am, 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:10, 10:35pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 2:50, 5:20, 8:10, 10:35
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 11:30, 1:00, 3:00, 4:10, 6:10, 7:10, 9:20, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:00, 3:00, 4:10, 6:10, 7:10, 9:20, 10:15
***Up in the Air:** Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri-Mon, 10:20am, 11:10, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:40, 5:30, 6:25, 7:00, 7:45, 8:45, 9:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:40, 5:30, 6:25, 7:00, 7:45, 8:45, 9:25
Avatar: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 12:25, 1:40, 3:55, 5:01, 7:25, 8:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 12:25, 1:40, 3:55, 5:01, 7:25, 8:40pm
***Avatar (3-D):** 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm
The Blind Side: Fri-Mon, 10:15am, 1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 1:10, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30pm; Tue, 1:10, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30; Wed, 1:10pm; Thu (1/7), 1:10, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
***Invictus:** 10:05pm
***It's Complicated:** Fri-Mon, 10:50am, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45
Nine: Les Contes d'Hoffmann: Wed, 6:30pm
***Opera:** Fri-Mon, 10:05am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
The Princess and the Frog: Fri-Mon, 10:35am, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 11:40, 1:00, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:10, 8:35, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 11:40am, 1:00, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:10, 8:35, 10:20pm
***Up in the Air:** Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 1:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 1:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

DOBIE THEATRE

2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Antichrist: Fri-Sun, 4:45, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/7), 10:10pm
Man and Orson Welles: Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; Mon-Thu (1/7), 7:15, 9:50
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: Fri-Sun, 2:15, 7:30; Mon-Thu (1/7), 7:30pm
The Road: Fri-Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/7), 7:45, 10:20
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/7), 7:00, 10:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10

North I-35 & Middle Friskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel: 10:20am, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35pm
***Avatar (3-D):** 9:30am, 9:45, 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 10:15pm
The Blind Side: 1:25, 7:05
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (1/7), 10:10am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25pm
Invictus: 10:05am, 4:15, 10:00pm
***It's Complicated:** Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/7), 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: 9:45pm
The Princess and the Frog: 9:50am, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:20, 7:00, 7:10, 9:50, 10:00, 11:30pm; Sun-Thu (1/7), 10:30am, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:20, 7:00, 7:10, 9:50, 10:00pm

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 \$3.50 premium.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (open captioned and descriptive audio): Tue, 2:15, 9:20; Wed, 11:45am, 6:50pm; Thu (1/7), 2:15, 9:20
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 6:50, 7:30, 8:50, 9:20, 9:55, 11:00pm; Mon, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 6:50, 7:30, 8:50, 9:20, 9:55pm; Tue, 11:45am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 6:50, 7:30, 8:50, 9:55pm; Wed, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:50, 9:20, 9:55; Thu (1/7), 11:45am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 6:50, 7:30, 8:50, 9:55pm
***Avatar:** Wed-Thu (1/7), 11:50am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50pm
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 12:20, 12:40, 3:40, 4:00, 7:00, 7:20, 10:20, 10:40; Mon-Thu (1/7), 12:20, 12:40, 3:40, 4:00, 4:00, 7:00, 7:20, 10:20
The Blind Side: 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 10:25
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 10:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol: 12:45, 3:00, 5:20
***Invictus:** 12:05, 3:45, 6:55, 10:05
***It's Complicated:** Fri, 11:10am, 11:40, 2:20, 4:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30pm; Sat, 11:10am, 11:40, 1:50, 2:20, 5:05, 7:15, 7:50, 10:30pm; Sun, 11:10am, 11:40, 2:20, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:50, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:10am, 11:40, 1:50, 2:20, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:50, 10:30pm, 10:10, 10:30pm
It's Complicated (open captioned and descriptive audio): Fri, 1:50, 7:15, Sat, 4:35, 10:00; Sun, 1:50, 10:00; Mon, 1:50, 7:15
***The Princess and the Frog:** 11:50am, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 9:50pm
***Sherlock Holmes:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 12:50, 2:10, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:10, 11:00pm; Mon, 11:00am, 12:50, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/7), 11:30am, 12:50, 2:10, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:10pm
The Twilight Saga: New Moon: 7:40, 10:45

IMAX THEATRE

Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-IMAX.
The Alps: Sat, 11:00am; Mon-Thu (1/7), 11:00am
Avatar (3-D): 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Texas: The Big Picture: Sat, 10:00am; Mon-Thu (1/7), 10:00am

LAKELINE STARPORT

Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesday.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** 11:45am, 12:30, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 4:55, 7:05, 7:30, 9:20, 9:50pm
***Avatar (3-D):** 11:50am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:25pm
The Blind Side: 12:05, 3:15, 7:20, 10:05
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: 12:15, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
***It's Complicated:** 12:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:10
The Princess and the Frog: 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
***Sherlock Holmes:** 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 10:30

METROPOLITAN

South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 11:30, 12:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00



Les Contes d'Hoffmann

Les Contes d'Hoffmann (2009) D: Bartlett Sher. (NR, 250 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Encore Presentation.** Offenbach's fictionalized take on the life and loves of the German Romantic writer E.T.A. Hoffmann is a fascinating psychological journey. Met Music Director James Levine conducts Joseph Calleja in the title role. The cast also includes Anna Netrebko as the tragic Antonia, Elina Garanca as the ambiguous Nicklausse, and Alan Held as the demonic four villains. Tony Award winner Bartlett Sher directs this new production. @CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Wednesday, 6:30pm.

hour before referred to, sight unseen, as "that god-damn gerbil spy movie." My first mistake: *G-Force* stars guinea pigs. My second mistake: I should have started this open-hearts policy in another 89 minutes, which is how long it takes to weather this technically competent if utterly artless family film from überproducer Jerry Bruckheimer. In its gadget-lust and obvious *Transformers* envy, *G-Force* is as loud and stupid as anything Michael Bay ever cooked up, and its characters' sketchings are similarly crude. But the real head-stumper is how so much time, effort, and money could be spent in the service of something so colossally dumb, vacant, and pointless. (07/31/2009) - Kimberley Jones
 ▶ Movies 8

INVICTUS D: Clint Eastwood; with Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Tony Kgoroge, Julian Lewis Jones, Adjoa Andoh. (PG, 134 min.)

Freeman teams up once again with director Eastwood to play South African president and international hero Nelson Mandela. The story is based on John Carlin's book *Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation*. The game in question is rugby, and the events surround Mandela's enthusiastic support of the South African team's attempt to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Although a fan of the sport, Mandela's actions were born of an ulterior motive: that of building a post-apartheid nation. With racial tensions high after his release from prison and ascension to the presidency, Mandela saw a means of bridging the fears between his newly powerful black constituency and the fearful, white old guard. Eastwood's direction, though typically assured and understated, is nevertheless flabby at times. Yet *Invictus* remains inspiring and educational, especially during this present time in America in which we are supposedly muddling our way into a post-racial society. (12/11/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

IT'S COMPLICATED D: Nancy Meyers; with Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, John Krasinski, Lake Bell, Caitlin Fitzgerald, Zoe Kazan, Hunter Parrish. (R, 118 min.)

The thing about *It's Complicated* is that it's not ... complicated. Writer-director Meyers has come to specialize in making wish-fulfillment fantasies for middle-aged women in which smart, professional, single, Caucasian women of a certain age have wonderful careers, picture-perfect homes, and love affairs aplenty. In *It's Complicated*, Streep plays

Jane Adler, a Santa Barbara, Calif., restaurateur who is 10 years divorced from Jake (Baldwin) when they begin having an affair. Also present in Jane's life is Adam (Martin), the architect who is overseeing the planned expansion of her already perfect home. Many are the amusing and knowing moments in this comedy, yet the fabric of Meyers' fantasy is too gossamer to sustain the weight of their truths. Streep, who is usually so impressive, seems little more than ordinary in this work, and Martin's unique talents are sadly wasted. Meyers has a good feel for contemporary comedy; it's reality, however, that slips through her grasp. (12/25/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN D: F. Gary Gray; with Jamie Foxx, Gerard Butler, Regina Hall, Colm Meaney, Bruce McGill, Leslie Bibb, Michael Irby. (R, 108 min.)

What to make of a film that opens with a brutal home invasion which leaves a mother and child dead and then uses that ghastly jumping-off point and all its circumlocutions - legal, moral, and mortal - as an assiduous flaying of the criminal justice system? Sounds promising so far, but *Law Abiding Citizen* ends on an even grimmer note, stuck fast between righteous indignation at our bankrupt system of jurisprudence and our (presumed) need for heroes. Butler turns a perfectly respectable, even riveting performance as the dead family's husband and father, who seeks a nominal form of justice via fast-rising D.A.'s assistant Nick Rice (Foxx). What he instead receives is a quick-and-dirty lesson in the painful subtleties and Faustian backroom dealings of the Philadelphia courts. Foxx has a thankless role here subbing for the entire justice system, and his main mode of expression is steely determination and precious little else. (10/16/2009) - Marc Savlov

★★ Movies 8

ME AND ORSON WELLES

D: Richard Linklater; with Zac Efron, Claire Danes, Christian McKay, Ben Chaplin, Zoe Kazan, Eddie Marsan, Kelly Reilly, James Tupper, Leo Bill. (PG-13, 113 min.)

The "me" in this boy-meets-boy period comedy is Richard Samuels (Efron), a dreamy-eyed high schooler who quite literally stumbles into the part of his life, as a walk-on in the New York theatrical production of *Julius Caesar*, Orson Welles' barn-burning 1937 debut production for his Mercury Theatre troupe. Richard, light on his feet, talks his way into Welles' production; Welles (McKay), only 22 and admiring of anyone with pluck (so long as said pluck doesn't steal from his own spotlight), takes a liking to the kid. McKay's performance seems effortless, so commanding is it, careening from cocksure boy genius to bellowing, beleaguered director to ice-in-his-veins slayer of baby dragons such as disposable actors and mewling rival suitors. Efron brings a lively physicality to the film but his acting, nevertheless, lacks a certain sophistication. Linklater has crafted an always genial and at times even joyful period charmer about that moment on the cusp: before a boy becomes a man and another man becomes a mythological figure. (12/11/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★ Dobie

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

D: Grant Heslov; with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Lang, Robert Patrick, Waleed Zuaiter, Stephen Root. (R, 93 min.)

All goats aside, this is one odd duck. A title card reads, "More of this is true than you would believe," but it's impossible to tell what's factual in this fictionalized take on Jon Ronson's book about Army experiments in the paranormal because it all sounds so deeply ludicrous. It's never uninteresting - but never entirely successful, either. Reeling from his wife's infidelity, journalist Bob Wilton (McGregor)

leaves his podunk paper in Ann Arbor, Mich., for Iraq, and bumps into the story of a lifetime, packaged neatly in the mustachioed frame of Clooney's Lyn Cassady, psychic spy. This is Heslov's first time directing, after co-writing and producing with Clooney *Good Night, and Good Luck.*, and there are too many tiny blunders to call his debut a triumph. Still, there is Clooney's deceptively layered performance, some startling bits of laugh-out-loud absurdity, and the not-at-all-negligible pleasure to be had in a cockeyed point of view. (11/06/2009) - Kimberley Jones
 ★★★ Tinseltown South

NINE D: Rob Marshall; with Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Penélope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench, Kate Hudson, Sophia Loren, Fergie, Ricky Tognazzi. (PG-13, 118 min.)

For a film director whom we're told is creatively blocked, Guido Contini (Day-Lewis) has a rich panorama of images cascading about his brain. Most of his images are of the women in his life dancing about elaborate stages in corsets. Marshall has gathered an impressive stable of on- and off-screen talent but never gets these various pieces to jell. It's a bold move to film a musical with cast members who, apart from Fergie and Cotillard, are not known to possess any singing or dancing skills. Each musical number gives the appearance of having been doctored to within an inch of its life with crazy pans, cuts, differing film stocks, jewel-bedecked costumes, and eye-catching movements constantly grabbing our focus. Day-Lewis also performs and dances two numbers obligingly, but the chinks in this great actor's performance arsenal show. Also, much of the film's music is instantly forgettable. (12/25/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

NINJA ASSASSIN D: James McTeigue; with Rain, Naomie Harris, Ben Miles, Rick Yune. (R, 99 min.)

Pitched somewhere between a preadolescent boy's fantasy world of nunchaku and *shuriken* (or fighting sticks and throwing stars) and a wildly off-kilter exercise in homoerotic beefcaker, this astonishingly crappy slo-mo gorefest proves once and for all that McTeigue wasn't the man responsible for the excellent *V for Vendetta* and that the writer/producer Wachowski brothers were. I'm not sure there's anybody at the helm of *Ninja Assassin*, which just flat-out sucks rice dumplings, beginning with its generic title on down to its preposterously dumb view of the ups and downs and, you know, bullet-avoidance techniques of your average contemporary ninja. That would be ginchy Korean pop-lite star Rain who plays Raizo, abducted as a child by the not even vaguely mysterious Ozuno Clan, and thereafter raised to be, like, totally unkillable and way superbuff. The convoluted and really, really lousy storyline has sexy Interpol agent Mika Coretti (Harris) digging up connections between international assassinations and the Ozunus. (11/27/2009) - Marc Savlov

● Tinseltown South

OLD DOGS D: Walt Becker; with Robin Williams, John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Seth Green, Ella Bleu Travolta, Conner Rayburn, Lori Loughlin, Matt Dillon, Rita Wilson, Dax Shepard, Bernie Mac, Luis Guzmán, Ann-Margret, Amy Sedaris, Justin Long. (PG, 88 min.)

Old Dogs amounts to little more than an opportunity for Williams and the Travolta family (parents Travolta and Preston co-star alongside daughter Ella Bleu Travolta) to cash nice paychecks. *Old Dogs* is not so much bad as it is witless and predictable. No one's heart seems to be in the affair, and the paint-by-numbers comedy just doesn't sell itself. Travolta and Williams play Charlie and Dan, phenomenally successful sports marketers who are on the verge of the biggest deal of their careers when Dan is informed that he is the parent of twin 7-year-olds. Trivia connoisseurs should note that this film was Bernie Mac's last; *Old Dogs*' release was delayed eight months out of respect for the dead. Numerous other top-flight performers (among them Dillon, Ann-Margret, Wilson, an unbilled Long) make what amount to little more than cameo appearances. (11/27/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

▶ Tinseltown South

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THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) Fri. - Thu. 9:50 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:30
INVICTUS (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 10:05 4:15 10:00
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:25 7:05
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) Fri. - Thu. 9:45

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Stingray Sam

Stingray Sam (2009) D: Cory McAbee; with McAbee, Crugie; narrated by David Hyde Pierce. (NR, 65 min.) This Fanatastic Fest fave from the director of *American Astronaut* is a science-fiction musical comedy about two cowboy space convicts on a mission. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 10:45pm; Monday-Tuesday, 7:30pm.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY D: Oren Peli; with Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Michael Bayouth. (R, 96 min.)

Don't believe the hype: *Paranormal Activity* may be a lot of things, but the words "scary" and "movie" are not among them. It is instead nothing more or less than an excruciatingly tedious YouTube gag cleverly marketed to go viral in the broadest and most box-office-friendly way. (On the other hand, Paramount's midnight-screening, street-team hype machine is to be congratulated for pulling such a fast one on both audiences and critics alike.) Like *The Blair Witch Project*, its far creepier antecedent, *Paranormal Activity* purports to exist as actual found footage – the opening text says it was discovered by the San Diego Police Department – but that's no excuse for foisting a poorly acted (whoops! make that "realistic"), shoddily conceived, anti-art-directed nonstarter that pays off only in its final 10 seconds on a gullible moviegoing public that only wants to have its collective hair raised. At 96 minutes, it's at least 90 minutes too long. (10/09/2009) – Marc Savlov

★ Movies 8

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL 'PUSH' BY SAPPHIRE

D: Lee Daniels; with Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, Sherri Shepherd, Lenny Kravitz. (R, 109 min.)

Much like its title protagonist Precious – a sexually, emotionally, and physically abused 16-year-old African-American girl who is functionally illiterate, morbidly obese, and pregnant with her second child fathered by her own father – this film is a rough-hewn entity with unlikely odds for success. Yet both the character and the movie overcome their handicaps to become the kind of success stories that the American mythmaking machinery loves to love. Claireece Precious Jones (Sidibe) and her mother, Mary (Mo'Nique), are women we rarely notice. But instead of looking the other way, this movie and the popular book on which it is based place them front and center. Newcomer Sidibe is a real find and not just a looming presence and narrative device. Daniels has also done a marvelous job of casting famous friends of his and getting heart-stirring, stripped-down performances from them all. Despite achieving such a remarkably raw and naturalistic tone, Daniels ups the ante with extreme melodramatic touches. (11/20/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor, Dobie, Highland, Metropolitan

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

D: Ron Clements, John Musker; with the voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos, Keith David, Michael-Leon Wooley, Jennifer Cody, Jim Cummings, Peter Bartlett, John Goodman, Jenifer Lewis, Terrence Howard, Oprah Winfrey. (G, 97 min.)

The Disney 2-D animators, who have been losing face, of late, to their CG and 3-D brethren, here stage a bold, vibrant, and altogether bloodless coup on all things Pixar, and whaddaya know? They win. (For now, anyway.) Set in Twenties-era New Orleans, this umpteenth version of what was originally a Brothers Grimm fairy tale makes the Crescent City a major character in and of itself while dusting off the old story of girl-meets-frog and tricking it up with all manner of raucous, jazzy hoodoo, voodoo, and bayou panache. Directors Clements and Musker are the guys behind *Aladdin* and *The Little Mermaid*, and they employ their keen senses of story, pacing, and killer comic rhythm to support a new twist (several, actually) on an old amphibian. Also, the film features a nearly all African-American cast. It's Disney's best traditionally animated outing in ages. (12/11/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE ROAD D: John Hillcoat; with Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron, Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce, Molly Parker. (R, 119 min.)

Cormac McCarthy's novel, by any standard, is no one's idea of a giddy, fun, summer beach read. It's the story of a father and son (credited as "Man" and "Boy") wandering through a blighted American wasteland beset by some (unnamed) catastrophe. Cannibalism, rape, and worse are the order of the day, but McCarthy's unswerving humanity sees the novel through to a conclusion that is no less wrenching for the rusty sliver of hope it offers. Director Hillcoat proves an inspired choice to helm this film adaptation, and his rendering of McCarthy's words can't be faulted for its visual replication of the author's grim picture of mankind's final days. Mortensen, viewed either as a patriarchal Christ figure or simply as a devoted father, works minor miracles in what is essentially a one-note role. Who knew there were so many facial expressions approximating unrelenting despair? (11/27/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Dobie, Tinseltown South

SHERLOCK HOLMES D: Guy Ritchie; with Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong, Eddie Marsan, Kelly Reilly, James Fox, Hans Matheson, Geraldine James. (PG-13, 128 min.)

Ritchie has reinvented the chilly, brainiac character of Sherlock Holmes as a tortured genius, ladies man (sort of), and occasional backroom brawler. As played by Downey Jr. (an inspired casting choice that works in the film's favor), this incarnation is a post-millennial man of action. With Watson (Law, another spot-on bit of casting) at his side, Holmes uncovers a satanic plot that takes him from the lowliest subterranean hellholes to the highest levels of Parliament. Ritchie manages to mostly restrain his more florid directorial flourishes while creating a CGI London so benighted and soot-heavy you can practically smell it. This is Downey Jr.'s film all the way, and while literary traditionalists and Baker Street Irregulars (of which I am one) may find this Holmes' penchant for face-crunching fisticuffs and back-alley chases a sad sop to the action-jaded audiences of the 21st century, the actor's more masculine interpretation of the character is never anything less than startling, fresh, and altogether entertaining. (12/25/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Ritz, 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

THE STEPFATHER D: Nelson McCormick; with Dylan Walsh, Sela Ward, Penn Badgley, Amber Heard, Sherry Stringfield, Skyler Samuels, Braeden Lemasters. (PG-13, 104 min.)

The only raison d'être for *The Stepfather* – a dull, plodding remake of director Joseph Ruben's brutally suspenseful 1987 film of the same name – is for fans of the original to remind people who haven't seen it that there's a far more disturbing and transgressive *Stepfather* out there. It was penned by the late, great crime novelist Donald E. Westlake and resonated with Reagan-era family values. It also featured a standout, career-defining performance from a subtly unhinged Terry O'Quinn (*Lost*) as a deranged family man who marries, murders, and then remarries, desperate to re-create his own twisted vision of a picture-perfect nuclear family that never existed in the first place. As written by J.S. Cardone and played by Walsh, this mad daddy feels contrived and unconvincing. He's going through the motions of O'Quinn's character, but there's no real context for his mania other than the fact that he's clearly, transparently insane. (10/23/2009) – Marc Savlov

★ Movies 8

3 IDIOTS D: Rajkumar Hirani; with Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Madhavan, Boman Irani, Sharman Joshi. (NR, 172 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Two friends embark on a quest for their lost buddy in this new Bollywood comedy. (12/18/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON D: Chris Weitz; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Michael Sheen, Peter Facinelli, Billy Burke. (PG-13, 130 min.)

Catherine Hardwicke started the saga with last year's *Twilight*, a deliciously trashy mash of pulp and pop art that managed to take seriously its central lovers – doomy vampire Edward (Pattinson) and his teenage human paramour, Bella (Stewart) – while maintaining a sense of humor about itself. But Summit Entertainment chucked Hardwicke for the second installment, and her successor, Weitz, brings zero sense of play or sexual energy to the piece. It's as if everything's been buffed to achieve maximum banality. At the film's beginning, Edward dumps Bella – like, *the day after her birthday, OMG* – and is mostly absent in *New Moon*, which turns out to be a boon. Bella, incapacitated with grief, turns to her old pal Jacob (Lautner), but then Jacob starts morphing into a werewolf. The digital effects here are top-notch (as were the ones Weitz supervised in his last film, *The Golden Compass*), and *New Moon* excels in two centerpiece action sequences. (11/27/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★ Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



Wilco Live: Ashes of American Flags

Wilco Live: Ashes of American Flags (2009) D: Brendan Canty and Christoph Green. (NR, 87 min.) The Chicago band is presented in concert at five different venues. The film also includes interviews with band members and backstage footage. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 8:10pm.



Auntie Mame

Auntie Mame (1958) D: Morton DaCosta; with Rosalind Russell, Forrest Tucker, Coral Browne, Roger Smith, Fred Clark, Patric Knowles, Peggy Cass, Pippa Scott. (NR, 143 min.) **aGLIFF Brunch.** "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death," are the bywords of the fabulous Auntie Mame, the wonderful character played by Russell, who gives one of the great performances of her career in this – the nonmusical film version – of the beloved play. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 1pm.

2012 D: Roland Emmerich; with John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Woody Harrelson, Oliver Platt, Zlatko Buric, Beatrice Rosen, Liam James, Morgan Lily. (PG-13, 158 min.)

Life is simple in Emmerich's films. Confronted with unprecedented perils, the characters in his disaster epics manage to reaffirm their broken loves, make amends for slipshod parenting, and, most impressively, outrun fireballs and certain death with their hides and wits intact. Emmerich takes the disaster-movie genre to its logical conclusion in *2012*, obliterating or reconfiguring vast swaths of the planet's surface (solar storms boil the Earth's core; tectonic havoc ensues) and providing a 158-minute thrill ride that zips by like the real thing. Over the duration, there are homages (or lifts) to apocalyptic exercises of decades past (particularly *When Worlds Collide*) and plenty of cheeky references to Emmerich's own résumé. *2012* is PTSD – Popcorn Thrills and Sappy meloDrama – supersized to counter current real-world terrors, and it is, by turns, thrilling, ridiculous (the script, by Emmerich and longtime co-writer Harald Kloser, is riddled with howlingly goofy lines and seriously improbable deus-ex-machina moments), and just plain big, dumb fun. (11/13/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

UP IN THE AIR D: Jason Reitman; with George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman, Amy Morton, Melanie Lynskey, J.K. Simmons, Sam Elliott, Danny McBride. (R, 109 min.)

Either by design or default, Reitman has customized a film perfectly in tune with these economically distressed, tetchy times, which may explain the near-universal hosannas with which *Up in the Air* has been met. Reitman sets the film in motion with an opening-credit sequence that highlights how America's vistas look from up above – apropos, considering that's where "career transition counselor" Ryan Bingham (Clooney) spends most of his time. Bingham, by choice, is a man without country or close ties, but very quickly two women (Farmiga and Kendrick) arrive in his life to shake up the status quo. Reitman's instincts, of both timing and tone, can feel just a hair off in the film's imperfect first and third acts. But the middle is

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terrific, especially in a lengthy, unassuming scene in which the three leads sit, sip drinks, and have a good chat: It marks one of the great celluloid pleasures of the year, so virtuosically written, performed, and filmed is it. (12/18/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

D: Spike Jonze; with Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo, Pepita Emmerichs, Steve Mouzakis; with the voices of James Gandolfini, Lauren Ambrose, Paul Dano, Catherine O'Hara, Chris Cooper, Forest Whitaker. (PG, 94 min.)

This is a freewheeling but tonally and aesthetically true adaptation of Maurice Sendak's 1963 children's book. Jonze, in collaboration with co-screenwriter Dave Eggers, seems to have tapped every primal feeling along the spectrum - joy, grief, rage, a relish for mayhem - and put it onscreen for our viewing pleasure. And a pleasure it is - the rare children's film that isn't coded for adults or made corny and flip for kids. Working with Jim Henson's Creature Shop and adapting quite literally Sendak's original etchings, Jonze has put to film what generations of children have only dreamed about: the nearness and *dearness* of Sendak's woolly beasts. One of the many delights of the film is in how *physical* it is (somebody is always pummeling somebody else and then following the beating with a bruising bear hug). There are minor grievances with the film, all technical, but they frankly feel inconsequential when put next to the film's overall effect. (10/16/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Movies 8

★ THE YOUNG VICTORIA

D: Jean-Marc Vallée; with Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, Jim Broadbent, Mark Strong, Thomas Kretschmann, Jesper Christensen, Harriet Walter. (PG, 100 min.)

How young is young Victoria? At the film's beginning, she's just 17, with all the sullenness you would expect from a shut-in future queen fending off attack from her *maman* and prospective suitors cherry-picked by two kings. Blunt convincingly portrays the Princess Victoria as bullied, slightly silly, but most of all, desperately alone. Scriptwriter Julian Fellowes makes admirable work of shorthanding the complicated lineages and motives and maneuverings. Director Vallée leans on candelight for several key scenes, and the effect is not only gorgeous but also intimates the deepening attachment between Victoria and Albert - one that was mutually felt, but not spoken about plainly. (Having just earned her independence, Victoria isn't keen on giving it up again so soon.) All told, *The Young Victoria* is a very well-made if not especially memorable picture, moving with all the grace and steadfastness of a waltz Victoria and Albert share, but absent any urgency or anything particularly exclamatory. (12/25/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

★ ZOMBIELAND D: Ruben Fleischer; with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin, Amber Heard. (R, 87 min.)

No spoilers here, but first things first: *Zombieland* has the single most outrageously entertaining and unexpected celebrity cameo of any film - genre or otherwise - this filmgoer has seen in a long, long time. It's not a sequence that makes or breaks the film, but it *does* tip *Zombieland* over the edge of zom-com ordinariness into something considerably weirder and therefore more fun. Debuting director Fleischer's action-and-innards-drenched film dials it all up to 11 from the opening credits sequence - which uses pop-music-backed mayhem to smart expository and staggeringly kickass effect - and only slows down for a breather for the length of the aforementioned cameo. Storywise, there's precious little going on here that we haven't seen before, but Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick's archly hip and often downright hilarious script, combined with a quartet of seamless performances and enough cranial destruction to sate even the most diehard *Fangoria* reader, makes for one hell of a wild ride. (10/02/2009) - Marc Savlov

★★★★ Movies 8

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CRAZY HEART
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 January 1st, 2nd, & 6th at Ritz

STINGRAY SAM
 A bizarre sci-fi space western musical that we LOVED during Fantastic Fest! Check it out this week only!
 January 3rd-5th at the Ritz

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPS UT vs ALABAMA!
 We're filling up as many theaters as it takes with rabid football fans! Hook 'em horns!
 Thurs., Jan. 7th - all theaters!

WILCO - ASHES OF AMERICAN FLAGS
 A gorgeous documentary following Chicago based WILCO on their 2008 tour!
 Sunday, Jan. 3rd at the Ritz

AGLIFF BRUNCH: AUNTIE MAME
 Join Rebecca Havemeyer for this fabulous brunch! Free for all AGLIFF members!
 Sunday, Jan. 3rd at the Ritz

THU, DEC 31	SHERLOCK HOLMES RITZ NEW YEAR'S EVE! THE ACTION PACK'S NEW YEAR'S EVE SING-ALONG	600 925 700 1000
FRI, JAN 1	SHERLOCK HOLMES HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS THE BIG LEBOWSKI	130 330 500 825 700 1000
SAT, JAN 2	SHERLOCK HOLMES HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS THE BIG LEBOWSKI	130 330 500 825 700 1000
SUN, JAN 3	SHERLOCK HOLMES AGLIFF BRUNCH AUNTIE MAME WILCO: ASHES OF AMERICAN FLAGS STINGRAY SAM	315 445 645 1010 100 810 1045
MON, JAN 4	SHERLOCK HOLMES STINGRAY SAM MUSIC MON: LET ME BE YOUR BAND	700 1020 730 945
TUE, JAN 5	SHERLOCK HOLMES STINGRAY SAM TERROR TUES: GATES OF HELL	700 1020 730 945
WED, JAN 6	SHERLOCK HOLMES HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS THE BIG LEBOWSKI WEIRD WEDS: POOR PRETTY EDDIE	530 700 1020 900 MID
THU, JAN 7	BCS NAT. CHAMPS: UT vs ALABAMA THE ACTION PACK'S 1999 SING-ALONG (TENTATIVE)	700 1100

AVATAR in 3D •	1115	1230	300	645	915	1030
UP IN THE AIR •	1100	140	430	720	1005	
THE ROAD	1110	150		735	1020	
IT'S COMPLICATED •		130	420	730	1025	
FANTASTIC MR. FOX	1105		410	645		
BAD LIEUTENANT			430		1000	
DIONYSIUM			700		Wed	
BCS NAT. CHAMPS: UT vs. ALABAMA			700		Thu	

SHERLOCK HOLMES •	1200*	325	710*	1020	1100*
SHERLOCK HOLMES •	100*	420	745	MIDNIGHT*	
AVATAR in 3D •	1130*	215*	315	645	1030
HEAR ABOUT MORGANS?	1215*	300	600*		
INVICTUS	1100*		845*		
BCS NAT. CHAMPS: UT vs. ALABAMA			700		Thu
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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

The Big Lebowski



THURSDAY 31

New Year's Eve Bash: The Apartment (1960) D: Billy Wilder; with Jack Lemmon, Shirley MaLaine. (NR, 125 min.) **Food & Film.** A multicourse meal with drink pairings accompanies this Wilder classic. In the film, Lemmon plays a company man who tries to climb the corporate ladder by loaning out his bachelor pad to illicitly trysting higher-ups. As usual, office politics makes for some strange bedfellows. See www.originalalamo.com for menu and reservations. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

New Year's Eve Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

SPACES

The Black Candle (2008) D: M.K. Asante Jr.; narrated by Maya Angelou. (NR, 71 min.) This film is the first feature documentary about the history of the global, Pan-African celebration of Kwanzaa. An audience discussion will follow the screening. Call 974-4926 or send an e-mail to faith.weaver@ci.austin.tx.us to reserve a seat. @Carver Library, 10am, 2pm.

"A Hero's Welcome" (2009) D: Javier Sanchez. (NR, 47 min.) This documentary about Gainesville, Texas, the only Medal of Honor host city currently in the U.S., focuses on centenarian Lt. John Finn, the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, and interviews other medal recipients and townsfolk. @ Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm.

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) D: John Lewis and Patrick Fries; narrated by Ray Wylie Hubbard. (NR, 22 min.) See Texans struggle with nature – on the big screen and with immersive sound. The film features a score by David Hamburger and performances by Omar Kent Dykes, Toni Price, and Carolyn Wonderland. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm.

FRIDAY 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, Phillip 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, 10:10pm.

SATURDAY 02

The Big Lebowski (1998) @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:10pm. (See Friday.)

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. @Alamo Draffthouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) D: Glenn Bass; narrated by Cactus Pryor. The film celebrates the lives of some legendary Texans buried here through one-on-one interviews with other famous figures. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm.

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

SUNDAY 03

Auntie Mame (1958) See p.64.

Stingray Sam (2009) See p.64.

Wilco Live: Ashes of American Flags (2009) See p.64.

SPACES

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

MONDAY 04

Let Me Be Your Band (2003) D: Derek Emerson. (NR, 76 min.) **Music Monday.** This documentary showcases the wacky world of one-man bands. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Stingray Sam (2009) @Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm. (See Sunday.)

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab is now accepting registrations for its new class sequence, in which filmmaker Steve Mims requires students to produce two short films and play a key role in a class-produced feature-length film. See website for details. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

Call for Entries: Faces of Austin The annual multimedia program is conducting its third call for films, to be shown on demand on the three widescreen video displays in the atrium of City Hall. Featured works highlight Austin's unique sense of place and diverse cultural identity and showcase the creative talent of Central Texas filmmakers. See website for details. Submission deadline: Jan. 13. www.cityofaustin.org/redevelopment/austinfaces.htm.

ChannelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional, hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern. www.channelaustin.org.

Cine las Americas 13: Call for Entries Cine las Americas invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate in the showcase of contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and the Iberian Peninsula, as well as works made by or about Latinos and/or indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. Deadline: Jan. 15. 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.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes Fundamentals Tuesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 20, 1:30-4pm. \$225 (\$210 through Dec. 30). **Master Class** Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 23, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 23-March 27, 1:30-4pm. \$395 (\$370 before Dec. 30). **Introductory Script Consultation** A 1½-hour private consultation on your screenplay or screenplay ideas. \$70. **Private Instruction and Story Consultation** Five sessions, 90 minutes per session. \$370. All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

SPACES

Harold and Maude (1972) D: Hal Ashby; with Ruth Gordon, Bud Cort, Vivian Pickles, Ellen Geer. (PG, 90 min.) **Movie Monday: Hairy Month.** Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 7:30pm.

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

TUESDAY 05

The Gates of Hell (1980) D: Lucio Fulci; with Christopher George, Catriona MacColl, Carlo De Mejo. (NR, 92 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** A suicide in a church cemetery causes the portals of hell to open wide, allowing the dead to rise and take over. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Stingray Sam (2009) See p.64.

SPACES

Footloose (1984) D: Herbert Ross; with Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest, Chris Penn, Jim Youngs, Sarah Jessica Parker. (PG, 107 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 7pm.

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

WEDNESDAY 06

The Big Lebowski (1998) @Alamo Ritz, 9pm. (See Friday.)

Les Contes d'Hoffmann (2009) See p.63.

Poor Pretty Eddie (1975) D: Chris Robinson and David Worth; with Leslie Uggams, Shelley Winters, Michael Christian, Ted Cassidy, Slim Pickens, Dub Taylor. (R, 92 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Uggams plays a jazz singer whose car breaks down in rural Georgia, where she's taken in by a twisted innkeeper (Winters) and her homicidal boyfriend. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

Footloose (1984) @Rounders Pizzeria, 7pm. (See Tuesday.)

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

THURSDAY 07

1999 Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 11pm.

The Nightmare Never Ends (1980) D: Phillip Marshak, Tom McGowan and Gregg C. Tallas; with Cameron Mitchell, Marc Lawrence, Faith Clift, Richard Moll. (NR, 88 min.) **Cult Thursday.** A skeptic defies Satan. @Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Pulp Fiction Quote-Along (1994) D: Quentin Tarantino; with John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman, Bruce Willis. (R, 154 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Heroes and Legends of the Texas State Cemetery (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/31.)

offscreen

imax

Avatar (2009) D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.) (*) Thu. (12/31)-Thu. (1/7), 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/31), 10am; Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (1/7), 10am.

The Alps (2007) D: Stephen Judson; narrated by Michael Gambon. (NR, 45 min.) John Harlin III attempts to climb the North Face of the Eiger, the site of his father's death 40 years earlier. The music is by rock band Queen. Thu. (12/31), 11am; Sat., 11am; Mon.-Thu. (1/7), 11am.

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. 15 issue is Monday, Jan. 4.** 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, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Chuck Prophet

Continental Club, Friday 1 & Saturday 2
Leatherbag opens Friday; Frank Smith Saturday.

"I thought it was a good idea to go somewhere energized, and I got a lot more than I bargained for," Chuck Prophet explains. "I did some resonance

[on the guitar], and you could feel it as soon as you step on the sidewalk, feel it vibrating under your feet. So I knew it would be energized. I didn't know we would be walking into the black plague."

He's referring to the swine flu scare this past summer in Mexico City, where he recorded his latest, *Let Freedom Ring!* (Yep Roc). "I blame the cable news for a lot of the hysteria," he adds. "We were in a city of 27 million people, and they managed to shut it down. They passed out blue masks, so we put them on and went to work every day, but most public places were closed. It was not cool."

Having avoided the sickness, the thinking man's roots-rocker returns to the Continental for two nights of his most politically charged songs yet.

"I'm not really a political person," Prophet claims, "but the thing the songs all have in common, at least the characters, is they're all living in an anxious time. So, in that respect, I guess it's as political as I get. I'm not really for this or against that. I don't even agree with all the characters in the songs. I'm just like a photographer in a sense. I did write a lot of those songs in one sitting during a heat wave, and I think that kind of floated into some of the songs. If it's somewhere I haven't been, it gets me excited about writing an album."

He's also excited about returning to Austin. "Everybody in the band likes to eat tacos. Who doesn't like tacos? If there's somebody out there who doesn't like tacos, I just don't want to know 'em." — Jim Caligiuri

in-stores

Sunday: **Follow That Bird!**, **Magic Jewels**, **Nighty Night**, **Literature**, Trailer Space, 7pm
Thursday: **BSOM**, **Trasher**, **Naw Dude**, Trailer Space, 6pm



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NEW YEAR'S EVE Thursday 31

While the usual suspects are out tonight — **Joe Ely Reunion Band** (Antone's), the **Gourds** (Independent at 501 Studios), **Robert Earl Keen** (Austin Music Hall), **Grupo Fantasma** (Mohawk), **Guy Forsyth** (Saxon Pub) — there's plenty more to be seen and heard. **Scott H. Biram** stomps the floorboards at Emo's, **T Bird & the Breaks** spit-shine soul at the Continental Club, **Zeale** leads the dance odyssey at the Parish, and **Flametrick Subs** detonate punkabilly at Beerland. You can also catch the **Duke Ellington Orchestra's** second night at the Palmer Events Center or First Night, which features the funky stylings of **Foot Patrol**, hip-hop message of the **Cipher**, **Church of the Friendly Ghost's** experimental lineup, and more under the fireworks Downtown. See the New Year's Eve Guide, p.55, for more. — Audra Schroeder

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

PINETOP PERKINS

Antone's, Friday 1

Ring in the new decade with a bluesman who's seen nine of them.

MARCIA BALL

Antone's, Saturday 2

The piano queen slides in early, 8pm.

MCLEMORE AVENUE

Ruta Maya, Sunday 3

Instrumental soul, homegrown.

CARLEY WOLF

Momo's, Sunday 3

Gypsy woman deftly sews roots, folk, and blues.

NIC ARMSTRONG

Ghost Room, Tuesday 5

The solo Thief brushes up on great white lies.

MEGAFAUNA, BABY ROBOTS, TELEPATHIK FRIEND

Chain Drive, Wednesday 6

Strange sounds abound at Austin's bear cave.

HUG, PUNK BUNNY

Headhunters, Wednesday 6

Costumes, bodily fluids, upskirts, oh my!

WISEBIRD

Continental Club, Thursday 7

Southern roots quartet lets its hair down.



JOHN ANDERSON

PACK OF WOLVES (FRI., 1/1)



JOHN ANDERSON

HARLEM (SAT., 1/2)



CARLEY WOLF (SUN., 1/3)

FREE WEEK!

Emo's, Mohawk, Red 7, Club de Ville, Stubb's, Beerland, Beauty Bar, the Parish, Friday 1-Thursday 7

Time to take all that drinking money — i.e., change in your couch — to the Coinstar at H-E-B, as the free-for-all begins. Indeed, Free Week's stepped up its game in 2010. Last year's handful of participating clubs has multiplied, which means more local acts and more club-to-clubbing, like another upcoming fest we're in denial about. Check the all-local list below, and get out there. — Audra Schroeder

FRIDAY

Emo's: Smoke & Feathers, Cartright, the Astronaut Suit, Paleo (outside); the Ugly Beats, Amplified Heat, Shapes Have Fangs, the Hi-Tones (inside)

Mohawk: Mike & the Moonpies birthday show w/ Leo Rondeau (outside); the Original Mexican Bob, Crooks (inside)

Red 7: Pack of Wolves, Mammoth Grinder, Iron Age, Hatred Surge, Naw Dude (outside); Azatat, Boomset, Cali Zack, Kill City, Mutual Trust, Crew 54 (inside)

SATURDAY

Emo's: Harlem, Woven Bones, the Stiffies, Fungi Girls (outside); Ghost Knife, the Ape-Shits, Manikin, Serious Tracers, the Vitamins (inside)

Mohawk: Lions, Vinhomudeh, Eagle Claw (outside); In Duder, PJ & the Bear, the December Boys (inside)

Red 7: The Young, Pillow Queens, Cruddy, MVSC LZ (outside); When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Dikes of Holland, Air Traffic Controllers (inside)

Club de Ville: The Happen-Ins, the Tunnels, Blasé Faire

Stubb's: Black Bone Child, White Rhino, the Sideshow Tragedy

Beerland: Flametrick Subs

SUNDAY

Emo's: Quiet Company, the Boxing Lesson, Corto Maltese, Michael Kingcaid, Many Birthdays (outside); Frank Smith, Prayer for Animals, Crooks, Western Ghost House (inside)

Mohawk: Beautiful Supermachines, Ichi Ni San Shi, Strong Silent Type, Simple Circuit

Red 7: Scarlet O'Hara, the Requested, Fire From the Gods, I See a Ghost (5:30pm); Tornahdo, We the Grenada, the Autons, Zorch, RealBook FakeBook, Zwounds (9pm)

Club de Ville: Sally Crewe

Beauty Bar: One Hundred Flowers, Many Birthdays

MONDAY

Emo's: The Carrots, J.C. & Co., Cowabunga Babes, Bear Claw, Literature (outside); Children in Heat, Dolls From the Crypt, Flash Boys, Hoodrats, Scrabble Robot (inside)

Mohawk: Baron Grod

Red 7: Head Panic, Blood Royale, Night Siege, Shredheads, Dead Reckoning

Beauty Bar: Major Major Major

TUESDAY

Emo's: Mutating Meltdown, Diagonals, Low Red Center, Coma in Algiers, Elvis (outside); Pataphysics, No Mas Bodas, the Gospel Truth, Horse + Donkey (inside)

Mohawk: Obsolete Machines, String, Ovenbirds

Red 7: Cruiserweight, Lemuria, O'Pioneers, the Anchor

WEDNESDAY

Emo's: Brothers and Sisters, the Laughing, Ovenbirds, Oh No Oh My (outside); New Disaster, Born to Lose, the Bulemics, 13th Victim (inside)

Mohawk: Scorpion Child, the Roller, Smoke & Feathers, Shitty Carwash

Red 7: La Snacks, Midgetmen, the Gary, Frantic Clam, Opposite Day

Club de Ville: Honky, Vinhomudeh, Mobley

Beauty Bar: Stereo Is a Lie, Strange Attractors, She Sir, New Roman Times

Beerland: Obsolete Machines
The Parish: Wine & Revolution, Hollywood Gossip, Politics

THURSDAY

Emo's: Jungle Rockers, the Skeletons, Nick Curran & the Lowlifes, the Sandworms (outside); MothFight!, Yellow Fever, Red Leaves, Haunting Oboe Music, the Eastern Sea (inside)

Mohawk: Brazos, TV Torso, Great Nostalgic (outside); Ume, Transmography, Daniel Francis Doyle, Many Birthdays (inside)

Red 7: Hacienda, Shapes Have Fangs, Strange Attractors, Cowabunga Babes, Flowers (outside)

Club de Ville: Smoke & Feathers, Prayer for Animals, Masonic

Stubb's: The White Hotel

Beauty Bar: Skream

Beerland: Black Panda, John Schooley & His One Man Band

The Parish: Sounds Under Radio, Zookeeper, Wiretree

live music venues p.70

roadshows + club listings p.72

THE OLD
COUPLAND
DANCEHALL INN & DANCEHALL

Thursday, December 31st
**NEW YEARS EVE
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Saturday, January 2nd
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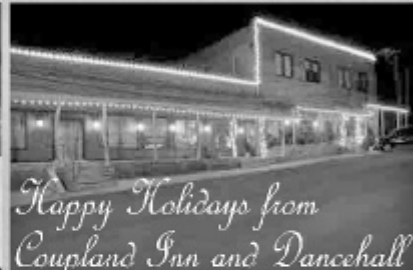
Friday, January 8th
STEVEN FRANKS



Saturday, January 9th
RICKY CALMBACH

Friday, January 15th
ROTEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES

Friday, January 29th
THE GOURDS



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AUSTIN MUSIC HALL

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The Continental Club
CONTINENTAL
An Austin Music Tradition Since 1955

*Rockin' In
The
New Year!*

**Jimmie
Vaughan**
In The Gallery
with special guests
**Mike Flanigin
and Frosty
Smith**

Doors at 9PM
Show at 10PM
Advance Tickets on Sale
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611 RED RIVER • WWW.ENCOREATX.COM

Kick off 2010 at our New Year's Eve Grand Opening celebration! featuring War Pigs (Black Sabbath Tribute) with Special Guests Keletiel 101X Live Remote with DJ and Host Jason Dick. Check out what's happening this Month!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
electricavenueatx.com presents: 'THE AFTERMATH'
FEATURING DJS NIC NEATH • JONENE • JAMON •
L. BOOGIE • CHRIS NELSON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
DJ E-ROCK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 - free show
The Versatile Syndicate presents: BRIDGE FARMERS
• WE ARE GRANADA • MUCHO BACKFLIPS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 - free show
The Versatile Syndicate presents: THE PAPER
SHAPES • CRASH GALLERY • OBSOLETE MACHINES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 - free show
IGNITOR • MILITIA • HOD • BIRTH A.D. •
ANGELA'S BDAY BASH!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 - free show
'CORRI & SERGIO RIVER RAT SHOW' - THE DICKENS
• SABBATH CROW • BARRY WHITESNAKE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
SHRAPNEL • POWDERBURN • DIE AMONG
HEROES • HEADCRUSHER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
KILLA DILLA • TREBUCHET • LAURA BISHOP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22
VITAL REMAINS • SARCOLYTIC (CD RELEASE) •
PINHED • VESPERIAN SORROW • ABOLISHMENT
• DISFIGURED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY • COURSE OF RUIN •
PREY FOR SLEEP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
RHYMIN' N STEALIN • (BEASTIE BOYS TRIBUTE)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
WAR BEAST • KILLING IN APATHY • MANIFESTO

CATCH THE BRIMMERS EVERY WEDNESDAY STARTING JANUARY 13!

Hanovers

VOLLEYBALL COURTS 7 DAYS A WEEK!

**THU 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE W/
THE STONE RAVERS**
9PM, \$5 COVER

FRI 1/1 THE WEATHERMEN 9PM

SAT 1/2 THE HELLKATS 8PM

**WED 1/6 THE SCOTCH MOUNTAIN
GANG** 8PM

FRI 1/8 RED ALERT 9PM, \$5 COVER

SAT 1/9 GO FOR BROKE 9PM

WED 1/13 MYRNA CABELLO 8PM

**FRI 1/15 THE DAMN TORPEDOES
"A TOM PETTY TRIBUTE" W/
THE ENABLERS**
9PM, \$5 COVER

SAT 1/16 PLAYER ONE 8PM
PRIDE & JOY 10:30PM

670.9617 Smoking Allowed
HANOVERSAUSTIN.COM
108 MAIN ST. • Pflugerville

WATERLOO Ice House

LIVE @ THE 'LOO

38TH & MEDICAL

THURS. DEC 31, 7PM: TBA

FRI. JAN 1, 7PM: TBA

SAT. JAN 2, 7PM: TBA

NEW YEAR'S
DAY BRUNCH
UNTIL 2PM

SUN. DEC 30, 7PM: JIM'S COUNTRY JAM

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

FRI. DEC 31 8PM: SOUTHPARK MEADOWS
KARAOKE, RAFFLE FOR PRIZES, COUNT DOWN
WITH CONFETTI, BALLOON DROP & FREE
CHAMPAGNE TOAST, DJ UNTIL 2AM
DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG!
\$4 JAGERBOMBS, \$3 WELLS, \$2 PINTS,
\$10 BOTTLES OF CHAMPAGNE

RING IN 2010
AT WATERLOO!

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

THURS. DEC 31, 9PM: NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH!!

FRI. JAN 1, 10PM: MATT CREATON

FREE TEXAS HOLD 'EM 9PM & 11:30PM

SAT. JAN 2, 10PM: JEFF WOOD

MATT CREATON
JANUARY 1ST

SUN. JAN 3, 10PM: OPEN MIC NIGHT

OUR OTHER GREAT LOCATIONS

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 / \$5

SUZANNA CHOFFEL 8

(FEAT: DREW SMITH) 9:30

DAN DYER 11

TED 12:15

GREG SCHROEDER 12:15
THE VERMEERS 6:30

NEW YEAR'S EVE / \$20 ADV \$25 DOOR

THE BELLEVILLE 11:30

OUTFIT 11:30

WARREN HOOD 9

THE FIREANTS 8

FRONTGATE
TICKETS WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY JANUARY 1 / \$7

EARLE BROWN BAND 12:15

WISE BIRD 10

JUSTIN BLACK & BIG HEART 9

LITTLE MCKAY CREEK BAND 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 2 / \$7

JEREMY NAIL & THE INCIDENTS 12:15

ST. CLOUD 11

CHARLIE SHAFTER & THE GNOMES 9:15

AMANDA PEARCY 8

HOME BY HOVERCRAFT 7

SUNDAY JANUARY 3 / \$7

WARREN HOOD 9:30

& THE HOODLUMS 9:30

CLOWNIE 12:15

CARLEY WOLF 8

MONDAY JANUARY 4 / \$5

MARK MONACO 9:45

SHAD BLAIR 8:15

SCOTCH MOUNTAIN GANG 7

NO COVER HAPPY HR MOJO METHOD 5:15

TUESDAY JANUARY 5 / \$5 (\$3 W/ STUDENT ID)

WORLD MUSIC NIGHT SPONSORED BY KUTV 50

& BEMBA ENTERTAINMENT

AHMED ARBAB 12

KIKO VILLAMIZAR 10

AUSTIN PIAZZOLLA QUINTET 8

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6

TED 9:30

(FEAT: DREW SMITH) 9:30

BRUCE JAMES SOULTET 12:15

MATT McCLOSKEY 10:15

GREG SCHROEDER 8:15

THE AWESOME & GREAT READING SHOW 7

UPCOMING SHOWS

THE DEAD KENNY Gs

JANUARY 13 8PM

PAPA GROWS FUNK!

w/ The Honey Island Swamp Band January 12

(tix avail at funkybatz.com)

live music venues

311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630

THE ALLIGATOR GRILL, 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN, 10401 Anderson Mill, 293-5563

ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146

BAR 141, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 512/558-7399

BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA, 8212 Barton Club, 329-4616

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335

BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943

BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK

BLU, 360 Nueces, 431-4888

'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339

BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189

THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330

BUENOS AIRES CAFE, 1201 E. Sixth, 382-1189

CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515

CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634

CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300

CHAIN DRIVE, 504 Willow, 480-9017

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham St., San Marcos, 512/353-3777

CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666

CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900

THE COCKPIT, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010

CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444

COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002

COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger, 512/859-0700

COUPLAND DANCEHALL, 101-103 Hoxie, Coupland, 512/856-2226

DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336

THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860

ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279

ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979

EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541

EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586

FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172

FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646

FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193

THE GHOST ROOM, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747

GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077

GUERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688

H&H BALLROOM, 4402 Brandt, 282-1143

HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main St., 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

THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001

JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825

KEY BAR, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389

LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729

LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500

LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889

LATITUDE 30, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335

LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477

LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261

MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326

MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404

MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994

NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097

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.

THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381

THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965

PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020

PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318

QUINN'S BAR, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-9965

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 St., Round Rock, 512/218-0813

RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637

THE SALT LICK, 18001 FM 1826, Driftwood, 512/858-4959

SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083

SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552

THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200

SEAHOLM POWER PLANT, 214 West Ave.,

SENGELMANN HALL, 531 N. Main St., Schulenburg, 979/743-2300

SHINER'S SALOON, 422 Congress Ste. D, 448-4600

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060

SIX LOUNGE, 117 W. Fourth, 472-6662

SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017

STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590

STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341

T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200

TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300

TX FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889

THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304

TOM'S TABOOLEY, 2928 Guadalupe #102, 479-7337

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445

TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236

TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY, 2906 Fruth,

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245

WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

CHALK ART BY **STACIE SMITH**
 THURSDAY // ADVANCE TIX ON SALE NOW

JIMMIE VAUGHAN
 • FRIDAY
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
 w/ **JIMMIE VAUGHAN**
 • SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MIKE FLANIGIN
 SAT. w/ **DENNY FREEMAN**
 AND **FROSTY**
 • MONDAY // 10PM
BRUCE JAMES SOULTET
 • TUESDAY // 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
 • WEDNESDAY
 10PM: **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
 EVERY WED. 8-10PM: **JON BLONDELL**

THE CONTINENTAL Club
 MONDAY JANUARY 4
 H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti

DALE WATSON
 AND HIS LONESTARS
 TUESDAY JANUARY 5
 HAPPY HOUR 6:30
TONI PRICE

BARFIELD
 TIRANT OF THE FUNK
 WEDNESDAY
 JANUARY 6
 H. H. **ELANA JAMES**
 AND **ERIK HOKKANEN**

JAMES Mc MURTRY
 10:30PM

JON DEE GRAHAM
 THUR JANUARY 7
 H. H. **PLANET CASPER**

WISEBIRD
 12AM
BRUCE JAMES SOULTET
 FRIDAY JANUARY 8
 NO HAPPY HOUR TODAY
TRIBUTE TO THE KING
 Shaun Young's New Blue Moon Boys
 & Ted Roddy's King Conjure Orchestra
 Early Show - Doors @ 6:30, show @ 7PM
 Late Show - Doors @ 10:30, show @ 11PM
 SATURDAY JANUARY 9

REDD VOLKAERT
 MATINEE 3-7PM
CHUCK PROPHET
 SATURDAY NIGHT:
 10PM
LEATHERBAG
 11:30PM
 DOORS OPEN AT 9PM

FRANK SMITH
 MATINEE 3-7PM
JESSE DAYTON
 SUNDAY JANUARY 3
 10PM
HEYBALE
 WITH **REDD VOLKAERT**
 AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

CASH'D OUT with **EARL POOLE BALL!**
 10PM

CEDRIC BURNSIDE
 1/14 & **LIL MALCOLM** 1/15
 NO COVER • 23RD ANNIVERSARY PARTY WITH
DISCO EXPRESSIONS & LIGHT ROCK EXPRESS
 1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.- FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444

1979 **Cactus CAFE** 2010
 475-6515 23RD & GUADALUPE

GONE ICE FISHIN' Dec 16 - Jan 13
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CACTUS CAFE SEE Y'ALL IN 2010

AN EVENING WITH THE WOOD BROTHERS THUR JAN 14 8:30PM

LIVE @ THE CACTUS IAN MOORE FRI JAN 15 8:30PM

COME ONE, COME ALL TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA SAT JAN 16 6 & 8:30PM
 6PM KIDS SHOW
 8:30PM ALL AGES
 TIX @ THE DOOR

FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SCOTT MILLER TUE JAN 19 8:30PM

AUSTIN'S LAFAVORITE JIMMY LAFAVE FRI JAN 22 8:30PM
 GUEST STAR • BETTY SOO

IN CONCERT @ THE CACTUS ELIZA GILKYSON SAT JAN 23 8:30PM

TWO FABULOUS NIGHTS! JONATHAN RICHMAN MON & TUE JAN 25 & 26 8:30PM

THE ONE & ONLY • LIVE & IN PERSON TODD SNIDER SAT JAN 30 8PM
 GUEST STAR
 AMERICAN TRAGEDY
 TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
 TIX @ ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE, HEBs
 477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

TEXAS TREASURE WHEATFIELD MON FEB 1 8:30PM

FRED EAGLESMITH WED FEB 3 8:30PM

TWO GREAT NIGHTS WITH JOSEPH ARTHUR FRI & SAT FEB 5 & 6 8:30PM

www.cactus.union.utexas.edu
 Coming Soon to a Cafe Near You

2.4 CHRIS KNIGHT	2.20 AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
2.9 SOME SAY LELAND	30TH ANNIVERSARY
2.13 TERRI HENDRIX	2.24 BATTLEFIELD BAND
2.14 CHRIS SMITHER	2.25 GENE WEEN
2.16 MIKE DOUGHTY	2.26 GENE WEEN
2.17 MIKE DOUGHTY	2.27 SARA BRITTENS

23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515
 The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union.
 Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday.
 Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm
 unless otherwise noted.

SIXTH STREET MAGGIE MAE'S AUSTIN TEXAS

GET READY TO HOLLER "TWO DOLLARS"
 \$2 DRINK SPECIALS EVERY THURSDAY
 ALL NIGHT LONG SUNDAYS: \$2 DOMESTIC BEERS
 \$2 DOMESTICS FRI & SAT UNTIL 10PM
 \$2 DOMESTICS EVERY WEEKNIGHT

THURSDAY 12/31
New Year's Eve
DJ MADNESS ALL NIGHT LONG
 STARTING AT 8PM
DJ DIAMOND TIP
DJ DOC
DJ FUNDAMENTAL

FRIDAY 1/1
HAPPY HOUR 5:30-9PM
BEN BURGESS
DJ FUNDAMENTAL

SATURDAY 1/2
HAPPY HOUR 6-8PM
SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS
DJ DOC

SUNDAY 1/3
SERVICE INDUSTRY
SUNDAY LIVE BLUES 8PM-MID
ALAN HAYNES

MONDAY 1/4
MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYZ
 8PM-MID

TUESDAY 1/5
LIVE BAND KARAOKE

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Live Music!
Cold Drinks!
Hot Food!
Good Times!

COWGIRL all ages welcome!

Music Line-up CAFE

MONDAYS now serving \$2 DRAFTS ALL NIGHT
TUESDAYS Half-price burgers 5-close
Happy Hour Mon-Sat 4-7pm

Tues Sand & Sunnie
(country requests)

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BROKEN SPOKE
WE HATE FANCY, BUT WE LOVE SHIRAZ COUNTRY!

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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

THU, DEC 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE WITH ALVIN CROW**
TICKETS ON SALE NOW \$20 EACH

JANUARY 2010!

FRI, JAN 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR - WE WILL BE CLOSED**

SAT, JAN 2 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9:30PM **DALE WATSON**

TUE, JAN 5 **WELDON HENSON**
NO COVER

WED, JAN 6 6-8PM **TJ BONTA**
9PM **DALE WATSON**

club listings

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ☆ RECOMMENDED ♪ HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 31

- 311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)
- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Bitta Blue (10:00)
- ANTONE'S** Dale Watson, Joe Ely & the Reunion Band
- AUSTIN MUSIC HALL** The Band of Heathens, Wade Bowen, Randy Rogers, Robert Earl Keen (8:00) ♪
- BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA** New Year's Eve Bash w/ Jacques Vilmain (9:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Preacher Keen (8:00)
- BEAUTY BAR** DJ Mel
- BEERLAND** New Year's Eve w/ Izzy Cox, Flametricks Subs
- BROKEN SPOKE** New Year's Eve Dance w/ Alvin Crow
- BUENOS AIRES CAFE** Una Noche Porteña Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** New Year's Eve w/ Dr. G & the Mudcats (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Jimmie Vaughan (9:00); In the Club: LeRoi Brothers (6:30); Jade Idol, T Bird & the Breaks (10:00) ♪
- COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
- COTTON CLUB** New Year's Eve w/ Can't Hardly Playboyz (8:00)
- COUPLAND DANCEHALL** New Year's Eve Party w/ Kyle Park
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Jasper & Woody (6:00)
- EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** New Year's Eve w/ Ephraim Owens (9:30)
- EMO'S** New Year's Eve Party w/ Darren Hoff & the Hard Times, the Beaumonts, Scott H. Biram
- EVANGELINE CAFE** New Year's Eve w/ Cleve & Sweet Mary (7:00)
- FADÓ** Mysterious Ways (10:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Reggae Bash w/ Dr. Dubbist, Mau Mau Chaplains, Grimy Styles ♪ (9:00)
- FRIENDS** Eric Tessmer, DJ Southpaw (6:00)
- THE GHOST ROOM** Mermaid Blonde, No Mas Bodas, Weird Weeds ♪, the Sour Notes ♪ (7:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Weldon Henson (9:00)
- GRUENE HALL** The Belleville Outfit (1:00); New Year's Eve Party w/ Clay McClinton ♪ & Delbert McClinton (8:00) ♪
- H&H BALLROOM** New Year's Eve Party w/ DJ Joe Smooth, Yayo Castillo & Rumores, Frank Gomez (7:00)
- HANOVER'S** New Year's Eve Party w/ the Stone Ravers (9:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** My Ballsack, Posey Chapel, Oklahomos, Duke, Flash Boys ♪
- HOLE IN THE WALL** New Year's Eve Soul Shakedown w/ Soul Track Mind, PJ & the Bear, Lost Soul Review, Soul Track Mind ♪

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS New Year's Eve YMCA Benefit w/ the Gourds (8:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LONGBRANCH INN Big Chris Gates & Gatesville, Hickoids (9:00)

MOHAWK Peligrosa, Brownout, Grupo Fantasma

MOMO'S Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, the Belleville Outfit (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH PeeWee Calvin & D-Way Tiz, Rusty Trapps

ONE 2 ONE BAR Paul Renna, Alan Haynes (8:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Duke Ellington Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00) ♪

THE PARISH New Year's Eve Party w/ Markus With a K, the White White Lights, Missions, Zeale (8:00)

roadshows

december

THU 31

Robert Earl Keen, Randy Rogers, Austin Music Hall

Jade Idol, Continental Club

Delbert McClinton, Gruene Hall

Posey Chapel, Headhunters

Lost Soul Review, Hole in the Wall

Duke Ellington Orchestra, Palmer Events Center

Metallagher, Empty Bottles, Red 7

Flosstradamus, Seaholm Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

Power Plant

january

FRI 1

Final Notice, Beerland

Chuck Prophet, Continental Club

Paleo, Emo's

The Weathermen, Hanover's

Awesome Death, Headhunters

Crooks, Mohawk

Mutual Trust, Crew 54, Red 7

SAT 2

Chuck Prophet, Continental Club

Contrabandits, Flamingo Cantina

Flamin' Hellcats, Hanover's

Ottis Coleman, Jovita's

St. Cloud, Momo's

The Dickies, the Parlor

Louie's Homemade Jam, Ruta Maya

Golden Cities, Great Hopes, the Scoot Inn

SUN 3

Andrew Anderson, Beerland

Crooks, Candidate, Emo's

Autons, the Requested, Red 7

Tavana, Speakeasy

Nighty Night, Trailer Space

Records & Events Center

MON 4

The Last Vegas, Grave

Robber, Headhunters

Blood Royale, Dead

Reckoning, Red 7

Meggan Carney, Saxon Pub

TUE 5

Lemuria, Red 7

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

WED 6

Nicole Reynolds, Flipnotics

Coffeespace

Punk Bunny, Headhunters

Ouachita, Saxon Pub

THU 7

Hacienda, Red 7

L.L. Cooper, Saxon Pub

100 Monkeys, Waterloo

Records

See austinchronicle.com

for complete listings.

DALLAS Niteclub

2010 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thursday, December 31st
Doors open at 7pm

ONLY \$5 COVER

Rooms are available at NORTHCROSS SUITES
with transportation to and from Dallas Niteclub
To book your room directly call 452-9391

7113 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas 78757
www.danceatdallas.com 512-452-1300

BEERLAND

711 1/2 RED RIVER 479-ROCK

th 31 New Year's Eve with Flametricks Subs, Blue Flames, Izzy Cox

fr 1 13th Victim, The Broadsiders, Final Notice, Sober Daze, Sniper 66

sa 2 Free Week- Flametricks Subs

su 3 Free Week- Andrew Anderson, Katlin Berreckman, and more!

mo 4 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM

tu 5 closed

we 6 free week- obsolete machines, in situ sound, digital antique, art vs industry

th 7 free week-black panda, john schooley's one man band, the fleshlights, the zoltars

beerlandtexas.com also on myspace & twitter

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE

Mon-Fri 5pm ★ Sat-Sun 4pm
HH til 9pm & All night Thr
606 E 7th St. ★ 480.5988

Iron Gate

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NOW OPEN
1111 E. 6TH ST.
4pm-2am Daily
HH til 9pm

THE 04 LOUNGE

Visit us Down South

EVERYDAY NOON-2AM, HH TIL 8PM
3808 S. CONGRESS AVE

VALHALLA

710 RED RIVER STREET

open every night - 7pm to 2am
Pool Tables • Foosball • Air Hockey
Shuffleboard • Thursdays - Pint Night

ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

Thursday • Dec 31 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

NEW YEAR'S EVE
RING IN '10!

Dance music from the 80's, 90's, 00's
Champagne toast at midnight!

Friday • Jan 1 **SPECIAL EVENT!**

2010
Space Night

WITH DJs NEPHANDIUS & EDMINISTER
space-themed costume contest (\$50 prize)

Saturday • Jan 2 **HAVEN**

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Jan 3 **REGRESSION**

RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

Tuesday • Jan 5 **ROCK BAND**

The **ROCK BAND** Experience
WITH DJ MINIMUS

Wednesday • Jan 6 **MID-WAVE**

UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu. Jan 7 • **MEN TAL ASYLUM** -
80's Metal w/ DJs Jimmy & Donna the Dead

Fri. Jan 8 • **MADCHESTER** -
Factory Records/Hacienda Night

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
www.elysiumonline.net • (512) 474-2285
www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin

the PARISH

Dec. 31 - New Years Eve 2010: A DANCE ODYSSEY

Zeale, The White White Lights
Missions, Prepmode
DJ Markus (w/ a K), DJ Czech One
Comp drinks, champagne, and food.*
**PURCHASE AN ADV TIC
& WIN A SXSW PLATINUM BADGE!**
www.TheParishAustin.com

Jan. 6 thru Jan. 10 FREE WEEK!

L.A.X., The Bright Light
Social Hour, The Frontier Brothers,
DJ Mel, Sounds Under Radio,
Auto Body, Wine and Revolution,
Hollywood Gossip, MoTel Aviv,
Wiretree, Freshmillions
(joined by members of The Sword),
and many more...

Jan. 19

Dart Music International Presents
"Backstage Pass to the World"
with The Black and White Years
Award recipients include Jim Butler,
Roky Erickson, Terry Liekona, Rose Reyes
Tickets available at
www.dartmusicinternational.org

Jan. 22

**Matthew and the
Arrogant Sea**
Tickets available on 12/30
at www.theparishaustin.com

Jan. 23

101X/UKTX Presents
The Cribs
with Adam Green, The Dead Trees
ON SALE NOW AT:
C3presents.frontgatetickets.com

Jan. 28

WOXY, Austinist, and The Onion Present
The Fiery Furnaces
ON SALE NOW AT:
C3presents.frontgatetickets.com

Jan. 29

101X's Daily Dose & Next Big Thing Present
Girls with Magic Kids
ON SALE NOW AT:
C3presents.frontgatetickets.com

214 EAST 6TH STREET AUSTIN, TX
www.TheParishAustin.com

the HighBall

BOWLING - KARAOKE - SKEEBALL
& SUPER SPECIAL EVENTS -

THIS WEEKEND IN THE HIGHBALL BALLROOM

LIKE, TOTALLY!: THE HIGHBALL 80s KARAOKE PARTY!

Fri, Jan 8 at 11pm - NO COVER!

THE ACTION PACK: 80s DANCE PARTY!

Come on, fatso, just bust a move!

If you want it! You've got it!

Sat, Jan 9 at 11pm - NO COVER!

Join us for HIGHBALL HAPPY HOUR EVERY MON-FRI FROM 4:30 - 7:30

Enjoy up to 2 hours of complimentary
private karaoke room rental as well as
\$2 Lone Stars, \$3 local beers
or \$5 well drinks with any food purchase!

www.TheHighball.com
1142 South Lamar Blvd
(512) 237-7561



Live Music

715 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS
WWW.REDEYEDFLY.COM

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 31
THE STUMMIES
BORN TO LOSE
NAKED EMPIRE
MATCHES FOR MEMORIES
AM MELTDOWN

FRIDAY-JANUARY 1
FOR THE MOST PART
UNDER THE GUN
POSEY CHAPEL
BLOODY STILETTO
MOLOCK

SATURDAY-JANUARY 2
HERE'S TO NOTHING
THE GRAPES
TRIVERSE
BROKEN STATE
THE JALAPENO HEADS

SUNDAY-JANUARY 3
DONE DEAL
THE ANTI-SCENE
BEER ME STRENGTH
PEACOCK WARLOCK

MONDAY-JANUARY 4
BROKEN TEETH
LAST VEGAS

TUESDAY-JANUARY 5
WHY & THE SUNDAYS
WHO SHOT MR. BURNS
CODY VANCE

WEDNESDAY-JANUARY 6
SUICIDE PISTOLS
OLIPHANT
GABRIEL & THE
BEAUTIFUL MIND

THURSDAY-JANUARY 7
PARK N MURRAY
THE MAJESTIC 12 PROJECT
THE BAD NOTES
HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY
ACTION FIGURE LOVE STORY

FRIDAY-JANUARY 8
NEW DISASTER
GENTLEMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB
DUKE
MARSHALL DYLAN

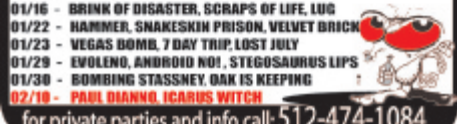
SATURDAY-JANUARY 9
BUTCHERWHITE
KOVEN THE LEVIATHAN
PORIFERA
THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES
POST SOCIETY

UPCOMING SHOWS

01/15 - HONKY, RED VOLKERT, BOB BLEED
01/16 - BRINK OF DISASTER, SCRAPS OF LIFE, LUG
01/22 - HAMMER, SNAKESKIN PRISON, VELVET BRICK
01/23 - VEGAS BOMB, 7 DAY TRIP, LOST JULY
01/29 - EVOLENDO, ANDROID NO1, STEGOSAURUS LIPS
01/30 - BOMBING STASSNEY, OAK IS KEEPING

02/10 - PAUL DIANNO, ICARUS WITCH

for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084



FLAMINGO CANTINA
21 AND UP WELCOME
515 E. SIXTH ST. 512.494.9336
BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO AUSTIN FOR 17 YEARS
THUR. DECEMBER 31 ***NYE BASH!!!** DOORS 9:00

REGGAE BASH!

GRIMY STYLES
- GLOBAL DUB -

THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS

- ROOTS REGGAE -
DR. DUBBIST
- REGGAE/DUB DJ -

WINSTON'S CARIBBEAN KITCHEN
WILL BE OPEN!
CHAMPAGNE TOAST

UPCOMING SHOWS

01.03: CONTRABANDITS, RIVER CITY ALL-STARS
JEREMY PENA ACOUSTIC SET, PROP VILL

01.06: NORML MEETING @ 8. TRIPPIN' OUT WEST

01.09: THE MELODIANS! WITH DON CHANI

01.13: DREADNECK NITES ON WEDNESDAYS!
NO COVER WITH STT & THE MAU MAU'S!

WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

LIVE MUSIC @ *Central Market*

FRIDAY &
SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

@ **CENTRAL PARK**
40th and North Lamar
call 512.206.1000 for details

@ **WESTGATE**
4477 South Lamar
call 512.899.4300 for details

WEDNESDAY-
SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
no music due to Holiday

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
DAN DYER
soul grooves

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
MICHAEL GOSS
singer-songwriter

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND
swing dance music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9
TINY TIN HEARTS
pop orchestra

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
celtic, appalachian

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
no music due to Holiday

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
PHIL BROWN
soul grooves

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
KRIS KUMURA QUARTET
jazz

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES
THE LITTLE ELMORE REED BLUES BAND
every Wednesday \$2 Shiners, BBQ specials, & blues!

at north lamar:

JAN 10 - Courtney Sanchez Quartet
JAN 15 - Beckham Brothers
JAN 16 - Erik Hokkanen
JAN 17 - Steve Schwelling Trio
JAN 22 - Two High String Band
JAN 23 - Danny Brooks

at westgate:

JAN 7 - Margo Valionte
JAN 8 - Iron City Soul Shakers
JAN 9 - Graham Wilkinson
JAN 10 - Lucky Strikes
JAN 13 - Diamond Simon & the Rough Cuts
JAN 14 - Flamenko 909

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 THURSDAY

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Blues Mafia ♪, Carolyn Wonderland

QUINN'S BAR Lixbox ♪ (8:30)

RED 7 Manzig, Stabba, Empty Bottles, Metallagher Ⓢ

RED EYED FLY The Stummies

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Soundsystem New Year's Eve w/ 1/0 & Sloppy Jackson, McPullish, DJ Ivor, DJ Notion, Ras G, Jah Remedy (9:00)

SAXON PUB Sideshow Tragedy, Guy Forsyth

SEAHOLM POWER PLANT 2010 Uncorked w/ Matt Shiv, Car Stereo (Wars), Flosstradamus (9:00) Ⓢ

SENGELMANN HALL The Telestars (8:00)

SHINER'S SALOON Em Cravens Band (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Dysfunkshun Junkshun (9:30)

STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley

STUBB'S Hard Proof Afrobeat ♪, Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TX FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS New Year's Eve Blues Ball w/ Little Elmore Reed, Leeann Atherton (9:00)

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mashed Potato Johnson, Earle Brown (6:00)

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY NYE 1969 w/ DJ Sue, DJ Tweedy, DJ Jason, Forever Changes, the Hi-Tones, Thee Penetrators (9:30)

Z'TEJAS Tameca Jones (6:00)

FRI 01

ANTONE'S Lou Ann Barton, Pinetop Perkins (9:00) Ⓢ

ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé (7:30)

BEERLAND Free Week w/ Sniper 66, Sober Daze, Final Notice, the Broadviders, 13th Victim Ⓢ

BLU Christian Barbutto (7:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mad Cowboys (7:00); Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cheatham Street All-Stars (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); Leatherbag ♪, Chuck Prophet (10:00) Ⓢ

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Jane Bond, Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD James Speer

ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell Quartet

EMO'S Free Week Outside: Paleo, Astronaut Suit, Cartright, Smoke & Feathers; Inside: The Hi-Tones, Shapes Have Fangs, Amplified Heat ♪, The Ugly Beats ♪ Ⓢ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sarah Flo, Raina Rose, Sick's Pack

FRIENDS Blues Posse, J.T. Coldfire (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Flat Top Jones (9:00)

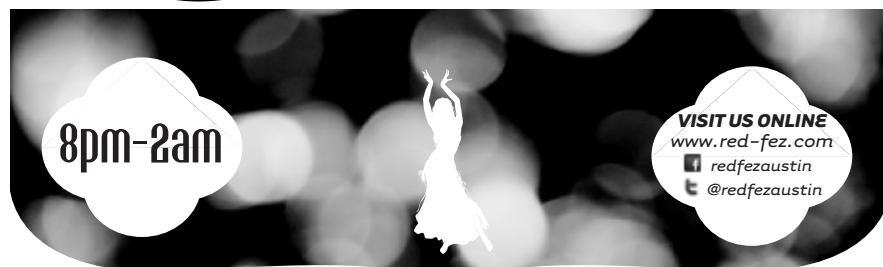
HANOVER'S The Weathermen (9:00) Ⓢ

HEADHUNTERS My Devastator, Gas Mask Attire, the Mumps, Devour the World, Blood for the Master, Awesome Death Ⓢ



NEW YEARS EVE BASH!
GET DOWN
WITH THE
GET RIGHT KIDS

Now Accepting Reservations at 512-478-5120



8pm-2am

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Wake up with LIVE music

Good Day

Austin

7-9am

& list your faves

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Show me yours, I'll show you mine

The Chronicle's Raoul Hernandez joins Joe and Katherine every Monday on Good Day Austin.

MUSIC POLL BALLOT

After 29 years, you know the drill: This is your chance to duct-tape the critics' mouths shut and speak up about Austin music. Not sure whom to vote for? Turn on the radio, drop by the local record store, or head to the clubs. Your favorite band is probably playing.

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR: _____

COVER BAND: _____

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: _____

U18 (MAJORITY OF MEMBERS UNDER 18): _____

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR: _____

NONE OF THE ABOVE: _____

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR: _____

Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND: _____

FEMALE VOCALS: _____

MALE VOCALS: _____

Best Performing Bands

ROCK: _____

ELECTRIC GUITAR: _____

PUNK: _____

ACOUSTIC GUITAR: _____

METAL: _____

BASS: _____

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH: _____

DRUMS/PERCUSSION: _____

HIP-HOP/DJ: _____

KEYBOARDS: _____

INDIE: _____

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT: _____

JAZZ: _____

SONGWRITER: _____

BLUES: _____

PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, ALBUM TITLE): _____

INSTRUMENTAL: _____

Related Categories

EXPERIMENTAL: _____

NEW CLUB: _____

COUNTRY/BUEGRASS: _____

LIVE MUSIC VENUE: _____

ROOTS ROCK: _____

ACOUSTIC VENUE: _____

FOLK: _____

ALL-AGES VENUE: _____

LATIN TRADITIONAL: _____

RECORD STORE: _____

LATIN ROCK: _____

RADIO STATION: _____

WORLD MUSIC: _____

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION): _____

RADIO PERSONALITY (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION): _____

LOCAL LABEL: _____

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is yes.) Please circle one or fill in the blank*:

Ponty Bone

Blaze Foley

Sarah Brown

Bad Mutha Goose

Brannen Temple

Cherubs

Denny Freeman

Shiva's Headband

David Garza

Arc Angels

Bruce Robison

Sixteen Deluxe

Alex Coke

OTHER NOMINEE*: _____

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

Required Information

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

AGE: _____

PHONE: _____

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED!

Please mail to: Music Poll

The Austin Chronicle

PO Box 49066

Austin, TX 78765

Jovita's
OPEN

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www.jovitas.com

HAPPY HOUR
Tuesday-Friday 4-7pm
\$2.50 all beers
\$2 well drinks
\$3 house margaritas
1/2 price appetizers

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR
Every Sunday 4pm-Close

SIN TUESDAYS
\$1 Select Beers \$2 Wells
Food Specials All Night!
4pm-Close

LIVE MUSIC
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE
AT JOVITA'S
2 GREAT SHOWS!
Early show - Family friendly 4-6:30pm
\$8 adults/\$5 kids at the door
WE'LL BRING IN THE LONDON NEW YEAR
**NEW YEAR'S
EVE BASH**
General Admission \$25. Get tickets at FrontGate Tickets.
www.frontgatetickets.com. Prizes and Giveaways! Food
available. With Special Guests:
THE APPLE TRIO 7:30PM
OUCH! 8:15PM



THE
EGGMEN
9-1AM
FRIDAY JANUARY 1
CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY
SATURDAY JANUARY 2 • NO COVER
THE LATE JOYS 7-8:30PM
OTTIS COLEMAN
BAND 9-10:30PM
SUNDAY JANUARY 3 • NO COVER
TEXAS BLUE HEELERS
TUESDAY JANUARY 5 • NO COVER
AARON BARRERA 8-10PM
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6 • NO COVER
GEEKS WHO DRINK
8-10PM

**NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION ...
RIDE
THE BULL
AT REBELS!**
OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
(Doors open at 8pm)



Austin's only
**MECHANICAL
BULL**
HUGE, SOLID WOOD
DANCE FLOOR

**3
Large Bars**

BOTH BEER & BOTTLE
SERVICE AVAILABLE

★ BIG PATIO ★

★ LARGE HD TVs ★

★ 6000+ SQUARE FEET ★

MASSIVE PARKING LOT RIGHT
ACROSS THE STREET

VALET

RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE
MADISON, BES0 & THE HUDSON

NO COVER ★ 21+

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AUSTIN, TX 78701

rebelshonkytonkaustin.com



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

HILL'S CAFE Jeremy Steding ♪
(7:00)

MOHAWK Free Week Outside:
Leo Rondeau, Mike & the
Moonpies ♪; Inside: Crooks,
the Original Mexican Bob
(9:00) Ⓜ

MOMO'S Justin Black & Big
Heart, Wisebird

ONE 2 ONE BAR Chango
Malo, Brad Tretola, Haydn
Vitera (8:30)

RED 7 Free Week Outside:
Naw Dude, Hatred Surge,
Iron Age, Mammoth Grinder,
Pack of Wolves; Inside:
Crew 54, Mutual Trust, Kill
City, Cali Zack, Boomset,
Azatat Ⓜ

RUTA MAYA Patrick McGuire,
Jahva Cosmic, Full Score
(7:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball
& the Cosmic Americans
(6:00); Shawn Pittman,
Meagan Tubb (10:00)

THE SCOOT INN Sean
Maloney, Jarret Killen, Chris
Newton, Nic Walker (9:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS LC
Rocks (9:30)

SPEAKEASY Soulution ♪
(9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Buck Jones &
the Haggards

TROPHY'S Stone Dakota,
Manifesto

SAT 02

ANTONE'S Marcia
Ball Ⓜ

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jerry
Lightsey, George Enslé
(7:30)

**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET
DOWNTOWN** Havilah Tower,
the Seekers (10:00am)

BEERLAND Free Week w/
Flametrack Subs

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance
Lessons, Dale Watson
(8:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Dan Dyer (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
Phil Brown (6:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE** Texas
Renegade (9:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Free Week w/
Blase Faire, the Tunnels, the
Happen-Ins

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the
Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00);
Frank Smith, Chuck Prophet
(10:00) Ⓜ Ⓜ

COTTON CLUB Smokin' Gun
(9:00)

COUPLAND DANCEHALL
Granger Smith

DONN'S DEPOT Nash
Hernandez Orchestra

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Patricia G. (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Kris Kimura

ELEPHANT ROOM The Brew

EMO'S Free Week Outside:
Fungi Girls, the Stuffies,
Woven Bones, Harlem;
Inside: The Vitamins,
Serious Tracers, the Ape-
Shits, Manikin, Ghost Knife

EVANGELINE CAFE Sunset
Valley Boys

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Proper
Villain Soundsystem, Jeremy
Pena, River City All-Stars,
Contrabandits (9:00) Ⓜ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Laura Freeman & the Hey
Lollies, Gin City, Pamela
Ryder, Rick Poss, the
Vermeers

FRIENDS Stevie Norman, J.T.
Coldfire (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Red Corner
Rhymers (10:00)

HANOVER'S Flamin' Hellcats
(9:00) Ⓜ

HEADHUNTERS Dyrty, Trick City,
Smallstone, Lucky Losers

HILL'S CAFE Slim Bawb

JOVITA'S The Late Joys, Ottis
Coleman (7:00) Ⓜ

LUCKY LOUNGE Love at War ♪,
DJ Protege (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Spoiled
Royals ♪ (8:00)

MOHAWK Free Week,
Outside Stage: Eagle Claw,
Vinhomudeh, Lions ♪; Inside
Stage: December Boys, PJ
& the Bear, In Duderø Ⓜ

MOMO'S Amanda Pearcy ♪,
Charlie Shafter & the
Gnomes, St. Cloud (8:00) Ⓜ

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer
(11:30am)

THE PARLOR Blank
Generation, the Dickies, Los
Bones, Front Line Martyrs
(9:00) Ⓜ

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL** Jeff Strahan

QUINN'S BAR Lixbox ♪ (8:30)

RED 7 Free Week, Outside
Stage: MVSCLZ, Cruddy,
Pillow Queens, the Young;
Inside Stage: Air Traffic
Controllers, Dikes of
Holland, When Dinosaurs
Ruled the Earth

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Louie's
Homemade Jam, the
Pajamas ♪ (3:00); Two Hoots
& a Holler, Roger Wallace,
Bear & the Essentials
(9:00) Ⓜ

THE SALT LICK Jeremy
Steding ♪ (2:00)

SAXON PUB Driver, George
Devore

THE SCOOT INN Silent Land
Time Machine, Great Hopes,
Golden Cities, Co-Pilot
(9:00) Ⓜ

SPEAKEASY Detroit Steel
(9:30)

STUBB'S The Slideshow, White
Rhino, Black Bone Child ♪

TRIPLE CROWN Electric
Mayhem

TROPHY'S Killing Industry,
Young American Outlaw,
White Sails, the Couch

WHIP IN Lee Barber, Scrappy
Jud Newcomb (7:00)

SUN 03

ARTZ RIB HOUSE
Texas Swing Kings
(6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish
Tunes Session (9:00)

BEAUTY BAR One Hundred
Flowers, Many Birthdays

BEERLAND Katlin Berreckman,
Andrew Anderson Ⓜ

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Michael Goss Band (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
Kris Kimura Quartet (12:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Free Week w/
Sally Crewe & the Sudden
Moves

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Jon Dee Graham, Mike
Flanigin (8:30); In the Club:
Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Sarah
Temple

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin
Spice

EMO'S Early: Brother Ghost,
Native, La Dispute,
Candidate; Free Week
Outside: Many Birthdays ♪,
Corto Maltese, the Boxing
Lesson, Quiet Company;
Free Week Inside: Western
Ghost House, Crooks,
Prayer for Animals, Frank
Smith, Michael Kingcaid Ⓜ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Sweet Bunch of Daisies,
Jarrett Killen, Electric
Mountain Rotten Apple
Gang

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam
(8:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Dale Watson
(4:00)

**GREEN PASTURES
RESTAURANT** Jacques
Vilmain (11:00am)

HEADHUNTERS Genuine
Cowhide

HILL'S CAFE The Seiker Band

JOVITA'S Texas Blues Heelers
(6:00)

LAMBERTS Black, Red &
Black (7:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS
Imperial Golden Crown
Harmonizers (12:30)

dart
MUSIC INTERNATIONAL

**BACKSTAGE
PASS TO THE
WORLD**

VOODOO COWBOY
THE HOUSE SONGS

PERFORMANCES BY THE BLACK AND WHITE YEARS
• STANLEY SAMUELSEN • AND A VERY SPECIAL GUEST

2010 DART MUSIC INTERNATIONAL ICON AWARD RECIPIENTS
JIM BUTLER • ROKY ERICKSON • TERRY LICKONA • ROSE REYES

THE PARISH • 214 EAST 6TH STREET • TUESDAY, JANUARY 19
VIP RECEPTION FROM 6:30 TO 8:00 • DOORS OPEN AT 8:00PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT DARTMUSICINTERNATIONAL.ORG

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STUBB'S

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THU DEC 31 — DOORS 9PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SOLD OUT

WITH **BLACK JOE LEWIS AND THE HONEYBEARS** AND **HARD PROOF AFROBEAT**
TIX INCLUDE BBQ BUFFET & CHAMPAGNE TOAST

FREE WEEK

SAT JAN 2 — DOORS 9PM
FREE SHOW
BLACK BONE CHILD
WITH **WHITE RHINO & THE SLIDESHOW TRAGEDY**

THU JAN 7 — DOORS 9PM
FREE SHOW
THE WHITE HOTEL
WITH **WHITE DRESS AND JESSIE TORRISI**

FRI JAN 8 — DOORS 9PM
FREE SHOW
JESSE WOODS
WITH **THE MERCERS**

SAT JAN 9 — DOORS 9PM
FREE SHOW
LEATHERBAG
WITH **THE PONTS & DANNY MALONE**

SAT JAN 16 — DOORS 9PM
FEVER IN THE FUNKHOUSE
WITH **KEVIN MCKINNEY OF SOULHAT**

WED JAN 20 — DOORS 9PM
THE SPLIT SECOND TOUR
FEATURING **LANGUAGE ROOM** WITH **COURRIER AND MAHONEY**

FRI JAN 22 — DOORS 9PM
PERPETUAL GROOVE

SAT JAN 23 — DOORS 9PM
THE UGLY BEATS
WITH **THE RIPE AND ENGLISH TEETH**

THU JAN 28 — DOORS 9PM
AUSTIN360 CONCERT SERIES
FEATURING **QUIET COMPANY**
WITH **WHITMAN AND BUTTERCUP**

FRI JAN 29 — DOORS 9PM
THE SOLDIER THREAD
WITH **MYNAMEISJOHNMICHAEL**

SAT JAN 30 — DOORS 9PM
THE BLUE HIT
WITH **SOME SAY LELAND AND DOMINIC HENRICKZ**

Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

LOVEJOYS
TAP ROOM & BREWERY

Come Celebrate Oh-Ten with us!!

12/31: Free NYE Party w/ Heart & Soul Soundsystem, tasty snacks, and a champagne toast at midnight

1/1: Yes, we're open...and Ferret's cookin' black-eyed peas, pozole, y mas

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Live Music Early ...  Late Night Loungin'

Lucky lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

WED 12/30 10PM **1-NITE STAND WEDNESDAYS**
HOSTED BY **LANCE KOTARA, ADAM McINNIS & STEPHANIE DAULONG**

THU 12/31 8PM **NEW YEAR'S EVE BLOWOUT!**

FRI 01/01 9PM **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
WE OPEN AT 9PM

SAT 01/02 9PM **LOVE AT WAR**
LATER DJ PROTEGE SPINS TIL 2AM

MON 01/04 9PM **YOUR LUCKY DAY!**
DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!

TUE 01/05 10PM **DJ RICH**
OPENS FOR THE INCOMPARABLE **BOOMBOX ATX**

WED 01/06 10PM **1-NITE STAND WEDNESDAYS**
HOSTED BY **LANCE KOTARA, ADAM McINNIS & STEPHANIE DAULONG**

THU 01/07 6PM **HAPPY HOUR FEATURING THE LEGENDARY IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND**
FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME UT vs. ALABAMA**
(7:30PM START) DRINK SPECIALS AND FREE PIZZA DURING THE GAME! WATCH IT ON OUR BIG SCREEN!

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George Enslie
 SUN. 1/3 11am Gospel Brunch no cover
301 W. Riverside Dr. 512-472-9304
 both locations will be open New Years Day!



North
 THUR. 12/31 7pm Jimmy LaFave \$75/\$50
 check website for details
 SUN. 1/3 11am Christy & the Plowboys no cover
 Bluegrass Brunch
 WED. 1/6 7pm Stonehoney no cover
 Sittin' Singin' & Supper
 FRI. 1/16 10pm The Winchester Twin no cover

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Cheatham Street WAREHOUSE

Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos
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TH **NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH DOCTOR G & THE MUDCATS GOOD LUCK BLACKEYED PEAS AT MIDNIGHT**

FR **HAIR OF THE DOG FESTIVAL WITH CHEATHAM STREET ALL-STARS 9PM-2AM**

SA **TEXAS RENEGADE**

MO **CHEATHAM STREET ALL-STARS**

TU **SAMANTHA FINLAY & THE LOVE LIBERATION ARMY**

WE **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE**

119 CHEATHAM ST., SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

MOHAWK Free Week w/ Simple Circuit, Strong Silent Type, Ichi Ni San Shi, Beautiful Supermachines ♪

MOMO'S Carley Wolf, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums (8:00) ♪

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

RED 7 Free Week Early Show: I See a Ghost, Fire From the Gods, the Requested, Scarlet O'Hara (5:30); Later: Zwounds, RealBook FakeBook, Zorch, Autons, We the Granada, Tornahdo ♪

RED FEZ DJ Kuruot, DJ Cause-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

RUTA MAYA Jungle Jill & the Jaybirds (10:30am); McLemore Avenue (7:00) ♪

SAXON PUB Lincoln Durham, the Resentments (7:30)

SPEAKEASY Tavara (9:30) ♪

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Literature, Nightly Night, Magic Jewels, Follow That Bird! (7:00) ♪

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WHIP IN Southpaw Jones (8:00)

Z'TEJAS James Speer (6:00)

EMO'S Free Week Outside: Literature, Bear Claw, Cowabunga Babes, J.C. & Co., the Carrots; Inside: Scrabble Robot, Hoodrats, Flash Boys, Dolls From the Crypt, Children in Heat

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Raina Rose

FRIENDS Eric Tessmer (10:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Grave Robber, the Last Vegas ♪

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Chris Tondre ♪ (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Makalani Movement (10:00)

MOHAWK Free Week w/ Baron Grod ♪ ♪

MOMO'S Scotch Mountain Gang, Shad Blair, Mark Monaco

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

RED 7 Free Week w/ Dead Reckoning, Shredheads, Night Siege, Blood Royale, Head Panic ♪ ♪

RED FEZ DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

SAXON PUB Meggan Carney, Nelo, Jeff Plankenhorn ♪

SPEAKEASY Bombing Stassney ♪ (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids (6:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Miles Zuniga (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00); Kris Kimura (9:30)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Free Week, Outside: Coma in Algiers ♪, Elvis, Low Red Center, Diagonals, Mutating Meltdown; Inside: Horse + Donkey, the Gospel Truth, No Mas Bodas, Pataphysics

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lost & Nameless Orchestra (7:00); Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRIENDS Andy Macintyre, Erin Jaimes (7:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Nic Armstrong ♪ (10:00) ♪

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Scott Reynolds, Vast Massive Satellite, Schweinene Band

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund

JOVITA'S Aaron Barrera (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombbox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MOHAWK Free Week w/ Ovenbirds, String, Obsolete Machines ♪

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED 7 Free Week w/ The Anchor, O Pioneers!, Lemuria, Cruiserweigh ♪

RED FEZ Benmused Showcase, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00) ♪; David Beck, Deadman (8:00)

SIX LOUNGE Lucas Cook & Abel James (9:00)

SPEAKEASY O Positivo (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Jo Beth Henderson (6:00)

TROPHY'S Armadillo Road

WED 06

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Sleepy Vahn

BAR 141 Electric Mayhem (9:00)

BEAUTY BAR New Roman Times, She Sir, Strange Attractors, Stereo Is a Lie

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Transmission Entertainment

FREE WEEK JAN 1-10, FREE SHOWS for 21+!

Mohawk

AUSTIN, TEXAS

912 red river all are welcome.

Th 12/31 - NYE w/ GRUPO FANTASMA, Brownout! & Peligrosa All-Stars - 9pm
FREE WEEK 1/1 - 1/9
 F 1/1 - MIKE AND THE MOONPIES (bdy show) w/ Leo Rondeau (out) - 9pm // **THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB** w/ Crooks (in) - 12am (free!)
 Sa 1/2 - LIONS, Vinomudeh, Eagle Claw (out) - 9pm // **IN DUDERO** (nirvana cover band), PJ and the Bear, The December Boys (in) - 10pm (free!)
 Su 1/3 - BEAUTIFUL SUPERMACHINES, Ichi Ni San Shi, Strong Silent Type, Simple Circuit (in) - 10pm (free!)
 Tu 1/5 - OBSOLETE MACHINES, String, The Ovenbirds (in) - 10pm (free!)
 W 1/6 - SCORPION CHILD, The Roller, Smoke and Feathers, Shitty Carwash w/ The Grease, DJ Spirit Wolf & Red Zeppelin dj'ing between sets (in) - 10pm (free!)
 Th 1/7 - BRAZOS, TV Torso, Great Nostalgic (out) - 9pm // UME, Transmography, Daniel Francis Doyle, Many Birthdays (in) - 10pm (free!)
 F 1/8 - THE LAUGHING, Low Line Caller, MoTel Aviv (out) - 9pm // CHRISTIAN BLAND & THE REVELATORS, Headdress, The Tunnels, Cartright (in) (free!)
 Sa 1/9 - Lucy the Poodle Presents: T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS, The Carrots, Ugly Beats, The Hi-Tones (out) - 8:45pm // MISSIONS (ex-Clap Clap), Death is not a joyride., No Mas Bodas, Clouds are Ghosts (in) - 10pm (free!)

RED 7

611 east 7th venue & wreck room

Th 12/31 - NYE w/ METALLAGHER, JT Habersaat, Manzig, Empty Bottles, Stabba - 9pm
FREE WEEK 1/1 - 1/10
 F 1/1 - PACK OF WOLVES, Mammoth Grinder, Iron Age, Hatred Surge, Naw Dude (out) // AZATAT, Boomset, Cali Zack & n/a, Kill City, Mutual Trust, Crew 54 (in) - 9pm (free!)
 Sa 1/2 - THE YOUNG, Pillow Queens, Cruddy, MVSLZ (out) // WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH, Dikes of Holland, Air Traffic Controllers (in) - 9pm (free!)
 Su 1/3 - EARLY: SCARLET O'HARA, The Requested, Fire From the Gods, I See a Ghost - 5:30pm // LATE: TORNAHDO, We the Grenada, The Autons, Zorch, RealBook FakeBook, Zwounds - 9pm (free!)
 M 1/4 - HEAD PANIC, Blood Royale, Night Siege, Shredheads, Dead Reckoning - 9pm (free!)
 Tu 1/5 - CRUISERWEIGHT, Lemuria, O'Pioneers!!!, The Anchor, High Watt Crucifixers (out) // THE EL PASO HEIST, The Comissure, Orchestra of Antlers, Milk Thistle - 9pm (free!)
 W 1/6 - LA SNACKS, Midgetmen, The Gary, Frantic Clam, Opposite Day - 9pm (free!)
 Th 1/7 - HACIENDA, Shapes Have Fangs, Strange Attractors, Cowabunga Babes, Flowers (out) // Get Action DJs (sabrina e, brother jamal, grandmaster b) (in) - 9pm (free!)
 F 1/8 - LOWER CLASS BRATS, Krumbums, Sober Daze, Black Irish, The No No No Hopes (out) // DJ Sambo (of complete control) (in) (free!)
 Sa 1/9 - GIANT STEPS SHOW: BIG MESS (DEVO cover band), Watching the Moon, We'll Go Machete, Paper Shapes (out) // SHITTY CARWASH, Scorpion Child, Eagle Claw, Markov, Thieves (in) - 9pm (free!)
 Su 1/10 - EARLY: SET AFLAME, Bonnie Blue, Let the Dead // LATE: EXETER, Woolgather, In Situ Sound, The Devil Rides - 9pm

1/14 - Dana Falconberry cd release (mohawk), 1/15 - Black Milk (detroit hip hop) **UPCOMING** (red 7), 1/16 - The Riverboat Gamblers (red 7), 1/17 - Anarchy Pro Wrestling (mohawk), 1/19 - Movits (sweden) (mohawk), 1/20 - Possessed by Paul James (mohawk), 1/21 - The Entrance Band (mohawk), 1/22 - Aesop Rock (mohawk), 1/23 - Agnostic Front (red 7), 1/27 - Anti-Flag (red 7), 2/6 - Bowerbirds/Julie Doiron (mohawk), 2/13 - Nouvelle Vague (mohawk), 2/13 - Joe Jack Talcum (dead milkmen) (mohawk), 2/18 - Blacklisted (red 7), 2/19 - Misprint Beard & Moustache Competition (mohawk), 2/20 - Four Tet/Nathan Fake (mohawk), 2/23 - Laura Viers (mohawk), 2/24 - Pretty and Nice (mohawk), 2/27 - Applesed Cast (mohawk), 3/1 - Clientele/Vetiver (mohawk), 3/2 - Scout Niblett (mohawk)

SAT JAN 13TH

WILLIE BIG EYE SMITH

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Antone's

 AUSTIN, TEXAS

SPECIAL NEW YEARS SHOW!

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

 THURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST

 ONCE IN A BLUE MOON NEW YEARS EVE

 MIDNIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA!!!

WED DECEMBER 30TH

THE SCABS

FOOT PATROL

 OPENING

 PRE-NEW YEARS EVE BASH!

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FRIDAY JANUARY 1ST

PINETOP PERKINS

LOU ANN BARTON

AND BRUCE JAMES

 DOORS 7:30

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ELY BAND

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SATURDAY JANUARY 2ND

 SPECIAL EARLY SHOW WITH

MARCIA BALL

KICKIN' OFF 2010!

 DOORS 7 | SHOW 8PM

 TABLES AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE

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SATURDAY JANUARY 2ND

 10PM

 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

BOB SCHNEIDER

KEVIN MCKINNEY OPENS

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TUESDAY JANUARY 5TH

BLUES SOCIETY JAM

BLUE TUESDAY BAND

 6PM - 9PM

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6TH

MUCH LOVE AND BLUES MAFIA

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THURSDAY JANUARY 7TH

DIASPORIC

 WITH **SPINE ALLEY**

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FRIDAY JANUARY 8TH

WITH THE WAILERS

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SATURDAY JANUARY 9TH

SOULHAT

 LIVE FROM THE BLACK CAT

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FRIDAY JANUARY 15TH

RAY WYLIE HUBBARD

MICKY AND THE MOTORCARS

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SAT JAN 23RD

ERIC TESSMER

TIA CARRERA

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THU 21 JAN

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27TH

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& BENJAMIN GIBBARD

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

HOWIE DAY

SERENA RYDER

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FRI JAN 29TH

Yo La Tengo

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FRI FEB 5TH

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SATURDAY FEB 6TH

HELLER WILLIAMS

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FRIDAY FEB 12TH

RECKLESS KELLY

 WITH THE TRISHAS

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SATURDAY APRIL 3RD

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 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31TH

NEW YEARS EVE TONIGHT

GUY FORSYTH

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 Sideshow Tragedy

 \$20 Adv/\$25 Door

 Doors Open at 8pm/ Show Starts at 9pm

 FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Shawn Pittman

Meagan Tubb

Earl Poole Ball

& The Cosmic Americans

 10pm \$5

 12am \$5

 8pm \$5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2ND

George Devore

 10pm \$10

THE HIGHWAY 12am

Driver 3pm \$10

GEORGE MACIAS 6pm No Cover

 SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD

THE RESENTMENTS

LINCOLN DURHAM

 & SPECIAL GUEST 6PM \$5

Amber Lucille 10:30pm \$5

 MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH

Nelo

 special acoustic show

 8:30 \$10

Meggan Carney

 7pm \$10

Jeff Plankenhorn 11pm \$5

 TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH

David Beck

 8pm \$5

Deadman 10am \$5

 Steven Ray Will 12am

 No Cover Happy Hour **Waylon Payne**

 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

MONTE MONTGOMERY

 8pm \$10

Ouachita 12am \$5

Douglass Jay Boyd

 w/ **Aly Tadros** 10pm \$5

 NO COVER Happy Hour **The Nortons**

 FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH

DEL CASTILLO

 live on KGSR's Lane Star State of Mind \$20 adv/ \$20 door

 SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Bruce Robison

 \$12 adv/\$15 door

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Th 31	Mashed Potato Johnson 6pm Earle Brown, Firewater Sermon 10pm
Fr 1	Buck Jones & the Haggards 10pm
Sa 2	Electric Mayhem 10pm
Su 3	Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 4	Gerry's Kids 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
Tu 5	JoBeth Henderson 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
We 6	Scott Wood 6pm Electric Mayhem 10pm
Th 7	Ricky Stein 6pm The Jocks, Convoi! 10pm

WWW.FLIPNOTICS.COM • LOCAL COFFEE + FARE • BEER SPECIALS

TH DEC 31	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	MO 8P	Strange Brew Songwriter Showcase: feat. RAINA ROSE
FR JAN 01	HH 6P Sarah Flo (\$5) 8P Raina Rose 9P Squint SICK'S PACK	TU 7P	The Lost & Nameless Orchestra
SA JAN 02	FREE KIDS SHOW 10A LAURA FREEMAN and The Hey Lollies HH 6P Gin City (\$5) 8P Pamela Ryder 9P Rick Poss 10:45P THE VERMEERS	WE 6P	George Carver
SU JAN 03	6P Sweet Bunch of Daisies 8P Jarret Killen 9P ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN ROTTEN APPLE GANG	TU 8P	MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
		WE 8:30P	NICOLE REYNOLDS
		9:30P	DANNY MALONE
		10:30P	GRAHAM WILKINSON



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WED: MARC ALLEN ATWOOD
PRESENTS "NO BAD WEDNESDAYS"
OPEN MIC - \$2 LONE STAR
\$2.50 OLD WHISKEY RIVER SHOTS
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FREE POOL, \$2 WELL DRINKS &
DOMESTIC BEERS & \$1
1ST DRINK FOR LADIES
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NO COVER SUNDAY - THURSDAY NIGHTS

BEST DRESSED BURGER IN A COSMIC COWBOY HONKY TONK
No Bad Days - 'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' RESTAURANT POLL 2006
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE
**CAROLYN WONDERLAND
BLUES MAFIA**
Ring in the New Year with a champagne toast
and late night buffet!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
JEFF STRAHAN
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
UT FOOTBALL
DRINK SPECIALS, BUFFET AND GIVEAWAYS!

The Center for Texas Music History Presents
**Music from the Heart:
An 80th Birthday Tribute to Rod Kennedy**
Brought to you by the PSH Foundation

Tuesday
February 2nd, 2010
7:00 PM

Paramount Theatre
Austin, Tx

Robert Earl Keen The Flatlanders
Ray Benson Marcia Ball Randy Rogers
Terri Hendrix Ruthie Foster Jimmy LaFave
Lloyd Maines Eliza Gilkyson Bobby Bridger
Brady Black John Inmon Paul Glasse
with special guests

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PSH FOUNDATION Shiner BEER Tito's Handmade VODKA KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL Frost BANKING INVESTMENTS

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

BEERLAND Free Week w/ Art vs. Industry, Digital Antique ♪, In Situ Sound, Obsolete Machines

BROKEN SPOKE T. Jarrod Bonta, Dale Watson (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Little Elmore Reed (6:30)

CHAIN DRIVE Megafauna, Baby Robots, Telepathik Friend ♪ ♪

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB DE VILLE Free Week w/ Moble ♪, Vinhomudeh, Honky

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: Lisa Marshall (6:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00); Ephraim Owens (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Free Week Outside: Oh No Oh My, Ovenbirds, the Laughing, Brothers and Sisters; Inside: 13th Victim, the Bulemics, Born to Lose, New Disaster ♪

FLAMINGO CANTINA NORML Meeting w/ 'Trippin' Out West (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE George Carver, Matt the Electrician ♪, Nicole Reynolds, Danny Malone, Graham Wilkinson (6:00) ♪

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Swamp Sauce (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

HANOVER'S Scotch Mountain Gang (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Black Barbie, Punk Bunny, Hug ♪ ♪ ♪

JOVITA'S Geeks Who Drink (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star Swing (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Colin Sweitek

BEAUTY BAR Skream

BEERLAND Free Week w/ the Zoltars, Flesh Lights, John Schooley's One Man Band, Black Panda

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton ♪ (9:00)

CLUB DE VILLE Free Week w/ Masonic, Prayer for Animals, Smoke & Feathers

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lance Kotara, Adam McInnis, Stephanie Daulong (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes (8:00)

MOHAWK Free Week w/ Shitty Carwash, Smoke & Feathers, the Roller, Scorpion Child ♪

MOMO'S Greg Schroeder, Drew Smith, Matt McCloskey

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX (8:00)

THE PARISH Politics, Hollywood Gossip, Wine & Revolution

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Songwriter Night (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Mark Allen Atwood

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Free Week w/ Opposite Day ♪, Frantic Clam ♪, the Gary, Midgetmen, La Snacks (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00); Monte Montgomery, Douglas Jay Boyd, Ouachita (8:00) ♪

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding ♪ (10:00)

SPEAKEASY Souldution ♪ (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood, Electric Mayhem

TROPHY'S J.T. Wright & Solstice

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Wisebird ♪, Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Bruce James, Wisebird (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Graham Weber (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Tameca Jones

EMO'S Free Week Outside: Heart & Soul Sound System, the Sandworms, Nick Curran & the Lowlifes, Skeletons, the Jungle Rockers; Inside: The Eastern Sea, Haunting Oboe Music, Red Leaves ♪, Yellow Fever, MothFight!

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00); Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00)

FRIENDS Eric Tessmer, Ugly Elephant (7:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00)

MOHAWK Free Week Outside: The Great Nostalgic ♪, TV Torso; Inside: Many Birthdays ♪, Daniel Francis Doyle, Transmography, Ume

MOMO'S Phil Marshall, Noelle Hampton, Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground, Nathan Hubble

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears (9:00)

THE PARISH Wiretree, Zookeeper, Sounds Under Radio

RED 7 Free Week Outside: Flowers, Cowabunga Babes, the Strange Attractors, Shapes Have Fangs, Hacienda; Inside: Get Action ♪ ♪

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Root Dimension, Irie Jane, Avenue Elle (9:00)

SAXON PUB L.L. Cooper ♪

SPEAKEASY The Space Rockers (9:30)

STUBB'S Free Week w/ Jessi Torissi, White Dress, the White Hotel ♪

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (8:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Naw Dude, Trasher, BSOM (6:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Ricky Stein, the Jocks

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

WATERLOO RECORDS 100 Monkeys (5:00) ♪

Z'TEJAS Dream Lovers (6:00)

THU 07

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ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS
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THE RUSTICATORS
ELVIS COSTUME and DANCE CONTEST!
Fri, Jan 8 @ 10
Ruta Maya

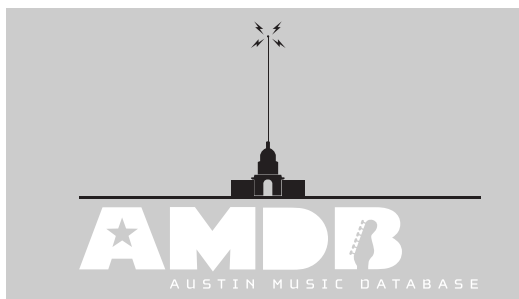
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 7-9PM
OLD FARTS EARLY
NEW YEAR'S EVE W/
CLEVE &
SWEET MARY
HATTERSLEY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 • 3PM
SUNSET VALLEY BOYS



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MONDAY, JANUARY 4
AUSTIN
CAJUN ACES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN
GALLAUGHER 8PM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
DANNY BRITT 7PM

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 9 PM • \$10
NEW YEAR'S EVE
SOUL SHAKEDOWN
 WITH
SOUL TRACK MIND
THE LOST SOUL REVUE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 • 10 PM •
BRYCE CLIFFORD
SLOWTRAIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 • 10 PM •
LEGS AGAINST ARMS
THE BAKER FAMILY
JOHN WILKES BOOTH AND THE BLACK TOOTH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 • 9 PM •
NIGHTY NIGHT
PUFF PUFF AND THE RECEIVERS
DEATH RATTLE ORCHESTRA
B. STERLING BAND

MONDAY, JANUARY 4 • 10 PM •
LEO RONDEAU
WOODSBOSS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 • 10PM •
CLYDE AND CLEM AND FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 • 9 PM •
BLACK HEART MOON (PORTLAND)
TREY BROWN
CARLEY WOLF AND THE HOWLS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 • 10 PM •
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NEW YEAR'S EVE
 W/ **THE HICKOIDS**
CHRIS GATES &
GATESVILLE
 (BIG BOYS, POISON 13)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE SCOOT INN
 PRIVATE EVENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 8PM
NIC WALKER
CHRIS NEWTON
JARRET KILLEN
SEAN MALONEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 9PM
CO-PILOT
GOLDEN CITIES (HOUSTON)
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SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 5PM
 & **TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 6PM**
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

INSIDE:
NEW YEAR'S EVE AT EMO'S
SCOTT H. BIRAM
THE BEAUMONTS
DARREN HOFF & THE HARD TIMES

EMO'S FREE WEEK JAN. 1- JAN. 10

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

OUTSIDE: **SMOKE & FEATHERS • CARTRIGHT**
THE ASTRONAUT SUIT • PALEO
 INSIDE: **UGLY BEATS • AMPLIFIED HEAT**
SHAPES HAVE FANGS • THE HI-TONES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

OUTSIDE: **HARLEM • WOVEN BONES**
THE STUFFIES • FUNGI GIRLS DOOR @8PM
 INSIDE: **GHOST KNIFE • MANIKIN • THE APE-SHITS**
SERIOUS TRACERS • THE VITAMINS DOOR @9PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

INSIDE:
MICHAEL KINGCAID (OF WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS)
FRANK SMITH • PRAYER FOR ANIMALS
CROOKS • WESTERN GHOST HOUSE DOOR @9PM
 OUTSIDE:
QUIET COMPANY • THE BOXING LESSON
CORTO MALTESE • MANY BIRTHDAYS
 INSIDE EARLY SHOW \$5/\$8 COVER: **CANDIDATE**
LA DISPUTE (NO SLEEP RECORDS - FROM MI)
NATIVE (SARGENT HOUSE RECORDS - FROM MI)
BROTHER/GHOST

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

OUTSIDE:
THE CARROTS • JC & CO. (MEMBERS OF VOXTROT)
COWABUNGA BABES • BEAR CLAW • LITERA-
TURE (MEMBERS OF MOTHFIGHT!) DOOR @9PM
 INSIDE: **BRAD'S BIRTHDAY BLOODFEAST**
CHILDREN IN HEAT (MISFITS TRIBUTE!)
DOLLS FROM THE CRYPT • FLASH BOYS
HOODRATS • SCRABBLE ROBOT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

OUTSIDE:
MUTATING MELTDOWN • DIAGONALS • LOW RED
CENTER • ELVIS • COMA IN ALGIERS DOOR @9PM
 INSIDE: **PATAPHYSICS • NO MAS BODAS**
THE GOSPEL TRUTH • HORSE + DONKEY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

OUTSIDE:
BROTHERS & SISTERS • THE LAUGHING
OVENBIRDS • OH NO OH MY DOOR @8PM
 INSIDE: **NEW DISASTER • BORN TO LOSE**
THE BULEMICS • 13TH VICTIM

COMING SOON: 1/19 (INSIDE) JEMINA PEARL • 1/20 (OUTSIDE) NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS: KORPIKLAANI, TYR, SWASHBUCKLE, WHITE WIZZARD, VESPERIAN SORROW
 • 1/22 (INSIDE) SCARY KIDS SCARING KIDS (FINAL TOUR EVER!) WITH SCARY KIDS SCARING KIDS, DANCE GAVIN DANCE, FIRE FROM THE GODS, THIEVES
 • 1/23 (OUTSIDE) FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS WITH THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR, (INSIDE) THE HOPE CONSPIRACY WITH BITTER END, EIGHTFIFTEEN, POWER TRIP
 • 1/24 DEADBOLT • 1/25 (OUTSIDE) VHI CLASSIC PRESENTS: ANVIL / BROKEN TEETH (OUTSIDE) ANVIL AFTERPARTY WITH GODSWILL • 1/27 (OUTSIDE) WINDS OF PLAGUE,
 DESPISED ICON, FOR TODAY, STRAY FROM THE PATH, THE WORLD WE KNEW, SET AFLAME • 1/28 (INSIDE) ALL THE DAY HOLIDAY WITH KINCH, CITY LIVES, SEARCHER
 • 1/29 (INSIDE) DEX ROMWEBER DUO, EKENE CERVENKA • 1/30 (INSIDE) DIXIE WITCH, HONKY DANNY BARNES, CORINNE ROSE, (INSIDE) EARLY SHOW: THE AUDITION, THE
 DANGEROUS SUMMER, SPARKS THE RESCUE, THE RIGHT COAST, THE STAMPEDE • 1/31 (OUTSIDE) 101X PRESENTS: BADFISH WITH SCOTTY DON'T, FULL SERVICE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

OUTSIDE: **JUNGLE ROCKERS • THE SKELETONS**
NICK CURRAN & THE LOWLIFES • THE SAND-
WORMS • HEART & SOUL SOUND SYSTEM
 (DJING IN BETWEEN SETS) DOOR @8PM
 INSIDE: **MOTHFIGHT! • YELLOWFEVER**
RED LEAVES • HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
THE EASTERN SEA DOOR @9PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

OUTSIDE: **THE CRACK PIPES • THE GOLDEN BOYS**
THE ROYAL BUTCHERS • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!
 INSIDE: **UME • SPEAK • THE AUTHORS • WHITE**
WHITE LIGHTS • THE ALWAYS ALREADY DOOR @9PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

OUTSIDE: **ATTAK (IN) FORMATION • TIA CARRERA**
BROKEN GOLD • THIS HORN OF AFRICA
ZORCH DOOR @9PM
 INSIDE: **THE HEX DISPENSERS • THE SINKS**
THE ALTARS • SHANGHAI RIVER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

OUTSIDE: **A GIANT DOG • BAD SPORTS**
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • ELVIS
 INSIDE: **RED X RED M • WOODGRAIN**
EAGLE CLAW • ODEZCO • EXPENSIVE SHIT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

OUTSIDE: **NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS**
BEHEMOTH
SEPTICFLESH • LIGHTNING SWORDS OF DEATH
PACK OF WOLVES DOOR @8PM
 INSIDE: **ADAM FRANKLIN**
& BOLTS OF MELODY
RINGO DEATHSTARR
MY EDUCATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

OUTSIDE: **THIS WILL DESTROY YOU**
LYMBIC SYSTEM • SLEEP WHALE
LOXSLY
 INSIDE: **CRUISERWEIGHT**
PARACHUTE MUSICAL
WICKED CELTICS
SEQUOYAH PREP SCHOOL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

OUTSIDE: **GOODIE MOB • SCARFACE**
 INSIDE: **101X HOMEGROWN LIVE PRESENTS:**
ZLAM DUNK
FRESH MILLIONS • THE COUCH
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

INSIDE: **NEVER SOLD OUT NEVER**
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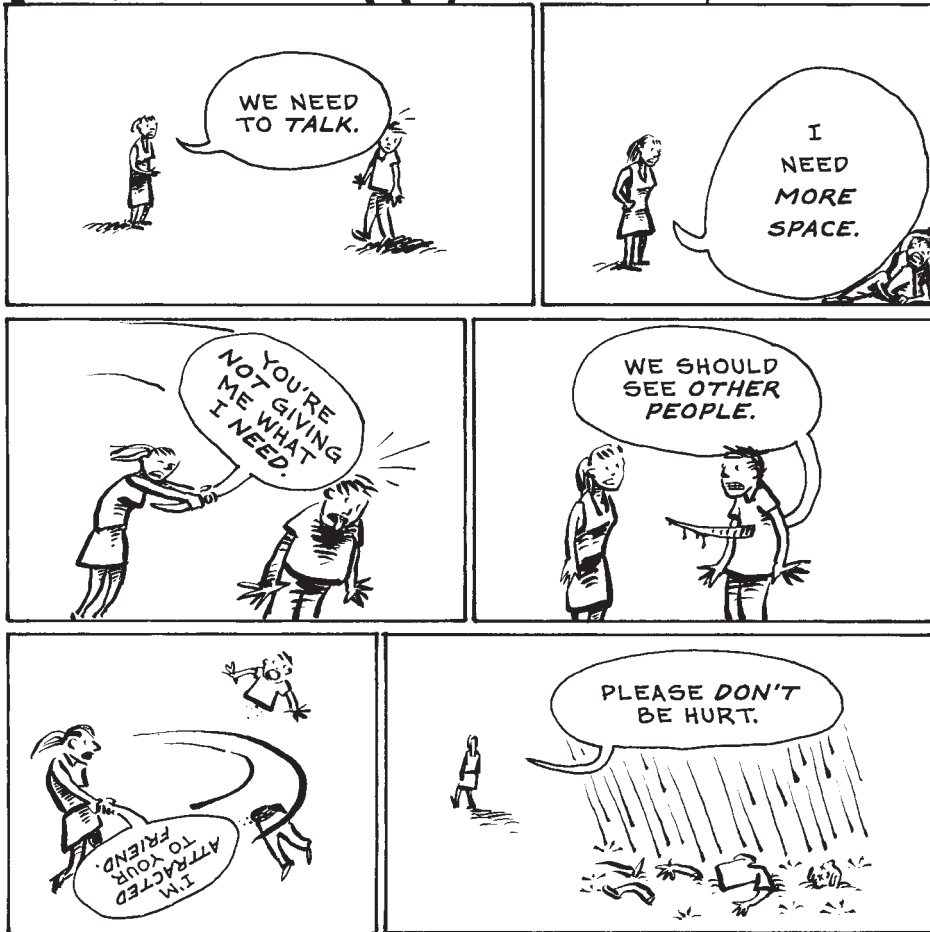
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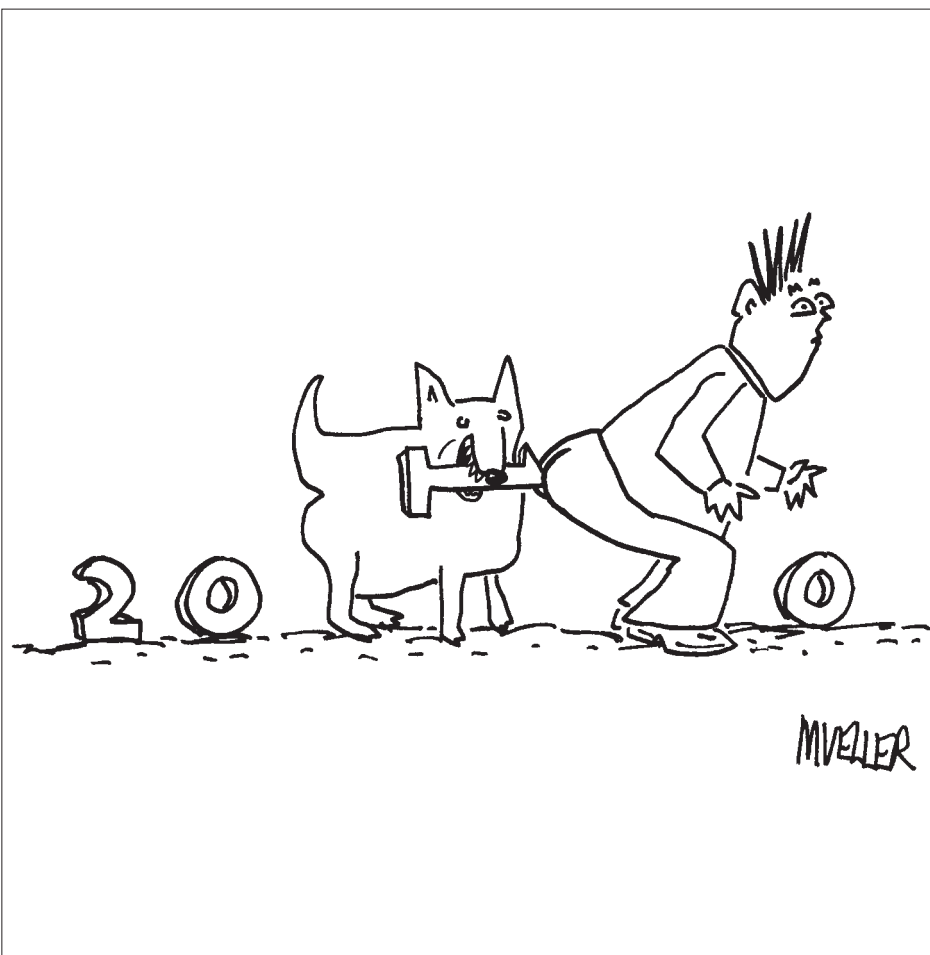
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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



In the 1920s, some women took "miracle pills" to make them thin. It turns out the pills were tapeworm eggs.

According to psychic Monte at WorldPsychic.org, "invisible lightning" will be discovered by 2010.

According to historian Francis Irving, in biblical times what we now consider east may have been north. Genesis 14:15 says Chovah was to the left of Damascus, but Chovah is north of Damascus.

Paleontologists Mark Goodwin and Jack Horner believe that several species of dinosaurs never existed. Instead, what have been considered unique species were in fact juvenile versions of other species.

According to psychic Craig Hamilton-Parker, Osama bin Laden will die in 2010.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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- Must be regular tobacco consumers who don't intend to quit
- 19 years of age or older, men and women
- Will attend up to 4 clinic visits and one 24-hour visit within a 37 day period

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CENTRAL Great deal in Crestview- small 1/1 house, W/D connections, wooden floors and vinyl in common areas and carpet in bedroom, gigantic yard! Cats and small dogs welcome! Great deal - \$895! 2107 Richcreek. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

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CENTRAL Hyde Park Cottage Community, spacious 2/2 duplex, CA/CH, all appliances, small fenced yard. Quiet neighbors! Cats & small dogs welcome! Laundry on property. \$1100. 4307-F Caswell. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Tarrytown, spacious 2-1 1/2 duplex, no common walls, bonus room (2nd dining or office), CA/CH, fireplace, fenced yard (mowed), all appliances, covered parking (!), indoor W/D connections, pet friendly, no indoor smoking. QUIET NEIGHBORS! \$1,100. 2804-B Warren. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

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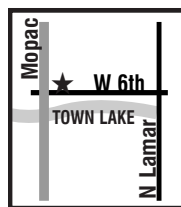
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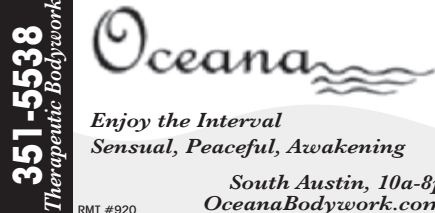


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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MELVIN LEE ROBERTS, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001732 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

FREDDIE LEON STANDLEY and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 18, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MELVIN LEE ROBERTS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 18, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO THE ATTENTION OF KAYANNE KENNEY: Erin Kennedy, Dependent Administrator of the Estate of Richard Kennedy (Applicant) has filed an Application for Sale of Real Property and an Application for Partial Distribution in the Estate of Richard Kennedy, Cause NO. C-1-PB-05-082609 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

You may obtain a copy of the Applications from the Records Department of the Travis County Clerk's Office by calling (512) 854-5282 or by contacting the Applicant's attorney, Judith DeBerry, phone (512) 427-1336, email address: deberryjlaw@swbell.net

You may object to the Application only by timely filing a written response with the Travis County Clerk's office. Your written objection should be filed prior to the date of the hearing. The earliest time that the Court could hear this matter will be at 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County,

Texas. You may inquire about the actual date and time of the hearing by calling the Court Coordinator of Travis County Probate Court No. 1 at 512-854-9258 or by contacting the Applicant's attorney Judith DeBerry. If you file a timely objection you may appear at the hearing (should you wish to do so) to contest the Applications.

If you elect to sign any waiver of citation that may be presented to you by the Applicants' attorney, you are indicating to the Court that you have no objection to the granting of the Applications. You should consult an attorney if you have any questions about your rights in this probate matter.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
By /s/M. Limon Deputy

NO. C-1-PB-09-000984 ES- TATE OF BERNARD AR- THUR HUGHES, DE- CEASED IN PROBATE COURT NO. ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of December, 2009, Letters of Administration upon the Estate of BERNARD ARTHUR HUGHES, Deceased, were issued to MORGAN JAMES HUGHES as Independent Administrator of said Estate, in proceedings in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, number C-1-PB-09-000984, and pending in said Court, and that he now holds such Letters.

All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same to the said MORGAN JAMES HUGHES, as Independent Administrator of said Estate, in care of his attorneys, at the post office address given below and within the time prescribed by law:

Marjorie S. Schultz & Associates
Attn: Kelly Graml
3401 Louisiana, Suite 380
Houston, Texas 77002

Dated the 16th day of December, 2009.

MARJORIE S. SCHULTZ & ASSOCIATES

BY KELLY E. GRAML

State Bar No. 24045968
Attorneys for Applicant
3401 Louisiana, Suite 380
Houston, Texas 77002
Telephone: (713) 521-3434
Telecopier: (713) 521-1633

NO. C-1-PB-09-001357 GUARDIANSHIP OF DONNA H. FLOWERS, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON IN THE PROBATE COURT NO. 1 OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE GUARDIANSHIP OF DONNA H. FLOWERS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of DONNA H. FLOWERS, An Incapacitated Person, were issued on the 18th day of December, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001357, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Robert C. Flowers, III. The residence of the Guardian is in Austin, Travis County, Texas and Guardian's mailing address is: ROBERT C. FLOWERS, III P.O. Box 8

Manchaca, Texas 78652
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.
ROBERT C. FLOWERS, III
BY: /S/ DAN R. MCNERY Attorney

State Bar No. 13836500
MCNERY & VOELKER, P.C.
101 E. Old Settlers Blvd.,
Suite 200B
Round Rock, Texas 78664
Phone: (512) 255-6940
Fax: (512) 255-6975

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE to be held at Aus-Tex Towing at 201 E. Braker Lane, Austin, TX, 78753 on 01/04/10 at 9AM.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT. THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS , AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

1988 CHEVY
1GNCS18ZJ0172213
2003 YAMAHA
LPRSA20A23A200901
2009 UTILITY TRAILER NO VIN #

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF TRICIA KENNEDY WAHL aka TRICIA KENNEDY as Independent Executor of the Estate of GLENN W. KENNEDY, Deceased

Pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, in Case Number C-1-PB-09-00-1504.

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE: WHEREAS, on the 24th day of November, 2009, in the Probate Court of Travis County, TRICIA KENNEDY WAHL aka TRICIA KENNEDY duly qualified as the Independent Executor of the Estate of GLENN W. KENNEDY, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary on this estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to TRICIA KENNEDY WAHL aka TRICIA KENNEDY, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF GLENN W. KENNEDY within the time prescribed by law. Any person indebted to said estate is hereby notified to pay same to TRICIA KENNEDY WAHL aka TRICIA KENNEDY, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF GLENN W. KENNEDY.

Address:
c/o DANIEL H. SCHULZE
Attorney for Tricia Kennedy
Wahl
630 FM 465 South
P.O. Box 745
Marion, TX 78124

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated location(s) to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285

9717 U.S. HWY 290 E

Austin, TX 78724

(512) 278-1220

Tuesday, 1-19-2010 @ 9:00AM

224 LaQuette Newsome: furniture, boxes

306 Lashaunda Price: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip

501 Doug Elliott: furniture, boxes, appliances, office equip

514 Jose Munoz: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

831 Rosalinda Cervantes: household goods, furniture

832 Shiela Gipson: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

2211 Deonka Ruffin: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

2243 Shymere Manson: furniture, other: sofa

2255 Lashauna Hicks: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78753

(512) 833-0855

Tuesday, 1-19-2010 @ 9:30AM

517 Ana Rodriguez: hshld gds, furn, boxes, tools

704 Romon Smith: hshld gds, boxes, tools, accounting rcdrs

717 Diana Garcia: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

758 Howard Ray Kirby III: hshld gds, boxes

912 Boyce Keaundra: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

948 Amanda Segura: furn, boxes

1411 Tom Holdridge: hshld gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

1620 Rob Dechant: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, off furn, construction materials

Uncle Bob's #276
2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664
(512) 310-0279

Tuesday, 1-19-2010 @ 10:00AM

114 Marcus Cardinali: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, TV's or stereo equip, office machines

2129 Tomie Gloria: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip
2210 Kasie Thompson: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, office furniture

2408 Chris Guerrero: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, landscaping equip, account records

4120 Lori Carlin: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

4130 Victor Truan, Jr.: couch(s), refrigerator, automotive tools, furniture, boxes

4219 Jennifer Asberry: furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

4406 Jeremy Buycy: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

5214 Thomas Tessmer: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip

5426 Daniel Garza: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

7115 Richard Phillips: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

7202 Erin Rollins: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

7306 Wilbur Abramson, Jr.: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, TV's or stereo equip, office equip

8111 Wesley Andrade: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, TV's or stereo equip

8130 Teresa Olivarez: boxes, office furniture, teacher supplies

8227 Miguel Zarco: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools

8232 Leonard Westra: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, TV's or stereo equip

9430 William Hulings; boxes

9513 Samantha Aleman: household goods, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

9655 Joel Contreras: household goods, furniture, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

9664 Ruben Trevino, Jr.: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr

Austin, TX 78729

(512) 336-8390

Tuesday, 1-19-2010 @ 9:00 a.m.

430 Isiah Tisdale: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, TV/stereo equip

1118 Judy Japp: furn

1304 Nicole Mosher: hshld gds, furn, boxes, construction equip

1312 Judy Zapp: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, TV/stereo equip, off equip

1722 Rebecca Batchelor: hshld gds, furn, boxes, TV/ stereo equip

1749 Donald Withrow: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip, accounting records

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South First Street

Austin, TX 78745

(512) 326-9696

Tuesday, 1-19-2010 @ 9AM

270 Joe Reese: hshld gds, furn, boxes

317 Rachel Ortiz: hshld gds, furn

382 Gabriel Loera: hshld gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/ stereo equip

2207 Christina Smith: hshld gds, furn, boxes

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 on January 16, 2010. A sale will be held at 12:00pm at A-A-A Storage 8956 Research Blvd. N. Austin, Phone 512-338-9900. A Sale will be held at 1:00pm at A-A-A Storage 10707 IH 35 North Austin, Phone 512-977-9777.**

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 tenant's storage spaces
#6406 Angela Garcia, furniture, household.

#6139 Elia Jaimes, Furniture.

#6109 Kirk Wiley, Lawn mower, household

#7022 Disan Rodriguez, Household

#7066 Edward Morones, Household

#5103 Kyle Nathons, Household.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Sunset Valley will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 19th day of January, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Special Use Applications:

1. An application submitted by the Sunset Valley Farmers Market for a Special Use Per-

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

MILEAGE RATING DISCREPANCIES EXPLAINED

Dear Tom and Ray:

Can you explain why equivalent cars sold in Europe get much better fuel economy compared with those sold in the U.S.? As an example, I was looking – I suppose out of boredom – at the Honda UK website. It shows the mileage for the Honda Jazz (which is called the Honda Fit here) at around 50 miles per gallon, just as is, off the showroom floor. It's not a hybrid version, just the regular car! The equivalent base model in the U.S. comes in somewhere in the 30s for miles per gallon. What's up? And yes, I know that an imperial gallon is slightly bigger than a U.S. gallon. But the 10% difference in volume alone cannot explain the discrepancy in mileage.

– Lawrence

TOM: Boy, you were bored, Lawrence!

RAY: There are several factors at work here. The first is, as you mention, the imperial gallon. The British use a gallon that is 20% larger than a U.S. gallon, not 10% larger. So right there, you increase the mileage rating by 20%.

TOM: The second factor is engine size. The base model Fit in the U.S. comes with a 1.5-liter engine. Because Europeans prize fuel economy over power, the base model Fit/Jazz in Europe comes with a 1.2-liter engine. That's true of a lot of cars sold in Europe. They often have smaller engine options not offered here.

RAY: And the third factor is the testing. The Environmental Protection Agency mileage tests here in the United States are more realistic. They were changed a few years ago to factor in things that real drivers do – like accelerate and turn on their air conditioners. European mileage tests are still less reflective of real-world driving.

TOM: Add it all up, and the same car can get a combined rating of 53 miles per gallon across the pond and 31 over here.

RAY: Hey, if we send my brother over there, would his IQ rating be higher?

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you'll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Glack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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continued

legal notices

mit to operate a Farmer's/Artisan Market on city property adjacent to the Toney Burger Center on North Pillow Road.

2. An application submitted by Carla Jenkins for a Special Use Permit to operate a Farmer's/Artisan Market on city property adjacent to the Toney Burger Center on North Pillow Road.

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All written comments must be received by 3:00 p.m., on or before Friday, January 15, 2010.

The application on each of the Special Use Permits may be examined at the office of the Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours.

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted at City Hall, 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas, on the 31st day of December 2010.
Rae Gene Greenough
Acting City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Oraneco, 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 13th of January 2010 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

Wednesday, January 13th 2010.

AV0114 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 RECEIVE 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 14, 2010 @ 9:30 AM

@ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT.,

4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

095068885	1999	CHEV	PK	59CHJ4	TX	1G0CE19R4XR122726
095068887	1983	VOLV	SW	F23JPW	TX	YV1AX885XD1462011
095068894	1986	CHEV	PK	KE7724	TX	1G0C0C14HXGF419205
095069092	1996	MAZD	4DR	KZR652	TX	1YVGE22C3T5539393
095069094	1994	NISS	4DR	724CYP	TX	JN1HJ01F8RT230273
095069096	1991	CADI	2DR	VYH33S	TX	1G6V3R388MU100279
095069106	1994	CHEV	CP	N74GMH	TX	2G1WN14TOR9126358
095069116	1997	VOLK	4DR	999KJB	TX	3VWRA81HOVM043732
095069117	2005	NISS	PK	WLB373	TX	1N6AD06U25C452649
095069123	1994	FORD	2DR	X93JPY	TX	KNJLT05HXR6104490
095069811	1987	PLYM	4DR	N93PXD	TX	1P3BM18C1HD637811
095069814	2008	DODG	4DR	BRH755	TX	1B3LC56K38N106050
095069817	1985	CHEV	LL	3ZS255	TX	1G8CK16L3FF157528
095070441	1991	BUIC	SW	9709755	IL	1G4AH84N7M6405286
095070443	1990	FORD	4DR	882XXL	TX	1FACP54Y8LA246448
095070447	1994	TOYT	LL	774SDW	TX	4T1GK12W2RU022311
095070448	1996	BUIC	4DR	850BJM	TX	2G4WB52M1T1494987
095070452	1992	MAZD	4DR	P10FPP	TX	JM1BG2247N0495045
095070598	1991	CHEV	VN	HNJ183	TX	2GBEG25K2M4147859
095070603	1993	TOYT	4DR	NXZ335	TX	RT1SK11EXP201020
095071251	1998	CHEV	LL	548BBY	TX	1GNCS13W1W2100402

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0006 JOSEPH AVALON, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE
0225 JOHN MURPHY, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, BOXES
0237 SYLVIA VAQUERA, BEDDING
0265 KIMBERLY D WHITE,

SCOOTERS, POOL TABLE, FURNITURE

0406 MELISSA BRADSHAW, FURNITURE, BOXES, TOTES
0453 JOSHUA BOSTICK, BOXES, TV, FURNITURE

0603 AUSTIN MICHAEL JONES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

B056 MARY CASTILLO, BOXES, BABY CAR SEAT, BED
E129 STEVE LOPEZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

J282 ANDREW ZAMORA, BEDDING

K288 ERIC REYNA, HAND DOLLY, FURNITURE, BOXES
L344 MICHAEL VASQUEZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

M374 LEE ANN PRIMEAU, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, BOXES

N425 SAMUEL HERNANDEZ, BOXES, TRUNK, LIGHTS

R551 MATT WHETSTONE, FURNITURE, BEDDING, BOXES

R555 JAMES LAWLER, TOOL BOX, FLOOR JACK, TOOLS
U611 ANNA MARIE TAMEZ, BOXES, TOTES

U618 ALEX SUNIGA, TOOL BOXES, BOXES, TABLE
V706 LISA LYNN FRY, BOXES, BAGS, CLOTHING

W783 AMY SLEGGERS, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

C20 ANGELA DEANGELO, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

E10 FRANCES DAVILA, BOXES, DRUMS, FURNITURE
F4 ROBERT G RENTERIA, COMPUTER, LAMP BOXES

F42 ROLANDO GOMEZ, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
J18 DEBRA FIGUEROA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

J30 REBECA CLANTON, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE
J38 RAYMOND RENDON JR, YARD TOOLS, LAWN FURNITURE, BOXES

J62 RAYMOND GRIFFIS, BOXES, COMPUTER, REFRIGERATOR
K2 MARY LESLIE MCNAUGHTON, TRUNKS, BOXES, TOTES

K7 SONYA MEDINA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
K19 GINGER FLORES, BOXES, BEDDING, FURNITURE

K40 HERBERT ALLEN, BOXES, FURNITURE, REFRIGERATOR
K67 MONIKA POWELL, BEDDING, TABLE

L24 ANGIE BARRIENTOS, BOXES, TOTES, FILING CABINETS
M31 SARAH RAYAS, BBQ, HAND DOLLIES, FURNITURE

M60 JOHNNY ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, WASHER, DRYER, FURNITURE
10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

134 MICHAELA VILLENEUVE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
350 KAYLA BAILEY, TOTES

553 HUGH PICKETT, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
647 MICHAEL ROSENFELD, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

712 DON RHOADES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

1042 TERRANCE HORTON, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

1109 TRACEY WARG, BOXES, FURNITURE
2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, BEDDING, BOXES, TOTES

2066 FABIAN SOTO, BOXES, FURNITURE, GUITAR
2083 TERRY TRISTAN, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

2138 APRIL KING, BOXES, BAGS, BEDDING
3020 KIM WHALIN, BOXES, BAGS

3026 NORMAN EDWARDS, WASHER, DRYER, COMPUTER
3069 NINA SAPEDA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3093 AMBER CUNNINGHAM, TOTES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
11:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B030 SERGIO LEJARAZU, PARTY SUPPLIES, MOONWALK
C090 RAY VERASTEGUI, TOTES, FURNITURE

C210 MARLANA LIVELY, FURNITURE
C273 SYLVIA MURRAY, BOXES, TOTES

C279 CHELSEA FORCEY, BAGS, TOTES
C311 MARCIANA SANTILAN, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

D009 GERALD GERHARDT, TOYOTA SCION
11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1088 MICHAEL COUGHLAN, BOXES, TABLE, FILING CABINET

1098 AMY GARCIA, FURNITURE, BEDDING
2101 NATALIE BELL, SPEAKERS, CHAIR, BAGS

11:45 a.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US HWY 290W, Austin, TX 78735

1306 STACY FULMER, HAND DOLLY, LADDERS, BOXES
4288 ASHLEY LUCE, FURNITURE, BEDDING, BAGS

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

1027 JASON SHIELDS, BOXES
2052 RUBY MEDINA, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

3121 JOSEPH DRIGGERS, ELECTRIC ORGAN, KEYBOARD, FURNITURE
4022 GARY DICKSTEIN, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

12:15 p.m. Public Storage @ 6726 Bee Cave RD, Austin, TX 78746

7137 DIANE KLOSTER, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
8076 DONALD WAGECK, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 3911 Ranch Road FM 620 S Bee Cave, TX 78738

1208 BRIDGET NOACK, FURNITURE, SPEAKERS, BOXES
1252 JACQUELINE KOELM, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

1255 GERALD DEWOLFE, ELECTRONICS, GUITAR CASES, GOLF CLUBS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, BEN WHITE MINI STORAGE located at 405 E. BEN WHITE BLVD, AUSTIN, TX 78704, POND SPRINGS MINI STORAGE located at 13444 POND SPRINGS ROAD, AUSTIN, TX 78729 and MOPAC SELF STORAGE located at 12900 N. MOPAC, AUSTIN, TX 78727 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Auction to begin at **10:00 A.M., Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at BEN WHITE to be followed by an auction after 11:00 A.M., January 19 at POND SPRINGS MINI STORAGE and concluded by an auction at 12:00 P.M. at MOPAC**

SELF STORAGE. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Property in each space may be sold item by item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following:

BEN WHITE: Robert Powell, Mailene Lung, Katrina Carleton, Shawn Smith, Samuel Garcia Jr., Stephen Davis, Michael Lozano, La-shay Thomas, Kerry Tucker, Jessica James, Rafael Garcia POND SPRINGS: Scott Pattison, Thomas White, Jose Cuevas, Melissa Riley, Brittany Hunt, Jessica Cohen MOPAC: Christie Klam

Sale items to include: furniture, fake X-mas tree, radio, computer, fish tank, trading cards, yard equipment, washer/dryer, extension ladder, antique machinery, misc boxes, children's items, lamps, TV, mini fridge, golf clubs, tool box, speaker, dishes, couches, table, china cabinet, desk, chairs, fridge, ping pong table, toys, tote bags, futon

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Delinquent Tenants

PS Oraneco, 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 14th of January 2010 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

Thursday January 14, 2010 9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1024 EDWARD SWIETEK, BOXES, FURNITURE
2036 SCOTT WEDGE, FILING CABINETS, BOXES, FURNITURE

2053 KATHLEEN ATWOOD, BOXES, FURNITURE, BAGS
3093 BRIANA DELLYN MEDEARIS, BEDDING, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

3181 IVANA SORRELL, BOXES
4154 TORIE DANIELS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

5045 JASON MOORE, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOTES
5046 DOMONICA IVORY, BIKES, COMPUTER, FURNITURE

5132 DONNA PHARR, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, BOXES
5180 KANDYCE BOYD, BOXES, TOTES, CLOTHING

5191 CHRIS CARR, CLOTHING, BOXES, BAGS
9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

1051 KENYA D DAVIS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
1059 ANTOINE BROWN, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

2049 MONICA A. LEYBA, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOTES
3037 VERONICA LEE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3051 DELBERT TOINS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3054 VICKIE ANDREWS, BAGS, BOXES, TOTES

3080 CELESTE SARABIA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
3097 UNLIMITED SPRINKLER FIRE PROTECTION INC, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

5034 JOHN BOSTON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
5071 TIFFANY SUTTON, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

7028 RAMON VILLANUEVA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
8007 JASON VILLARREAL, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOTES

8023 JORGE VILLANUEVA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

B044 LARRY THOMPSON, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
B091 IAN C. BIDOT, BICYCLE, BOXES, FURNITURE

B131 GUILLERMO GOMEZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
C003 TROY DAVIS, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C010 ERIC VERRA, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING
C024 JOHN ALTON SAILORS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C029 STEVE SCHWARTZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
C092 MICHAEL THOMAS, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS, BOXES

D028 KATHRYN BROWN BURLESON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
G014 NEAL NEUNHOFFER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

H010 JAMES WILLIE 3RD MERCER, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS
10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reiniil, Austin, TX., 78751

188 SONIA BAWA SIPRA C/O DR. NAIM SIPRA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
193 ARA WILLIAMS, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

217 HOLLY RENAY DANIELS, BOXES, REFRIGERATOR, TOYS
239 SEAN PAUL KELLEY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

423 JOHN GIBSON, BOXES, FURNITURE
530 FOREST COOK, BOXES, FURNITURE

634 SHANTEL FISHER, BOXES, BEDDING
627 FRANK HUBERT, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

724 FOREST COOK, BOXES
752 LINDA GRAY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

753 HARRY HUNTER, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING
785 ANGEL PAZ, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

787 ERIKA TAYLOR, FURNITURE
830 FOREST COOK, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

913 FOREST COOK, BOXES, FURNITURE
11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

120 PERRY HEMPHILL, BOXES, TOYS, BAGS
174 MARGIE RAY, BOXES, FURNITURE, BAGS

223 TERRY PRICE, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE
251 JACORI VIENS, APPLIANCES, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

400 MONIQUE TOWNSEND, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOYS
447 ROSE LEE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

464 ERIC HARVEY, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS
1042 SARA EMAMI, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1325 RAY MENN, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, BAGS
1416 MCARTHUR SMALL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3077 JOHN GONZALES, FURNITURE, BAGS, BOXES
3166 LATASHA POLAND, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

N2227 BRIAN BODINE, BEDDING, BOOKS, BOXES
N2286 SERGHEL GOMEZ, BOXES, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

TRONICS
N2406 NOELANI FOX, BOXES, FURNITURE, PIANO

N2417 CHRISTINA CARPENTER, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A020 TIM THIEL, BOXES, TOTES, ELECTRONICS

A046 RONALD KEITH GREENESS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES
B072 FAITH SALAZAR, BAGS, BOXES, TOTES

C061 JOHNNY LOPEZ, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

D045 MADAN RAO, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

G016 FRANCISCO BENITZ LOPEZ, ELECTRONICS, BAGS, TOTES

H045 ISAAC AVALOS, 1987 MERCEDES 560SEL VIN#CA39D2HA314***

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

B028 WILFRED AGUILAR, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

D023 LEVERET FRANKLIN, BOXES, BAGS, BEDDING

E001 LILLIE PIPER, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

E014 ESTELLE CHRISTEN, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E122 SHANNON SANDERS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E123 MELVIN BELL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

E131 ZENDA RIVERS, BEDDING, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

1:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

B066 LISA NIETO, FURNITURE, BABY TOYS

C080 JAMES WALSH JR., BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

C092 GABRIEL JONES, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

C095 JONNA TUTTLE, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D034 STEPHANIE MCFARLIN, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOTES

E033 TIA SCOTT, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS
E057 DALTON MCGAFFNEY, BAGS, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

E088 HAGEN JAMES, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS

1:30pm Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

A029 DEBRA BISHOP, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

B107 MARSHALL BOWLING, FURNITURE, GOLF CLUBS

B111 NORMA GONSALVEZ, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C321 IAN DEHORNEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C353 FERNANDO SOTO, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS, WASHER/DRYER

C375 DUSTY DREWRY, TOTES, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

C422 MORGAN ALAN GAITHER, BOXES, CLOTHING

C453 WILLIAM JOKIMAKI, FURNITURE, BEDDING

D516 ANGELA POCORABA, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

D517 ANGELA POCORABA, FURNITURE, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

D593 BOB MONTEZ, EXERCISE BIKES

D634 JUAN MARTINEZ, FURNITURE

2:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2066 MELISSA RODRIGUEZ, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

A056 ADRIAN CLARK, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

C009 WENDY LISTER, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

D031 KIMBERLY S MCGILL, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

G015 JOHN HENDERSON, BOXES, FURNITURE, CABINET

G017 DENISE TREVINO, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

2:30pm Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

3015 CHRISTOPHER JONES, BOXES, TOTES, BAGS

3098 RICHARD TOVAR, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3100 MICHELLE DOUGLASS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

4045 FAIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT***PIA***, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

A008 ROBERT MONROE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D011 JOANNA RUSSELL-DYSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:00pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0106 JERI BAYLOR, BAGS, BOXES, FURNITURE

0442 MEGAN PLANT, FURNITURE, BEDDING, BAGS

0522 MICHELLE ROSASCHI, BOXES, BEDDING, TOYS

1128 CURTIS DOUGHERTY, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

1176 MICHELLE ROSASCHI, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

3:30pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

1117 MARVIN HARRIS, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

1179 DONNESHIA JONES, BOXES, TOTES, TOOLS

6112 GARY MICHAEL TAFF, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

7142 NICCOLLE FREDERICK, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

8146 DANIEL BIRD, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

8182 ASUQWO EKENE, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

9106 LARRY HATZFELD, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOTES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the INSTALLATION OF A TOUCH SCREEN SECURITY SYSTEM FOR TCCC BUILDING 2 (140) AND 3 (160) (IFB No. B100088DG), will be received electronically through www.bidsync.com and/or hardcopy. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 P. M. CST, JANUARY 19, 2010, then publicly opened and read aloud. Travis County will also accept paper bids received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, marked "Sealed Bid (PROJECT NAME, IFB No. B100088DG)" at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of paper bids.

You may print the Plans and Specifications from www.bidsync.com or they can be obtained in the Travis County Purchasing Office. Hard copies (printed) of Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Travis County Purchasing Office for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County." The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. In addition, Plans and Specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms listed below.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2010 AT 2:00 P.M., C.S.T. at the 3614 BILL PRICE ROAD, DEL VALLE, TX.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. IF A COPY OF THE BID SECURITY IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH WWW.BIDSYNC.COM, AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY WILL BE DUE (BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS) ONE BUSINESS DAY AFTER THE BID OPENING DATE. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidders should use lump sum pricing.

IF THE CONTRACTOR FAILS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IN THE WORKING DAYS SPECIFIED, LIQUIDATED DAMAGES OF \$450.00 PER DAY OF DELAY WILL BE ASSESSED.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Travis County Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Lee Brandt, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001665, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Caroline Dorothy Arnold Brandt. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Robert Lee Brandt, Deceased

c/o Walter C. Guebert
Walter C. Guebert, PC.
5900 Balcones Drive,
Suite 190
Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 22nd day of December, 2009.

WALTER C. GUEBERT, PC.
By: /s/ Walter C. Guebert

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Matakis, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2009, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001635, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Barbara J. Matakis.

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 December 22, 2009.

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters testamentary for the ESTATE OF JOANNE STRAUSS, deceased, were issued on December 22, 2009, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001441, ESTATE OF JOANNE STRAUSS, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to JANA STRAUSS KLEISER, Independent Executor, c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Texas 78750-1832. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED December 22, 2009.

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Matakis, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2009, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001635, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Barbara J. Matakis.

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 December 22, 2009.

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters testamentary for the ESTATE OF JOANNE STRAUSS, deceased, were issued on December 22, 2009, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001441, ESTATE OF JOANNE STRAUSS, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to JANA STRAUSS KLEISER, Independent Executor, c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Texas 78750-1832. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED December 22, 2009.

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

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1996 Mercedes E320 - 70k, clean as a pin. Gold, parchment leather, can trade, warranty, \$6,950.

1997 Olds Aurora - this luxury car is a one owner, loaded with leather, and only 119k. Has some hail dents, but drives perfectly, and just went through our rigorous check. \$2,495 with a full warranty.

1999 Toyota Solara coupe, gorgeous red, leather, sun roof, \$4,950, warranty.

1998 Lexus SC300 coupe. Wow, what a car. Just a gorgeous classic. \$6,950. 1998 Camry, 4dr., LE, brand new engine rebuild, with new timing belt, oil pump, all bearings, seals, rings etc etc. Clean, 130k mileage car, with one year warranty.

2001 Honda Civic Ex, 4 dr., with only 43k miles. Super clean, nice, one year warranty, can trade. \$5,500.

2001 Toyota Tundra, auto, x-cab. 64,000 miles. Had cosmetic damage to front, in process of readying, just a beautiful truck. Can trade, warranty, \$7,500.

2002 Solara convertible, has minor hail dents, but clean, drives super, warranty. \$3,550. Needs new rear window - blow-out price! Can trade. Warranty? What do you think!

2002 Nissan Xterra, loaded with leather, really clean with ONLY 20,000 miles! Can trade...Warranty? Of course. \$9,950.

2007 Subaru Forrester, auto, 53,000 miles. This car took a really light hit to the rear and we are in the process of repairing it. Clean as a pin. Brand new tires. Can trade, \$9,950.

2004 XA Matrix, 4 door, 70K miles. Can trade. Warranty. Auto AT, \$6950

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cars

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2000 COROLLA 4dr, only 77k. Minor hail dents. New motor. Warranty. \$4500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2000 LEXUS RX-300, had a minor ding at right rear quarter. Ready now. Stunning with 103k miles. Can trade and warranty. \$8500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2001 MERCEDES SLK-230, red, nice, can trade, warranty. \$7950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2002 CIVIC four-door, auto 92k, one year warranty. Clean, nice, \$6550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2003 TACOMA 4dr, Crew cab, auto, 82,000 miles, light hail. Clean, warranty. \$10,550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2005 NISSAN "Nismo" 4WD Xtra cab pickup. 53k miles. Can trade, nice. \$13,950. Full warranty. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

2008 HONDA FIT 2800 miles (Yes, 2800 miles!) Auto, full factory warranty. Can trade. \$14,950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotatx.com

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1" Buttons- Upload your art

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TASTES LIKE CANDY

Still haven't found what I am looking for. [tasteslikecandy](#), 46,  #132022


WET AND HORNY

looking for dominate much much older male 50 plus for discreet en counters. Loved to be spanked and teased. [hotneasy](#), 24, #131716

LONELY NURSE

I am new to the area and will only be here till the first of the year. just looking for some discreet fun to kill the time. [babybluess26](#), 39, #131689


SENSUAL KISSER LOVER

I am a 37 year old woman who wants nothing more than to spend time with someone that I can call on when I want it! I am pretty simple... [boytoywanter](#), 37,  #131255


ORGASM?

I have many fantasies. I want you to teach me and tell me how. 23 years old, 5'4", 110 lbs, very cute and willing. [LittleLady](#), 23, #131233


SUBMISSIVE SEEKS MASTER

I'm 26 years old and love being a submissive to a knowledgeable dominant male. I am untrained but have enough brains to know how to respect my Dom/Master. [kinkyken-dra69](#), 26,  #131116


DOMME SEEKS SUB

For consideration you must include a face pic. Replies with NO pic or DICK pics will be DELETED. To get MY attention you must also say MORE than ONE-LINE. [MistressZann](#), 49,  #130836


ELMO LOVER

I'm a girl who just wants a lot of fun and wild things into my life. [lovalibella12](#), 20,  #130651

SENSUAL IRISH EYES

I am a very sensual, uninhibited, hedonistic woman!! love sex. I love men, singly and plurally. I write erotica, and I'm damn good at it! Meeting people and learning new things; I'm an adventurous free spirit. [irisheyes417](#), 52,  #130532


SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to befriend and maybe more. [Willow1113](#), 18,  #129849


SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION

Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. [burlyqgirl](#), 25, #128939


MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. [litred](#), 31,  #128782


IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. [austinpartygurl1985](#), 24,  #119045


COUPLE LOOKING

a married couple looking. [nice-couple27](#), 27,  #132146


PLAY WITH US

Married Couple looking for women 41(her) 44(him). We are hwp, attractive, ddf,drama free. We like to watch and be watched. Seeking woman to share erotic adventures. Age 25-50 HWP Caucasian, Latin. [seekingfun1](#), 45,  #132126


LETS ENJOY PARADISE

The only part incomplete is you. (a loving and committed bisexual woman) My love has been longing for that special woman to join us in our piece of Texas paradise. [paradisefound](#), 37,  #132031


COUPLESEEKTHREESOME

Open minded couple seeking a female for threesome. First time tried anything like this but open to new experiences. No strings attached, discrete one time thing. [3sCompany](#), 22,  #132020


CUTIE = 3

We are looking for a cutie to come play for some laughs and naughtiness. we are attractive, very easy going and really know how to have a good time! [MrDestructo_and_CatastropheGirl](#), 29,  #132001


NO CLOTHES NECESSARY

It's not that hard. We'll either want to have sex with you or not. Turning down someone and being turned down by someone is not that big of deal. [VeloSexy](#), 30,  #131915

WELCOME TO PARADISE

Your happiness lives in the country and we're looking for a single bisexual woman that would like to join us in Paradise. Your dreams for joy are patiently here waiting. [cplnparadise](#), 37,  #131827


COUPLE SEEKING PLAYMATE

Secure couple seeking a fun, sexy friend. She is bi, he's straight. [funlovincouple](#), 35,  #131822


STRIP POKER!

We are looking for a fun women to hang out with and see what fun we can get into. We want to start slow and break the ice. first time. [mtaus-tin30](#), 29,  #131684


LITTLEPEOPLEBIGBANG

We are a "short persons" couple looking to get involved in some of Austin's most erotic group action it has. We put the "geeeerrrr" in swinger. [SugarNSpice](#), 39,  #131459


SEXY BLACK COUPLE

Sexy black couple looking for a woman to please us both. Almost anything goes. Just want to have a whole lots of fun!!!!!! [wnepes](#), 24,  #131382


DOWNTOWN DREAM COUPLE

Looking 4 sexy, drama-free, anything goes fun with a single lady or couple, specifically no-strings horny sexy fem we can spoil and fuck and possibly even travel with! [sexyloftlovers](#), 31,  #131373


YOU MAKES THREE

Couple seeking another female for some discreet fun. We're open minded but looking for the right person. Him - 31, fit, dom, and her - 39, average/curvy, sub/vers. [hisnher](#), 33,  #131257


OPEN-MINDED, SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married couple that loves to meet new people and make friends! We always play together and never force chemistry. Feel free to ask any questions. [curiousbikers](#), 27,  #131117


SENSUAL, PLEASURE LOVING

Looking for some friends to just hang out and watch a movie or do something a little more enjoyable.. Love sensual touch but also like biting sometimes too. RAWWWW~. [Thmper](#), 37,  #132137

FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? [femaleforme](#), 34,  #131835


A WET TREAT

I am 28, sexy and looking for someone who knows how to use their hands and mouth well. Let's see how juicy I can get!!! [austinkristal](#), 28,  #131787


HOTTIE SEEKING NAUGHTY

Happy in relationship with boyfriend, just curious for some girl on girl.. Have only been with one girl- often daydream about it. [temptress](#), 26,  #131370


PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIAN-BEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man; couples considered. I'm very open-minded, feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STD-Free. [Asian-Orchid](#), 24,  #131487


SEXY COLLEGE GRAD

Lonely sextpot seeks hot couple to bring fantasy to reality. Want a non-jealous couple to let me enjoy both at the same time. [youngnsexy](#), 24,  #131182

YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know...ava 18. [bossgurl45](#), 19,  #129789


MANPLEASURER

Love men of all types...just want to do whatever makes you moan with joy...! [OverEasy](#), 29,  #131200


HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger. 46yrs. [antonio_3638](#), 45,  #118402


CONTRASTING COLORS

Black Male in the Austin area. Discreet if need be, with an incredible labido. I am oral, endowed and always ready for fun. Open to single women, couples, multiple women. [chocolatefun](#), 44,  #117982


LOOKING FOR FUN

Looking for no strings fun and wanting to explore. Am a little bi-curious. [Tgun](#), 38,  #131470

PARTY ANIMAL

hello ladies, im an attractive latino from colombia love to please women any race, im looking for ladies to have some adventures once a month and discreet. [latinlover4u](#), 34,  #131378


READY TO PLAY

I ready to do some exploration but not alone. Who wants to play? [Stiff_Breez](#), 37,  #131318


BLONDE T-GIRL TOP

Hot Blonde T-girl likes to "Dance and Prance". Seeking Hot "Athletic Model" type boys to work the Floor with. I like Muscles or lean. You will like All of me. [BlondeHottie](#), 35,  #101055


HOT AND HORNY

Toned hard body cross dresser and exhibitionist. Do you have somewhere I can perform for you? [jackie69](#), 45,  #101254


A MUSE ME

I will be in town Dec 27th and am looking for a sweet, sexy affectionate woman with a passionate side that is aching to be explored. [Squidbanana](#), 38,  #132132


LOOKING NSA FRIEND

Married man not getting what he needs at home looking for hot lady for DISCREET long term relationship. [ruine123](#), 33,  #132095

LOVER, MISCHIEF MAKER

I seek a wild adventure, a night around Austin causing mischief, an impromptu evening exploring forbidden sensual experiences. I am looking for a discrete relationship with a like minded individual. [wick-edCowboy](#), 42,  #132084

FIT, FUN, FANTASTIC

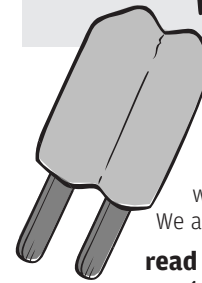
Just got into town, looking for a/ some female/s to have fun with. Lets meet up, see if there's a spark. I'm 5'9", 160 lbs, muscular, great stomach, amazing stamina. [lets_have_fun](#), 21,  #132071

free!

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Flavor of the Week



seekingfun1 Age: 45
Play with Us PLEASE

Secure Fun Married Couple looking for women to play. We are 41(her) and 44(him). We are hwp, attractive, ddf, n/s and drama free.

read the rest of **SEEKINGFUN1's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet



GET ON THE LIST & GET THE LUV DOC ALL UP IN YOUR INBOX EVERY WEEK

austinchronicle.com/luvdoclist

When the big ball drops Thursday night, the Aughts will become the shoulda's. You're probably planning on spending the evening in quiet, contemplative thought, torturing over the mishaps and missed opportunities of the last decade. There are certainly lessons to be learned. For instance: Presidents of the United States should at least be able to maintain a B average ... even at Yale ... even if they're cheerleaders. In retrospect that doesn't seem to be too much to ask, but sometime in the last decade a lot of people went to the polls thinking that if below average was good enough to sell Amway, drive a semi, work a backhoe, or maintain a plumber's crack, it should work fine for the Oval Office too. Turns out they were dead wrong. Sadly, a lot of their sons and daughters didn't have the luxury of being wrong. They were just dead. George Bush and the extended Bush family didn't contribute any of their bloodline to that corpse pile, nor did most of the rich people in America ... nor will they ever. Happily, some rather major advances were made in robot technology in the last decade that are allowing more and more soldiers to pull joysticks instead of triggers. Increasingly, robots and robotic technology are being used on the front lines of the war on terror. The day may soon (perhaps already has?) come when the son of a drywall mudder from Round Rock will be able to fly a remote-control nanobot up Osama bin Laden's nose

The Luv Doc

The Gourds New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball • Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm • The Independent at 501 Studios • 501 N. I-35
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which will burrow its way to his heart in a matter of minutes. So we have that to look forward to ... as well as all of its terrifying potential abuses. We also learned that when it comes to being abusive, America is in the Top 10 with a bullet. We are, it would seem, some sadistic motherfuckers, given the right circumstances. Actually, we always have been. We just forgot. Vietnam was quite a while ago, and all the guys who beat the shit out of captured Nazis after World War II are mostly dead. We shouldn't have been surprised about renditions or waterboarding or prisoner abuse though. It's hard to find people who are willing to kill people, get shot at, and simultaneously maintain compassion, empathy, and understanding for their enemies. Maybe we can build a robot for that, or maybe we shouldn't try. We also found out in the last decade that we can be blithely incompetent. We crashed a space shuttle, botched a hurricane relief effort, and most recently sent the world economy into a tailspin because we let the greedheads run amok in the world of finance. Now we're 10% unemployed and in the hole for trillions of dollars - most likely to the Chinese. In 2000 we had a \$230 billion surplus. Right now the deficit is \$1.84 trillion. That's a \$2 trillion swing. Every man, woman, and child are roughly eight grand in the hole. Oh where are you now charming Billy? Leaving out those under the age of consent for rhetorical purposes, you'd be hard pressed to find many average Americans who wouldn't Lewinski the prez for eight large ... at least on the DL, and you have to figure by now Clinton has learned to keep his mouth shut. At least the Chinese are now making enough money to be the largest new-car market in the world. They also will be pumping out an unprecedented amount of greenhouse gases, so your Hyde Park bungalow might end up being beachfront property in the next 10 years. If only you could go in the sun for more than a few minutes without being riddled with basal cell carcinomas. Yes, all of this sounds pretty bleak, but there's hope. It said so right there on the Obama campaign poster. In fact, the future's so bright you might be blinded if you look directly into it. Starting on Jan. 1, America is going to begin building a new, green economy that will create millions of new jobs and lead to unprecedented prosperity. This new prosperity will foster social, physical, intellectual, and spiritual enlightenment that will end all war, conflict, and suffering throughout the world. That's the thing about the future: You can't say it won't happen. One thing that will be happening (if it's not already in the past when you read this) is the Gourds New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball at the Independent. If history tell us anything, it's that people really get their freak on when they feel anonymous, and unless you're one of those people who dresses up in real life, this should be a great opportunity to experiment with being something you're not. You might even get to do someone you're not, too. Plus, you'll be benefiting the brave new world, because the proceeds benefit the YMCA Partner of Youth Campaign, which provides financial assistance for programs and services to deserving Austin families.


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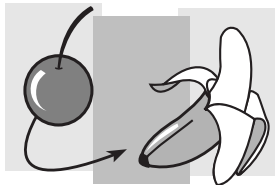
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CURVY, NERDY, LATINA

Looking for someone cool to chill with. Love classic films, reading and wine. Spending time in Austin and going out for drinks is the best. Lots of smiles and laughs. **savvyjax**, 21, #132178

INTELLIGENT RED HAIR

Looking for good conversation and close encounters. Drug/Disease free seeking same. 37 yo, needing friendly relationship with single, divorced, widowed non commitment seeking intelligent gentleman. **strawberryddd**, 37, #132165

BAD LUCK

Im moderately modified, kind, crazy, sweetheart, sex fiend, southerner, not ugly, looking for longterm, drinker, non smoker, literate, working, funny. You should be all those too. **StarBie**, 26, #132163

DANCING SPINNING MADNESS!

I am constantly spinning staff or dancing. not so good for meeting up cute boys. LEO! I have been totally deprived of snuggles cuddles all winter! it is driving me insane! **RoboLove**, 22, #132158

SEX & CHOCOLATES

I love the outdoors and being anywhere near the water. I like to grill out, camping, travel, up for new adventures with a new lover. Great conversation, guy w great sense of humor, love dogs, sex & lover. **love-life2009**, 39, #132136

FOXY TALENTED CHIC

I like men and enjoy a fun adventure, guys who are sure of themselves, good with fixing things, are compassionate, sexy, and that appreciate a real woman. I am still looking! **foxychic2day**, 49, #132134

GOOD GIRL

I am open minded, thoughtful, easy to talk to and have a sarcastic raunchy sense of humor. I am low maintenance but can get all gussied up. **Purplegirl**, 30, #132161

I CAN

Animal and nature loving girl, who would like to meet somebody to spend some time with. No Drama, BS and Stress needed. Just be yourself and say what you mean. That's all. **oktoberkiki**, 37, #132129

SWPF SEEKING SWPM

Balanced, spiritual, connected, responsible, fun 50 something, curvy and mother of two dachshunds seeks lifelong friend and companion. **poetesstx**, 52, #115369

OUTGOING, RANDOM, FUN

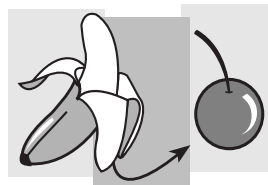
I enjoy meeting new people and where they come from. I love the outdoors, good food, and random adventures! **wmartinez**, 25, #132009

ETERNAL STUDENT

I'm a laid back gal who loves to learn about the world whether it be through reading, interacting with others, or traveling. **German_Longhorn**, 21, #131999

ADVENTUROUS LOVEABLE CUTIE

I love spending all my time outside, photography, music, good movies, art, discovering new places and new people. Looking for a guy who's adventurous, spontaneous, and genuine. **em194**, 20, #131959



NICE, BUT OBLIVIOUS

Hi I'm looking to restart my social life after being a workaholic for the past years. Looking to meet new people. Enjoy spending time with friends, but prefer divey places. **gar2401**, 38, #132162

OVER HERE!

I like to workout, read, watch good movies and drink good wine after a good meal. How 'bout you? **sikey**, 36, #132154

SARCASM SWEET SARCASM

How would you like to meet a tall funny guy who is intelligent, vivacious, and tidy? I'll let you know if I see him around. **redundant_oxymoron**, 32, #132148

INTELLIGENT, FUNNY, CARING/CREATIVE, CUTE

Love Music, Film, Art, Books, Herbal Tea, Wine, Cooking, Genealogy, Walking, Personal Growth, Meditation, Laughing, Hiking, Biking, Vegetarian, E, Word games, Ambidextrous physically/emotionally/creatively. I am a joy to be around! **joesmooth1964**, 45, #120158

WITTY, SARCASTIC, FRENCH

I'll be moving to Austin in a couple weeks time so I'm really just here to meet some new people, and if something develops from there then we shall see. **MrFrench**, 24, #132117

LIFE, BEAUTIFUL, SHORT.

Easy going person, not much for crowds although Enjoy going out. I would like someone that is creative & supportive, that I can be supportive of. I enjoy scifi, pool. **phillyrob817**, 46, #132118

OUTDOORSY LIBERAL DREAMER

I am a somewhat educated, outdoors-loving hippie-esque, hard-working, family-loving, agnostic, liberal, who likes to work, garden, camp, dream, think, read, watch tv, cook, and talk with friends and family. **SirCampsAlot**, 28, #132099

...JUST -A-SHOT AWAY

live music! I love travel, I have many lands yet to explore this big blue world. I've lived in many areas, chronologically, Charlotte NC, Seattle WA, San Francisco CA & Austin Texas. **SouledAmerican**, 39, #132091

SENTIMENTAL GUY

Hope I'm not looking for love in all the wrong places, again :). **dantheman**, 41, #132093

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Me- goofy, friendly, sarcastic, random, athletic, hungry, spontaneous, bad speller You - Strong, funny, beautiful, nurturing, outspoken, adventurous, sexy, unique David Copperfield can kiss my white, Irish ass- Tommy Gavin. **brewhaha**, 43, #120243

WHAT I NEEEEEEED

I - am without a sense of shame - have a deep need to go against the grain, whichever way it runs. **space_heater**, 30, #132080

AUTHENTIC SENSUALIST

I'm basic, kind, down to earth kind of guy. A writer, recently completed a novel, an able cook, well read, decent conversationalist and an even better listener... **100secretssenses**, 41, #132078

PATIENT, LAID BACK

I like to offshore fish and deer hunt. My son is the most important thing in my life. I own my own business Marine Const, and teach welding part time. **rgilde**, 35, #132067

DREAM WISH LAUGH

Austin born dig music. Working out, and going out! Looking for fun loving sexy know how to make a man feel. I honest layed back open minded and strong. **Jade**, 32, #132063

EASY NATURED GUY

Fun-loving, professional environmentalist. Seeks free-spirited woman who's sincere and creative, first as friends, then everything's possible. **tom3_wi**, 56, #132054

CROCK POT MAGICIAN

38, divorced 2 years removed, date rarely, ready to pick up the pace a little. Like to see live music around town - Saxon, Cont. Club, Antones, the usual places. **Job_check**, 38, #132040

ANIMATED AND ECLECTIC

been here since may and need to get out and do austin stuff. love being outdoors but can stay in and hang as well. make it happen. **snarf_snarf**, 23, #132035

LOOK AT ME

Love long walks in the park, listening to anything by air supply, sleeping on rainy days, and eating small cats... looking for a partner in crime, is it you? **blowpopchoir**, 42, #132034

MY CHRONICLE AD

My life consists of great sarcasm, dry humor and almost never being serious. I love a good conversation accompanied with a great beer. **jakubceefin**, 25, #132021

FULL TIME STUDENT

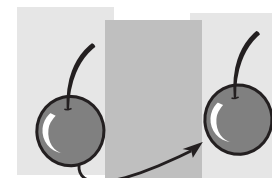
I'm a student currently in Austin. I'm extremely easy going and often quiet, but I'll talk when I have something worth saying. I enjoy being outside running or biking. **bothebeagle**, 20, #132015

SUPER DUPER DESPERATE

Can you imagine if that was really someone's headline for their personal ad? Anyway, if you never seriously read this section then get in touch. **newhere**, 25, #131996

SHOOT SOME POOL

Looking for someone to practice shooting pool with, or maybe to go throw some frisbes with at the park/ and or have drinks with. **milmascarsyelsanto**, 25, #126379



WANNA BE FRIENDS?

I haven't dated in a while and I'm ready for a change. Looking for someone fun and funny, independent and drama free who enjoys the fine art of hanging out. **NiceGirl78**, 30, #132097

SCIENCE/MUSIC NERD

I just moved here and I'm many hours away from everyone I know and love. I love learning, reading, science, playing music, making jewelry, nature, my frogs, cooking, and unplanned adventures. **velvet-goldmine**, 23, #131887

LOOK BETTER ON

im Ace. moved to austin 2 weeks ago. love to laugh. very single. college student. love coffee. im very blunt, not rude. love mexican food. looove walks. really laid back. **AceOfSpades**, 19, #131753

ADVENTURE BECKONS

fun, genuinely funny, three-year texan seeks someone to enjoy life with. spiritual is a plus. **pleasantly-human**, 29, #131741

NEW TO TOWN

Just moved to Austin from Florida. I also just graduated nursing school. For fun I like working out when I can, watching or playing sports, movies, chilling, food, downtown. **Swoosh12101**, 23, #131567

I LIKE QUESO

i don't really know what i am looking for, but i'm sure i will when i find it. **allietea**, 24, #131071

many more ads online!
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SILLY ARTSY AUSTINATIVE

Creative, easy-going, likes to laugh. Passionate about the arts, design, learning new things, the environment/"saving the world", traveling to new places... Looking for somebody appreciating and wanting the same. **shellebelle**, 34, #132112

ANOTHER MULTI-STATE TRANSPLANT.

Loves: music, movies, baking, reading, magazines, making mixes of all the same songs, family, friends, job. Dislikes: organized religion, not having TV, traffic, cleaning the tub, purple, war, liars, fakes. **ladyfriend**, 29, #132109

OPTIMISTIC AND ATYPICAL

I'm a single mom with a full time job that I love. My favorite things are music and movies (hard rock and just about any good film). **TXgirl2282**, 27, #132062

KIND ARTIST GIRL

Kindhearted artist type seeks a person to share life with. I try not to take life too seriously. I have a big heart and want to share it. **Brighteyes**, 25, #132055

TAKE A WALK

I am honest and real, wittily self-effacing and interested in getting outside of my happy little world to explore laughter, wonder and good times with someone on their own path. **truthor-consequences**, 46, #131946

CHRISTIAN WOMEN

I am loving, romantic, friendly, caring, understanding, respectful and Christian women. I'm described as a person that is outgoing with a wonderful personality and I'm always full of life... **txrescuelady**, 35, #131935

HELLO FOR STARTERS

Truth: %100 percent of us are not Neat, intelligent, funny..Most of us are Sloppy, insecure, narcissistic. Open up and show all of the characters that are distinctively you. **Dextria**, 24, #131895

PEACE LOVING CUTIE

I like artistry and ingenuity, daytrips, extended trips, cooking, eating, prefer to be outside not in. Looking for someone healthy, kind and genuine who enjoys life, and simple pleasures shared. **marisol**, 51, #131892

SWEETGIRL

I enjoy theatre (live and indie), hiking and picnics. I just love life and having fun, I am very independent, but I would like to spend time with someone special. **justme62**, 47, #131846

SILLY, FLIRTY, LOVEABLE

Silly woman that loves to spend time hanging out with the people that matters most. Very energetic but can be shy at first. Knows how to have a good time. **flirtylady04**, 20, #131820



Flavor of the Week

sweetcel Age: 23
Kill me romantically

I may or may not be the coolest person you'd ever met, but you will always remember my name! :) I don't eat baby cows baby pigs or baby chicks, Gross! I can stage dive onto peoples faces all day long. I have a big heart and suck at letting people get close to it.

read the rest of **SWEETCEL's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/loverslane

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QUEEN SEEKS COURT

Let's go skinny dipping at night under the stars and drink wine by the pale of the moon. Make me laugh, make me happy - I'll reciprocate! **brownsugarjones**, 44, **ICM**, #120282

NEW TO AUSTIN

Generally a really positive person, I live life to the fullest and without regrets because my mistakes have proven to be my best teachers. **juicebysarah**, 23, **ICM**, #131478

DINO-S-RAWR

This lovely lady is into designer jeans and thrift store T-shirts. Pizza and beer, lots of yoga and a passion for green living. Ridiculously grown-up, but total Peter Pan syndrome. **Pedal-estrian**, 25, **ICM**, #131366

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL

I've been single now for 24yrs. I enjoy good company, conversation, a funny Pixel movie, and spending time with my granddaughter. Fall and Spring are my favorite times of the year. **Towanda**, 52, **ICM**, #126707



ATXGUY SEEKS ATXGUY

Typical Austin guy and then some. I like to be close enough to whisper... **jonwayne**, 20, **ICM**, #132177

SMART, LOVING, LOYAL.

I am honest and very blunt. Love cuddling. Love being outdoors. Love animals and nature. If you want to know something about me ask it. **Gabe7373**, 21, **ICM**, #131975

NICE AND SIMPLE

Laid back guy seeks low drama situation with another guy. Enjoy hanging out with friends, margaritas, red wine, dining out. Road bike riding, 24Hour Fitness. Dog lover. Disease/smoke free here. **jodetx**, 50, **ICM**, #131890

OPERA OR PUNK

Wait a minute... He likes Opera and punk? He likes Grindhouse and Love, Actually? He likes Chez Nous and The Salt Lick? Is fun and capable of making a commitment? **pparker**, 53, **ICM**, #131728



LOVE TO LAUGH!

I love to laugh but who doesn't. I am told I have a great smile and love showing it. I enjoy watching sports, playing pool, and watching all kinds of movies. **nayzia**, 28, **ICM**, #132138

WHY I OUGHTTA...

Just moved back to austin. it's a crazy world out there. i like making people laff. hard. come have a drink and laff with me. **eweezie**, 30, **ICM**, #132049

SENSATIONAL, THEATRICAL, PRESENTABLE,

I love the theatre, I like moves, I am a great fan of Video Games. I like musicals. I make re-make music videos for fun and write scripts for fun. **alexcrumb**, 24, **ICM**, #131826

A LOST FOREIGNER

Im a mellow guy that is easy to get along with. Im new to Austin and wouldnt mind having a female companion to show me what this city has to offer. **Bayborn**, 21, **ICM**, #131782

BAM DRUMMER BOY

SSHHHH, lets pretend we met at the Library, I liked your t shirt of little kittens in a basket, you liked my curly hair, and red Bugle Boy sweat pants. **Rumplestilsken**, 24, **ICM**, #131743

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC, OUTGOING

I am a major of dance and Spanish. My passions include dance, writing, & music. I enjoy riding my bike, running/jogging, and swimming. I have a crazy sense of humor. **dancer28**, 28, **ICM**, #131739

UFUNDD MY PURSE!

Thank-you so much for bringing my purse back to me on Monday!!! Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!!! Who are you? I owe you lunch! **When: Monday, December 14. Where: 3409 Banton Road. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #904546**

TOPS PARTY UNREACHABLE

Sexy,Lorenzo.. We met briefly at the party. Didnt have the chance to say what I wanted..I had on black slacks,short black jacket. Sheryl knows where I am. Kelley, Let's meet..... **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: Tops Christmas party. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904556**

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR MEETING

we sent off kids at gate 12, made some small talk, my heart skipped a beat when you turned to say "take care" before walking away. coffee/conversation sometime? **When: Friday, December 18. Where: austin airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904555**

CONTINENTAL CLUB UPSTAIRS

You: Tall/red cap pulled way down low. Me: Blond you grabbed to dance- that didn't say no. We moved our hips/shared a great kiss. Still wondering, "Where did you go?" **When: Monday, December 21. Where: Continental Club Upstairs Gallery. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904565**

CHUY'S WAITRESS

Dark haired beauty w/ hair in bun waiting tables Saturday night. I was wearing Missouri shirt. Got caught burning you up. Think your cute and want to get some drinks. **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: Chuy's on Barton springs. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904554**

SCOOTER RIDING PROWLER

Knocking & prowling around my house at 2:30am NOT COOL. It is rude to skip introductions you creepy lurking twerp. The only thing we share is a case number STOP **When: Thursday, December 17. Where: my window. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904553**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for Jan. 1-7

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I am a man of fixed and unbending principles," said American politician Everett Dirksen, "the first of which is to be flexible at all times." That's the kind of playful and resilient spirit I urge you to aspire to in 2010, Capricorn. I think you're most likely to have a successful year if you regularly explore the joys of improvisation. The more empirical and less theory-bound you're willing to be, the better you'll feel. Practicing the art of compromise doesn't have to be galling, I promise you; it may even turn out to be more fun and educational than you imagined possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Who and what do you hold most dear, Aquarius? I encourage you to get clear about that. Once you do, I hope you'll make a vow to bestow extra care and attention on them in 2010 - I mean literally write out a one-page oath in which you describe the inner states you will cultivate in yourself while you're in their presence and the specific actions you're going to take to help them thrive. Nothing else you do will be more important to your success in 2010.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said there was no middle ground: You either said "yes" to life or you said "no." You either celebrated your vitality, enjoyed your power, and thrived on challenges, or else you practiced constant self-denial, hemmed yourself in with deluded rationalizations, and tormented yourself with indecision. I'm not so sure it's always as clear-cut as that. While I'm usually in the "yes to life" camp, I've gone through "no to life" phases, as well as some extended "maybe to life" times. What about you, Pisces? Whatever you've done in the past, I hope that in 2010 you will take maximum advantage of the cosmic rhythms, which will be encouraging you to give life a big, resounding, ongoing yes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): One of my favorite landscape painters makes a livable wage from selling her art. She has had many gallery showings and has garnered much critical acclaim. That's the good news. The bad news is that she feels obligated to keep churning out more landscape paintings - even when her muse nudges her to take a detour into, say, abstract expressionism or surrealist portraits. Galleries don't want anything from her except the stuff that has made her semifamous. "Sometimes I fantasize about creating a series of 'Sock Puppet Monkeys Playing Poker,'" she told me. If she were an Aries, I'd advise her to do what I think you should do in 2010: Listen to what your version of the sock puppet monkeys are urging you to do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): My Taurus friend Jill had a dream in which she stopped by a blackberry bush on a summer afternoon. All the ripe blackberries were too high on the bush, just out of reach. She stood there gazing longingly up at them for a long time. Finally, three people in medieval garb came by, as if having stepped out of a deck of tarot cards - a warrior, a magician, and a priestess. "I really want those blackberries," she said to them. "Could you give me a boost?" They stooped down to make their backs available. She climbed up but still couldn't reach the berries. "Oh well, we tried," she said. "Follow us," said the priestess, and she did. After a while they came to another bush with blackberries that were lower and easy to pluck. Then the four shared the feast. After analyzing the omens for 2010, Taurus, I've come to the conclusion that Jill's dream is an apt metaphor for your best possible destiny in 2010.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "We should not think of our past as definitely settled, for we are not a stone or a tree," wrote poet Czeslaw Milosz. "My past changes every minute according to the meaning given it now, in this moment." I suggest you make abundant use of this wisdom in 2010. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will have unprecedented power to revision and reinterpret your past. Keep the following question in mind as you go about your work: "How can I re-create my history so as to make my willpower stronger, my love of life more intense, and my future more interesting?"

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I think everyone should always have an improbable quest playing at the edges of their imagination - you know, some heroic task that provokes deep thoughts and rouses noble passions even if it also incites smoldering torment. I'm talking about an extravagant dream that's perhaps a bit far-fetched but not entirely insane, a goal that constantly rouses you to stretch your possibilities and open your mind further, a wild hope whose pursuit makes you smarter and stronger even if you never fully accomplish it. The coming year would be an excellent time to keep such an adventure at the forefront of your awareness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A guy who goes by the name of "Winter" has made it his goal to visit every Starbucks in the world. According to his website, he has thus far ordered drinks in 9,874 stores. His project contrasts dramatically with an acquaintance of mine who calls herself "Indian Summer." She is in the midst of a global pilgrimage to the hundreds of sites listed in Colin Wilson's book *The Atlas of Holy Places & Sacred Sites*, including cave paintings, dolmens, medicine wheels, and temples. Guess which of these two explorers I'm nominating to be one of your inspirational heroes in 2010.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Scientific studies have proven what we all knew already: A person who's only mildly interesting to you will probably become more attractive if you drink a couple pints of beer. What if I told you, Virgo, that in 2010 you could regularly create the same effect without drinking the beer? I have it on good astrological authority that this will be the case. Due to fundamental shifts in your relationship with the life force, and having nothing to do with how much alcohol you consume, the entire world will often be at least 25% more attractive to you than it ever was before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your limitations will be among your greatest assets in 2010. Yes, you heard me right, Libra; I'm not speaking ironically or sarcastically. During the coming months, you will be able to benefit from circumstances that you might otherwise imagine would prevent you from operating with maximum freedom. It might require you to look at the world upside down or work in reverse to your habitual thought patterns, but you could actually generate interesting opportunities, vital teachings, and maybe even financial gain by capitalizing on your so-called liabilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Dear Rob: I sure don't like so much God stuff mixed into my horoscopes. Can you cut it out, please?" I understand it's common for the masses to believe in an Ultra Being, but you? Puh-lease. You're smarter than that. I just can't abide all the "Divine Wow" this and "Cackling Goddess" nonsense that you dispense; it doesn't jibe with the practical, sensible, unsuperstitious, nonmushy world I hold dear. - Sally Scorpio." Dear Sally: I predict that many Scorpios will have sensational, ongoing, up-close-and-personal communion with the Divine Wow in 2010. You're free, of course, to call it something else, like "an unprecedented eruption of creative energy" or "a breakthrough in your ability to access your own higher powers."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You Sagittarians may wander farther and wider than the other signs of the zodiac, and you may get itchy when required to stay in one place too long, but you still need a sense of belonging. Whether that comes from having a certain building where you feel comfortable or a wilderness that evokes your beloved adventurousness or a tribe that gives you a sense of community, you thrive when you're in regular touch with a homing signal that keeps you grounded. According to my analysis, 2010 will be a prime time for you to find or create or renew your connection to a source that serves this purpose well.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES AND DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

a shot in the dark

GROOVYBOOTS GARDEN DISTRICT

12/28 Saw you sitting on the couch with a friend reading this column. I was sitting across with a book finding it hard not to gawk at your gorgeous smile! **When: Monday, December 28. Where: Garden District. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904571**

POST-RUN COFFEE

Blonde runner (wearing tights and running shoes) ordering a purple smoothie. Made eye contact and smiled a few times - wanted to say something, but didn't. Run with me sometime? **When: Sunday, December 27. Where: Lift Coffee on South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904570**

GORGEOUS HOSPITAL NURSE!

You incredibly nice and helpful to my grandmother. Let me return the favour: buy you coffee and show you Austin (beats Kansas!), with good company included. Damn Broncos, go pats! **When: Monday, December 28. Where: AustinHeart Hospital. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904569**

TWO HEADED DOG

Tattoo @ Target. You said excuse me and touched my elbow. It made my heart flutter. Next time I won't get out of the way! **When: Sunday, December 20. Where: Target I35. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904568**

FROM NEW ORLEANS

You were wearing an orange tee-shirt and we were both originally from Louisiana. We spoke briefly and you wanted to watch the Saints game. I want to talk again. **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: CVS pharmacy at Brodie and Slaughter. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904567**

BARNES/ NOBLE SATURDAY

You, tall, strawberry blond. We exchanged smiles. You had on a pretty black-gold-orange jacket. Me, tall blond with beard. xmas shopping can skew priorities. Would rather have been meeting you. **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: Barnes & Noble. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904561**

BSSALOON KNOCKOUT

You: Too popular to get in a good conversation. Dark top and a jean skirt. Me: Gray shirt, We locked eyes and met briefly. You should become a regular. **When: Wednesday, December 23. Where: Barton Springs Saloon. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904566**

REDHEAD AT TARGET

You: wonderful red hair, cute skirt, boots. Buying men's clothes for a boy-friend? I hope not. Me: bearded guy buying socks. When you flashed me a smile, I was giddy. **When: Wednesday, December 23. Where: Target. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #904564**

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STEIN MART WESTLAKE

I never, ever do this...but...I helped you find Christmas sweaters for an office party...and red suspenders... then saw you at Barton Creek Mall. Mike. I was a complete spaz. **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: Stein Mart in West Lake. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904563**

HEY, WHEELCHAIR GUY!

Traveling in Austin, I took in the LBJ library. We chatted briefly, I went off to join my peeps. Wish I'd stayed to find out more. What were you thinking? **When: Friday, December 4. Where: LBJ Library. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904560**

CURLY HEADED BOY

I see you every day and think you're so cute. Must be the curly hair, or those pouty lips. You should kiss me next time. **When: Thursday, December 17. Where: Work. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904551**

FLGRLSUZY

Bonjour! You canceled before I got to meet you. Maybe you scan these - didn't know where else to try. **When: Saturday, November 28. Where: Online. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904543**

SUPER SINGLE DAD

You:Black truck struggling with 3-4 kids in the HEB Wells Branch/I-35 parking lot on Dec.20th. Me:Red Jeep. I told you that you sure have your hands full. I'm interested. **When: Sunday, December 20. Where: HEB @ Wells Branch/I-35. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904559**

DEAR BOY

i told you i was as cynical as daria. you told me to stay that way. we could sit at opposite ends of the couch, our feet in the middle. **When: Sunday, December 13. Where: shangri-la. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #904541**

LET'S DANCE

You: One of the three cute girls dancing to the right of the DJ. Me: Black jacket, black striped shirt, dancing next to you Plush Sat nite? **When: Saturday, December 12. Where: Music Gym after hours. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904542**

BECCA AT CO-OP

You came into the Co-op for your rebate. Your name is Becca and you wear a silver double heart necklace. You said I was funny. Let's get together. Find me!! **When: Sunday, December 13. Where: University Co-op. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904549**

SEXY METAL DUDE

You were looking at paint/stains on Saturday at my work. I was wearing a brown velvet hat. Please say I didn't miss my only chance to flirt with you! **When: Saturday, December 19. Where: Eco-Wise. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904558**

MOLTOV'S LAST FRIDAY!

Dec. 4th. You just moved here. You have a "misfit" tattoo on your finger. Your friend ran me off!! I showed you my tattoo on my ankle. **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Moltov. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #904534**

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