

RHYTHM & NEWS

COMPILED BY CINDY ROYAL

venues The grand opening of the new, state-of-the-art **Concrete Street Amphitheater** in Corpus Christi is scheduled for March 24. **Pantera**, **Soul Fly** and **Murid Angel** will perform on opening night.

After much speculation about its demise and/or transformation into a dance club, the Deep Ellum venue **Trees** temporarily closed for renovations during the month of February. Trees recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Local Charm, an east Houston, roots-music venue, reopened at a new location at 1815 Washington Ave. The club was a Houston music mainstay from 1985 to 1995. Local Charm will now feature Houston artists who play original music. **The Zydeco Players** performed at the club's reopening in January.

Billy Bob's Texas in the Stockyards District of Fort Worth will celebrate its 20th anniversary on March 31. Billed as the World's Largest Honky Tonk, the legendary music venue and indoor arena has hosted the likes of **George Jones**, **LeAnn Rimes**, **The Wilkinsons**, **Willie Nelson**, **Jerry Jeff Walker**, **Chris LeDoux**, **Lee Ann Womack**, **Neil McCoy**, **Brad Paisley** and **Pat Green**. **Robert Earl Keen** will perform at the anniversary festivities.

appearances

The new VH-1 show "Bands on the Run," featuring

Dallas band **Flickerstick**, will begin airing on April 1. The show features Flickerstick and three other bands in competition as they play gigs around the country and are filmed both performing and behind the scenes.

The **2001 Delbert McClinton & Friends Sandy Beaches Cruise VII** set sail from Port Manatee, Fla. on Jan. 2 through Jan. 7. Appearing on McClinton's floating American roots music festival were artists such as **Junior Brown**, **Michael McDonald**, **Asleep At The Wheel**, **Marcia Ball**, **Bonnie and Bekka Bramlett**, **Stephen Bruton**, **Tommy Castro**, **Bruce Channel**, **Jimmy Hal**, **Al Anderson**, **Wayne Toups** and **Zydecajun**. McClinton released the album *Nothing Personal* on March 6, his first for New West Records and his first new album since 1997's *One Of The Fortunate Few*.

The **Dixie Chicks** were the sixth highest grossing tour of 2000, taking in more than \$47 million with their *Fly* show. Chick **Emily Robison** appeared on the popular ABC game show *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire* in February.

Dallas children's entertainer **Mr. Peppermint** (also known as **Jerry Haynes**, father of **Gibby Haynes** of the **Butthole Surfers**) celebrated his 74th birthday at **Club Dada** on Jan. 31, with appearances by **Muffin**, **Mr. Wiggly Worm**, **Sara Hickman**, **Little Jack Melody** and **Speedtrucker**. Proceeds went to benefit diabetes research. At the party, Gibby Haynes report-

ed that the **Butthole Surfers** are nearly done recording a new album in Los Angeles and said that the band will announce local shows and perhaps a tour to support the release if, in the end, "it doesn't suck." Pictured from left to right are Doris, Jerry, Gibby and brother Andy Haynes.

Houston native **B.I. Thomas**, known for the hit "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," performed with the York Symphony Orchestra in York, Pa. on Feb. 3 at its annual pop concert. Thomas was called in at the last minute to replace **Ben E. King**, who was unable to perform due to illness. Thomas, a veteran symphony performer, sings in more than 50 shows per year with an orchestra backing him.

Houston's **Jesse Dayton** will headline a bill that includes **Matt Thigpen** and **Kyle Hutton** at the "Aggies, Beer, and Crawfish Benefit" in Dallas on

May 5. The annual scholarship fundraiser sponsored by the Dallas A&M Club has featured such past performers as **Max Stalling**, **Cory Morrow** and **Roger Creager**. For more information on the event, visit <http://dallas.aggies.net>.

While the **South By Southwest Music Festival** is host to an international collection of artists, more than 95 Austin artists performed during the five-day event. Texas artists represented included **Charlie Robison** from Bandera, **Barbara Lynn** from Beaumont, **Seth Walker and the Mojo Hands** from College Station, **Baboon**, **Chomsky** and the **Toadies** from Dallas, **Brave Combo**, **Dixie Witch**, **Slobberbone**, **Centro-matic** and **Sub Oslo** from Denton, **Universal Recovered** from El Paso, **Jody Hughes** from Houston, **Los Lonely Boys** and **Johnny Bush** from San Antonio, and **Adam Carroll** from Tyler.

Dallas metal band **Pantera** will



Can you spot the Butthole in this picture?

make a swing through Texas in March with their "Reinventing the Steel" tour. The group will perform in San Antonio on the 21st, Dallas on the 23rd, Corpus Christi on the 24th, Houston on the 26th and McAllen on the 27th.

releases Austin musician **Bob Schneider** ▼ celebrated the national release of his CD *Lonelyland* on Universal Records with a CD release party at **Antone's** in Austin on Jan. 19. A full Universal contingency from New York City and beyond treated 70 of Austin's print and broadcast moguls to dinner and the release party show. Many of the non-Austin guests had previously only heard the folksy *Lonelyland* CD, but when Schneider invited the **Groove Line Horns** of his **Scabs** project on stage to join him in the crowd-pleasing "Tarantula," the out-of-towners got a small taste of the energy of a Scabs performance. Universal plans to promote Schneider on a radio tour with



hopes of picking up fans across the country. In December, a plane carrying Schneider and his actress-girlfriend **Sandra Bullock** skidded off

the runway in Jackson Hole, Wyo. No one was seriously injured but the plane sustained extensive damages.

Austin resident **Shawn Colvin's** new CD *Whole New You* due March 27 will feature a duet with singer-songwriter **James Taylor** and contains a song co-written with Dallas native **Edie Brickell**. This will be Colvin's first CD of original material since 1997's Grammy-winning *A Few Small Repairs*.

Pop-princess **Jessica Simpson** from Dallas hit the two million sales-mark with her debut release *Sweet Kisses*. Her second album is scheduled for release on March 20 on Sony/Columbia Records.

Curb Records released the new **LeAnn Rimes** CD *I Need You* on Jan. 30. On Rimes' Web site, she indicated that the CD was created and released without her creative input and that the CD does not represent her as an artist. Rimes has filed a lawsuit against Curb in an effort to be released from her contract, which was signed when she was 12 years old. Rimes is also involved in a \$7 million lawsuit against her father **Wilbur Rimes**, to which he has filed a countersuit, requesting he be paid royalties for albums he produced.

Houston's **Rodney Crowell** released *The Houston Kid* on Feb. 13, his first release in six years. A companion film of the same name reflects the life and work of the singer-songwriter. Working with a student crew from the **Watkins College of Art & Design** led by director **Valerie Stover**, the documentary captures Crowell on stage and at home and follows him to the places that helped shape his musical sensibilities.

Dallas alt-country rockers **Old 97's** began a 16-date tour on Feb. 16 in Plano. The tour wraps up in Dallas on March 20, the same day their

new album *Satellite Rides* is released.

Members of the El Paso band **At**

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

More than 100 years after the London premiere of their final comic opera, *The Grand Duke*, the works of celebrated British composers Arthur Seymour Sullivan and William Schwenk Gilbert remain favorites deep in the heart of Texas. The prolific duo penned 14 classic "light operas" between 1871 and 1896, and their devotees in Houston won't let you forget it.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston, making it one of the oldest amateur opera companies in the country. The society inspires a unique devotion in its members, a group of opera lovers so devoted to preserving and performing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan that they volunteer their free time rehearsing and performing the orchestra, music director and stage director are paid for their work, the performers are not, despite many of them being professional or semi-professional singers. Its members include singers with musical commitments all over Houston, from the Houston Grand Opera to voice coaches at various area churches.

What exactly is this music that fosters such allegiance? Call it light opera, or even pop opera. The operas of Gilbert and Sullivan mix high-culture

form and pop-culture content that tickles the aesthetes and lovers of wicked comedy alike. The operas' themes range from love and romance to the politics of politics and other sticky human relationships. "The words are still funny after 120 years," says Gilbert & Sullivan Society board member Joe Carl White, who lists among his daytime occupations computer consultant, singer and humanitarian.

"They still speak to us," says White. "Their political commentary is still appropriate today. Probably because politicians never change." Gilbert and Sullivan in this day and age may be known for attracting more mature audiences, but White says the material is good family entertainment. "You can't exactly take little kids to see *Rent*," he says.

The society has a large following in Houston and beyond. Their performances at the Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater draw sold-out crowds, and their production of *Princess Ida* was broadcast by PBS and earned an Emmy nomination. Some Society fans make annual pilgrimages from far-flung cities and states to catch each year's show.

The 50th anniversary performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*, perhaps Gilbert and Sullivan's most famous piece and a favorite of Houston Society fans, runs July 20-22 at Houston's Wortham Theater Center.

- JENNY STAFF JOHNSON



Destiny's Child, Asleep at the Wheel Carry Texas Flag at Grammys

The 43rd Annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 21 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles will be remembered because of a controversial guy named Eminem and two classic rock institutions, Steely Dan and U2, who cleaned up in the major awards categories. Were it not for those meddlesome Irishmen though, Houston-bred R&B superstars Destiny's Child might have had their beautiful day.

Beyoncé Knowles and Co. may have lost their bid for Record and Song of the Year to U2, but they still came out on top in the R&B category, claiming Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group for their smash "Say My Name" and an R&B Song of the Year award for the same tune.

The sassy R&B trio wasn't the only Texas act making the Grammy grade. Jacksonville-born country singer Lee Ann Womack was nominated in several major categories thanks to her memorable No. 1 inspirational country hit "I Hope You Dance" and the album of the same name. She ended up losing Best Country Album and Best Female Country Vocal Performance to Faith Hill, but the songwriters of "I Hope You Dance," Mark D. Sanders and Tia Sillers, danced away with a Best Country Song award.

Austin's Asleep at the Wheel are no strangers to Grammy success, but this year was special for group leader Ray Benson. The band's win for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal, for the track "Cherokee Maiden" on their 1999 Bob Wills tribute album *Ride With Bob*, is their first Grammy for a song featuring Benson's vocals. "We've won six Grammys for our instrumental



Destiny's Child: Voters said their name 6 different times at the 43rd Grammy Awards Feb. 21

work," marveled Benson after the show. "I'm very proud of that, but that we were actually nominated for something I sang lead on is amazing. Winning is beyond words . . . though God knows, I've tried."

Alas, several other native sons and daughters made valiant stands at the Grammys but were not as fortunate. Don Henley and Erykah Badu both lost in multiple categories, though Badu looked smashing sans trademark turban — and hair, to boot — and got to present an award and trade raves with Tony Bennett. Meanwhile, Pantera lost in the Best Metal Performance category to the Deftones, and Steve Earle, up for a Best Contemporary Folk Album Grammy with his *Transcendental Blues*, lost to Emmylou Harris. Other Texas nominees included Willie Nelson's *Milk Cow Blues* (Best Traditional Blues Album), Kirk Whalum's *Hymns — In the Garden* (Best Pop Instrumental Album), Johnnie Taylor's *Gotta Get the Groove Back* (Best Traditional R&B Album), George Strait for his Alan Jackson duet, "Murder on Music Row," and a pair of Dixie Chicks collaborations — one with Sheryl Crow from her concert in Central Park ("Strong Enough") and the other with Ricky Skaggs. The Mighty Clouds of Joy and Jaci Velasquez were also nominated in the Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album and Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album categories, respectively.

Of course, the Best Tejano Album category was packed with Texans, and the label Freddie Records was guaranteed a victory since they held all the nominations in the category. The winner was The Legends' *¿Qué Es Musica Tejana?*, but also nominated were Jimmy Gonzalez Y El Grupo Mazz, Leonardo Gonzales Y Los Magnificos, Jaime Y Los Chamacos and Solido. Texans Ramón Ayala Y Sus Bravos Del Norte, Vicente Fernández and Los Terribles Del Norte lost the Best Mexican/Mexican-American Album showdown to Pepe Aguilar.

Speaking of Texans and their Grammys, ten of Central Texas' finest musical exports/imports with Grammys to their credit are currently featured as part of a special exhibit at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. On display through May, the exhibit features Willie Nelson's Lifetime Achievement award, as well as Grammy awards presented to Shawn Colvin, Eric Johnson, Johnny Gimble, Ray Benson, Little Joe Hernandez and Ruben Ramos of Los Super Seven. Also featured are autographed guitars by Vaughan brothers Stevie Ray and Jimmie, Colvin's hand-written lyrics and the hat the late, great Doug Sahm wore during his last taping of *Austin City Limits*.

The Drive-In, **Cedric Bixler** and **Omar Rodriguez**, have begun recording an album with the side project, **Defacto**. The album is expected to be released later this year.

Denton's **Brave Combo** released a children's disc *All Wound Up: A Family Music Party* on Jan. 26 at the **Czech Club**. The CD was recorded with Grammy-nominated artists **Cathy Fink** and **Marcy Marxer**.

Kevin Deal will promote his recent **Blind Nello Records** release *Kiss on the Breeze* at a taping of **Humble Time Radio** in **Freiheit** and a performance at historic **Saengerhalle** in New Braunfels on March 31. Deal's songwriting, vocals and harmonica are complemented by **Terri Hendrix** on vocals and **Lloyd Maines** in production.

The Flatlanders, consisting of **Joe Ely**, **Butch Hancock** and **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**, are co-writing songs and

considering releasing a new album, which would be their first as a group in more than 30 years. The group was working together in January and came out for **Terry Allen's** art exhibit on Jan. 11 at the **Flatbed Press** in Austin.

Austin musician **Jimmy LaFave** released *Texoma* on **Rounder Records** on March 13. This is LaFave's first studio album in almost four years and follows the success of his boot-leg double-CD *Trail*.

Willie Nelson kicked off a tour Feb. 1 in Rome, Ga. The 51-date tour will keep Nelson on the road through the summer. Also, **Random House** will publish a book that tracks Willie's life "from self-destruction and back" next January tentatively titled "If You Ain't Crazy There's Something Wrong With You: Lessons I've Learned the Hard Way."

Houston's **Destiny's Child** took home Artist of the Year honors at the **2000 Billboard Music Awards** on Dec. 5. **Beyoncé Knowles**, **Michelle Williams** and **Kelly Rowland** each plan to release solo albums this year.

Robert Townsend for MTV. In addition, former members of DC, **Latavia Roberson** and **Letoya Luckett**, have settled their lawsuit with Destiny's Child but have not dropped their suit against manager



Hey Jimmie! Camera's this way! Flatlanders (left to right) Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Butch Hancock and Joe Ely support pal Terry Allen at his art exhibit at Flatbed Press Jan. 11.

Knowles will appear in an updated and contemporary version of the movie "Carmen," directed by

Mathew Knowles, who they claim owes them royalties from the group's debut album. Destiny's

Child will release their third album *Survivor* this spring.

Dallas-native rapper **Vanilla Ice** (a.k.a. Robert Van Winkle) was arrested Jan. 3 in Davie, Fla., on a domestic violence complaint by his wife. The rapper was accused of clamping his hand over his wife's mouth and pulling out some of her hair during an argument while the couple was driving on Interstate 595. Van Winkle admitted to ripping out his wife's hair, but claims he was attempting to keep her from jumping out of his truck. Van Winkle was released on \$3,500 bail.

Gospel musician **Yolanda Adams** of Houston received five awards at the 16th annual *Stellar Gospel Music Awards* including Artist of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Contemporary Female Vocalist of the Year, Music Video of the Year for "Open My Heart" and CD of the Year for *Mountain High ... Valley Low*. Her new CD *The Experience* is expected for release this spring.

misc. The **Dallas Symphony Orchestra** exceeded their six-year fundraising goal of \$55 million by more than \$700,000 at the close of the Vision 2000 drive on Dec. 31. The campaign's objectives were to raise money for the DSO's endowment,



Who are these people anyway? The good folks in Mansfield turning out to support a cause, that's who.

for capital improvements for the **Meyerson Symphony Center** and for other artistic initiatives.

Benefit concerts at the **Firehouse** in Houston and **Main Street Theatre** in Mansfield were held recently for **Ann Parsons**. Parsons, a strong supporter of Texas country artists along with her husband **Joe Parsons**, was recently diagnosed with cancer and has incurred significant medical costs outside her HMO plan. The benefits attracted more than 1200 friends, well-wishers and music fans. ▲ Each event featured more than 15 performers who donated their time to the cause including **Larry Joe Taylor**, **Tommy Alverson**, **John Evans** and **Daddy and the Divas**.

The first honorees of the **Texas Medal of Arts**, presented by the **Texas Cultural Arts Trust**, were announced

in Austin in January and will be recognized at a ceremony at the Capitol on March 20. San Antonio honorees include conjun- to artists **Flaco Jimenez** and **Santiago Jimenez Jr.** recognized in the folk arts category, pianist **Van Cliburn** for lifetime achievement and **Willie Nelson** in the music category.

The **Buddy Holly Center** in Lubbock held expanded hours and free admission in observance of the 42nd anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly on Feb. 3, also known as "the Day the Music Died." **Dr. Samuel J. Ayers**, author of *Buddy Holly: A Legacy of Music*, presented a special program for children. Rock 'n' roll historian, author and founder of the Buddy Holly Memorial Society, **Bill Griggs**, ▼ guided tours through the Buddy Holly Gallery.

The **Austin City Council** voted Jan. 18 to award the **Austin Music Network** management contract to the non-profit organization under the leadership of **Woody Roberts**. The council is considering future funding alternatives at this point with a decision expected in late spring. A Korean delegation signed a cooperation agreement with the AMN on Feb. 9 to create a **Korean Music Network** that emulates the AMN format. The President of Korea Record Center Network Co., LTD **Jong-Deok Kim**, stated that in building their music community, they

are looking to mirror Austin, not Nashville, as a music city because of the way Austin embraces a diversity of music genres.

Grammy-award-winning country music entertainer **Freddy Fender**, who was recently diagnosed with hepatitis C, has been under consideration for kidney and liver transplants. Upon evaluation at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, he was notified that his body will not accept the immune suppressants needed for kidney or liver transplantation. Fender is currently receiving dialysis and has responded well to treatment.

On Dec. 17, veteran Fort Worth bluesman **Robert Ealey** was seriously injured in a car accident on his way home from a gig at the **Caravan of Dreams**. The **Caravan of Dreams** hosted a benefit for Ealey on Feb. 9 that included area musicians **Mike Morgan**, **Sean Pittman**, **Johnny Red & the Roosters**, **Johnny Reno** and **Sumter Bruton**.

Robert Earl Keen recently signed a deal with **Mercury Records** under the Nashville-based company's new alternative country label **Lost Highway Records**. Keen is said to have a new studio album ready and was waiting to sign on the dotted line before releasing it.

Resurrection Management has signed the Austin-based funk/metal band **Stonecracker** to a long-term representation agreement. The hip-hop/industrial whiz kids performed at this year's SXSW.

On Jan. 23, the **Latino Rock Alliance** announced its union with concert and festival mogul **Roadstar Productions** in Austin. The purpose of the alliance is to incorporate Latino music into the Central Texas tradition of music festivals.



FROM TOP: TEXAS MUSIC FILE. COURTESY OF BUDDY HOLLY CENTER

The LRA, founded by **Michael Hernandez** and **Luis Zapata** of Austin, markets and promotes Latin and alternative music throughout the world. The acts brought to Austin through the merger will be supported by mainstream rock radio stations KLBJ and 101X. At SXSW 2001, the Latino Rock Alliance featured **Rabanes** from Panama and **Aterciopelados** from Colombia

memoriam **Jesse Arreola** – 1969-2001

Los Palominos drummer Jesse Arreola was killed Feb. 4 when he was thrown from the band's tour bus in a crash in Port Lavaca. Other members of the band and passengers on the bus suffered minor injuries. The 31-year-old Arreola had recently overcome leukemia. Last year, Los Palominos of Uvalde won best Tejano performance at the Grammy Awards and the Latin Grammy Awards for their song "Por Eso Te Amo."

Dale Evans – 1912-2001

Frances Octavia Smith, who was born in Uvalde, Texas and changed her name after going into the entertainment business, died as a result of congestive heart failure at her home east of Los Angeles. She was a big-band singer for several Chicago orchestras and in the early '40s moved into film. The "Queen of the Cowgirls" met Roy Rogers and the two co-starred in dozens of films and television shows in addition to recording more than 400 songs over their careers.

Johnny Holmes – 1917-2001
Johnny Holmes, who grew up in Bastrop, assisted Austin's nascent music scene through the Victory Grill, a hamburger joint and music venue. Opened in 1945, Holmes nurtured the Victory Grill which became an East Austin institution attracting jazz and blues greats including B.B. King and Bobby "Blue" Bland. Holmes died in February of hypothermia in Austin.

A NEW TUNE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON

During Election 2000, Gore had most of the rock world at his disposal for fundraisers, Nader had Pearl Jam and Texan Tish Hinojosa, and Bush had ... hmmm ..., oh yes, Wayne Newton. That was then and this is now. Today, bands are willing to adjust their tour dates and even play a daytime gig for Bush since he's now leader of the free world. With a little luck they can bend the ear of the president for a few minutes and possibly, if they are on their best behavior and sign damage-release forms, have a sleep-over in the White House.



ZZ Top with Bo Derek backstage

Womack and Asleep at the Wheel. The stage was not Texas-sized however, and Ray Benson had to climb and duck through gear to find a spot near a microphone.

On election night there was a low-key music presence. Austinites Jimmie Vaughan and Pat Green were good soldiers and performed for the wet and cold crowd which, for the most part, was more interested in who was ahead in Wisconsin. By inauguration weekend though, the attitude was much different. It was party time, and the bands lined up. And there's a new reality — suddenly, you can't play in Washington unless you have a fiddle in the band.

Thursday, Jan. 18, was the unofficial start to the weekend of festivities. *Austin City Limits*, in conjunction with the RIAA, hosted a special VIP party called D.C. City Limits at the Hard Rock Cafe featuring Lee Ann

Across town, "That Little Ol' Band from Texas," ZZ Top, took center stage at the "Best Little Ball in D.C.," an elite party for 1,000 people at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel (which that weekend had more Texans living there than all but a few of the larger Texas cities).

One of the grandest events every four years, and especially this time around,

is the Black Tie & Boots Ball. Some non-Texans entering the event were overwhelmed by the number of wild animals and livestock including Bevo (the Texas Longhorns mascot), Brahma bulls, horses, a crocodile and even a roadrunner — *inside* the event. The dance floors near the six stages in the hotel were kept clear of all animal by-products for dancing, which consisted primarily of two-steppin'. Performers at the Friday gala included Lyle Lovett, Asleep at the Wheel, Reckless Kelly, Joe Ely, Marcia Ball, Clint Black, the Beach Boys and the yodelin' cowgirls from Mineola, Texas Two Bits. ▲



Saturday night was Bush's first as president and that was the time for the traditional state balls held throughout the city. Dubya, a self-acknowledged non-dancer, kept the obligatory inaugural ball dances with Laura Bush very short — just a couple of turns. At the California Ball at the Ronald Reagan building, the new "Odd Couple," Texan Meatloaf and Marie Osmond, co-hosted. Except for a brief solo of the chorus to "I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)," the "Loaf" did not perform.

On Sunday morning at the 54th Inaugural Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral, Texas-native Larry Gatlin and his brothers performed a tune for the president based on a scripture titled "Come Let Us Reason Together." Gatlin first played the song for Bush at Tarrytown Methodist Church in Austin. With regards to the Inauguration on Saturday, Gatlin said, "I'm obviously very happy that my old friend George W. Bush was finally elected president. To be asked to sit on the platform with him [Bush] is an honor for which I'm grateful. ... We have a saying in our house, 'you never get too old to kiss your daddy' and when he hugged his father and kissed him on the cheek, it was a special moment."

Considering the stable of Texas music stars shining at his induction to the presidency, it sounds like George W. Bush will need to get used to hearing music, especially the catchy little tune known as "Hail to the Chief." Just don't expect him to dance to it.