

LIFE & ARTS

Austin American-Statesman statesman.com ■ austin360.com

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011 ■ SECTION D

TV PICKS Dale Roe runs down the week's viewing options ■ **D2** | GREAT MUSIC

Steve Earle and band tear up the stage at the Paramount Theatre ■ **back page**

PROFILE ■ ACTIVIST

Austinite's passion to prevent torture seen in banners across nation

By Joshunda Sanders

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

In a light-blue blouse, a simple skirt and brown cowboy boots, Bonnie Tamres-Moore sat at Jo's Coffee on South Congress Avenue reading in the shade.

The 58-year-old, who sports a stylish blond bob, looked so at ease it appeared she might be reading a summer novel. Instead, she was reading on a topic of lifelong interest: torture.

"I've been thinking about the worst people are capable of doing to each other for a long time now, for as long as I can remember," she said.

Tamres-Moore was raised by an amateur historian in Baltimore, Md. After services most Sundays at the Baptist church they attended, she would get a brief history lesson in the world's religions. Her father's erudition also led to her own passion for reading and, as a child, she read biographies like that of German theologian and musician Albert Schweitzer.

Consuming so much literature combined

On the Web

Bonnie Tamres-Moore blogs about her organization, Torture is Wrong, at www.tortureiswrong.org. Photos of churches that have hung the banner are at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nrcat-banners>.

with her half-Jewish heritage led to an early interest in genocide. That foundation led her to becoming a founding member of the Washington, D.C.-based National Religious Campaign Against Torture, with more than 300 religious organizations across the country. The group was launched in 2006 during a conference at Princeton Theological Seminary. Since 2006, 15 Austin faith-based institutions have hung the black-and-white "Torture is Wrong" banner, and the Rev. Richard L. Killmer, executive

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Austinite Bonnie Tamres-Moore created a 'Torture is Wrong' banner and works with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture to get the banners hung at religious institutions across the country.

Joshunda Sanders
AMERICAN-STATESMAN

MUSIC ■ Q&A

Civil Wars returns after hectic SXSW

By Brian T. Atkinson

SPECIAL TO THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN

The Civil Wars' stunning "Barton Hollow" spins sweet ("Forget Me Not") and sour ("Poison & Wine") with stark singularity. The duo's haunting confessionals clearly resonate: Their debut collection has moved more than 100,000 copies since February.

The Civil Wars

When: 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Where: Waterloo Records, 600-A N. Lamar Blvd.

Cost: Free

Information:

474-2500;

waterloo

records.com

When: 8 p.m.

Tuesday

Where: Texas Union Ballroom, 24th and Guadalupe streets

Cost: \$22; technically sold out

Information:

477-6060;

texasboxoffice.

com

The Civil Wars — singer-songwriters John Paul White and Joy Williams — return Tuesday after a chaotic South by Southwest debut in March. "We did 12 performances," White says. "Exhausting. Looking forward to getting back with a little less on our plate."

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American-Statesman: Explain how you met.

Joy Williams: We met on what we like to call a blind co-write. When John Paul started playing guitar and singing and I started playing with him, it was unlike any other experience we'd ever had before. It felt like we'd been singing together all of our lives.

How did the songs on the new album come together?

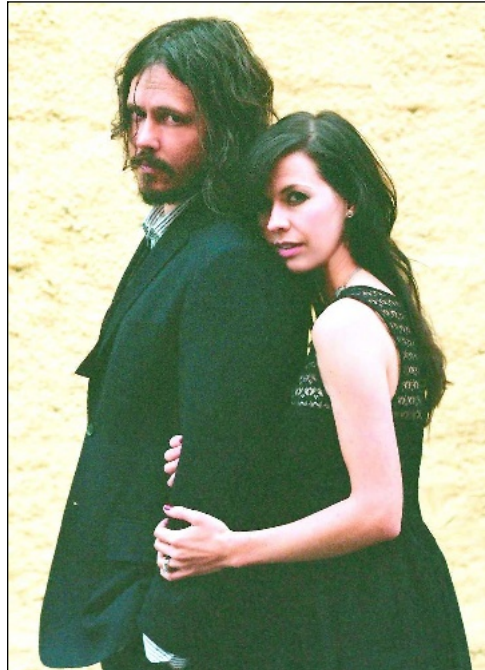
John Paul White: Gradually. We live two and a half hours apart, so we would have to set up time when we'd meet to write songs. But the muse always seemed to be there when we'd take a stab at it. I've never been a part of anything as productive.

Describe each other's greatest asset as a songwriter.

White: Joy's greatest asset is me (both laugh).

Williams: John Paul's greatest asset is obviously humility (laughs). I can tend to be an over-analyzer, and John Paul's very good at helping us stay the course in writing something that we both love and not (worrying)

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Tec Petaja

John Paul White and Joy Williams are the two sides of Civil Wars. The onstage-only couple plays two Austin performances Tuesday.



Ricardo B. Brazziell AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Winnie Hsia demonstrates moves in a class for beginners at Sky Candy Austin, where people can learn circus arts on several apparatuses such as the trapeze, silk sashes and a ring called a lyra.

UP IN THE AIR



Hsia helps 10-year-old Macy Nelms in the Intro to Aerial Skills class. It takes a lot of trust in your body to dangle upside down from a lyra.



PAM LEBLANC
FIT CITY

Not everyone who swings through the rafters at Sky Candy Austin dreams of one day performing under the big top.

Some, it turns out, sign up for the group's classes in circus arts for the workout. And they get a good one.

Drop by the cavernous, un-air-conditioned warehouse it shares with two furniture makers in East Austin almost any day and you'll find athletes gracefully cavorting on fluttering, silky sashes, ropes, bars and rings suspended from the ceiling.

Sky Candy's founders say they're tapping into a growing trend. In New York, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Boulder, people are happily channeling Cirque du Soleil in classes that teach them how to swing on a trapeze and dance on long, flowing columns of fabric.

Here in Austin, Trapeze Austin teaches classes in trapeze and silks, while Blue Lapis Light focuses on silks. Volve, a Meetup group for people with circus talents, has staged impromptu gatherings outside the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

At Sky Candy, which opened in July 2010, anybody can sign up for a class in ropes (or "corde lisse"), aerial hammock, the static trapeze or lyra, a sort of steel hoop that hangs from a rope. Classes in stilt walking and juggling might eventually join the lineup.

"We saw a gap," says Winnie Hsia, one of the founding members of Sky Candy Austin. "Austin had places that just taught trapeze or just taught silks, but there was no place that taught multiple apparatuses. We're more circus-oriented."

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360 Find more fitness and recreation news on Pam LeBlanc's blog, austin360.com/fitcity.