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Ivona Libuda

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Front: Self-Portrait 2004 Acrylic on Canvas 36" x 36"



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LOCAL

Texans of all walks keep wary watch on producer

TEXAS TWO-STEP, from page 5

piece of homemade blueberry pie to a friend.

"Hey, this is gonna be a good time for all of us" Wayne Campbell assured those gathered. "You guys are all gonna be out there watching us, helping out. This is gonna be an experience for all of us."

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

On the rock-n-roll pain train
After the lights go down
I live out in the woods now
It helps me keep my feet on the ground
— Kid Rock
"Rock-n-roll Pain Train"

"So, is this really gonna happen?" KTXS-TV journalist Joe B. Fry asked Wayne Campbell after an interview with Stanton for his network's "Entertainment Spotlight" program. The buzz about town has begun to get the hopes up of more than a few area residents, including Paula Windham, who has opened the doors of her massive Sand Hills Ranch to Stanton and company.

Windham arranged the interview with Fry before Stanton had even touched down on tarmac en route from Los Angeles.

Sitting in Windham's living room between a pair of 16-inch thick cedar posts, Stanton discussed his project with Fry while Wayne Campbell played a steady diet of southern rock and country songs in the background, flipping through homemade CDs emblazoned with the title "Don't mess with Texas." The Texas-coined motto was something of a mantra for the crew this trek into rattlesnake country as they worked to ingratiate themselves with a cautious community.

"I just want to get everyone on the same page," Stanton told Fry during the

TV piece. "It's so important to get the community together, look each one of them in the eye and sincerely tell them what it is we're doing, and how privileged we are to be here.

"I want them to feel they are helping us and we are helping them. It's about connecting and feeling one another."

Fresh off the Oplin-style press junket, it was time to let off a little steam — Oplin-style — by swimming in one of the land runoff collection pools referred to as "tanks." Avoiding rattlers amid the brush while walking to the tank is supposed to be the greatest threat in one of these swims, that is if you discount the contaminated waters routinely inhabited by cattle and whatever else lies beneath the algae.

However, another native was watching with wary gaze. Reveling in the burgeoning legitimacy of their film project following the interview, the group hadn't noticed the suddenness with which the nearby cattle scurried off, obviously spooked by something wicked this way comes.

"That Joe Fry's gonna be a nice spoke to the wheel," said an oblivious Wayne Campbell, floating belly-up and basking in the positive publicity "North Starr" had just received. "We're gonna make that wheel and roll that bitch, and look out! ... Uphill, downhill — we gone!"

In Hollywood, they often liken wheeling and dealing within the cutthroat "industry" to "swimming with sharks." But after Stanton and company had towed off and headed back to Windham's ranch house, it was obvious that, in Texas, the budding filmmakers were dealing with a different animal entirely. A 5-foot-long black panther emerged from the brush and reclaimed the tank for himself.

Don't mess with Texas.

(For more information about "North Starr," log onto fatbessyfilms.com.)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

talks, volunteering, conferences, and college night, which focuses on college entrance requirements and scholarship resources.

Applications are currently being accepted for volunteer adult mentors to work directly with teens enrolled in this program. The program is looking for success-oriented men and women to mentor boys, 11-14, and girls, 13-17, who will focus on developing good study habits and building self-esteem.

The program requires a commitment of 12-15 hours per month. Fingerprint and drivers license clearance is required.

St. Joseph Center assists more than 7,000 working poor and homeless adults and children, veterans, and seniors each year to achieve self-sufficiency through food distributions, child care, mentoring, and job training. For more information, call (310) 396-6468, ext. 325, or visit www.stjosephctr.org.

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