



AUSTIN DISPATCHES

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How've you been? Me? Here're my year's highlights:

In the first half of the year, I continued my contract at ERCOT's operations center in Taylor. The work started right after Christmas. It would've started sooner, but ERCOT had to sweat extra diligently to confirm I really exist (hold the philosophy jokes). About a month later, the state indicted several former top managers, one of them a former FBI agent, for bilking ERCOT of \$2 million with phony employees.¹

In the spring, I canvassed for my friends' aldermanic races, and helped Wes Benedict carry my precinct.² Also, the Austin chapter of the Society for Technical Communication [appointed me chairman](#) of the Independent Contractors and Freelancers Special Interest Group at its May 24 meeting. I'm not even a member of STC. But it looks good on a [resume](#).

This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to work at [Movêro Technology](#), a start-up managed wireless services company.³ Jobs this good don't come along often enough. The work was interesting. I got to write a little of everything I've ever written before professionally, and then some, including some of the best [technical writing](#) I've ever done, and ad copy in a supplement to the September issue of Mobile Enterprise magazine.

In August, I attended the [Jjagbemi-Garcia wedding](#) in Garland. It was a lovely affair, despite the fact that many of us in attendance were sweating profusely in dark formal wear.

Next, I missed [Hurricane Rita](#). The closest I came to a hurricane was the cocktail special at The Copa. Meanwhile, Hurricane Katrina caused an exodus of musicians from New Orleans to Austin. Already, I caught the family Neville at a jam session at Serrano's Café and Cantina on Red River Street, a benefit for the Engineers for a Sustainable World Gulf Coast Fund. (My extra advice with the \$20 admission: Don't build a city below water level. The engineers weren't amused.)

On my birthday, I started work on a new contract, in the business section at the north end of the county between [Interstate 35 and Farm-to-Market Road 1325](#). Under the circumstances, it's the best gift I could receive.

In between all this, I've managed to amuse myself with the absurdities of local life, [extensive reading](#), and a persistent social whirl.

Wishing you the merriest of holiday seasons,

NOTES

¹ AD No. 76 (Jan. 17, 2005); AD No. 77 (Mar. 3, 2005).

² AD No. 78 (Apr. 2, 2005); AD No. 79 (May 22, 2005).

³ Greenwood, Giselle. "Jackson Finds New Tech Success." ABJ 19 Aug. 2005: 3; Ladendorf, Kirk. "Incurable Business Impresario at It Again." AAS 22 Aug. 2005: D1.