

DOCKETS? OR DINNER?

Move over, Martha. Bye-bye, Bobby Flay. **Marie Hejl**, an associate with the Austin office of Locke Liddell & Sapp, L.L.P., is in the kitchen, cooking up elegant, tasty, and simple-to-create cuisine.

Since late December, Hejl has taped — on her own time and at her own expense — about a dozen episodes of “It’s Easier Than You Think.” The 30-minute program, produced by volunteer videographer/editor Emanuel Limuel, Jr. (a full-time Baptist minister), airs weekly on Austin Community Access Television (ACTV) Channel 16 and Dallas Community Television (DCTV) Premium Channel 27.

The idea for the show came to Hejl after she taught a friend to make piecrusts for a Thanksgiving dinner. “Whenever someone asks, ‘How did you do that?’ the first answer that pops into my head is, ‘It’s easier than you think,’” she says.

“By no means am I a trained chef,” Hejl confesses. (She’s taken only two cooking

classes, and both were part of a recruiting event for her law firm.) “But I love cooking, reading food magazines, and trying new flavors.” For her program, she has prepared Asian lettuce wraps, Mexican sopapillas, and biscotti — dishes that are “easy, quick, and interesting, but that most people have never made.”

Hejl has invited guest chefs, including some members of the Austin legal community, to create their specialty on camera. In an upcoming episode, **Mark Perlmutter**, one of Hejl’s former professors at the University of Texas School of Law, will make a Chicago-style pizza crust. For a “comfort food” episode, **Erin Foley**, an associate with Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., will make macaroni and cheese from scratch.

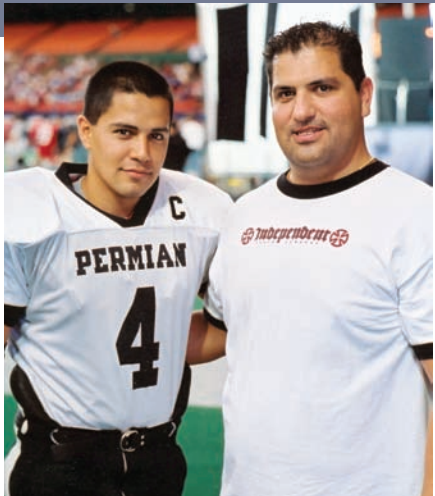
“It’s Easier Than You Think” is not Hejl’s first foray in front of the camera. In fact, she and her older brother Jim produced three episodes of a kids’ cooking show for ACTV when she was 8 years old. Inspired by recipes from an old

Betty Crocker cookbook, Hejl remembers making animal-shaped pancakes.

Hejl considered embarking on a culinary career (she ran her own cake-decorating business, *A Piece of Cake*, while in college), but after an internship with bankruptcy attorney **Mina Brees**, she decided to pursue law instead. “I love the variety of my cases,” the civil litigant says. She also likes that her legal background has helped her deal with copyright and trademark issues connected with her TV program.

But for the most part, the show is pure enjoyment. “It is not about making money or about my career,” Hejl says. “It is low stress and allows me to be creative.” Her enthusiasm is obvious — even to television professionals. Hejl’s episode on Asian dishes recently won first place in the variety category of the 2005 Austin Video Awards.

Her final advice for would-be chefs: “Just try it. That’s what makes cooking fun.”



Odessa attorney Brian Chavez (right) with Jay Hernandez, the actor who played Chavez in the film adaptation of *Friday Night Lights*.

A WINNING OPTION

As chronicled in H.G. Bissinger's 1990 bestseller, *Friday Night Lights*, and the 2004 film based on the book, "mania" is a mild term for the devotion of Odessa residents to high school football.

Brian Chavez, a defense attorney in Odessa, was captain and starting tight end for the Permian Panthers as they sought their fifth state championship — the team Bissinger featured. Even when football ruled the town, the sport never consumed Chavez's life. He dreamed not of going pro, but of going to Harvard.

Graduating first in his high school class, Chavez was accepted into the prestigious university. "I've been to Europe and I've been to South America, but nowhere was the culture shock as great as going from Odessa to Cambridge, Massachusetts," he says. "There I was, a football jock, surrounded by kids whose whole lives had been driven by academics."

Chavez, who practices law with his father, Tony, and his brother, Adrian, was born in El Paso — "five houses from the border" — and spoke only Spanish until he started kindergarten. He ranks his cum laude undergraduate degree among his greatest personal accomplishments. "For someone with my background to get to go to Harvard is rare."

These days, Chavez talks to high school students and young athletes about the importance of finding balance between sports and schoolwork. "I want to help them realize that while very few become professional athletes, education and hard work can take you far."

331 AND COUNTING

On Oct. 15, 1977, the Texas Longhorns defeated Arkansas 13-9 on the Razorbacks' turf in a hard-fought contest between the nationally ranked football teams. And what was Austin lawyer **J. Scott Wilson** doing? Unpacking boxes as he moved into his new home.



Scott Wilson (right) with a University of Michigan fan before the 2005 Rose Bowl.

"At the time, I didn't even think about it — that moving would be my reason for missing a single game 30 years later," says Wilson, who has attended every one of the 331 Longhorn football games since then.

Wilson, in-house counsel for TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool, first stepped inside Texas Memorial Stadium in 1958, and the thrill of being in the crowd for kickoff remains.

Describing himself as a constant fan, Wilson looks forward to the upcoming season and continuing his attendance

streak: "I go by what Woody Allen says, 'Eighty percent of success in life is just showing up,' and that's what I've done."

TEXAS PEOPLE

President Bush named **Carol Dinkins**, a partner in the Houston office of Vinson and Elkins, L.L.P., to head a new government oversight panel charged with ensuring that civil liberties are protected in the fight against terrorism.



Talmage Boston, a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead Sechrest & Minick, P.C., was elected chair of the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation. He will lead efforts to raise scholarship money for MBA students at Texas universities.



Carl S. Richie, Jr., a partner in the Austin office of Gardere Wynne Sewell, L.L.P., received the Commissioner's Service Award from the Southwest chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He is involved with NAHRO at the state, regional, and national levels.



Joe Spurlock II, a professor at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, received the Medal of Friendship from the Government of Mongolia. The honor recognizes Spurlock's work as director of the Asian Judicial Institute and his efforts to help reform the Mongolian judicial system.

