



Like 0 Tweet Email Print Share

## "8X11" by Jordan Gass-Poore

Posted By [Flash Fiction](#) on Fri, Feb 18, 2011 at 9:29 am

 We're loading your content, stay tuned!



Introduction Who among us hasn't snuck some of our college roommate's food. I remember my brother telling me about drinking his friend's last beer (and one you can't even get in Texas) and then pretending to sleep while he listened to the guy rummage about in the fridge more and more frantically. That's funny. "8X11" takes a similar subject and tells it lyrically. It clearly conjures such loss, but of what is slightly trickier. And that's O.K. That's the point. Because we all steal things from our roommates. We all understand malaise. We're all human. And Jordan Gass-Poore does a wonderful job of capturing it here in this very short story. Send in your sniffers, your laughs, your adventure stories. [Flashfiction@sacurrent.com](mailto:Flashfiction@sacurrent.com).

### MOST POPULAR

MOST READ THIS ISSUE

1. *SNL* Cast Member Melissa Villaseñor to Spend New Year's Eve in San Antonio with Sets at Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club [READ MORE](#)
2. Carlos Mencia to Perform at Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club All Weekend In Case You Care [READ MORE](#)
3. Award-Winning Stage Production of *The Color Purple* to Fill San Antonio's Majestic Theatre [READ MORE](#)
4. Moscow Ballet to Perform *Great Russian Nutcracker* at San Antonio's Majestic Theatre [READ MORE](#)
5. Well-Regarded San Antonio Visual Artist Katie Pell Has Died at Age 54 [READ MORE](#)

Search



### CALENDAR

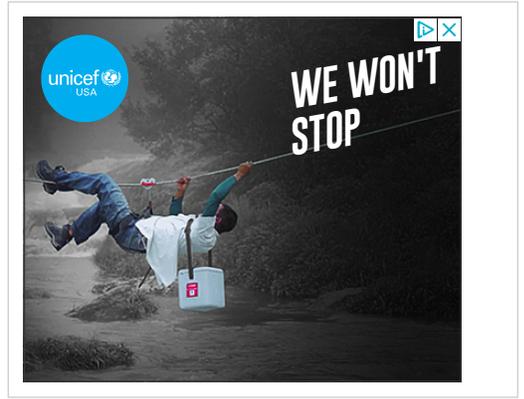
EVENTS MUSIC MOVIES ARTS DINING

TODAY TOMORROW THIS WEEKEND

1. Great Russian Nutcracker [READ MORE](#)
2. Carlos Mencia [READ MORE](#)
3. Cooper Greenberg [READ MORE](#)
4. Alex de Leon and Elizabeth McGrath [READ MORE](#)
5. Jennifer Ling Datchuk: Don't Worry Be Happy [READ MORE](#)

—Lyle Rosdahl

“8X11” by Jordan Gass-Poore I lick the chocolate off my thumb and index finger and can smell the cigarette smoke, putting me off the second stolen cookie sitting on my laptop keys. I fidget in the straight-backed chair that doesn’t belong in my dorm room, the chair my roommate stole from the study room down the hall when she had someone over and didn’t think it was polite for them to sit in my original desk chair without asking me first. She’s dating a non-practicing Jewish guy whose family celebrates Christmas and Chanukah. My original desk chair sits in the middle of the room, my suitcase and bag lounge on top evoking Michelangelo’s Pieta. I turn my head to make sure the door is still locked and my roommate isn’t trying to break in. I always lock the door before I steal her food. I keep the door locked until I’m done eating, the evidence disposed of either in my stomach or in my small plastic trashcan. I turn back to the screen on my laptop. The empty Word document with its flashing cursor taunts me like my old piano teacher’s metronome- tick, tick. Faster, you’re not keeping up. It’s a C-flat. C minus. The cookie is still lying on the keys, on top of e, r, f, c, x, z, a, w, s, d. It’s some cryptic crossword, a premonition of things to come: klepto, fatty, prisoner, dumb, lung cancer, death. The chocolate chips look like tar balls washed up on a sandy Southern beach. Bounce, bounce, bounce. I think I’ll steal it back. My roommate’s metal desk drawer is filled with sugary cereal, cake, and cookies. There’s plastic dishware and a mangled bag of half-eaten potato chips. I place the cookie in its plastic divider, at the head of the line. The doorknob is shaking. The cookie crumbles in my hand. I jerk my hand out of the bag, breathe, and silently shut the drawer. Someone knocks on the door. My roommate calls my name. I answer, licking my teeth and inspecting my nails for chocolate. She asks me to please unlock the door, she forgot her key. I wipe the cookie crumbs off my sweater, grab my bag, and unlock the door. I smile and tell her I’ll be right back, I’m going outside to make a phone call. The door shuts behind me as I walk down the hall. I have two cigarettes left.



## ARTS SLIDESHOWS



ALL THE SUPER FANS WE SAW AT THE BRASS MONKEY'S ANNUAL STAR WARS PARTY



FESTIVE SCENES FROM THE 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BLOCK PARTY AT QUARRY VILLAGE



EVERYONE WE SAW AT THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON FRIDAY THE 13TH



SAN ANTONIO TATTOO SHOPS OFFERING FRIDAY THE 13TH SPECIALS

[MORE...](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT BY



**Style Stories: Rebecca Minkoff**

## NEWSLETTERS

### NEVER MISS A BEAT

Subscribe now to get the latest news delivered right to your inbox.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

## SPECIAL ISSUES



Tags: [Streetview](#), [literature](#), [lyle rosdaahl](#), [story](#), [stories](#), [short stories](#), [sa current flash fiction](#), [jordan gass-poore](#), [8X11](#), [roommates](#), [image](#)

### We're keeping you informed...

...and it's what we love to do. From local politics and culture to national news that hits close to home, San Antonio Current has been keeping San Antonio informed for years.

It's never been more important to support local news sources. A free press means accountability and a well-informed public, and we want to keep our unique and independent reporting available for many, many years to come.

If quality journalism is important to you, please consider a donation to San Antonio Current. Every reader contribution is valuable and so appreciated, and goes directly to support our coverage of critical issues and neighborhood culture. Thank you.

[Donate](#)



[« SA Film Fest submission deadline co...](#)

[Call for Submissions»](#)

[More ArtSlut»](#)

[Jump to comments](#)

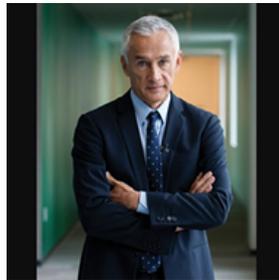
### SPEAKING OF...



**San Antonio Book Festival Releases 2019 Event Schedule**  
Feb 7, 2019



**San Antonio Favorite Sandra Cisneros Wins Prestigious PEN/Nabokov Award**  
Feb 6, 2019



**There's Something For Everyone at 6th Annual San Antonio Book Festival**  
Mar 26, 2018

[MORE»](#)

0 Comments

San Antonio Current

1 Login ▾

Recommend 4

[Tweet](#)

[Share](#)

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?



Name

Be the first to comment.

[Subscribe](#)

[Add Disqus to your site](#)

[Disqus' Privacy Policy](#)

**DISQUS**

### MORE BY FLASH FICTION

**Six-Worders from A.J. Chilson & James Courtney**  
Mar 15, 2013

**Outside by Eli Tarin**  
Mar 1, 2013

**New Reign by Sonya Barrera Eddy**  
Feb 16, 2013

**Winter SALE**

**SHOP NOW**

**ZENNI®**

**READERS ALSO LIKED...**



**Artist Ana Fernandez Captures the Essence of San Antonio in Puro Exhibition 'Still Life'**  
May 16, 2018



**San Antonio Author's New Twists on Familiar Tales Take Her to the Hallmark Channel and Beyond**  
Jun 6, 2018



**Experience the Seductive Power of the Tango as *María de Buenos Aires* Comes Alive on the Stage**  
Jun 6, 2018

**San Antonio Current**

915 Dallas Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78215  
(210) 227 0044

[CONTACT US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [NATIONAL ADVERTISING](#) | [WORK HERE](#)

All parts of this site Copyright © 2019 San Antonio Current.

[RSS Feeds](#) 

[Log in](#) / [Create Account](#)

**NEWS**

- News Home
- The Daily Blog
- Cityscapes
- Newsmonger
- Local Job Listings

**CANNA**

- Canna News
- Legislative Updates
- Business Directory

**ARTS**

- Arts Home
- Artslut Blog
- Visual Art
- Literature
- Theater
- Recreation
- Savage Love
- Horoscopes

**FOOD+DRINK**

- Food+Drink Home
- Flavor Blog
- Restaurants
- Nightlife
- Happy Hour Hound
- Flavor Special Issue
- Find a Restaurant

**MUSIC**

- Music Home
- SA Sound Blog
- Live & Local
- Albums
- SA Music Awards
- Search Music Events
- Add Music Event

**MOVIES**

- Movie Reviews and News
- Find a Theater
- Movie Times by Theater
- Movie Times by Title
- Movie Times by Time of Day

**EVENTS**

- Events Home
- Search Calendar
- Add Calendar Event

**BEST OF SA**

- Best of SA Home
- Food & Drink
- Nightlife
- People
- Shopping
- Around Town

**SPECIAL ISSUES**

- Free Guide
- SA Music Awards
- City Guide
- College Guide
- SA Music Awards
- Drink
- Flavor
- Best of SA

**ARCHIVES**

- Search Archives
- Search Authors
- Search Issues

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

**ABOUT US**

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Calendar Submissions
- Freelance Guidelines
- Jobs and Internships
- Policies
- Where To Find Us
- Advertise With Us
- Subscribe

**PROMOTIONS**

- Giveaways
- SA Current Events
- Slideshows