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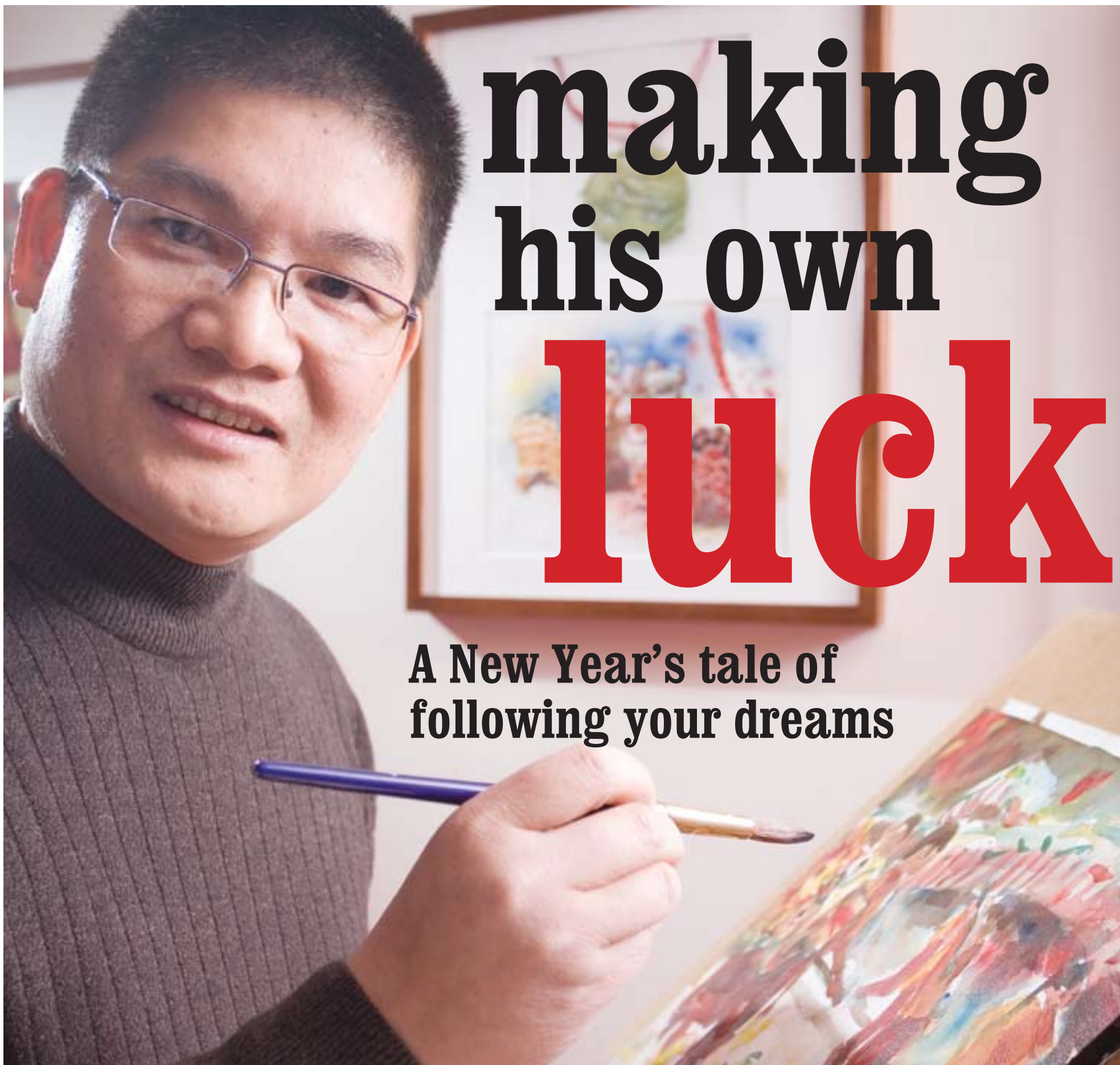
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FEBRUARY 18 - 24, 2010

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BY JODY REESE

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Toll is (reluctantly) needed



The state is seriously considering moving the Bedford toll plaza down a few hundred feet to include the new \$175 million airport access road.

Not surprisingly the Manchester Airport brass and Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas oppose moving the Bedford tolls to cover the new airport access road. They feel that adding the toll could hurt the airport and the economic engine it has become for the region.

While I sympathize with Gatsas and the airport, no toll on the new access road would actually be worse for the airport and the neighborhoods around it. It's the little law of unintended consequences.

By offering motorists a way to avoid the tolls, more traffic will be forced across the access road and on to Brown Avenue in Manchester and South Willow Street — two roads that already have too much traffic on them.

I can't imagine that an airport user from Massachusetts would be deterred by a \$.75 charge at the tolls. They already pay it and it's cheaper than going through the Ted Williams Tunnel to get to the Boston airport.

The other larger issue at play is the looming highway budget deficit. And while moving the tolls to take in the access road won't solve that problem it will help a bit. The highway budget is in the hole almost a billion dollars for the next 10 years. The result is going to be higher tolls, higher gas taxes and higher registration fees.

12 Meet Yong Chen



The path to a rewarding career took this Nashua artist from China to the class room and from making drawings for his parents as a kid to illustrating children's books, including his recent *The Gift*. This is his story. Cover photo of Chen by Sid Ceaser (www.ceaserphotography.com).

Also on the cover: Voting for Hippo's Best of 2010 readers' poll began Monday, Feb. 1. Voting will last all month long. Voting will be entirely online again this year. See page 19 for all the details and may the best burger, DJ and hairstylist win.

Looking for vacation week ideas? This week's listings, which start on page 25, feature kids events, week-long camps, sporting events and more to keep you and your kids busy during their week off.

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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Lynch tells agencies to trim budgets:** Government officials want a balanced budget. Gov. John Lynch met with state agencies last week to work on a comprehensive strategy for ensuring a balanced budget while protecting the state's essential services. Lynch directed agency heads to create proposals for further reducing their budgets. By the end of 2011, the state could be facing a \$140 million deficit, Lynch said. Along with losing out on \$110 million from the Joint Underwriting Authority, the Department of Health and Human Services has seen caseloads grow by more than 20,000 in the past year, primarily driven by the increase in unemployment rates. Lynch instructed agencies to reduce general fund spending by 2 percent for the remainder of the current fiscal year and by 8 percent for Fiscal Year 2011. Lynch said that once the proposals are completed he will work with agencies to implement strategies for cutting costs while minimizing service impacts. "In the past several years we've made tough choices to respond to the recession's impact on the state budget," Lynch said. "To keep taxes low, we cut spending in nearly every state agency; we closed a prison and courthouses; we took the very hard steps necessary to reduce personnel costs. We took those steps so that we could meet our core responsibilities to preserve public safety, to protect our most vulnerable citizens, and to fund education."

• **Bedford toll booth move considered:** Lawmakers are considering moving the Bedford toll booth on the F.E. Everett Turnpike south in an effort to catch drivers before they exit onto the airport access road that is currently being built. Reports indicated moving the toll booths would save the state from losing about \$6 million per year in toll revenue. The toll plaza is undergoing renovations. The access road is expected to be completed in 2012. A House committee voted to have state transportation officials look into moving the tolls. Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas does not approve of the idea and has said he would fight against the toll move. According to reports, people from southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts would currently drive through the tolls on their way to the airport.

• **Power plant leak causes concern:** Gov. Lynch asked for a full investigation into the recent tritium leak and overall operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, which is owned by Entergy Corporation and located on the banks of the Connecticut River in Vernon, Vt. Lynch wrote a letter to the chairman of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The leak last month generated elevated levels of tritium, which has been linked to cancer, in groundwater monitoring wells at the plant. Many New Hampshire communities fall within the emergency planning zone for the plant. Plant officials say the current situation does not pose a health risk, but Lynch said in his letter he was concerned about the broader implications. U.S. Rep.

Paul Hodes has called for an EPA investigation and introduced legislation that would give New Hampshire more oversight of the power plant.

• **Homeless veterans will be studied:** The state House of Representatives voted unanimously to create a commission to study homelessness among veterans. Rep. Shannon Chandley, D-Amherst, who was the primary sponsor of the bill, said there are fewer than 500 homeless veterans in New Hampshire. Chandley said it was a manageable number that makes eliminating homelessness for veterans realistic.

• **Concord brainstorms:** Concord is looking to find ways to drive more economic activity and expand the tax base in the capital city. Re-Thinking Main Street is a partnership of Main Street Concord, Concord 2020 and the city itself. The organization held information sessions on Monday and Wednesday and has another scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20, at 10:15 a.m. at Red River Theatres, 11 South Main St.

• **SNHU and Franklin Pierce freeze tuition:** Southern New Hampshire University (www.snhu.edu) announced last week it will freeze its tuition for undergraduate day students for the 2010-2011 academic year. According to SNHU president Paul LeBlanc, the University needed to provide current and prospective families some "financial breathing space." The University will also add \$1.5 million to its grant and scholarship awards for next school year. Franklin Pierce University in Rindge also announced a tuition freeze for the 2010-2011 school year.

• **Free online business course:** The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) announced this month it will offer a free online course on starting a business in New Hampshire. The class is one of more than 20 free online courses that are part of the SBDC's Entrepreneurs courses. The course, which includes 65 animated slides and lasts about 75 minutes, provides information on registering a business name, different types of business organizations, taxes and licensing, insurance and business plans. Courses can be taken all at once or can be paused and restarted later. Visit www.snhu.edu.

• **iCAD wins award:** For its efforts in creating products that lead to increased cancer patient survival rates, Nashua-based iCAD is this month's "Innovation Rocks" award winner. Innovation Rocks is an initiative sponsored by the state Division of Economic Development's Business Resource Center in coordination with Rock 101 and the Pavilion at the Hilton Garden Inn. Each month, a New Hampshire company is recognized for creativity and ingenuity. iCAD provides advanced image analysis and workflow solutions for the early identification of cancer, according to a state press release. Its SecondLook CAD systems can detect as much as 72 percent of actionable missed breast cancers an average of 15 months earlier than screening mammography alone. The company's Virtual Colonoscopy offers a less-invasive alternative to conventional colonic polyp diagnostic techniques. Visit www.icadmed.com.

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The speed of lying

Researchers at Southern New Hampshire University can tell when you're lying. Well, not really, but their research does seem to suggest that people's minds react more slowly when they're being less than truthful.

Peter Frost, SNHU professor of psychology, will publish a study this year based on a new application for the implicit association test (IAT), a test initially used to measure subtle prejudices. Frost and his team of researchers found that people who were lying reacted more slowly than people who were being truthful.

"The results are pretty striking," Frost said. "We don't know exactly what it means. But there's something going on there that's interesting. We're trying to piece out the reasons."

The IAT is based on the assumption that if an object elicits a subconscious attitude that is negative, then pairing that object with positive attributes should lead to slower response times as the brain processes the conflict.

"The IAT has been around for a long while," Frost said. "It's meant to measure subconscious attitudes toward certain groups of people."

Historically, researchers would show subjects pictures of say, young and old people,

along with words with a positive or negative connotation. People would be asked to press a key as quickly as possible if they see a young face coupled with a positive word, and another if they see an old face paired with a negative word. Response times were slower when the pairings were reversed — old face with a positive word, or young with a negative word. Frost said it seemed to indicate subconscious prejudice.

In Frost's research, subjects studied a crime scene and were interviewed about it. Some were told to lie about what they'd seen and others were told to tell the truth. Then subjects took the IAT. Researchers showed them objects from the scene, as well as inaccurate objects. Subjects were asked to respond one way if they saw negative attributes or inaccurate crime scene details, and another way if they were presented with positive attributes or accurate crime scene details. Then the pairings were reversed. "It was a striking difference," Frost said. "...When people had lied, they were quite a bit slower at associating the correct items with the bad words." The study seems to indicate people might harbor implicit negative attitudes about what they lie about, Frost said.

The study isn't likely to help out law enforcement officials any time soon, but Frost

said police are interested in learning more about liars, especially since typical polygraph tests are only about 90 percent accurate.

Interrogators often present suspects with objects from a crime scene that only the criminal would know about to gauge a reaction, Frost said. —*Jeff Mucciarone*

CMC-Dartmouth Hitchcock partnership: not yet

Opponents of the proposed affiliation between Catholic Medical Center in Manchester and the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic based in Lebanon got some support from the state House of Representatives earlier this month. On a voice vote and without debate, the House passed a non-binding resolution to put the proposal before a probate court. Opponents of the deal have called for a probate court review for some time. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Joel Winters, D-Manchester.

"It's a very resounding call ... for the attorney general to take this matter one step further, so people can feel good about the outcome," said Barbara Hagan, an activist opposing the affiliation. "Right now no one feels very good."

There has been concern from some over how the two entities would integrate Dartmouth-Hitchcock's secular practices, such as birth control and abortions, with CMC's religious directives. Officials from both facilities have said the affiliation would have no impact on CMC's ethical and religious stance. Others are concerned that Dartmouth Hitchcock doctors would be restricted from providing full reproductive care.

The affiliation would allow CMC to collaborate with 120 Manchester-based Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic physicians. CMC has maintained that leased multi-specialty physician services would be subject to the ethical and religious directives set out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Hagan is hoping the legislators' support will persuade Attorney General Michael Delaney to go ahead with the probate court review. The measure officially goes to the Senate, but Delaney is under no legal obligation to put the agreement before a probate court judge; the measure simply urges him to do so. He also doesn't have to wait for approval from the Senate, Hagan said.

CMC and Dartmouth Hitchcock say the probate court process is unnecessary because the attorney general's charitable trusts unit is conducting its own review. Mike DeLucia, director of that unit, is conducting that review.

The division of consumer protection and antitrust, the Federal Trade Commission and the Bishop of Manchester John McCormack are also reviewing the proposed agreement. McCormack must provide final approval for the deal to go through.

Hagan said a probate court review would essentially be the last step for opponents.

"If a judge looks at it, weighs the merits, applies the laws that govern ... and his decision is either it is or is not something that can be allowed ... either way those of us who have worked so hard for the last year and a half, we'll feel we did everything we possibly could do to ensure that the mission of both of these entities will be protected..." Hagan said.

The attorney general's office must produce a decision by this spring. CMC and Dartmouth Hitchcock filed with the attorney general in January. Visit www.ahealthiertomorrow.org. —*JM*

House lawmakers in **Concord** were set to decide this week whether volunteers could take over some of the responsibilities of the only self-funded state park system in the country — a system that has consistently not generated adequate funds to operate within budget. An Associated Press article said the measure could let volunteers play a bigger role at potentially half of the state's 71 parks.

Wilton police arrested a 24-year-old **Wilton** man over the weekend after finding 134 marijuana plants in his apartment. The Union Leader reported about 75 percent of the apartment was used for growing marijuana.

Despite reports of storefront vacancies in downtown **Nashua**, four new businesses are set to open in the downtown in the coming weeks. WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St.; White Barn Basketry, 98 Main St.; Amsterdam Bar & Lounge, 8 Temple St., and Army Supply Surplus Store, 99 West Pearl St., will all open soon.

People in **Derry** can now report minor crimes to police and obtain copies of police reports online. The new system will be used for minor crimes and crime tips. Visit www.derrynhpolice.com.

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Defining Merrimack

iTRaC envisions a town center with a purpose

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

A defined town center complete with more sidewalk and trail connections and amenities like benches, public artwork or bike racks — that’s the focus of the recently developed Merrimack town center action plan.

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission, through its iTRaC program, which integrates transportation, land use and environmental planning, partnered with the town to create the plan in a way that centers on creating action items that are just that — actionable. Many communities have plenty of great ideas but it can be difficult to turn those ideas into actions. That’s where the Planning Commission tried to step in, said Camille Pattison, of the Commission, which worked with an iTRaC committee made up of town officials, residents and business personnel. She said Merrimack has completed several studies and plans regarding the downtown.

“We’re trying to work with the town to develop a short implement-able action plan, where they could bite off a little at a time and start to see improvements to the town center,” Pattison said.

The idea is to define Merrimack’s downtown a little more clearly and to make it a destination unto itself where residents can shop, walk or grab something to eat. The municipal complex, along with the library and courthouse, provides plenty of foot traffic to build on. The plan, which prioritizes each action, is not so much about building up the downtown as it is about enhancing what is already there, Pattison said. One of the key components is to create a town center committee to implement the actions through working with administration, residents and local businesses.

The plan carries no mandate, but it will serve as a tool.

“In my mind it’s a nice tool to have as development or redevelopments are made in the town center area,” said Keith Hickey, Merrimack town manager. “We can use that iTRaC report that we got as a resource when we design those future improvements and changes consistent with ... the important items.”

A big part of the plan is creating more sidewalk and trail access, as there are many areas lacking solid connections, which can make it difficult to walk the town center, Pattison said.

“The idea with the committee was to create a plan, a vision, of what the center could be,” Pattison said.

Action items address sidewalks, trails, safety, design and parking. The area includes the Merrimack District Courthouse, municipal buildings, churches, pedestrian connections between schools, town center amenities, businesses, Merrill’s Marauders Bridge and Wildcat Falls. On the sidewalk front, priority one, according to the plan, is to create sidewalk connections at Abbie Griffin Park to connect the Merrimack District Courthouse to businesses on DW Highway. The plan also calls for creating a sidewalk in front of Watson Park. Hickey said the town is planning to open a “passive recreation” park this spring nearby the town center, which



will include a dog park and will provide another place for exercise or a picnic.

The action plan calls for connecting Watson Park to the western side of DW Highway near the fire station, using the old canal under the bridge. The plan also suggests developing a trail system along the northerly side of the Souhegan River from the fire station west to join with the trail under the Everett Turnpike at Merrill’s Marauders Bridge, which would also connect to the high school, a connection the town is working with the state to make happen. Hickey called it a “longstanding desire” for pedestrians to be able to cross the river on foot. Otherwise, they would need to drive.

“That will make it much easier and safer,” Hickey said.

Along with extending and connecting pedestrian access, the plan also makes suggestions for enhancing lighting, street furniture, landscaping and public art. Attractions like Kids Cove Playground, Watson Park and the Merrimack Community Bandstand draw residents for recreation. The report said the town center has also had several new businesses set up shop in recent years, such as Swan Chocolates, Buckley’s Great Steaks and CVS — all located nearby Watson Park.

The plan also identifies potential funding sources. The Committee suggested exploring grant opportunities through the state or through private foundations aimed at fitness, creating a designated town center fund, supporting the funding of the Road Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund, exploring the feasibility of development impact fees, and working with developers to make on-site and off-site improvements. For trails, the plan also lists establishing an Adopt-A-Trail Program and encouraging Eagle Scout projects as a means of trail development.

Creating plans like the iTRaC plan helps the community develop proactively. Along with taking care of planning ahead of time, it could also put the town ahead of other communities in terms of grant funding, Hickey said.

“It’s good for us in a number of different ways,” Hickey said. “It allows the governing body here to make informed decisions based on feedback that’s already been solicited.”

Visit www.nashuarpc.org/landuse/projects.htm to see the plan.

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The State Librarian

Michael York gets the data in on time

The New Hampshire State Library recently received a 2009 Keppel Award from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the U.S. Census. Michael York, who oversees the State Library in Concord, said with the increasing rise of technology, New Hampshire libraries are serving their communities better than ever. Visit www.nh.gov/nhsl.



Q: *What's the award all about?*
It's an award for getting in all the statistical data that we need to get into the federal government.

All libraries provide statistical data about the state library and all public libraries. It's used by the Census Bureau to help libraries compile data so they can make good decisions. ... State libraries, working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, they compile the data and obviously publish it. ... The Keppel Award is for getting it in earlier than the deadline. It was instituted about 15 years ago to try and encourage state libraries to try to get data in earlier. Each year, we try to get it... We usually do. Tom Ladd is the data coordinator, he's responsible for getting that data compiled on a state level. He deserves the credit.

What types of issues are libraries in New Hampshire facing now?

They're facing the same issues that everybody else is. Difficult economic times have a direct impact on libraries. ... Just as money has become more difficult to come by through municipal and state funding, they're seeing increases in use. ... When times get tough, people turn to the public library. ... There are 234 public libraries in the state of New Hampshire. There's a library in every single community in New Hampshire. No other institution can make that claim. Not McDonald's, not Dunkin' Donuts, not Starbucks. New Hampshire libraries are anchor institutions. They are places everybody knows about and many, many citizens use. There's no bigger bargain than public libraries. It's classic of what tax dollars can do for the taxpayer.

What are you seeing in terms of usership?

... We did a survey a few years ago with the [University of New Hampshire] Survey Center. What we learned was that libraries score very high in terms of citizens in the state. They think they're getting good value for the money. ... People feel comfortable going to them. They bring their children there. That does not mean that we don't struggle with funding, but that's the nature of public institutions. What's happening is there's been this thinking that libraries were going to go away with the Internet, the 24-hour news cycle...it simply

isn't true. There's new libraries, a new one in Hudson, new one in Portsmouth, new one in Gilford, extensive renovations at the Laconia library...it goes on and on. ... Four years ago, along with now 150 libraries in the state, we established a consortium to work together to get downloadable audiobook technology. The Manchester City Library, Goffstown, Hooksett, all the libraries in Greater Manchester have it. ... My point on this is that libraries are much more than simply the printed word on a page. The printed word is still important and it's going to be for quite a while, there's still a whole lot of paper books being published. But libraries are right there at the forefront, making sure library users have access to all types of media, electronically or the traditional way. We're moving into e-book technology, getting ready to launch that in the next few weeks. It's the same thing, download a book from the library onto an e-book device...

Are there other ways libraries are changing and adapting to be, as you said, as vibrant as ever?

The State Library, about 25 years ago, went to an automated information system ... we have compiled a list of the holdings of all the libraries in the state. You can go onto the online catalog [at a public library] and you can identify who owns what. It will tell you the other libraries that own a book. ... We transfer books through the delivery system that the State Library runs. ... In addition, we provide access to full text data bases. If you go to a Web site of one of the libraries, you'll see that there's a...full text database so if you want an article in Time magazine ... you can print it out, look at the full text and read it in the privacy of your own home. ... The other thing that's critical is all of the programming that goes on, for children and adults. It's tremendous. ... I want to stress the importance of programming. It's vital to many of our communities. Libraries are anchor institutions. And they're critical to the success of a community. Good libraries build good communities.

Does the [State] library have any initiatives going on?

Our major role is to assist the public libraries in the work that they do. We're trying to improve automation in the smaller libraries. ... We're trying to get a consortium of libraries using the same automation system, because we think there's an opportunity here for synergy among libraries. It's a big undertaking. It's not going to happen quickly. Hopefully there will be some in 2010. The long-term goal, if we create the consortium, with many using the same automation, there'll be a lot of assistance both from the State Library and libraries partnering with one another. We're also trying to get BTOP [Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, which funds improved broadband access] money, through the stimulus program.

—Jeff Mucciarone

QOL

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

American Spellcheck & Reading-Over-Your-Work Act



Another case of a public sign in need of spellcheck: Reader Linda wrote in about a sign erected near some road work in Goffstown: "As a technical writer with 25+ years of experience ... I just have to ask — who is hiring these people to create (expensive) signs when they can't even spell ... 'POLLUTION' correctly???" Linda noted that the sign is "right around the corner from the high school."

QOL score: -1

Comments: Hippo's copy editor (who admits to not being perfect) commented: "It's not like they have a whole stinking newspaper to proofread."

Teachers bringing home the bacon

The Telegraph reported this week that one in four teachers in Nashua will earn at least \$65,000 this year. The article said during the 2006-2007 school year no teachers earned more than \$65,000. Now in the fourth year of a five-year contract, more than 250 teachers will make between \$65,000 and \$75,000, while six teachers will earn \$70,054. The article goes on to cite that 97 teachers in 2006-2007 earned between \$60,000 and \$65,000, and now 135 teachers are within that range. The average teacher salary in Nashua is \$54,121, compared to \$48,818 in 2006-2007. Amherst teachers make an average of \$61,000 for the highest average salary among local school systems. All 254 teachers that are earning at least \$65,000 either have a doctorate degree, are pursuing one or have a master's degree, according to the article.

QOL score: +1

Comments: Teachers did make sizable concessions in health care, saving the city more than \$1 million just this year, the article said.

Gold-medal skiing

The first gold medal for the U.S. at Vancouver was thanks to Hannah Kearney, born in Hanover, N.H. She now lives in Vermont, but went to Hanover High School. Her gold medal, earned Feb. 13, is for freestyle mogul skiing.

QOL score: +1

Comments: There are about eight athletes with New Hampshire ties at the 2010 Winter Olympics, according to news reports, including, of course, Bode Miller.

Look up for eagles

Wildlife watchers saw a record total of 75 bald eagles in New Hampshire during a two-week count period in January. The annual count is coordinated by the New Hampshire Audubon in collaboration with New Hampshire Fish and Game. When the count started in 1981 and 1982, participants counted two bald eagles in the state. Eagles were observed in five major eagle wintering areas, along with a few other locations. Observers last month saw 22 eagles on the Merrimack River, 19 in the Great Bay coastal area, 12 in the Lakes Region, 11 along the Connecticut River, eight on the Androscoggin River and three elsewhere. A similar count will take place at the end of this month.

QOL score: +2

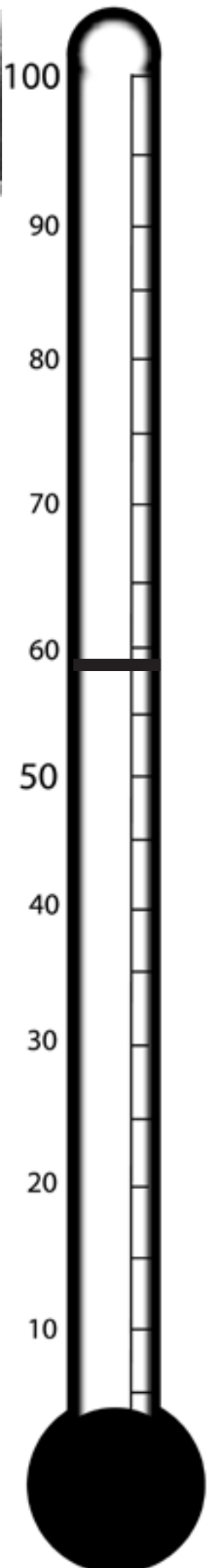
Comments: Volunteer recruitment and training for eagle survey participants occurs each year in November and December. Call New Hampshire Audubon at 224-9909 to find out about training dates.

Last week's QOL score: 56

Net change: +3

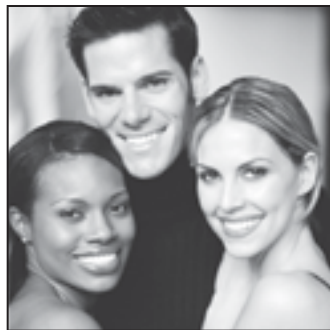
QOL this week: 59

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This and that as the curtain goes up on other stuff besides football

My sports clock works a little differently than most, I suspect. For instance, forget opening day and the renewal of spring thing that gets most jacked and pumped for baseball — for me, I need the warm weather, so the season doesn't really get started for me until May 15. It's like that for college basketball and even the NBA, which I watch in the first half of the year but which really kicks in for me after the Super Bowl. And while I know things aren't exactly going great for the local club as I come online, here's a bunch of stuff that has been floating around for me waiting to get out upon the end of football.

Don't want to tell you I told you so, but here's what I said about the Rasheed Wallace acquisition in the season preview column for the Celtics:

"The Sheed Factor: The addition of **Rasheed Wallace** has pretty much been greeted with universal approval — though not by me. I agree: what he's been through most of his career is EXACTLY what they needed last year — length, a shot-blocking presence and floor-stretching three-point range. BUT — will he bring that every night at 35, or at least at playoff time? If yes, it's a great signing, but I do know both **Big Baby** and **Leon Powe** outplayed Wallace almost every time they faced the Pistons the last two years when he looked uninterested. So he'll have to prove it to me." Of course I also said that coming-of-age Atlanta was athletic but overrated. So I missed on the team that has already ready beaten the Celtics four straight.

Here's my question: this is a tough one for me, but who do/did you hate seeing setting up to take a three — **Antoine Walker** back in the day or **Sheed** these days?

If you really want to know how sick Red Sox mania is around here, just check out Truck Day at Fenway Park, which was a major media event with a corporate sponsor and had **Wally the Green Monster** directing traffic like a third-base coach.

And as a side note, hopefully for public safety **Wally** had a better aptitude for telling them what to go and when to stop than wave-'em-in **Wendell Kim** did during his days at

Fenway.

I'm not picking on **Kobe Bryant** here — because I think he's a great player — but at the moment, despite what the above-the-Tarrier-Liners seem to think is given, it's possible he's not even a starter on the Lakers all-time team yet! **Magic**'s got one spot in the backcourt and the other is between **Kobe** and **Jerry West**. The latter was a 14-time all-star and the only guy named MVP of the playoffs from the losing team and who **Kobe** just passed the other day on the all-time scoring list. Plus he averaged over 30 a game four times in the regular season, seven times in the playoffs, including 40.6 over 11 games in 1965 and 29.1 lifetime in the playoffs. And that's just partly why they called him Mr. Clutch.

And if you think the competition is rough at guard for the Lakers, how about at center, where they have **Wilt**, **Shaq**, **Kareem** and the fellow voted the greatest basketball player of the first half of the 20th century, **George Mikan**, to choose from. Who's your pick?

If you're reading this and the Celtics have not made a deal for **Ray Allen**, **Danny Ainge** either thinks that they can still win it all despite going just 9 and 13 in 22 games leading the All-Star break or he's made a big mistake. I agree you have to go for it — but they can not afford to give up **Ray**'s expiring contract at year's end and get nothing back. If they do, they're over the cap and thus unable to find a replacement in free agency next summer. So even if it's not a good deal, if they get something that can be flipped for other parts in the off-season they'll be better off than standing pat.

And, oh by the way, if you made that deal, who says you can't bring **Ray** back next year to come off the bench as a free agent?

With the injuries to the big fellow and leg bandages on **Kevin Garnett**, **Paul Pierce** and even **Rajon Rondo**, I'm reminded of the end of the **Russell** era in 1969. That year an aging **Russell** averaged just 9.9 points a game and they barely squeaked into the playoffs after going just 48-34. Old-timers with a basketball IQ over 120 will tell you they didn't have home court in any series as they beat the **76ers**, **Knicks** and **Lakers** on mostly guile and toughness to win **Russell**'s 11th title. Here's a YouTube video link

— see for yourself. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U_joRPqWts&NR=1

And, oh, by the way, **Russell** still had enough left in the tank to block 12 shots in the first game of the playoffs that year against the **76ers**.

It may be me — nuts — but I think former UMass-Lowell coach **Stan Van Gundy** wears the EXACT same sport coat and buttoned-all-the-way-to-the-top black shirt EVERY time the **Magic** play the **Celtics**.

I expect **Kevin Durant** to move into the **Kobe-Lebron** stratum by next year. Although since he's leading the league in scoring at 29 a game, he may already be there. And he's only 21! The guy is going to be great.

Love **Marv Albert** on TNT with the blond highlights in his wig. But he was the **Theo Epstein** of New York broadcasting back in the day, when he was doing the **Knicks** and **Rangers** starting at 23. That was 1965 — for the mathematically challenged, that's 43 years ago — which means he's pushing 70. I'm graying now and a lot younger than he is, so I ain't buyer the surfer dude look as all natural. Though to quote **Seinfeld**, "not that there's anything wrong with it."

The way the **Celtics** have coughed up leads in the fourth quarter this year, I'm surprised people haven't yet taken to calling them the **Patriots** of the NBA.

Here's my prediction on **Adrian Beltre**, who hit just eight home runs last year with **Seattle**. I'm betting he does what **Mike Lowell** did after he came from Florida with **Josh Beckett**, where he hit eight before jumping up 20 and then 21 the next two years in the shadow of **The Wall** at **Fenway**.

Having said that, it's still pretty shabby the way they've treated **Lowell**, who was clutch and always played hard and while injured during the last four years in **Boston**.

Speaking of **Beckett**, I'm betting this is his last year in **Boston**. They'll wait too long to get the deal done and he'll walk as a result.

Dave Long can be reached at dlong@hippypress.com. He hosts **Dave Long and Company** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday on **WGAM** — *The Game*, 1250-AM **Manchester**, 900-AM **Nashua**.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

Clutch performances central to two big Memorial wins

The Big Story: How about the dual barn-burners on the boys' and girls' sides in Class L basketball action between Memorial and Central on Tuesday? The Memorial girls were winners on a chase-down put-back 10-footer by **Taylor Leonard** to win by a point at the buzzer, while the boys went two overtimes before it was decided by a late three from game high scorer **Cormack Fitzpatrick**. At the top of the heroics for the Crusader women was holding high-powered Central scoreless in the fourth period to come back from a 36-27 deficit as **Amra Elezovic** led the way with 17 points. On the boys' side Central had the big fourth quarter to get back in it as **John Wicky** went for 20, but he was countered by Fitzpatrick's 18, with four coming from downtown including the game-winning dagger. All in all, some pretty great basketball entertainment.

Sports 101: This comes from my friend **Pete K** while setting a world record for continuous in-game rapid-fire chatter at the SNHU-Bentley game on Saturday. Name the top four scorers in NBA history born outside of the U.S.

Douglas MacArthur I Shall Return Award: Nice return for ex-Central hoopster **Joe Fremau**, who was in town when Bentley escaped vs. SNHU on Saturday in OT after trailing for most of the game. The 6'6" junior had eight points, 12 rebounds and a block in 34 minutes as the Falcons came away with a 72-66 win. And no, that **Brian Tracy** who had six points for Bentley was not his former Central teammate. That **Brian Tracy** was in Plymouth helping PSU to a 79-58 rout of UMass-Boston in which he

and Bow's **Mike Chergy** each had 19 points.

Alumni News: And while those two efforts were nice, the biggest game of the week from the Big Three came from Central's two-time state title team when **Tyler Roche** went a career-high 31 in a 92-85 loss to Wake Forest. He did it on 10-15 shooting with six coming from international waters to go along with seven rebounds in 38 minutes.

Justin Time Award: To Memorial's **Kevin Kelly** for scoring with just three seconds left in regulation to tie it at 4-4 with Berlin. Teammate **Kevin Minor** ended it 40 seconds into overtime on an assist from **Cam Williams** to give the Crusaders a 5-4 win Wednesday. The goal was Kelly's second of the third period, which tied him for game high honors with Williams, who had a pair of goals to go along with his big assist.

Clutch Shot of the Week: That also comes from the south end of Manchester, from **Taylor (made) Leonard** for the aforementioned 10-footer as time ran out to give the Crusaders a shocking 37-36 decision over the (then) once defeated Central Girls on Tuesday night. That it was Leonard's only bucket of the game made her the winner by a hair over West's **Aaron Martin**, whose lay-up with two ticks left helped West stave off a 24-point comeback by Goffstown by a icing a 42-41 Blue Knights win.

Sports 101 Answer: The top four NBA scorers not to be born in the United States are **Hakeem Olajuwon** (Nigeria), **Dominique Wilkins** (France), **Patrick Ewing** (Jamaica) and **Dirk Nowitski** (Germany).

The Numbers

4 – third-period goals scored by Bedford to turn a tight 2-0 game into a 6-0 run-away as **Ben Firman** picked up the shutout and Mike Ahern got a hat trick as the Bulldogs peppered Con Val goalie **Chris Wallace** with 51 shots on goal.

11 – total number of fans who were on hand to welcome the Indianapolis Colts when they returned home on Monday after losing the Super Bowl

in Miami the day before.

14 – third-highest-in-NHL-history run-up by old friend **Bruce (can't win the big one, but did twice already) Boudreau** and his Washington Caps before it ended with a 6-5 loss to Montreal on Wednesday.

19 – game-high points scored by Trinity's **Jasmine Theroux** as the Pioneers downed Spaulding 59-46.

19 – game-high point total for **Sam Walker** in Cen-

tral's 60-58 overtime loss to undefeated

Winnacunnet on Friday. The loss gave the snake-bitten Green three losses with two coming in overtime and the third on a buzzer-beater.

28 – points and just one rebound Saint Anselm "held" Franklin Pierce high flier **Johannah Leedham** to on Saturday in a 69-61 loss to the 23-0 Ravens when all-name teamer **Epiphany Smith** was tops for the Hawks with 21.

Sports Glossary

Wendell Kim: Baseball lifer who was third base coach of your Boston Red Sox at the end of the last century. A tenure marked by much ranklement in the Nation for repeatedly getting guys thrown out at the plate on what they saw as wayward gambles with all the baseball sense of Manny's famous cut-off of a **Johnny Damon** throw from 10 feet away. His prowess with the Sox and later in making mild-mannered Cubs fans just as nuts for the same offense brought to mind a **Mike Barnicle** reference to a similarly impaired Sox third base coach in the mid-'80s, **Rene Lachman**, of whom he said "if he were an air traffic controller the bay would be full of planes."

Mary Albert: All-world broadcaster with the trademark "Yes" after a big basket. Trademark hockey call was "kick save and a beauty," which started a year after he got out of Syracuse as radio announcer for New York Rangers. Mercurial career was nearly derailed when charged with biting his mistress in the back during a sexual assault in a cross-dressing episode in 1997 that got him fired from NBC after pleading guilty. That he came back a few years later to reclaim the top broadcasting job on NBC's NBA game of the week and similarly at TNT must be great comfort to **Tiger Woods** in showing him in America you can come back from almost any embarrassing mess.

Above-the-Tarrier-Liners: Folks who think the sports world began in 1993 and who dismiss the accomplishments of those who played before that out of ignorance or obliviousness and in the process miss the greatness and lunacy of debating whether this era is better than that one.

Stan Van Gundy: Screamer head coach of the Orlando Magic who went 54 and 60 during four years as head man at D-II UMass-Lowell when NHC and St. Anselm regularly had their way with the Chiefs. Was head at Castleton State before Lowell, which he left for a gig as an assistant at Wisconsin and later as head man. Moved on to the Miami Heat under **Pat Riley** and later became head coach until Riley pushed him out to get the job back after making a deal for **Shaq**. Surfaced in Orlando a few years later after **Billy Donovan** took the job and quit a day later to stay at Florida. Been there since wearing the same black shirt and sport coat for every game.

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Dr. J Makes A House Call To Stoutenburg Gymnasium

You've got to be a pretty good triviolgist to know the answer to this one. Against what team was the great **Julius Erving** playing when he broke the all-time UMASS record for most points in a season? That is unless you were actually on hand when he did it 40 years ago this month in Manchester facing the hometown St. Anselm Hawks when the world famous Dr. J made his only house call to town on February 25, 1970. A year earlier while scoring 32 in Amherst, he led U-Mass to a 98-63 route, but at 34-29, this time it was a close one at the half between the just invited to the NCAA playoffs Hawks and the number one ranked college basketball team in New England. It didn't stay that way for long, as behind high man **Ray Ellerbrook's** 36 the politically incorrect Redmen (now Minutemen) pulled away after the break to a 94-63 route. For his part Erving had a walk in the park 22 to give him 560 for the year to move passed the previous record of 554. And while he wasn't the only famous hoopster to come here with UMASS - as two years later **Al Skinner** and **Rick Pitino** keyed a 40 point UMASS win in town- there's no question that Erving's record setting day surely was a great event for Manchester.



MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK

A Chinese New Year's tale of following your dreams to find the perfect career

By Heidi Masek

hmasek@hippopress.com

Although Yong Chen illustrated other children's books, *A Gift* is the first the Nashua artist also wrote.

In *A Gift*, family members in China create a Chinese New Year's gift to send to their young niece, Amy, in the U.S. It's the kind of book a family not unlike Chen's might use to explain customs surrounding the New Year — which this year was Sunday, Feb. 14 — to generations raised in America. For Chen, the book is part of the larger story of the direction of his life, a direction he might not have foreseen while teaching chemistry in China or working in a Chinatown grocery store in Boston unable to speak English.

Now he works at a job that offers him new challenges and encourages his creative growth; his own story about his own culture was published, and he shares the joy of art through teaching. But getting to this point in his life at which he feels really happy in his career took Chen, who will be 47 in April, several tries.



Photos on cover, above and page 16 by Sid Ceaser (www.ceaserphotography.com).

The twists and turns in becoming an artist

A Gift was published in 2009, but Chen credits Megan Tingley with prompting Chen to write his own book 14 years ago. Now the senior vice president and publisher at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Tingley is behind titles like *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer.

Just getting to that point in 1996 at which Chen and Tingley were celebrating his first illustration job for Little, Brown & Company in Boston involved several different paths for Chen, and at each turning point were people like Tingley who gave him a push in a new direction.

Chen started drawing and painting when he was four years old. His father spent what he could to buy art materials for his son. Chen spent a lot of time as a child “hiding from anyone else, and just drawing and drawing and drawing every day,” Chen said. He covered two walls in their home in Taishan, in the Guangdong province of China, with his artwork, rotating new pieces in as he ran out of space.

In the countryside, Chen couldn't easily get to museums or galleries, but sought advice from local artists, he said.

A smart student at one of the best high schools in Southern China, Chen could go in any academic direction, so he was pushed toward sciences. “You're not supposed to be an artist,” he was

told. He should do something “a little bit more meaningful other than playing with color, or shapes and lines,” Chen recalled.

So Chen studied at Foshan University, then taught high school chemistry.

Boston bound

Chen's older sister had married a Chinese-American and moved to the U.S.; her parents followed. Chen was asked to join them, and that's how, at age 26, Chen, artist and chemistry teacher, became a clerk in a Chinatown supermarket in Boston.

“So this is a time I had to just work, work, work,” Chen said. It was 1989. He made a little money and learned the correct techniques for lifting boxes, he mentioned, laughing: “How to hold on one corner, and the other corner at the lower corner, and you lift it up, it's really easy,” Chen said.

Eventually, a good friend and coworker told him, “Yong, you should not bury yourself in the supermarket. You should do something better.”

Her suggestion?
Restaurant.

Chen giggled. “But at that time...it makes sense to me,” he said. He could start by cleaning floors, then chopping meat

and washing dishes, learn to make chicken wings and chicken fingers, “and you'll probably learn how to be a cook, eventually,” she told him.

Finding your passion

Yong Chen credits Betsy Mariere with helping him move toward a creative career in the U.S. when she was his student advisor and teacher at Bunker Hill Community College.

Mariere's advice when trying to find your passion is don't just look at the money that you're going to make. “Look at whether you're going to be happy because you're going to spend so much time in your career,” she said. Mariere now works at North Shore Community College.

She sees struggles when students are trying to follow what their family wants. She asks students to look at course requirements for a field to see if they actually appeal, and to talk to college department chairs about the field.

In China, when he was told he couldn't join art courses, Chen felt he was rejected from something he enjoyed so much and had been pursuing since he was a child. So in college, feeling like life had been planned against his will, Chen decided to involve himself in the arts again, starting his own art group, and uniting art associations at other colleges in the city.

Cooking in Maine

So Chen gave it a go — his brother-in-law, a cook at a Boston Sheraton hotel, found Chen and his younger brother positions at a Chinese restaurant in Portland, Maine.

"I was homesick terribly," Chen said. He dreamed almost nightly that he was still going to his old classroom to teach, to his home in China, still meeting with his old friends and colleagues and Amanda, "a sweet girl that I love in China." He'd wake up feeling lost each morning. "So every day I ask that question, why [am I] here?"

He did return to China during that time, and married Amanda, although it took about two more years to secure a visa for her to join Chen.

Chen and the restaurant owner had a heart-to-heart on a slow night and talked about art.

For some, the restaurant industry is a passion. "But for me, I'm feeling that I'm just wasting my time," Chen said. He hoped something would come up — otherwise he didn't see any point in staying in the U.S.

The restaurant owner said, "What you really need to do is learn the language," and then

study, a Bunker Hill professor recommended Chen do something "by hand" rather than by computer. Although Chen thought stable income would be more likely in the digital realm, the professor told him, "never give up your natural ability to be able to draw and paint. That will separate you from other designers," Chen recalled.

She brought him to life-drawing sessions at an art center. Chen said he feels like at every turning point in his life, someone has turned up to help him, "And I'm feeling really lucky about that."

As it turned out, jobs he applied for with his Associate degree in graphic design weren't exactly the kind of creative outlet he was looking for. There was the typesetter job — which would have involved typing all day. A company that made sports caps had a position correcting computer designs to make sure a machine sewed logos correctly.

Chen didn't think those kinds of jobs would make him happy. Meanwhile, comments from the life-drawing group about his art were encouraging, and Chen decided he should try something else.

However, Chen's portfolio got him third-year status.

When the chair of the MassArt communications department asked him why he wanted to enroll, he said he thought it was a good school.

"And she said, 'What I really *mean* is, you don't *need* to come here,'" Chen recalled.

"And I said, 'Well, in that case, can you make it easier? Just give it [the diploma] to me?'" Chen remembered, laughing. She couldn't. But skipping two years saved Chen time and money — during all of his Bunker Hill and MassArt years, he was also working full-time.

Hitting the library

While he was at MassArt, a Canton, Mass., gift company hired Chen to illustrate *Maria's Loose Tooth*, in which Maria loses her first tooth and learns why, and her mother brings her a silver box to put it in — a silver box comes with the book as a gift set.

"I knew how to do paintings. I knew how to

Chen imitates himself motivating his students — stern but with a sense of humor: "You're not working hard enough. You have to work much harder!"

figure out his next step. He told Chen he could have his old job back anytime he wanted.

ESL at Bunker Hill

So Chen was back on the bus to Boston and, with some help, got himself enrolled in Bunker Hill Community College's ESL program to work on speaking English — he'd studied written English in China.

It was there that he met Betsy Mariere, who remains a great friend.

Mariere was his student advisor and one of his teachers. The way she tells the story, she told Chen he must enter his artwork into Bunker Hill's student art show in order to pass her ESL class.

Chen says her tale of the threat was an exaggeration. But he won first prize for drawing, and second place in the watercolor category, which gave him the confidence to start thinking he could do something in art in this country.

Do you like art? You should try graphic design!

At the end of his ESL program, Chen was faced with a decision of whether to follow the kind of path he'd been pushed into before and enroll in a pharmacy school. That was his brother-in-law's idea, because with a chemistry degree, Chen could skip many required courses.

But Mariere told Chen about Bunker Hill's graphic design program. "It was the early age of desktop publishing," Chen said.

"He was born to be an artist," Mariere said.

It was easier for Chen to imagine himself in an office designing on a computer than spending his days behind a pharmacy counter.

So he decided to try graphic design. "I met some great people there ... and then started to do also painting and illustrations on my own," Chen said.

Near the end of his two-year graphic design

Next stop, MassArt

Chen applied to the illustration program at MassArt, now Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Enrolling in illustration rather than graphic design could have meant starting from scratch, course-wise.

Want to be an illustrator?

Learning how to tell a story through pictures is one thing Chen did to parlay his art skills into illustrating for children's books.

Chen also researches and uses models for those watercolor illustrations.

For Chen's first project on a traditional African-American wedding with Mariere, he attended meetings in the community of people who came from the same area in Africa that Mariere's husband did, Chen said.

Chen later used Mariere's husband as a model for a character in *Miz Fannie Mae's Fine New Easter Hat* (Little, Brown, 1997).

"It's a beautiful story," Chen said. A father and his daughter pick out the most expensive and beautiful Easter hat as a gift. The mother loves it, but insists it's too expensive and should be returned.

Because it was Chen's first book for a major publisher, they tested him by asking him to do a sample painting of a scene from the story. He chose the colorful hat shop scene for his test, and was hired.

The father in the story wears the hat on his milk-delivery run, so everyone would know the family has it and couldn't take it back. At church, an egg decorating the hat hatches. The mother bird has followed the hat from the city, and the Easter hat becomes a home for generations of birds.

"What a beautiful thing. There's just so many layers of love there," Chen said, pointing out the love of the father who sacrifices to make his wife smile, and the love of the mother who sacrifices something she wouldn't keep for herself for a family of birds.

Chen frequently talks about layers of meanings in the picture books he works on.

Want to teach your passion?

Perhaps it naturally follows that someone who has spent so much time as a student also spent much of his life teaching in some capacity. Besides his teaching jobs in the U.S., Chen taught art as well as chemistry in China.

Chen said he's always had a need to share what he knows, and gets a lot of satisfaction and fulfillment from doing something that can make someone else feel happy or lead them to try a new direction. He talks about those goals when he talks about his Learning Center project at www.yongchen.com.

Sometimes little things one does can be life-changing for someone else — and Chen should know. He's credited various people, including his Bunker Hill teacher, adviser, and now friend, Betsy Mariere, with helping him try new directions in this country.

Chen's former Bunker Hill professor Courtney McGlynn wanted to get his former student to teach at Bunker Hill because Chen has the rare ability to contribute to all three of the school's design-related programs: media communications, graphic design and fine arts. It's very rare to see someone who's a designer, familiar with technology, who's also a fine artist, McGlynn said.

Chen also understands BHCC's student population, McGlynn said. Massachusetts community colleges don't require SAT scores so they are also a great place for foreign students to learn the language and culture before going on to a four-year school, McGlynn said.

Bunker Hill is one of 15 community colleges in Massachusetts, and one of two inner-city ones. The Bunker Hill student population is diverse in every sense of the word, from age to country of origin, McGlynn said.

Richard Wesley took a course with Chen last semester and raved about his teacher as someone who can "kick you in the teeth with a smile." What he meant was, Chen was supportive but kept pushing. "Until I could get a wow out of this guy, I wasn't happy," Wesley said.

Wesley, 48, hopes to continue on to MassArt and work in animation. His background is telecommunications work in the U.S. Army. Wesley said he'd been "drawing since he could pick up a pencil," though. He came to Bunker Hill after a veterans' college preparatory program.

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An illustration by Yong Chen, in *A Gift* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2009) in which Amy's mother explains that the dragon is a symbol of China. A dragon is carved into the necklace Amy's relatives made for her for Chinese New Year.

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do illustration. I knew how to do design. But how to tell a story in sequence, that is a problem, so I went to the library and I borrowed all the books about how to use pictures to tell stories," Chen said.

Chen, was, of course, working full-time, as well as going to school, and had to carve out time for this project, too.

Now, when Chen's students at Bunker Hill say they are busy studying for classes, he tells them to remember that they only take four classes. He took seven, and worked 40 hours

How to use your own story

The models for *A Gift* include Chen's wife, his house, his home village. Chen needed a 6- or 7-year-old for the model for Amy, so the daughter of his wife's friend became the model. The Chens have a 15-year-old son, a 13-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old baby. Chen dedicated *A Gift* to his wife and family.

The tale starts with Amy's mother, who lives in the U.S., missing her sister and brothers at Chinese New Year's, surrounded by typical foods and symbols of the Chinese New Year. They receive a package from China, and the tale backs up to tell the story of Amy's Uncle Zhong finding a stone (resembling jade) while plowing a field, and bringing it to her Uncle Ming, who carved a dragon out of the stone. Aunt Mei ties a red string, a good luck symbol, on it, and sends a letter with the necklace for Amy.

There's a lot of misunderstanding about China, but love between families is something universal, Chen said.

Throughout the book, there are details like a letter written in Chinese which tells the story of the necklace — also written in English over the next pages. A poem hanging on a wall behind Mei and Ming reads: "Look at the shining moon; Think about [your] hometown," Chen interprets.

For Chen, the necklace was something simple and tangible to convey Chinese culture, something from the earth in Amy's family's homeland, made with love and sent to a younger generation, far away.

Those themes are also meant to be common enough that others can relate — many people have friends or family living outside the country, Chen said.

The fact that the siblings send the gift to the niece they haven't met rather than their sister is another layer, Chen said. They are passing a piece of their culture from one generation to the next.

per week and produced a picture book.

Chen imitates himself — stern but with a sense of humor: "You're not working hard enough. You have to work much harder!"

Chen's former professor Courtney McGlynn brought Chen in to teach at Bunker Hill.

Not all BHCC students necessarily arrive with the kind of drive Chen had, and often the faculty are trying to "ignite their passion," McGlynn said. But commonalities among those who succeed are passion, drive, desire, dedication and a capacity for hard work, McGlynn said.

"It's work. Nothing worthwhile comes easily.... It's all out there. All the knowledge is in the books. But you've got to go to the library and open the books and decide to read one," McGlynn said.

From Chen's picture book project, he learned his art can convey a story or meaning. Now he tells his students that even when they are drawing or painting something simple, they should relate it to what they are trying to say and how they relate to the object. "Otherwise, [you're] just painting the line and the shape and the colors, no different than other people who are doing the same setting," Chen said.

Chen also taught at MassArt from 1995 through 1998.

Before graduating, he was sent to the Massachusetts statehouse to paint portraits of state legislators. He ended up on local news segments all day, with William Bulger in the background.

Getting noticed

For his MassArt degree project, Chen painted illustrations for a story by Mariere about a traditional African-American wedding. A Little, Brown & Company editor checking out the exhibit of graduating student work noticed Chen's watercolors and soon Chen was showing his portfolio at Little, Brown. That's where he met Tingley, then a senior editor.

"I had been waiting for someone like you to take a look at this story," she told him, according to Chen.

It was *Miz Fannie Mae's Fine New Easter Hat* (Little, Brown, 1997). Chen's degree project had demonstrated that he could illustrate for an African-American story.

Chen was a little nervous, and had four months for the project. He'd also graduat-

14

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

ed and taken a job as an in-house illustrator in the art department of the Advanced Technology Division of Pennwell Publishing in Nashua, which published more than 17 monthly technology magazines.

The downtown Nashua apartment in which the Chens and their son lived in 1996 was too small to paint in, so he painted in his office cubicle after work. "But nobody knew except the cleaning ladies at night," Chen laughed.

Chen was meeting with Tingley and her assistant in Chinatown for tea to celebrate finishing the book, when Tingley said, "Yong, I love your work but it's not always often that we can get a story to match your style," Chen recalled. She suggested that he write his own story, since he knows Chinese culture, and many people don't understand it in the U.S.

Finding the right place

Chen continued with illustration projects from children's magazines like Spider, Cricket and Appleseeds, and some children's books from HarperCollins, including *Swimming with Sharks* (1999). For a while, he was seen mainly as an artist who could illustrate for stories with African-American characters. Eventually, publishers realized Chen could also illustrate Caucasian characters. It wasn't until 2004 that he was offered a job illustrating a book with people from his own culture, but the subject matter — an American couple's adoption of a Chinese baby girl — was controversial to Chen.

Chen's day jobs weren't exactly perfect for him either.

In 1998, Chen left Pennwell to work for an advertising firm in Salem, after meeting the owner through a friend.

"I was certainly getting bored," Chen said. He wanted to work more directly with the clients, and have more creative space. He wanted to be excited about his work, plus the Salem job doubled his salary — helpful since the Chens had just bought a house.

It was early in the World Wide Web boom.

"I took workshops in Boston to learn the design, multimedia applications and development for the Web, and helped initially developing a new online development section for that advertising company," Chen wrote in an e-mail.

Yet, routine eventually got to him.

"I [was] feeling a little tired of driving on Route 111... this is the most boring road," Chen said. It was better than always going to the same cubicle. Still he felt like "I'm just going to a job."

He thought, "Why don't I do something on my own to see how it goes?" He formed NashuaOne, LLC, for Web development and online branding. Things were going OK, but the income wasn't static.

He was also teaching watercolor workshops in Nashua, and it was through one of his students that he was introduced to GoldenWare Travel Technologies.

"And this is the best, everything I was looking for," Chen said. Ten years later, Chen continues with GoldenWare and said the Nashua company is like a second family to him.

Chen is "the visual guy." He's the creative director, designing how the software products work visually, from screen to screen. He also heads the art department, in charge of the design and creation of all online and offline marketing and promotional materials.

Every project is something new, and he's encouraged to explore art and creativity.

Graduate work

Chen doesn't seem to be a person who just settles in, though.

"In 2007, I decided to want to advance my illustration skills," Chen said. Through a suggestion from one of his former MassArt professors, he found the University of Hartford, Hartford Art School Limited Residency MFA in Illustration.

The "professional artists teaching professional artists" program meets for two weeks in July at the school, then at different times in different locations, such as Los Angeles, New York and Dallas.

"I went into the program without any expectations [other than knowing] I have to evolve, I have to change myself. But change to where? I had no idea, because I was happy with my job," Chen said.

The professional artists who lead the program talk about technique, but also how they evolved from one area to another, such as illustrator to portrait artist, gallery artist or mural painter, Chen said.

Each meeting got him excited about a new direction. The whole program made him think through all the possibilities for his next step, "And, at the end, I find my own direc-

How an idea becomes a book

It wasn't until 2004 that someone hired Chen to illustrate a story involving Chinese people. But Chen wasn't "jumping up and down" about the story. *Finding Joy* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2006) is about an American couple who adopts a Chinese baby girl.

"To me that was a very sensitive topic," Chen said. China's one-child policy isn't directly referenced in the story, but is in the author's notes.

Chen has been an American citizen for 18 years, but China is still one of his countries and his motherland, he said. A lot of people here have negative views about China. "And some people think [the] one-child policy is just pure evil," that it's against human rights, that government control on how many children someone has is bad, Chen said. But for Chen, every country has its own reasons for doing things. "We cannot simply judge how other people run their own life," he said. [This policy is limited to certain demographics.]

Chen thinks the one-child policy is very controversial, but it's been effective to control population growth.

The sensitive part for Chen in *Finding Joy* was that it's suggested that the child was given away because she is a girl. The author's notes include a line, "In China, there's no room for girls," Chen said. "I'm not sure what does that mean from the author's mind. But technically it's wrong," Chen said. Many of his friends in China have only a much-loved daughter. Girls are *not* seen as second-rate human beings, he said.

Chen accepted the project because he felt his interpretation could be more accurate.

"I did lots of research and even went to China to visit the orphanage," Chen said. He spent two years on *Finding Joy*, consulted a caregiver at an orphanage and adoptive parents, and sketched scenes of people meeting at Manchester's airport, among his other research. He's always learning new things on these projects, like that babies in carriers must be in a window seat on a plane — after painting that airplane scene incorrectly.

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tion," Chen said.

At MassArt, Chen overachieved, creating 12 paintings for his degree project when he really only needed a few and a dummy book. But Chen walked into his first MFA class unprepared.

The assignment, which could evolve over the two-and-a-half-year program, was a "dream project."

"Anything that you dream about that you never have the time or had the encouragement or maybe had the space away from your routine work ... you'll be able to be away from that ... so you'll be able to think, focus on the dream project," Chen said.

That first July day in 2007, everyone else was hanging sketches and drawings for their projects. "And I was shocked!" Chen said.

"I had to think really fast because I was going to present it in a few minutes," Chen said. He thought about his promise to Tingley years ago to do something about China's culture. He'd "just never had the space, the time, and courage and the encouragement

from other people to be able to really do it," Chen said.

So Chen's dream project became writing his own story, not just illustrating someone else's. He also wanted to work on getting the book about the traditional African-American wedding — the one he worked on with Mariere in 1995 — published.

Chen created dummy books of each, and pitched them at an annual Boyds Mills Press illustrators party that fall. Two weeks later, Boyds Mills told him they would publish *A Gift*.

"He's just so impressive. I'm just ... so proud of him and everything that he's done. He's just amazing," Mariere said.

Onward

Of course, Chen still has future plans and projects. Portrait painting is another passion of his. He's looking for new children's book story ideas. He also hopes to expand his "Learning Center" Web site, www.yongchen.com, where he's posted short videos on watercolor techniques since 1994.

Chen said work and life can be seen as different things, but if you mix everything together — work, and fun and play and passion — well, it saves a lot of time.

Whether or not you pinpoint what your passion is is another question, of course. And it can change over your lifetime, and you'll adapt, Chen said. First, people need encouragement to find their passion. Second, they need support and to find work associated with that passion. Then, they need to figure out how to advance that passion to the next level.

"Everything I'm doing now is everything I dreamed I would be able to do," Chen said.

How to protect your work

Boyds Mills Press is under Highlights for Children, Inc. It was at an annual illustrators party for the company that Chen asked the editor and art directors for five minutes to talk business, and showed them dummy books for *A Gift* and his book with Mariere.

A professor had suggested that Chen show *A Gift* without text. The art director smiled, but the editor said, "I don't see any words," Chen recalled. "Well, this is the problem. Editors [are] always looking for words. They feel uncomfortable with a story without words," Chen said.

They had Chen e-mail the story, and in two weeks, he got a reply that it would be published.

"And I said, 'Really?' And I asked, 'When [am I] going to see my contract?'"

Chen doesn't do picture books for a flat fee. "I only accept royalty projects because I want myself to be a part of the process.... And I want to keep my artwork," Chen said.

He figures his paintings may not be worth much, but they are his.

"Also, I need to have all the copyright on my own work," Chen said.

Chen's Nashua lawyer declared the contract for *A Gift* rather standard. "And I said, 'Anything I should argue about?' And he said, 'This is your first story. What should you argue about? Get it published! And argue in the next book,'" Chen laughed.

International Nashua

Yong Chen is not the only Nashua artist with an international background. He and four other area artists exhibited at Logan Airport recently. Nita Leger Casey of France, a graduate of L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Marilene Sawaf, originally from Lebanon, Albine Vermot-Gaud, of France and Italy, Mary Buergin, and Chen exhibit their work again in a show called "The World Around Us" at the DreamFarm Creative Arts concert Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m., at the Lawrence Barn on Depot Road in Hollis. The Julie Lavender Quintet and Scott De Ogburn Trio perform. Tickets cost \$10 and \$15. Visit www.thedreamfarm.org or call.

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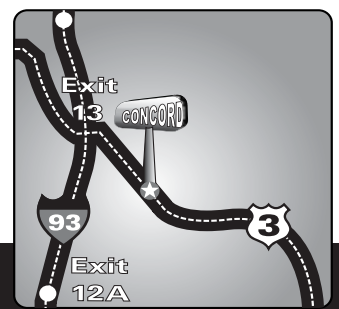


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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT FEB.18-24, 2010, AND BEYOND



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Thursday, Feb. 18

Irish step dancers, fiddlers and singers the Hunt Family Fiddlers perform tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St. in Concord. Concord Community Concert Association presents this concert from the touring family of nine. Get two tickets for the price of one — \$26 — at Gibson's Bookstore or Ballard's (www.concordcommunityconcerts.org). (The Hunt Family Fiddlers also perform Feb. 19 in Nashua — see www.nashuacommunityconcerts.org or call 888-9158.) For more about local happenings, see page 25.



Friday, Feb. 19

The ManchVegas Roller Girls start their 2010 roller derby season with a public "Derby D-Day Invasion" kick-off party tonight at 8 p.m. at Jillians, 50 Phillippe Cote St. in Manchester (manchester.jilliansbilliards.com, 626-7636). Learn more about the team at www.manchvegasrollergirls.com. Find out more about nightlife on page 46.



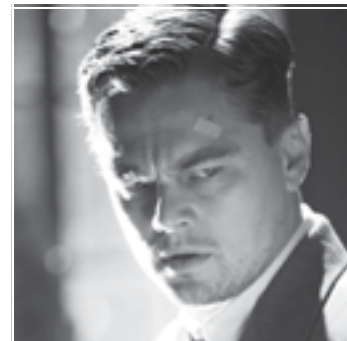
Friday, Feb. 19

New Hampshire comic book artist Sean Gordon Murphy visits Double Midnight Comics to sign copies of the new series *Joe the Barbarian*, written by Grant Morrison (Vertigo Comics), today between 4 and 7 p.m., at 245 Maple St. in Manchester (669-9636, www.dmcomics.com). For more about art, see page 20.



Sunday, Feb. 21

The Disco Biscuits bring their "trance-fusion rock" to the Capitol Center for the Arts tonight at 7:30 p.m., at 44 South Main St. in Concord. The Philadelphia band's fifth album is *Planet Anthem*. Tickets cost \$33 in advance, \$35 at the show; visit www.discobiscuits.com or www.ccanh.com or call 225-1111. For more about music, see page 47.



Friday, Feb. 19

Martin Scorsese directed *Shutter Island*, based on a Dennis Lehane novel, in which Leonardo DiCaprio is investigating at a hospital for criminally insane on an island off Massachusetts. It opens today. For more about movies, see page 43.



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Free: kid stuff

Lots of New Hampshire school kids are on vacation from Feb. 22 through Feb. 26. Find free activities at local libraries, like a *Guitar Hero* tournament at the Manchester City Library Feb. 25. The Currier Museum of Art (closed Tuesdays) is offering free admission for everyone Feb. 22 through Feb. 26, at 150 Ash St. in Manchester (669-6144, www.currier.org).

Cheap: ice skating

Bring the kids to your local ice arena during school vacation. Public skating admission costs \$5 at Conway Arena, 8 Riverside St. in Nashua (595-2400, www.conwayarena.com). Skate rentals cost \$3. Public skate times at Conway are from 11:50 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from Feb. 22 through Feb. 26.

Splurge: jam band

Jam rock band Furthur includes former Grateful Dead members Phil Lesh and Bob Weir. Musicians Joe Russo, Jeff Chimenti, John Kadlecik and Jay Lane round out the group. Further performs Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the Verizon Wireless Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St. in Manchester (644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com). Tickets cost \$39.50 and \$49.50.

Hippo

BEST OF

2010

Once again, your vote can make a difference...

HIPPO'S BEST OF 2010 READERS' POLL!

MONDAY, FEB. 1, THROUGH SUNDAY, FEB. 28, YOU will pick the very best of everything in southern New Hampshire. Go online to www.hippopress.com to vote for the best restaurants, the best local personalities, the best places for nightlife, the best in beauty and much much more!

Vote in our biggest, bestest list of categories during the month of February. We'll tally the votes and, in March, announce who you, the readers, chose as the best of everything in the Hippo universe. These awards are all about YOU. What do you love? Who makes you laugh? What makes you happy to live in Manchester, Nashua, Concord or in between?

Vote online starting at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. The ballot will be available at www.hippopress.com. Online ballots must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28. Only one online ballot will be accepted from each computer.

No national chains, please — this is about the people and places unique to southern New Hampshire. Help make your favorite restaurant, hair stylist or community event award-winning! Vote in the one and only Best of 2010 Hippo Readers' Poll!



Ballots will not be printed in the Hippo. A very limited number of printed ballots will be available from the Hippo by mailing your first and last name and your full address to Ballot Request, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03101. Requests that do not contain full first and last name and address or that are illegible or that are received after Feb. 22 will not be answered. Only one ballot will be sent out to each address and only one ballot per address will be counted. Regardless of when you receive your mail-in ballot, ballots must be postmarked Saturday, Feb. 27, to be counted. Ballots will not be available at the Hippo office or through Hippo employees. Doesn't that sound complicated and time-consuming? Wouldn't you much rather just fire up your trusty computer and vote online at www.hippopress.com? And anyway, mail-in ballots only ever make up a very small percentage of overall votes. Want to help your favorite spot win? Tell your friends to vote online. Only one online ballot will be accepted from each computer.

Votes are tallied by Hippo and all results are final.

Contemporary concepts

Library troubles become architectural contest

By Heidi Masek
hmasek@hippopress.com

The winning design for the 2010 Intern/Young Architect Design Competition from the New Hampshire chapter of the American Institute of Architects definitely looks cool — as did most of the other four submissions.

And interestingly, Brian and Alyssa Murphy's design for expanding Milford's Wadleigh Memorial Library has a contemporary exterior — kind of a surprising choice for the quaint New England town.

"On one hand, it is a competition, you have to stretch the ideas and make them interesting," Brian Murphy said.

Library director Michelle Sampson, one of the contest judges, said she wasn't sure initially that she liked the exterior design, but she "absolutely loved" the Murphys' solution for Wadleigh's interior. Library officials knew going in that some entries might be "pie in the sky," but the idea is to encourage creative thinking, Sampson said.

"On the other hand, you have to treat it with some sense of reality, that it could be a built thing," Murphy said. The building has to be absorbed into the fabric of the town, he said. And a wood-finished exterior isn't that out of the ordinary for New England buildings, he said.

Sampson liked aspects of other submissions — including a roof garden. Wadleigh trustees had included "green initiatives" on their competition wish list.

Nathan Stolarz of TMS Architects in Portsmouth took second place for a design that "took the existing [brick] structure and basically put a glass cube over it," Sampson said.

Stolarz moved a Civil War memorial statue and fountain on the property inside the glassed space, and included a night rendering that "just looked so warm and inviting and almost meditative in that particular area. I loved that," Sampson said.

The Murphys' inclusion of an amphitheater looked useful for smaller outdoor concerts or storytimes, Sampson said.

View the submissions at <http://aianhyac.webs.com/>.

The designs generally extended the library closer to the side-

walk and road in some way, Sampson said. Because the building is on a hill, it's pretty easy for people who don't know where Milford's library is to "blow right past," she said. (It's on the left on 101A coming from Nashua — if you hit the Milford Oval you've gone too far, she said.)

Still, since the 1986 addition (built to last 20 years) to the 1950 structure, circulation has increased by more than 160 percent, Sampson said. In that time, the town's population rose between 42 and 45 percent, currently estimated at about 15,000. The library had about 193,000 visits last year, she said. Circulation has increased in the past three years, also, in part because of the economy, Sampson said.

Civic and community structures are of particular interest to the Murphys. "That's what we aspire to as architects ... building things that are good for a community and serve a lot of people and serves them well," Murphy said.

Murphy said there were a lot of things they were trying to accomplish while trying to address the Wadleigh's history and objectives. Wadleigh is a "really bustling place," more like a community center, Murphy said. The Murphys wanted to make it not just a place filled with books, but also a place for technology and the things a library should have in the 21st century. They saw it as a place for people to gather, which was also on the library's agenda, Murphy said.

A library project can be more challenging because you aren't just adding more office or storage space, Sampson said. Population expands across demographics, which also means you can't just add a wing.

Wadleigh is crowded, Sampson said. The teen space they tried to carve out is "woefully inadequate," she said. Several teens gathered in the children's area or reading room can cause issues, she said. Along with the trustees' priorities, a 2007 study of the library's situation and blueprints were provided to competitors, most of whom also toured the building.

The Wadleigh has been on Milford's capital improvement plan for several years — at one point slated for a 2006 addition and renovation, Sampson said. The project has been pushed back a number of times, currently until 2015, she believes.



The winning AIANH 2010 Intern/Young Architect Design Competition entry by Brian Murphy AIA and Alyssa Murphy AIA.

"I know a little bit about the reality of their situation," Murphy said. "We would be happy to see this project through. Although it is a competition, and at this stage just ideas ... we designed this proposal with belief in it becoming reality," Murphy said. However, their design needs to be refined and others will need to have a say in a municipal building plan, he said.

The Murphys are now Portsmouth-based; they recently moved from New York City. Their Web site is manypennymurphy.com.

20 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits, classes and workshops. For more information on exhibits, see past stories on hippopress.com. Send information to listings@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

- **EMPTY BOWLS** students, faculty and community members make pottery bowls for this fundraiser for the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter Wed., Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m., at the Nashua High School South cafeteria, 36 Riverside Dr., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12, soup and food is donated by area restaurants, and you keep the bowl you choose. Pick up tickets at NHSS or NSKS, 42 Chestnut St., Nashua, call 889-7770 or visit www.nsk.org.
- **FREE ADMISSION** to the Currier Museum of Art during winter school vacation week, Feb. 22-26 (The Currier is closed Tuesdays).
- **WINTER SCHOOL VACATION WEEK** at the Currier Museum of Art (free admission Feb. 22-26): Family Performance: Jungle Stories with Storyteller Tim Van Egmond Wed., Feb. 24, at 1 p.m.; Family Drawing in the Galleries Thurs., Feb. 25, 1-3 p.m.; Family Studio: Art Up Close Fri., Feb. 26, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Gallery openings and events

- **RANDA DUBNICK** "Woods and Lakes" paintings and posterized pho-

tographs through May at the UNH Center for Graduate & Professional Studies at Manchester, 286 Commercial St., 4th floor. Meet the artist Wed., Feb. 17, 4:30-6 p.m.

- **UNH MUSEUM OF ART** "War and Remembrance," and "Acts and Memory: Paintings by Langdon Quin, 1990-2010," through April 8 (closed March 12-21 and April 3-4) at the Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham, www.unh.edu/moa, 862-3712. Free "ArtBreak" events, periodic Wednesdays at noon, include a gallery talk with exhibiting Maine artist Tom Paiement Feb. 17; and a gallery talk with Quin March 10. Visit www.unh.edu/moa for more.
- **MARILENE SAWAF** paintings through May 3 at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Route 101A, Milford, 673-8499. Reception Sun., Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m.
- **KEEPING RHYTHM:** Three African American Artists Exhibit through March 3 at Rivier College Art Gallery, 435 South Main St., Nashua, 897-8276, www.rivier.edu/art/artgallery.html.
- **Ekua Holmes** shares her personal narrative and the philosophy and experiences that shape her art Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.
- **LOVE, LUST & DESIRE** through

23 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. For information on shows plus features and reviews of performances, see past stories on hippopress.com. To get listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com

March 5 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 225-2515. Evening of poetry Fri., Feb. 26, 5-7 p.m.

- **MIRARE** through March 20 at the the Chapel Art Center, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, 641-7470, www.anselm.edu/chapelart. "Conversations in Art - Panel Discussion and Reception for Artists," Thurs., March 18, at 4 p.m., at the college's New Hampshire Institute of Politics auditorium. Reception follows in the Chapel Art Center.

In the galleries

- **70TH ANNIVERSARY** Currier Art Center Faculty Exhibition at the Currier Museum's Community Gallery through March 1. A percentage of sales support the Currier Art Center scholarship fund.
- **ANNE BEHRING** art jewelry featured in February at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter, 778-8282.
- **ART & ARRANGEMENTS** at Kimball-Jenkins School of Art through Feb. 19 at the galleries at 266 N. Main St., Concord, 255-3932, www.kimballjenkins.com.
- **BODY & SOUL** oil paintings and block prints from Susan Jaworski-Stranc and Gail Zwerling through

Feb. 28, at Loading Dock Gallery, Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass., www.theloadindockgallery.com, 978-349-8069.

- **BRIAN TRUELOVE AND MAURICE EASTER** artwork exhibited through March at the Nashua City Hall, 229 Main St., Nashua, 883-0015. Presented by the Nashua Historical Society.
- **CAROL WALKER-MORIN** paintings through March 5, at in the Picker Building at One Washington Center, Dover.
- **COLLEGE INVITATIONAL II** through Feb. 26 at New Hampshire Art Association's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St., Portsmouth, 431-4230, www.nhartassociation.org. The East Gallery is pleased to announce that NHAA member Holly Elkins exhibits block prints, paintings and drawings in "Signs of Love" in the East Gallery.
- **COMMUNITY COUNCIL GALLERY** features a group show of work by Hollis Arts Society members, "Artistic Creations that Touch the Heart," through May 4, at 100 West Pearl St., Nashua. Call 889-6147 for other information. Part of the proceeds support the Community Council.

24 Classical

Includes listings for symphony and orchestral performances and choral events. To get your event listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

- **DANIELLE ELIZABETH**, painter, "Recent Work" through February at the Wine Studio, 27 Buttrick Rd., Londonderry, 432-9463, www.thewinestudioh.com.
- **DARRELL MATSUMOTO** Pictures for the New Millennium through March 10 at the Wadleigh Gallery at Chester College of New England, 40 Chester St., Chester, www.chestercoll.edu, 887-7406.
- **DICK MORRILL** "Narrative Paintings & Portraits" and paintings and drawings by Vincent Sferrazza through March 5 at the New England College Gallery, Main Street in Henniker, 428-2329, www.nec.edu.
- **DOG SLEDDING IN NH ART EXHIBIT** at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way in Auburn, www.nhaudubon.org, 668-2045, through Feb. 19. Pam Lacombe-Connell of Coyote Farm Fine Arts will display her collection of portraits, artist cards, folk art, and posters that celebrate the art of dog mushing and the bond between man and animal. Visit www.sleddogfineart.com.
- **EDDIE DURRETT'S** Painted New England: Digital Brushes exhibit through April 16 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire For-

ests' Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Call 224-9945 before visiting.

- **EXPOSED** photography exhibition through Feb. 21 at the Arts League of Lowell gallery, 246 Market St., Lowell, Mass., www.artsleagueoflowell.org.
- **EXTINCT!...** Endangered Species and Habitats artwork exhibit through Feb. 21, at the Brush Gallery & Artists Studios, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass., www.thebrush.org, 978-459-7819. This is a collaboration by the Brush Gallery & Artists Studios and School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with Tufts University.
- **HEDDI VAUGHAN SIEBEL** "Lumber, Coal, Fawn Skins: An Exploration Revealed in Lists," print installation through Feb. 27, at the McIninch Art Gallery at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Rd., Manchester, www.snhu.edu/908.asp, 629-4622.
- **I LOVE NH** - Valentine Theme Show through Feb. 27 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, www.eastcolony.com.
- **INTERIOR LIFE** exhibit of work



LOCAL COLOR

Free Currier admission days



"Liz and Madeline's Party in Portsmouth" (acrylic on paper), by Marilene Sawaf.

• **Have your say:** Give your opinions on public art possibilities in Nashua. City Arts Nashua and the Nashua Sculpture Symposium are soliciting feedback through an online survey posted at <http://tinyurl.com/nashua-art>. Learn about the symposium at <http://sites.google.com/site/sculpturesymposiumofnashua/> and City Arts Nashua at www.cityartsnashua.org.

• **In color:** Hollis artist Marilene Sawaf's distinctive paintings are currently at the Tower Gallery at New Hampshire Antique Co-op. Sawaf's brightly colored scenes usually involve women in flowered dresses in an old-world setting — with a style like stained glass and Oriental carpets, according to the Co-op. Meet Sawaf and see her work at a reception Sunday, Feb. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m., at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St. in Milford. Call 673-8499 or visit www.nhantiquecoop.com.

• **Vacation week:** The Currier Museum of Art is offering free admission for everyone from Feb. 22 through Feb. 26 (it's closed Tuesdays) plus a line-up of family-friendly events. During "Storytime in the Gallery" Monday, Feb. 22, at 11:30 a.m., a Manchester librarian reads *Georgia's Bones*, by Jen Bryant. A look at "Cross by the Sea" by Georgia O'Keeffe and a gallery talk follow. It's aimed at ages 3 to 5, but all are welcome, according to a Currier press release.

The "Family Performance: Jungle Stories with Storyteller Tim Van Egmond" is Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m., first come, first served. Bring a sketchbook or use one from the museum during "Family Drawing in the Galleries" Thursday, Feb. 25, between 1 and 3 p.m. A Currier Art Center instructor will be available for guidance. Try an art-related activity during "Family Studio: Art Up Close," Friday, Feb. 26, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The Currier, which is at 150 Ash St. in Manchester (669-6144, www.currier.org), always offers free admission to youth under 18. Adults pay \$10. However, the Currier offers free admission weekly between 10 a.m. and noon, Saturdays.

• **Colby-Sawyer College:** Seven photographers examine "the things that accumulate in the places we inhabit and that ultimately create and represent our interior lives" in "Interior Life," according to a press release. Work includes scenes from consulting and operating rooms of plastic surgeons by Cara Phillips of Brooklyn, and photographs of "what nightclubs look like after the party is over, what has been left behind and needs to be cleaned up," by Eugen Sakhnenko. Colby-Sawyer Fine and Performing Arts Department hosts the show through Feb. 20 at the college's Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery, Main Street in New London (www.colby-sawyer.edu, 526-3000).

by seven photographers through Feb. 20 in Colby-Sawyer College's Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery, Main Street, New London, www.colby-sawyer.edu.

• **JE VOIS (I See)** photography of Celine Baribeau through Feb. 26, at the Franco-American Center, 52 Concord St., Manchester, 669-4045, www.francoamericancenternh.com.

• **JIM TOWNSEND**, "Glimpses" photography in February at the Wine Studio, 53 Hooksett Rd., Manchester, 622-9463, www.thewinestudioh.com.

• **KAST HILL STUDIO** mosaics, and the Community Mosaic Project led by Lizz Van Saun displayed at 5 Main St. in Concord through March 2, 746-6745, www.kasthillstudio.com.

• **"LOST IN PITTSBURGH:** Photographs by Zsuzsi Matolcsy" through Feb. 19 at the University Gallery at UMass Lowell, 71 Wilder St., Lowell, Mass., 978-934-3491, www.uml.edu/Dept/Art/.

• **LYNN LATIMER** glass art featured in February at the Sharon Arts Fine Craft Gallery in Depot Square, Peterborough, 924-2787, sharonarts.org.

• **MANCHESTER ARTISTS ASSOCIATION** members Debby Frisella, Jack Holmes and Matt Pidgeon exhibit through March 1 in the Bedford Library, 3 Meetinghouse Rd., www.bedford.lib.nh.us, 472-3023.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** Web site presented by the city arts commis-

sion, manchester-arts.org.

• **THE MASK OF LINCOLN** exhibit of portraits, facts and insights in honor of the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's visit to New Hampshire, at the State Library, 20 Park St., Concord, through April 15, 271-2541, www.nh.gov/nhsl.

• **MASTERS:** 40 Contemporary Master Quilters through Feb. 25 at the New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck St., Lowell, Mass., www.nequiltmuseum.org, 978-452-4207.

• **MATERIAL JUXTAPOSITION**, Claudia Rippee and Lisa Kellner exhibit through March 1 at New Hampshire Institute of Art's Amherst Street Gallery, 77 Amherst St., Manchester, 836-2573, nhia.edu.

• **MINUMENTAL** artwork that is 2 by 2 by 2 inches or smaller, and priced at \$44.95 or less is up through March 1 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art's French Building, 148 Concord St., Manchester, www.nhia.edu, 836-2573.

• **NEW ENGLAND SEASONS** paintings by Barbara A. Busenbark through Feb. 27 at the Southern New Hampshire University Pantano Gallery in the Shapiro Library, in Manchester, 645-9605.

• **OF COWS AND CORN** photography by Andrew Lathrop of Milford (www.browndogphoto.com), through April 26, exhibited for "Art in the Mill," at UNH Manchester, 400 Commercial St., 641-4306,

www.unh.unh.edu.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, www.verdigrisartisans.com.

• **OUT OF THE BLUE** Manchester Artists Association group show through Feb. 27 at the MAA Gallery, 1528 Elm St., Manchester, 785-6437, manchester-artists.org.

• **PERMANENT PETALS:** Various Takes on the Flower through March 7 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover, www.lucysartemporium.com.

• **PHOTOGRAPHS** by Robert Cunningham and watercolors by Harry Standel in February at the Wilton Public Library, 7 Forest Rd., Wilton, wiltonlibrarynh.org, 654-2581.

• **"PRINTS OF THE YEAR 2010:** What's New in New Hampshire Printmaking" through April 2 at the Franklin Pierce Law Center, 2 White St., Concord, www.piercelaw.edu, 228-1541.

• **ROBERT SQUIER** dinosaur illustrations through March at Gallery 6, at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrensmuseum.org.

• **ROBIN FRISELLA** pastels featured through February at Maison de L'Art, 57 East Pearl St. Nashua, 879-9888, www.moniquesakellarios.com.

• **SCOTT BULGER** photography in February at Red River Theatres

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Zoom in Pop style

Intown's new banners trade photography for design

The "Live it. Love it." downtown Manchester banner campaign is coming to an end, "And I'll tell you the reason why," said Samantha Appleton, director of marketing and public relations for Intown Manchester.

The next round of banners, which hang on light poles on Elm, Hanover and Commercial streets, are using the slogan from the Shoppes of Historic Downtown, specifically Mike Farrington, who owns DumBass Gifts on Stark Street, "Downtown's got it," Appleton said. Intown chose to adopt it for their new banner campaign to send the message that whatever you're looking for, downtown's got it — shopping, places to eat, places to take your kids — it's an "all-encompassing phrase," Appleton said.

Intown is a downtown improvement nonprofit, with which the city contracts using special Business Improvement District tax revenue from downtown.

The "Live it. Love it." campaign was one of Appleton's first when she was an Intown project specialist years ago, she said. Currently, the banners, which also include the names of sponsoring businesses, use photography.

For the new "Downtown's got it." campaign, project specialist Jessica Gustafson has designed nine "Pop art"-inspired images. "Obviously, we want it to be eye-catching.... This year Jessica really did a fantastic job with coming up with unique designs," Appleton



A new Manchester downtown banner designed by Jessica Gustafson.

said. Appleton called them "youthful," "vibrant" and "funky."

The Pop art illustration style is unlike anything they've used before, Appleton said.

"It's just something fun and new...When I first started working at Intown I think there were clipart images up there. It really becomes difficult to find photography expressive of the message that you're trying to get out there. So this year, we decided as opposed to using photography that we would just create the designs to get the message across," Appleton said.

"I think people are really going to dig them," Appleton said.

Intown usually installs more than 100 banners. Last year they had about 70 sponsors — the funding is used for downtown maintenance and beautification — and the "response has been overwhelming"

so far, Appleton said.

Farrington said the Shoppes of Historic Downtown group came up with the slogan "Downtown's got it," which is also their Web address, www.downtownsgotit.com, to call attention to the fact that there is retail in Manchester's center. People normally associate the area with restaurants or come downtown just for an event, but the group is trying to get the word out that "there's quite a bit more to downtown," Farrington said.

—Heidi Masek

Community Gallery, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600.

• **SEEING RED** group show through March 31 at White Birch Fine Art, LLC, 8 Mohawk Dr., Londonderry, 434-0399, www.whitebirchfineart.com.

• **SHARON JORDAN BAHOSH**, plein air paintings featured in February at Sharon Arts Downtown Galleries in Depot Square, Peterborough, 924-2787, sharonarts.org.

• **SHARON WOODING** paintings and children's book illustrations through March 13 at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St., Pepperell, 978-433-0330, www.lawrencelibrary.org.

• **SKIP MONTELLO** seascape photographs through February in the Nashua Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, www.nashualibrary.org. See www.skipmontellophotos.com.

• **THE STRETCH** retrospective of work by Frank Welles and Bill Oakes through May 2, at the Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth.

• **TEENY TINY ART SHOW #6** through March 1 at Three Graces, 105 Market St., Portsmouth, 436-1988, www.threegracesgallery.com.

• **THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** exhibition through March 26 at the League of NH Craftsmen's Gallery 205, 205 N. Main St., Concord, 224-3375, www.nhcrafts.org.

• **THE URBAN LANDSCAPE** pastel and oils by Randy Knowles featured at through Feb. 27 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, www.eastcolony.com.

• **"YOU CANNOT WIN AN OCCUPATION"** mixed media constructions by Charlet Davenport and "Now" paintings by Ann Shelton through Feb. 19 at the Derryfield School's Lyceum Gallery, 2108 River Rd., Manchester, 669-4524.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **The Acting Loft**
516 Pine St., Manchester
666-5999, actingloft.org

• **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691,
actorsingers.org

• **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry,
437-0505, derryarts.org

• **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com

• **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613,
andyssummerplayhouse.org

• **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700

• **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Road, Bedford,

557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com

• **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford

• **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986

• **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111,
ccanh.com

• **Concord Chorale**
224-0770,
concordchorale.org

• **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793,
www.theaudi.org

• **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org

• **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive,
Manchester, 641-7700,
anselm.edu

• **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester,
669-7469, majestictheatre.net

• **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548,
mcmusicschool.org

• **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage**
Professional Co.
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• **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org

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<p style="text-align: center;">PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, February 20 8:00 p.m. • \$35/\$40 • RS-Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BO BICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 20 8:00 p.m. \$25/\$30 RS-Tables</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">POCO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 21 7:00 p.m. • \$40 • RS-Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LIVINGSTON TAYLOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, February 26 8:00 p.m. \$30/\$35 RS-Tables</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CARBON LEAF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fri. & Sat, February 26 & 27 8:00 p.m. • \$25 • RS-Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOM RUSH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, February 27 8:00 p.m. \$30/\$35 RS-Tables</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MINDY SMITH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 28 7:00 p.m. \$25 RS-Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LEON RUSSELL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 4 8:00 p.m. \$35/\$38/\$40 RS-Tables</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BLACK 47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, March 5 8:00 p.m. • \$20 • GA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOTHOUSE FLOWERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, March 7 7:00 p.m. • \$30 • RS-Tables</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LEON RUSSELL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 9 8:00 p.m. \$40 RS-Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BELLEVUE CADILLAC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROOMFUL OF BLUES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, March 13 8:00 p.m. • \$25 • GA</p>

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Curtain Calls

By Heidi Masek



Lula Washington Dance Theatre visits Manchester Feb. 19. Courtesy photo.

- **West Coast moves:** Contemporary Los Angeles troupe Lula Washington Dance Theatre performs at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., at 100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester. Washington, the company artistic director, choreographed dancing fish in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, and aliens in *Avatar*. Ticket costs range from \$6 to \$29.50. Call 641-7700 or visit www.anselm.edu/dana. The company offers an informal demonstration at 3 p.m., open to the public.
- **David Lindsay-Abaire:** theatre KAPOW produces three David Lindsay-Abaire short comedies originally written during the "The 24 Hour Plays on Broad-

way" benefit — one-acts written, directed and performed in a day, according to a press release from tKAPOW. *Crazy Eights*, *Baby Food* and *That Other Person* are accompanied by Lindsay-Abaire's comic monologue, *The History Lesson*. "3+ One Acts by David Lindsay-Abaire" runs Friday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 27, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., at the Stockbridge Theatre, Route 28 in Derry (437-5210, www.tkapow.com).

- **Still dancing:** *Swing Fever*, created by Palace Theatre artistic director Carl Rajotte, continues at the Palace through Feb. 27. The music and dance production features a live band, vocalists and dancers, at 80 Hanover St. in Manchester. Ticket costs range from \$15 to \$45; call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org. Tickets for Saturday performances include a free swing dance lesson from Rajotte at 6:30 p.m.

- **Down East:** Maine native John Cariani's off-Broadway play *Almost, Maine* is being staged at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre through Feb. 28. The residents of *Almost, Maine*, "find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways," according to a press release from Seacoast Rep. It's at 125 Bow St. in Portsmouth (www.seacoastrep.org, 433-4472). Ticket costs range from \$28 to \$42.

- **Auditions:** *Peter Pan* is the chosen title for the summer main stage show at Prescott Park Arts Festival in Portsmouth this year. Auditions are Saturday, March 6, at UNH in Durham. Register at www.prescottpark.org. The Festival is also auditioning at the New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association auditions at Plymouth State University Saturday, Feb. 20. Learn more about that at <http://oz.plymouth.edu/~mkizer/NHPTA/>.

Also, local producers John Herman and Bryan White are casting for their new Web series, "How to Survive the Strange," March 15 at 6 p.m. at Crackskulls Coffee and Books in Newmarket. Call Herman at 380-6721.

- PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org
- **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)** Londonderry, madco.org
- **My Act** myact.org, 429-3950
- **Nashua Theatre Guild** PO Box 137, Nashua, 03061, 320-2530 nashuatheatreguild.org
- **New Thalian Players** newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
- **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)** 505 Amherst St., Nashua, 428-3544
- **The Palace Theatre** 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- **Peacock Players** 14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org
- **Profile Chorus** profilechorus.org
- **School of Theater Arts at The Amato Center for Performing Arts** 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 20
- **Seacoast Repertory Theatre** 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472
- **SNHU Drama Club** 2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
- **Yellow Taxi Productions** yellowtaxiproductions.org
- **BLACK PEARL SINGS!**, by

Frank Higgins through March 7 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-654-4678, merrimackrep.org, \$15-\$56.

- **HUNT FAMILY FIDDLERS** and step dancing Thurs., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the Concord City Auditorium, presented by the Concord Community Concert Association. Get two tickets for \$26 at Gibson's Book Store or Ballard's. See www.concordcommunityconcerts.org.
- **ONE-ACT PLAYS**, directed by senior students, Feb. 18-19 at 7 p.m., at Concord High School, 170 Warren St., Concord, 225-0800.
- **THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, JR.**, presented by Pittsfield Players Kids' Workshop Feb. 18-20 at 7:30 p.m., at the Scenic Theatre, 6 Depot St., Pittsfield, pittsfieldplayers.com, 435-8852, \$8-\$10.
- **ALMOST, MAINE** through Feb. 28 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, at 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, www.seacoastrep.org, 433-4472.
- **FORBIDDEN BROADWAY** presented by the Peacock Players Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 & 7 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Feb. 21 the 14 Court St. Theater in Nashua.
- **THE GUMSHOE DIARIES**, a new comedy by George Hosker-Bouley, presented by Carpe Diem Inc., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m. through Feb. 28, with a 2 p.m. show Feb. 28,

at the West End Studio Theater, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, 978-683-7745, \$12-\$15.

- **LADY FROM THE SEA**, by Henrik Ibsen, presented by the Dartmouth Theater Dept., Feb. 19-28, at the Hopkins center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, Hanover, 646-2422, hop.dartmouth.edu, \$6-\$12.
- **THE LARAMIE PROJECT**, presented by the Winni Players Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Feb. 21, at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Alpenrose Plaza, routes 3 and 11B in Weirs Beach, Laconia, 366-7377, www.winnisplayhouse.com, \$14-\$16.
- **LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE** of Los Angeles performs Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., at the Dana Center, \$6-\$29.50. Call 641-7710 for details about the Feb. 18 student matinee.
- **SWING FEVER** through Feb. 27 at the Palace Theatre, \$15-\$45. Palace Artistic Director Carl Rajotte offers free swing dance lessons at 6:30 p.m. before Saturday shows for ticket-holders.
- **CABARET AFTER HOURS** presented by Cabaret De Boheme of New Hampshire Mondays, 7-10 p.m., at the Element Lounge, 1055 Elm St., Manchester, 627-2922. Brandon Mallard and Barbara Lawler perform classic jazz standards and Broadway showtunes (www.nhcabaret.com).
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Heart Circus, Wed., Feb. 24, at 5 p.m., part of the Scene@Five series at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St. in Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org, \$2 cover charge.

- **SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY** adaptation presented by Colby-Sawyer College and S.K.I.T. Feb. 25-28, at the Sawyer Center Theater, Main Street, New London, 526-3670, \$5-\$10.
- **NUNSENSE** presented by Hillcat Community Theatre Fri., Feb. 26, and Sat., Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Hillsboro Deering Middle School, 6 Hillcat Dr., Hillsboro. Contact dunn.t@comcast.net.
- **THREE ONE ACTS**, by David Lindsey-Abaire presented by Theatre KAPOW, Fri., Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 27, at 2 & 7:30 p.m., at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy in Derry. Visit www.tkpow.com for details or call 437-5210.


Auditions/workshops

- **OPEN HOUSE** at the Acting Loft to learn about its spring semester of theater arts classes Wed., Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m.
- **RENT** and The Full Monty auditions for the Palace Theatre professional productions are Thurs., Feb. 18, at 6 p.m., at the Palace Theatre. Actors must be 16 or older. Call 668-5588 to sign up.
- **AUDITIONS AND JOBS** New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association Auditions and Job Fair for summer and fall professional theater companies in New Hampshire is Sat., Feb. 20 at Plymouth University. NH college students and adult state residents can register at http://oz.plymouth.edu/~mkizer/NHPTA/.
- **VACATION CAMP** for ages 8-12

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Pictures from the road

Photographer and motorcyclist Eric Myers (his work shown here) has photographed during his travels in the northeast corner of North America, "exploring back roads and forgotten towns," according to A&E Coffee Roastery & Tea. Myers' work is featured at A&E in February, at 135 Route 101A in Amherst (578-3338, www.AEroastery.com).



at the Peacock Players, Feb. 15-19; Feb. 22-26; April 19-23; and April 26-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$150. Call 816-2693 to register, or see www.peacockplayers.org.

- **MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP** at the Acting Loft for ages 5-13 during February school vacation, Feb. 22-26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with early drop-off and late pick-up available. The cost is \$175.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

- **CONCORD COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION** 79th season: Concerts at at Concord City Auditorium: Hunt Family Fiddler Feb. 18; NUBE "Music for a New World" March 10. Call 228-0660 or e-mail jjiffland@comcast.net.
- **MADE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE** tour of the Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, www.nashuasymphony.org, 595-9156: Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., at the Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord; Fri., Feb. 26, at 8 p.m., at the Silver Center for the Arts at Plymouth State University; Sun., Feb. 28, at 4 p.m. at the Colonial Theater in Keene.
- **HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS** at Dartmouth College, Hanover, Spaulding Auditorium, 646-2422, hop.dartmouth.edu: Dartmouth Wind Symphony, Sun., Feb. 21, at 2 p.m., \$6-\$14; Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra Sat., Feb. 27, at 8 p.m., \$5-\$20; Dartmouth Chamber Singers, The American Life, Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., \$6-\$16. Alim & Fargana Qasimov, Spiritual Sounds of Azerbaijan Wed., March 3, \$10-\$26.
- **SINFONIETTA** Baroque concert Sun., Feb. 21, at 4 p.m., at High Mowing School, Abbot Hill Road in Wilton, free, www.highmowing.org or call 654-2391.
- **UNH FACULTY CONCERT** with Peggy Vagts, flute and Arlene Kies, piano, Sun., Feb. 21, at 3 p.m., at the UNH Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, www.unh.edu/music, 862-2404, free.
- **THE NEW ENGLAND BRASS** Wed., March 3, at 7:30 p.m., presented by the Walker series, at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., 225-9004, free.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

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**Gardening
Guy**

Go plant crazy, not stir crazy

Tending house plants can ward off winter doldrums



Moisture gauge. Henry Homeyer photo.

By Henry Homeyer
news@hippopress.com

Are you feeling a little fed up with winter? Tired of ice and cold? Well your house plants, I dare say, are probably crankier than you are just now. Not only are they tired of low winter light levels, they are most likely infested with either aphids or white flies. And they can't reach to scratch the bites! So take pity on them, and give them a little extra care.

According to Sarah Milek of Cider Hill Gardens and Gallery in Windsor, Vt. (www.ciderhillgardens.com), one of the best things you can do for your plants is to offer them a nice drink of "fish juice." If you have been giving your plants doses of chemical fertilizer all winter, they may be suffering from a buildup of soluble salts from the fertilizer. See a white residue on your pots or on the soil? Switch to a natural fertilizer made from fish and/or seaweed. "I'm constantly impressed how fish fertilizers help to keep plants healthy," she said.

Just as organic fertilizers and manures provide all of the minerals needed by plants outdoors, so do fish and seaweed liquid fertilizers help your indoor plants to have a "balanced diet." Chemical fertilizers only provide three things: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Most of what comes in the bag is inert filler. You might start to drag if

you ate only junk food for weeks at a time — and that's analogous to what your house plants get from chemical fertilizers. But whatever fertilizer you use with your plants, remember that more fertilizer is not better: read the directions.

And then there is the question of water. The air is dry, the sun is starting to get stronger, and your indoor plants probably want more water than they did last fall. Rosemary is particularly vulnerable at this time of year: a totally dry rosemary is a dead rosemary, so be careful. By March it will need much more water — or it will die. Spritzing or misting daily will improve your rosemary's attitude, too.

Take a good look at your houseplants. There are no natural predators indoors to eat aphids and other beasts, so plants tend to get infested with insects. Aphids are one of the most common. They are small, 1/16 of an inch or so long, and somewhat pear-shaped; some have wings, some don't; colors range from clear to black, including pink, yellow, shades of green and gray. You may notice the sticky "honeydew" or droppings on your leaves before you notice these insects. They lay eggs in the fall that hatch in the spring. They are sucking insects that can damage leaves and stems, and can transmit plant diseases. Bad bugs.

If you see the telltale honeydew or the aphids themselves, take action. For small plants, bring them to the kitchen sink and direct a stream of water to wash off the vandals. You'll need to wash both sides of the leaves, and I like to rinse off a little of the soil to get eggs. For larger plants, bring them in the shower; a hand-held shower attachment helps considerably, allowing you to lay the pot on its side in the tub, spraying every bit of it. It's not an easy task, but be thankful: it wiggles less than your dog, and won't shake all over you afterwards.

Keep a close eye on your plants after their shower. If aphids return, you can try washing the leaves and stems again, or spray them with a dilute soap solution. Safer Soap is one brand of plant soap, though there are others just as good.

To make your own solution, use a liquid soap (not dish detergent). I use Murphy's Oil Soap, one teaspoon in a quart spray bottle. The soap dehydrates any soft-bodied insect. Too strong a solution can damage the leaves of the plant.

One of the best books on houseplants was written back in the 1960's by Thalassa Cruso: *Making Things Grow, A Practical Guide for the Indoor Gardener*. It is out of print, but readily available from independent booksellers and used books stores. Reading Cruso's book, for me, feels like listening to a kind maiden aunt who has made the care of houseplants her life. She offers practical advice like this: "Beginning gardeners should realize that there are easy, inexpensive plants that will be no great financial loss, even if they die while their owners are learning how to best to care for them." But she tries hard to make sure you don't.

"Death by drowning," according to Cruso, "is one of the most common disasters to befall the plants of a new horticulturist." She explains that overwatered plants first show signs of yellowed lower leaves, then the roots rot, and eventually the plant collapses — much as it might if not watered at all. My advice? Stick a finger into the soil of your house plants on a regular basis to feel the soil.

Some years ago I was given a moisture gauge. Poke it into a pot, and push the button to see if a plant needs water or not, or even if it is too soggy. My then-three-year-old grandson, George, loved it, telling me decisively, if the light showed red, "You better water this plant, Grampy." I looked online (www.waterstik.com) and they are still available, though I like the finger method just fine.

Spring will be here soon. Meanwhile, play with your indoor plants. They'll appreciate a little extra attention.

Henry Homeyer is a gardening consultant and the author of three books. His Web site is www.Gardening-Guy.com. Contact him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Events

- **TODDLER OPEN HOUSE** at Derry Montessori School, 65 East Broadway, Derry, 432-8345, www.derrymontessori.org, on Fri., Feb. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **BABIES AND BEARS** at Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, Sat., Feb. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. Bring young children up to age 5 and enjoy a program of animal and nature songs with guitarist Amy Conley of Music Together. Outdoor scavenger hunt is included, weather permitting. Cost is \$8 per family. Call 465-7787 to register.
- **CAJUN CONCERT** for all ages, at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, www.wadleighlibrary.org, on Sat., Feb. 20, 7 p.m. The Crawdad Wranglers Trio performs. Light refreshments. Cost is free. Call 673-2408.
- **PRINCESS PARTY** on Sat., Feb. 20, 1 p.m., at Liberty Books & Comics, 75 Allison St., Concord, 223-0335, www.libertybooksh.net, for princesses ages 4-6. Wear a favorite gown and join in for games and crafts.
- **DOLL FASHION SHOW** at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 594-3457, on Mon., Feb. 22, 2 p.m. Bring a favorite doll. Refreshments and raffle prizes. All ages welcome. Register at www.tinyurl.com/nplkid.

www.tinyurl.com/nplkid.

- **LEARN FACEBOOK SAFETY** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, www.wadleighlibrary.org, on Mon., Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. Seminar presented by Officer Mark Pepler. Open to adults and young adults. Registration required. Call 673-2408.
- **MEET EMILY ELIZABETH** at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 594-3457, on Tue., Feb. 23, 11 a.m. Norman Bridwell's daughter talks about her dad, author of *Clifford the Big Red Dog*. First 100 children will receive a book. Sponsored by Collins Dentistry for Children and Lowell Spinners.
- **PUZZLEMANIA** for ages 6 and up, at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, www.wadleighlibrary.org, on Tue., Feb. 23, 2:30 p.m. Rotate through puzzles of varying difficulty. Form teams and keep track of points. Registration required. Call 673-2408.
- **GAME DAY** at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 594-3457, on Wed., Feb. 24, 2 p.m. Checkers, chess, Sorry, Trouble, Candyland, Go Fish, and more available. Prizes awarded to winners. All ages.

February vacation

- **ARTVENTURE CAMP** at Sharon Arts

Center, Concord, Feb. 22-26. Morning sessions are 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., for \$165/members, \$185/nonmembers. Full day sessions run 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for \$325/members, \$350/nonmembers. Materials fee is \$25. Call 924-7256 or e-mail register@sharonarts.org to register. Visit www.sharonarts.org for course descriptions.

- **DAY TRIPS** offered by Concord Recreation during school vacation week, Feb. 22-26. Sign up for one or more, including Vertical Dreams, Boston Museum of Science, and Gunstock. For kids in grades 3-5. Call 225-8690 or visit the Web site at www.concordnh.gov/recreation.
- **DR. SEUSS WEEK** at Concord Public Library, 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net, Feb. 22-27. All activities are daily at 2:30 p.m. and include drop-in paper puzzles, Seuss scavenger hunt, *Green Eggs & Ham* frame, create-a-creature, and a *Horton Hears a Who* craft. On Tue., March 2, 6 p.m. join in for a Dr. Seuss party.
- **FEBRUARY FUN VACATION CAMP** at Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, and the McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, on Mon., Feb. 22, through Fri., Feb. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Children ages 6-10 will explore the daily theme through outdoor excursions,

games, crafts, stories, live animals, songs and conservation projects. Daily camp fee is \$40 for members, \$50 for nonmembers. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. After-hours care until 5 p.m. is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Bring lunches and snacks. Dress warmly. To register, call 224-9909, ext. 333, or stop by either center for forms.

- **FIRST FEBRUARY VACATION CAMP** "Dare to be FIRST," Feb. 22 through Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids ages 9 to 14 can learn about the importance of beta testing and create mission models that may end up in a FIRST LEGO League game. The cost is \$275. The event is held at FIRST Place, 200 Bedford St. in Manchester. E-mail skitchen@usfirst.org or call 666-3906 ext. 423.
- **HORSEMANSHIP CAMP** at Gelinass Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke, 225-7024, www.gelinassfarm.com, Feb. 22-26, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Half-day youth horsemanship camp. Register with Concord Recreation at 225-8690.
- **SKILLS OF NATIVE PEOPLES SERIES** at Amoskeag Fishways, Manchester, www.amoskeagfishways.org, Feb. 23-25, 1-3 p.m. Winter vacation program for children in grades 3-6. Cost is \$8 per session/\$20 for all three. Registration required. Parents

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<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Pro America 4:00pm Doors Open 6:45pm Games Start Buy 1 *Package*, Get 1 FREE (WTA not included)</p>	<p>FREE Hot Cappuccino, Coffee, Tea & Hot Chocolate</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Pro America 3:30pm Doors Open 6:00pm Games Start Free 18 card package w/ paid package of 18 cards or more. (WTA not included) Trifecta \$3,200</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>St Francis of Assisi 4:00pm Doors Open 6:45pm Games Start Buy 1 *Package*, Get 1 FREE (WTA not included) Trifecta Ticket \$1,200</p>	<p>Hand Held Computers Available</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Upreach Therapeutic 10:30am Doors Open 1:00pm Games Start Buy 1 *Package*, Get 1 FREE (WTA not included) Outrageous Ticket \$4,200</p>
<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Upreach Therapeutic 4:00pm Doors Open 6:45pm Games Start Buy 1 *Package*, Get 1 FREE (WTA not included) Club Crystal Trifecta \$6,000</p>	<p>ATM on Site</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Marion Gerrish C.C. 4:00pm Doors Open 6:00pm Games Start Buy 1 *Package*, Get 1 FREE</p>

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Kiddie Pool Family events for this weekend

Preschool fun

Families are invited to a **princess party** for ages 4-6 on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. at Liberty Books & Comics, 75 Allison St., Concord, 223-0335, www.libertybooksnh.net. Wear a favorite gown and join in for games, crafts and new friends.

Bring your young children up to age 5 to **babies and bears** at Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, on Saturday, Feb. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. Enjoy animal and nature songs with guitarist Amy Conley of Music Together, and an outdoor scavenger hunt, if weather permits. Cost is \$8 per family. Call 465-7787 to register.



This program will teach guests about the different types of rabbits in the wild and how they survive the winter. Learn how to spot rabbit tracks in your own back yard. Cost is \$5 per family. Registration is required. Call 626-3474.

Bunny love

In anticipation of Easter, the Animal Rescue League of NH (545 Route 101, Bedford) will host a **family bunny day** on Saturday, Feb. 20, noon-5 p.m. "Make Your Buddy a Bunny Day" encourages guests to adopt a rescued rabbit. Learn about rabbits and rabbit care, participate in bunny games, and enjoy a bake sale. Contact Danielle Hebert at danielle2@rescueleague.org.

Families can learn more about those **rascally rabbits** at Amoskeag Fishways, 100 Elm St., Manchester, www.amoskeagfishways.org, on Friday, Feb. 19, 7-8

Nature lovers

Learn about composting with the Little Nature Museum (www.littlenaturemuseum.org) in its first free program of the season, "**Vermiculture: The Wonderful World of Composting**," on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the community room at Hopkinton Town Library (61 Huston Drive, Contoocook, 746-3663, www.hopkintontownlibrary.org). This program is suitable for young people and adults. For weather-related cancellation, call 746-6121.

Learn about owls at the Eyes on Owls program on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. at McLane

Audubon Center, Silk Farm Road, Concord. Naturalists Marcia and Mark Wilson present this family-oriented demonstration of the special characteristics that enable owls to survive and hunt efficiently in New Hampshire. Meet six owls up close and learn to hoot. The program includes art projects and refreshments. Cost for nonmembers is \$10, or \$25 per family. Call 224-9909 to make a reservation.

Enjoy **winter eagles along the Merrimack** at Amoskeag Fishways, 100 Elm St., Manchester, www.amoskeagfishways.org, on Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-noon. Learn about bald eagles that come south to find open water for fishing. Cost is \$2 per person, \$5 per family. Registration required. Call 626-3474.

Families interested in learning how to snowshoe will have the opportunity at the **free EMS snowshoe clinics** hosted by Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, www.nhaudubon.org, 668-2045, on Saturday, Feb. 20, noon-2 p.m. Try on different varieties of snowshoes; a limited number of children's snowshoes will be available. Admission is free but registration is required by phone.

See a show

Enjoy a free Friday afternoon

movie at the West Manchester Community Library, 76 North Main St., Manchester, on Feb. 19, at 3 p.m.: **Open Season 2**, rated PG. Call 624-6550.

A free **children's story time and puppet show** is a weekend option for families at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, www.tinyurl.com/nplkid, on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. The event is open to the public. No registration required.

Finding Nemo will be showing free at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, www.nashualibrary.org), on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. in the NPL Theater. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Call the library film line at 589-4646 for more family film titles in February. No food or drink is allowed in the theater. No registration required.

Science is fun

Learn how to use a telescope in a program offered at McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com, on Friday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for children (3-12), \$8 for students/seniors, free for members. If general admission is purchased before 5 p.m., program ticket is \$3. Recommended age is 8+. Call 271-7827 or visit the Web site.

must provide transportation from Fishways to Hackett Hill (5-minute drive). Call 626-3474.

SPORT-A-DAY CAMP for kids in grades 1-8 at Greater Manchester Family YMCA, 30 Mechanic St., Manchester, during February vacation week, Feb. 22-26, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Children get a chance to join their peers in a fun, safe, exciting environment full of physical activity and entertainment. Sports played will include basketball, soccer, baseball, floor hockey, daily swims and more. Reserve a space onsite or by e-mailing Chris Webster at cwebster@gmfymca.org.

TREKS 4 TOTS VACATION SCIENCE CAMP at Seacoast Science Center, Rye, www.seacoastsciencecenter.org, on Feb. 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon. Half-day program is for children ages 4-5. Trekkers will learn about animals that hibernate in winter, search for animal tracks in the forest, walk the winter beach and tide pool, indoors. The cost per day is \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Register by calling 436-8043 or on the Web site.

TV VIDEO CAMP offered by Concord Recreation during school vacation week, Feb. 22-26. Campers will learn how to operate equipment in a professional studio, in the field and in the editing room. For kids ages 10-14. Call 225-8690 or visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

- **Canterbury Shaker Village** 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, 783-9511, shakers.org
- **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** 2 Institute Dr., Concord, starhop.com, 271-7831

Currier Museum of Art

150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org

Laconia Historical & Museum Society in the Laconia Public Library at 695 Main St. in Laconia, 527-1278, laconiahistorical.org

Langer Place 55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 626-4388, langerplace.com

Lee Scouting Museum & Library 571 Holt Ave. in Manchester, 669-8919, scoutingmuseum.org

Manchester City Hall One City Hall Plaza, off Hanover St. in Manchester, 624-6455

Millyard Museum/Manchester Historic Association 200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

New England Synthesizer Museum 6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587, synthmuseum.com

New Hampshire Aviation Museum South Perimeter Road, Manchester, 669-4820, nhahs.org

New Hampshire Snowmobile Association Museum Beaver Brook State Park Museum Complex off Route 28, Allenstown, 648-2304, nhsnowmobilemuseum.com

Museum of N.H. Natural History 6 Eagle Square in Concord, 228-6688, nhhistory.org

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum

18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, www.indianmuseum.org

Seacoast African American Cultural Center 135 Daniel St. in Portsmouth, 430-6027, saacc-nh.org

SEE Science Center 200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

Speare Museum 5 Abbott St., Nashua, 883-0015, nashuahistoricalociety.org

U.S. Marconi Museum 14 N. Amherst St. in Bedford, 472-8312, marconiusa.org

Exhibits

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE EXHIBITS from American Independence Museum will be featured in the Randall Gallery, Portsmouth Athenaeum, Market Square, Portsmouth. Exhibit displays can be viewed Tues., Thurs. and Sat. afternoons, 1-4 p.m. until April 24. Special events include "The Society of the Cincinnati: America's Oldest Veterans Organization," Sat., March 13, 11 a.m.; Guided Gallery Talk on Wed., April 7, 7 p.m., and Sat., April 17, 11 a.m. Admission is free but reservations are required for events. Call 431-2538, ext. 2.

JASPER WARE COLLECTION ON DISPLAY at the Speare Museum in Nashua, open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jasper ware is unglazed earthenware pottery invented by Josiah Wedgwood in the late 1770s. Call 883-0015.

MASTER QUILTERS 40 contemporary Master Quilters exhibit through Feb. 25 at the New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck St., Lowell, Mass., [\[museum.org\]\(http://museum.org\), 978-452-4207.](http://www.nequilt-</p>
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PEOPLES OF THE NORTH EXHIBIT at Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough, www.mariposamuseum.org. Cost is free, donations gratefully accepted. Call 924-4555 or e-mail info@mariposamuseum.org.

WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT depicting the events of 1943 honoring Private First Class Jacob Curvey, who served in the U.S. Army in WW II in the Pacific theater, at the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro, www.wrightmuseum.org.

NATURE & GARDENING

Amoskeag Fishways 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

Beaver Brook Association 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org,

Charmingfare Farm Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

Educational Farm at Joppa Hill 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

Friends of Stark Park North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

Londonderry Trailways PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org

Manchester Historic Association

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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Hi Donna,

The attached photo [is] of a box I believe was a wedding gift to my parents in 1937. My Dad kept cigarettes in it for guests and I always remember it being in our living room. It is 5 1/2 in. long, 3 in. wide and 2 3/4 in. high. On the bottom is stamped "Made in Belgium." Since it is in English, I assume it was made for export to the U.S.A. Do you know any history about this type of box and what it is worth?

Frances in New Hampshire

It's tough to say much about this box, Frances. There were and have been so much made for export to the U.S. Determining a value is tough. The age really doesn't give it the value at this point. Without it being made by a well-known maker, the quality of the piece is where you would have to make the value judgment.

I believe it was considered a trinket box, which means it could have been used for many things such as a cigarette box, playing card box or maybe even for jewelry. It looks to have a nice patina (that is the normal age discoloration of the metal).

One of the first things I did notice was that the detail was not strong on it. Maybe this was a souvenir type item that there were a mass of. This is how we are going to determine a value for you. What you want on pieces is intricate detail and



design. The less of either the less the value.

I would say that the value on this would be under \$50, but I think the sentimental value would be high. I like things that come with a memory. These are the kinds of things you want to pass on in the family and to share stories of.

When I am out in the community speaking at events I always encourage people to share all the stories of items from their families by putting a note in them or attaching one so the history doesn't get lost. It seems that if it has a memory it's more likely to be kept in the family.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor, a licensed auctioneer and a member of the N.H. Antiques Dealers Association. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

- **Massabesic Audubon Center** 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org
- **McLane Center** 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org
- **Peabody Mill** Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org
- **Seacoast Science Center** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org
- **Society for the Protection of NH Forests** 224-9945, spnhf.org

Astronomy

- **STAR TREK VISIONS** at McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com, on Fri., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Super Stellar Friday series program "A Vision of the Future" will address the messages conveyed by Gene Roddenberry and other contributing writers of the *Star Trek* series. For ages 8+. Cost is \$9 per adult, \$6 for children 12 and under, \$8 for students/seniors, free for members. If general admission is purchased before 5 p.m., program ticket is \$3. Call 271-7827 or visit the Web site.

Hiking, hikes & walks

- **FREE EMMSNOWSHOE CLINICS** hosted by Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way in Auburn, www.nhadubon.org, 668-2045, Sat., Feb. 20, noon-2 p.m. Learn about and try on different varieties of snowshoes from representatives of Eastern Mountain Sports. Limited number of children's snowshoes will also be available. Cost is free but registration required by phone.
- **SNOWSHOE PROGRAM** hosted by the Nashua Parks & Recreation Dept. The program will run Wednesdays and Fridays starting at 10 a.m.

at the Whipple Street entrance to Mine Falls. Call 589-3370.

- **SNOWSHOEING** on Saturdays, Feb. 27, March 27, and April 24 at Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Rd., Hollis. Cost is \$10/adults, \$7/children (Includes snowshoes or crampons). Instructors: BBA staff and Naturalists. Visit www.beaverbrook.org or call 465-7787.
- **SNOWSHOE TRAIL RACE** in four age groups, at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, on Sat., Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m. Distances are 2.5K or 5K. Cost is \$12 for pre-entry, \$15 on the day of the race. Goodie bags will be given to all runners, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in the four age categories. Call 429-8879 or e-mail michael@3craceproductions.com.
- **WINTER FITNESS HIKES & SNOWSHOEING** at Beaver Brook's Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road in Hollis, www.beaverbrook.org, every Friday through March, 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$55 and includes the use of snowshoes when appropriate. Call 465-7787

Outdoors

- **GPS RENTALS** every Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. Cost is \$10.
- **MANCHESTER CEDAR SWAMP** conservatory area on Hackett Hill Road in Manchester offers a 602-acre ecological preserve with established trails. Follow Hackett Hill Road to Countryside Boulevard and watch for the trailhead.
- **MCLANE CENTER** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, newhampshireaudubon.org) offers trails for hiking and searching out wildlife.
- **WHITE PARK POND** (Washington and White streets in Concord, www.onconcord.com/recreation) offers a tree trail — see a map online.

SPORTS & RECREATION

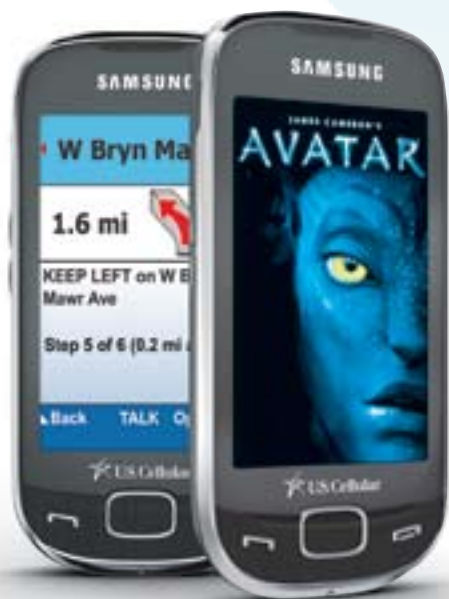
Spectator

- **BASKETBALL** Harlem Wizards game on Thurs., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., at Bow High School. Tickets cost \$10 students & seniors, \$12 adults, available at The Bow Community Building or e-mail kmr3@comcast.net. Additional \$2 will be added to tickets sold at the door, if available.
- **MANCHESTER MILL RATS** men's basketball team plays home games at the Fieldhouse on the campus of Southern New Hampshire University. In addition to general admission seating, fans can purchase VIP courtside seats and courtside tables. Season and single-game tickets available. See www.millrats.com. Upcoming games include Sat., Feb. 20, at 7:05 p.m. vs. the Frost Heaves; Sun., Feb. 21, at 4:05 p.m. vs. Capitans; Sun., Feb. 28, at 7:05 p.m. vs. Razors; Sat., March 20, at 7:05 p.m. vs. the Stampede; Sun., March 21, at 4:05 p.m. vs. Greenhaws.
- **MANCHESTER MONARCHS** (Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000) minor-league affiliate of the L.A. Kings. See www.monarchshockey.com. Upcoming games include Sat., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. vs. Providence; Sun., Feb. 21, at 3 p.m. vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton; Wed., Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. vs. Springfield; on Fri., Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. vs. Lowell; Sat., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. vs. Albany; Sun., March 7, at 3 p.m. vs. Bridgeport; Wed., March 10, at 7 p.m. vs. Binghamton; Fri., March 19, at 7:30 p.m. vs. Portland.
- **NH ROLLER DERBY** team competes at the JFK Coliseum, 303 Beech St. in Manchester. Tickets cost \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, kids 10 and under get in free. See www.nhrollerderby.com.

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CAR TALK BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

The procedure to follow if gas pedal sticks



Dear Tom and Ray:

Recently, there was a large recall of Toyotas because the gas pedal could get stuck on the floor mat and cause the car to keep accelerating wildly. Yesterday the pedal got stuck in my 2008 Honda Accord. What should you do if such a thing happens? — Dan

RAY: Well, whether the gas pedal sticks because of the floor mat or because of any other reason, the first thing you do is hope that you're wearing your brown pants.

TOM: We've talked about this before, Dan, but it's worth repeating — not only because of the Toyota recall, but because this can happen on any car.

RAY: Right. Floor mats can get bunched up near the pedals. People can install thicker, aftermarket floor mats, or those thick, rubber winter mats. Or the pedal can get obstructed by something that you drag into your car, like a chunk of

ice or snow, or a kid's toy or juice box that rolled onto the floor.

TOM: So what do you do? No matter why the gas pedal is sticking, first, put the car in neutral.

RAY: Why? Shifting into neutral disconnects the engine from the wheels. So no matter how fast the engine is revving, the car will simply slow down.

TOM: By putting the transmission in neutral rather than turning the engine off with the key, you also keep your power steering, power brakes, ABS and lots of other stuff working.

RAY: And, most importantly, you keep the steering wheel lock from engaging. If that happens, you'll need two pairs of brown pants.

TOM: Some people worry that the engine will rev so high that it'll blow. But that won't happen. Modern cars all have rev limiters that cut off the fuel supply if the engine tries to rev beyond the limit set by the manufacturer. So the engine may sound like it's screaming, but just ignore that.

RAY: Once you're in neutral, calmly coast to a safe stop by the side of the road, and THEN turn off the ignition. Then, if you see that the pedal is clearly stuck on the floor mat, you can throw those floor mats out the window and keep driving. If not, call a tow truck, have the car towed to the dealer and tell them to call you when they're absolutely certain they've figured it out.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Guy — you probably have been asked this before, but here it goes anyway. I am 46 years

old, divorced for two years, recovered financially, and I am ready to purchase a new car. This purchase would not be out of spite to show I have recovered from the divorce (maybe a little), but I am now looking for a new or certified pre-owned car that would be a great "midlife crisis car." It should be sporty, interesting to the opposite sex and show some level of status and sophistication (I don't have a hairy chest, don't own a big gold chain and don't like unbuttoned Hawaiian shirts). However, I still want to maintain some sanity and don't want to break the bank, have crazy insurance payments or spend every month in the repair shop in hock to someone named "Claus." Here are the cars I'm thinking about:

1. 2006 Lexus SC 430
2. 2008 BMW 335i
3. 2008 Infiniti G37 coupe
4. 2009 Dodge Challenger R/T

Please give me your opinion. Thanks. — Matt

RAY: OK, Matt. Let's take your choices one at a time. We'll use the process of elimination.

TOM: The first one we can eliminate is the Dodge Challenger. The idea of a midlife crisis is to turn back the clock 15 or 20 years -- to when you were free and unencumbered, and you still had hair. But you don't want to turn the clock back so far that you end up with zits. Driving this car suggests that you want to be a teenager again and hang out in parking lots.

RAY: You want your ex-wife and her friends to be impressed with you. You don't want them

laughing at you, and assuming you went for the hair plugs and calf inserts, too. So cross the Challenger off your list.

TOM: Next, I'd eliminate the Lexus SC 430. It's a nice car, but, in my estimation, it's a geezer car. It's rounded and soft. Save that one for 30 years from now, when you're in your end-of-life crisis, not your midlife crisis.

RAY: So that leaves the BMW and the Infiniti. Those are both good choices. So if you really have the hots for one or the other of those, you have our blessing.

TOM: I think I'd take the BMW. I love how BMWs drive.

RAY: I'd take the Infiniti. It'll probably be more reliable, and that's more important to me.

TOM: I think they both meet all of your criteria, Matt. The BMW is a little more common, and the Infiniti is a little more interesting and unusual. So buy whichever one makes you smile more when you drive it. And regardless, see if you can find one that comes with an eHarmony package.

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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TECHIE

The Buzz is not good

Has Google gone off the rails?



By John Andrews
jandrews@hippypress.com

Gmail users were treated to a brand new feature last week: Buzz, a kind of amped-up Twitter that invades your inbox. Although use of the service exploded into the millions almost instantly, a lot of that use was questioning just what the heck it was — and what the heck Google thought it was doing.

The premise is pretty simple. Like Twitter, Buzz displays short messages that you write for all the people following you online. It doesn't have Twitter's 140-character limit, which might or might not be a good thing depending on your perspective.

Where it started getting creepy was Google's decision to add other content. Got a blog on Blogger, owned by Google? It's posted to all your Buzz followers. Post some pictures on Picasa? Yep, there they are.

It's not that all this integration is necessarily undesirable, but the way Google launched it was ghastly. All gates were thrown wide open without warning; all your e-mail contacts saw everything you posted anywhere, and vice versa. Anyone following you, or that you followed, was similarly exposed, with all their contacts now visible. The web of private contacts suddenly made public was huge.

Within two days, Google started backpedaling. Gmail users still got their contacts automatically shared, but options to hide or edit the list of your connections were made more prominent. You could turn Buzz on or off.

But by then, the damage was done. Google displayed the same horrible naiveté that,

frankly, many users of social networks often do. Ever have a Facebook friend post some revealing comment to your public Wall, or plaster some unflattering picture of you tagged with your name? Wouldn't a private message be more appropriate for that kind of thing?

That's why e-mail and social networks are separate things. All of my "friends" on Facebook aren't even really my "friends" — why on earth would Google assume that everyone I've ever e-mailed is someone I want having access to all my contacts?

It's not the first sign that Google might be drifting out of touch with its user base. The last big launch was Google Wave, which is a collaboration, um, messaging... thing. I think the idea is that you hang out all day with Google Wave open in your browser while other people have Google Wave open in their browsers, and then when anyone gets a thought they type and OMG YOU CAN SEE THEM TYPING. You can also send messages and pictures and stuff. In contrast to Buzz, Wave doesn't integrate with Gmail at all — you have to check Wave messages separately.

To be fair, Wave is still in its "preview" period, but since Gmail was a "beta" product for five years, we've come to expect some amount of polish from these supposedly unfinished applications. Wave doesn't even have editable settings, just a placeholder page. And we certainly don't expect a new program to be thrust upon us with so little apparent thought as Buzz.

Perhaps they're just trying to get more traffic to their Google Labs page, where experiments in progress hang out. We might have to if we don't want to be gobsmacked by their next "great" idea.

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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Linda A. Thompson-Odum
food@hippopress.com

• **Co-op update:** As of Feb. 8, almost 1,300 people had signed up to support the proposed Manchester Food Co-op. The organizers need 2,000 supporters to start the process. To join the cause, contact Veronica Kameron at manchesterfoodcoop@gmail.com or join the co-op's Facebook page <http://tinyurl.com/ydmr3fh>.

• **New eats:** Lazy Nick's Coffee House and Bakery is now open at 262 Huse Road in Manchester. The restaurant serves Carpe Diem coffee, as well as homemade pastries and specialty breads. The hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop also plans to offer special events such as poetry reading and 30-minute sessions of music, poetry and other writings. For more information, go to www.lazynickscoffeehouse.com.

• **Also on the scene:** Kiki's Restaurant and the Gravity Tavern are serving at 35 Mont Vernon Road in New Boston. The menu is full of American dishes — tapas-style at the Tavern and entrees and more at the restaurant. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Brunch is served on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and the restaurant is open until 8 p.m. Go to www.kikisnewboston.com to see the menu, or check out their Facebook page.

• **Changes at Vincenzo's:** A recent e-mail contained an update on what's new at Vincenzo's Trattoria in the Apple Tree Mall in Londonderry. New to the menu are desserts from the Cheesecake Factory. The restaurant now also offers table service, and on Tuesdays all-you-can-eat pizza from 4 to 7 p.m. The menu can be found at www.vincenzo-snh.com.

• **Plans to move:** The Bella Vino wine shop will soon move from its current Londonderry location to a new location six miles down the road in Windham. Owner Paula Doucette said in a recent e-mail that the new space will be bigger and allow her to carry artisanal cheeses and fresh baked bread from The Good Loaf. She plans to make the move in mid-March. Stay tuned.

• **Explore the wine world:** Butter's Fine Food & Wine, 70 N. Main St. in Concord, will host wine classes with Jeremy McKeen of M.S. Walker called Taste the World. Three different sessions are available: Tuesday, Feb. 23, on Spanish wines; Tuesday, March 30, on the wines of France & Italy, and Tuesday, April 27, on New World wines. The cost is \$30 per class, per person and space is limited. Call 225-5995 to reserve your spot.

• **Bake gluten-free:** Join Chef/Instructor Oonagh Williams for an interactive gluten-free baking class on Saturday, March 13. Williams has a gluten-intolerant son, cooks from scratch with real ingredients and successfully adapts regular flour baked goods to gluten-free. During the class you will learn how to make and then enjoy gluten-free

Continued on page 36

Choose the pig you want to eat

You'll know exactly where your next meal came from in Mountain Farm's new program

By Linda A. Thompson-Odum
food@hippopress.com

The popularity of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has grown in recent years. The concept allows people to buy shares in a farm's produce crops, which helps the farmer finance his enterprise. In return, the share holder gets a weekly box of fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season. Now the idea has expanded beyond produce to include meats, dairy and seafood. And a new program at Mountain Farm in Sutton might even be called CSPig.

Owners Arthur Mountain and Jessica Blaney have started a Pick Your Own Pig program. The farm, which already sells pork, beef, chicken, turkey and eggs to the public from the Sutton location and at area farmers markets and stores, will now allow customers to purchase a pig that will be raised on the farm. In return, the customer will receive approximately 150 pound of all-natural pork.

"We had a few pigs and grew them for friends," Blaney said. "So we decided to open it to the public."

Customers will own a pig. Blaney and Mountain will raise the pig, which will be allowed to roam free on the farm and will be fed fresh vegetables and grain that is free of animal byproducts. When the animal is close to the proper butcher weight, customers will be allowed to select what cuts of meat they would prefer.

"It's for people who can't grow a pig themselves or who don't want to do it," Blaney said. "It's also a good learning experience for children because we will send out e-mails and pictures to update them on the pig's progress. And when the



pig is butchered, you can get what cuts of meat you want."

Mountain and Blaney have lived on the farm for four years. But neither grew up on a farm. Blaney fell in love with the lifestyle at a milking job she had while she got her conservation law enforcement degree at Unity College in Maine. Mountain worked as a logger, at a saw mill, and on a horse farm before he made the move to fulltime farmer.

The total cost to have Mountain Farm raise a pig is \$844, which can be divided between friends and/or family members who would share the meat. The six monthly payments are \$199 for the cost of the piglet and the first month, and \$129 each for months two, three and four. Then customers pay another \$129 when they pick up their fresh meats, such as sausages, pork chops, pork roasts, etc, and another

\$129 when they pick up the nitrate-free smoked meats — hams and bacon. If the weight of the finished cuts totals the projected estimate of 150 pounds, that comes to a cost of approximately \$5.60 per pound for all-natural, farm-raised pork.

To enroll in the Pick Your Own Pig program, call the farm at 456-2739 or go to the Web site, mountainfarm.biz. In addition to the meats the farm already sells, Blaney said they soon plan to offer raw milk, duck eggs and duck meat. They are also considering the idea of a more traditional CSA. Last year they sold their products at the Henniker, Weare, and Warner farmers markets, and this year they plan to add more markets to their list.

Pick Your Own Pig

Mountain Farm, Sutton, N.H.
456-2739, mountainfarm.biz

A World of Pastries opens in Manchester

Concha, perino, cream puffs, éclairs...

By Linda A. Thompson-Odum
food@hippopress.com

Travel the globe of sweet confections at the new World of Pastries on Lake Avenue in Manchester, across from the Verizon Wireless Arena. Manager Geovanny Figueroa and pastry chef Jamie Thomas create pastries that span the world spectrum with a number of Mexican and Spanish treats, European-style selections and traditional favorites.

"We're trying to bring different pastry styles to the city," Figueroa said.

Owner Ron Amato and Figueroa started to discuss opening the bakery two years ago. Figueroa, a native of Nashua, has always worked in kitchens and learned to bake at the former Becky's Bakery (now La Mexicana Bakery). He inspires the Spanish-style items on the menu. Thomas, who graduated from Johnson & Wales, contributes with the European-inspired treats and decorates the special-occasion cakes.



Manager Geovanny Figueroa holds a tray of concha at World of Pastries in Manchester. Linda A. Thompson-Odum photo.

Figueroa, whose family is from Mexico, said pastries are for the most part a daily treat in the Latin community. One

of the popular items on the bakery's menu is concha, a cinnamon bread pastry coated with a vanilla or chocolate sugar shell.

FOOD

Customers also enjoy the perico, a cinnamon bread filled with Bavarian cream and cut to look like a parrot's beak (thus the name). People also enjoy the ravioli de dulce, made with a sugar-cookie-style dough and filled either with pineapple or strawberry and chocolate, and the Dominican-style bread pudding, made with raisins, walnuts, coconut and lots of cinnamon.

One of the bakery's cases is full of cookies, many of which are the Mexican style shortbread variety. Some of the European-style treats include cannoli, cream puffs and éclairs, each made to order to ensure freshness. And there are jelly rolls filled with chocolate, Bavarian cream and strawberry. Traditional American treats are also available, such as quick breads, brownies, whoopee pies, macaroons and cupcakes. And all the sweet goodness can be enjoyed with a cup of local-roasted coffee.

Customers who want a substantial breakfast can order a bagel topped with an egg, cheese and a choice of bacon, ham or sausage. Soon the bakery will also offer omelette croissants made with a choice of cheddar cheese, ham and cheese, or sausage and cheese. Lunchtime Wednesday through Saturday features soups in bread bowls. The selection includes beef stew, corn chowder, Italian wedding, and chili.

Figueroa said the bakery plans to add additional lunch items in the near future,

as well as take-and-bake raviolis and manicotti.

"We don't want to expand too big, to make sure nothing lacks in quality and flavor," he said.

The bakery also makes cakes to fit any occasion — weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Styles include the popular tres leches cake. The name translates to "three milks," and Figueroa makes his with condensed, sweetened and regular milk, a fruit filling center in strawberry, pineapple, Bavarian cream, or chocolate Bavarian cream, and a whipped cream frosting.

The shop's hours are not yet settled, but it is always open when there is an event across the street. And the bakery will deliver orders of \$10 or more.

Figueroa enjoys baking because "doing all the dough is stress-free, really. I like putting things together. And it's really gratifying getting feedback and it always feels good knowing we've satisfied a customer. We're trying to bring a new flavor to the community, and the community has been great for us."

World of Pastries

10 Lake Ave., Manchester, 623-3400
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Weekly Dish

Continued from page 34

almond poppy seed quick bread, quinoa fruit and nut slice, quiche, and sweet scones. Class will be from 1 to 4 p.m. in Merrimack. The cost is \$50 per person. A \$20 deposit is required to hold your place. Full written recipes will be provided, as well as discussion on GF foods, labeling and avoiding cross-contamination. E-mail Oonagh@RoyalTemptations.com.

• **Inn eats:** Colby Hill Inn, 33 The Oaks in Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com, has some foodie fun on the schedule. On Monday, March 15, and Monday, April 19, the inn will hold their An Evening with the Chef classes. The classes begin at 5:30 p.m. and include a cooking class, a three-course dinner with wines, take-home recipes and a chef jacket. The cost is \$125 per person. Call 800-531-0330 for reservations. The Inn will hold its annual Chocolate Lovers Weekend Friday,

March 5, through Sunday, March 7. For \$433 per couple, get two-nights' lodging, a chocolate gift, breakfast both mornings, a chocolate-focused tea in the afternoons, a chocolate cooking class and a Saturday chocolate dinner.

• **New chef:** Jonathan Kari has joined Acqua Bistro in Peterborough as executive chef, according to an e-mail from the restaurant. A new menu will feature French, Swedish, Spanish and Moroccan flavors as well as new American favorites. Call 924-9905 or see www.acquabistro.com.

• **A month of burgers:** Route 28 Roadhouse, 4 Sanborn Road in Londonderry, 425-7553, www.route28roadhouse.com, is in the middle of "28 Burgers in 28 Days." Throughout February, the eatery will feature a different special burger each day, according to a fax from the restaurant.

Food Listings

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES** Girl Scouts will begin booth sales of their cookies in mid-February. Call 627-4158 ext. 201 or go to girlscoutsgwm.org/Cookies/localboothsales.htm to find a list of booth sales.

• **GOURMET FESTIVAL & AUCTION** The Nashua Pastoral Care Center will hold its annual Gourmet Festival & Auction on Sun., March 14, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Nashua Country Club. So far, restaurants scheduled to offer tastes of their cuisine include Celebrations Distinctive Catering, Greenhouse Café & Catering, Michael Timothy's/Surf/Buckley's Great Steaks, The Nashua Country Club, The Rustic Leaf Bistro, Tio Juan's Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, The Saffron Bistro, Villa Banca, Fody's Great American Tavern, Two Chefs are Better than One Catering, Sodexo, Creative Cakes by Debby, Swan Chocolates, Patisserie Bleu, King David Coffee Roasters, You You Japanese Bistro, Checkers Restaurant and The Common Man of Merrimack. The event will also include a live and silent auction. Proceeds go to benefit the Care Center, which offers services to individuals and families in transition from crisis to self-sufficiency. Call 886-2866 or e-mail mwebb@nashuanpcc.org to purchase tickets.

• **ORGANIC EATS CONFERENCE** The NOFA-NH (Northeast Organic Farming Association) will hold its annual winter conference on Sat., March 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Rundlett Middle School in Concord. The theme is "A Place at the Table" and the conference will feature a green market fair, forums, the screening of films *Fresh: The Movie* and *The Real Dirt on Farmer John* and workshops. E-mail winterconference@nofanh.org, call 226-9434 or go to www.nofanh.org.

• **TASTE FOR A CURE** The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's annual A Taste for a Cure will be held Thurs., Feb. 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Southeastern Regional Education Center, 29 Commerce Drive in Bedford. Local restaurants, food shops, bakeries and wineries will offer eats and drinks

to benefit cystic fibrosis research, care, treatment and education. Vendors scheduled to participate so far include A&E Custom Coffee Roastery, Damian's On The River, Eden Restaurant & Lounge, Frederick's Pastries, LaBelle Winery, The Peddler's Daughter, Orchard Street Chop Shop, Piccola Italia Ristorante, Saffron Bistro, Tap In Grille at Amherst County Club, Wentworth By the Sea and Zorvino Vineyards, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$50. The event will feature live entertainment and a silent auction. See newengland.cff.org/taste, call 598-8191 or e-mail no-neweng@cff.org for tickets.

• **TASTE OF THE TOWNS** The annual Taste of the Towns benefiting the Nashua Center's programs will be held Fri., March 26, from 6 to 10 p.m. The event features samples from area restaurants and a wine tasting as well as music and live and silent auctions. Tickets cost \$60 per person. The food, wine and silent auctions run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. followed by the live auction and entertainment. The event will be held at Radisson Hotel Nasahua, 11 Tara Boulevard in Nashua. Call 883-6163 or go to www.nashuacenter.org for tickets.

• **WINE & FUDGE TASTING** Black Forest Café, 212 Route 101 in Amherst, 672-0500, www.the-blackforestcafe.com, will feature Vinlandia Italian wines and Mill Fudge Factory at Free Sample Friday on Feb. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. See the Web site for more.

Chef events/special meals

• **THE QUILL**, the hospitality restaurant at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road in Manchester, www.snhu.edu/restaurant, offers a series of lunches (Tuesdays and Fridays) and dinners (Thursdays). The lunches for the spring semester will be American regional cuisine — the lunch series will start off with New England. Most of the dinners will have an international theme. Call 629-4608 or e-mail finedine@snhu.edu for reservations. Guests can bring their own wine to the dinners. See menus online.

• **SEGHESSIO WINE DINNER** The Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way in Bedford, 472-2001, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, will hold a

Seghesio Wine Dinner featuring Ted Seghesio on Sunday, Feb. 21. The meal will feature five courses, four of which will be paired with Seghesio wines. The first course is grilled New Bedford sea scallops with Seghesio Fiano, the second course is chilled rare seared lamb loin with Seghesio Venom, the third course is lobster and mushroom risotto Seghesio Sonoma County Zinfandel, the main course is slow roasted prime sirloin with Seghesio Home Ranch Petite Sirah and the dessert is a coconut panna cotta. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and the dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$95 plus a 20 percent service fee and 9 percent state tax. See www.seghesio.com for more on the wine makers. Call for reservations.

• **WORLD DINNERS** Dexter's Inn, 258 Stagecoach Road in Sunapee, 800-232-5571, www.dextersnh.com, will hold a series of world-cuisine dinners starting with a three-course Thai dinner on Thursday, Feb. 18. Future dinners include Korean on Thursday, March 25; Brazilian on Thursday, April 22, and Singaporean on Thursday, May 27. The events are BYOB and reservations are required.

Church/charity suppers

• **FISH LENT DINNER** The St. Christopher and St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Councils are hosting Lenten fish dinners on upcoming Fridays (Feb. 19 through March 26) at St. Christopher's Church Hall, 62 Manchester St. in Nashua. The dinners will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the menu will include baked had-dock, baked potato, green beans, cole slaw, rolls, beverages and a dessert. The cost is \$10 per person; a non-fish children's meal costs \$5. Take out dinners can be ordered by calling 557-0388 on Fridays.

• **PASTA PARTY** Local 2010 Boston Marathon runner Steve Lebel will hold a Pasta Party on Friday, March 12, at 7 p.m. at Fratello's, 155 Dow St. in Manchester. Tickets cost \$30 (proceeds go to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Lebel's marathon cause) and include a pasta buffet, music and more. Call 858-1531, e-mail steverleboo@gmail.com or go to www.runDFMC.org/2010/SteveL for information.



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Ingredients

Foodie Rich Tango-Lowy helps you search the aisles

Mole



Mole (moe-lay) is perhaps the most amazing sauce ever created. Close your eyes and imagine tasting turkey, wild turkey slightly gamey. In your mind layer on a rich fullness, almost chocolatey. Add the smoky fruitiness of dried chilies with just a hint of burn. Imagine a little sweetness, a little saltiness. And spices, can you taste the cinnamon, cloves, anise? Open your eyes. What you've just imagined is only the palest reflection of the layered complexity that is mole.

Travel to Oaxaca, Mexico — “the land of seven moles” — where mothers teach their daughters to prepare mole as their grandmothers taught them. “When I was young my grandmother would make mole,” says my Mexican friend Martine. “The women in the family worked all day in the smokey kitchen preparing ingredients; grinding the spices on a stone metate, toasting each item.”

Mole Rojo (adapted from Rick Bayless' recipe for traditional mole)

You can purchase the ingredients at any Latino market. Saigon Market at 33 Pine St. in Nashua caters to the local Latino crowd and carries everything you'll need. A few bits of advice before we begin: First, clear your mind and relax, mole is more an experience than a recipe; second, assemble, measure, and prepare all the ingredients before you begin cooking; and finally, with each step take care to keep as much of the oil as possible in the pot so none of the flavors are lost.

Ingredients

3 medium tomatillos
1/3 cup of sesame seeds
1/2 cup lard or vegetable oil
6 dried mulato chiles (for depth and edge)
5 dried pasilla chiles (for robustness and burn)
3 dried ancho chiles (for smoky fruitiness)
4 cloves of garlic
1/2 cup of unsalted raw almonds
1/2 cup of raisins
1 inch piece of canela (Ceylon soft cinnamon)
1/2 teaspoon of black peppercorns
1/4 teaspoon of anise seeds
1 clove
1 ounce of dark chocolate
a slice of bread
4 tablespoons of sugar
salt to taste
turkey or chicken thighs

Husk and rinse the tomatillos, peel the garlic, and chop the stems and seeds from the chiles, then tear the flesh into large flat pieces. Toast

the bread until it's dark, then break it into chunks. Break up the cinnamon and toast it in a small skillet with the clove, anise, and peppercorns until fragrant, then transfer to a mortar or coffee grinder and grind them fine.

Place the tomatillos on a foil-lined roasting pan and slide them 4-5 inches under the broiler until they get black spots, then turn them over and repeat. Scrape the tomatillos and juices into a large bowl. Don't forget to turn off the broiler. Toast the sesame seeds in the skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly until they're golden brown, then add them to the bowl.

Heat the lard or oil over a medium flame in a large dutch oven. When hot, fry the chiles a few pieces at a time until they just begin to lighten in color — about 20 seconds — then move them to an empty bowl. Repeat with the remaining chiles. Cover the chiles with hot tap water, then with a small plate to keep them submerged, and let them rest for half an hour.

With the fat remaining in the dutch oven, fry the garlic and almonds, stirring, until the garlic is soft and the almonds browned. Use a slotted spoon to transfer them to the bowl with the tomatillos. Add the raisins to the oil and cook until puffy, maybe 15 seconds, then transfer them to the bowl as well.

Increase the heat to medium-high. Salt and pepper the thighs and brown them on all sides in the oil. Remove them to a clean bowl, cover, and refrigerate.

Use tongs to transfer chil-

Back in Manchester I'm preparing mole in my modern kitchen. It takes three hours of nearly continuous work, but the aromas are heady and intoxicating. It seems less like cooking, more like Professor Snape's potions class from a Harry Potter novel. “Add the spices ground just so; stir in the dark chocolate.” With each addition the fragrance and flavor becomes more layered and complex.

The next evening I braise chicken thighs in a few ladles full of the smooth thickened sauce. We close our eyes as imagination turns to glorious reality. Next year in Oaxaca.

es to a blender. Taste the soaking liquid; if it's not bitter add 2 1/2 cups to the blender, otherwise use water. Blend until smooth, adding more liquid as necessary. Wipe out the chile-soaking bowl and press the puree through a medium strainer back into the bowl.

Scrape the tomatillo mixture into the blender with a cup of water, the ground spices, bread, and chocolate and blend until smooth, adding more water as necessary.

Pour the excess oil from the dutch oven leaving a thin layer on the bottom. Turn the heat to medium-high then pour in the chili puree. Cook, stirring constantly, for about 15 minutes until the puree is dark and thick, about the texture of tomato paste. Add the tomatillo puree and continue stirring until the sauce has once again thickened, about 10 more minutes. Add 6 cups of water to the sauce, turn the heat to medium-low, and simmer 45 minutes stirring occasionally, until the sauce is just thick enough to coat a spoon. Stir in the sugar and 1 3/4 teaspoons of salt. Cool somewhat and refrigerate overnight.

To finish the dish, preheat the oven to 325F. Ladle a good amount of mole into a baking dish, lay in the thighs, cover with foil, and braise until a thermometer inserted into the thighs reads 140F; about 50 minutes for turkey, a little less for chicken. Serve the thighs drizzled with mole from the braising.

This recipe make a lot of mole. The leftovers will keep well in the refrigerator or

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DRINK

Wine with dinner

What to drink when you're eating

Chicken Fried Steak

By Linda A. Thompson-Odum
food@hippypress.com

Typically thought of as a southern dish, chicken fried steak is great comfort food in the cold months. Three of the experts chose red wines.



• **2007 Tapiz Merlot** — \$17.99 (Recommended by Maureen Adams from The Wine Studio, 53 Hooksett Road in Manchester, 622-WINE (9463), and 27 Buttrick Road #3 in Londonderry, 432-WINE (9463), www.thewinestudionh.com)

“Assuming this comes with a cream gravy, I would opt for sweetened iced tea. But wine it is. So a nice, earthy nose with soft tannins will make this a date night meal instead of a diner dinner,” Adams said.



• **2004 Nomade Malbec** — \$24.99 (Recommended by Marilyn McGuire from the Cracker Barrel, 377 Main St. in Hopkinton, 746-7777) An Argentinian wine with intense red color and a taste of red fruits — plums and prunes. “It will awaken the

senses to the varying flavors of the chicken fried steak,” McGuire said.



• **Louis Latour Pinot Noir** — \$18.99 (Recommended by Chef Matt Lee of the Granite Restaurant and Bar at the Centennial, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, www.graniterestaurant.com)

This wine is Bourgogne in style with good tannin structure and good fruity characteristics. “The tannins pair well with the crust on the steak, as do the earthy pinot noir characteristics,” Lee said.

One expert suggested a local beer:



• **Shipyard Chamberlain Pale Ale** — \$8.99 (Recommended by Tom Brock from The Meat House, seven locations in New Hampshire, www.themeathouse.com) “For chicken fried steak with gravy, I think beer is the best option. A nice coppery color, medium-weight English-style pale ale that is great for drinking but balances rich food like this with a slight bitterness of the hops,” Brock said.

Drink Listings

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **MARCH MEADNESS** IncredibREW, 112 DW Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, will host March Meadness on Fri., March 19, at 7 p.m. Pay \$60 for six bottles of meads from local wildflower honey and fruit juices and spices. Return in six weeks for bottling; take home a variety of six bottles for aging. Snacks and refreshments included. Spots for events are limited; call to sign up.

• **SPLIT A BATCH OF ITALIAN PINOT GRIGIO** at IncredibREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. Ten bottles cost \$70 (bottles included). All events require pre-registration; call to RSVP.

• **ST. PAT'S BREWFEST** IncredibREW, 112 DW Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, will host St. Pat's Brewfest on Wednesday, March 3, at 6 p.m. For \$30 per case (bottles included) brew up Irish beers and return in two weeks for bottling. Spots for events are limited; call to sign up.

• **WHISKEY REBELLION BREWFEST** at IncredibREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. Two variety cases costs \$50 (bottles not included). Make three beer recipes with whiskey soaked oak and return in two weeks for bottling. All events require pre-registration; call to RSVP.

• **WINEFEST** IncredibREW, 112 DW Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, will host the Animal Rescue League Winefest on Fri., March 5, at 7 p.m. For \$60, get six different bottles of wine. Make, bottle and label wines while munching on light snacks. Spots for events

are limited; call to sign up.

Special dinners

• **SEGHESSIO WINE DINNER** The Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way in Bedford, 472-2001, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, will hold a Seghesio Wine Dinner featuring Ted Seghesio on Sunday, Feb. 21. The meal will feature five courses, four of which will be paired with Seghesio wines. The first course is grilled New Bedford sea scallops with Seghesio Fiano, the second course is chilled rare seared lamb loin with Seghesio Venom, the third course is lobster and mushroom risotto Seghesio Sonoma County Zinfandel, the main course is slow roasted prime sirloin with Seghesio Home Ranch Petite Sirah and the dessert is a coconut panna cotta. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and the dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$95 plus a 20 percent service fee and 9 percent state tax. See www.seghesio.com for more on the wine makers. Call for reservations.

• **WINE DINNER** On Tuesday, March 9, the Wine Society will hold a winemaker dinner with Anthony Truchard at the Mile Away Restaurant, 52 Federal Hill Road in Milford. See www.mileawayrestaurant.com for more on the restaurant and call 673-3904 for reservations.

Special wine tastings

• **OREGON WINE TASTING** The Wine Society, 650 Amherst St. in Nashua, 883-4114, will hold a tasting on Friday, Feb. 19, of Oregon wines from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$20.

• **RED WINE TASTING** at IncredibREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., free. All events require pre-registration; call to RSVP.

• **RED WINE TASTING** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24

S. Main St. in Concord, www.concordfoodcoop.coop, 225-6840, will hold its “best buy” red wine tasting on Thursday, Feb. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature 50 red wines for under \$15 per bottle and hors d'oeuvres from the Celery Stick Café (such as lobster fritters, ostrich sliders and feta tarts). The event is free and open to the public. No reservations necessary. Early attendees will receive free wine glasses.

• **TOP 25 WINE TASTING** Friends of the Merrimack Repertory Theatre will hold a benefit wine tasting on Tuesday, March 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stonehedge Inn in Tyngsborough, Mass. The event will feature the restaurant's selection for “Top 25” wines and light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets cost \$45 and can be purchased at www.merrimackrep.org or by calling 978-645-7552.

• **WINE & FUDGE TASTING** Black Forest Café, 212 Route 101 in Amherst, 672-0500, www.theblackforestcafe.com, will feature Vinlandia Italian wines and Mill Fudge Factory at Free Sample Friday on Feb. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. See the Web site for more.

• **WINES OF THE MONTH TASTING** The Wine Society, 650 Amherst St. in Nashua, 883-4114, will host a tasting on Sat., Feb. 20, of the Society's wines of the month from noon to 4 p.m.

• **WINE TASTING** of Animal Rescue League wines from IncredibREW on Feb. 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Harvest Market on Route 101 in Bedford.

Special beer tastings

• **BEER TASTING** The Wine Society, 650 Amherst St. in Nashua, 883-4114, will hold a free beer tasting on Fri., Feb. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS,
GAMES, COMICS,
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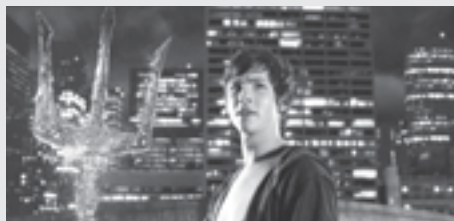
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- Brian Jonestown Massacre, *Who Killed Sgt. Pepper*, **A+**
- Massive Attack, *Heligoland*, **A**

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- *You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto*, **B**
- Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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- *Valentine's Day*, **D-**



- *The Wolfman*, **C+**



- *My Name is Khan*, **B-**

POP CULTURE: CDS

Brian Jonestown Massacre, *Who Killed Sgt. Pepper* A Records, Feb. 23



If you've thus far refused to see the seminal indie-rock documentary *Dig!* yet, you may as well go full-on K-Mart fashion now. Everything that's right and wrong with what you like to call "alternative rock" is there for your edification: Dandy Warhols were the (sort of) reluctant sellouts, Brian Jonestown Massacre (Anton Newcombe's irretrievably screwed-up brain, in other words) was the unsung genius hampered by unearned-as-yet drug problems.

The short version, since I don't have room nor time nor quixotic impulse to fix you, is that Newcombe is as important to anti-whatever music as Butthole Surfers or Jello Biafra. Unlike Biafra, Newcombe's too effed-up to be political; unlike Gibby Haynes, his hate isn't laser-guided, more a lucky drunken shotgun blast that hits every micro-mark. Your head will allow opening tune "Tempo 116.7," a Trojan horse of ambient techno, ready entry, and then this thing becomes an assault on everything you know, as though *Locust Abortion Technician* had suddenly become a virus and infected Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, LCD Soundsystem, My Bloody Valentine and everything else you love. This fricking guy is trying to reboot hipness itself. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Massive Attack, *Heligoland* Virgin Records, Feb. 9



Whether or not this is the marquee-name-ruined disaster that Pitchfork's expecting (it's not, and will they ever shut up ruining everyone's good time, so what if Portishead completely rules and Burial hasn't done his wizzer-keen dubstep remix of this album yet), this British soundsystem does take long vaykays between albums. Their last LP, *100th Window*, for cripes sake, came out when a few non-cretins among us were still unsure Iraq was a lie. But it's been time well spent, if you'll pardon that bummer of a reviewer cliché, and besides, I've only had this thing in my ears for like four listens, so any letter-grade given below has by now probably changed to an A+ (it keeps getting better).

Mezzanine gave us unforgettable songs, including the one even your mom knows ("Teardrop," the theme from TV's *House*), and *Heligoland* will be unforgettable for different reasons, perhaps the Gnarl-as-Lucifer-like plodder "Splitting the Atom" or the hearing-test-pattern synth of "Flat of the Blade" (pure IDM-for-the-head there, with Guy Garvey mumblecrooning lines that appear to belong on some other joint). 3D is his usual irresistibly Davy Jones-ish self on "Rush Minute," this outing's reply to "Inertia Creeps." Overall, the crew has deepened the creepy-erie feel of the last two records, dispensed with the chicken-rattle stuff and gone a bit glum (fittingly so, being that they know what time it is; some non sequiturs about the bank bailouts peer out from the murk). **A** — *EWS*



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Since your dad lost his robot-inventor job and now drives a cab so you can continue sitting home watching *Aqua Teen* all day, you could be a dude and buy him the clumsily titled *Hard To Find 45s On CD, Volume 11: Sugar Pop Classics* when it comes out on Tuesday. All kinds of nightmarish '60s-'70s music that only appears on the radios in cabs, as if Lucifer himself was DJing just for you, only now it's on a CD: "Nice to Be with You" by **Gallery**, "Chick-A-Boom (Don't Ya Jes' Love It)" by **Daddy Dewdrop**, and the ultimate, perfectly titled song for cab drivers who used to design circuit boards for al Qaeda-killing R2-D2s: "Mr. Dieingly Sad" by **The Critters**.

- Wait, don't tell me: let me *guess* just by looking at the cover pic of **Sarah Buxton** on her self-titled album *Sarah Buxton* which streets next week. Hmm. "Sarah Buxton." Could it *possibly* get more honky? And she's got her head coquettishly cocked to one side, like the blonde joke about shoulder pads, the "I dunno!" joke. But pay attention, then, as I hereby announce my deduction, forthwith, that she's (drum roll) — wait for it — AN AMERICAN IDOL 4th RUNNER UP FROM ATLANTA. (cymbal splash, sound of canned laughter) (OK, I'm honestly going to look now. The preceding was typed without knowing anything about this Cherry Coke-gargling doom-banshee). Well, hey, wow, no *American Idol* credit, just a few insane lies about Keith Urban thinking she's great or whatever, and she's from Kansas and sings "like a cross between Jewel and Sheryl Crow," whoever they are. If you get killed by an escaped zoo gorilla today, at least you can take this knowledge to the grave, thank me very much.

- Ha ha, old-ass '80s-metal guys **Keel** have an album coming out next week, and they haven't learned, because they titled it *Streets of Rock & Roll*, because they think people will hear the words "streets" and "rock & roll" and automatically buy it because they are completely convinced that it will help them score Kelly Wells porn babes every single night. This is literally the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse, for those keeping track.

- Unlike most bands that get labeled "radio-punk," Chicago's **Alkaline Trio** is not a putrid emo clone no one can tell from YellowHoobaBlink. Their darkly obsessive (formerly drunken and fun) lyrics, uniquely mature vocals (think Billie Joe Armstrong without the nose-holding) and unassumingly decent songwriting have put them right where you'd expect: bingo, yes, they lost their major-label contract. Their new LP *This Addiction* comes out Tuesday on Epitaph Records, so buy it before your little brother and his stupid Zelda friends wreck everything by liking it.

— *Eric W. Saeger*

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POP CULTURE:

BOOKS

You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto, by Jaron Lanier (2010, Knopf, 209 pages)



Virtual reality engineer and all-around thinker Jaron Lanier argues, with feeling, against cybernetic totalism in the disjointed but still interesting *You Are Not a Gadget*.

"Cybernetic totalism" is Lanier's name for the stance

some people take that "Computers will soon get so big and fast and the net so rich with information that people will be obsolete, either left behind like the characters in Rapture novels or subsumed into some cyber-superhuman something." If you believe this, Lanier points out, "you might cease to design technology to serve humans, and prepare instead for the grand events it will bring." People are doing this, and we've got to stop them (and ourselves, from participating) before it's too late, Lanier says. And we must hurry, before "lock-in" sets in — lock-in is when the way you happened to start out doing something becomes the way it's done forever because it would be so hard to change. Like the fact that we organize everything into "files" on our computers. It didn't have to be that way — who knows what other organizational schemes we could have embraced? — but there's no backing out now.

So what does Lanier want us not to lock in?

Pretty much anything that constrains us into impersonal, digitized, multiple-choice data. Anything that takes away the mystical magical non-gadgetary person-ness we all have. Lanier does wade into the argument over whether consciousness is more/other than what brains do when they have enough connections in them, but he's vague and not terribly convincing — and it doesn't really matter anyway, to the rest of what he's saying. Even if consciousness is an illusion, let's keep it up, is, I think, the point.

So:

Fight the one-form-fits-all trends like Facebook that give everyone the same template to fill out, as if each of us is nothing more than our age, marital status and favorite color. Fight the push to make yourself a brick in the great online wall, where "A ... young person who suddenly becomes humiliated online has no way out, for there is only one hive."

Fight the hive mind exemplified by Wikipedia, because it will make us dull and passive: "Online culture is dominated by trivial mashups of the culture that existed before the onset of mashups.... It is a culture of reaction without action." This was brilliantly highlighted the day I read it (Feb. 12) by a New York Times article titled "Author, 17, Says It's 'Mixing,' Not Plagiarism," about Berlin's Helene Hege-

mann, who won and kept a spot as a finalist at the Leipzig Book Fair despite obvious — well, call it what you like — and who was quoted as saying "There's no such thing as originality anyway, just authenticity."

(Especially interesting is Lanier's comparison of Wikipedia to the Bible — written by a largely unidentified crowd, changed and edited and mixed over time, yet it becomes revered as "the word" by a ready public.)

Fight the privacy-invading, person-devaluing commercial interests that gather your vital statistics and don't care about you. Sound overly paranoid? The same day, an article appeared in The Guardian online about a woman whose carefully guarded privacy was trashed by Google Buzz, a new feature many of us woke up to that morning that automatically shows your writings, if you've made any via Google Reader, to whoever happen to be the most frequent e-mail contacts in your Google account. One of them — her third-most-frequent contact, and actually not very frequent — was her abusive ex-husband. Apparently Google did not stop to think about the varied possible meanings behind "frequent e-mail contact" and it did not find it necessary to ask first. It really did treat us like gadgets. ("Google Buzz's open approach leads to stalking threat," Feb. 12.)

Lanier's assertions are not all watertight (you'd at least want to ask him some follow-ups) and a lot of the book is abstract. He can be vague and a bit rambly. It feels at times like you've wandered in to the second half of a three-hour seminar among graduate computer scientists — terms and statements feel rootless, although you're sure they mean more to the guy making them. Like "Information is alienated experience," and "Realism is based on specifics, but we don't yet know...the specifics of personhood from a computational point of view." Out of nowhere, something is chalked up to "homuncular flexibility" — not the kind of term most people throw around without offering context (*what* homunculus?). And this from a man who detests decontextualization. Granted, his largest audience is insiders; still, he could've cleaned up a little for the rest of the guests.

So if you are wont to disagree, you'll find it easy enough.

But whether you are already inclined to side with or against gadget-ness, or you think you're a noncombatant, the book's worth reading because we all have a stake in the Internet.

And here's one we can all agree on: "once you have the basics of a given technological leap in place, it's always important to step back and focus on the people for a while." **B**

—Lisa Parsons

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Author events

- **BOSTON ACCENTS: THE UNTOLD STORIES** author R. Payson of Nashua will sign copies of his book on Feb. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Fortin Gage Flowers & Gifts at Crowne Plaza hotel in Nashua, www.fortingage.com.
- **THIS BOOK IS OVERDUE** author Marilyn Johnson talks about her book on Fri., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth.
- **JOE MONNINGER** discusses his book *Eternal on the Water* on Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St.,

Concord, 224-0562.

- **CITIZENS OF LONDON** author Lynne Olson discusses her book on Thurs., March 4, at 7 p.m. at NH Historical Society Library, 30 Park St., Concord.
- **SPRING 2010 VISITING WRITERS SERIES** at Chester College features Kevin Keck (*Oedipus Wrecked*) reading on Tues., Feb. 23, at 6 p.m.; and Steve Almond (*Candyfreak* and more) offering an afternoon workshop and a 6 p.m. public reading Thurs., April 1.

Lectures and discussions
• **NEW ENGLAND NOTABLES** discussion series presented by Osher

Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Granite State College begins with Hollis-based author Michaeline Della Fera presenting tales from *Women at the Table: 40 Intimate Profiles of Political Women of the Northeast* Fri., Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church at 111 Island Pond Road in Manchester. The event is open to the public; a \$10 reservation fee applies. For details or to make a reservation, visit granite.edu/olli or call 513-1377.

• **THE LORE AND SYMBOLS OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS** presentation Sun., Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Wright Museum in Wolfe-

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POP CULTURE:

BOOKS

In the spotlight



Meet the Game Changers

Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, the authors of the best-selling political tell-all *Game Change: Obama vs. Clinton, McCain vs. Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime* — the book that had U.S. Sen. Harry Reid apologizing and every talk show host buzzing last month — will tell all on **Monday, March 1, from noon to**

1 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Admission is \$10 per person. Halperin is editor-at-large and senior political analyst for TIME and Heilemann is national political columnist for New York magazine. Register online at www.concordnhchamber.com. Call 224-2508.

boro. Admission \$5; seating is limited, call 569-1212 to reserve. Free admission for Marines.

• **ADVENTURE TRAVEL SERIES** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, begins with Linda and Bryan Higgs discussing their 19-day Alaska/Yukon cruise and land tour, on Wed., Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the library's Keyes Meeting Room, with videos, still photos and audio. They will be available for Q&A after the presentation.

• **HIKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL** slideshow presented by thru-hiker Roger Tetrault on Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. in the theater at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610.

• **LIVING IN A DIGITAL WORLD** lecture series at UNH Manchester includes "Effective Social Marketing" Thurs., Feb. 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m.; in the third-floor auditorium, 400 Commercial St., free and open to the public.

• **CANADA IN WWII** presented by Paul Levasseur on Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. at the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro. Admission \$5; seating is limited, call 569-1212 to reserve.

Book discussions

• **BIG READ 2010** Communities around NH are reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, for The Big Read this March. See www.neabigread.org and <http://bigreadnh.org> for details.

Poetry

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Bridge Café, 1117 Elm St., Manchester, 647-9991 includes a poetry open-mike session with 15 spots. Signups start between 6 and 6:30

p.m., open mike begins sometime after 7 p.m., with the slam following after a short break. \$3 cover charge. On Feb. 19, there will be a feature performance from Sam Teitel. See www.facebook.com/slamfreeordie, e-mail bridgepoetry@gmail.com or call 858-3286. Slam Free or Die @ The Bridge Café generally includes slam competitions monthly during slam season (Sept. through April).

Other

• **THE LANGSTON HUGHES PROJECT** presents a multimedia performance of Hughes' epic poem "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz," featuring the Ron McCurdy Quartet with spoken word and images from the Harlem Renaissance, on Thurs., Feb. 18, in Wheeler Hall at Ware Campus Center at Colby-Sawyer College. No charge for admission

and the public is invited to attend this Black History Month event.

• **THE CRAWDAD WRANGLERS** play Cajun and zydeco dance music on Sat., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. on the main floor of Wadleigh Library in Milford. Light refreshments will be served and all donations benefit the library.

• **OPEN MIKE** designed to showcase the talent of young people ages 16+ on Thurs., Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m. in the Klumpp Meeting Room at Merrimack Public Library. Participants are invited to express themselves with acoustic music, the spoken word or poetry in a relaxed atmosphere. Registration is helpful for planning purposes but not required.

• **NOLWENN MONJARRET** performs traditional Breton songs on Thurs., March 4, at 7 p.m. in the theater of the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., 589-4610.

The Book Report

• **Poetry and art:** View the work of 50+ artists in an exhibit titled "Love, Lust & Desire" at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, mcgowanfineart.com, through March 5 — plus an original poem by New Hampshire poet Midge Goldberg displayed on an exterior window. In the search for an original poem to display, gallery director Sarah Chaffee gathered more than 100 submissions; a poem by each submitter will be on the wall of the gallery for an evening of poetry on Feb. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. "Come read some fine poetry and meet some poets!" Chaffee said in a press release.

• **Book bags bad:** A press release from the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services announced that Barnes & Noble Inc. will pay \$3,000 in fines to the State of New Hampshire to "resolve allegations that the company distributed plastic store bags that contained high levels of lead and failed to submit Certificates of Compliance upon request." This makes Barnes & Noble the first entity to pay a fine under the toxics-in-packaging law New Hampshire passed in 1990, the release said. Also: "The Barnes & Noble response ... included a statement that the company had removed the non-compliant bags from all of its New Hampshire stores prior to the date of the Administrative Order," which came in September 2009. In brighter news, they say the Nook is back in stock and there's been no word of any lead in it.

• **Overdue is good:** Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library is, for the 10th year, collecting Fines for Food during February. All fine money placed in the collection jar will be donated to the Open Cupboard Pantry in Wilton, which provides emergency food service to Wilton, Greenfield and Lyndeborough. The Pantry is housed in the Sacred Heart Church on Maple Street in Wilton.

• **50 percent off used books:** The Used Book Superstore at 293 DW Highway in Nashua (in the former Tweeter building) will hold a half-off sale on Tuesday, Feb. 23, according to a press release. All books are already \$2.99 or less and the store includes more than 100,000 books, audiobooks, DVDs, records and videos, the release said. The sale is meant to "get locals acquainted with the newest business in town," which opened in late January and will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the day of the sale. See www.UsedBookSuperstore.com.

• **For comics fans:** Nashua resident Bruce Canwell has researched and written the first extensive biography of late cartoonist Jack Kent, as part of *King Aroo, Volume 1*, a new hardcover collecting the first two years of Kent's King Aroo comic strip, released this month from IDW Publishing's Library of American Comics — for which Canwell is associate editor and lead writer. The comic strip ran in newspapers from 1950 to 1965. Canwell compares it to Pogo and Crazy Kat.

—Lisa Parsons

FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day (PG-13)

A cast of zillions shares the box of chocolate-covered cuteness and disappointment in Valentine's Day, a shabby and exhausting exercise in romantic comedy.

As we set off for this scary voyage into the unknown with “here there be monsters” written all over the map, let’s pick as our north star Ashton Kutcher, who plays a florist. As such, his story line is able to weave through a good chunk of the stories here — in his pink van, co-piloted when dialogue is required by George Lopez, he drives through the stories of a woman (Jennifer Garner) unwittingly dating a married man, a TV news personality (Jamie Foxx) annoyed at being given the Valentine’s Day beat, a little boy harboring a crush and a professional athlete (Eric Dane) at a crossroads. Further-out ripples in this stagnant pond include an annoying high school couple (Taylor

Swift, Taylor Lautner), a fidgety high school couple (the girl of which is Emma Roberts), a solider (Julia Roberts) home on leave, the nice guy (Bradley Cooper) who flirts with her on the plane, the grandparents (Hector Elizondo, Shirley MacLaine) of the boy with the crush, the woman (Jessica Alba) Kutcher proposes to, a cold-metal-on-frozen-glass painful 20something couple (Anne Hathaway, Topher Grace), and the athlete’s agent (Queen Latifah) and publicist (Jessica Biel). Also, Kathy Bates.

I’m guessing that the vast number of stories and characters was meant to make up for the fact that each one, individually, is poorly developed, half-baked and predictable. But just as a thousand thorny stems is never going to add up to one rose, so a multitude of stale “wackiness” and kissing does not a romantic comedy equal. Some of the stories are merely mediocre ideas executed poorly (Elizondo and MacLaine’s segments, the stuff with Eric Dane). Some make you angry (all the teenager-related silliness, the Garner story). Some make you shake your

fists and curse the heavens and ask “why, God, why?” (I’m looking at you, Hathaway and Biel). *Valentine’s Day* is the movie equivalent of a cheaply-made stuffed animal holding a heart with something inane stitched into it (I’m thinking something of the “I wub you” variety) — you expect to see them clog the shelves of the Rite Aid every year but you can’t imagine who actually enjoys receiving them. **D-**

Rated PG-13 for some sexual material and brief partial nudity. Directed by Garry Marshall and written by Katherine Fugate, Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, Valentine’s Day is an hour and 57 minutes long and distributed in wide release by Warner Bros.

The Wolfman (R)
Benicio Del Toro is the ferocity hidden in the heart of every man, waiting to be unleashed, and Emily Blunt is the high-collar, corseted paragon of Victorian romance that makes the ferocity look extra sexy in

The Wolfman, a stylistically exciting though ultimately “meh” werewolf story.

It’s 1890, Great Britain, and Gwen (Blunt) writes to Lawrence (Del Toro) to beg him to return to Blackmoor, home of his family’s grand estate, to help her find Ben (Simon Merrells), Lawrence’s brother and Gwen’s fiancé. By the time Lawrence arrives, however, it’s too late — as his father Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins) tells him, Ben’s lifeless and severely mangled body has been found in a ditch. At the local pub, the men consider what kind of beast or mad man must have killed Ben — and not only Ben but other people. The talk turns to the Gypsies and the dancing bear that is part of their act. The killings started when they arrived, the men say in the manner of violent mobs everywhere.

The townsfolk go to the camp — at night with a full moon, of course — but as they argue with the Gypsies over the bear, something truly horrifying comes into their midst. Lawrence, who has come as part of his investigation into what happened to his brother, sees the thing, chases it, shoots at it but is ultimately bitten before the thing, whatever it is, is scared away. The Gypsies say he is now cursed and the townsfolk seem to believe that assessment, particularly when he starts to heal remarkably quickly and demonstrate sudden and extraordinary strength. Scotland Yard sends its man Abberline (Hugo Weaving) to investigate, but the townspeople have their own ideas, ideas for taking care of the thing terrorizing the moors that involve a pit, a deer tied to a stake and a whole lotta guns.

The Wolfman goes to lengths to recreate the feel of a classic horror film. From the look of the movie — all shadows and fog — to the score and the structure it uses to build dread and tension, you have a film that occasionally comes close to retro horror. But it’s all surface; none of all these careful-

ly created externalities bring the dark loveliness to life. The upside, I suppose, is that while it doesn’t actually succeed in making you enjoy the film, it does make you *want* to enjoy the film.

And I did want to like it. Benicio Del Toro is convincing as a tortured romantic. His Lawrence is an actor and I found myself deeply interested in wanting to see his Hamlet or his Heathcliff. This is a different kind of role for Del Toro and it was fascinating to watch him twist himself through the requirements of this story which is part gothic mystery and part monster movie.

Hopkins on the other hand is always doing stuff like this — enough that even when he’s sort of tossing off a performance as he is here it’s still a giddy treat. He’s solid as the go-to hissing face of evil.

Blunt, who is such a delight in most movies, doesn’t have much to do here beyond looking worried. It’s a performance sewn together from leftover scraps of her young Victoria (*Young Victoria* and *The Wolfman* — now there’s a black satin-and-lace Valentine I’d want to see). She’s A-OK, but not nearly as significant as all the tear-stained close-ups suggest she’s going to be.

All of these factors, even running at half speed, would seem to add up to a B movie triumph but there’s something about the mix that doesn’t quite gel. The movie simply feels off — not moving fast enough to keep the moodiness fresh but surprisingly perfunctory in the way it handles some parts of the story.

The Wolfman is a good dress rehearsal, a nice first effort. But it doesn’t feel finished. In the end, it gives you lots of great howling but not enough bite. **C+**

Rated R for bloody horror, violence and gore. Directed by Joe Johnston and written by Andrew Kevin Walker and David Self (from the 1941 movie screenplay by Curt Siodmak), The

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.

Avatar (PG-13)

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana. Marines, aliens, battle and 3-D. James Cameron demands your attendance. **B**

**The Blind Side* (PG-13)

Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron. The steeliest of magnolias takes in a kid from the poor side of the tracks. Story is better-realized than one would think possible, with solid performances

from Bullock and Aaron. **B**

The Book of Eli (R)

Denzel Washington, Mila Kunis. In a post-apocalyptic world full of cannibals and thugs, only Denzel Washington can get the job done. (The job? Some religiously stuff and ass-kicking.) **B-**

**Crazy Heart* (R)

Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Solid performances and excellent music make this rather standard tale of a wrecked and aging country music star sing. **B+**

Dear John (PG-13)

Amanda Seyfried, Channing Tatum. A couple meet and begin a correspondence as the girl waits for him to return from war. That’s right — a movie about people writing letters. **D**

Edge of Darkness (R)

Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone. Since the Boston accent is apparently the It accent right now, Mel Gibson tries it on in this movie about a Boston Police detective who goes all Liam-Neeson-in-*Taken* when his daughter is killed in front of him. **C-**

Extraordinary Measures (PG)

Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser. Somehow this Lifetime movie about a guy with two sick kids and his extreme efforts to find a cure accidentally got into theaters. Perhaps as a way to raise money for the many bran muffins the apparently constipated Ford (he growls his every line like a hungry, angry bear) needs. **C**

From Paris with Love (R)

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers. Travolta plays the Bruce Willis role in this action movie about an older, crasser, explodier spy working with a younger nebbish spy. **D**

**Sherlock Holmes* (PG-13)

Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law. Before there was Dr. House, there was the original single-minded mystery solver, Sherlock Holmes, who is a delight in this fun adventure adaptation. **B+**

Shutter Island (R)

Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo. And the omnipresent Ben Kingsley. Martin Scorsese directs this Dennis Lehane book about U.S. Marshals sent to investigate a disappearance at a prison for the criminally insane off the Massachusetts coast. Opens wide on Friday, Feb. 18.

**A Single Man* (R)

Colin Firth, Matthew Goode. Colin Firth is at his very Firthest in this sad and beautiful (Tom Ford directs) rumination on love and loss. It’s the kind of character study that stays with you and has you thinking about it long after the last lovely 1960s suit and muted shot of mid-century interior design fade from the screen. **A**

Tooth Fairy (PG)

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd. For crushing children’s dreams, the former *The Rock* is forced to serve time as a tooth fairy. **C+**

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Wolfman is two hours and five minutes long and distributed in wide release by Universal Pictures.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG)

Another children's book franchise attempts to capture that Harry Potter magic (and by "magic" I mean "giant sacks of cash") in the lamely unmagical *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*.

Percy Jackson (Logan Lerman) is just your average cheesed-off teenager who learns that all his life he's had a secret identity (sigh, who doesn't?). Turns out he's a demi-god, the son of absent father Poseidon (Kevin McKidd — didn't Lucius Vorenus once claim he was the son of Hades?), and is thus at danger when Uncle Zeus' (Sean Bean) lightning bolt goes missing and it is suspected he, Percy, is the thief. Baddies — Medusa (Uma Thurman), a Fury, a Minotaur, Hades (Steve Coogan) — come looking for the powerful bolt and Zeus demands that if it is not returned in a few days there will be war.

To protect Percy from all the mythical things that are hot on his trail, his mom (Catherine Keener) takes him to Camp Half Blood, a training ground for the progeny of the gods. There, along with his friend Grover (Brandon T. Jackson), his protector who is half goat, and Annabeth (Alexandria Daddario), the itching-for-a-fight daughter of Athena, he constructs a plan to rescue his mom from Hades, who kidnaps her in hopes of getting Percy to give him the lightning bolt.

Fun is there for the taking when you tap into the wacky mythology of the Greek gods. See, for example, *Battlestar Galactica*. Or *Rome*. Or *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*. The gods had kinky romantic liaisons with all kinds of people, producing all kinds of weird offspring. (Offspring that, like Percy and Annabeth, might be attracted to each other but are also technically related — something the movie ignores.) But *Percy Jackson* mines this hodgepodge of superpowers and personality flaws very little. It sets up its characters and then launches straight into a "quip, action scene, quip, PG joke about sex, action scene, quip" rhythm, only occasionally bothering to do anything interesting with its story. And unlike the Harry Potter saga this movie so badly wants to be, it doesn't give us a chance to get to know its main characters in any significant ways. They are superpowers and "son of's but nothing more. The adults are almost entirely their costumes — once you've seen Thurman's head of snakes you've seen her whole performance. The youngsters on the cast might be decent actors but they are given so little to do that you wouldn't know.

The Lightning Thief is set up as though it could be the first in a series. But nothing in this movie makes you care about these characters, their world or the possibility of a next chapter. **C-**

Rated PG for action violence and peril, some scary images and suggestive material, and mild language. Directed by Chris Columbus and written by Craig Titley (from the novel by Rick Riordan), *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* is two hours long and distributed in wide release by 20th Century Fox.

My Name Is Khan (NR)

A Muslim Indian man comes to America and eventually sets out on a quest to prove that he is, as he says, "not a terrorist" in *My Name Is Khan*, a thoroughly fascinating Bollywood movie about prejudice and religion.

Rizwan Khan (Shahrukh Khan), pronounced "Hhhan," unnerves his fellow passengers when, attempting to clear security for a cross-country airline trip, he is nervously mumbling to himself, mumbles that include a mention of "Allah." When security scrutinizes his luggage we learn that (1) Khan has Asperger's and (2) he's on a trip to meet the President (who, at the time, is George W. Bush). What do you want to say to the President, the security guys ask. "My name is Khan and I am not a terrorist," he responds.

This statement and voiceover narration that comes from a journal-style letter Khan is writing to his wife Mandira (Kajol) tie together a saga, told in extended flashbacks along with "present day" stretches, of Khan's entire life. There's his youth as a smart but emotionally hard-to-reach boy who is protected by a loving mother (Zarina Wahab). His days as a newcomer to America working for his brother as skin products salesman. His sister-in-law's discovery that he has Asperger's and her helping him develop strategies to compensate for the disorientation he experiences in a new city. We watch Khan win over Mandira, a single mom with a son, Sam (Yuvaan Makaar), a boy who quickly becomes one of the few people Khan can easily relate to. The family finds happiness and success in their northern California hometown — and then comes Sept. 11, 2001, and the dramatic effect the aftermath had on Muslims living in America. Through it all, Khan tries to live the lesson his mother taught him in the aftermath of Hindu-Muslim riots back in India: there are only two kinds of people — good people who do good deeds and bad people who do bad deeds — and no other difference matters.

My Name Is Khan is strange and fascinating. It has a view on American culture that is, at times, thoroughly weird (and even, when it comes to African-American culture, shockingly, uhm, let's be charitable and say, out of date) but also occasionally revealing. Particularly in the scenes that deal with life for Muslims (and Indians and Sikhs) in America after 9/11, we get a view of that period of recent history that is different — more terrifying — than we might remember. The movie eventually stretches to 2008, giving us a sweeping look at modern history, ending with President Obama and what his election seemed to mean not just in our country but around the world.

Is this a good movie? I don't know that I'm culturally equipped to answer that question. But even at nearly three hours it is a thoroughly captivating one. You will leave thinking about religion, ethnicity and the experiences of immigrants in ways you probably haven't after seeing other, subtler movies that touch on these subjects, and the cultural and story-telling tics unique to Bollywood will keep you from ever getting bored. Cultural immersion for \$9? Not necessarily a recipe for an Oscar but a good, worthwhile use of your three hours. **B-**

Not rated. Directed by Karan Johar and written by Shibani Bathija and Niranjan Iyengara, *My Name Is Khan* is two hours and 45 minutes long and is distributed in limited release by Fox Searchlight.

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Chunky's Pelham Cinema & Pub
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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org
• *A Single Man* (R, 2009) Thurs., Feb. 18, at 5:35 & 8:05 p.m.
• *Crazy Heart* (R, 2009) Thurs., Feb. 18, and Fri., Feb. 19, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 20, and Sun., Feb. 21, at 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, and Tues., Feb. 23, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 24, at 2 & 5:30 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.
• *Me and Orson Welles* (PG-13, 2009) Feb., Feb. 19, at 5:35 & 8:05 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 20, and Sun., Feb. 21, 3:05, 5:35 & 8:05 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, at 8:05 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 23, 5:35 & 8:05 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 24, at 8:05 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 25, at 5:35 & 8 p.m.
• **Oscar Nominated Shorts: Live Action** (NR, 2009) Fri., Feb. 19, at 5:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 20, and Sun., Feb. 21, at 1:45 & 5:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, and Tues., Feb. 23, at 1:45 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 24, and Thurs., Feb. 25, at 1:45 & 5:30 p.m.
• **Oscar Nominated Shorts: Animated** (NR, 2009) Fri., Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 20, and Sun., Feb. 21, at 3:45 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, and Tues., Feb. 23, at 3:45 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 24, and Thurs., Feb. 25, at 3:45 & 7:30 p.m.
• *Nim's Island* (PG, 2008) Sat., Feb. 20, and Sun., Feb. 21, at 1 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, through Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2:10 p.m.
• *The Devil Came on Horseback* (NR, 2007) Tues., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. with post-film discussion with Gretchen Wallace, film co-producer and founder of Global Grassroots.
• *Touching the Void* (R, 2003) Wed., Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Red Carpet Awards at Red River** on Sun., March 5. Watch the Academy Awards on all three screens. The event includes food, music, trivia and more. Tickets cost \$50 (\$45 for members).

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton. Tickets cost \$6 (\$4 for seniors and children) unless otherwise stated. wiltontownhalltheatre.com or call 654-FILM.
• *Up in the Air* (R, 2009) Thurs., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m.
• *The Young Victoria* (PG, 2009) Thurs., Feb. 18, through Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Feb. 21, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus* (PG-13, 2009) Fri., Feb. 19, through Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Feb. 21, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• *The Odd Couple* (1968) Sat., Feb. 20, at 4:30 p.m. Free.

NHTI

Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-7185, nhti.edu
• *Alice Neel* (NR, 2008) Fri., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.
• *Stanno Tutti Bene* (PG, 1990, Italian with subtitles; this is the Italian "Everybody's Fine") Fri., March 12, at 7 p.m.

PEMBROKE LIBRARY

313 Pembroke St. in Route 3, Pembroke (behind town hall), 485-7851. French films hosted by Gens Unis du Richelieu.
• *La vie en rose* (PG-13, 2007) Wed., Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. Free.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.
• *Bright Star* (PG, 2009) Fri., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.
• *Finding Nemo* (G, 2003) Sat., Feb. 20, at 2 p.m.
• *The September Issue* (PG-13, 2009) Fri., Feb. 26, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• *Casablanca* (1942) Wed., Feb. 24, at 1 p.m.
• *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* (PG, 2009) Wed., Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. (for grades 6 to 12)

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• *Open Season 2* (2008) Fri., Feb. 19, at 3 p.m.
• *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (PG, 2009) Fri., Feb. 26, at 3 p.m.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Robert Frost Hall, 2500 River Road, Hooksett, www.snhu.edu
• *Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire* (R, 2009) on Thurs., Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. in Dining Center Banquet Hall. Tickets required; go to www.snhutickets.com. Screening, which is free, will be followed by a panel discussion. Bring a canned good or a gently used sweater or coat to be donated by the Center for Service and Community Involvement.

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ME AND ORSON WELLES (PG-13/2009/114 min.)
Fri., Tue.: 5:35, 8:05 Sat., Sun.: 3:05, 5:35, 8:05 Mon., Wed.: 8:05 only Thu.: 5:35, 8:00
OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION (NR/2009/94 min.)
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OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: ANIMATED (NR/2009/68 min.)
In the Screening Room Fri.: 7:30 Sat., Sun., Wed., Thu.: 3:45, 7:30 Mon., Tue.: 3:45 only
NIM'S ISLAND (PG/2008/96 min.)
Sat., Sun.: 1:00 Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu.: 2:10
THE DEVIL CAME ON HORSEBACK (NR/2007/85 min.)
In the Screening Room Tue.: 7:00
TOUCHING THE VOID (R/2003/106 min.)
Wed.: 7:30
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Film times, descriptions & purchase tickets online at www.redrivertheatres.com 060450

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SUPER WHY!: ATTACK OF THE ERASER NR
Fri to Mon: 10:40 AM; Wed & Thu: 10:40 AM
SHUTTER ISLAND R 10:30, 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:25
THE WOLFMAN R 10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:05, 10:00
DEAR JOHN PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE R 7:25, 9:40
EDGE OF DARKNESS R 7:00, 9:35
WHEN IN ROME PG-13 10:55, 4:20
TOOTH FAIRY PG 11:15, 1:45, 4:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES PG-13 1:15, 6:55, 9:50
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL PG 11:00, 1:25, 4:00
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G 11:05, 1:40, 4:05
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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black 45

Nite Roundup

Local music
& nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Helping Haiti:** The music community's outpouring of support for Haiti continues as alt metal rockers Horns Become Halos join local bands Ballast, A Breath Beyond Broken, Spies Like Us, From Here Down and two others to raise money for the earthquake-ravaged country. Attend the Rock for Relief Haiti Benefit Show on Friday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Chester Recreational Dept. 84 Chester St. in Chester. Tickets for the all-ages show are \$3; go to www.myspace.com/wearehornsbecomehalos.

• **A movable party:** With local shows from Furthur (Verizon, Thursday) and Disco Biscuits (Capitol Center, Sunday) it's a big weekend for jam band fans. Roots of Creation will keep the tie-died vibe going, playing reggae rock at after party shows in Manchester and Concord. See Roots of Creation at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18, at Penuche's, 96 Hanover St. in Manchester, and Sunday, Feb. 21, at Penuche's Ale House, 6 Pleasant St. in Concord. Go to www.rootsofcreation.com.

• **Laugh-off:** 10 comedians a night will perform a five-minute "tight set" for the 2010 *Funniest Comic in New Hampshire* contest, starting tonight and running through April Fool's Day in Manchester. Despite its moniker, the event, sponsored by comedy mogul Rob Steen's Headliners club, includes non-Granite State comics. The competition begins Thursday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St. in Manchester. Tickets are \$10; call 625-4444 or go to www.millys-tavern.com.

• **Blues revue:** Singer and guitarist Charlie Farren joined up with Joe Perry when Aerosmith split in the early 1980s, and with breakup rumors flying, who knows if he'll be asked back for an encore? Farren is the undercard to harmonica hero James Montgomery for an event sponsored by Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. See James Montgomery, Charlie Farren and Eastwood Peak on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m. at the Amato Center, 56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford. Tickets are \$30; call 672-1002.

• **Homecoming song:** A musical journey continues when John McAndrew performs "I Am Home," an inspirational follow-up to his 2006 song "Long Way From Home," at a fundraiser for the New Horizons for New Hampshire food relief effort. McAndrew's country-tinged, piano-driven tunes have appeared in television and movies, including the Diane Ladd tearjerker *Jake's Corner*. See John McAndrew on Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Derryfield School Performing Arts Auditorium, 2108 River Road in Manchester. Tickets are \$25; call 634-4446 x115 or go to www.westbridge.org.

BARS, CLUBS, BANDS AND OTHER AFTER-DARK AMUSEMENTS

From Lamont Smooth to Otis Jones

Practicing hard, playing out, new band hits bar circuit

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

There's a bit of kismet in the stories of most bands, but Otis Jones came together due to quite a few happy accidents. Guitarist Andy Laliotis started the Grateful Dead tribute band Blue Light Rain after a long run with Concord jam band Lamont Smooth, which broke up at the end of 2007.

Last October, Laliotis met drummer Pete Jones through mutual friends one night at the Barley House in Concord. Jones said he was a fan of Lamont Smooth, had seen their shows and wanted to get together and make music if Laliotis was interested. They booked time in Blue Light Rain's Bow rehearsal space and invited a bass player. They also asked Joe Ganley to join the session on percussion. Ganley had played guitar with Andy and his brother George (Lamont Smooth, Amorphous Band, Mindseye) at an informal jam just a few months before.

"But our bass player didn't show up," Laliotis said the other day as he drove to practice. No problem — it turned out multi-instrumentalist Ganley also played bass.

"We had a bass lying around and an amp," Laliotis said. "We just clicked right away. The first three times we played it was incredible. One session started at midnight and ended after three in the morning."

Then Ganley announced he was moving to Virginia. "I didn't know how long he was going to be gone for; he said six months," Laliotis recalled. But in early January, Andy's cell phone

rang: "It's Joe. He says, 'I'm back.' We started jamming again, and we played our first gig on January 25 at the Green Martini."

Because they're new and need enough material for a few sets — their next appearance is Friday, Feb. 19, at the Green Martini — they're playing several covers while they work on original material. A typical night includes classic rock like Hendrix's "Voodoo Chile," "Badge" and "Sunshine of Your Love" by Cream, alongside traditional blues numbers from Little Milton and Freddie King, and reggae standards from Jimmy Cliff or Bob Marley.

Laliotis says Otis Jones shares a few things in common with his old band: "There are some Lamont Smooth influences, being that Lamont Smooth is how I learned to play, but we definitely have our own style."

That involves taking a song like Pink Floyd's "Time," breaking it down to a few basic elements, and turning it into a long, improvisational jam. In the same way, they make "Harder They Come" less languid, and mark it with lead guitar bursts from Laliotis.

They're writing originals at a rapid pace — three in the last week alone, according to Laliotis. "Santorini" has Phish-like elements and features lyrics about ditching the bad weather for a Mediterranean vacation. The jazz-fusion "Muskrat Rumpus" has no vocals, and Laliotis says a lot of the band's originals are instrumen-



Andy Laliotis. Courtesy photo.

tals, but the lyrics are starting to flow again.

"I had writer's block but I'm getting through it," he says. "That's kind of a good thing when you start a new band — you want to be writing."

For now, the band is focusing on practicing hard and playing out as much as it can. He thinks the crucible of the bar scene is the best way to improve their sound.

Though Lamont Smooth was a large band, sometimes reaching seven members, Laliotis said, they have no plans to grow Otis Jones beyond a trio. Once all the pieces fell into place, he said, they liked what they had.

"We thought about adding a keyboard player," he said, "but it didn't seem like we were missing much."

Otis Jones

Where: Green Martini, 6 Pleasant St. Ext., Concord, 223-6672

When: Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m.

The goddess of ha!

Alana Susko spreads the wealth of comedy

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

Alana Susko always wanted to be a stand-up comic. Her friends encouraged her, but she couldn't work up the nerve.

"I'd rather have a colonoscopy or a small car accident," she said. "It was my greatest fear."

Then one day, Susko found a way to beat her stage fright — sex toys.

She began hosting living room parties for women, selling "novelty items" for consenting adults. "It's like Tupperware, only with romance enhancements," Susko said. "I thought if I could get comfortable with the terminology, I could say anything."

Soon, phrases like "pure instinct pheromone cologne," "bendable buddy" and "hot licks edible lotion" were rolling off Susko's tongue, and it was so long, public speaking phobia.

She attended a standup comedy class taught by Boston comic Dave Rattigan, and appeared at her first open comedy audition. "I was awful but it felt really good afterwards to know that I did it, and that I survived," she said. Her fourth time on stage was at the Comedy Connection in Fanueil Hall.

Says Susko with self-deprecation, "I'm a

woman and there's not too much estrogen in the industry, so it's an advantage."

That was four years ago. Susko turned professional in 2009 and began organizing monthly comedy nights at a Nashua restaurant that's owned by her cousin.

"I have an enormous family, there's hundreds of us. We're probably related," she says to her interviewer with a laugh. "My parents have been married so many times, I have like 28 siblings."

The Fody's Comedy Showcase, which happens on the second Thursday of every month, is different from typical open-mike nights. "It's more structured," Susko said. Early in her comedy career, Susko went to open-mike nights and found them wanting. Aspiring comics had to pay to participate and were required to bring their own crowd — and make them buy drinks. "The audience ends up being comics who don't laugh at each other, and friends of comics. It wasn't an ever-changing audience, and it wasn't really empowering, because you show up and no one laughs ... I decided to recreate it the way I'd like it."

Susko's own act includes a section where she riffs on working as a sales associate — her official title is Goddess — with Athena's Home Novelties. "But I'm PG-13 all the way,"



Alana Susko. Courtesy photo.

she said.

"You should know two things," she tells her audience. "None of my sample products have been used, and I keep my clothes on. To some, that's a disappointment, to others it's a relief."

During her "Crazy Woman" section, Susko says, "I'm bipolar — the fun one at parties." In one bit she explains how she's only recently begun to understand her condition. "I never thought I had a mood disorder — I just assumed I got over things quickly."

The comic says, "I kind of make fun of women — we overthink things."

Susko also hosts a professional comedy night on the final Saturday of each month. The next one happens Feb. 27 and features comedy veteran Bob Seibel as headliner, a feature set from lesbian comic Amy Tee, and comedian Jeff Koen. Susko usually serves as host, or "bullet taker," for the pro evenings, joking that

NITE

it's her favorite time to try out new material, "because who's gonna be listening?"

Appearing regularly at Fody's is a challenge, Susko said: "I always try to present new material because I do have a regular audience ... recently I wrote some new material called Dad."

Each show is a charitable event, with Susko taking enough money to pay the comics and donating the rest to a good cause. "At our last event, we were able to raise \$545 for a local woman who is dying of cancer, and this Thursday night we'll do the same," she said.

Susko helps out with other fundraisers, most recently a Jeannie Barkley Memorial Fund show earlier this month in Massachusetts. "It's the first time that they wanted to use comics," she said. "A friend of a friend referred me, and I helped set them up."

She won't offer names or numbers, but Susko claims that she can usually persuade her comedian brethren to appear for as low as half price. "They usually give me a better deal because I work at their heartstrings," she said. "It's true!"

"It's my passion to raise money for other people," Susko said. "It's my way of paying rent on the planet."

Beyond that, comedy provides a way for Susko to do her small part to help the world forget its troubles, if only for one night.

"You don't know where people are coming from when you stand up on stage — if someone just died, got fired or got in an argument," she said. "You've got to stop the conversation, and bring them into your world. Making them laugh reduces their cholesterol, their blood pressure and improves their mood. Who knows what kind of a trickle-down effect that has when they go home?"

"I say the same about

Laughs

orgasms, you know."

What: Comedy with a Purpose, featuring Bob Seibel, Amy Tee, Jeff Koen and host Alana Susko

When: Saturday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m.

Where: Fody's Tavern, 9 Clinton St., Railroad Square in Nashua

Tickets: \$15

Info: 577-9015, www.fodystavern.com

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111

The Colonial Theatre

95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033

Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College

100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, 641-7700

Franklin Opera House

316 Central St., Franklin 934-1901

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom

169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100

Leddy Center

38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org

Lowell Auditorium

East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400

The Old Meeting House,

1 New Boston Rd., Franconstown

Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588

Rochester Opera House

31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992

Tupelo Music Hall

2 Young Road, Londonderry, 603-437-5100

Verizon Wireless Arena

555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000

Whittemore Center Arena at UNH

128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000

• **Furthur (Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Joe Russo, Jeff Chimenti, John Kadlecik and Jay Lane)**, Thurs., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., Verizon Wireless

• **Paula Cole**, Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Hunt Family Fiddlers**, Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., Elm St. Middle School, Nashua

• **Umalai**, Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., Music Hall

• **Pure Prairie League**, Sat., Feb. 20, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Scrap Arts**, Sat., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center

• **Disco Biscuits**, Sun., Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center

• **Poco**, Sun., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Philip Hamilton's Voices**, Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center

• **Carbon Leaf**, Fri., Feb. 26, and Sat., Feb. 27, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Rock n' Roll Hall of Famers**, Sat., Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial

• **Celtic Woman**, Sun., Feb. 28, at 5 p.m., Verizon Wireless Arena

• **David Grisman Quintet**, Sun., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., Music Hall

• **Folk Music "A Singing History"**, Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., Franklin Opera House

• **Mindy Smith**, Sun., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Black 47**, Fri., March 5 at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **John Hiatt**, Fri., March 5, at 8 p.m., the Music Hall

• **Lori McKenna**, Sat., March 6,

In the spotlight



Barbershop quartet

Enjoy old-fashioned entertainment at Studio 99 (115 Main St., Nashua, www.studio99nashua.com) on Saturday, Feb. 20, as local group Average Joes (Matt Mercier, lead; Dan Costello, baritone; Eric Ruthenberg, tenor; and Rob Lynds, bass) performs. The concert will feature music from the 1920s, the swing era and current hits. Learn more about the performers at www.averagejoesquartet.com.

In the spotlight



Country jamboree

The New Hampshire Country Music Association (NHCMA) will be hosting a jamboree fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 21, at the Circle Nine Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive in Epsom, starting at 1 p.m. Playing at the jamboree will be Band of the Year and house band, Traditional Black Brook, along the Eric Grant Band, a newcomer to the Association. Admission for the day is \$7 for non-members. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656 for details.

at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Choralpooza**, Sun., March 7, at 4 p.m., the Colonial Theatre

• **The Radiators**, Sun., March 7, at 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Leon Russell**, Tues., March 9

at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Stomp**, Tues., March 9, and Wed., March 10, at 8 p.m., Lowell Auditorium

• **The Chieftains**, Thurs., March 11, at 7:30 p.m., Lowell Auditorium

• **Nube**, Thurs., March 11, at

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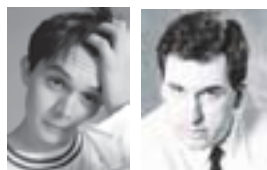
**Friday,
February 26**
Tony V



**Saturday,
February 27**
Andy Friedman



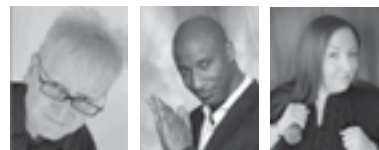
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Tickets \$10, w/Paul Curreri



Friday, February 26
Dan Boulger, Rich Gustus \$17



Friday, March 5
John Fisch, Dan Hirshon
& Lauren Verge \$17



Friday, March 12
Mike Test, Chris Tabb
Alicia Love \$17



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NITE

Nightlife listings

Music & parties

• **HUNT FAMILY FIDDLERS** on Fri., Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., at Nashua's Elm Street Middle School. Call 888-9158 or visit www.nashuacommunityconcerts.org for reservations. Tickets can be purchased at www.cityartsnashua.org.

• **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE** "I Am Home" by John McAndrew on Fri., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Derryfield School Performing Arts Auditorium, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Admission is \$25. Bring a donation of a box of cereal to benefit New Horizons for New Hampshire. For tickets contact Norm Asselin at 634-4446 x115. Visit www.westbridge.org.

• **ACCOUSTIC ROCK AND FOLK MUSIC** Mark Bishop Evans at the New England Revival Coffee House, at the Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., Manchester, on Fri., Feb 19, at 8 p.m. Mark is a singer, songwriter and worship leader. He has led worship in both traditional and charismatic settings for nearly two decades. \$5 donation suggested. Visit www.NERCH.org or call 625-9550.

• **MILFORD ROCK N' BLUES** on Sat., Feb. 20, at the Amato Center at the Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club. The James Montgomery Blues Band will perform with Charlie Farren. Tickets cost \$30; visit The Toadstool Bookshop in Lorden Plaza in Milford, call 673-1734, or go to svbgc.org.

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In the spotlight



Langston Hughes and jazz

Colby Sawyer College (541 Main St., New London) will honor Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in Wheeler Hall at the Ware Campus Center, as it hosts The Langston Hughes Project's multimedia performance of Hughes' poem "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz." The presentation will feature the Ron McCurdy Quartet with spoken word and images from the Harlem Renaissance. Hughes, an African-American poet (1902-1967), wrote the poem detailing the lives and struggles of his ancestry and paired it with written musical thoughts in 1960 following inspiration from the Newport Jazz festival. To learn more about the event visit www.colby-sawyer.edu/events or call the college at 526-3000.

MUSIC SOCIETY at Peterborough Players, off Middle Hancock Road in Peterborough. Upcoming shows include Red Molly and Peter Mulvey on Sat., Feb. 20, at 8 p.m., \$18 in advance, \$26 on the day of the show; See www.pfmsconcerts.org or call 827-2905.

• **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CONCERT** for the Bishop O'Neil Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) on Sat., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., at the Collings Auditorium at Daniel Webster College. Irish performers will include Makem and Spain Brothers, McGonagle School of Irish Dance, AOH Pipers and Shannachie. This annual concert is the largest Irish

cultural event in Nashua and has been going on since Feb. 1997. Cost is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at The Irish Cottage in the Nashua Mall, 598-5240, and at Darrell's Music Hall, Main Street, Nashua, 886-1748. Call Pat Heffeman at 882-8736 to order tickets by mail.

• **BRETON MUSIC** on Thurs., March 4, at 7 p.m., at the Nashua Public Library theater, 2 Court St., Nashua. Nolwenn Monjarret from Brittany, France, will perform traditional Breton songs to celebrate Celtic Heritage Month. For more information call 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org.

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“Shout at the puzzle” — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

- 1. Instrument chain Ash
- 4. The Band ‘The ___ I’m In’
- 9. Groupie mine
- 14. Midge ___
- 15. Pavarotti, e.g.
- 16. Glamsters ___ Rocks
- 17. Grammy winning Brazilian Gilberto

- 18. ___ The Machine (4,7)
- 20. Goopy Collective Soul hit?
- 21. Romantic rock stars seen together
- 22. Okkervil River ‘ ___ It Kicks’
- 23. Teen rocker dropout
- 25. Gig ___
- 26. All You ___ Is Love
- 27. Unsigned band?

- 28. What Bon Jovi puts ‘Roses’ on
- 31. Eric Bachman ‘To The ___’
- 33. Important to outdoor festival
- 35. Word-of-mouth
- 36. Indie band that rehearses in the forest?
- 37. Bill Withers ‘Lean ___’ (2,2)
- 38. What’s ‘Chinese’, to Axl
- 40. ‘Cum On Feel The Noize’ OGS
- 41. ‘92 Alice In Chains EP
- 42. Like rock star palace
- 43. Bodyguard
- 44. Diamond Dave
- 45. Michigan band that has multiple members
- 48. What 2nd axeman will do to singing guitarist
- 51. Jazz fusion Holdsworth
- 52. ‘02 EP by metalcores Dry Kill Logic
- 53. Where Brian and Stewie Griffin

- duet (5,6)
- 55. ‘Take On Me’ band
- 56. Here ___ My Girl
- 57. UK rockers need a bunch for a pint
- 58. Piano ___
- 59. ‘Magic Man’ band
- 60. What Vedder, Cornell, and Pirner did in Singles
- 61. ___ You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead

- 27. Motorhead ‘ ___ Or Die’
- 28. ‘Cruel Summer’ chicks
- 29. East coast hip hoppers of the acronym kind
- 30. ___-Lite
- 31. What Jimmy Buffett grabs before setting sail
- 32. Dead was from the Bay ___
- 33. What Korn’s ‘Freak’ was on
- 34. Effects add this
- 36. Tutti ___
- 39. What you want to be at show
- 40. ‘That ___ great!’
- 43. Hope for one from frontman
- 44. ‘Born To Be Wild’ off Easy ___ soundtrack
- 45. Iconic Robert
- 46. “Singer” Lindsay
- 47. You do it “in the place where you live”
- 48. Metalsters ___ Enemy
- 49. Beatles’ is old and brown
- 50. Strokes ‘Is This It’ song
- 51. John Such from Bon Jovi
- 54. What rockers hit after tiring tour

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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2/11

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Down

- 1. Indie guy Matt, after Butterglory
- 2. Rainbow song that inspired ‘Little Mermaid’?
- 3. His name is not ‘Cougar’, but this
- 4. Failed albums
- 5. What band breakups can get
- 6. Oasis ‘Don’t Look Back In ___’
- 7. Dylan song lyrics?
- 8. Important time in music
- 9. Bowie classic smash
- 10. What Ozzy was “going off”
- 11. Mrs Robinson-___ Bancroft
- 12. Bruce Springsteen
- 13. “Her diary it ___ by the bedside table” Cutting Crew
- 19. Can’t do show w/out these guys
- 24. Gnarl Barkley crooner (3,2)
- 25. King Of Swing Goodman

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Written By: Todd Santos



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Auburn
Auburn Pitts
 167 Rockingham Rd, 622-6564
Holiday's Bar and Grill
 346 Hooksett Rd, 483-0880

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub
 Nippo Lake Golf Course, 550 Province Rd. 664-2030

Barnstead
Barnstead
 Music Hall 96 Maple St, 269-2000

Bedford
C.R. Sparks
 18 Kilton Rd, 647-7275
Slammers
 547 Donald St., 668-2120

Belmont
The Lodge at Belmont
 Route 106, 877-872-2501

Boscawen
Alan's
 133 N. Main St., 753-6631

Brookline
Big Bear Lodge
 106 Route 13, 672-7675
Griffings' Side Trax
 99 Route 13, 673-3244
The Loft at the Grange
 12 Main St., 315-9423

Concord
The Barley House
 132 N. Main St., 228-6363
Beijing & Tokyo
 61 S. Main St., 228-0888
Green Martini

Thursday, Feb. 18
Auburn
Holidays: The Head Shop

Bedford
CR Sparks: Harry Fix Trio
Slammers: open mike w/ Legion of Doom

Concord
Barley House: Barleyoke
Hermanos: Whit Symmes & Tim Wildman
Penuche's: Dusty and the Know

Derry
Brookstone: Paul Fudin
Burgundy's: karaoke w/DJ Steve

Dover
Barley Pub: bluegrass jam
Brick House: The Jackknife Beat, The Supersuckers, Geoff Useless, The Burls

Durham
Acorns: Gerry Adams Duo

Gilford
Patrick's: Doug Mitchell

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Max Sullivan

6 Pleasant St., 223-6672
Hermanos
 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669
Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge
 388 Loudon Rd, 226-0533
Makris
 354 Sheep Davis Rd, 225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
 6 Pleasant St., 228-9833
The Red Blazer
 72 Manchester St., 224-4101

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
 4 North Road, 463-7374

Derry
Adams Opera House
 29 W. Broadway/ Rte 102
Brookstone Grille
 14 Route 11 E., 328-9250
Burgundy's Billiards
 35 Manchester St., 437-6600
King's Row
 1 E. Broadway
Steve-N-James Tavern
 187 Rockingham Rd, 434-0600

Dover
American Legion Post 8
 640 Central Ave.
Barley Pub
 328 Central Ave., 742-4226
Dover Elks Lodge
 282 Durham Road
Dover Bowl
 887 Central Ave., 742-9632
Dover Brick House
 2 Orchard St., 749-3838
11th Frame Bar
 887 B Central Ave., 742-9632
Kelley's Row
 421 Central Ave., 750-7081
RJ's
 83 Washington St.
Top of the Chop
 One Orchard St., 740-0006

Durham
Acorns Restaurant
 15 Stafford Ave., 862-2815

East Hampstead
The Pasta Loft
 220 E. Main St., 378-0092

Hillsborough
Boomerang's
 37 Henniker St., 464-3912

Hollis
Alpine Grove
 19 S. Depot Road, 882-9051

Hudson
Johnny's: Art Cranshaw

Laconia
Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Sev
Whippersnapper's: The Royal Pains

Manchester
Black Brimmer: John Ridlon
Breezeway: DJ McKay
Club 313: DJ Biggie, karaoke w/CJ
Club Liquid: Renegade Soundstation
Fratello's: Ferdinando Argenti Trio
Johnny Bad's: blues jam w/Wan-Tu
Murphy's: Nate and Demetri
Shaskeen: Sam Kiri, Josh Logan
Strange Brew: Tom Keller & Co.
Unwine'd: Chad LaMarsh
WB's: DJ Bob

Milford
Pasta Loft: Ryan Bossie

Nashua
603 Lounge: karaoke w/DJ

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
 Windymer Dr., 736-9656

Epping
American Legion
 232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125)
Holy Grail Food & Spirits
 64 Main St., 679-9559

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
 10 Columbus Ave., 772-3856

Gilford
Gunstock Ski Area
 719 Cherry Valley Road, 293-4341
Patrick's
 18 Weirs Rd., 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
 25 Main St., 497-8230
Wa Toy
 611 Mast Rd, 668-1088

Hampstead
Route 111 Village Square
 472 State St., 329-6879

Hampton
Breakers By the Sea
 409 Ocean Blvd, 926-7702
Old Salt
 409 Lafayette Rd, 926-8322
Ron's Landing
 379 Ocean Blvd, 929-2122,
Wally's Pub
 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954

Henniker
Daniel's
 Main St., 428-7621
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
 24 Flander's Road, 888-728-7732
Sled Pub
 686 Flanders Road, 888-728-7732
The Henniker Junction
 24 Weare Rd., 428-8511

Manchester
900 Degrees
 50 Dow St., 641-0900
American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43
 56 Boutwell St., 623-9467

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
 1328 Hooksett Rd, 621-9298

Hudson
Johnny's Pizzeria
 11 Tracy Lane, 943-5382
Linda's Sport Bar
 2B Bumham Rd, 886-0792

Kingston
The Kingston 1686 House Tavern
 127 Main St., 642-3637

Laconia
Black Cat Café
 17 Veterans Sq., 238-3233
Cactus Jacks
 1182 Union Ave., 528-7800
Fratello's
 799 Union Ave., 528-2022
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
 72 Endicott St., 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
 Rt 3 Laconia, 366-2400
Margate Resort
 76 Lake St., 524-5210
Naswa Resort
 1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
 322 Lakeside Ave., 366-2665
Weirs Beach Smoke House
 Route 3, 366-2400

Londonderry
The Coach Stop Restaurant
 176 Mammoth Rd, 437-2022
Mayflower Grange
 535 Mammoth Rd, 867-3077
Stumble Inn
 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210
Whippersnappers
 44 Nashua Road, 434-2660

Loudon
Graverobbers Coffeehouse
 Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478

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American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43
 56 Boutwell St., 623-9467

Green Martini: Otis Jones
Makris: Not Dead Yet
Pit Road: The Brain Police

Dover
Barley Pub: Seth Gooby
Brick House: Sirsy, The Digbees
Kelley's Row: The High Beams
RJ's: DJ Big Pez

Epping
Holy Grail: Matt & Howard

Gilford
Patrick's: Eric Grant Duo

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Two by Two
Village Square: River City

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Ten and Out

Henniker
Pat's Peak: open mike w/ Rick Amidon & George Belli

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: DJ Albin

Hudson
Johnny's: Radio Star
Linda's: Tom Dixon

American Legion Post #79
 35 W. Brook St.
American Legion
Sweeney Post
 251 Maple St., 623-9145
Black Brimmer
 1087 Elm St., 669-5523
Bo's Riverside
 500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Boynton's Taproom
 155 Dow St., 623-7778
Breezeway Pub
 14 Pearl St., 621-9111
City Sports Grille
 216 Maple St., 625-9656
Club 313
 93 S. Maple St., 628-6813
Club Liquid
 23 Amherst St., 645-7600
Derryfield Country Club
 625 Mammoth Rd, 623-2880
Don Quijote
 333 Valley St., 792-1110
Element Lounge
 1055 Elm St., 627-2922
Gauchos Churrascaria
 62 Lowell St., 669-9460
The Hilton Garden Inn
 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222
Ignite Bar & Grille
 100 Hanover St., 494-6225,
Jewell & The Beanstalk
 793 Somerville St., 624-3709
Jillian's Billiard Club
 50 Philippe Cote Dr., 626-7636
Johnny Bad's
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J.W. Hill's
 795 Elm St., 645-7422
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 387 Canal St., 623-9323
Mad Bob's Saloon
 342 Lincoln St., 669-3049
McGarvey's
 1097 Elm St., 627-2721
Milly's Tavern
 500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Moe Joe's
 2175 Candia Rd, 668-0131
Murphy's Taproom
 494 Elm St., 644-3535
New England Revival
Coffeehouse
 Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., 625-9550, nerch.org

Merrimack
Jade Dragon
 515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
 15 Cottage St., 673-9804
The Pasta Loft
 241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Shenanigans
 586 Nashua St., 672-2060

Nashua
The Amber Room
 53 High St., 881-9060
Boston Billiard Club
 55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121
Club Social
 45 Pine St., 889-9838
Country Tavern
 452 Amherst St., 889-5871
Estabrook Grill
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 estabrookgrill.com
Fody's Tavern
 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Gate City Pub
 56 Canal St., 598-8256
Haluwa Lounge
 Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
 Holiday Inn, Exit 4, 888-1551
Laureano Nightclub
 245 Main St.

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Londonderry
Coach Stop: Gary Lopez
Whippersnapper's: Tigerlilly

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Without Paris

Breezeway: DJ McKay
City Sports Grille: Radio Edit

Club Liquid: Renegade Soundstation
Club 313: DJ Susan Esthera, karaoke w/CJ

Derryfield: Jim Devlin Band
Element: DJ Daddy Dave
Lafayette Club: Win Place and Show

Milly's: The Capulet Erotic, A Desolate Age, Theory Shift, Last Shot

Mint Bistro: Two For Dinner
Murphy's: Josh Logan Band
NERCH: Mark Bishop Evans

Penuche's: Manchuka
Piccola: Andrew Merzi
Rocko's: Astronomer, Cacophonous Death, She Nasty, Urias, Structure Fails, Me Vs. Me, To Speak in

Olympic Lounge
 506 Valley St., 644-5559
Piccola's Upstairs Lounge
 815 Elm St.
Penuche's Grill
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The Shaskeen
 909 Elm St., 625-0246
Strange Brew Tavern
 88 Market St., 666-4292
Unwine'd
 865 Second St., 625-9463
Wally and Bernie's
 20 Old Granite St., 641-2583
The Wild Rover
 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
603 Lounge
 183 Douglas St.
The Yard
 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545

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 48 Main St., 880-8686
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Pine Street Eatery
 136 Pine St., 886-3501
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 Nashua Mall, 882-4070
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603 Lounge
 14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
 522 Amherst St., 882-6026
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 4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
 70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Villa Banca
 194 Main St., 598-0500

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
 3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
 Hadley Rd.

Plaistow
The Sad Café
 148 Plaistow Rd, 382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
 96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
 The hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583
Brewery Lane Tavern
 96 Brewery Ln, 433-7007
Daniel Street Tavern
 111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
 15 Bow St., 431-5222
Gas Light Co.
 64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
 100 High St., 431-1499
The Music Hall
 104 Congress St., 433-3100
Muddy River Smokehouse
 21 Congress St., 430-9582

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 100 High St., 431-1499
The Music Hall
 104 Congress St., 433-3100
Muddy River Smokehouse
 21 Congress St., 430-9582

Paddy's American Grill
 27 International Dr., 430-9450
Player's Ring Theater
 105 Marcy St., 436-8123
Portsmouth Pearl
 45 Pearl St., 431-0148,
Press Room
 77 Daniel St., 431-5186
The Red Door
 107 State St., 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
 35 Corporate Dr., 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
 22 Market Sq., 319-1680
The Wet Bar
 172 Hanover St.

Raymond
Strikers East
 4 Essex Dr.

Salem
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 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013
Jocelyn's Lounge
 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045
Maggie May's
 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032
The Varsity Club
 67 Main St., 898-4344

Sandown
The Crossing
 328 Main St.

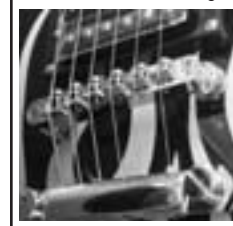
Seabrook
American Legion Post 70
 169 Walton Rd
Players Bar & Grille
 920 Lafayette Rd, 474-6001
Prime Time Sports Grill
 620 Lafayette Rd, 760-7230

Sunapee
Sunapee Coffee House
 Methodist Church, Route 11

Tilton
Lakes Region Fitness
 407 W. Main St., 286-3337

Windham
Jonathon's Lounge
 Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568

On the scene



NITE

Concord
Green Martini: Kenny Weiland
Hermanos: Mary Fagan
Penuche's: Ron Noyes Band
Pit Road: Trip Wire

Dover
Barley Pub: Organism
Brick House: The Head
Kelley's Row: Discount Gigolos
RJ's: DJ J Smooth

Epping
Holy Grail: Siroteau

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: Blue Train

Gilford
Gunstock: Kelley Morris & the Fallen Free
Patrick's: Sum X 4

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Lisa Marie & All Shook Up

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Jimmy D
Village Square: River City

Henniker
Pat's Peak: October Sons

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: Michael Troy and Tramack

Hudson
Linda's: Mumblefish
Johnny's Pizzeria: The Slakas

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Ralph Allen
Stumble Inn: Sown Together
Whippersnapper's: Souled Out Show Band

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Hypercane
Breezeway: DJ McKay
City Sports Grille: Soundtrack to Monday
Club 313: DJ Bob, karaoke w/CJ
Club Liquid: DJ Danjah
Derryfield: Mugsy
Element: DJ Took
Milly's: Meatsaw, Yankee Cockfight, The Caught Flies, The Murder Weapon
Murphy's: Best Not Broken
Piccola: Too Late for Therapy
Rocko's: Winter Bro
 Down Fest w/Ballast, Spies Like Us, Auburn, With Words, Scare Don't Fear, Of Hope & Rescue, A Faylene Sky, Looking For Alaska, Operation Guillotine, A Desolate Age, Good To Go!, Astrela, Alter

Milford
Pasta Loft: Sellouts
Shenanigans: karaoke w/DJ Lance

Nashua
603 Lounge: DJ Misty
Fody's: Mad Express
Haluwa: Shades Apart
Martha's Exchange: DJ Miso, Brian Lemire
Peddler's Daughter: Undercover
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio
Studio 99: Average Joes

Newmarket
Stone Church: Seth Yacovone

Peterborough
Harlow's: Bob Marley Tribute Night
Peterborough Players Theater: Red Molly

Pleistow
The Sad Café: Love Via Dance Machine, Series, fevers, Blue Pages, Someone Say Something

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Leo Ganley
Dolphin Stiker: Tim Theriault & Jamie DeCato
Press Room: Larry Garland and Friends
Red Door: Mike Swells
Ri Ra: Stomping Melvin

Salem
Blackwater: Mike Moore

Sunday, Feb. 21
Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase

Dover
11th Frame Bar: jam
Barley Pub: Mike Stockbridge
Brick House: Hellbound, In Remembrance, Short Ride, The Nasty, Think Again, Watch Fire

Durham
Acorns: Charlie Jennsion

Gilford
Patrick's: Irish session

Hudson
Johnny's: blues jam w/ Little Harpo

Londonderry
Whippersnapper's:

Manchester
900 Degrees: blues jam
Breezeway: DJ McKay
Club 313: karaoke w/CJ
Element: karaoke w/DJ Sharon
Shaskeen: The Spain Brothers & Friends
Strange Brew: blues jam

Nashua
Fody's: show tunes
Sky Lounge: DJ Danny D

Newmarket
Stone Church: Gospel Brunch and open mike w/Dave Ogden

Portsmouth
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Ri Ra: Irish session w/Rocky

Monday, Feb. 22
Concord
Barley House: Scott Solsky
Hermanos: Eric Chase

Dover
Kelley's Row: Irish sessions
Top of the Chop: Dave Ogden

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: jam w/Gardner Berry

Manchester
900 Degrees: Rhythm of Manchester
Element: Cabaret De Boheme
Shaskeen: Scalawag

Newmarket
Stone Church: Superfrog

Portsmouth
Press Room: John Leight Jazz
Red Door: Hush, Hush Sweet Harlot (Jon Nolan, Zach Tremblay, Roy Davis)
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Feb. 23
Bedford
Slammers: karaoke w/DJ Shadow

Concord
Barley House: Irish session
Hermanos: John Franzosa

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: VJ Billy

Manchester
Black Brimmer: DJ Fratello's: blues jam

Wan-Tu
Milly's: open mike hosted by Johnny Keys
Strange Brew: Strange Brew All-Stars

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike

Newmarket
Stone Church: bluegrass jam with Dave Talmage

Portsmouth
Press Room: Larry Garland Jazz w/Jerry Tillett
Red Door: PB Kidd

Wed., Feb. 24
Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/Steve Naylor
Hermanos: Chazz Canney

Dover
Barley Pub: Jamantics
Brick House: DJ Danjah, Project Hybrid, Team Hapinez, Slicko in EFC

Gilford
Patrick's: Ron Adams

Kingston
The Carriage Towne: Mike Belkas

Laconia
Cactus Jack's: Michael Vincent

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: VJ Billy

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Mama Kicks
Shaskeen: Sandey Money
Strange Brew: David Rousseau
Unwine'd: Craig Fahey
WB's: DJ Pat
Wild Rover: Marty Quirk

Milford
Pasta Loft: open mike w/ Morgan, Pete & Ryan

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike w/Kevin Horan
Estabrook Grill: Maiden-Capable
Fody's: Charlie Chronopolis
Studio 99: blues jam

Newmarket
Stone Church: blues jam w/Lonely Gus and the One Night Stand

Portsmouth
Press Room: Todd Cushing
Red Door: Evaredy
Ri Ra: Granite Men

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Feb. 18
Manchester
Element: Demented Thursday with Mama Savannah

Friday, Feb. 19
Manchester
Boynnton's: Steve Swee-ney, John Rineman and John Garrison

Saturday, Feb. 20
Amherst
Amherst Country Club: Kal Verducci, Shaun Bedgood

Sunday, Feb. 21
Nashua
Sky Lounge: Laugh Riot Productions

Tues. Feb. 23
Manchester
Headliner's: Ira Proctor
Shaskeen: open-mike

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 51

HIPPO CROSSWORD

"From Milk" — we derive these new phrases. By Matt Jones

- Across**
 1 Type of garden with rocks
 4 The Good Witch from "The Wizard of Oz"
 10 ___ de mer
 13 Double-bladed weapon
 14 Tell on
 15 She plays Liz on "30 Rock"
 16 Chew toy on Batman's utility belt?
 18 MIT grad, maybe
 19 Sportscaster Dick
 20 Like screwball comedies
 21 System with paddles and a joystick
 24 Explorer Juan Ponce ___
 25 "Arrested Development" narrator Howard
 26 Fish served in filets
 31 Mad scientist who is the enemy of Action Man

- 32 Prof's admission that someone's helping him temporarily?
 35 Soul great Redding
 36 Swear like a sailor
 37 Pulls a heist on
 40 Halloween costume that includes big ears, dark clothing and a bunch of charts?
 43 Digital camera variety, for short
 45 They'll help serve your Earl Grey
 46 ___ Hill (R&B group)
 47 Container for stir-fried vegetables?
 49 ___ Lateef of jazz
 51 Get the engine humming
 52 Takes more Time?
 56 PG&E opponent Brockovich

- Down**
 1 Turn sharply
 2 Prefix for skeleton
 3 Paycheck line
 4 Semi-frozen drink similar to an Italian ice
 5 Petting zoo critter
 6 "Let ___" (Beatles hit)
 7 Widow of King Hussein
 8 Answer to the riddle, "What's brown and sounds like a bell?"

- 22 Car horn noise
 23 Like some sci-fi boots
 24 In the most desperate way
 27 Tended to a scratch
 28 She came between Hillary and Michelle
 29 Dos that get picked out
 30 Backup group
 33 Spicy General on a menu
 34 Raw metal source
 38 Dull person
 39 Double-___ (Oreos variety)
 41 Type of convertible
 42 Uses of mentally-based propaganda, in CIA-speak
 43 Shopping binges
 44 Give a good staredown (not!)
 48 Groan-inducing jokes
 50 Ensign's org.
 52 Novelist Jaffe
 53 List-ending abbr.
 54 Pitcher Hideo
 55 Bernanke subj.
 57 "___ Smart"
 58 5th or Mad., e.g.
 59 "___ Boot"
 60 Picnic pest

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13				14							15		
16			17								18		
			19								20		
21	22	23							24				
25				26	27	28	29	30			31		
32			33								34		
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43	44			45							46		
47			48							49	50		
51					52	53	54	55					
56					57						58	59	60
61					62						63		
64					65						66		

- 9 Ending for emir
 10 Spoke indirectly
 11 ___ Wat (Cambodian temple)
 12 Voice box
 15 Blue-green shade
 17 That girl
 20 Take a baby off the bottle
 21 Jason's ship

2/11

B	F	F	S	I	D	E	R	S	T	A	B			
A	R	A	A	S	I	M	O	V	T	H	U			
S	E	N	E	G	A	L	E	S	E	R	I	T	A	
K	E	N	O	L	E	K	E	P	E	R	R	Y		
W	I	N	C	H	L	A	D	Y	S					
T	H	E	H	O	W	D	Y	U	K					
J	E	M	A	I	N	E	C	L	E	M	E	N	T	
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R	E	N	T		D	A	R	W	I	N	S	K	I	
K	R	I	S		T	E	S	T	S	T	S	T	S	P

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 For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. Reference puzzle #0454.

VELMA

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from songs by Seal, born Feb. 19, 1963.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) "There's no reason for you to lose your mind, / 'Cause I've seen something, / That's gonna change our time." — "If I Could" Let a new technology make your life a little easier.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) "How do I get to where I've come from, now? / How will I paint this garden I've destroyed, green? / Can I get back to where I've come from?" — "People Asking Why" You may be feeling a pull from the past. Just remember that things weren't always exactly as wonderful as you remember them.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) "There is so much a man can tell you, / So much he can say." — "Kiss from a Rose" If your sweetheart isn't talking, you need to ask more direct questions.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) "Every day, a shade of blue / You won't believe / What I'm going through / It just feels like I can't afford to let myself go." — "Waiting for You" Unclench, just a little; it'll be better for you.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) "I need love, love's divine / Please forgive me now I see that I've been blind / Give me love, love is what I need to help me know my name." — "Love's Divine" To get through a patch of desperate desire, try ice cream or therapy. Or maybe bowling.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) "Well I try to say there's nothing wrong / But inside I felt me lying all alone / But the message here was plain to see / Believe me..." — "Love's Divine" Don't expect people to read your mind; you have to let others know how you feel if you expect them to connect with you meaningfully.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) "Don't you know that I'm free and I'm young / I'm the loneliest star from the sun / And I feel that I'm close to the one / Who will stop me from coming undone." — "Loneliest Star" The one who will stop you from coming undone is you. But you can invite friends to visit if you like, and they might or might not bring you presents. Just don't expect it.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) "Check your mind, you're free to follow / All the friends that you can borrow / Everybody's so much fun / To pay for all the lunches done / Always trying to beat the rest." — "Tinseltown" Instead of trying to outdo your opponent, simply focus on your personal best.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) "You're heading for the crash / It'll be right here tomorrow / I'll even pay for gas / If you wreck us gracefully." — "Princess" Practice being graceful. It will come in handy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) "Know there's danger in serenade, my friend / There's even love if you find what you want / And there's reason to be afraid / And reason to open your heart." — "When a Man is Wrong" It's a be-careful-what-you-wish-for kind of time. Which isn't to say don't wish. Just be thoughtful about it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) "You're afraid / So you lie / Sometime this will get by / But you know that's not the way." — "No Easy Way" The truth will be uncovered.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) "You know I sometimes get things wrong to get things right / Oh my friend / When a man is wrong / Facing all the mistakes that are done / When a man, when this man is wrong / There can be no right." — "When a Man is Wrong" It's an excellent time to face up to your mistakes and make amends where you can.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8								9
				1				
9	6		4		3		8	7
		7					8	
	3			6			4	
		9					1	
1	5		8		6		7	4
				9				
2								8

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S U
D O
K U

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Last week's puzzle answers are below

2/11

5	4	9	6	8	1	7	2	3
1	8	7	2	3	9	4	5	6
2	3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9
3	5	8	9	1	2	6	7	4
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	9	8
9	2	4	8	7	6	5	3	1
7	6	5	1	9	4	3	8	2
4	9	3	5	2	8	1	6	7
8	1	2	3	6	7	9	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/18

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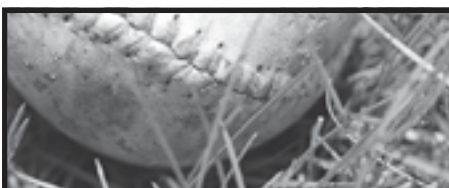
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54
Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

White People in Turmoil

(1) April Gaede, who four years ago guided her teenage daughters, Lynx and Lamb (performing as “Prussian Blue”), to a brief music career singing neo-Nazi songs, announced a new project recently on the white nationalist Web site Stormfront.org. She offers a no-fee matchmaking service to fertile Aryans, hoping to encourage marriage and baby-making — to help white people keep up with rapidly procreating minorities. (2) Don “Moose” Lewis announced plans in January for a 12-city pro basketball league composed only of white players (natural-born U.S. citizens, whose parents are both Caucasian). Lewis denied any “racism,” explaining to the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle that whites simply like “fundamental” basketball and not “street ball” (“flipping you off or attacking you in the stands or grabbing their crotch”).

Cultural Diversity

• Computer-obsessed Japanese nerds’ latest fancy is Love Plus, a Nintendo DS dating simulation that allows them a young, attractive, mouthy, teenage digital “girlfriend” who begs for attention. The touch-screen lover demands hand-holding, kissing and having sweet nothings whispered in her ear. How can men so easily become addicted to such vicarious experiences? Said one reluctant player, “Koh,” to the BoingBoing blog, “(It) comes down to the fact that men are simple.” (In December, Reuters reported that Japanese player SAL9000 had eloped to the Philippines with his Love Plus girlfriend, had himself photographed with her at romantic sites — clutching the screen showing her image — and then took her through a marriage ceremony.)

• As vultures approach extinction in South Africa, they grow in value among local “traditional” communities for their magical abilities. Specks of a vulture’s brain, sprinkled on mud and smoked, can supposedly ward off evil and bring winning lottery numbers. One Johannesburg vendor told Agence France-Presse in December that the specks even work when daubed on dogs’ noses, enabling them to extend their already formidable scenting power.

Latest Religious Messages

• A Montana-based sect is fighting to remain viable, six months after the death of its “Mother,” the Jesus-channeling Elizabeth Clare Prophet. Several aspirants have tried to claim her mantle, but the sect’s council of elders found them all to be charlatans, and membership rolls have dwindled. The church was similarly challenged in 1990, when Mother forecast nuclear doomsday and financed the construction of large underground bunkers on a mountainside north of Yellowstone National Park (which are still available). The council is having trouble, especially, finding volunteers to transcribe the 22,000 hours of video and audio in which Mother set out the justifications for the sect.

• Televangelist Rod Parsley informed his flock in December that he urgently needed several million dollars because of financial problems attributed directly to Satan. According to a report in the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch, Parsley’s World Harvest Church was facing a \$3 million deficit for the quarter ending in December after earlier in the year paying \$3.1 million to settle a lawsuit over its day-care

center’s having too brutally spanked a boy. Wrote Parsley, “Will you help me take back what the devil stole?”

• Crimestopper: (1) In Frisco, Texas, in January, boutique owner Marian Chadwick, who was about to be robbed at gunpoint by a hooded intruder, pointed her finger at him and said: “In the name of Jesus, you get out of my store. I bind you by the power of the Holy Spirit.” The man appeared stunned, then turned and walked out empty-handed, cursing. (2) A 20-year veteran Houston cop who wears badge number 666 told the Houston Chronicle in a December profile that once, 17 years ago, a dangerous perp who had been defiant that he would not be captured suddenly dropped to his knees and surrendered. He had glanced at the badge. Said he, “I ain’t fighting the devil.”

Questionable Judgments

• In Thailand, the endangered status of crocodiles and elephants is largely ignored by the public, who are instead enthralled with the giant pandas and their cub on loan from China. (There is even a 24-hour cable TV “panda channel.”) At several of the country’s zoos, officials now regularly paint their crocodiles and elephants in panda colors (with harmlessly washable paint) to call attention to their plight. Even though the paint must be reapplied daily, “It’s impossible not to do it now,” said one croc handler for a December Wall Street Journal dispatch. “People expect it.”

• Only four days after the January earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, two Royal Caribbean cruise ships made a port call at a private enclave about 60 miles up Haiti’s coastline from ground zero, turning loose hundreds of frolickers for “jet ski rides, parasailing and rum cocktails delivered to their hammocks,” according to a report in London’s The Guardian. Haitian guards employed by the cruise line manned the resort’s 12-foot-high fences, but about a third of the passengers still declined to leave the ships, too upset by the unfolding disaster nearby to enjoy themselves. Royal Caribbean said it had made a large donation to the rescue effort and promised, also, to send proceeds from the port’s thriving craft

stores.

• The Need for Parental Licensing: In January, as punishment for her 12-year-old son’s bad grade in school, a Warm Springs, Ga., mother allegedly forced the boy to club his pet hamster to death with a hammer. Lynn Middlebrooks Geter, 38, was arrested after the kid told his teacher, who called the state children’s services agency.

Obsessions

Unless Stephen Gough, 50, changes his mind about wearing pants, he risks spending the rest of his life behind bars, according to a January ruling of Scotland’s Perth Sheriff Court. Gough, Britain’s “naked rambler,” is a freelance nudist who for years has roamed the United Kingdom countryside, interrupted by numerous jail stints for violating public decency. He was released from Perth Prison in December after his latest stay, but seconds later shucked his clothes and was re-arrested. (In his most recent trial, Gough acted as his own lawyer and somehow persuaded an overly fair judge to let him be naked in court.)

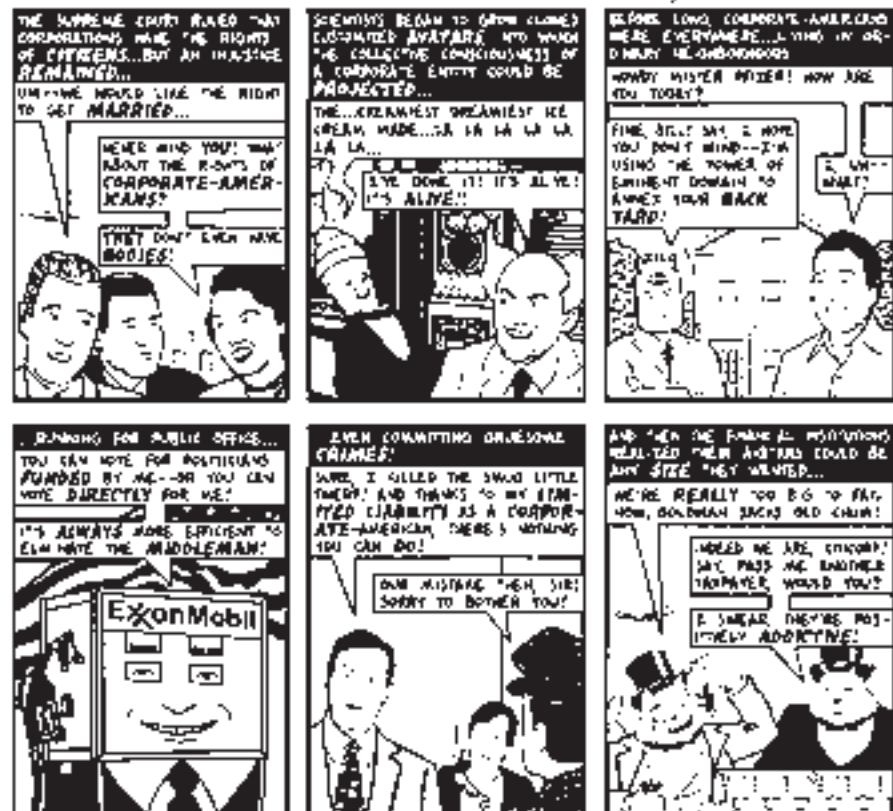
Least Competent Criminals

(1) Shane Williams-Allen, 19, was arrested in Tavares, Fla., in January and charged with burglarizing an unmarked police car and stealing several items, including handcuffs and a Taser gun. Eventually, Williams-Allen called the police for help after he accidentally cuffed himself, and officers believe he also accidentally Tasered himself. (2) Police in Oakland, Calif., called off their manhunt for fleeing home-invasion suspects in January when officers encountered four of the men wedged between two buildings they had tried to squeeze through.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: [WeirdNews at earthlink dot net](http://WeirdNews.at.earthlink.net), <http://www.NewsOfTheWeird.com>, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**User's guide to The Hippo**

Need some help to navigate the Hippo? Here is the contact information to fulfill all your Hippo needs:

Press releases

Send press releases (that include time, dates and location of the event plus contact information for the public and, if different, contact information for our reporters) to news@hippopress.com.

That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Heidi Masek at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach her by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Books Editor Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Lisa Parsons, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
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- **Music** — Send information on upcoming live music performances, bands, new CD releases, comedy nights, DJs and karaoke nights, nightlife events and concert series to music@hippopress.com.
- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 12.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

General submissions

The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

Display advertisements

Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement.

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The space reservation deadline is Monday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at 3 p.m. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

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