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THE SPOKANE SIDEKICK, STILL BETTER THAN A KICK IN THE FACE

IN THIS ISSUE

REEL BIG FISH - PAGE 5

THE WAILIN' JENNYS - PAGE 7

KYRS THIN AIR RADIO - PAGE 21

**ELECTION SPREAD - PAGE 22** 

SPOKANE'S MOST COMPLETE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



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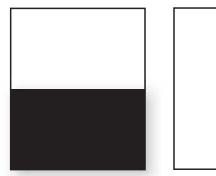
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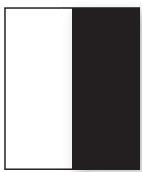


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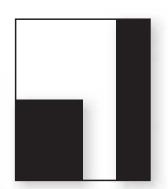


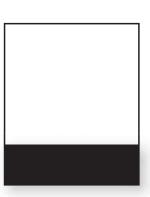


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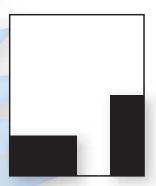




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#### **Letter from the Editors**

Thanks for picking up this latest issue of the Spokane SiDEKiCK, a bi-weekly publication chalk full of upcoming entertainment events including, but not limited to, concerts, comedy offerings, film screenings and sports happenings, as well as numerous features, reviews and a running theme of all that political stuff you can't get away from (though our election content has the added benefit of being half-assed and concise).

You'd think it'd be impossible to cram anymore fun between these 24 pages, but we've managed to do so once again. Go us. For one, we've added a pretty fun pop cultur-ish **Crossword Puzzle** on page 14.

Since we're big fans of immediate gratification, we're also printing the answers on **page 23**, that way you can cheat and look smart at the same time.

We're especially pleased to announce that, from here on out, an old drinking buddy of the SiDEKiCK's who's involved in the Washington D.C. political scene will be writing a column specifically for this paper, giving his insightful and sarcastic take on the political scene with his new column that we've tentatively titled **Echoes from** the Other Washington. It can be found on page 22, next to a breakdown of the four major candidates running for federal office.

Thanks again for all your support. We're ridiculously open to communication with anybody who takes the time to get ahold of us, so please feel free to send an email to info@spokanesidekick.com and let us know about anything worth covering, additions to consider, improvements to make, or just to tell us what you think about the new James Bond movie, if you want. Anything's fair game, as far as we're concerned

You stay classy Spokane. Brian Clark Andy Rowse

## Live Music



# Thee Emergency returns as headlining act

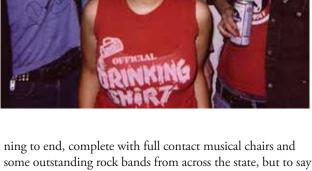
#### SiDEKiCK Editors

**Thee Emergency** is an unquantifiable voltage of electricity that can shock anyone into feeling good. The energy in the air when these guys are wailing away is infectious, undeniable and, quite frankly, awesome. As such, they're getting

our nod as Pick of the Issue, our opinion of the one show over the next couple of weeks that's truly not to miss.

Thee Emergency, from Seattle, is a fourpiece rock 'n roll band that channels the energy of the 1970s, and they do it with conviction. Maybe saying that they reincarnate the period is a better description, as they pull

off the look and sound with authenticity. When they played the Blvd. for Mistress and the Misters CD release show on October 20th, for example, guitarist Sonic Smith was decked out in tight, flaring bellbottoms, with an American flag hanging off the headstock of his guitar, while Dita Vox – the immensely talented lead singer – jumped up on the banister at one point to belt out one of their hippie anthems and give everyone a better look at her quintessential afro. That particular show was entertaining and energetic from begin-



ning to end, complete with full contact musical chairs and some outstanding rock bands from across the state, but to say that Thee Emergency didn't play a huge part in fostering that atmosphere would be flat-out inaccurate.

Thee Emergency's latest album, released over the summer, is the appropriately titled *Can You Dig It?*, a poster for

what this band gets across at their live shows

– simple guitar riffs, repeatable phrases and a
heightened, familiar, feel-good pace in all corners of their sound. Shut up and have a good
time, their songs, CD and live set all scream
at you, bludgeoning listeners over the head
with recognizable chants and chord happy,
blues-rockish punk riffs. It's a sound that, no
matter what you think going in, is impossible

not to enjoy once they get going.

Thee Emergency will be performing at The Spread on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> with **The Lashes, Yokahama Hooks** and **Tokio Weigh Station**. This 21 and over show gets underway at 9ish (usually more like 9:30). For more information on all sorts of fun stuff, check out www.spokanesidekick.com, the greatest resource in the history of the world (or at least the county).

#### **Initiative 920**

This is the one that would repeal the Estate Tax. Essentially, rich people are pissed off that their \$2 million-plus "es-

tates" are getting charged more than the duplex Andy and I live/work out of.

Thee Emergency // The Lashes, Tokio Weigh Station, Yokahama Hooks

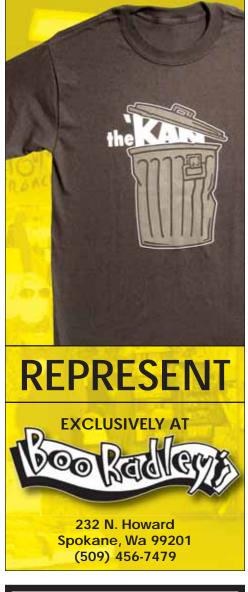
Sat. Oct 28th. 9 p.m

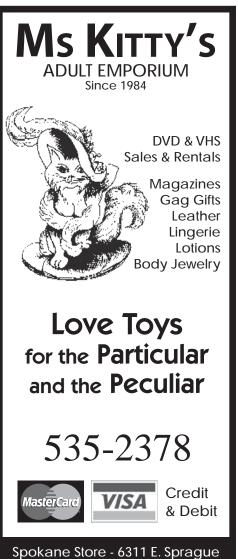
The Spread 21+ only (509) 456-4515

I-920 is a no-brainer, as education funding relies heavily on the estate tax, which is put into place to help level the

playing field a bit. Proponents of the bill say the tax unfairly violates the rich, but that's simply not true.

Our vote: A resounding No.





Bozeman Store - 12 N. Willson



Hello loyal SiDEKiCK readers and welcome to our listener profile classification system – a fun, subjective and somewhat ridiculous breakdown of musical styles. Along with every article on upcoming concerts, you'll notice a graphic of one of our listener profiles below. We've identified seven different musical stereotypes in order to give readers a better idea of shows that might interest them in a quick, easy and entertaining way. Whatever graphic is found in the yellow circle accompanying an article is the type of listener who, we feel, might enjoy that particular performance.

Keep in mind that this isn't an all-inclusive solution but, rather, a fun and games approach to categorize the many live shows that come through the Spokane area on a weekly basis. Also note that the gender designations are completely arbitrary – come to think of it, so is this whole method of profiling – so use it only as a loose guide. We suspect that many of our readers will fall into more than one category, and that's OK. We're not pigeonholing you into a particular musical taste, we're merely providing a guide to point you in the direction of whatever show you might feel like going to on a given night.



### The Cowboy

Likes his riffs tight and his jeans even tighter. Can be spotted at classic rock shows and country line dance bars. Has a deep and abiding respect for Lynyrd Skynyrd and Toby Keith.



#### **Party Girl**

Frequents large clubs and anyplace with a DJ or good swing band – so long as there's dancing involved. Can sing along to Eminem, The Black-Eyed Peas and probably a butt rock ballad or two. Usually dressed to kill and often drunk by 9:30.



#### **Tattoo Guy**

Feels most comfortable in torn jeans and a cut-off t-shirt, both of which were probably ripped in a bar fight or moshpit. Body piercings, tattoos and/or mohawks are standard. Listens to anything loud, especially early Metallica, before they started to suck.



#### **Emo Dude**

Thinks he likes punk music, but really just listens to Green Day a lot. Enjoys coffee shop rock and anything you're likely to hear at Warped Tour. As long as power chords are involved in a big way, Emo Dude will listen to it.



#### The Hipster

Can be seen anywhere, at any time, especially coffee shops, wine bars and dives (the latter of which they frequent in an attempt to be ironic.) Is as likely to see Elvis Costello as an East Coast hip hop band you've never heard of.



#### **Rock Chick**

Borderline alcoholic, rock chick might cut loose and dance, or she might be "that one chick" you see at every show resting her head on the bar because she's about eight cocktails deep. Worships The Who and Flaming Lips equally.



#### The Greek

Packs large concert halls for top 40 bands, sugar pop, mainstream rap, or anything you're likely to see on MTV. Usually dressed in bright colors and accessorized more than a Swiss Army Knife.

# SIDEKICK

The Spokane SiDEKiCK, the area's most complete arts and entertainment guide, is published every two weeks on Thursday and distributed free to hundreds of local businesses throughout Spokane and the Spokane Valley. It's swell, really. However, given the unpredictable nature of live events, all information provided in this publication is subject to change without notice. The Spokane SiDEKiCK is not responsible for any errors or omissions, though we might feel kind of sheepish in the event of a glaring mistake.

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To submit an event to the **SiDEKICK** either go online to www. SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com and complete our online form, or send an email to events@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com. Be sure to tell us Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How much. The **SiDEKICK** lists all events (when we have room) free of charge.

info@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com - 509-216-5771 P.O. Box 141630, Spokane Valley, Wa 99214



About our theme:

The Midterm Elections

This issue is dedicated to the modern marvel of democracy known as the election. Many of you have undoubtedly mailed off your ballot already – since Washington is one of the few sane states which understands that our mail system has been pretty

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ausic
Pick of the Issue: Thee Emergencypg. 3
Reel Big Fishpg. 5
Mark Ward, Casual Lustpg. 6
Maxeen, The Outlinepg. 6
Jupiter Effectpg. 6
Walin' Jennyspg. 7
Alphabet Souppg. 7
Robin Eubankspg. 8
LA Symphonypg. 8
Stephen Kellogpg. 8
Sidetrack CD release party pg. 9
CD Review: Sidetrackpg. 9
Mel and Pam Tillispg. 10
<b>News &amp; Notes</b> pg. 10
Music Briefspg. 11
Calendarpgs. 12-13
Features
Karaoke listingspg. 14
Straight outta my asstrology pg. 14
Crossword Puzzlepg. 14
ood
Main Dish: Heroes & Legendspg. 15

 :		-	

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Reel Review: Science of Sleeppg. 16
Bottom Shelf: Syrianapg. 16
Off the Gridpg. 17
Pete's Possepg. 17
Theatre
Harveypg. 18
Late Nite Catechism IIpg. 18
Blue Door Galapg. 18
ComedySportzpg. 18
Moon Over Buffalopg. 19
Sports
NIT Season Tip Offpg. 20
Around the World in 80 Plays pg. 20
Community
Hangovers from the Other Washington $pg.\ 20$
SIDETRACKED: KYRSpg. 20
Girls Day Outpg. 20
Features
Letters From the Radical Middle pg. 21
Election Spreadpg. 21
Drink of the Issuepg. 23
Crossword Solutionspg. 23
We Salutepg. 23

reliable since sometime between the first and second world wars – so this is almost definitely too little too late, but the election frenzy is hitting a high for the year and we wanted to cash in. On the bottom of several pages, you'll find blurbs about some of the

Back Burner: Bolo's.....pg. 15

initiatives, while page 22 highlights the main candidates vying for the two major offices representing Spokanites in Washington D.C. Just a little extra info in case you couldn't quite bring yourself to read the whole pamphlet they sent out. Enjoy.





## Ska makes comeback at Big Easy

Reel Big Fish Streetlight Manifesto

Streetlight Manifes Suburban Legends, Westbound Train

Wed, Nov 8th, 7:30 p.m.

The Big Easy All Ages (509) 244-3279

SiDEKiCK Staff

Reel Big Fish, a so-called "third wave" ska band who's been on the national radar since their breakthrough hit "Sell Out" first appeared on MTV in 1997, continues to hold a fan base around the country and, increasingly, around the world (their global

appeal due in large part to the band's inclusion on an internationally released soccer video game soundtrack). They will be playing the Big Easy in Spokane on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> with fellow

ska rockers **Streetlight Manifesto**, **Suburban Legends** and **Westbound Train**.

Reel Big Fish, which has seen a rotating cast of trumpet players, drummers and various other musicians over the past several years, is touring in support of their recently released double-live CD *Our Live Album is Better than Your Live Album* which was made available this past August, packaged with the DVD *You're All in this Together*.

I really like their titles, indicative of what MTV describes as a "juvenile sense of humor," though they seem to mean that in the nicest way possible. Other Reel Big Fish songs include "Your Guts (I hate 'em)" and "Why Do all Girls think they're fat?," the latter of which was released on the record "Everything Sucks." It's that blunt irony that Reel Big Fish plays up in their live performances, specifically with their wide array of covers, mostly of new wave bands like The Cure and Duran Duran. To rip off a joke I heard once, they're so ironic

that they ironize irony.

To be a little more helpful, *Rolling Stone* described their music as "Laid-back horns creeping up on thick, reggae-rooted bass lines, leading up to a manic explosion of wild ska fun." This night of ska extravagance will be rounded out by a pair of East Coast groups, Streetlight Manifesto and

Westbound Train, along with the funky, metallic ska of Orange County, California's Suburban Legends.

Tickets to this show are \$16 ahead of time, or \$18 at the door, available now through www.ticketswest.com and all the usual TicketsWest outlets.

Doors open at 6:30, with the concert kicking off an hour later for this all ages show. For more information on all of Big Easy's upcoming performances, check out their ad on page 2, or visit their website at www. bigeasyconcerts.com.



#### **Another Real Big Fish**

The Whte Sturgeon is the largest freshwater fish in North America. A white sturgeon can weigh more than 1500 pounds (680 kg), and grow to 20 feet (6 m) in length, and can live 100 years or more. Oh, and you can find them in Washington's Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt. It prefers to eat dead fish, crustaceans, and mollusks instead of small children, but you never know.

#### **Initiative 933**

This is the one about property rights that sounds fair at first glance, but never really starts to make sense no matter how much you read it. In the end, it looks like staunch, anti-government people will be casting a Yes vote while environmentalists and people for responsible residential development will be voting No. Ultimately we can't make much sense out of the initiative and, though it'd probably be a good thing to have in certain situations, it sounds like it'll open a can of worms that will cause way more problems than it's worth. Our vote: No.





## **Jupiter Effect makes** Spokane rounds

By Brian Clark

Jupiter Effect, a funky, homegrown altrock band, is making the Spokane rounds once again, with a trio of gigs lined up over the first half of November. They will be playing at the Spread on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Blue Spark on Saturday, November 4th and Brooklyn Nights on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

This seven-piece band mixes a seemingly infinite amount of musical styles and influences into their own creation, pulling it off with a couple of saxophones, a trumpet and the usual guitar, drums, bass and vocals. It all adds up to a mix that Spokane fans have come to know and respect over the past years, especially in their live performances where they promise to do everything short of burning the venue down.

To nail their sound down a little more, if one were to create their music from scratch, I'd say take one part new wave rock, a dash of Cake, mix with ska, hip hop and the White Stripes and top with Weezer playing Beatles covers. Bake at 350 degrees and season to taste.

All concerts get underway at 9 p.m. and are 21+ only. The Wisebirds will be joining Jupiter Effect for their Spread (230 W. Riverside) performance. Blue Spark is located at the corner of Howard and Sprague in downtown Spokane, while Brooklyn Nights can be found at 122 S. Monroe, in the alley behind Far West Billiards. For more information on the band, venues and most shows going on around town, www. spokanesidekick.com should tell you everything you need to know.

#### Benign releases debut CD

Spokane hardcore metal band Benign invites everyone to help celebrate the release of their full-length debut album, Purify, Burn The Earth on Friday, November 3rd at The Blvd. The CD will feature the talent of new vocalist Kyle McCarty, who joins Ed Bedell (drums), Jason Vessar (guitar), and Paul Schopfer (bass) to round out the band.

Benign was formed in Spokane in January of 2001, and has been tearing up the Northwest metal scene ever since with their blend of harcore/alternative metal. They've released a handful of EPs throughout the years but Purify, Burn The Earth is Benign's first full-length CD. You can currently hear two sample tracks from the disk on the band's myspace page, www.myspace. com/benign.

This all-ages party kicks off at 8 p.m. and will feature musical performances by Concrete Grip, Malevolent, Deaconess Fatality, and, as mentioned, Benign. Cover for the show is \$5 at the door. The Blvd is located at 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. For more information call (509) 455-7826.

## Maxeen rocks the Big Dipper with The Outline

#### SiDEKiCK Staff

RAWK the Inland Northwest is back after a successful Fall Showcase to bring Spokane an all ages concert featuring national and local talent. The evening is headlined by Warner Bros. Record's Maxeen, Fearless Record's The Outline and local acts Not For Now and If You're Lucky. The concert takes place on Sunday, Nov 12th at The Big Dipper, located on the corner of 2nd and Washington in downtown Spokane. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the show starting at 7. Tickets are \$8 at the door (\$7 with a show flyer).

Headlining this tour is Maxeen, a threepiece alternative/rock/indie band from Los Angeles. With a new Warner Bros. CD, "Hello Echo," pending release (a limited tour edition will be available at the show) Maxeen has graduated into the big time. Formed in 2002, the band released a self-titled project in 2003 and was quickly signed to Warner Bros in 2004. They will show Spokane everything they've learned from touring with The Killers, Bad Religion, and Modest Mouse, to name a few.

Joining Maxeen on their Western US tour is fellow LA rockers The Outline.



Maxeen

w/ The Outline, Not For Now, If You're Lucky

Sun, Nov 12th, 7 p.m

The Big Dipper All Ages (509) 280-1904

photo courtesy of Warner Bros Records

Simply put, they're really good – probably better than the headliners, in my opinion. Playing a raw form of indie-rock mixed with some electrosynth, The Outline is

able to capture a sense of urgency in their performance; no matter how hard I try, I can't ignore their music. They really are like The Killers, only they rock just a little bit harder.

Lending support for these two touring acts are Lewiston's Not For Now and If You're Lucky out of Chewelah. Not For Now has come a long way since appearing at The Warped Tour in Boise this summer. As of Oct. 18th, their new CD "Your Only Forgotten Funeral" is available online at

the band's web store. For more information look on their MySpace page at www. myspace.com/notfornow.

Opening the show is If You're Lucky,

recent participants in the Fall Showcase, who will be performing without two of their members due to a car wreck. Luckily vocalist/bass player Michael Grimm has made a

recovery sufficient enough to resume his duties with the band and will be joining

them at the show.

For more information, or to hear samples from participating bands, look online at www.spokanesidekick.com. For more on upcoming RAWK shows, their website can be found at www.rawkonline.com.

## Portland's Casual Lust joins Mark Ward at Caterina

SiDEKiCK Staff

Many things go well with red wine - chocolate, art, red meat, cheese, and songs about heartbreak, to name a few. Caterina Winery serves all of the above, with the exception of red meat (unless you consider emo kids as red meat), as they play host to local singer/songwriter Mark Ward on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 p.m. Ward will be Thur, Nov 2nd, 8 p.m. joined by The Casual Lust from Caterina Winery all ages (509) 328-5069 Portland and Zavala Lopez from

Mark Ward is a talented musician whose music offers emotional sincerity in the subjects of life and love. He has a folksyacoustic sound that is sweetened with wellwritten, soul-driven lyrics He is jokingly self-characterized as sounding "like a guy who gets dumped a lot and knows how to play guitar," but don't let this fool you - Mark is well-received and has a growing fan base throughout the Inland Northwest.

Joining Ward is The Casual Lust,

an indie, alt-country collaboration from Portland. Comprised of Yes Alexander and Seth Syberg, the pair are kind of like the White Stripes, only on a very slow but steady red wine binger. Oh, and like the White Stripes, they are not together – the band encourages people to hit on them.

Based on the music, you can see why;

they are bummed - majorly bummed – so, please, go give them a hug. With The Casual Lust, velvet vocals are contrasted with rough undertones. The combination will make that painful

ex-relationship surface in your mind, to the point where you'll be begging for someone to pass that bottle of wine.

Opening the night is local act Zavala Lopez, who are also quite melancholy. They could probably use a good hug... or a puppy. While the band is completely lacking any Zavalas, it does have two Lopezes (Nate and Danny) as well as an Adam David, Nick Treadwell, and Kyle T. Taylor. The quintet plays an acoustic set

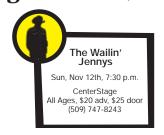
filled with songs of love and loss that sort of remind me of Dashboard Confessionals, though they describe themselves as "a mix between a hot knife through butter and getting hit in the chest by a Buick." I don't recommend collisions with a Buick, but putting a hot knife through butter is a strangely therapeutic experience – you should try it sometime.

Caterina Winery is located at 905 N. Washington Street in the old Broadview Dairy building. Music starts at 8 p.m. and is open to all ages. Cover is only \$4 at the door. To hear samples of all of the bands playing, log onto www.spokanesidekick. com where you will find everything you ever wanted to know,



Mark Ward The Casual Lust, Zavala Lopez

## Wailin' Jennys give Canada a good name, eh





#### SiDEKiCK Staff

Generally I like Canada. Some very good things have come from our neighbor to the north - things like Kokanee, The zipper, and Alex Trebek. On the other hand, they also gave us hockey, Keanu Reeves and Bryan Adams. Bryan Adams alone should secure Canada a spot on the Axis of Evil. Fortunately for Canada I heard something today that might just make up for the "Summer of 69." The new factor in the Canadian situation is the Wailin' Jennys, a three piece folk rock band from Winnipeg that does the country proud.

The Wailin' Jennys are Annabelle Chvostek, Nicky Mehta and Ruth Moody. All established singer-songwriters in their own right, together they're winning fast fans all over the world with their powerful singing and thoughtful, rootsy songwriting. The group will perform on Sunday, November 12th at CenterStage. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$20 in advance from TicketsWest or \$25 at the door.

The Wailin' Jennys began as a happy accident, when Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody and Cara Luft played together for

they spend almost as

much time deciding on a band name as they do writ-

ing music. To justify time spent, the SiDEKiCK will

pick one group perform-

them the title of Best Band Name for the issue.

The Winner...

The Wailin'

**Jennys** 

Folk / Acoustic / Folk Rock

Look above - we wrote a

whole article about them

because their name is so cool. Ok, it's because they

are good musicans but

who's keeping track really?

Did you know that their name is a pun on Waylon

Jennings. Yeah I know it's obvious but I thought I'd

check anyways.

a one-time-only performance at a guitar shop in Winnipeg. They had so much fun, and such obvious chemistry on stage that they decided to pursue a career together. The name of the band is a pun on the name of American country singer Waylon Jennings, by the way, in case you didn't pick that one up on your own. Cara Luft left the band to return to her solo career but was replaced with Montreal songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Annabelle Chvostek, whose sultry alto voice was the perfect complement to The Jennys' signature vocal sound.

The Jennys are able to combine a traditional folk sensibility with a more contemporary alt-country rock sound that can entertain both me and my grandmother. They kind of sound like Alison Krauss if she was Canadian, a little bit cooler and cloned twice. This universal appeal is perhaps why they have become a frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's National Public Radio program "A Prairie Home Companion."

CenterStage is located at 1017 W 1st Avenue in downtown Spokane, next to Far West Billiards. For more information, and to hear samples from the Wailin' Jennys, please log onto SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com.

#### **BEST BAND** NAME "THE E LIST" When a new band forms,

Here, then, is our offering - and one reader's opinion - for "The E List," in no particular order:

#### ing in Spokane during the **OUR PICKS** run of the issue and award

Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometimes Beck

Everyday I Love You Less and Less Kaiser Chiefs

**Everlong**Foo Fighters

**English Girls Approximately** Ryan Adams

Elanaor Rigby The Beatles

This week's Reader Picks were sent by Julie Smith. For sharing her opinion, she gets a pair of tickets to any upcoming Bravo Entertainment show of her choice.

Email your five favorite songs starting with the letter F to info@spokanesidekick.com and we'll print one of the responses alongside our picks in the next issue. If we pick yours, we'll give you some free stuff.

# ALPHABET SOUP

Welcome to part five of our 26 part series where we count down our five favorite songs starting with every letter of the alphabet.

# **READER PICKS** Everyone Deserves Music Michael Franti Electric Blue Extraordinary Girl Green Day Eyes of a Child Soul Asylum Everyday is a Winding Road

**NEVER A COVER** SMOKER FRIENDLY OUTDOOR PATIO COLLEGE LONG ISLAND NIGHT All Thursday, Every Thursday \$3.50 Long Islands \$2.50 Wells, Karaoke starts at 9 p.m., Beer Pong starts at 10 p.m. Must be College Student w/ ID for drink discounts **\$TWO BUCK TUESDAYS** Two Tacos and a pint of PBR for \$2 Margaritas only \$2 Karaoke with Diane start at 9:30 p.m. **KLUB MERQ** Friday Nights 9:30 p.m. to close Saturday Nights 9:30 p.m. to close Dance your Nights away SPOKANE'S BEST FEMALE IMPERSONATORS Saturday nights 10:30 Staring Lexi Lewis Sapphire w/ The Merquettes The Power of Three KARAOKE Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday nights 9 p.m. 706 N. MONROE ST. 325-3871 3 PM - 2 AM EVERYDAY

## Robin Eubanks gives free jazz workshow

Robin Eubanks

ith The Whitwor Jazz Ensemble

Sat, Nov 11th, 8 p.m.

Cowles Auditorium

All Ages (509) 777-3280

SiDEKiCK Staff

Grammy winning trombonist **Robin Eubanks** will be performing with the
Whitworth Jazz Ensemble on Saturday,
November 11<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with a free,
on-campus jazz workshop he'll be giving
the day before.

Eubanks has played with everyone from the Talking Heads to Barbara Streisand. He continues to tour regularly with the highly acclaimed Dave Holland Quintet and Big Band, of

which he is an original member. Basically, he travels the world, plays an instrument and style of music that he loves, and is well respected in the jazz world. Seemingly everything is going well for this talented musician, which Whitworth Jazz Ensemble Director Dan Keberle calls a "virtuoso."

The only problem is that Robin's brother is Kevin Eubanks, the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*'s bandleader. Rumor has it that things get pretty heated every year around the Thanksgiving table when Kevin has a little too much wine and starts boasting about being on TV "every goddam night," to which older brother Robin

routinely brings up his one *Saturday Night Live* appearance. (This almost certainly doesn't happen.)

Robin Eubanks special guest appearance with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble will get underway at 8 p.m. in the Cowles Auditorium on the Whitworth campus. Tickets

are \$10 for general admission or \$5 for Whitworth students, available ahead of time through ticketswest.com or by phoning the college's Music Department Office at (509) 777-3280.

Tickets will also be made available at the door.

The day before the con-

cert, Robin will generously be holding a jazz clinic that's free and open to anyone and everyone willing to attend. He'll be discussing music career options and answering questions about jazz improvisation and general musical creativity. The workshop begins at 5:15 p.m. in the Whitworth Music Building Recital Hall.

For more information, Dan Keberle can be reached at (509) 777- 4582, or check out Robin Eubanks website at www.robineubanks.com, though hopefully you could have figured that one out on your own.



Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers photo by Benj Gershman

# Stephen Kellogg showcases his songwriting skills at Bourbon Street

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers / Ari Hest, Kyle Raibko

Fri, Nov 3th, 8 p.m.

Bourbon Street All Ages, \$10 (509) 244-3279

SiDEKiCK Staff

My favorite part of being involved with the SiDEKiCK is making inane comparisons between bands and the world of pop culture in some sort of attempt to describe what a band sounds like. **Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers** has proven my favorite so far – granted it's made easier when the mu-

sic is good... really good. This acoustic-rock quartet out of Massachusetts will perform on Friday, November 3rd at Bourbon Street Uptown Food and Spirits, located next to the Big Easy.

So, here we go – Stephen Kellogg's songwriting is part

Counting Crows sprinkled with a little Bon Jovi brought to a boil under a flame of Sheryl Crow. They are like Van Morrison with better articulation – like Elvis Costello without the vitriol – like Ryan Adams if someone gave him a puppy and a hug – like Uncle Tupelo minus the South divided by Willie Nelson.

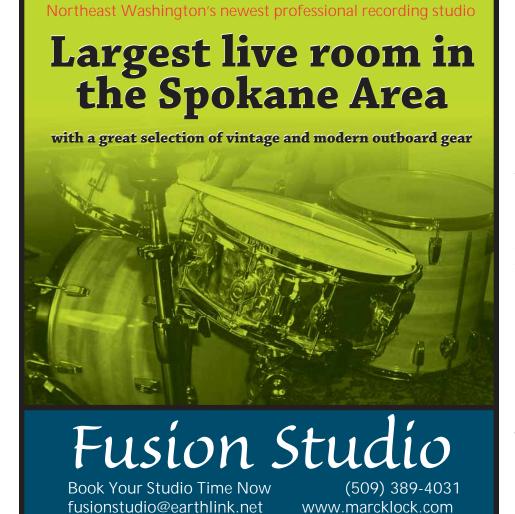
Here comes my favorite – I found it on the band's Myspace page. Try and close your eyes picturing Mick Jagger having sex with The Little Engine That Could, thus having a four-headed baby named Stephen Kellogg and The Sixers. With their parents off to work and no babysitter, imagine the mutant child having to grow up in front of a television. A television playing only reruns of The Facts of Life and a worn out beta max tape of The Last Waltz.

In all seriousness, Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers are one of the best bands I've heard in a long time. Their songwriting is real and the music is relaxed yet passion-

> ate. Like all good songwriters, Kellogg makes it look easy. He explores the thorny geography of modern relationships with uncommon insight and understanding. His lyrics use ordinary language, but every song contains a flash of insight

or a turn of phrase that will jolt listeners into an altered state.

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers will be joined by singer/songwriters **Ari Hest** and **Kyle Raibko**, who each deserve an article on their own but we just don't have room. Just know that they are both masters of the guitar and the pen. The show starts at 8 p.m. and is open to all ages. Tickets are \$10 from TicketsWest, either online or at any TicketsWest location. Bourbon Street is located at 916 W. First Street in downtown Spokane.



Studio owned and operated by professional working guitarist

## Locke shows his love for all music

Locke

ines Collide mic Outlaws

Sat, Nov 4th, 9 p.m.

18+, \$5 (509) 455-7826

SiDEKiCK Staff

The first thing to talk about when the topic of homegrown rap artist Locke and the Chris Wilson Five is under discussion is that the

dudes responsible clearly love all kinds of music. With roots that go back to Locke's (a.k.a. Andrew Walters) high school garage band, and a love for all kinds of rock 'n roll and pretty much everything from Johnny Cash to James Coltrain – he utilizes a bit

of all of it in his songs. Make no mistake, though, this is straight up hip-hop. The influences just happen to give it a well-rounded appeal that reaches outside the rap crowd a little bit.

Locke has moved on to Seattle but is returning to Spokane for a gig at The Blvd. on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. **Lines Collide** will join the headliners for the show, which gets underway at 9 p.m. for a \$5 cover. Admission is for those aged 21 and over only. For more information, visit www.spokanesidekick.com.

## This isn't your typical symphony

SiDEKiCK Staff

**LA Symphony**, an organic eight-piece hip-hop outfit from – well, Los Angeles, obviously – will be performing at the Spread on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The band is probably best recognized by their playful sound that is intentionally created to be relatable across the board. They sum up this philosophy nicely on their website (www.lasymphony.com), writing "Whatever is on our heart, whether it be

laundry, girlfriend or God, we just speak it and don't try to hold back. We try to be as honest as we can, and we try to connect with the common man – from the dude that's 14 who has a crush on a girl in Carson, to the executive sniffing cocaine who wants to stop, and to the little cheerleader girl in Arkansas. We want them all to relate. We want it to be that universal."

The result is a sound that builds on the diversity of Los Angeles and scatters it throughout the country, creating an energetic catalogue of songs that are lyrically and musically solid across the board. They refuse to get pulled into sensationalistic storytelling, opting instead for personal expression, which you could probably also describe as honesty. You know the old saying about honesty being the best policy – well it certainly seems to be with LA Symphony. Their music *is* universal, and – if they ever figure out their distribution problems – they could be a force to reckon with on the national stage for

L.A. Symphony
(Rap / Hip-Hop)

Tues, Nov 14th, 9 p.m.
The Spread
(509) 456-4515
21+ only

years to come.

Cover for this 21+ show is
\$7 and gets going at around
9 p.m. on Tuesday, November
14<sup>th</sup>. The Spread, in the build-

ing formerly known as the B-Side, can be found at 231 W. Riverside between Bernard and Browne in downtown Spokane. For more on all upcoming performances at The Spread visit www.



Sidetrack releases new CD at CenterStage

SiDEKiCK Staff

You know those friends you have who are always happy? They're the ones who, even when they're in a bad mood, seem to be perfectly fine under the surface, like there's nothing truly wrong and they're just going through the motions because they're so routinely happy that it's getting tiresome or something. Usually, I'd just say screw those people, because nobody should be

that happy all the time (that's why our generation is afraid of clowns, I think). Except that five such Spokanites have figured out how to put that emotion to good use, channeling the energy and funneling it into a feel-good,

laid-back album of ceaseless good-times. The band is **Sidetrack**, and the album is *On the Flipside*, which will be officially released at a party for that very purpose on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at CenterStage.

Now I don't mean to insinuate that Sidetrack is one-dimensional; their country-rockabilly-swing sound is rooted in a number of musical genres, just that they strike me as a bunch of guys who truly love playing together – and there's no room for exploring
personal
hardships
when
you're having such a
good time.
All their music,
across the board, is
intentionally crafted to

Sidetrack CD Release Party

Fri, Nov 3rd, 7 p.m

CenterStage (509) 747-8243

All Ages, Free

be a danceable and family-friendly mix of what I'd describe as bluesy folk rock swing.

This CD release party will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of CenterStage, 1017 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Entrance is absolute-

ly free and food and drinks (something more along the lines of lemonade than whiskey) will be served. For more information, check out www.spokanesidekick. com. Just click on the *bands* link on our homepage and you'll be directed to a fairly extensive database of local artists, with the ability to listen to their songs, check out their contact info, website addresses and MySpace pages, and generally just gather all the info you can handle about the Spokane music scene.





A moment of silence please for the Empyrean ... Wait for it ... wait for it ... OK, carry on. As many of you undoubtedly know, the Empyrean Coffee House has sadly been forced to close its doors. Their scheduled shows have either been cancelled or scattered to a variety of other venues around town, so check out www. spokanesidekick.com if you're looking for relocated performances and other content along similar lines ...

Spokane's Gay Lesbian Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Film Festival will take place from Friday, November 3rd through Sunday the 5th, starting at either 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. (or both), depending on the day. A number of short films and documentaries on a range of gay-related subjects will screen at the festival throughout the weekend. Screenings will be held at the Riverpoint EWU Auditorium at 668 N. Riverpoint Blvd. Ticket information and a full schedule of movies can be found at www.spokanefilmfest.org ...

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) will be hosting part three of their ongoing Palestine - the Forgotten People series at the Parish Hall of St. Ann's Catholic Church, located at 2120 W. First Ave. in Spokane. Judith Kolokoff, the tour coordinator of Seattle's Jewish Voice for Peace will join two battle-tested Israeli soldiers in a candid discussion about what it's really like in the occupied Palestine territories. This cultural event will take place on Thursday, November 9th at 7 p.m. For more information, log onto www.pjals.net ...

RAWK the Inland Northwest's Fall **Showcase** went off without a hitch a little while back, and Fusion Studios was there to judge the participating high school bands, offering studio recording time to the ones they deemed the best. Catacomb earned three full days of recording as the best all-around band at the show, according to the studio, with If You're Lucky and The Gutterballs receiving one day of recording as the events' runners-up. For more on Fusion Studios, check out their ad on page 8 ...

November 7th is bound to be the perfect day for one or two geeks in Spokane. Not only is it Election Day, but there's also a lecture on dinosaurs that night on the SCC campus! Actually, I think I'm the dork, as I merely mentioned that due to a childish affinity that everyone at the SiDEKiCK holds for dinosaurs. In fact, stay tuned next week as we'll unveil our new mascot for the paper. (HINT: It's a dinosaur [Apparently I don't understand how hints work, as I just flat out gave you the answer.]) ...

## Like Father Like Daughter The Tillis Duo comes to Northern Quest

Pam & Mel Tillis Sat, Nov 4th, 8:30 p.m. Northern Quest Casino All Ages (509) 242-7000



The father/daughter team of Mel and Pam Tillis will be playing Spokane for the first time together, with a concert at the Northern Quest Pend Oreille Pavilion on Saturday, November 4th. Boasting two generations of charting country songs between them, the pair will be reincarnating their successful hits from decades past for this one-night only performance.

Mel Tillis has been singing for a long time. A really long time. Virtually anonymous since the late 80s, the guy's got a slew of hits to dispense

when he takes the stage. He's been a mem-

ber of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame for a scant 34 years, and was named the Country Music Association's (CMA) Entertainer of the Year as recently as 1976. In addition to his own songs that he dispenses with a trademark stutter - most

famously "I Ain't Never" - he's also responsible for writing Kenny Rogers' 1969 hit "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," amongst others.

As a side note, Tillis also holds a strange affinity for Burt Reynolds movies, appearing

alongside the mustached man in Smokey and the Bandit and Cannonball Run, alongside scattered other film performances. (As a side note to the side note, can we all agree that Miller Light's Man Law ad campaign that Reynolds appears in is the best promotional campaign we've seen so far this century? Somebody should do a poll on this.)

Moving on, his daughter Pam apparently inherited her father's songwriting gene, penning popular songs for everyone from Conway Twitty to Chaka Khan before scoring a hit of her own. Thrown into the music business at an early age, she started singing at the Grand Ole Opry at 8 years-old and, after a brief foray into pop music in the early 80s, reacquainted with her country roots, culminating with the CMA's Female Vocalist of the Year in 1994, interspersed with 13 top 10 hits over an 18 year period.

This Saturday, November 2nd concert gets underway at 8:30 p.m. in Airway Heights at the Northern Quest Casino, N 100 Hayford near the corner of Hayford and Sprague. Tickets are \$45 and \$55, available at the Northern Quest box office at (509) 340-6700 or through www. ticketswest.com and all their various outlets. For directions and additional info about the show or venue, visit www.northernquest.com.

#### **Music Briefs**

#### It's Good to Be Maestro

Rich Little, the so called "Maestro of Impressions," will also be performing at Northern Quest's Pend Oreille Pavilion, with a show on Election Day (Tuesday, November 7th for those of you who have been paying no attention whatsoever to the rest of the paper). Little, one of the few Canadian artifacts who's funny in more than an unintentional way, has impersonated countless celebrities over the years, most famously in the 70s when he made the television rounds as Richard Nixon.

He's leaving his current residence in Las Vegas, where he regularly performs, in order to entertain an Inland Northwest audience on Tuesday, November 7th at 2 p.m. Tickets are set at \$35 and \$45. For venue and ticket buying information, see the Tillis family fun article above.

#### It's Good to be Chief

OK, so this was supposed to go on the sports page, but we ran out of room, so we're lazily filling a hole here:

In addition to the NIT tourney they're host-

ing in mid-November, the Spokane Arena is also housing a number of upcoming Spokane Chiefs games. The Chiefs are 5-7 heading into November, having a hard time closing games out, as three of their seven losses have come in overtime. As a result, they sit in fourth place in the five team US division of the Western Hockey League.

Here's a list of the Chief's upcoming contests, with home games in caps

WED, NOV. 1st VS. PORTLAND WINTER HAWKS FRI, NOV. 3<sup>rd</sup> VS. KELOWNA ROCKETS Sat, Nov. 4th at Tri-City Americans Tues, Nov. 7th at Portland Winter Hawks Wed, Nov. 8th at Kelowna Rockets FRI, NOV. 10<sup>th</sup> VS. RED DEER REBELS SAT, NOV. 11th VS. TRI CITY AMERICANS FRI, NOV.  $17^{th}$  VS. LETHBRIDGE HURRICANES SAT, NOV. 18th VS. KAMLOOPS BLAZERS

Games face off at 7 p.m., with the Arena opening up at 6:30. Tickets run between \$8 and \$14, available through www.ticketswest.

com or through the Spokane Chiefs Office at (509) 535-PUCK. For more information, visit www.spokanechiefs.com.

#### It's Good to Be King

The King of Candlesticks, also known as Tom, will be playing at the Caterina Winery on Thursday, November 9th. While his recordings are rough, due in no small part to their being recorded on a 4-track and a Mac, the songs themselves are crisp - a pop rock sound where you're never sure what chord he's playing, but you're pretty sure you like it. I get the impression that he wants to rock out a lot harder with a full band and all, but this is what he has and he makes the most out of it, bleeding his guitar and sort of wispy vocals for all they're worth.

Philip Gregory will open the evening with his pop friendly singer/songwriter set. The show gets underway at the Caterina Winery, 905 N. Washington, at 8 p.m. for a \$3 cover. For more on the performing bands, and lots of other neat stuff, check out the online version of this paper at www.spokanesidekick.com.

#### **Initiative 937**

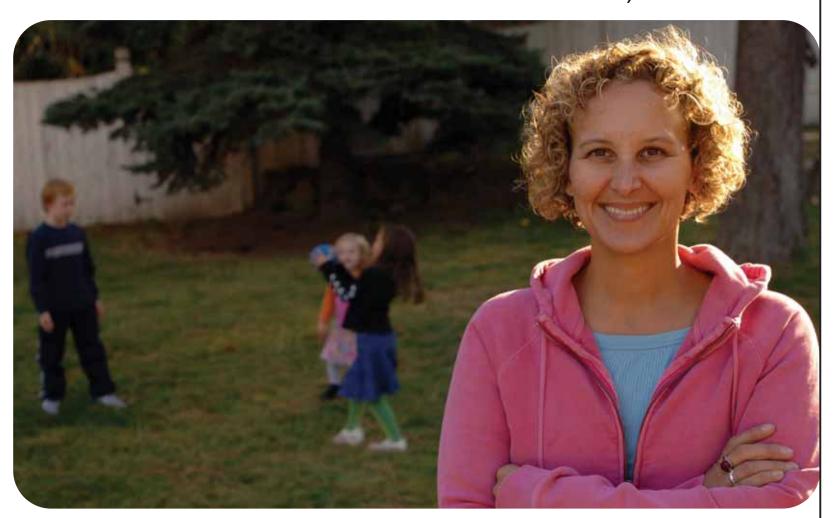
This is the one where power companies would be required by law to meet stricter conservation standards. Basically, any utilities provider that serves more than 25,000 customers would be required to reach a conservation target by 2010, which they say will not only be good

for the environment, but that it'll save Washington residents some money in the process. Opponents, on the other hand, sight that blindly meeting conservation standards isn't the right way to go about responsible environmental practices, and predict that enacting this initiative will wind up costing the consumers millions.

While the economic ramifications are

unclear - and it's always a little dodgy when the government tells someone how to run their business - it's clear that many of these companies aren't going to take any environmental responsibility unless they're required to by law. Plus, I had a bad experience with a power company once, and now I want them all to suffer.

## SARAH PICKERING, SPOKANE



You want to talk about "Family Values"? I can't explain to my kids why it's OK for us to choose to start a war and kill civilians. I can't explain why it's OK for America to torture prisoners. I can't explain why the rest of the world seems to hate America. I don't want to explain. I want my country back. That's why this year, I'll vote with the Democrats.



This year make a difference, vote with the Democrats.



SPOKANE DEMOCRATS

Visit SpokaneDemocrats.org or call (509) 324-8525

PAID FOR BY THE SPOKANE COUNTY DEMOCRATS, PO BOX 20003, SPOKANE, WA 99204



## November 2nd - 15th



Riverpoint Auditorium

## Thursday • 2

## Friday • 3

## Saturday • 4



Buy Sell Trade

25% Off Used Records Nov 13th - 25th

1610 N Monroe (509) 325-1914



#### COLLEGE NIGHT All Thursday, Every Thursday



Karaoke starts at 9 p.m. Beer Pong starts at 10 p.m.

#### **NEVER A COVER**

706 N. MONROE ST. 325-3871 3 PM - 2 AM EVERYDAY

Tracy Carr, solo guitar

5:00 PM ella's Supper Club Nintendo Fusion Tour fea. Hawthorne

------ Music -----

Neights, Relient K, Emery, Plain White T's, The Sleeping

5:30 PM Big Easy Concert House Open Mic Night 6:00 PM Ionic Burrito Whitworth Jazz Combo Concert

Whitworth College 8:00 PM Mark Ward w/ Casual Lust, Zavala Lopez 8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Paul Michel w/ The Receiver\*

8:00 PM Blvd., The 7th Degree, Jazz Quartet\*\*

8:00 PM ella's Supper Club 9:00 PM Jazz Jam\*\* Brooklyn Nights Nathan Corder\*\*

9:00 PM Far West Billiards Youngfound Hip-Hop Showcase\*\*

Spread, The

9:00 PM The Bobby Lindstrom Band\*\*

9:00 PM Bluz at the Bend

DJ Supervillain 9:00 PM

Prago Argentine Cafe 'Pete's Posse' premiere party w/ M-Dub\* 9:30 PM Blvd., The

Club U\*

Ladies Night w/ DJ\*\*

10:00 PM Talotti's 211

-----Theater / ETC -----Isn't It Romantic

7:30 PM Spokane Civic Theater You Can't Take It with You

Spartan Theater (SFCC) 7:30 PM Comedy Show

8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

College Long Island Night\*\* 4:00 PM

-Merq Liquid Lounae The Flying Irish Run

5:45 PM

O'Doherty's Irish Grill Lecture: A Thread of Grace: Christians and Jews in Nazi-Occupied Italy

7:30 PM Whitworth College Book Reading: 'The Willow Field'

7:30 PM Auntie's Bookstore Lecture: 'A Thread of Grace: Christians and Jews in Nazi-Occupied Italy'

Whitworth College 7:30 PM Free Tango Lessons

CenterStage Theater

The Art of Dean Reiner w/ DJ Supervillain

Spokane's 8th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival Riverpoint Auditorium

----- Music -----Tickets on Sale: Tech N9ne (1/18/2007)

Big Easy Concert House
Don Goodwin, solo piano
Sidetrack CD Polar Sidetrack CD Release Party 7:00 PM CenterStage Allen Stone w/ Kristen Marlo 7:00 PM Ionic Burrito Redbone w/ Comedian Gary Mule Deer

Coeur d'Alene Casino Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers w/ Ari Hest, Kyle

8:00 PM Bourbon Street anna Lynea 8:00 PM
Night Hawk\*\* 8:00 PM Hedge House, The Benign CD Release Show w/ Concrete Grip, Ma-

levolent, Deaconess Fatality 8:00 PM
Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band\*\*

Mr G's Bar & Grill Don Emerson\*\* 9:00 PM Peacock Room Dan Purser CD Release Party\*\* 9 PM Blue Spark Somebody's Hero\*\* 9 PM Sammy Eubanks Band\*\* 9:00 PM Nova\*\* 9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans Biafoot Pub Nova\*\* 9:00 PM Bolo's Bar & Grill
Wisebirds w/ Jupiter Effect\*\* 9:00 PM Spread, The The Bobby Lindstrom Band\*\* 9 PM BluzattheBend 7th Degree, Jazz Quartet\*\* 9:00 PM

DJ Bee\*\* 9:00 PM DJ Bee\*\* 9:00 PM Cat Country Live DJ\*\* 9:00 PM Peking North

Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM Merq Liquid Lounge DJ Loud Richard\*\* 10:00 PM Talotti's 211

----- Theater -----You Can't Take It with You

7:30 PM Spartan Theater (SFCC) Isn't It Romantic 8:00 PM Spokane Civic Theater The Wedding Show 8:00 PM Blue Door Theater ComedySportz: The Original Show

ComedySportz Uncle D's Comedy Club Bluz at the Bend

8:00 PM Comedy Show 7:00, 9:45 PM Book Reading; Mary Doria Russell, 'The Sparrow, Children of God'

Whitworth College 7:30 PM Book Reading: 'Inhabited World by David Long' Auntie's Bookstore

----- Other-----

Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Kelowna 7:00 PM Spokane Arena Wine Class: Ten Under Twenty\*\*

7:00 PM Rocket Market Simply Tango Practice 8:30 PM Simply Dance Studio Dempsey's Drag Show\*\* 10:00 PM Dempseys

Spokane's 8th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival 3:00, 7:00 PM

South Perry Neighborhood Arts Show 10:00 AM Liberty Park Florist

----- Music ------Joe Kloess, solo jazz piano 5:45 PM Vinegar Flats Tub Ensemble 7:00 PM Matt Russell w/ Saturday's Gone 7PM Ionic Burrito Daz & Kurupt Dogg Pound Weekend

Big Easy Concert House Kristen Marlo w/ Tyler Burnett, Allen Stone 8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Locke w/ Lines Collide, Atomic Outlaws\* 8:00 PM

Blvd., The Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band\*\*

Mr G's Bar & Grill 8:00 PM Pam & Mel Tillis 8:30 PM Northern Quest Casino Don Emerson\*\* 9:00 PM Peacock Room o:30 PM 9:00 PM Jupiter Effect\*\* Peacock Room 9:00 PM Blue Spark Somebody's Hero\*\* 9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans Nino Moschella w/ Lions in the Street\*\*

Blue Canoe\*\* 9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights Sammy Eubanks Band\*\* 9:00 PM Bigfoot Pub 
 Nova\*\*
 9:00 PM
 Bolo's Bar & Grill

 Tamarack Ridge\*\*
 9:00 PM
 Slab Inn
 Teratologist w/ Doom Lit Sky, Age of Nefilim\*\*

9:00 PM Ichabod's Fast Bobby Lindstrom Band\*\* 9:00 PM Bluz at the Bend 7th Degree, Jazz Quartet\*\* 9:00 PM 9:00 PM Raw Sushi DJ Marcus Randall DJ Bee\*\* 9:00 PM
Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM
The Dance Factory\*\* 10:00 PM Peking North Merq Lounge Big Easy Mexican Dance Party\* 10:00 PM Bourbon Street
DJ Loud Richard\*\* 10:00 PM Talotti's 211

----- Theater -----Comedy Show 7:00 PM Brick Wall You Can't Take It with You

7:30 PM Spartan Theater (SFCC)
Isn't It Romantic 8:00 PM Spokane Civic Theater ComedySportz: The Original Show

8:00 PM ComedySportz
Uncle D's Comedy Club 8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend Comedy: Body Massage w/ Barats, Bereta, Strine, ComedySportz and Strine 10:00 PM

----- Sports -----Cougar Football vs N Colorado

2:00 PM Martin Stadium (WSU) Simply Dance Studio

Saturday Night Salsa 8:00 PM

Cold Connections Workshop\*

10:00 AM Spokane Arts School Game Show Night 8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend Dempsey's Drag Show\*\* Dempseys Brass Rail

Drag Show: Lexi Sapphire w/ the Merquettes\* Merq Liquid Lounge

## Sunday • 5

## Spokane's 8th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival

3:00 PM Riverpoint Auditorium ----- Music -----Dog House Blues\*\*

3:00 PM Mr G's Bar & Grill **Angel Travis** 7:00 PM Europa Pizzaria

Jeremy Camp w/ Hawk Nelson, Adie 7:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center Lovedrug 7:30 PM Bourbon Street

Cary Fly's Jam Session\*\* 9:00 PM Bluz at the Bend

----- Other-----You Can't Take It with You

2:00 PM Spartan Theater (SFCC) Isn't It Romantic

Spokane Civic Theater 2:00 PM Dempsey's Brass Rail Bingo 4:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail

Kill the Keg (\$1 pints until gone)\*\* 6:00 PM Blue Spark

Brick Wall Comedy Club Open Mic Brick Wall Comedy Club, The 8:00 PM

Study Break College Night Raw Sushi & Island Grill 9:00 PM

## Monday • 6

#### Family Guy Marathon 10:00 AM Audition: Romeo & Juliet

1:00 PM Spartan Theater (SFCC) Fantasy Football Lounge

5:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill Audition: Barefoot in the Park

Spokane Civic Theater Texas Hold'em Tournament

8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The 7:30 PM Bourbon Street Spokane's Original Open Mic Night\*\*

9:15 PM Blue Spark

#### A Note on Age Restrictions

\* = 18 + show

\*\* = 21+ show

The SiDEKiCK does its best to distinguish between all ages shows and adult shows but we do make mistakes. Please call the venue and check their age policy for a show before you travel any great distance.

## Tuesday • 7

#### David Brodeur's 'Lubricating the War Machine' ------ Music -----

Danny McCollim, solo jazz piano

6:00, 8:00 PM ella's Supper Club

Rock Coffee Open Mic 7:00 PM Caterina Winery Gwar w/ The Red Chord, Municipal Waste

7:30 PM Big Easy Concert House Open Mic Night\* 9:00 PM Blvd., The Old School DJ Mix 9:00 PM Raw Sushi Reggae Night\*\* 9:00 PM Spread, The DJ James Pants\*\* 9:00 PM Baby Bar

----- Other-----National College Fair 9 AM Convention Center Audition: Romeo & Juliet 1:00 PM Spartan Theater (SFCC)

Comedy: Rich Little 2:00 PM Northern Quest Casino \$Two Buck Tuesday\*\* 4:00 PM Merq Lounge Audition: Barefoot in the Park

Spokane Civic Theater Lecture: 'Catastrophic Extinction of the Dinosaurs' Lair Auditorium (SCC) Book Reading: His Favorite Wife: 'Trapped in Po-

lygamy by Susan Ray Schmidt' 7:30 PM **Pub Trivia**\*\* 9:15 PM Auntie's Bookstore Blue Spark Beer Pong Tournament\*\* 10:00 PM

## Wednesday • 8

----- Music -----

Shane Evans 11:30 AM Spokane Falls Community College Darin Schaffer, Solo Piccolo Bass 6:00 PM ella's Supper Club

The Viktor Navorski Swing Band CenterStage Theater 7:00 PM

Reel Big Fish w/ Streetlight Manifesto, Suburban Legends, Westbound Train 7:30 PM Big Easy Concert House

Open Mic Night\*\* 8:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Open Turntable Night 9:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill Live Music Wednesdays

9:00 PM Bourbon Street The Return of Soup\*\*

----- Other-----Lecture: Hemispheres of Hope: Bold-spirited Living

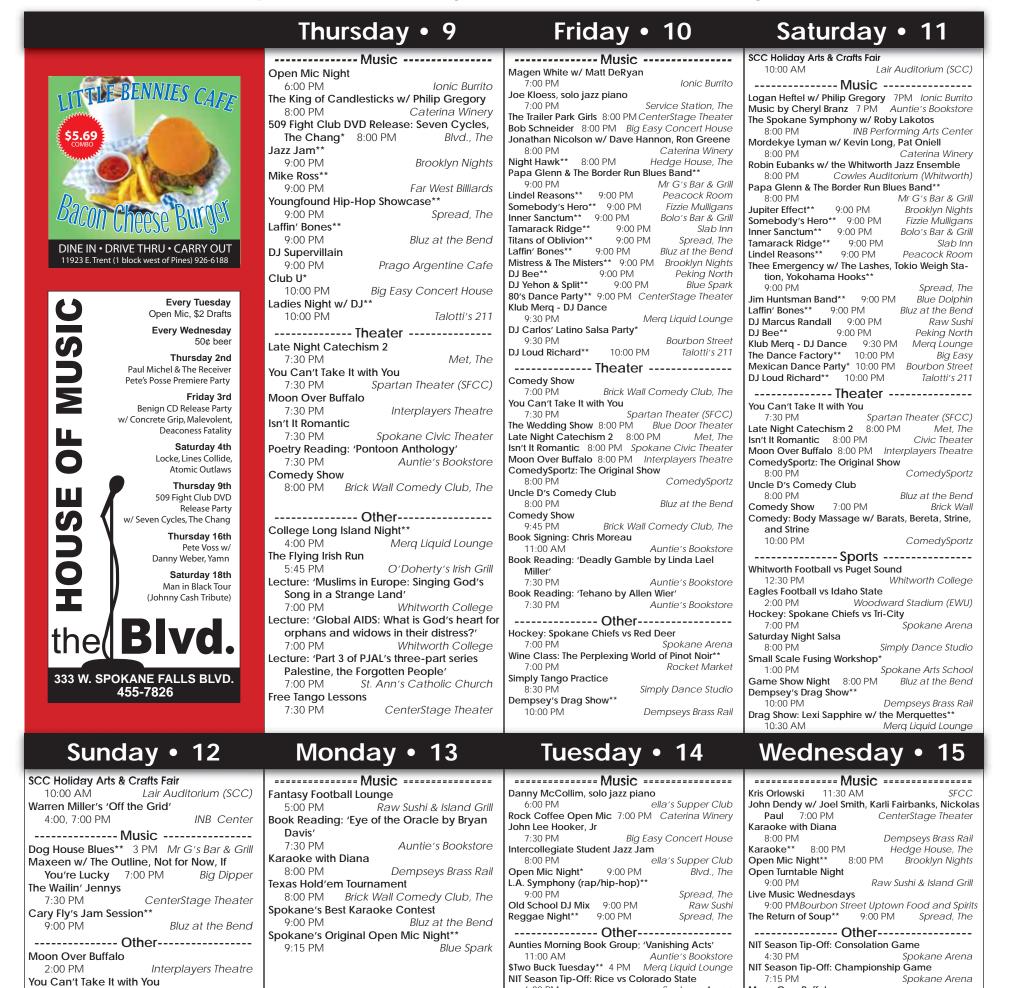
in a Post 9-11 World' 7:00 PM Lair Auditorium (SCC)

Book Reading: 'In Durgas Embrace: A Disciples Diary by Swami Durgananda<sup>7</sup>

7:30 PM Auntie's Bookstore Free Comedy Show 8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

50¢ Beer Night

# The SiDEKiCK is printed every other Thursday and distributed free to 250 venues & businesses around Spokane. Look for your next issue on Thursday, November 16th



Spartan Theater (SFCC)

Raw Sushi & Island Grill

Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

Blue Spark

2:00 PM

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

9:00 PM

Dempsey's Brass Rail Bingo

Study Break College Night

Kill the Keg (\$1 pints until gone)\*\*

Brick Wall Comedy Club Open Mic

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

9:00 PM Pub Trivia\*\*

Texas Hold'em Tournament

Game Show Night 8:00 PM

NIT Season Tip-Off: Gonzaga vs Baylor

Beer Pong Tournament\*\* 10:00 PM

9:15 PM

Aunties Evening Book Group; 'Catcher in the Rye'

Auntie's Bookstore

Bluz at the Bend

Spokane Arena

Blue Spark

Talotti's 211

Brick Wall Comedy Club. The

Moon Over Buffalo

Free Comedy Show

Book Reading: 'Fortress of Ice by C.J. Cherryh'

7:30 PM

7:30 PM

8:00 PM 50¢ Beer Night Interplayers Theatre

Auntie's Bookstore

Blvd., The

Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

## Straight outta my Asstrology

By Jeff Downz (good for Nov 2nd through Nov. 15th)

Most horoscopes are written by an astrologer and try to use at least a shred of legitimacy. My predictions are nothing more than words strung together to form thoughtless patterns. Think of it like this, everybody's got a birthday and an opinion; I can only tell you what I feel. Please read these with a Jamaican accent

You may be the bull.

mercial... full of sit.

So relax, and when I

sign your paycheck

count to three you will

'76 cadilac!!! 509-998-

1892. I will even throw

in my first born.

but sometimes you are

like a burger king com-



## March 21

the way they are. If you can't catch the action, kill it. Remember what the doorman said... feed your head.

Wear earth tones and

try to blend in. NO big

hats... Do us a favor.

see if you qualify for

special parking, and

tance or memorable

time of the year. Have

you ever looked over

the side of the Monroe

get two passes.



**Taurus** April 20

Gemini May 21 to June 20

You are really more than just bi-polar... like tri or even quad. Don't settle for a pair when you can create an orgy in your head. I would love to film the results.



### Cancer

June 21 to July 22



over to me.

Leo July 23 to Aug 22

I will stand upon my head to beat all deals.

Virgo Aug 23 to Sept 22

Nov 22

**Pisces** 

Feb 19

When Madonna adopted a non-orphan she made it clear that she only wanted to keep the kid only until it became uncute. Time to look in the mirror and give yourself back. If nothing else... get some in-store credit.



#### Libra Sept 23 to Oct 22





Plot complications are vour life's blood. Try to go a day without complaining or pussy.





If your erection lasts more than four hours.. use it like an early X-Mas gift (then call your doctor).



Street Bridge?

Capricorn Dec 22

You are truly the top section of candy corn. Don't ever worry, vou always come out shining in the end. Doesn't matter where vou start.

**SUNDAY** 



**Aquarius** Jan 20

**MONDAY** 

Negative political adds make me wanna ask and tell. If you feel like it, wear that skirt. I'm Jeff Downz and L support this message. Don't forget to vote!



Ah yes, the fish. Have you tried maybe swimming in Nuke Juice? I hear that North Korea is nice this time of the year - and cheap too.

### "Ran Outta Room" by Matt Jones

Look for the solution on page of this issue.

#### I've always wondered how these people filled out forms

#### Across

- \_ Major (Sirius's constellation)
- 6 Outdated math geek's tool
- 15 Intoxicating
- 16 Bush called them "vigilantes"
- 17 Popcorn magnate (short 3 letters)
- 19 Ma in music
- 20 Corn amount
- 21 Barely squeeze by, with "out"
- 22 Nicholas II, e.g.
- 24 Swimming measurements
- \_ drinks
- Noir
- 31 Weird-voiced comedian (short one letter)
- 37 "Monk" network
- 38 Head-to-head maneuver?
- 39 Free throw path
- 40 "CSI" actress (short one letter)
- 43 2006 "Weird Al" Yankovic parody "White &
- 44 Low choral part
- 45 Isn't polite with soup
- 47 Marinade herb
- 49 Soldier's mail address: abbr.
- 50 Be a thespian
- 51 Tim of "Project Runway"
- 55 Tennis legend (short three letters)
- 61 Steve Jobs, for example
- 63 Closet dwellers
- 64 Neither this nor that

- \_ (soy sauce company)
- 2 Inflatable mattress brand
- 3 Old
- 4 Beyond stupid 5 Wd. segment
- 6 Attack unfairly
- 7 Transport from NYC
- 8 Dvorak's "Symphony
- No. 9 \_\_\_ Minor"
- 9 Firework without the pop 10 It comes between printemps
- and automne 11 Dog first voiced by John Kricfalusi
- 12 "Raw" or "burnt" color

- 15 16 18 19 20 23 25 22 28 32 33 34 37 40 43 45 46 50 52 53 55 57 58 59 60 61 62
- 13 Security breaches
- 14 Suffix for differ
- 18 Thompson of "Red Dawn"
- 23 Gory movie category
- 24 \_\_\_ Bornes (French card game)
- 25 \_\_\_ a tie 26 Pledge drive gift, often
- 27 Ordinal number suffix
- 28 French realist painter Bonheur
- 29 "This guy walks into \_\_\_..."
- 30 Bess's title mate
- 31 Borrow, as a cig
- 32 Silly little guy
- 33 Covers in a shiny thin layer
- 34 Gross growth
- 35 Jason's craft
- 36 Substance for sculptures
- 41 Shaggy beast

**THURSDAY** 

42 Like evening gowns

- 45 Hit bottom?
- 46 "SNL" producer Michaels
- 47 Battle reminders 48 Off-road rambler, for short
- 49 "Lucky Jim" novelist Kingsley
- 50 "Author" of many quotations
- 52 Four Corners corner
- 53 Highest sudoku number
- 54 Padre or Pirate, slangily
- 56 Arlen/Mercer song "Blues in the Night ("My Mama Done \_ \_ Been Everywhere" (Johnny
- Cash song) 58 \_\_\_ X (Chris Rock "SNL" char-
- acter)
- 60 Carnaval locale
  - ©2006 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com)

**SATURDAY** 

#### www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com real simple

**FRIDAY** 

## The Karaoke List: telling you where to find (or avoid) Karaoke on any given night

**WEDNESDAY** 

#### TUESDAY Blue Dolphin\*\* - 9 pm Big Foot Pub\*\* - 9 pm Big Foot Pub\*\* - 9 pm Bolo's\*\* - 9 pm Big Al's\*\* - 9 pm Alpine (Valley)\*\* - 8 pm Alpine (Valley)\*\* - 8 pm Blue Dolphin\*\* - 9 pm Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Blue Dolphin\*\* - 9 pm Bluz at the Bend\*\* - 9 pm Bolo's - 8 pm Bayou Bar\*\* - 9 pm Big Daddy's\*\* - 10 pm Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Bolo's\*\* - 9 pm Casey's\*\* - 9 pm Big Daddy's\*\* - 10 pm Brass Faucet\*\* - 8 pm (all ages till 9) Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Jackson Hole II\*\* - 9 pm Dempsey's\*\* - 8 pm Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Brass Faucet\*\* - 8 pm Cafe Americana\*\* - 9 pm Casey's\*\* - 9 pm Charlie's\*\* - 9:30 pm Peking North\*\* - 9 pm Dempsey's\*\* - 8 pm Flame, The\*\* - 9 pm Fizzie Mulligan's\*\* - 10 pm Casey's\*\* - 9 pm Casey's\*\* - 9 pm Jackson Hole II\*\* - 9 pm Hedge House\*\* - 8 pm Jackson Hole II\*\* - 9 pm Matthew's\*\* - 8 pm Flame, The\*\* - 9 pm Hedge House\*\* - 8 pm Jackson Hole II\*\* - 9 pm Kay Lon Gardens\*\* - 9 pm Merq, The\*\* - 9 pm Peking North\*\* - 9 pm Merq, The\*\* - 9 pm Goodtymes Bar\*\* - 9 pm Jackson Hole II\*\* - 9 pm Kay Lon Gardens\*\* - 9 pm Slab Inn\*\* - 9 pm Hedge House\*\* - 8 pm Matthew's\*\* - 8 pm Slab Inn\*\* - 9 pm Matthew's\*\* - 8 pm (with Diane) Star, The\*\* - 9 pm Star, The\*\* - 9 pm Peking North\*\* - 9 pm Lone Cactus\*\* - 8 pm Parker's\*\* - 9 pm McQ's\*\* - 9 pm Lone Cactus\*\* - 8 pm Volcano's\*\* - 9 pm Merq, The\*\* - 9 pm Peking North\*\* - 9 pm Matthew's\*\* - 8 pm Volcano's\*\* - 9 pm Peking North\*\* - 9 pm Peking Garden\*\* - 8 pm Peking Palace\*\* - 9 pm Slab Inn\*\* - 9 pm Star, The\*\* - 9 pm Slab Inn\*\* - 9 pm Puerto Vallarta\*\* - 9 pm \*\* = 21 and over only Star, The\*\* - 9 pm Puerto Vallarta\*\* - 9 pm Sweet Ole Bob's\*\* - 8 pm Puerto Vallarta\*\* - 9 pm Spitfire B&G\*\* - 9 pm Thumpers Bar\*\* - 9 pm Szechuan Rest.\*\* - 8 pm Raw Sushi - 9 pm Statz Blue Keg\*\* - 8 pm Statz Blue Keg\*\* - 8 pm Thumpers Bar\*\* - 9 pm Volcano's\*\* - 9 pm Slab Inn\*\* - 9 pm Sweet Ole Bob's\*\* - 8 pm Sweet Ole Bob's\*\* - 8 pm Do you know of a place that has karaoke and isn't Star, The\*\* - 9 pm Volcano's\*\* - 9 pm Szechuan Rest.\*\* - 8 pm Szechuan Rest.\*\* - 8 pm on this list? Then why haven't you told us? Is there Sweet Ole Bob's\*\* - 8 pm Yardley Bar\*\* - 8 pm Yardley Bar\*\* - 8 pm something wrong with you? Email us immediately at Szechuan Rest.\*\* - 8 pm info@spokanesidekick.com so we can fix our list!

# **Back Burner:**Bolo's Bar and Grill

by Brian Clark

I have no idea if the stomachache I endured after eating a giant chicken fried steak at **Bolo's** had anything to do with the meal itself. But, even if they were inextricably connected, it was worth it. The meal was that good.

I've often said there are few things in the world that rival a good prime rib or chicken fried steak, and my convictions were strengthened at Bolo's, a sports bar and grill just off of Sprague and Best in the Spokane Valley. The thing was enormous – two patties of fried goodness, a healthy helping of undeniably authentic mashed potatoes and some thick, delicious country gravy.

Not that chicken fried steak is the only thing they serve, mind you – it just happens to be my personal favorite. They're probably better known for their burgers, and for good reason. Watching Andy force down his entire double pattie burger and overflowing plate of waffle fries was an indication that, no matter if you feel like you're punishing yourself at the end, it's simply a crime to waste food that tastes this good.

Beyond the food, Bolo's has some killer weekly specials, highlighted by \$1.25 pints of domestic beers and \$2.50 microbrew drafts on Wednesday nights. Prices are reasonable throughout – about six to eight bucks for their enormous portions, except for the steaks, of course, which are a bit more. But they also give patrons the added bonus of a buy-10-meals-and-the-next-one's-on-us-approach – which is especially generous considering appetizers count as a meal, meaning you can snack during a few games, punching your card once in awhile, and come back for that steak or burger that's roughly the size of every province in Canada that you can't name.

They've also got a large dance floor, with a nice karaoke set-up for Monday through Thursday nights, as well as both college and professional football packages for the sports fan. Catering further for the sports nut, they've even set up a TV under a backyard awning so you can enjoy the games in



#### Andy Says:

When I ordered the "Contenders Only" burger (two ground beef patties, ham, bacon, Swiss cheese, American cheese, mayo, lettuce, onion, pickle, and tomato!) I expected to get a burger stacked so high that I couldn't get my mouth around it. To my surprise, when my meal arrived the burger wasn't a double-decker, but a double wide. It was like having two burgers side by side joined together on a hoagie bun. This thought had never crossed my mind and, quite honestly, it is brilliant. Touché Bolo's.

Even with the patties side-by-side, I still couldn't get my mouth around the stupid thing. Refusing to eat a burger with a knife no matter how dire the situation, I have learned to dislocate my jaw like a snake and swallow food whole. For a visual representation of this, please consult the movie "Coneheads" staring Dan Akroyd. Bolo's really should consider renaming the burger to "The Duplex."



their heated and spacious beer garden while taking in some sunshine or a cigarette, as the case may be. In fact, their outdoor section rivals Talotti's 211 as my personal favorite beer garden in town

Basically, there's a lot of room inside and out, a num-

ber of TVs showing pretty much any game you want to see, with amicable servers and simply outstanding food in obscenely big portions. Come down on a Sunday afternoon sometime and say "hi," because I've found my new afternoon football hangout.

#### Brian Says:

I think I've got a bit of a vendetta against Heroes and Legends since the last time I went there was specifically to watch a World Series game that got rained out. Clearly that's not the bar's fault, but sports fans don't operate on things like logic, they operate on passion and statistics, and I must admit that I'm no different.

If I were to get past my insane grudge, I'd probably acknowledge that Heroes and Legends is a pretty classy sports bar with decent food and nice TVs, but I seem unable to do that. To be truthful, the location is good and the ambience is appealing, but I generally prefer cheap prices over nice wall hangings, so I find the bar only mildly attractive.

## Main Dish: Heroes and Legends Sports Bar and Grill

By Andy Rowse

Heroes and Legends is the worst place to bring a date, ever. There are so many distractions that I find it hard to concentrate on anything for more than three seconds – if I were a goldfish this would be no problem at all (actually, according to Wikipedia.com, the idea that golfish have a three-second memory is a common misconception that has been proven false by science. Way to go science, you just ruined another one of my favorite sayings). Wait, what was I talking about? Oh yeah, food!

With at least five television screens in view at all times, it is impossible to concentrate on anything anyone has to say. All attention just slowly drifts to the bank of TVs that adorn every wall. I find it hard to look away even when the waitress asks me what I want to eat. "A Blue Cheese Burger," I answer never letting my eyes drift from the endless screens in front of me.

While Heroes and Legends is a horrible place to bring a date, it is a pretty awesome spot to go hang with the guys. The have three things going for them. 1) They have beer. Beer and sports go together like David Bowie and stretch pants and/or glitter paint. 2) They have video games. For one, they have a special X-Box area where you can chill on the couch and play till your head explodes. Also, each table has a trivia game consul which allows you to take part in the constant trivia questions being displayed on numerous TVs around the bar. A question pops up on the

screen and you have to answer the multiple choice question as fast as you can on your wireless game controller. The things keep score so you can see how smart or stupid you are, and how that changes depending on how much you drink.

Third, and most importantly, Heroes and Legends has sports – lots of them. They are also one of the few places in Spokane that has the NFL Sunday Ticket. Basically if a game or sport is on television, they probably have it.

Now to the food, since this is mostly a food review. It is fine. It tastes good and is served in big portions, but it's nothing to write home about. The selection is diverse yet predictable and reminds me of many other menus I have seen around Spokane. Basically I don't go for the food, I go for the atmosphere and sports.





## The Science of Imaginative filmmaking

By Brian Clark



#### Science of Sleep Now Playing At:

River Park Square 20 11:15 a.m., 2:10, 5, 7:40, 10:20

Rating

Written and Directed

**by** Michel Gondry

Staring Gael Garcia Bernal Charlotte Gainsbourg Alain Chabat Emma de Caunes

Runtime

1 hour 35 minutes

Genre Fant

Fantasy/Drama/ Comedy/Romance

Studio

Warner Independent

The Science of Sleep isn't perfect. Certain moments feel rushed and, at some points, you just want to slap the crazy out of the characters altogether, mostly for being cowardly, obsessive, and/or good ol' fashioned insane. Make no mistake in that regard, Stephan (Gaeal Garcia Bernal) is crazy as a shithouse rat, and about as whiny as Luke Skywalker after another jedi stole his favorite light saber. But the intentions are in the right place here – both for Stephan, as well as for the movie itself – and it's such an imaginative story overall that you're seeing something that's never quite been made before. As such, despite any shortcomings that might otherwise hold it back, *The Science of Sleep* deserves to be included in a discussion about the best films of the year.

The plot unravels in France, where the wannabe inventor and neurotic whack job Stephan has moved next door to a slightly more stable and decidedly female version of himself. I'm hesitant to write more, since this seems like one of those films that should be viewed after knowing as little about it as possible, but you should understand that the story bobs in and out of reality. The characters are extraordinarily disconnected and, for better or worse, so is the movie.

Thematically, *The Science of Sleep* is caught somewhere between the childhood love of fort-building and the French's love for everything sex-related. (This movie only bolstered my belief that 110% of French people are nymphomaniacs who smoke at least a pack of cigarettes a day.) Visually, this is nothing short of stunning. With costumes and stop-motion animation weaving in and out of the narrative, everything – even inanimate objects – take on a life of their own. That's what's undeniably ap-

pealing about this latest offering from director Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), as it indulges the viewer in a vicarious celebration of what it means to be a dreamer. Even when that idea's taken to absurd lengths, it somehow still feels honest and heartfelt.

There are some genuinely funny scenes as well, mostly revolving around Stephan's sex-crazed co-worker being a complete jackass, though the protagonist has his moments as well. Really, as individual scenes, *The Science of Sleep* is phenomenal – taking you through the gamut of human emotions in both the reality and fantasy-based constructions. As a coherent whole, however, this isn't necessarily a disappointing tale, simply a disjointed one.

Ultimately, nothing really stays with the viewer upon leaving the theater. The scattered storytelling feels somewhat incomplete, and Stephan vacillates from genuinely likable to annoyingly

unstable. But that's also what makes this a tender and honest cinematic experience, as things don't immediately work themselves out simply because they're supposed to.

Admittedly, I'm riding the fence a bit here, but how else can you describe a good movie that simply could be better? That's not really fair though, considering an imaginative, ambitious and inventive film that falters from time to time isn't merely a good movie in this day and age, it's an excellent one.

## Syriana an overblown slice of pretention

By Brian Clark

Wait, so did that one guy blow up a boat? And if so, why? Or was it a person? And if so, who? What the hell was with that old dude on the porch chain-smoking cigarettes? Where does the title Syriana come into play? And just who the hell do these guys think they are?

Everyone that went to **Syriana** seemed to have the same problems I did – namely figuring out what the hell was going on. But I don't think that's necessarily because the filmmakers are smarter than their viewers, or even that it's an overly complicated movie or anything like that. I just think it was kind of poorly constructed.

Then again, this probably wasn't the best movie to watch on a hangover the day after your favorite team wins the world series and you spent the night before closing down a Halloween party (hypothetically). There's a lot going on, and I wasn't in the best shape to take stock of it. But even at my sharpest, I think I'd have a hard time caring. This is an overblown and only mildly interesting story that takes itself too seriously, especially considering it's got nothing to offer besides a theoretically complicated story.

That's not to say it's all bad; there's some pretty good acting (especially from Jeffrey Wright, who might very well be the best



#### **Syriana**

Released: 2005 Written and Directed by: Stephen

**Starring**: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Amanda Peete, Chris Cooper, Christopher Plummer

actor you've never heard of), and a couple of surprisingly tender moments going on in the whole Matt Damon and family storyline. The filmmakers also do an admirable job of subtly connecting the oil themes with the political stuff – but it's not enough. I mean the only thing you can really take away from Syriana is that the US government and big oil companies are corrupt. Um, no shit.

I get it; I really do. Steven Goghan was trying to connect corrupt business practices - specifically oil - with perpetuating a cycle of corruption in politics and religion throughout the world. You see the ramifications of how these actions effect real people in different walks of life and maybe you're supposed to be enlightened or feel sympathetic or something. But it gets lost when there are about 6000 subplots and nothing really new being eschewed in any of them.

This is also a horrible film to watch before an election, as it's ultimately a cynical story that suggests our governing body is going to do whatever the hell they want anyway. I think that's really where my biggest problem with Syriana arises – as it merely identifies a problem of corruption and gives nothing in the way of suggesting how to fix it. It's like they're trying to claim some sort of moral high ground, yet they've lost their footing in light of the fact that this is really just an escapist story. It's simply not the intelligent, thought-provoking crap that pseudo-intellectuals might otherwise have you believe.

A note to whoever returned a broken VHS of Mr. Smith Goes to Washington to the Spokane Valley Hastings without telling anyone, necessitating me to change my review at the last minute, since my VCR refused to play the tape you broke:

You suck

Just for fun, we're going to connect our Reel Review to our Bottom Shelf in Six Degrees of Dereliction using common actors, absurd logic and vague associations:



**George Clooney** won an oscar for his performance in **Syriana** 



Clooney was also in **Solaris**, a remake of a 1972 **Russian** film of the same name



As far as most Americans are concerned, Russia is roughly the same thing as **Spain** 



Gael Garcia Bernal starred in that movie



As well as the **Science of Sleep** 

(I apologize if it looks like we're not even trying at this point)



## **OFF THE GRID screens in Spokane**

SiDEKiCK Staff

To many people, fall means one thing – ski films. The films keep ski bums sane, as they impatiently await the first snowfall, and the ensuing opening day of ski season. The best of the best in the ski film world is coming to Spokane on Sunday, November 12th, with two screenings during its single day in town. **OFF THE GRID**, the 57th release from Warren Miller, promises all of the shenanigans and tomfoolery you've come to expect, with a couple new surprises. You can catch this film at the INB Performing Arts Center (formerly the Opera House), located at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Set on a worldwide stage, the film showcases the talent of over 40 of North America's best skiers and snowboarders as it dips between seldom seen international backcountry to some of the most recognizable ski resorts in America.

"The grid is a metaphor," says Producer/Director Max Bervy. "It represents the boundaries and routines of everyday life. Inversely, *OFF THE GRID* is a place where nothing is common and everything is possible. *OFF THE GRID* is where the romance and soul of the sport come alive in the mountains that we love. It's the place where we redefine boundaries, take risks and search out unique and undiscovered areas to escape the compromise of everyday life."

The film journeys from the untouched backcountry of Chatter Creek Lodge, BC to the US Freesking Open in Vail, Colorado where skier TJ Schiller completes the first ever switch 1440 (entering a jump backwards and spinning 4 times) in a competition. Needless to say, he won the Big Air title. All of this is captured in hi-definition by the experienced team of Warren Miller.

Along the way, the film catches up with Jaime Pierre and watches as he sets the new world record for the largest cliff jump. For those who are unfamiliar with skiing, a cliff jump is where you ski off a cliff and freefall through the air – with the obvious goal being to not die. This year, Pierre dropped a 255 ft cliff in the Teton backcountry, shattering his previous record of 145 ft.

OFF THE GRID also travels to Hokkaido, Japan to take part in the World Snowball Fighting Championship, a brutal showdown of bravery, brawn and skill. For more information and entry forms for the 2007 event please look online at www. yukigassen.jp/english/

Show times for *OFF THE GRID* are 4 and 7 p.m. and tickets cost \$18.50 per person. Tickets are available online at www. ticketswest.com, at all TicketsWest locations or by calling 325-SEAT. To view the trailer for the film, and for detailed information on all of the athletes and locations visit the Warren Miller website at www. warrenmiller.com.

### Pete's Posse premieres on Spokane airwaves

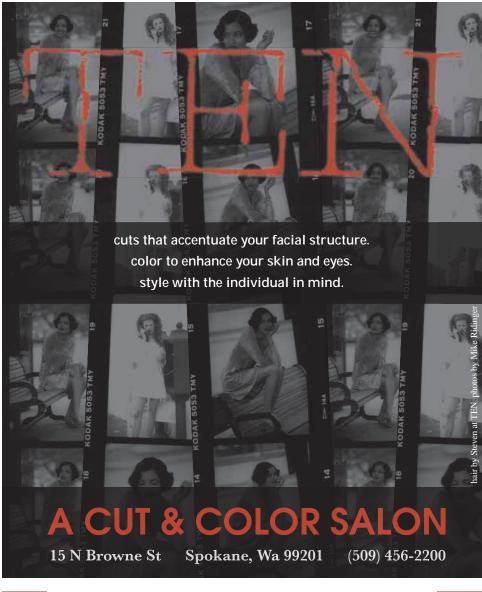
SiDEKiCK Staff

Since the jackass who wrote the above article – you know who you are – exceeded his word limit by a quantity of three, **Pete's Posse** – a new reality TV program brought to you by the Big TV Show, centered around and filmed in Spokane – gets only a brief mention here.

The show centers around a local bounty

hunter rounding up local criminals, which Pete and his crew are very good at, having made over 250 arrests in 2005 and surpassing that number so far in 2006. Pete's Posse airs on RTN Channel 24, starting Sunday November 5th, and every Sunday thereafter at 2:30 p.m.

A **Premiere Party** for the show will also be held at the Blvd., 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., on Thursday, November 2nd.







## Blue Door celebrates aluminum anniversary

The **Blue Door Theatre**, which has been satiating Spokane's improv comedy thirst over the past ten years, continues to do so with **The Wedding Show**, a long-form improvisational version of a wedding that continues its run over the first two Fridays in November. Taking audience suggestions to create a spontaneous wedding that jumps back and forth through time, the story connects haphazardly in song, scenes, monologues, comedy and realism — usually finding its way back to the starting point.

In addition to their Friday Wedding Shows, as well as their ongoing improvisational classes, The Blue Door Theatre is hosting its **2006 Fundraising Gala** on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Seats for this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event are \$20 a person and come with a slew of food, drinks, deserts, entertainment, and a silent auction.

Attendees will be treated to the acoustic music of **Joe Harrison** and **Kevin Morgan**, the lounge acts of **Lawra** and **Kyle Gosselin-Harris**, the poetry of **Joe Vander Weil**, the stand-up comedy of **Frank Tano** and improv performances by all of the Blue Door cast and most of the current apprentices. Seats were supposed to be reserved by October 25<sup>th</sup>, but if you absolutely must attend, try calling (509) 747-7045 and begging.

Curtain goes up on *The Wedding Show* at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Content is suitable for all ages, with tickets set at \$8 for general admission and \$6 for children, seniors and students. The Blue Door's malleable Black Box Theatre can be found at 815 W. Garland in downtown Spokane. For more information, check out their website at www.bluedoortheatre.com.

## ComedySportz still going strong every weekend

We like to give a shout out every know and then to **ComedySportz**, a competitive improv comedy experience that's something to consider if you're heading out for a little theatergoing around town. Actually, calling ComedySportz "theatre" is a bit of a stretch, but at least it's funny. Every Friday and Saturday night, you are guaranteed to find an audience-interactive, improv comedy competition between two teams performing a series of improve scenes and songs based on audience suggestions.

Tickets are \$10, or \$8 for advance purchase, students, seniors or anyone who brings a food donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Also, if the show sells out, there's free pizza at halftime, supplied by Pizza Rita. Students with a valid ID can also get rush tickets right before the show for \$6, assuming there are some leftover.

Their theatre can be found at W. 227 Riverside in downtown Spokane. For more information on the whole phenomenon (I use that word loosely) that is ComedySportz, check out their website at www.spocomedy.com.

# Harvey

## The classic story of a boy and his bunny

#### SiDEKiCK Staff

**Ignite Community Theatre** has put away the Halloween decorations that adorned their Haunted House and are now returning to the world of theatrical performances. Their next show is the classic story of a boy and his imaginary best friend, a 6-and-a-half foot tall bunny rabbit by the name of Harvey. Like we haven't heard *that* story a hundred times before.

The play, appropriately titled **Harvey**, has been well-loved since it won the Pulitzer Prize for drama upon its opening run in 1945. Five years later, Jimmy Stewart starred in a movie adaptation of the same. Since I haven't seen the film, I'm going to pretend Stewart plays the part of the rabbit, because that is just an excellent mental image, though it can't

possibly be true.

Ultimately, Harvey is a good-natured and likable story about acceptance, pulled off with a comedy-of-errors sort of approach. The play is written by Mary Chase, and will go up on the Ignite stage starting Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, running through Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Curtain times are 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets run \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and military. Ignite has an open seating policy, with tickets available at the door, but if you want to get them ahead of time, you can do so by calling (509) 993-6540.

The stage is found in the Cajun Room of the Riverwalk Building (1003 E. Trent, near the corner of Trent and Hamilton). For more information, visit their website at www.ignitetheatre.org.

## "Sister" schools audience at Late Nite Catechism

SiDEKiCK Staff

**Late Night Catechism II** is playing a scattered few dates across the country this winter, including a trio of shows at The Met in mid-November. The comedy can be seen on the Spokane stage at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November  $9^{th}$ , and then 8 on Friday, November  $10^{th}$  and Saturday the  $11^{th}$ .

The "play" essentially picks up where the first Late
Night Catechism left off, though it's not imperative that you've been versed in the original. The
basic idea is pretty easy to digest without knowing
anything else about it – a nun who goes only by
the designation of "sister" teaches her students (the
audience) on all the finer points of Catholicism and it's
related sins, the latter of which is succinctly summed up by
the phrase, "If it feels good, it's a sin." Subtitled *Sometimes We Feel Guilty Because We Are Guilty*, this humorous and good-natured rib at
Catholic upbringings is an audience interactive experience that might even
dispel a little pragmatic wisdom between the laughs.

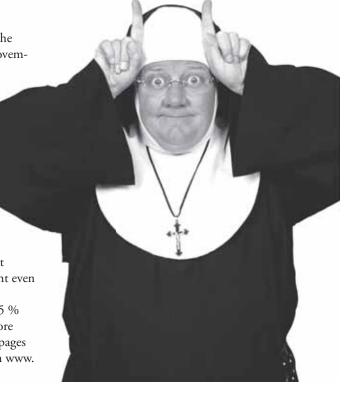
Tickets are \$22 to sit in the balcony, or \$26 for floor seats, with 5 % of proceeds being donated to Catholic Charities of Spokane. For more information on all theatrical opportunities around town, these two pages should pretty much fill you in, though you'll find a bit more info on www. spokanesidekick.com.

In addition to Late Night Catechism II, The Met is also hosting a pair of performances by the Spokane Symphony on Saturday, November 5th and Sunday the 6th. The musicians will be performing a number of pieces from the first and second "Viennese"

Schools," a hearken back to the days when Vienna was the center of the musical world. Mozart and Beethoven – most likely the only two composers that anyone reading this paper can name – were amongst the first Viennese school, though these concerts

certainly won't be restricted to these two canonical composers.

Vienna – City of My Dreams will open at 8 p.m. on Saturday night, with Sunday's matinee getting underway at 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.spokanesymphony.org.





#### SiDEKiCK Staff

Interplayers Ensemble Theatre continues to plow through their silver anniversary season with **Moon over Buffalo**, a 1950s period comedy that will be running on the Interplayers stage from Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> through Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Relying heavily on miscommunication, fast-talking confusion, megalomaniacal actors, and a little slapstick and sexual innuendo, Moon over Buffalo tells the story of

a traveling troupe of actors on a sojourn in Buffalo, New York. When word gets out that Frank Capra will be attending one of their matinees, the actors are thrust into a full array of misunderstandings and misadventures, as they try to take advantage of their shot at Hollywood stardom.

Amongst the complications they run into are mistaken identities, a stage manager – who happens to be the lead actress' mother – who's nearly deaf, and a measurable amount of all-around mayhem, as there's rarely a down moment for the actors that's not spent bickering or frantically trying to clear up a confusion of some kind. Boy that sounds zany.

Tickets are on sale now, ranging from \$12 to \$21, available through www.ticketswest.com, TicketsWest outlets around town, or by calling (509) 455-PLAY. The Interplayers Theatre is located on 174 South Howard Street in Spokane. For a breakdown of performance times, ticket prices or to check out Interplayer's entire season lineup, visit their website at www. interplayers.com.

## **Poetry Slam Competition looks** to build team for Nationals

SiDEKiCK Staff

Daniel Harrington has an ambitious plan – his goal is to form Spokane's first ever Poetry Slam team and take Team Spokane to the National Poetry Slam competition in Austin, Texas in the summer of 2007. Harrington holds the title of Slammaster in Spokane – the job is a lot less glamorous than it sounds. As Slammaster he is incharge of organizing, coordinating, and hosting the monthly Poetry Slam events held on the third Wednesday of each month. He is so passionate about the work that he doesn't really mind the extra work.

Poetry Slam first developed in 1987 as a natural evolution of the beat generation. Poetry readings had developed a bad reputation, carrying a stigma of dullness and elitism (Picture a guy in a beret and sunglasses reading in a monotone voice. Doesn't sound very fun.). Slam Poetry aims to challenge this stereotype by making poetry fun. They do this through a competition where what you say it is as important as how you say it.

The competition works like this. Twelve people compete in front of a panel of five judges who award each performer an Olympic style score (0 to 10 with 10 being the best). The best and worst scores are dropped. Judges are selected at random from the audience at the beginning of the slam. There are only two requirements – you must be present the whole time and you must be able to speak the English language. A very large part of the score is determined by the performance of the piece so all routines are practiced and perfected beforehand. Also, performances are limited to 3 minutes, must be original, and can contain no props.

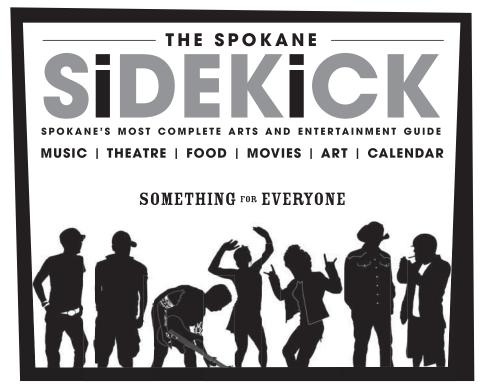
To enter all you need to do is show up with at least 2 pieces to perform. Competitions are limited to 12-15 conestents so arrive early. Entry fee is also \$5. The winner of each nights slam will receive \$40 cash with some other prizes for runner's up. This month's Slam will take place on Wednesday, Nov 15th at 7:30 p.m. The location is to be announced. Please check back to the SiDEKiCK's, (www.spokanesidekick.com), website for more information. Also, if you have any questions about the rules or the location of the slam call the Slammaster at 499-5484. You can also look for poster which will start to appear around town in about a week.

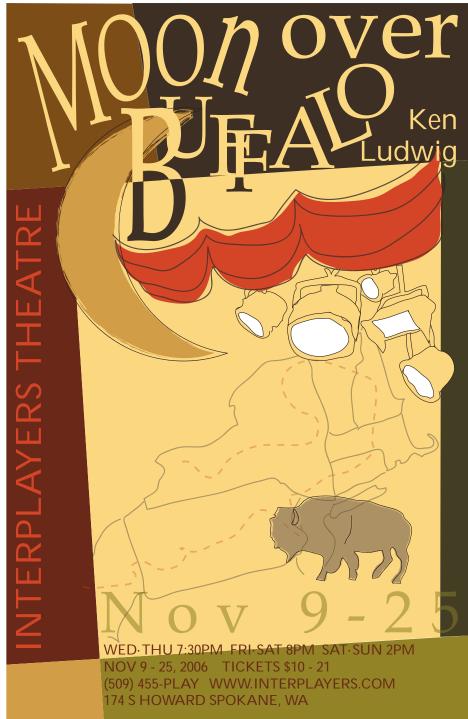
#### **House Joint Resolution 4223**

This is the one that gives small businesses and such a tax break up to \$15,000 in situations where they're currently only eligible for \$3,000, or something like that. Honestly, I stopped reading after I realized

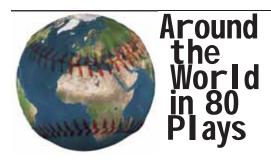
that it was apparently so cut and dry that nobody would even write an argument in the voter's pamphlet for why you shouldn't support it. Frankly, that's good enough for us.

Our vote: Yes.





www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com



#### Quick hits from the Sports World

#### By Brian Clark

I don't understand baseball fans. Everybody seemed shocked that the Cardinals were able to win even a single postseason game, let alone take the entire World Series. Why? Because they had a bad September? This was a team who had several key players banged up as hell in the waning weeks of the regular season - in no small part so that they could be healthy for a postseason run. David Eckstein, Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen pretty much didn't figure into the equation until October, and now just about everyone seems shocked that these guys - who have 14 Gold Gloves and 11 All Star appearances between them, by the way – gave the Cards a boost. The pitching was a bit surprising, but not as jaw-dropping as it's been portrayed, considering their rotation works better in a postseason format where you're throwing your three best guys, and not in a regular season where their five-man rotation fell off sharply after the first two.

Remember, this is a team that has absolutely owned the National League over the past several years, appearing in three consecutive National League Championship series (winning two of them), and taking the NL Central title in six of the past seven seasons. Tony Larussa knows that, if you're going to make the playoffs, you better have your best team on the field when the regular season is over, so they groomed the pitchers to hit their stride for the playoffs and made sure everybody would be healthy for a run deep into the postseason. So congratulations, St. Louis, and shame on everybody who didn't think you should have been there in the first place ...

Moving past that self-indulgent and somewhat revisionist rant, the Seahawks are in serious trouble. A backfield without Matt Hasselbeck or Shaun Alexander is about the only thing that could have completely derailed this team in a weak NFC West and, unfortunately, that's exactly what happened. You might see a St. Louis Cardinals-type run where the Seahawks hit their stride at the right time and advance to, perhaps, their second straight Super Bowl, but the next few weeks are crucial, so that they don't dig a hole they can't get out of. Their loss to the Chiefs, however, exposed some problems in the defense and showed that, though he's not bad, they're probably not going very far with Seneca Wallace leading the way ...

Chad Johnson is officially my favorite person in the universe. He plans his touchdown celebration as soon as the Bengals enter the red zone, yet still works hard and gets results every single game. And now he's changed his name to "Ocho Cinco." That's excellent on so many levels. There probably isn't an athlete who's more fun to watch than Johnson, be it on or off the field ...

I'm told that the Buffalo Sabres started the NHL season in epically good fashion, rattling off 10 straight wins. But since we're not in Canada, that's all the hockey analysis you're ever going to get out of this column ...

## Gonzaga highlights NIT Tip-Off field

#### SiDEKiCK Staff

The Spokane Arena is hosting a **National Invitational Tournament Season Tip-Off** over November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Hometown heroes Gonzaga are the oddson favorites to win West Regional play in Spokane, where they'll face Rice on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by either Colorado State or Baylor the subsequent evening. The Gonzaga/Rice game, as well as the regional championship contest, will both air on ESPN2.

In NCAA's signature, single-elimination fashion, the

winner of the championship game in Spokane will go on to New York for a showdown in Madison Square Garden, most likely against North Carolina, though three other teams in the East bracket are trying to prevent that. In total, 16 teams across the country are vying to be crowned the NIT season opening champions, with four of them kicking off that campaign here in Spokane (for a full tournament bracket, log onto www.nit.org).

Here's a quick breakdown of the four teams on display at the Arena:

#### Gonzaga

Last season's record: 29-4 (14-0 WCC)

The lowdown: I'm sure Bulldog fans are sick of hearing about Adam Morrison. That

was the past and, as good as he was, he's not here, so I suppose everybody should just get over it. But their entire offense revolved around him last year and losing arguably the best player in the country is not something to take lightly. Along with the departure of big man J.P. Batista, GU lost 60 % of its scoring from the past season, which means seniors Sean Mallon and Derek Raivio will have to shoulder a lot more of the load. That said, this year's

core is certainly good enough to win the West Coast Conference for the seventh straight season, though it will be significantly tougher than in years past.

The bottom line: Are they going to be as good as last season? No. Are they going to be in the NCAA tournament team after winning the WCC, when all is said and done? I think so. The only question for these early NIT games is whether coach Mark Few has instilled the new Morrison-less game plan fully into the team, or if it's going to take some time to adjust.



#### Baylor

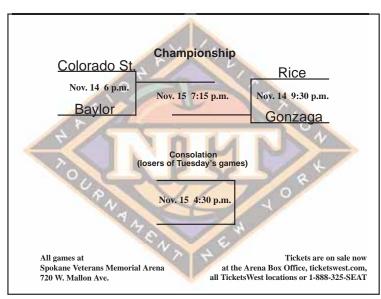
Last season's record: 4-13 (4-12 Big 12)

The lowdown: As you can see from their record, Baylor garnered only four wins last

year – none of which came over a team that finished in the top half of the conference – meaning they were good enough for dead last in the Big 12. Because of NCAA sanctions, the Bears (a dumb mascot for a team based in Texas, by the way) were disqualified from non-conference play. This year, they have the tools to make one of the biggest improvements in the country. Leading the way is 6'3" Australian point guard Aaron Bruce, who

battled several injuries

last season, and fellow backcourt mate Curtis Jerrels, who led the team in scoring in 2005-2006. It's certain that the team will drastically improve this year, the only question is whether that effect will be immediately apparent in its first couple games, after the program has battled numerous injuries and off-the-court problems over the past several years, throwing the entire program out of synch. It might take a few games for the Bears to hit their stride, but that could be a pretty impressive event if and when it



Rice

Last season's record: 12-16 (6-8 Conference USA)

The lowdown: If guard Morris Almond would have forgone his senior season, as anticipated, the Owls would be in serious trouble this year. As it stands, they've got the tools to compete in the Conference USA – he means that much to the team, and might end up being the Conference Player of the Year when the dust settles in March (don't be surprised to see his name near the top of the list in national scoring leaders, as well). If their frontcourt steps up, they've got the guard play to surprise a lot of people. Their production inside might not be up to par, though, and if Almond is going to be the one go-to guy with only minimal production surrounding him, they'll probably finish about where they did last season – the middle of the pack.

The bottom line: The opening game between Colorado State and Baylor should be an interesting matchup against two teams that look vastly improved, at least on paper. Similarly, it'll be exciting to see how Gonzaga responds to their new designation as a significantly weaker team than they've been in a long time, especially against a Rice squad that sports the best all-around player on display at the Arena.

#### Colorado State

Last season's record: 16-15 (4-12 MWC)

The lowdown: While last year was disappointing for the Rams, this year should be significantly better. Most of the core from last year's team

returns and they also added highly touted transfer Tyler Smith, a 6'3" junior guard. While he can certainly score on his own, his main contribution will be in feeding all-conference center Jason Smith, who probably would have been an NBA draft pick had he decided to leave college before his junior season. They lack depth but, with standout senior point guard Cory Lewis joining the juco transfer Smith in the backcourt, CSU should sport some top tier players to rival just about any in the Mountain West Conference. After finishing no higher than tied for fourth in the MWC since the conference was formed six years ago though, it'll take good play from everyone involved to prove themselves against the conference's finest.

SiDEKiCK predictions: Colorado State over Baylor, Gonzaga over Rice; Consolation – Baylor over Rice. Championship - Gonzaga over Colorado State.

Also, just for fun, here are the overall predictions for the NIT Final Four: Indiana (Midwest) over UNC-Wilmington (South). North Carolina (East) over Gonzaga (West). Consolation: Gonzaga over UNC-Wilmington. Championship: North Carolina over Indiana.



## Different Same Great Station



By Brian Clark

KYRS Thin Air Radio survived a scare recently when KPND – a full power North Idaho station – was granted the right to build a broadcast facility closer to Spokane. Since both stations broadcast on 95.3 FM – one of the two call signals were you can currently find KYRS on your dial (92.3 is the other) – the Spokane community station's signal was in serious jeopardy.

However the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), under the prodding of Senator Maria Cantwell, ultimately allowed KYRS the flexibility to continue broadcasting on a different frequency. As a result, starting in late

November, KYRS will permanently relocate their main signal to 89.9 FM, though the Spokane Translator Association will still be able to broadcast at 92.3 FM, so anybody who picks up Thin Air on that frequency won't be affected by the change.

KYRS Thin Air Radio just celebrated their third anniversary with a joint birthday party and Halloween Hoedown on Saturday, October 28th. Although relatively young, the station has found its niche in the area.

"We're steadily growing," Station Manager Lupito Flores states. "We're consistently getting new programs and new listeners who are tuning in and getting excited about community radio."

KYRS is a commercial-free radio station with a number of weekly shows playing everything from garage rock to reggae, hip hop, alt-country, local music and just about everything in between. They also feature Democracy Now news from 8 to 9 a.m. every weekday morning, and 5 and 6 every evening from Monday through Friday. As with all free form stations, it's hit or miss whether you're going to like a given period of programming but, when your musical tastes align with the current DJ, then it's probably the most rewarding listening experience you're likely to find on local FM radio.

They also host occasional community events and film screenings, often focusing on an increase in democratic conversation and grassroots campaigns. Their next such event is a showing of **Iraq for Sale: the War Profiteers** at the Community Building, 35 W. Main in downtown Spokane, on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. A \$5 donation at the

door is asked, and popcorn is

KYRS is also gearing up for their annual **On-Air Fund Drive**, slated for November 6<sup>th</sup> through November 12<sup>th</sup>, which not only marks one of the station's biggest financial contributions to keep it up-and-running, but, according to Flores, nearly doubles the station's listenership in the process. If you're interested in lending a hand, such as answering phones and generally having a good time while ensuring that Thin Air stays broadcasting in Spokane, call the station at 747-3807, or tune in the week of the fund drive and make a donation, if you're able.

KYRS broadcasts in a small office on the second floor of the Community Building, located on Main Street just west of Division. For more information – or to listen to their live, 24-hour, online stream – visit www.kyrs.org.

## Girls Day Out gives women the royal treatment

SiDEKiCK Staff

Girl's Day Out, which takes on the nearly impossible task of getting females excited about shopping, is taking place again in Spokane this year. This 2006 event will be held across several Spokane neighborhoods on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., conveniently timed so they get home at the exact moment their husbands are done yelling at the TV during the latest Washington State football game.

In total, 70 merchants in the Garland, Monroe, Hillyard, South Perry and East Sprague Business Centers are teaming up to pamper women customers while simultaneously sponsoring neighborhood charities. Everything from antique stores to toy shops, gift boutiques and cafes will get in on the action.

Utilizing a somewhat direct approach, the theme for this year's event is dubbed "Pink it Up," which means the color pink will be used to stereotype Y-Chromosome deficient shop-

pers and help especially dim ones to find participating shopping centers. OK, that's unfair; there are a lot of businesses in these areas, and the pink ribbons will help locate participating vendors. Basically it's a communal, female-friendly event with good deals in staple Spokane neighborhoods, with mini-buses running between them.

For more information, contact Marlene at (590) 625-6740, or log onto www.spokanecity.org for a map of the districts and a list of participating merchants.

In conjunction with the presumably orgasmic shopping extravaganza that is Girl's Night Out, the South Perry neighborhood is gathering for an **Arts Show** that will be held during the same time – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – alongside the city-wide shopping spectacular.

The art show, now in its second year, will be held at Liberty Park Florist, located at 8th and Perry in the South Perry district, featuring 8 to 12 artists – many of which live nearby – who will be showing and selling their various arts and crafts. For more information, call (509) 534-6697.



# Menstruation, ignorant farmers & Why Voting is like a Keanu Reeves movie

By Brian Clark

Dear Whomever.

America: The Book - the hilarious, quasi-fake, history textbook and brainchild of Jon Stewart's Daily Show team - cites that the democratic cycle is like the menstrual cycle, "a highly regular occurrence that, while reassuring, is a bit of a nuisance." That assessment strikes me as a) ridiculously funny and b) pretty much spot-on, at least in my experience. But perhaps it doesn't go far enough as the democratic cycle can be more than a nuisance; it can be a divisive and harmful process whose negative repercussions are especially amplified every time elections roll around.

It's a miracle that Election Day isn't met with civil war, given the way candidates blast away at each other. You won't simply hear that one candidate is better than another, you'll hear that the other candidate is untrustworthy, despicable, dangerous and, occasionally, downright evil. The ends, it seems, completely justify any means that the vast majority of candidates are willing to utilize in order to get elected.

Save the occasional egomaniac, most of the politically ambitious seem to genuinely believe that America will be a better place if they, and the party they represent, are in power. It's the same rationalization that the current administration routinely leans on when they act in a secretive manner, and seem unaffected by nearly every dissenting voice that hits their ears. This, of course, is operating under the assumption that President Bush can actual hear people that disagree with him and they don't come across like Charlie Brown's parents, lecturing their son that, hey, maybe you should just consider not kicking the football once in awhile. At any rate, the unwavering conviction that officials adhere to in trying to get elected - or to garner support once in office – is extraordinarily dangerous. If dialogue doesn't enter the equation, then democracy stops the day after we cast our ballots.

So drawing such stark distinctions on political lines seems roughly like basing your favorite band on the kind of quitar pick they use. Most political convictions stem from a handful of very specific, hot button issues: abortion, gay rights, taxes and the American presence in Iraq, along with maybe one or two others, seem to define how most people identify themselves politically. I once heard a potato farmer blast President Bush on virtually every policy you can imagine before the 2004 General Election, then claim that he's voting for Bush anyway because Dubya "stands for family values." Did I miss something? Was John Kerry anti-family? Did he stand up on stage and skin a live baby or is this person just following preconceived allegiances because it's the easiest

These distinctions are virtu-

ally baseless, existing in large part because they're drilled into our head through association, to the point that we're categorized as Democrat or Republican and then immediately identify ourselves with other causes that the particular party endorses without much in the way of personal investigation.

Not surprisingly, the media isn't helping. Instead of investigating a candidate's voting record and seeing whether they're capable of bipartisanship, examining how their past service stacks up against their current promises, we're given a CNN sound bite on how that candidate is playing the political game in order to emerge victorious. Instead of looking back on an incumbent's term(s) in office and exploring whether they followed through on their campaign claims, we're given a short explanation on the methods they're employing to coerce the American people into voting for them. The focus is almost solely on strategy over policy when it seems blindingly obvious that it should be the other way around.

But it's not just the media that needs to take a step back. Clearly, politicians need to be held accountable for what they say, and that's a personal and civilian accountability that is severely lacking. But these are difficult things to change, and the 2008 Presidential election probably won't look any better, simply more ubiquitous. So really the only tangible thing to take away here is to not get drawn into these charades. You might prefer one candidate - or one party - over another. But to find yourself spiteful, vindictive or hateful of the other side is an unfortunate election side effect that needs to be remedied.

We all want vaguely the same things, and to pretend that our bickering over methods is actually a wide chasm of vastly different philosophies only polarizes a process that's supposed to be unifying. We're not nearly that different, and to pretend we are is counterproductive to the whole idea of an election - taking a cycle that's supposed to have us working towards a better future and making it cynical and divisive. It's kind of like a Keanu Reeves movie in that respect: you want to believe the world's going to be a better place after he does his thing you know, drop kick somebody and maybe raise his eyebrows a little bit. But you just wind up hating him so much – on the count that he's really frickin' terrible - that, in the end, you give up on the whole bloody thing.

Letters from the Radical Middle is a bi-weekly column that encourages discussion over pointless bickering, favoring common sense and a logical middle ground over blind political devotion. Brian Clark is the Managing Editor of the Spokane Sidekick and can be reached at Brian@spokanesidekick.com. As always, feedback is encouraged.







by M.W. Fritz

#### Easing off the moral high ground

With only a week until the midterm elections, there is an interesting debate going on in Washington D.C. The main question being addressed here is, 'would the nation be better off if the Democrats took control of Congress?' The short answer is yes. And the long answer is that it probably doesn't matter.

In order for a power shift to occur, the Democrats need to pick up 6 seats in the Senate and 15 in the House. Obviously, they would need each of their incumbents win reelection as well. Most experts agree that the House is much more likely to see a Democratic takeover than the Senate.

Either way, the Democrats will not hold enough power to accomplish much in the next legislative session. Not that much is ever expected from these lackadaisical alternatives anyway.

Even with expected gains, Democrats would be unable to override a veto or prevent Republican filibusters. But a change in power would be good, as the New York Times Op-Ed writer Paul Krugman put it, because the Democrats would "gain the ability to carry out investigations and the legal right to compel testimony."

This ability to compel testimony could finally provide the nation with a window into the inner workings of an administration hell-bent on clandestine activities. Activities not seen since the paranoid mind of Richard Nixon wiretapped the Oval Office.

Historically, a president's party looses seats in both chambers of Congress during midterms. And it is extremely rare for a president to have his party in control of both chambers throughout their entire presidency. George W. Bush, of course, is an exception. Because of Republican majorities in the House since 1994 and the Senate since 2002, Bush has only had to use one veto, which was this year (five-and-a-half years after taking the oath of office).

To put it into perspective, when the president is forced to govern with the opposing party holding majorities, they face far greater scrutiny. Krugman stated in his piece a couple weeks ago (quoting a report from the Boston Globe), "when Bill Clinton was president, the House took 140 hours of sworn testimony into whether Mr. Clinton had used the White House Christmas list to identify possible Democratic donors. But in 2004 and 2005, a House committee took only 12 hours of testimony on the abuses at Abu Ghraib."

When other nations - especially rogue nations - stop fearing us and our allies stop respecting us, our sole superpower status is in serious jeopardy. Very few are going to stand by us when our elected officials ghoulishly devote a measly 12 hours of testimony to the shameful acts of torture that have become the poster for Al-Oaeda's recruitment efforts.

Even Bush himself acknowledged that Abu Ghraib was the decisive blow that bungled the war in Iraq last week in a press conference, saying the incident "kind of eased us off the moral high ground." Today, according to a recent report in Newsweek that 61% of Iraqi citizens support attacks on coalition forces, I'd say W. was "kind of" correct.

North Korea and Iran realize that our military is stretched thin and that China and Russia will do little to stop their nuclear ambitions. It's clear that ol' Mr. Kim and Mr. Ahmadinejad, two of the craziest of the crazies, feel that now is the time to enrich as much uranium as they can get their hands on. Mainly, I suppose, because neither feels like having their oppressive regimes toppled.

Our government was set up to work best when there is a division within the branches. Unfettered power, history has repeatedly shown, leads to corruption. And since Newt's so-called Contract with America twelve years ago, this era of Republican domination has ushered in a war against a misdiagnosed enemy, a historic deficit and a plethora of scandals involving everything from bribery

The Democrats may not be the best alternative. However, meaningful debate and a slice of equilibrium for the alternatives may not hurt the nation.

M.W. Fritz is a freelance journalist based out of Washington D.C. Every issue, he'll be providing the SiDEKiCK with an exclusive political commentary from our nation's capital, bringing all the respectability and professionalism of this paper (not much) to a completely subjective and often ridiculous analysis of our governing body.

# On your mark ... Get set Vote!

There are literally hundreds of better places to get educated about the upcoming Election, but most of them are undoubtedly dry and verbose as hell. So here's a concise breakdown that will provide you with everything you ever needed to know about the candidates

before sending in your ballots, assuming you don't give a lick about the state legislature and you're a generally lazy and uninformed voter, which is probably the case since you're a) reading this paper and b) haven't sent in your ballot already.

## House District #5

### Peter Goldmark Democrat

What kind of rancher has a neurobiology degree from Harvard and a PhD from Cal? Seriously. Goldmark isn't a rancher in the George W. Bush sense of the word, is he, where he calls himself that because he clears brush twice a year and enjoys a good barbeque? Actually, he seems like a pretty smart and generally decent guy who might have actually gotten into politics for the *right* reasons. Plus he can fix any of those nasty molecular biolgy genetic problems that are constantly arising in the House. His experience with education and energy could be a valuable resource on our governing body, though the jury is out on how it'll directly effect the people of Washington.

## **Cathy McMorris** Republican

Looks kind of like an LPGA pro to me, though she did just get married this past summer, so that kind of puts the kabosh on that. Definitely a Big Business friendly voter, but she occasionally tiptoes into Democratic waters by voting against torture and championing better health care options. She's taken campaign contributions from a couple of shady dudes, according to her competitor, but the claim may be specious, it's hard to say. By all counts, she appeared to serve adaquetly in her first couple years in the House, but I simply don't trust her. All candidates take low blows at their opponents in an unfortunate side effect of the election process, but McMorris took it too far, in my opinion, when she played loose with a Goldmark

> quote about 9/11 that was taken so far out of context it wasn't even in the same language anymore.



## Maria Cantwell

#### Democrat

Kind of got that soulless Hillary Clinton vibe going on, though she gets props for her working to keep KYRS on the Spokane airwaves. Good record with arts, agriculture and the environment, though her economic history is less than stellar. Most importantly, though, she scored a 100% from the mattress making industry! (That's true; you can actually find shit like this online).

I get the impression that Cantwell would be a pretty decent Senator if she stuck to her convictions instead of pandering for votes, which she seems to do as well as any congressman/woman out there. Also, she's spent half her life in Indiana, so allowing her to represent Washington isn't that far removed from letting Arnold Schwarzenneger in the Oval Office, and that strikes me as a huge disaster, no matter how many good Saturday Night Live skits it would spawn.

## Mike McGavick Republican

Physically, McGavick reminds me of a cross between Dick Cheney, William Hurt and a handful of smug CEO's I can't identify by name. He just looks like a Republican. Moving past that, though, he sounds like a pretty level-headed guy who, if he follows through on his promise of bi-partisanship, might not be a bad representative for the state of Washington, though what it'll do for the country. (Sorry, but the SiDEKiCK is pulling for a Democratic takeover of at least one branch of the government for the sake of a little diversity and, I don't know, maybe a check or balance once in awhile.)

I actually believe that he'd break with party lines once in awhile, though it's possible that his business and party ties are already cemented and would only get stronger if taking office. I don't know, how well can you trust a guy who doesn't seem to know he's going bald?



## A Salute to Election Day Heroes

Celebrating everyone who make Elections interesting

#### We Salute you ...

#### **Old Lady at the Ballot Booths:**



Granted, you can't see three feet in front of you, but we salute your ability to check i.d.'s at the polling station anyway. You seem to care more about handing out candy and stickers than anything related to the ongoing election, but that's what makes this the most American day of the year. You're like a living image of a Norman Rockwell painting.



#### **Low Level Campaign Worker:**

We salute you, low level campaign worker. Your tireless work on behalf of the pompous multi-millionaire you support has garnered at least one and as many as three votes on his behalf. Your persistent attempts at annoying unsuspecting families with your endless phone calls and door-to-door sales tactics gives you the allusion of accomplishment without that overbearing sting of success that has burdened so many of your superiors.



#### **Conservative Talk Show Radio Host:**

Your complete oblivion to everything based in things like "fact" and "reality" only makes your convictions stronger as the election approaches. No matter how dim the outlook, your incessant barrage of the left is ceaseless and founded in little more than conjecture and spite. The "liberal media" may control every other news outlet, in your mind, but we salute you, conservative talk show radio host, for you rule a.m. radio.



#### People on the Corner Holding Campaign Signs:

For your completely unoriginal and entirely ineffectual campaign tactics, we salute you, People on the Corner Holding Campaign Signs. No matter how ineffective your sign waving may be, you are there week after week and year after year. I never saw the issue quite the same way as when I saw your sign doing 55 through a busy intersection. You've revolutionized my outlook on the election. And to the little kid holding a "Vote for my Dad" sign: good work son. Ten more hours and you can come in and have dinner.

# Drink of the Issue: Freedom Ride

**Sponsored by the Blue Spark** 



Freedom Ride Recipe a.k.a. The All American

1/3 Rum

1/3 Blue Curacao

1/3 Grenadine

Layer Grenadine, Blue Curacao and Rum into a 2 oz shot glass. If done right you should get a nice red, white and blue effect. If you screw up take the shot and try again. Keep trying until everything turns red, white and blue. This is truly an All American shot.

This drink was concocted by the bartenders of The Blue Spark (15 S Howard). They will be serving this drink for the next two weeks only.

#### Puzzle #280 - Ran Outta Room

С	Α	Ν	1	S		S	L	Ι	D	Е	R	C	L	E
Η	Ш	Α	D	Υ		М	_	Ν	J	Т	Ш	М	Е	Ν
0	R	٧	Ι	$\Box$	L	Ш	R	Е	Д	Ш	Z	В	Α	С
Υ	0	Υ	0		Ш	Α	R					Е	K	Е
			Т	S	Α	R		М	Е	Т	Ш	R	S	
	R	Α	Ι	L			Р	Ι	Ν	0	Т			
В	0	В	С	Α	Т	G	0	L	D	Т	Ι	W	Α	I
С	S	Α		S	W	1	R	L	$\overline{}$	Е		Α	R	С
М	Α	R	G	Н	Е	L	G	Е	Ν	В	Е	R	G	Е
			Ν	Ε	R	D	Υ			Α	L	Т	0	
	S	L	U	R	Р	S		S	Α	G	Ε			
Α	Р	0					Α	С	T		G	U	Ν	Ν
М	Α	R	Т	Τ	Ν	Α	Ν	Α	٧	R	Α	Т	Τ	L
Ι	Ν	Ν	0	٧	Α	Т	0	R		1	Ν	Α	Ν	E
S	K	Е	L	Е	Т	0	Ν	S		0	Т	Н	Е	R

#### Solution to this week's Crossword Puzzle

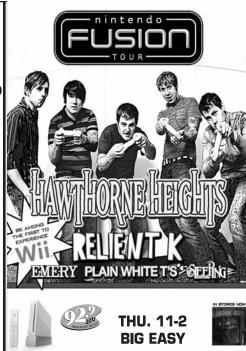
If you are looking at this crossword puzzle it means one of two things.

A. You have successfully completed the puzzle and want to check you work. Congratulations, and keep up the good work. You don't suck. Or,

B. You are an incompetent loser that can't figure out a crossword puzzle and must cheat in order to get yourself out of a jam. Poor form, very poor form.

































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