

THE
TOY
ISSUE

THE SPOKANE

SIDEKICK

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THE SPOKANE SIDEKICK,
DOUG CLARK SAID HE LIKED OUR PAPER

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SPOKANE'S MOST COMPLETE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON SALE FRIDAY DEC. 8TH AT 10 AM!

VAN WILDER
THE RISE OF TAJ
TOUR

FEATURING
everclear

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THE ALTERNATE ROUTES JONNY LIVES! BIG EASY

BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
WITH RECKLESS KELLY

ON SALE FRIDAY DEC. 8TH AT 10 AM!

FRI. 3-2 BIG EASY

SHOWS COMING SOON TO THE BIG EASY CONCERT HOUSE

CLUB U	THU 12-7
GOSLING/STRATA	FRI 12-8
SEBASTIAN BACH	SAT 12-9
DANCE FACTORY	SAT 12-9
ROCK THE BELLS	MON 12-11
SIN	TUE 12-12
RE-MIX WEDNESDAY	WED 12-13
CLUB U	THU 12-14
DANCE FACTORY	SAT 12-16
PUBLIC ENEMY	MON 12-18
PAJAMA PARTY	FRI 12-22
DECK THE HALLS BALL	SAT 12-23
CLUMSY LOVERS	SAT 12-30
NYE PARTY	SUN 12-31
WAILERS	WED 1-10
AUGUSTANA	TUE 1-16
RISE AGAINST	WED 1-17
TECH N9NE	THU 1-18
EVERCLEAR	THU 2-1
BIG HEAD TODD	FRI 3-2

GOSLING

FRIDAY!

VILLAGE GREEN THE LOOK

ROCK94

FRI. 12-8 BIG EASY

SEBASTIAN BACH

SATURDAY!

SAT. 12-9 BIG EASY

ROCK THE BELLS

MONDAY!

REDMAN RAEKWON

KEITH MURRAY SUPERNATURAL DJ COOL

DIRTY HEADS

MON. 12-11 BIG EASY

PUBLIC ENEMY

WITH ORIGINAL MEMBERS CHUCK D, FLAVOR FLAV AND PROFESSOR GRIFF

X-CLAN THE BANNED

WRED 96.9

MON. 12-18 BIG EASY

PAJAMA PARTY!

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\$10 cover or \$5 if you are dressed in your PJs

DJ spinning Top 40 / Hip Hop / R&B

FRI. 12-22 BIG EASY

DECK THE HALLS BALL

SAT. 12-23 BIG EASY

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WEDNESDAYS

RE-MIX

WEDNESDAYS

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Letter from the Editors

A quick note:

Andy Rowse is a genius (at least according to Andy Rowse). The Co-Owner/Production Manager of this very paper has been toying with our website and, while it's still under construction, it's undeniably getting better. Log onto www.spokanesidekick.com and you can now download all the issues in full, or check out a backlog of our various features if there's something specific you're looking for. The band database has been significantly bolstered, as well, with a section for local bands in addition to a more comprehensive list with pretty much every act that's come through Spokane since we started this publication in June. As always, if you are in or know of any group that is not included on our website, please email us at info@spokanesidekick.com so we can provide a more complete resource for the Spokane community.

Andy was apparently bored out of his

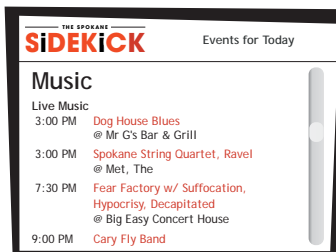
mind over our self-imposed Thanksgiving holiday, as he also created a **widget** for the Spokane SiDEKiCK! That probably only means something to a handful of people, but it's pretty rad if you know what we're talking about. Sadly, the widget is only operable on Macs as of now, but we're trying to modify a PC version, and will let you know when it's up and running. Or you should just sell your PC and buy a Mac, since they're all around better and are pretty much guaranteed to improve the quality of your life by at least a quantity of three.

At any rate, you can download the widget free on our website or, if you don't own a Mac that operates Dashboard, or have no idea what the hell I'm talking about (what's a widget?) then you can just sign up for our free iKiCK, which is essentially the same thing – a fully interactive list of the day's

events – only it gets sent straight to your email for whatever days of the week you choose to sign up for it. This is all free of charge and commitment, of course. We're here to serve, not bother you.

Otherwise, we hope you're all enjoying the holiday season. Thanks for supporting the Spokane SiDEKiCK. If there's any event you're considering advertising for, we hope you keep the Spokane SiDEKiCK in mind. All of our ads are prominently displayed, we've got the best rates in town, by far, and it's the only way to make sure that we can continue to serve the Spokane community for years to come. Warmest holiday wishes from everyone here (both of us) at the Spokane SiDEKiCK.

Brian Clark, Managing Editor
Andy Rowse, Production Manager



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LIVE MUSIC

Gosling



American bands reenact British Invasion in Inland Northwest

SiDEKiCK Editors

Until we, at the SiDEKiCK, were alerted about the upcoming Gosling concert at the Big Easy Concert House on December 8th, we hadn't heard much from any of the performing acts. That has certainly changed since then, however. Now, without fail, you'll hear at least one of the artists busting out of our iTunes every few hours. There are three bands slated for the concert, and two of them are good enough to warrant a Pick of the Issue on their own merit.

Gosling is headlining the show, finally hitting their stride after undergoing some pretty severe changes over the past couple years. Originally a hard rock outfit from the tri-cities area called *Loudermilk*, they've since modified their sound to a much more radio friendly, alt-rock vibe, moved to Los Angeles and changed their name.

Their first full length album under the Gosling title, *Here is ...*, was released earlier this year with standout tracks that include "Stealing Stars," an astonishingly

beautiful ballad that also boasts one of the best videos I've seen all year, and "Mr. Skeleton Wings," which is so rhythmically Brit popish that it would fit seamlessly on a Supergrass greatest hits collection. With their complete overhaul, Gosling has proven to be stripped down yet epic rock at its most pop friendly and best.

Gosling
w/ Village Green, The Look
Fri, Dec 8th, 8 p.m.
The Big Easy
All Ages, \$10
(509) 244-3279



almost nothing from any of these bands as recently as a couple weeks ago, Village Green was the first group to catch our attention. They also get a lot of play time out of our computers' speakers, sounding and looking every bit like a band who're trying ridiculously hard to be The Kinks in a time where that's as refreshing as it is impossible.

Finally, **The Look** will get things going

Village Green is also on the bill for the evening, bumped up a spot after co-headliners Strata had to pull out. Being rabid Kinks fans, and sheepishly admitting we'd heard

with their simple, sugar pop rock, a soft and more familiar ease into the evening.

In summary, then, after the unmistakably American sound of The Look, the last two acts are likely to provide the best imitation of Brit pop that you're going to hear in the Pacific Northwest. With Gosling as a poor man's Supergrass and Village Green as a poor man's Kinks, the two have set their sights high, but they've hit their marks. "Good artists borrow, great artists steal," as Picasso (I think) said, and these guys embrace that mentality to the fullest. That they also manage to craft their own sound in such a narrow framework is a testament to their talent.

This concert gets underway at 8 p.m. at the Big Easy, near the corner of Lincoln and 1st in downtown Spokane. Tickets are \$10, available through www.ticketwest.com, all the TicketsWest outlets listed on page 8, or by calling 1-800-325-SEAT. As with every Big Easy concert, this is an all ages show. For more information, visit www.spokanesidekick.com.

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SIDEKICK LISTENER PROFILES

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.

						
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

THE SPOKANE
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

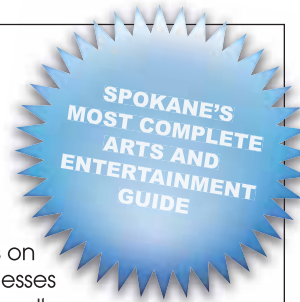


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About our theme:
TOYS!

The cold weather and dull throb of holiday hysteria that marks the end of the year is conducive to a nostalgic look back at days past. We at the SiDEKiCK are embracing that idea with this issue – an issue we're dedicating entirely to our favorite childhood toys. Whether you remi-

nise affectionately about your days playing with Lincoln logs or Tonka trucks, there should be something over the next 24 pages that jogs your memory.

We hope that, in flipping through this issue, a few happy memories will be brought back. Just ignore the

ones where your older brother ties you up and throws you in the closet for hours on end in a drastic and considerably more traumatic alteration to the otherwise harmless pastime of hide-and-seek. We'll leave those memories for therapy. Happy holidays.

Civilized Animal unleashes the beast at The Spread

By A.W. Rowse

Civilized Animal shows are like Halley's Comet, they only happen once every 75 years but when they do occur they are something to behold. Well Spokane, it may feel like an eternity since the last time these Spokane heroes have played but now is your chance. The Animal will be unleashed on Friday, December 8th at The Spread. Joining the band are fellow Spokane acts **The Jupiter Effect**, **The Carcinogens**, and singer/songwriter **J.S. Butcher**.

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.

It has been 7 years but this writer is finally ready to admit something – Civilized Animal popped my concert cherry. The first concert I ever went to was back in 1999 when I was still in High School. Civilized Animal was playing in Riverfront Park so I drove in from the Valley specifically to hear them play. It was wonderful – they were gentle yet firm and left me with a smile on my face.

Warming up the crowd are some the



best that Spokane has to offer in terms of live music. **Jupiter Effect** is a funky, homegrown alt-rock band that has become a fixture around town, playing everywhere from Brooklyn Nights to The Spread.

The Carcinogens are a blues-rock band that specialized in tunes that just make you want to get up and dance. Fronted by Melissa Mills, her Joplinsque voice

keeps the party rolling and the floor full. Opening the night is singer/songwriter **J.S. Butcher** who will warm up the crowd with his blues inspired original tunes.

The show takes place at The Spread, 230 W. Riverside Avenue, and gets

underway at 9 p.m. For more on Civilized Animal, check out their website at www.civilizedanimal.com, or log onto www.spokanesidekick.com for additional links, maps and everything else you need to know to keep up to date on the Spokane music scene. The Spread show is 21 and older only and tickets cost \$5 at the door. The SiDEKiCK expects this show to sell out so be sure to get there early. If you're still in the dancing mood, check out **Milonga** who will perform the following week on Friday, December 15th at The Spread. 🐾

Civilized Animal
w/ The Carcinogens,
Jupiter Effect, J.S. Butcher

Fri, Dec 8th, 9 p.m.

The Spread
21+
(509) 456-4515



The Halls of Nostalgia: Action Figures, dolls for men

From the standard G.I. Joe to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and their arsenal of accessories – like the Party Van, Turtle Blimp and Technodrome – action figures have long been a boy's best friend. Whether disembodying the particular action figure with a firecracker, or playing with it like a "normal" kid, pretending to save the world from any conceivable evil, action figures supplied countless hours of entertainment. Unquestionably fun, action figures were still a grave disappointment when compared to the TV advertisement where they were usually hyped as being able to do everything short of wiping your ass. A particularly traumatic experience in my childhood occurred when my parents' finally agreed to take me to Burger King to get that Superman action figure that came with the happy meal, only to find that not only does Superman NOT turn into Clark Kent at any point, but he can't even fly. Luckily, I had some firecrackers at home.

Obscure action figure fact:

While the term G.I. Joe is largely traced to a 1945 movie about war correspondent Ernie Pyle, the moniker actually goes back a little further. In 1943, a pigeon (!) named G.I. Joe delivered a crucial message to Allied forces in Italy that prevented the bombing of an Italian village which, unbeknownst to them, had been seized by the British days prior. Thousands of people were saved and the pigeon was later awarded the Dickin Medal for gallantry. This, in turn, led Wikipedia to describe G.I. Joe as "possibly one of the most famous pigeons in world history," which is ridiculously funny and somewhat on par with calling Hitler "kind of an asshole."



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NEVER A COVER

Alien Ant Farm makes tour stop at The Blvd

By A.W. Rowse



Alien Ant Farm



The Urgency



Silent Civilian

Alien Ant Farm's career has been sort of a bummer. While the band enjoyed a large dose of success with their cover of Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" and have a Billboard #12 album to their name, a fatal bus crash and record label collapse left the band in a funk from which the band is now just recovering. With a new record label and new album, Alien Ant Farm has gone back to their roots, back to plain and simple rock – back where they belong. The band will perform along with **The Urgency** (Brooklyn not Seattle) and **Silent Civilian** at The Blvd on Saturday, December 9th.

"In a sense I'm younger and more immature now," says singer-songwriter Dryden Mitchell, "We're having fun again."

Mitchell was the hardest hit by the tour bus crash in 2002. Suffering a fractured vertebra, Mitchell made a full recovery but suffered permanent nerve damage.

"I lost some left-to-right motion but you'd never notice it at a show," he says.

Soon after the crash, DreamWorks, Alien Ant Farm's label, dissolved as a record company. Things began to suck for Alien Ant Farm. You probably haven't heard from the band since roughly 2003 because no one's been listening to them. Due to the tragedies, the music had changed. The rock had stopped and people really liked the rock.

With their new album, *Up in the Attic*, released in July of this year, Alien Ant Farm is back on the radar and back to their roots. The band has returned to its hard rocking yet melodic sound – a sound Mitchell lovingly calls "Nerd Metal."

"Being typical artists we wanted to 'mature and grow.' We wanted to say, 'See, we can play jazz chords or Latin.' But we're a rock band. We want cheeseburgers. We don't dumb anything down by any means but we're back

to comfort food. This album sounds like us. It's not about evolving into something else; it's about being who we are," explains Mitchell.

Joining AAF is The Urgency out of Brooklyn. This indie-rock quartet has all of the energy and... urgency of Fall Out Boy without being nearly as annoying. These guys are good and will probably be headlining with AAF opening for them in less than a year. Check them out at www.myspace.com/theurgencymusic.com.

The show gets underway at roughly 8 p.m. The Blvd is located at 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd just across from the old Opera House. The show is for those 18 and older and tickets are \$15. For more information look online at www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com where you will find a database of events, venues, bands and restaurants that will blow your mind. For a full list of events happening at The Blvd turn to page 13 of this issue. 🍌



Alien Ant Farm
w/ The Urgency,
Silent Civilian
Sat, Dec 9th, 8 p.m.
The Blvd.
18+, \$15
(509) 455-7826

The Bell Tolls for Redman, Raekwon, Keith Murray at the Big Easy

By Brian Clark

Rock the Bells, a "world class hip hop platform," is taking its show on the road, giving a chance for some of the biggest names and fastest risers in Southern California hip hop to showcase their talents on numerous stages across the nation. This event, now in its fourth year, is bringing **Redman, Raekwon, Keith Murray, Supernatural, DJ Kool** and others to Spokane's Big Easy Concert House on Monday, December 11th.

The idea behind Rock the Bells is to "represent, respect and recognize" all aspects of urban culture, celebrating it via its primary musical genre: hip hop. Since getting underway in 2003, Rock the Bells has brought Busta Rhymes, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, and a host of other notable rappers to a host of

different national venues. More than just a concert, though, the goal is to be a one-day festival celebrating the whole hip hop lifestyle, with emcee battles, turntable exhibitions, vendor booths, multimedia screenings and surprise performances all a part of the Rock the Bells experience.

Redman headlines this year's festival, bringing a slew of hip hop notoriety in the form of several Def Jam record releases, charted singles and notable collaborations. Included in these collaborations is the rap trio Def Squad, which also features Keith Murray, a rapidly rising musician who will be supporting Redman for all stops on the festival tour.

Former Wu Tang Clan member Raekwon will also be performing at the Big Easy and, though he's not as well known

as other members of the defunct group, he might very well be the most talented. **Ghostface** might take offense at that statement, though, since he's been a pretty successful solo performer/ex-Wu Tang member in his own right, and might shoot me on sight for the preceding sentence. You can make up your own mind as far as these two are concerned, as they'll both be performing at the one-day musical extravaganza, along

with freestyle mastermind Supernatural, Boot Camp Clik's **Smif 'N Wessun**, dance anthem engineer DJ Kool, and others.

Tickets are on sale now for \$27.50 available through www.ticketwest.com, 1-800-325-SEAT or all local TicketsWest outlets listed on page 8. This all ages show starts at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7. For more information, the official Rock the Bells website can be found at www.rockthebells.net. 🍌

Rock the Bells Tour
feat. Redman, Raekwon, Keith Murray, Supernatural, DJ Kool
Mon, Dec 11th, 8 p.m.
The Big Easy
All Ages
(509) 244-3279



The Triceratops of Eloquence Says:

Seminal hip-hop outfit **Public Enemy**, renowned for music that's beyond politically charged to the point it fuses on militancy, is descending upon the Inland Northwest for a dynamic rap experience at the Big Easy Concert House on Monday, December 18th. The autochthonous lineup is being reincarnated for this contemporaneous tour, with Flavor Fav, Chuck D and Professor Cliff all present and accounted for. The concert commences at 8 p.m., with presale tickets available via www.ticketwest.com and the various TicketsWest avenues. Prices have been established at \$27.50 for this all ages performance. More information can be sought at www.bigeasyconcerts.com.



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Portland's Floater Releases New CD at The Blvd

A.W. Rowse

Portland trio **Floater** is coming to Spokane to release their 8th full-length album with the help of Coeur d'Alene's Melefluent. This 18 and older show will take place on Friday, December 15th at 9 p.m. at The Blvd.

Floater is, by every definition, a modern rock band. There is no slash-country, slash-reggae, or slash-punk about them – these three boys from Oregon play straight up rock 'n roll and have been doing so for roughly 12 years. The band's new release, *Stone by Stone*, features 14 all-new songs that continue to push the boundaries of rock and further define their already polished sound. The album is available online at www.floatermusic.com for \$17, with the band's seven other releases also available on the website.

Opening for Floater is **Melefluent**, out of Coeur D'Alene. Labeling this trio's sound is as hard as trying to decide to use "he" or "she" when referring to RuPaul. (On a side-note RuPaul has been quoted as saying, "You can call me he. You can call me she. You can call me Regis & Kathie Lee; I don't care!" I'm glad we cleared that up.)

Melefluent has a pleasant pop-rock base that sometimes comes dressed in reggae, and sometimes dons country licks. It really depends on the track. Generally, Melefluent plays music for people who like music. Adding to the bands sound is a lapsteel guitar. (There is something about a lapsteel that makes the SiDEKiCK all hot and bothered – I think maybe because



it's shiny.)

The band has recently returned from an East Coast tour that took them to the far end of I-90 and back. They will spend some time in the Northwest before deciding on a further course of action, so look for upcoming shows in the area on the band's myspace page (www.myspace.com/melefluent). On a related note, Melefluent released a new CD, titled *Ways to Create*, this past August. The disc, along with the band's debut release, is available on CDBaby.com, and is reviewed below this article.

This special show takes place at 9 p.m. on Friday, December 15th at The Blvd, located at 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd in downtown, Spokane.

Tickets are available in advance from TicketsWest and online at www.ticketswest.com. Prices are \$11 in advance and \$13 the day of the show. 🐾



Floater
CD Release Party
w/ Melefluent
Fri, Dec 15th, 9 p.m.
The Blvd
18+
(509) 455-7826

Lets All Go to the Movies

Melefluent's song *Lazy Daze* will appear in Nxstep Films' upcoming release **The Agency**, premiering on Saturday, December 9th at The Met. The night will feature the premiere of two films created by Nxstep Films of Spokane and the music of La Cha-Cha, The Blakes, York, and Starting Over. For more information, check out page 17 of this issue.

30 second CD Review: Ways to Create

By A.W. Rowse

Ways to Create, The sophomore release from Coeur D'Alene's **Melefluent** is a good representation of the band's diversity and range. This aptly named disk should have a full title of *Ways to Create a CD That Spans Every Genre from Hip-hop to Funk* but that probably wouldn't have fit on the cover.

Pop tracks such as "Friends Don't Let Friends Steal Friend's Guitars" strike a nice balance between catchy lyrics and rocking guitar solos, while in "Fine

Women and Wine" the band takes a funkier approach that reminds me of Hot Action Cop (wow, what an obscure reference).

Overall a really good disc with enough diversity to keep me interested through multiple plays, although I feel that some tracks get a little guitar heavy for my personal liking.

Individual tracks from *Ways to Create* are available on iTunes, or the album in full can be found at CDBaby.com. For more information, check out the band's MySpace page at myspace.com/melefluent. 🐾



LIVE MUSIC

Every Tues :: Reggae Night
(Reggae / Dance)

Dec 7th :: Youngfound
(Hip-Hop Showcase)

Dec 8th :: Civilized Animal
w/ Jupiter Effect, The Carcinogens, J.S. Butcher
See page 5 of this issue for more info
(Funk / Rock / Ska)

Dec 13th :: Skillet Jones
and the Funky-Fi Collectors
(Funk / Reggae / Soul)

Dec 15th :: Milonga
presented by Spokane Boxing
(Latin / Acoustic)

Dec 16th :: X-mas Party w/ DJ

Dec 20th :: Skillet Jones
and the Funky-Fi Collectors
(Funk / Reggae / Soul)

Dec 22nd :: Rutah
(Metal / Black Metal / Death Metal)



THE SPREAD

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By Phone 1-800-325-SEAT

Online @ www.TicketsWest.com

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Spokane Arena - 720 W. Mallon
10 am - 6 pm, Mon - Fri
Met Theater - 901 W. Sprague
10 am - 2 pm, Mon - Fri
Spokane Symphony - 818 W. Riverside
9:30 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri

ROSAUER'S

Northside Rosauer's - 9414 N. Division St
8 am - 8 pm, Mon - Sat
South Hill Rosauer's - 2610 E. 29th Ave
8 am - 9 pm, Daily
Valley Rosauer's - 10618 E. Sprague Ave
10 am - 6 pm, Mon - Sat

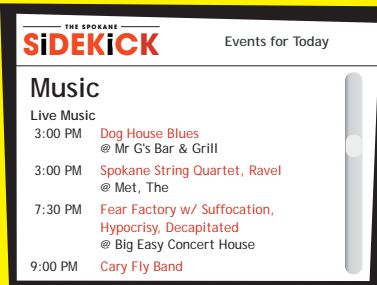
WEST PLAINS

Northern Quest Casino - 100 North Hayford
10 am - 10 pm, Daily
Fairchild AFB - Community Ctr Bldg 2185
7 am - 8 pm, Mon - Fri
10 am - 5 pm, Sat & Holidays

IDAHO

Coeur d'Alene Casino - Highway 95 just before Worley, ID
8 am - Midnight, Daily
North Idaho College - 1000 W Garden Ave in Coeur d'Alene, ID
10 am - 4 pm, Mon - Fri
Red Lion Templin's Resort - 414 E. 1st Ave in Post Falls, ID
9 am - 6 pm, Daily

Attention Mac Users!



The SiDEKiCK WiDGET

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The download is free and you will have the power of the SiDEKiCK website just a quick click away.

Not a Mac User? Sign-up for our free email newsletter, The iKiCK, which provides roughly the same info but in email form.

Available only at www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com

LIVE MUSIC

News



NOKes




Mistress and the Misters are reuniting with the **Lilac City Rollergirls**, joining forces in order to raise money for Cancer Patient Care on Saturday, December 9th at the Roller Valley Skate Center on E. Sprague in the Spokane Valley. **19 Points of Nowhere** will also join in on this night of fundraising and debauchery. Presale tickets are available for \$10 a piece, with your best bet probably being through the band. Go to Mistress and the Misters' myspace page and leave them a message or just check out the music (www.myspace.com/mistressandthemisters) ...

Quiet Riot is playing at The Grail in Coeur d'Alene on Friday, December 15th! (Normally we feel obligated to just report the news, but that sentence deserves an exclamation point.) Though their American debut album was released when I was one day old, *Metal Health* is one of my personal, all-time most played heavy metal albums, and I can say with confidence that Quiet Riot totally fucking rocked (and apparently still do). The concert gets underway at The Grail, 4720 Seltice Way in Coeur d'Alene, at 8 p.m. for a 21 and over audience only. Tickets are \$20 ...

KYRS Thin Air Radio is holding a benefit concert on Sunday, December 17th in downtown's multi-purpose Community Building, with a pair of Tacoma bands (**Greyskull** and **Owen Hart**), as well as local outfits **Behold** and **The Merrick Diaries**. All performing acts play some variant of hardcore death metal, be it thrash, grindcore or otherwise. The Community Building can

be found in downtown Spokane at 35 W. Main Street. The concert starts at 6 p.m., with a five dollar cover to benefit KYRS Thin Air Community Radio, a free-form station that can be found on the dial at 92.3 FM and 89.9 FM (where it recently moved from 95.3 as reported in the November 2nd issue of the SiDEKiCK). Check out the station simply by tuning in, or visit their website at www.kyrs.org ...

On Saturday, December 16th, **The Viktor Novorski Swing Band** will be performing at Brooklyn Nights. The bar is also starting a customer appreciation night every Thursday, where they'll be offering \$1 pints of PBR as well as a half grilled cheese sandwich and cup of tomato parmesan soup from the deli for \$3. The \$1 PBR is being extended to Monday nights, as well, for drunken patrons to gather in the basement of Brooklyn nights and lick their wounds from the weekend while watching the football game. Given the booze-oriented nature of these events, they're obviously for ages 21 and over only ...

Prago Argentine Cafe is holding a **Silent Auction** on Sunday, December 9th to benefit Toys for Tots. There will be wine tasting from 5 - 7 p.m. with \$2 off the tasting fee if you bring a toy, otherwise it'll run you \$12. Included in the silent auction will be a snowboard and a pair of Interplayers tickets provided by your friends here at the SiDEKiCK. (Go us.) The auction will be followed by the classical guitar work of **Abe Kenny**. Prago can be found at 201 W. Riverside in downtown Spokane. 

The Halls of Nostalgia: Gals & Dolls

The ying to the action figure's yang, this staple for young girls came in all shapes and sizes. From the traditional Barbie - that encouraged superficiality and a possible eating disorder - to Betsy Wetsy - a way to start grooming girls for motherhood at any obscenely early age by letting them practice diaper changing - dolls have always been a borderline unhealthy but perfectly natural play device for females everywhere. It should be noted that the Ideal Toy Company released a doll that was intended to appeal to boys. Called My Buddy, this near life-sized creation was made available due to the fact that the kind of boy who plays with dolls probably isn't going to have a lot of friends, so My Buddy allowed parents to simply purchase a friend for them. Sexual confusion and human interaction sold separately.

Obscure Doll Fact:

Every year on March 3rd, the third day of the third month, the Japanese celebrate the Hinamatsuri Doll Festival, where dolls are prominently displayed around the country to appease the Emperor and other high ranking officials. The custom dates back to the 17th century when it was believed dolls had the ability to contain bad spirits, and therefore bring luck to their owners.



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color to enhance your skin and eyes.
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Pillar doesn't joke around



Pillar
w/ Days of Fire,
Showdown, Decyfer Down

Sun, Dec 10th, 7 p.m.

The Service Station
All Ages, \$12 adv
(509) 466-1696

Pillar

By A.W. Rowse

Pillar is very serious about their music. This was very evident over the phone as I chatted with lead singer Rob Beckley while the band was stuck in Denver due to a snowstorm. He had no time for such silly things as MySpace and was unaffected when I mentioned that Pillar had 92,041 friends making them 282.3 times more popular than the SiDEKiCK. No, Beckley was all about the music and intent on his goal... making Pillar a household name.

Pillar is joined by fellow hard rockers **Days of Fire**, a Christian band that released their latest album on May, 6th of this year (6/6/06), **The Showdown**, who collectively has more hair than most yak, and **Decyfer Down**, to whom I have no comment. The epically named Days of The Reckoning Tour will make a stop at the Service Station on Sunday, December 10th before continuing their blitzkrieg of world domination... for God.

Hailing from Oklahoma, Pillar's bio muses that the band has designs to "haul the entire Midwest to national prominence on their backs, Atlas-style." This desire is echoed in the bands name.

"We wanted something that sounded

powerful," explains Beckley. "Also, it is a representation of the church and a foundation of truth."

The band just released their newest album, *The Reckoning*, in October of this year. The disc showcases the bands signature sound but the music contains a new element of integrity that, according to Beckley, was not a priority on previous albums.

"In our previous releases we were more concerned with making music that was radio friendly," explains Beckley. "With *The Reckoning* we actually sat down and wrote songs that meant something to us."

Musically Pillar is quite dynamic – songs bob-and-weave from passionately screamed lyrics to Downy-soft melodies in the same song. It is music designed to be played at full volume.

This evening of praise through hard rock and long hair takes place on Sunday, December 10th at 7 p.m. at the Service Station. The Service Station is located at 9315 N. Nevada Street just north of the intersection of Nevada and Magnesium Rd. Tickets for this all-ages show are available in advance from TicketsWest for \$12. Door price is \$15. For a full list of TicketsWest locations please turn to page 8 of this issue. 🎸

BEST BAND NAME

When a new band forms, they spend almost as much time deciding on a band name as they do writing music. To justify time spent, the SiDEKiCK will pick one group performing in Spokane during the run of the issue and award them the title of Best Band Name for the issue.

The Winner...

Skillet Jones & the Funky-fi Collectors

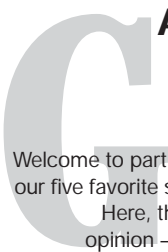
Wed, Dec 13th, 9 pm

Wed, Dec 20th, 9 pm

The Spread
230 W. Riverside
21+ only

ALPHABET SOUP

"THE G LIST"



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

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

OUR PICKS

Glycerine
Bush

Growing Up
Bruce Springsteen

God's Away on Business
Tom Waits

Good Night Miss Saigon
Billy Joel

Glósóli
Sigur Ros

READER PICKS

Get Free
The Vines

Get Even
The Evens

Golden Age
Beck

Gigantic
The Pixies

Godless
The Dandy Warhols

This week's Reader Picks were sent by Lindsey Pierce. For sharing her opinion, she gets a 4 tickets to the upcoming Inter-players production of Driving Miss Daisy.

Email your five favorite songs starting with the letter H 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.

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An Open Letter to Doug Clark from SiDEKiCK Managing Editor Brian Clark:

Dear Mr. Clark,

You don't really know me (nor do I know you, for that matter) yet I've been asked on several occasions whether we're related or not. Surely, this is due almost exclusively to the fact that we have the same last name and, though our surname is a common one, we enjoy roughly the same occupation and people are generally uncreative and quick to assume. As such, they're anxious to connect the two of us in some way, shape or form (at least on my end; I'd be surprised if you'd ever heard of me before we met a few days ago). The inquiries are also undoubtedly due to the fact that we're both incorrigible smart asses.

If I may be so bold, it seems that we approach writing with something of a similar philosophy in that pretty much any subject matter is fair game and any article that isn't stuffy and pretentious is going to be somewhat refreshing when the media is otherwise saturated with that sort of nonsense. Plus, I'm a jackass and I'm willing to bet you are too.

So, if you ever have something to say that the Spokesman refuses to print, if there's anything really chapping your ass that you think the city of Spokane needs to hear, consider the SiDEKiCK as your outlet. I know, technically the SiDEKiCK is in competition with the 7 (and therefore the Spokesman), but we're all here to promote arts and I don't see the different publications as anything but good for the community. So email us anything you want, and we'll print it, no questions asked. Or simply feel free and get in touch in any way and we'll become fast friends; I'm certain of it. We can tell people that you're my uncle and then I'll complain that you keep me locked up in the basement and routinely spray me down with an industrial strength garden hose. Surely, we can get somebody to buy me a free drink or two out of this, and we'll stop before you get arrested. Good times.

At any rate, this letter has very little in the way of a point. Just know that I appreciate reading your column and look forward to your upcoming CD release concert. I really had a lot of fun at the Trailer Park Girls' Pacific Pizza show on the first of the month. Continue offending people and you will continue to have me as a loyal reader.

Sincerely,

Brian Clark
Managing Editor
Spokane SiDEKiCK

LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

The Trailer Park Girls

by A.W. Rowse



Contrary to my grandmother's most adamant assertions, Doug Clark does not have two heads and a forked tongue. Turns out he is actually a really nice guy. The SiDEKiCK caught up with Clark, lead singer of The Trailer Park Girls (a band that is neither from the park nor girls; not even one) at their recent concert at Pacific Pizza.

For anyone who doesn't know Doug Clark, he works as a columnist for the Spokesman Review and excels in bringing the hypocrisy of Spokane to light. His unapologetic editorials have gained him both notoriety and disdain, depending on who you're talking to (a police officer is most likely to react with disdain). But this is not important; Doug Clark the columnist and Doug Clark the musician are different people and the former is of no consequence to this article.

"For years I never mentioned my name and I liked it that way," says Clark. "Whatever fans we gained have been just through the music."

The band is Doug Clark on guitar and vocals, Jeff Peterson on bass, Brian Drew on drums and occasionally Joe Brass on guitar. Former members include drummer Charlie Schmidt who is responsible for most of the band's "coolness factor," according to Clark. "Together they form a band the likes of which have never been seen, and they called themselves The Trailer Park Girls." This obscure Tenacious D reference is not without a point – the SiDEKiCK thinks that The Trailer Park Girls are like Spokane's own Tenacious D. Besides penning some of the wittiest, poignant songs we've heard since Woodstock, they are also phenomenal musicians, much like Tenacious D.

The first spark of life for the Trailer Park Girls happened when Clark was chauffeuring his son (former member of The Stoics and current member of Seattle's The Lashes) to a gig when his son mused, "We really need some radio songs."

Clark was happy to oblige and ended up writing 8 songs on his son's first album. When Clark's son moved to Seattle to peruse a career in music he gave all of the songs back, including the song "Trailer Park Girls." Peterson and Clark, who had been playing together in a cover band, decided that

the time was right to start doing original material. Besides, they already had a theme song in "Trailer Park Girl," an anthem to clip-on-nail wearing, Jerry Springer watching, K-Mart shopping women everywhere.

Believe it or not music is not a new venture for Clark who spent three years in the music program at EWU before he dropped out of school, recorded an album, and hit the road to tour and play music. Unfortunately this didn't end well.

"I found that in my early 20's I had horrible stage fright that really stopped me from performing, so I went back to school and changed my major in my last year to journalism," explains Clark.

Through the pressures of a deadline and screaming editors Clark's stage fright has vanished, completely. Clark, now 55, is now able to stand on stage and sing about Spokane's taboo topics without ever batting an eye.

From the death of Otto Zem to the band's namesake song about trailer trash honeys, no topic is off limit.

"With satire you take a risk that no one will get it or will take it literally," explains Clark. "Satire is the king of comedy."

Clark's poignant lyrics are backed by the sometimes blues, sometimes folksy, sometimes popish, but always-excellent musicianship of the Trailer Park Girls. And it's apparent that they love what they are doing – great music can't be forced, it just happens when all of the elements click.

The band will release their new CD of their latest work on Saturday, December 18th at The Blvd. This 18 and older show starts at 9 p.m. The Blvd is located at 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. in downtown, Spokane. You can also get a sneak peak of the album by attending any of the Trailer Park Girl's other shows over the next couple of weeks, first at Pacific Pizza on Friday, December 8th (all ages) and next on Thursday, December 14th at the Peacock Room (21+). Their set will include all of the songs that will appear on the album. For more information and to hear samples of The Trailer Park Girls be look online at www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com. 🐾

Trailer Park Girls

Fri, Dec 8th, 8 p.m.
Pacific Pizza, All Ages
(509) 624-0236

Sat, Dec 16th, 9 p.m.
The Blvd, 18+
(509) 455-7826



The Halls of Nostalgia: Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots

The only toy where it was acceptable to "knock his block off," this childhood icon saw the Blue Bomber and Red Rocker square off in a boxing match that was completely manipulated by the power of one's thumbs. It was one of the only chances you had of getting back at your older sibling in a battle of power that didn't end up with you suffering a black eye.

Obscure Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots fact:

A life-sized version was brought to the annual Burning Man festival in 2003, 2004 and 2006.



Flee the Century releases CD with two shows in one night

By Brian Clark

I always thought that the weirdest moment in rock 'n roll history could be found on the first side of Neil Young's *Reactor*, where he spends an entire song talking about how much he likes mashed potatoes, but laments that he'd really like a steak to go with them. The entire song is seven words long, but that doesn't prevent it from going on for like 10 minutes. After listening to Spokane's **Flee the Century**, though, I'm not so sure; they might actually have him topped. The band defines eclectic, with ambient sounds of dolphin splashes set over synth beats, and a generally chaotic amalgamation of highly electronic and rhythmic punk music ebbing and flowing. The weirdo factor increases if you visit their website or myspace page, which are peppered with images depicting everything from a giraffe driving a limousine to a close-up on a Hulk Hogan energy drink.

Besides being idiosyncratic, Flee the Century is certifiably insane. Unlike a normal band that records a CD and holds a release party, this Spokane electro-indie-punk threesome is throwing two parties... on the same night. I guess if you're going to be a rock star

then you better damn well act like one.

The first release party will be held at the Prago Argentine Café at the corner of Browne and Riverside in downtown Spokane. Starting at 7 p.m., the band will then pack up their gear and head over to Mootsy's for a second show on the same night. Twice the shows; half the fun. Or something like that.

The Limbs will join Flee The Century at Prago, with **Seaweed Jack** and **Cyrus Fell Down** kicking off the nightcap at Mootsy's, which gets underway at 9 p.m. The Prago release extravaganza is an all ages affair, while the Mootsy's show is 21 and over only. Mootsy's is found at 406 W. Sprague, by the way, and there will be a \$6 cover for anyone that wants to go inside. There will probably be a cover at Prago, as well, but we're not sure how much it is, due in no small part to the fact that we're surprisingly lazy and uninformed people, especially for a couple of dudes who are running a newspaper.

For more information, check out www.spokanesidekick.com, where you can listen to samples from all the performing bands, and generally just have an all-around good time. 🍻

Genres collide at BOBfest benefit

By Brian Clark

Chase Youth Commission is putting on a pretty impressive concert to benefit their annual BOBfest (Battle of the Bands) competition that takes place every summer. Some of the best loved faces in local heavy metal and punk/rock will be on hand for the fundraiser at New Groove, 5906 N. Market, in Hillyard. The show starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 8th, with a mere \$10 giving you access to the five performing bands, and aiding the Spokane entertainment scene in the process.

As far as the hardcore acts go, **Catacomb**, **To No Avail**, **Poison Most Foul** and **Pimagora** will all be thrashing, smashing and generally creating mayhem on stage. **Small Town Nation** will be injecting a little pop punk into the evening while **Vax Lavalla** will provide something more

akin to traditional rock than anything else slated for the evening. (Side note: Listening to *Vax Lavalla* the other day, I came up with what I thought was a perfect description for the band and wanted to share it: They sound like *Dream Theatre* if Trey Anastasio assumed primary guitar duties, followed by everybody in the group dropping acid and listening to a lot of weird Latin music.)

To recap, then, this is a pretty amazing show for a scant \$10 that helps out a staple Spokane musical event in the process. Advance tickets are available through www.ticketswest.com and the various TicketsWest outlets around town (see page 8), as well as by calling 1-800-325-SEAT. For more information, visit www.spokanesidekick.com, which has links to all the performing artists' websites and much, much more (probably more than you ever wanted) ... 🍻

The Halls of Nostalgia: The Great Outdoors

From sledding and fort-building to tag, football and simply running around, pretending to be an exotic explorer or frontier conquering cowboy, the hours spent outside provided many with some of their fondest memories. A note to current parents: let your kids play unsupervised when it's reasonable, let them go trick-or-treating outside and ride their bike around the neighborhood to their heart's content. Sure, they'll eventually end up with some cuts, bruises and possibly a broken limb – but all that stuff heals and it's infinitely better than the lazy, insulated adolescents that are largely being raised today. Plus, it gets them out of the house for a couple of hours so you can finally enjoy your gin and tonic in peace.

Obscure outdoors fact:

A recent study conducted on 9 – 15 year olds in Denmark, Estonia and Portugal found that children who frequently play outside dramatically reduce their risk of contracting heart disorders later in life. They recommend an average of 90 minutes of outside playtime per day for the best results in adulthood.

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Pint of PBR - \$1 Jazz Jam at 9 p.m.*

LIVE MUSIC

12/8 - Fine For Now
(rock / alternative)

12/9 - Buffalo Jones
(rock / roots)

12/15 - Cheryl Branz
(acoustic guitar)

12/16 - The Viktor Novorski Swing Band
(jazz / lounge)



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December 7th - 20th



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 7:30 PM *Spokane Falls Community College*
 Whitworth Vocal-Jazz Soloists Recital
 8:00 PM *Whitworth College*
 Sammy Eubanks 8:00 PM *Buckhorn Inn*
 Joe Kloess Trio, jazz** 8:00 PM *ella's Supper Club*
 Allen Stone w/ Jamal Ali pres by Rock Coffee
 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*
 Jazz Jam** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*
 Mike Wagoner, blues** 9:00 PM *Far West Billiards*
 Belt of Vapor w/ Lines Collide & Guests*
 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*
 Youngfound Hip-Hop Showcase**
 9:00 PM *Spread, The*
 Donny Emerson w/ friends**
 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*
 Exit 7** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*
 DJ Doorman 9:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*
 Club U* 10:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*
 Ladies Night w/ DJ** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*

----- Theater -----

'Festival of One Acts'
 7:00 PM *Cowles Auditorium (Whitworth)*
 Mame
 7:30 PM *Spokane Civic Theater*
 Comedy Show
 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

----- Other -----

Lecture: 'UA track coach Harvey Glance'
 8:00 PM *Lair Auditorium (SCC)*
 Samba Dancing
 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Free Tango Lessons
 7:30 PM *CenterStage Theater*
 Free Argentine Tango Class
 7:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*
 Street Style Hip-Hop Class
 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 College Long Island Night**
 4:00 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*
 Customer Appreciation Night (\$1 PBR)**
 6:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

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.

Film: 'The Invisible Children'
7:00 PM *Shop, The*

----- Music -----

Catacomb w/ To No Avail, Pimagora, Poison Most
 Foul, Vax Lavala, Small Town Nation
 7:00 PM *The New Groove*
 Logan Heftel w/ Ron Greene 7 PM *Leonardo's*
 Matt Russell w/ Matt DeRyan 7PM *Ionic Burrito*
 Spokane Symphony: 'The Nutcracker'
 7:30 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*
 Flee the Century CD Release Show w/ LIMBS
 8:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*
 Gosling w/ The Village Green, The Look
 8:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*
 Trailer Park Girls 8:00 PM *Pacific Pizza*
 Mike Wagoner w/ Kristen Marlo pres by Rock Coffee
 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*
 Burns Like Hellfire** 8:00 PM *Raw Sushi*
 Fine For Now** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*
 Bob McComb & Crossfire** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*
 Intermission w/ Scarlett June* 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*
 Mr. Happy** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*
 The Cruizers** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*
 Papa Glenn** 9:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*
 Don Goodwin & Localized Tenderness**
 9:00 PM *ella's Supper Club*
 Civilized Animal w/ Jupiter Effect, The Carcinogens,
 J.S. Butcher** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*
 Lindel Reasons** 9:00 PM *Peacock Room*
 Sammy Eubanks Band** 9:00 PM *Hedge House*
 Mistress & The Misters w/ The Dearly Departed
 9:00 PM *Baby Bar*
 Flee The Century CD Release Show w/ Seaweed
 Jack, Cyrus Fell Down** 10:00 PM *Mooty's*
 DJ Little John** 9:00 PM *Flame, The*
 DJ Bee** 9:00 PM *Peking North*
 The Cutz Hip-Hop Dance w/ Sterling
 9:30 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM *Merq*
 DJ Carlos' Latino Salsa Party*
 9:30 PM *Bourbon Street*
 DJ Loud Richard** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*

----- Theater -----

A Fairy Tale? 8:00 PM *Blue Door Theater, The*
 Ignite Community Theater: "Holiday Stories"
 6:30 PM *Auntie's Bookstore*
 'Festival of One Acts'
 7:00 PM *Cowles Auditorium (Whitworth)*
 Mame 8:00 PM *Spokane Civic Theater*
 ComedySportz: The Original Show
 8:00 PM *ComedySportz*

----- Other -----

Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Seattle
 7:00 PM *Spokane Arena*
 Beginning Argentine Tango
 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Dempsey's Drag Show** 10:00 PM *Dempseys*

MACFest: Old-Fashioned Holidays and More

12:00 PM *MAC*
 Wine Tasting / Silent Auction (Toys for Tots Benefit)**
 5:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*
 Nxstep Film's Orange & The Agency
 6:30 PM *Met, The*

----- Music -----

Spokane Symphony: 'The Nutcracker'
 2:00 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*
 Whitworth Christmas Festival Concert 'From Out of
 Darkness, We Have Light'
 3 & 7 PM *First Presbyterian Church*
 Tracy Carr, solo guitar 5:45 PM *ella's*
 Kevin Morgan 7:00 PM *Ionic Burrito*
 Spokane Symphony: 'The Nutcracker'
 7:30 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*
 Abe Kenny, Classical Guitar
 8:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*
 Sebastian Bach 8:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*
 Papa Glenn** 8:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*
 Alien Ant Farm w/ The Urgency, Silent Civilians*
 8:00 PM *Blvd., The*
 Paper Mache CD Release Show w/ Matthew Winters
 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*
 Save Lefty 9:00 PM *Mizuna*
 Rock Bottom** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*
 Buffalo Jones** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*
 Bob McComb & Crossfire** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*
 Mr. Happy** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*
 The Cruizers** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*
 Don Goodwin & Localized Tenderness**
 9:00 PM *ella's Supper Club*
 Lindel Reasons** 9:00 PM *Peacock Room*
 EZ Loader Xmas Party** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*
 Lilac City Roller Girls w/ Mistress & The Misters, 19
 Points of Nowhere (Roller Derby/Concert/Fund-
 raiser) 9:00 PM *Roller Valley Skate Center*
 Planetary Refugees** 9:00 PM *Blue Spark*
 After the Fall** 9:00 PM *Star Restaurant & Lounge*
 Party 101** 9:00 PM *Volcano's*
 DJ Marcus Randall 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi*
 DJ Bee** 9:00 PM *Peking North*
 DJ Little John** 9:00 PM *Flame, The*
 Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM *Merq*
 The Dance Factory** 10:00 PM *Big Easy*
 Mexican Dance Party* 10:00 PM *Bourbon Street*
 DJ Loud Richard** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*

----- Other -----

Mame 8:00 PM *Spokane Civic Theater*
 ComedySportz 8:00 PM *ComedySportz*
 Uncle D's Comedy Club 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*
 Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Portland
 7:00 PM *Spokane Arena*
 Gonzaga Men vs Washington
 8:00 PM *McCarthy Athletic Center*
 Saturday Night Salsa 8 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Dempsey's Drag Show** 10:00 PM *Dempseys*
 Drag Show: Lexi Sapphire w/ the Merquettes**
 10:30 AM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

Sunday • 10

Monday • 11

Tuesday • 12

Wednesday • 13

----- Music -----

Spokane Symphony: 'The Nutcracker'
 2:00 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*
 Dog House Blues**
 3:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*
 Pillar w/ Days of Fire, The Showdown, Decyfer Down
 7:00 PM *Service Station, The*
 L.A. Guns w/ Bulletboys*
 8:00 PM *Blvd., The*
 Cary Fly**
 9:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

----- Theater -----

Mame
 2:00 PM *Spokane Civic Theater*
 Improv Competition: Cool Whip vs. On the Spot
 Players
 8:00 PM *Cowles Auditorium (Whitworth)*
 Brick Wall Comedy Club Open Mic
 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

----- Other -----

Dempsey's Brass Rail Bingo
 4:00 PM *Dempseys Brass Rail*
 Kill the Keg (\$1 pints until gone)**
 6:00 PM *Blue Spark*
 Study Break College Night
 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*

Monday Night Football Party (\$1 PBR)**
6:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

----- Music -----

Jonathan Nicolson
 7:00 PM *Europa Pizzeria*
 Rock the Bells Tour fea. Redman, Raekwon,
 Keith Murray, Supernatural & DJ Cool
 8:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*
 Spokane's Original Open Mic Night**
 9:15 PM *Blue Spark*

----- Other -----

Fantasy Football Lounge
 5:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*
 Argentine Tango
 6:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*
 SCC Men vs North Idaho College
 7:00 PM *McCarthy Athletic Center*
 Hip-Hop/Break Dance Class w/ Shanner
 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Texas Hold'em Tournament
 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

\$Two Buck Tuesday**
4:00 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

----- Music -----

Rock Coffee Open Mic 7:00 PM *Caterina Winery*
 Sissy Starr, music & dancing**
 7:00 PM *Studio K Bar & Grill*
 Danny McCollim, solo jazz piano*
 7:00 PM *ella's Supper Club*
 Collin Raye 7:30 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*
 Open Mic Night* 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*
 Matt Tansy** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*
 Old School DJ Mix 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi*
 Reggae Night** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*

----- Other -----

Beginning Belly Dancing
 6:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Drop-in Salsa Class 7:00 PM *Conexion del Tango*
 Class: The Actor's Playground
 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Street Style Hip-Hop Class
 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Simply Hip-Hop Team Practice
 9:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Pub Trivia** 9:15 PM *Blue Spark*
 Texas Hold'em Tournament
 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*
 Game Show Night 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*
 Beer Pong Tournament** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*

----- Music -----

The Singing Nuns, Irish Christmas
 7:30 PM *Met, The*
 Open Mic Night**
 8:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*
 Open Turntable Night 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi*
 Live Music Wednesdays
 9:00 PM *Bourbon Street*
 Skillet Jones & the Funky-Fi Collectors**
 9:00 PM *Spread, The*

----- Other -----

Free Comedy Show
 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*
 Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Everett
 7:00 PM *Spokane Arena*
 Beer Bucket Night (\$10)**
 7:00 PM *Blue Spark*
 Argentine Tango
 6:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*
 Variety Swing Class
 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 Waltz Class
 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*
 50¢ Beer Night
 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*

The SiDEKiCK is printed every other Thursday and distributed free to 250 venues & businesses around Spokane. Look for your next issue on Thursday, December 21st

Thursday • 14

Friday • 15

Saturday • 16



DINE IN • DRIVE THRU • CARRY OUT
11923 E. Trent (1 block west of Pines) 926-6188

HOUSE OF MUSIC

Every Tuesday
Open Mic, \$2 Drafts

Every Wednesday
50¢ beer

Thursday 7th
Belt of Vapor, Lines Collide (Rock / Experimental)

Friday 8th
Intermission w/ Forgive Durden Lydia (Indie / Rock / Emo)

Saturday 9th
Alien Ant Farm w/ The Urgency, Silent Civilian (Rock / Indie / Metal)

Sunday 10th
L.A. Guns, Bulletboys (Rock)

Thursday 14th
The Acorn Project (Rock / Funk)

Friday 15th
Floater (CD Release), Melefluent (Rock / Pop)

Saturday 16th
Trailer Park Girls CD Release (Pop / Rock / Blues)



the Blvd.
333 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
455-7826

College Long Island Night**
5:00 PM Merq Liquid Lounge
Customer Appreciation Night (\$1 PBR)**
6:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Music

Open Mic Night
6:00 PM Ionic Burrito

The Singing Nuns, Irish Christmas
2:00 PM Met, The

Chuck Dunlap**
5:00 PM ella's Supper Club

The Singing Nuns, Irish Christmas
7:30 PM Met, The

Sammy Eubanks
8:00 PM Buckhorn Inn

Trailer Park Girls**
8:00 PM Peacock Room

Annie O'Neill w/ Pat O'Neill, Kevin Long
8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Age of Nefilim, Doomlit Sky, Rutah**
8:30 PM Mootsy's

Seth Woodward, acoustic**
9:00 PM Far West Billiards

Jazz Jam**
9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Donny Emerson w/ friends**
9:00 PM Bigfoot Pub & Eatery

Exit 7**
9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans

Acorn Project*
9:00 PM Blvd., The

DJ James Pants
9:00 PM Prago Argentine Cafe

Club U*
10:00 PM Big Easy Concert House

Ladies Night w/ DJ**
10:00 PM Talotti's 211

Theater

'A Reduced Christmas Carol'
7:00 PM Interplayers Theatre

'Mame'
7:30 PM Spokane Civic Theater

Comedy Show
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

Other

Samba Dancing
7:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Free Argentine Tango Class
7:30 PM Conexion del Tango

Free Tango Lessons
7:30 PM CenterStage Theater

Street Style Hip-Hop Class
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Music

Joe Kloess, solo jazz piano
5:45 PM ella's Supper Club

The Nightfly, The Magic Mirrors, Waggy Plank
7:00 PM The New Groove

Logan Hefel w/ Philip Gregory
7:00 PM Ionic Burrito

Martin Nelson w/ Brandon Hefel
7:00 PM Leonardo's Coffee

Cool Stream, blues & jazz duo**
7:30 PM Barrel Room No. 6 (C'DA)

Bryanna w/ J.S. Butcher, Thomas Bechard
8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Quiet Riot (Rock for Tots Benefit)**
8:00 PM The Grail (C'DA)

DJ Yehon** 9:00 PM Blue Spark

Cheryl Branz** 9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Rock Bottom** 9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans

Jim Huntsman Band** 9:00 PM Slab Inn

Localized Tenderness** 9:00 PM Raw Sushi

The John Stowell Group**
9:00 PM ella's Supper Club

Cary Fly** 9:00 PM Bigfoot Pub & Eatery

Hat Rabbit** 9:00 PM Peacock Room

Spokane Boxing pres. Milonga**
9:00 PM Spread, The

Floater CD Release Show w/ Melefluent*
9:00 PM Blvd., The

Sammy Eubanks Band** 9:00 PM Hedge House

Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band**
9:00 PM Mr G's Bar & Grill

Party 101** 9:00 PM Volcano's

After the Fall** 9:00 PM Bolo's Bar & Grill

DJ Little John** 9:00 PM Flame, The

DJ James Pants** 9:00 PM Baby Bar

DJ Bee** 9:00 PM Peking North

Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM Merq

The Cutz Hip-Hop Dance w/ Sterling
9:30 PM Simply Dance Studio

DJ Carlos' Latino Salsa Party*
9:30 PM Bourbon Street

DJ Loud Richard** 10:00 PM Talotti's 211

Theater

'A Reduced Christmas Carol'
7:00 PM Interplayers Theatre

A Fairy Tale? 8:00 PM Blue Door Theater, The

'Mame' 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

Other

Beginning Belly Dancing
6:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Int/Adv Belly Dancing
7:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Beginning Argentine Tango
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Dempsey's Drag Show**
10:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail

Music

Ambassador Nate w/ guests
7:00 PM The New Groove

Sean Saugen w/ Ron Greene 7 PM Ionic Burrito

Carlos Verde Jr, Jazz Duo
8:00 PM Prago Argentine Cafe

Spokane Symphony: 'Holiday Pops'
8:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center

Dan Purser**
8:00 PM Barrel Room No. 6 (C'DA)

Localized Tenderness 8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Papa Glenn** 8:00 PM Mr G's Bar & Grill

Party 101** 9:00 PM Volcano's

Rock Bottom** 9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans

Viktor Nivorski Swing Band**
9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Trailer Park Girls CD Release Party
9:00 PM Blvd., The

Jim Huntsman Band** 9:00 PM Slab Inn

The John Stowell Group**
9:00 PM ella's Supper Club

Cary Fly** 9:00 PM Bigfoot Pub & Eatery

Hat Rabbit** 9:00 PM Peacock Room

After the Fall** 9:00 PM Bolo's Bar & Grill

DJ Marcus Randall 9:00 PM Raw Sushi

DJ Bee** 9:00 PM Peking North

DJ Little John** 9:00 PM Flame, The

Spread Xmas Party w/ DJ** 9:00 PM Spread, The

Klub Merq - DJ Dance 9:30 PM Merq

The Dance Factory** 10:00 PM Big Easy

Mexican Dance Party*
10:00 PM Bourbon Street

DJ Loud Richard** 10:00 PM Talotti's 211

Theater

Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'
1 & 3 PM Campbell House

'A Reduced Christmas Carol'
2 & 7 PM Interplayers Theatre

Christmas: The Eternal Story In Dance
7:00 PM Met, The

'Mame'; 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

Cage Match Show
9:00 PM Blue Door Theater, The

Other

Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Seattle
7:00 PM Spokane Arena

Game Show Night
8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend

Saturday Night Salsa
8:15 PM Simply Dance Studio

Dempsey's Drag Show**
10:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail

Drag Show: Lexi Sapphire w/ the Merquettes**
10:30 AM Merq Liquid Lounge

Sunday • 17

Monday • 18

Tuesday • 19

Wednesday • 20

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

Industry Night* 9:00 PM Blvd., The

Music

Spokane Symphony: 'Holiday Pops'
2:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center

Dog House Blues** 3 PM Mr G's Bar & Grill

Christmas: The Eternal Story In Dance
3:30 PM Met, The

The Perones** 4:00 PM Hedge House, The

Greyskull w/ Owen Hart, Behold, The Merrick Diaries (KYRS Benefit)
6:00 PM Community Building

Other

'A Reduced Christmas Carol'
2:00 PM Interplayers Theatre

Mame 2:00 PM Spokane Civic Theater

Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'
1 & 3 PM Campbell House

Dempsey's Brass Rail Bingo
4:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail

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

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

Monday Night Football Party (\$1 PBR)**
6:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Music

Jonathan Nicolson
7:00 PM Europa Pizzeria

Open Mic Night
8:00 PM Prago Argentine Cafe

Public Enemy fea Flavor Flav, Chuck D, Professor Cliff
8:00 PM Big Easy Concert House

Spokane's Original Open Mic Night**
9:15 PM Blue Spark

Other

Fantasy Football Lounge
5:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill

Argentine Tango
6:30 PM Conexion del Tango

Hip-Hop/Break Dance Class w/ Shanner
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Texas Hold'em Tournament
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

\$Two Buck Tuesday**
4:00 PM Merq Liquid Lounge

Music

Rock Coffee Open Mic 7:00 PM Caterina Winery

Open Mic Night* 9:00 PM Blvd., The

Sissy Starr, music & dancing**
7:00 PM Studio K Bar & Grill

Danny McCollim, solo jazz piano
7:00 PM ella's Supper Club

Matt Tansy** 9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Old School DJ Mix
9:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill

Reggae Night** 9:00 PM Spread, The

Other

David Martin's Holiday Magic Show w/ NoManZero
4:30 PM Northern Quest Casino

Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'
1 & 3 PM Campbell House

Beer Pong Tournament** 10:00 PM Talotti's 211

Beginning Belly Dancing
6:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Street Style Hip-Hop Class
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Simply Hip-Hop Team Practice
9:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Drop-in Salsa Class
7:00 PM Conexion del Tango

Pub Trivia** 9:15 PM Blue Spark

Beer Bucket Night (\$10)**
7:00 PM Blue Spark

50¢ Beer Night
9:00 PM Blvd., The

Music

Open Mic Night** 8:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

Open Turntable Night 9:00 PM Raw Sushi

Live Music Wednesdays
9:00 PM Bourbon Street

Eugene Jablonsky & Liz Dreisbach
6:00 PM ella's Supper Club

Wayne Patrick w/ Ben Manke, Adam David
8:00 PM Caterina Winery

Skillset Jones & the Funky-Fi Collectors**
9:00 PM Spread, The

Other

'A Reduced Christmas Carol'
2 & 7 PM Interplayers Theatre

David Martin's Holiday Magic Show w/ NoManZero
4:30 PM Northern Quest Casino

Free Comedy Show
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'
1:00 PM Campbell House

Variety Swing Class
7:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Waltz Class 8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio

Argentine Tango 6:30 PM Conexion del Tango



Straight outta my Asstrology

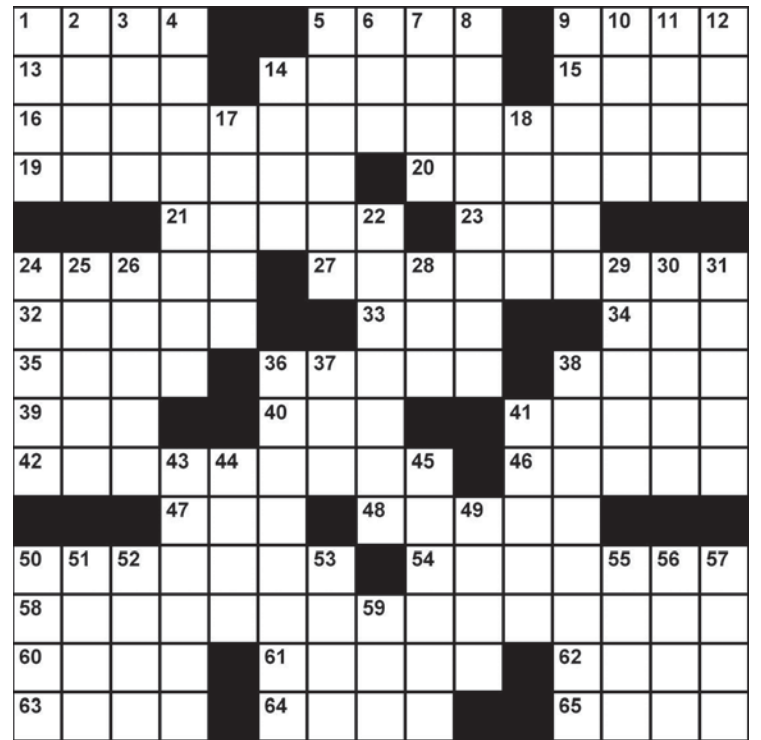
By Brian Clark Good for Dec. 7th through Dec. 20th

 <p>Aries March 21 to April 19</p> <p>It may seem out of place that a talking chimpanzee offers to kill your boss next week but, as it turns out, that will be the least weird thing you experience next Wednesday.</p>	 <p>Taurus April 20 to May 20</p> <p>Despite your pleas, doctors insist upon operation for your particularly severe bout with the hiccups. You will be surprised to find out that, while painful, losing seven pints of blood isn't necessarily deadly.</p>	 <p>Gemini May 21 to June 20</p> <p>Next time you plan on killing one of your co-workers, try not to announce your intentions at the company picnic.</p>
 <p>Cancer June 21 to July 22</p> <p>The IRS is pretty clear about where they stand when they call to inform you that a broken Palm Pilot does not constitute as a home office and the hooker that gave you syphilis does not constitute as a secretary. Consequently, you will find yourself broke, divorced - and dead.</p>	 <p>Leo July 23 to Aug 22</p> <p>The fact that the doctor's waiting room had an intensely readable issue of "Sports Illustrated" provides small consolation in light of your mother's botched surgery.</p>	 <p>Virgo Aug 23 to Sept 22</p> <p>You're going to have to do some major talking to get out of the laughter you emitted at the Amazonian tribal chief's slaughtering of the word "debauchery" when an extraordinary chain of events causes you to be named US ambassador to a newly formed South American nation.</p>
 <p>Libra Sept 23 to Oct 22</p> <p>The stars were all set to give your reading this month but Orion "had a thing." We apologize for the inconvenience.</p>	 <p>Scorpio Oct 23 to Nov 21</p> <p>You will learn, a little too late, that "That's what your mom said" is NOT an acceptable answer to any of the questions the secret service will ask you next Thursday.</p>	 <p>Sagittarius Nov 22 to Dec 21</p> <p>Your birthday celebration will be, without a doubt, the best of your life. It will also be your last.</p>
 <p>Capricorn Dec 22 to Jan 19</p> <p>The stars thank you for not eating all of the nacho cheese dip at next week's Monday Night Football party.</p>	 <p>Aquarius Jan 20 to Feb 18</p> <p>The entire nation will begin to seriously question the stability of our Vice President when, during a road trip to the Oklahoma panhandle, you are shot in the face by Dick Cheney.</p>	 <p>Pisces Feb 19 to March 20</p> <p>Pisces, let's see. OK, here we go. [awkward pause] Oh, sweet Jesus ... Um, it seems that ... Good luck.</p>

"Spell Check" Vexing with Hexing

by Matt Jones

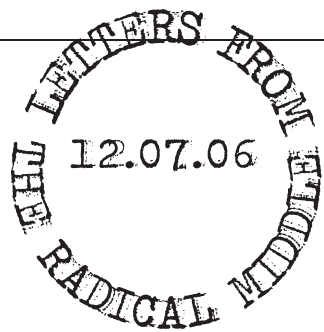
- Across**
- 1 Eat like ____
 - 5 Rocky peak
 - 9 2006 Forest Whitaker role
 - 13 Wrestler and star of "The Marine" John
 - 14 Words in the name of some phone services
 - 15 Like art class models
 - 16 Harry Potter friend adept at the spell "Wingardium Leviosa"
 - 19 Index fingers, in a kids' rhyme
 - 20 Foster/McGillis drama, with "The"
 - 21 Actors Ian and Celeste
 - 23 "The Conspiracy Against Childhood" author LeShan
 - 24 Shook the composure of
 - 27 "Bewitched" relative who rarely got her spells right
 - 32 Has-____
 - 33 Yoga equipment
 - 34 It'll move you
 - 35 Painter's supplies
 - 36 "Pee-wee's Playhouse" genie who starts spells with "Mekka lekka hi, mekka hiney ho!"
 - 38 Word before ad
 - 39 Snooty response to an accusation
 - 40 Barenaked Ladies song "Be My Yoko ____"
 - 41 1973 solo album by an ex-Beatle
 - 42 He cast spells with "Abraca-pocus" and "Hocus-cadabra" in a 1963 cartoon short
 - 46 Plenty
 - 47 "____ favor"
 - 48 Brains
 - 50 Verbs convey them
 - 54 Decreases
 - 58 "Charmed" sister who said "The power of three will set us free," among other spells
 - 60 Rudd of "The 40 Year-Old Virgin"
 - 61 Country type
 - 62 ____ Arena (home of the Sacramento Kings)
 - 63 Formal letter opening



- 64 Walk of Fame insignia
 - 65 Add to a message board
- Down**
- 1 Outbursts over ostmarks, maybe
 - 2 Amanda of "Syriana"
 - 3 Memo subject header
 - 4 Cornish delicacies
 - 5 The film industry
 - 6 Singer Corinne Bailey ____
 - 7 Bit of pond scum
 - 8 District Attorney who oversaw the O.J. Trial Gil ____
 - 9 Like some picnics
 - 10 Coffee carriers
 - 11 Notion, in Nantes
 - 12 Slashdot reader, maybe
 - 14 It's inflated before sex
 - 17 Minis, e.g.
 - 18 "For Those About to Rock (We Salute You)" band
 - 22 Call to court
 - 24 Word that gets "dropped"
 - 25 Original set of marshmallows in Marshmallow Alpha-Bits cereal
 - 26 Woody Allen mockumentary
 - 28 Catch a thief
 - 29 ____garde
 - 30 Hotpoint product
 - 31 Music video director Corbijn
 - 36 Travelogue subjects
 - 37 Crazy-ass Coulter
 - 38 ABC show similar to "Trading Spouses"
 - 41 "Rock Star: Supernova" winner Lukas
 - 43 Pitches
 - 44 Idjit
 - 45 "Old" dog
 - 49 Carter of "Gimme A Break"
 - 50 Progs that may be "killer"
 - 51 Tea drink
 - 52 Check out the factory
 - 53 Vodka serving
 - 55 Gateway Arch architect Saarinen
 - 56 2006 playoff between the Cards and Mets, for short
 - 57 Mailbox alternative
 - 59 Rap sheet abbr.
- ©2006 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com) Look for the solution on pg 23 of this issue.

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

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



By Brian Clark

Dear whomever,

I'm probably too old to still appreciate *Calvin and Hobbes* as much as I do, but I can't help it. The comic remains, in my opinion, probably the best representation of childhood I've ever seen and one of the smarter popular culture pieces of the past 25 years. One of my favorite strips sees Calvin weighing his pre-Christmas options for the 6,000th time, deciding whether he wants to be good in order to get a bunch of loot from Santa Claus, or whether he's going to be a mischievous little prick like he always is. At one point, Calvin posits the question "Is it better to hold fast and never back down, or to compromise?" To which his stuffed tiger and partner-in-crime Hobbes answers, "I suppose it's best to hold fast when you can and compromise when you need to."

Although Calvin admits, "That's a lot more mature than I think I care to be," it seems like an extremely commonsensical and basic truth that I try to follow. The idea of this column is to bridge the gap between the left and right, to find a common meeting ground that we can all agree upon, but there are certain times when I find it impossible to concede principles that

Philosophical tigers, civil evolution and televangelists getting stoned

are generally associated with one side or the other. One such firmly planted idea is the whole "upholding the sanctity of marriage" thing, which is a sort of Orwellian term that sounds a hell of a lot better than saying you want to deny basic human rights to gay people. On this issue, I must confess that I side entirely with the left.

Gay rights is the next logical step in our slow but progressive evolution towards equality. Perhaps the idea of universal equality is taken too far, at times – I find certain Democratic notions like affirmative action counterproductive and over-the-top – but the idea that all people should be treated with the same basic kindness and afforded the same basic rights under the law seems so blindingly necessary that I often wonder why there's any objection to it in the first place. It's impossible not to acknowledge that the civil rights movement was good for not only the African American community, but for society in general. Even feminism, which I have certain reservations with, at least embraced the idea that women should have the right to participate in society with the same abilities as men, a prudent notion that lies squarely in the radical middle, even if it's traditionally associated with the leftist margins.

Besides, the battle is all but over. There will be equal rights for gay men and women someday. Homosexuality is not a passing fad and one generation – be it our children's, grandchildren's or what have you – is going to embrace the fact that these

are human beings who only want to be acknowledged with the same distinctions as their heterosexual brethren. There's nothing nefarious about it. There's no gay agenda that's trying to permeate our children's minds. There's no secret society that's trying to win gay converts. There's nothing about it that is going to effect straight people in any negative way, and it's going to happen irregardless, so why fight it?

I truly believe that homosexuals deserve to seek the same happiness and security under the law that heterosexuals are afforded, but that's not the only thing that bothers me about this issue. I think what I find particularly distressing here is that when conservatives talk about "family values," they're almost exclusively talking about gay marriage. There's no other discernible difference between Democratic and Republican principles as far as the family unit is concerned. Yet this idea seems so integral to the conservative platform that it's swung recent elections towards the right and garnered thousands, if not millions, of votes on their behalf. I just refuse to believe that these are personally investigated ideals that are individually cherished when they seem a cut-and-dry example of adhering to a set of beliefs through mere association with a party platform.

Especially consider the recent hypocrisy of Colorado pastor Ted Haggard, one of the most outspoken opponents of gay rights, who was recently exposed by a male prosti-

tute paying for sex and possibly doing crystal meth. (Wow, Ted. I guess if you're going to go down, it might as well be in flames.) Recently ousted Republican Senator Mark Foley also demonstrated some deep seeded homosexual tendencies when he tried to solicit a young male page. Clearly no straight man appreciates a male physique *that* much. What these two recent examples, and surely others like them show is that fighting perceived homosexual immorality is a political agenda and not a moral conviction in far too many cases.

You have the right to come to any conclusion about how you want to raise your kids and what values you perceive as right or wrong, but coming to those conclusions because you're coerced into thinking that being open-minded makes you a bad Christian or a bad Republican is disingenuous and without any of the value that comes from personal investigation. The whole point is to decide for yourself where you stand on this issue and, really, every issue. I'm thoroughly convinced that anybody who does so will find that a number of apparent convictions aren't nearly as strong as had been previously assumed.

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. 🐾

Echoes from the OTHER Washington

By M.W. Fritz

A civil war is defined as a war between political factions or regions within the same country. Why there is still debate as to whether the fratricide in Iraq constitutes civil war is slightly north of ridiculous.

This week Jon Stewart was at his satirical best in a crosstalk with his colleague John Oliver, the Daily Show's Senior Terror Analyst, about how the situation should be categorized.

Stewart: "3,000 Iraqis died just this month. Arguing over what to call it seems like semantic quibbling."

Oliver: "Semantic quibbling? I wouldn't call it that ... I'd say it's a minor linguistic flare up between two parties with different terminological points of view."

Stewart: "But why can't we just say, uh, call this a civil war?"

Oliver: "Because to American ears the

Go Big, Go Long or Go Home for the Holidays

phrase civil war conjures horrible, jaw-dropping images of bloodshed panned across slowly by Ken Burns."

As depressingly funny as this exchange was, it illuminates the absurdity of the conversations taking place within the capital.

The continual locking of horns on how the situation inside Iraq should be defined, seemingly, takes precedence over how the war can be effectively concluded.

And the administration's insistence on referring to the conflict as "sectarian violence" (a favorite of the president) instead of civil war has finally reached its absurd apex.

Both the press secretary and the outgoing defense secretary remain steadfast that the warfare amongst Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds does not adequately define civil war. Which, Snow and Rumsfeld claim, is because there are few similarities between this conflict and the American Civil War. But in October, American and Iraqi epidemiologists estimated that 655,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the U.S. invasion in March of 2003. That number, though considered inflated by some experts, is eerily close to the

estimated number of Americans who lost their lives following southern secession.

It is reminiscent of President Clinton testifying he did not have sexual relations with a now infamous former intern, and then later stating he did not purge himself because he only engaged in oral sex. Okay, sure. Wonder how your wife defines oral sex?

Politicians and those who work for politicians are generally intelligent – or certainly love to think they are – people who enjoy peppering speeches with words that leave us scrambling for a dictionary.

But the national media (NBC News and The Los Angeles Times, most notably) when describing the Iraq War, is slowly starting to shift its vernacular from words like sectarian and strife and more towards words like civil and war. This is not a good prospect for a White House that has continually crutched upon former President Truman's advice that, "If you can't convince them, confuse them."

Unfortunately, we find ourselves ensnarled in a quagmire we can't win. But even more unfortunate is that Iraq has become an ideological battleground we can't afford to lose.

Next week the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, according to the New York Times, will issue its report, calling for "a gradual pullback of the 15 American combat brigades in Iraq but stop short of setting a firm timetable for their withdrawal." And the Washington Post reported that the panel would also recommend "that all U.S. combat forces depart Iraq by 2008."

It's clear that nobody (Democrats, Republicans, the media or David Copperfield) know how to get us out of this mess. The debate, however, on what to call the mess in Iraq should be put to rest.

The Pentagon is deciding whether they want to Go Big, Go Long or Go Home. The tough sell will be convincing Americans we need more troops for a big, long civil war being fought a helluva long way from home.

M.W. Fritz is a freelance journalist based out of Washington D.C. Every issue, he provides 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. 🐾

An indispensable guide to holiday viewing



By Brian Clark

In the nostalgic spirit of this issue, we're taking a look at some of our favorite (and not so favorite) Christmas movies, and generally doing what we do best – quick, subjective and superficial analyses of arbitrary things.

First and foremost, there's **A Muppet Christmas Carol**, unquestionably our favorite holiday film. Talking puppets are funny in any context but witty, talking puppets are funnier, and singing, dancing puppets cracking jokes are downright hilarious. All in all, *A Muppet Christmas Carol* is talking puppetry at its absolute finest. Plus, Michael Caine is in it, and seeing him act against a talking frog is pure movie magic.

We're also rather fond of **A Christmas Story**, the classic tale of a boy's obsessive quest to find someone willing to buy him the perfect Christmas present, "an official Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle, with a compass in the stock and 'this thing' which tells time." Man, I want one of those, too.

Of course, there are the ubiquitous Christmas television specials that can be seen nightly throughout December. **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer** is in a league of its own, as far as we're concerned, what with the island of the misfit toys and the most adorable abominable snowman ever sculpted out of clay. **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** is pretty great, too (the cartoon, not the movie. Ron Howard



can eat shit and die twice for making that piece of garbage). The others we could take or leave – such as the **California Raisins Christmas Celebration**, **Frosty the Snowman** and all the rest we're forgetting about – but even the worst Christmas special is enjoyable in its own way, so flipping through channels during any given primetime hour is likely to provide *something* in the way of fond reminiscence.

As far as films go, the most canonical inclusion on our list has got to be **It's a Wonderful Life**, which is so warm

and fuzzy, it's practically growing fur. I especially like how Jimmy Stewart's character had more influence over the town of Bedford Falls than kings have had over their respective empires. Insanely over-the-top but undeniably touching.

While *It's a Wonderful Life* is our favorite film from the golden era of Hollywood, **Bad Santa** has to be con-



sidered the best contemporary one. Mercilessly funny from start to finish, it's an offensive, hilarious and surprisingly smart indictment of the whole Christmas season.

Home Alone deserves mention here, as well, because – while it's a pretty terrible movie when you actually sit down and watch it – it's integral to our childhood and nostalgia is clearly more important to the SiDEKiCK than

actual cinematic value. Stay the hell away from the sequels, though; they're just flat out awful.

Speaking of holiday franchises that we wish would just go away, can we all agree that the world has seen enough of this **Santa Clause** stuff? Come to think of it, we've probably heard sufficiently from Tim Allen across the board. He's like the Jon Denver of actors – somehow making himself a household name despite mediocre talent and never really creating anything of lasting importance. And seriously,

Martin Short as a frozen, over-the-top villain a-la Mr. Freeze in *Batman and Robin* is not going to make any Christmas movie better, especially the third installment of a high concept holiday vehicle that wore out its welcome long ago.

Finally, there's **Die Hard**, which is like a Christmas movie only without the Christmas part. Which I suppose makes it a movie, although they do go to a Christmas party at one point, and it's generally assumed to take place during the month of December. Frankly that's good enough for us. *Die Hard* is another pretty dreadful film, but it's a hell of a lot of fun, and that's what this article is all about.

Whichever of these films you choose to indulge in, we recommend ingesting large quantities of eggnog first, and don't skimp on the rum. Then email us, drunk, admitting that you wonder what Ralphie from *A Christmas Story* is doing now, and whether he's an attractive adult or not. After all, isn't that what the holidays are about, bringing us a little closer together? 🍷

Turistas a surprisingly tense and well crafted thriller



By Brian Clark

A college professor of mine was fond of warning us that "filmmaking is hard. Akira Kurosawa

made movies for 30 years ... And then they started to get good." With that in mind, I admire a flick that's modest in what it attempts to accomplish, yet pulls it off without any pretensions of being something it's not. Surprisingly, **Turistas** is such a movie.

I was not excited to see *Turistas*. I thought this was going to be merely a cheap exploitation of American xenophobia with a few topless scenes thrown in to keep things moving. And it is, in a way. There are plenty of gyrating hips and jigging breasts, usually in close up while some reggaeton is playing on the soundtrack. And does *Turistas* play off the jingoism and fears the American public? Almost certainly.



But I liked the film anyway. Not least importantly, this is a well-crafted movie that's, at times, visually explosive and usually manages to maintain some degree of authenticity, or at least the appearance of such. With the exception of lead actor Josh Duhamel, who's like Paul Walker without the charm (yikes), the rest of the young cast of attractive adventure seekers and tourists are perfectly decent. Thankfully, the level of disembowelments in *Turistas* is much higher than any I've experienced while traveling, but the filmmakers otherwise manage to create a

Brazilian setting that's somewhere between *Girls Gone Wild* and *Village of the Damned* without really forcing anything.

All that is secondary, or really complimentary, to the thriller plot that takes over about halfway through – a string of scenes that are somewhat ridiculous but exceedingly intense and completely engrossing. *Turistas*, then, turns out to be exactly what it's advertised as, a popcorn flick meant to entertain and frighten you, and it certainly accomplishes both. In that light, maybe leading in with a mention of Akira Kurosawa is completely in-

appropriate, but if you read this column with any regularity, you'll note that I'm none too happy with the quality of contemporary Hollywood moviemaking, and *Turistas* struck me as surprisingly refreshing on some level.

This is also due partially to it being a moderately intelligent movie. There's enough titillation playing off the American paranoia of other cultures to elevate *Turistas* to a slightly higher level than mere junk food for the brain. In the end, it ends up being both a condemnation and assimilation of American antipathy, both an understanding and rejection of other cultures' contempt towards the U.S. God, that sounds like *way* too academic of a reading for a modest thriller aimed at horny high schoolers and thrill seeking-college kids, but they really do manage to pull it off in a subtle and unassuming way.

I don't know, maybe I'm not being nearly hard enough on *Turistas*, but I think more than that I'm just so disenchanted of films failing to live up to their potential that it's exciting to see one that actually seems to exceed it. 🍷



African war documentary to be screened at The Shop

By Brian Clark

There will be a documentary screening of **Invisible Children** on Friday, December 8th at The Shop, 924 S. Perry in the South Hills. *Invisible Children* tells the story of an extraordinarily oppressive war in Uganda that's been fought for a couple decades, with the focus of the film specifically centering on the widespread kidnapping of Uganda children. For 20 years, the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) has been kidnapping children in order to enslave and transform them into soldiers against their own people. This documentary is a bare-bones look at these tragedies that have largely been ignored by the western world.

While the content is certainly depressing, the movie is intended to be hopeful and inspirational, told through the eyes of three idealistic young Americans who weave a fast-paced, rock 'n roll filled tapestry that's at turns funny, informative and heartbreaking.

The goal here is to educate and empower viewers to action. Synonymous with the film is the Invisible Children charity that's been set up with the not-so-modest goal of literally trying to save the lives of these young victims of war.

A "mini craft fair" will precede the screening at The Shop, with money raised going to the Invisible Children Foundation. The Shop has also agreed to donate a portion of proceeds raised from drink sales (coffee, hot chocolate, that sort of thing) for the evening.

This screening is free and open to the public. You need only bring some blankets and pillows to sit on, although it'd be nice to have at least a dollar or two to pitch in for charitable purposes. While we're at it, props to local college students Kaiti Blom, Melody Fligel and Bekah Largent for organizing this event.

The film starts at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.invisiblechildren.com, or check out their official myspace page at www.myspace.com/invisiblechildren.

Pair of sports films premier at The Met

By A.W. Rowse

Additional proof that Spokane is becoming cool: local sports filmmakers' **Nxstep Films** is premiering their two latest flicks in an evening extravaganza featuring film, music and lots of swag. The night, dubbed **First Step**, will feature the two previously mentioned movies, as well as musical guests York, Starting Over, The Blakes and La Cha-Cha. All of the festivities kick off on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Met Theater, 901 W Sprague Ave in downtown. Doors open at 6 p.m. for this all ages event.

York opens the night with his soulful acoustic strumming, followed by the first of the two films – **Orange**, a skateboard flick filmed throughout the Inland Northwest with the talent of riders such as Josh Wing, Zack Black, Brent Royce, Zach Halverson, and Kevin Kuest.

After the first screening, Seattle punk rockers **The Blakes** will take the stage, along with Spokane's own punk rock band **Starting Over**. The final film of the night, **The Agency**, focuses on wakeboarding and was filmed by Nxstep Films all over the Northwest from Canyon Ferry to Deer Lake. Featured riders include riders Nick Jones, Rick Knott, Ian Udell, Chris Craig, Ward White, Phil Chadwick, Brian Howard, Robby Carter, Josh VanDeVanter, Ty Udell, and Alex Scagliotti.

Finishing the night is a concert by local favorites **La Cha-Cha**. These guys are one of the SiDEKiCK's previous picks of the issue and are not to miss.

Tickets to this event are \$10 and are available through TicketsWest or locally at L77 Board Shop in the Valley or The Met box office downtown. For more information check out Nxstep's myspace page at www.myspace.com/nxstepfilms.

The Halls of Nostalgia: Magic Etch-a-sketch Screen

I'm convinced that everybody in the world is the worst etch-a-sketch artist to ever live. It's some sort of time/space paradox where nobody can draw for sour apples with one of those things, yet everyone they know is exponentially better. In our subjective catalogue of childhood toys running throughout this issue, etch-a-sketch is probably the duller and most frustrating, but somehow one of the most addicting (kind of like Keanu Reeves).



Obscure etch-a-sketch fact:

Artist Steve Jacobs unveiled a giant etch-a-sketch art piece at last year's Black Rock Arts Festival in California, which was made up of 144 individual etch-a-sketches and housed within a giant etch-a-sketch frame.

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Andy Says:

My only problem with this meal is that I am tempted to order two because they are so cheap – this is a big mistake. One is more than enough and two makes me so full that I want to die.

The Main Dish: Merq Liquid Lounge

By Brian Clark

The most insane deal in town can be found at the **Merq Liquid Lounge** at 706 Monroe, just north of the river. Every Tuesday, the Merq offers two hard shell tacos and a pint of PBR for \$2. That's right: \$2! At that price, I expected a couple of pathetic, frozen burrito-type products thrown on a paper plate, but, happily, this is actually a full meal for a scant two dollars.

We're talking two pretty good sized tacos, served with a healthy helping of rice and beans, and topped off with a Pabst Blue Ribbon, which is always a good choice, but is transformed into the best cheap beer on the planet when served out of the tap. I know Miller High Life claims to be the champagne of beers – and they're not far off – but really they're in a distant second; I'll put my money on PBR any day. (A ridiculous thing to be passionate about, I realize, but isn't the point of college to discover arbitrary biases like this?)

By the way, you can get a big ol' burrito instead of the tacos, if you want, which I usually do. Both are equally good in that Americanized Mexican food kind of way. You know exactly what you're getting and you won't be disappointed. Ever.

Did I mention that you get all of this for \$2?

I know, I know, I sound like a used car salesman here, a broken record trying to get you to buy something, and it probably comes off as disingenuous. But I sincerely like pretty much everything about the Merq. Even without their weekly taco special – which is becoming a Tuesday routine for the SiDEKiCK staff and rotating cast of friends – the Merq is one of my favorite local hangouts.

It's a spacious, attractive building that allows for any sort of evening you're looking for. The strikingly beautiful upstairs houses a fireplace, a couple pool tables and a warm, relaxing place to enjoy a few drinks. There's an outside patio that can't be beat (at least not once the temperature starts peaking above a balmy -8), a game room with a ping pong table and dart boards, and a main bar area that's staffed by friendly bartenders and lively entertainment – culminating with the frequent Drag Shows that take place on a sort of catwalk thing above the bar. The Merq has it all.

It isn't part of the downtown circuit, but The Merq is definitely worth including on your bar rounds, whether you're checking it out for a raucous Saturday night or a pleasant weekday retreat. At the very least, stop by next Tuesday and say hi. We'll sure as hell be there, and a deal this good deserves as many loyal patrons as it can handle. 🍻

Back Burner: El Gallo Giro

By A.W. Rowse

Living in Washington, one of the farthest states from the Mexican border, I am often surprised at how many authentic Mexican restaurants are in the area. And I couldn't be happier about it. Good, authentic Mexican cuisine makes me as happy as a fat kid eating cake. It may take years to get around to all of them in Spokane, but you have to start somewhere. By chance, my journey starts at El Gallo Giro.

Located on 3207 E. Sprague, El Gallo Giro is hard to miss, as the building is painted bright green. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. You can easily tell an authentic Mexican restaurant from a knock-off by inspecting the decor. The real deal tends to use a brighter color palette while Americanized versions stick to mute browns and tans. Case in point, El Gallo Giro's walls are bright blue while Azteca is a dull brown.

I walked into El Gallo Giro with every intention of ordering a taco so I could make some sort of comparison between our Main Dish and the Back Burner, but that quickly went out the window as I glanced over the menu. There were roughly 10 other dishes that sounded 100 times better than a taco. What can I say – tacos are good and all, but ordering a simple taco at an authentic Mexi-

can restaurant is like going to a steak house and ordering a hamburger.

The tacos may have lost, but the enchiladas crema definitely won. Served with rice and beans and completely smothered in the rich crema sauce, this dish probably isn't the most healthy option, but it was so good that any negative health repercussions were worth it.

Personally, I like my meal a little spicier than what was served. While this wasn't optimal for me, it worked out perfect for Brian, who is a complete wuss when it comes to spicy food. I was able to easily solve my spice dilemma with a little help from El Gallo's homemade hot salsa; the stuff was awesome! I am going to go so far as to say it was probably the best salsa I've ever had.

The variety I'm specifically talking about is the slightly greenish hot salsa, not the mild or the super hot stuff. The mild sauce is good (and I was too scared to try the super-hot habanero salsa), but the real standout was the hot salsa. It was definitely spicy but somehow managed not to literally burn your mouth. The flavor lingered for a little before it disappeared completely, allowing you to experience the feeling again.

The restaurant is clean and decorated beautifully – I almost felt like I was back in Latin America eating rice and beans at a soda ... until I looked out the window and saw it



Brian Says:

El Gallo Giro, which translates roughly to The White Rooster (or Winning Cock if you're an immature jackass like I am), provides not only some good ol' fashioned, bilingual fun, but it's a nice place to get some authentic Mexican grub, as well. Serving the quintessential Latin beers (Pacífico, Corona, etc.) and boasting some homemade recipes for a variety of Mexican dishes, El Gallo Giro is about as close to Mexico as you're going to get in the Inland Northwest.

was snowing. Talk about a buzzkill.

So, for some good Mexican food, awesome decor and probably the best salsa you will ever eat, go check out El Gallo Giro. Also, look for more Mexican restaurants in this section as I set out on my quest to try all of the authentic Mexican restaurants in Spokane. It's

a tough job but someone has to do it. If you have any suggestion on places the SiDE-KiCK should check out, please email them to andy@spokanesidekick.com. We are always looking for really good, out of the way restaurants to feature in our Back Burner column and would appreciate some input. 🍻

Gonzaga Bulldogs bite back in 2006-2007

By Brian Clark

Being relatively new to Spokane, I'm not the best guy to write an article about the Gonzaga basketball program. By all rights, this story should be penned by an old man who's lived here all his life and can talk about when Gonzaga was part of the NAIA, far from a household NCAA name. Certainly the Zags exploded onto the national scene with their run to the Elite Eight in 1999, but surely that isn't the only factor that transformed GU into the biggest team in all the inland north-west, and probably beyond.

However they got here, the Zags are clearly getting quite comfortable in their high profile role, rattling off five straight WCC titles and as many consecutive NCAA tournament appearances. They haven't lost a conference game in 25 tries, and are in the midst of a 40-some game home winning streak; I've lost count of the actual number.

This looks to be a particularly exciting season for the Zags. Starting 8-1 and already boasting a pair of marquee wins over Texas and North Carolina, they've looked anywhere between good and great all season. After waltzing through a couple of NIT Tip-Off contests in the confines of the Spokane Arena, Gonzaga upended a much-hyped North Carolina squad in Madison Square Garden (a Tar Heels unit that was ranked behind only defending national champion Florida, and allegedly boasts the best player in the country in Tyler Hansbrough).

Their victory over Texas, while not quite as impressive on paper, is still a significant win over an upper tier Big 12 team. Pretty much controlling the pace from beginning to end (or at least before Texas closed out the game with a meaningless

18-0 run), Gonzaga proved that they're capable of containing anyone, in any atmosphere, on any night. While that sounds like one of those overused sports clichés that doesn't mean anything, it strikes me as an important observation for a small southeastern Washington school playing in the WCC.

With the exception of the Butler loss, they've looked pretty much fantastic, every bit as good as last year's team that was ranked fifth in the nation for much of the season. They might even be a little more well-rounded, unselfish, hungry and, as a result, a little bit better. It's surprising how well this program has coped with the transition between Cinderella story and nationally recognized program, going from a team gunning for giants to a program where every team they face has them circled on the calendar from the moment the schedules are announced.



This year has been especially impressive, as a lot of people thought Gonzaga was nationally ranked based on name recognition and not roster talent, reeling from the loss of Adam Morrison and J.P. Batista. But that's clearly not the case. The 2006-2007 squad has come together nicely and is handling the pressure of playing a high profile non-conference schedule. With upcoming games remaining against Duke, Nevada and Washington before they even get to conference play, it should be a hell of a lot of fun for GU fans.

Check out the next issue of the SiDEKiCK for a more informative breakdown of the Bulldog's roster, and possibly an interview with Mark Few, if he ever returns my phone calls. (He promised he'd get right back to me after chatting with ESPN.)

OK, that last part's a lie, but there will be at least one other installment to our Zags coverage, so stay tuned. 🐾



Around the World in 80 Plays

By Brian Clark

This college basketball season is officially wide open. Kansas loses to Oral Roberts, looks like hell in a win over Ball State, and then upends defending national champion and top ranked Florida before celebrating by laying an egg against DePaul, who was 2-4 going into the contest. Gonzaga cruises through the NIT field, pretty much showing North Carolina, Baylor and Rice who's boss. And then they lost to Butler, who had somehow already managed to get past Notre Dame and Indiana before their NIT championship matchup against the Bulldogs. Butler, from the little known Horizon League now finds itself ranked in the top 20 nationally, even after it took two overtimes to beat Kent State. I can't figure any of this out.

This seems to be a trend. In the NFL this season, more often than not has an underdog not just covered the spread but won the game outright. The Seahawks can win at Denver and all but dismantle the Giants, but they can't get past the dismal San Francisco 49ers. The Kansas City Chiefs can beat the Chargers and Broncos, but they fall to the Browns, Dolphins and Steelers, the latter of which steamrolled them 49-0. Over the past five years in baseball, every World Series has included at least one Wild Card team, with the 2002 Fall Classic pitting the Wild Card winners from both leagues (San Francisco and Anaheim) against each other. Since that time, three out of the past five World Series have seen a wild card team crowned the winner.

I'm not exactly sure what any of this means, just that it's getting harder and harder to predict any outcome in any sport. Purists might find it aggravating, but I find it comforting and exciting. Anybody seems to have a chance on any given night; it's like a daily dose of socialism, where everyone competing is suddenly put on an equal footing for a couple hours. The only rule that still seems to hold any water is this: any team that I bet on loses. And they usually lose badly. 🐾

Halls of Nostalgia: Cabbage Patch Kids

These were going to be grouped with the general doll entry, but then we discovered the whole ceremony behind Cabbage Patch Kids and had no choice but to write about it. According to Wikipedia (where an unprofessional level of our information is gathered), there's an actual factory in Georgia, called Babyland General Hospital, where "dolls are 'birthed' every hour during business hours in a procedure during which one of the resident 'nurses' aids the Magic Crystal Tree in producing each doll. With her are the pink and blue bunnies that pollinate the kids with crystals, determining if the newborn is a boy or girl. The nurse comments on how much the Tree is dilated and injects with 'Imagicillin,' an 'experimental but highly recommended' drug. If the need arises, a 'C-section' or 'Cabbage section' may be administered." Wow. Just ... wow.

Obscure Cabbage Patch Kids fact:

If the preceding paragraph wasn't bizarre and obscure enough for you, then you probably spend entirely too much time watching weird videos on YouTube.

The Halls of Nostalgia: Mr. Potato Head

Love the name; everything you need to know about this toy is summed up in the "Mr. Potato Head" designation. Extremely limited in the fun it affords, it's still inarguably a classic that should be in every toy chest. Sadly, all of Mr. Potato Head's friends have faded from memory - apparently there used to be a whole family of Tooty Fruity Friends (which were mostly vegetables) including Pete the Pepper, Oscar the Orange and Cooky the Cucumber. If that's not enough - and by all rites it is - there was also a group of Picnic Pals, such as Frenchy Fry and Franky Frank that were packaged with pickle, ketchup and mustard related accessories. Can't we bring these toys back into the public consciousness? Isn't this what eBay is for? Somebody get back to me on this.

Obscure Mr. Potato Head fact:

Mr. Potato Head received four write-in votes in the 1985 mayoral election in Boise, Idaho.




Driving Miss Daisy
Alfredo Uhry

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Fairy Tale constructed haphazardly at Blue Door

I've always felt that improvisational comedy can get fairly stale after a very short while. Clearly it's up to the actors involved to invent interesting characters, relationships and scenarios on the spot, but without much in the way of a framing device, a lot of improv reverts to the same old jokes and slapstick, which is usually fun for about a half an hour but can wear off quickly. Luckily, that's not a problem for the Blue Door Theatre team, as they continually craft their shows with new, specific themes to create a unique and story-oriented, long-form improvisational experience.

The next in their series of themed Friday night shows kicks off on December 8th and runs through the end of the month (or the end of the year, if you're one of those people that gets really excited about New Years). For the rest of December, the Blue Door players will be recreating a fairy tale on the spot to show you what woulda, coulda, or shoulda happened in whatever fairy tale the audience suggests that night. Called **Fairy Tale?**, the plays are tagged with a caution that the fable in question is under construction, made fresh, new and unique to the classic stories that we all grew up on.

These Friday night shows (of which there will be four performances running from the 8th until the 29th) get underway at 8 p.m. with the box office opening an hour prior. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for children, students and seniors. The Blue Door Theatre is located on 815 W. Garland. For more information, visit their website at www.bluedoortheatre.com. 🐾

Booklight theatre by the dim flash of Christmas tree bulbs

The Ignite Community Theatre and Auntie's Bookstore are teaming up for another installment of **Booklight Reader's Theatre 2006-2007**. On the second Friday of every other month, local actors let the playwright's words literally speak for themselves, as they, with the help of a narrator, read a script aloud and bring life to the play in question. December's Booklight Reader's Theatre will take place on Friday, December 8th with a variety of classic **Holiday Stories** by several different authors and playwrights.

Readings are free and open to the public. They get underway at 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of Auntie's Bookstore, in downtown's Liberty Building at 402 W. Main. For more information about the bookstore, visit their website at www.auntiesbooks.com or check out Ignite Community Theatre's website, www.ignite-theatre.org, for more on the ongoing series of Booklight Reader's Theatre and their schedule of upcoming plays. 🐾

Musical comedy continues run at Civic Theatre

By Brian Clark



Continuing with one of their longest running plays of the 2006-2007 season, the toe-tapping musical **Mame** can be seen on the Spokane Civic Theatre main stage through December 17th.

Mame tells the story of a 10 year-old who's forced to move in with his eccentric aunt, spawning a wide array of comedic mayhem and some uplifting and family-friendly comedy throughout.

The play originally went up in 1966 and starred Angela Lansbury, who was probably still in her mid-to-late 80s at the time. (She's like a female Dick Clark; I give her three-to-one odds that she survives the apocalypse.) Since that time, Mame has been an undeniably successful staple in the musical world, winning several Tony awards and showing for over 1,000 performances in its initial run at the Winter Garden Theatre, while also being revived for a Broadway Theatre stint to round out the 60s. It also spawned a 1974 movie of the same name starring Lucille Ball, though the filmed adaptation is widely viewed as far inferior to the stage version.

Performances run every Thursday through Sunday until their last performance on December 17th. Thursday's plays start at 7:30 p.m., with Friday and Saturday night showings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 in the afternoon.

Tickets are available through TicketsWest (www.ticketwest.com, 1-800-325-SEAT and the various local outlets listed on page 8), as well as in person at the Civic Theatre Box office, located at 1020 N. Howard, across from the Arena. For more information, visit their website at www.spokanecivictheatre.com. 🐾

The Triceratops of Eloquence says:

In addition to their recurrent schedule of performances in the thesbian arts, the Spokane Civic Theatre is about to adjourn their **24th Annual Playwright Forum Festival**, which invites aspiring wordsmiths to submit manuscripts for production consideration. The adjudicators are accepting full-length plays through the cessation of the 2006 calendar year, and one-act plays through January of 2007. Selected scripts shall be rehearsed verily and contemplated for a future staging. For mailing address, registration regulations, fees and other pertinent information, please investigate www.spokanecivictheatre.com, inquiring specifically within the "News" link on the website's main page.



Classic Dickens story gets abridged treatment

By Brian Clark

Perhaps more than any other time of the year, the holiday season is the best for falling into the comfortable lull of stories that you know by heart. There's something appealing about being entertained with a familiar tale in the midst of Christmas, winter and the fading of the year. For sentimental saps like myself, then, Interplayers is reincarnating Charles Dickens classic Christmas Carol for the stage.

Then again, this isn't exactly the same old song and dance. Called **A Reduced Christmas Carol** or *Scrooge vs. The Stopwatch*, Interplayers is putting the classic tale through a very strict and temporal meat grinder. Four actors take on fourteen

personas, performing against the backdrop of the modern stopwatch, keeping a stern cadence to the play and reducing the two-hour story to a feverish 60 minutes.

But that's not really accurate, either, as audience interaction in the form of attendees performing the roles of wind, church bells and ghosts will allow for a certain amount of spontaneity. So, if I've got this right, A Reduced Christmas Carol is the timeless holiday story spun on its head and crammed into an hour that's both rigid and flexible, loose and precise.

You know what, just see for yourself and undoubtedly come up with a much better description than anything I just blathered about in the preceding paragraphs. The show goes on stage for the first

time Wednesday, December 13th and runs through Saturday, December 23rd, with show times at 2 or 7 p.m., depending on the day.

Tickets are \$2 for children, \$5 for students, seniors and military personnel, \$8 for Interplayers subscribers and \$10 for everyone else. Tickets can be purchased through ticketwest.com and their various outlets (see page 8), or through the Interplayers box office at (509) 455-PLAY. For more information, Interplayers has a very informative and easy to navigate website at www.interplayers.com, though as of press time, there was no mention of this recently added holiday staging, so it might be best just to give them a ring. 🐾

Met renamed in commemoration of Bing Crosby

By Brian Clark

On Friday, December 8th, the Advocates for the Bing Crosby Theater (ABCT) will have to disband, I suppose, since they're seeing their wish come to fruition, and a group with that specific of a name can clearly only have one goal. Regardless, I'm sure they're happy as clams, as The Met is officially being renamed The Bing Crosby Theatre. The dedication ceremony and sign unveiling

will be held at 7 p.m., but festivities start at noon with a free **Bing Crosby Film Festival**. *Going My Way*, *The Road to Morocco* and, of course, *White Christmas* will all be screened for anyone willing to show up.

After the dedication, Bing's widow – Kathryn Crosby – will perform a cabaret show called **My Life with Bing**, a fundraiser to help cover the cost of the new sign. The cabaret show starts at about 8 p.m.

I'm sure most people in Spokane who

have an opinion on this matter are really happy about the new name change, but we're not. I'm already sick of calling the INB Performing Arts Center the old Opera House and now we've got the former-Met current Bing Crosby confusion to further muddy up our articles. Thanks a lot, ABCT, for your completely successful and almost entirely selfless lobbying. I bet you didn't even consider the fact that we'd be mildly inconvenienced here at the SiDEKiCK. 🐾

Musically driven, family friendly magic show celebrates the holidays at Northern Quest

By Brian Clark

A unique, family-friendly event will be coming to Spokane (Airway Heights, actually, but who's counting) when magician **David Martin** brings his cutting edge **Holiday Magic Show** to the Northern Quest Casino. Shortly before Christmas, Martin will be setting up camp in Spokane for a few days, giving local audiences a trio of opportunities to catch his act.

Martin has been a professional musician for some 22 years, a self-described "new-era illusionist" who aims for total immersion for his audience. His influences range from the legendary Harry Houdini and David Copperfield to Doug Henning and Siegfried and Roy. (The Siegfried and Roy inspiration should be blindingly obvious if you check out Martin's photo at the top right of this page. Side note: He isn't posing for that picture. This is actually a magician in his natural habitat.)

Martin also incorporates music heavily into his performances. Drawing on a slew of fabled rock bands from KISS to U2, he calls music the "driving force" behind his magic.

Currently, the show features the original tunes of **NoManZero** – a contemporary throwback to the likes of Rush, ZZ Top and Pink Floyd. NoManZero is known equally for their classic rock sound as well as their socially responsible content, which is so thoroughly integrated into the music that their debut album that was just released this past September is titled *Global Warning*.

Tickets are \$10 and \$5, available through the Northern Quest Box Office at (509) 340-6700, or through www.ticketwest.com and the various TicketsWest outlets in and around Spokane (see page 8 for a list).

Northern Quest's Pend Oreille Pavillion can be found at 100 N. Hayford Rd. in Airway Heights (a little East of Spokane Valley, if you're not totally familiar with the area). The show starts at 4:30 p.m. daily from Tuesday, December 19th through Thursday the 21st. As mentioned, this performance is appropriate for all ages. For more information, visit www.northernquest.com or, for a chance to win free tickets to the show courtesy of the Spokane SiDEKiCK, check out the accompanying box at the top right of this page and shoot us an email. ✉

FREE TICKETS!

The SiDEKiCK has several extra tickets to the magic show that's described to the left, advertised below and depicted in an eco-friendly manner to your right. If you would like to attend, would like to take your kids, know somebody that would like to take their kids, or are just hoping to see a grown man get mauled by a lion, then we've got some tickets with your name on them.

To enter the contest, simply email info@spokanesidekick.com and tell us what your favorite childhood toy is, and why. Brief responses are accepted, but stories of jubilation and/or humiliation are generally stronger entries that are more likely to garner tickets. We're going to give away at least a pair of free passes for each winning entry we select, depending on how many emails we receive, and whether those responses suck or not. Thanks for playing and best of luck.



The Halls of Nostalgia: The Leftovers

The leftovers: There are so many other great toys, and we just didn't feel right neglecting them entirely. Hot wheels, for example, were a great invention, and probably more than a little responsible for the popularity of NASCAR today. Hungry Hungry Hippos is arguably the best of sit down, childhood games, as it merely requires you to push a button as rapidly as your hyperactive little fingers could manage. Polly Pockets allowed girls another outlet to create a pocket-sized fantasy world of husbands and shopping sprees. The Slip 'n Slide (and the similar Crocodile Mile) where probably the most dangerous of accepted childhood playthings, as it was always about 10 minutes before somebody decided to try sliding down on their feet, thus cracking their skulls when they fell over or, if they were lucky, merely slicing off their nipples.

Obscure legos fact:

Six eight-stud Lego bricks of the same color can be put together a staggering 915,103,765 different ways.



David Martin's



Holiday
Magic
Show

Fun for the
Whole Family!

Hypnotica! A Musical, Magical Trilogy.

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1-800-325-SEAT

❄️ Christmas Celebration Extravaganza ❄️

There are a number of holiday festivities going on around town over the next couple of weeks. While the following certainly isn't an exhaustive list, here are a few that have been brought to our attention ...

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture is getting in on the holiday spirit with the historic **Campbell House** decked in Christmas décor and featuring routine cooking demonstrations, especially focusing on celebrating holidays the old-fashioned way. There will also be daily story readings every day from December 16th through Christmas Eve, with a presentation of **The Night Before Christmas** at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. or both, depending on the day (except for Monday, December 18th, which apparently everyone is taking off because, let's face it, Mondays suck). The Campbell House is located at 2316 W. 1st Ave. in Browne's Addition. For more information, visit www.northwestmuseum.org ...

Ichabod's East Bar, 12116 E. Sprague in Spokane Valley, is holding a self-proclaimed **Bitchin' Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 16th from 6 p.m. 'til close. Guest bartenders from Double Dribble will join the Ichabod's crew to help celebrate the Christmas season in style: namely by getting really, really drunk ...

Interplayers Theatre is putting on **A Reduced Christmas Carol** from December 14th through the 23rd, a unique vision of Charles Dickens' famous story. For more information, see the article on page 20 ...

Whitworth College is holding their 2006 Christmas Festival Concert on Friday, December 8th and Saturday the 9th. Dubbed **From Out of Darkness, We Have Light**, the concert will feature both the general school Choir as well as the Whitworth Women's Choir, and will be held at the First Presbetyrian Church, 318 S. Cedar. The performance gets underway at 8 p.m. on Friday, with a pair of Saturday showings at 3 and 7. Tickets are \$15, or \$12 for students, available now through www.ticketwest.com and all their various outlets (see page 8) ...

Rock Coffee/Bridge is presenting a Christmas show at Caterina Winery on Thursday, December 21st featuring singer/songwriter Karli Fairbanks and friends singing Christmas songs of all shapes and sizes. It sounds like a delightful time, really, in the warmth of the winery with a glass of chiraz in hand. Bad sweaters optional. The show starts at 8 p.m. for a \$5 cover, all ages invited. Caterina is located at 905 N. Washington, kind of where Washington meets N. River Drive. For more information, visit www.spokanesidekick.com ...

The Blue Spark is hosting **The Longnecks Christmas Spectacular** on Friday, December 22nd. The funky blues rock of The Longnecks will be on display, along with their funkified versions of well-known Christmas songs, and possibly girls dressed in sexy Santa's Little Helper get-ups. The concert starts at or around 9:30 p.m. at The Blue Spark, 15 S. Howard in downtown Spokane, 21+ only. Cover is set at \$3. For more information, visit www.spokanesidekick.com, where you'll see that every band mentioned in this issue is included in our online database, as well as many, many more. So poke around and have a listen because, really, the only way the Spokane SiDEKiCK gets any better is if there's some audio accompaniment pleasuring your ear while you read ... 🎧

The Nutcracker included in Spokane Symphony's holiday rounds

By Brian Clark

The Spokane Symphony is celebrating the Christmas season with a pair of Holiday themed performances in December. The ever-popular **Nutcracker** starts things off on the 8th, with a **Holiday Pops** medley rounding out the festivities later in the month.

The Nutcracker will be on stage from Friday, December 8th through Sunday the 10th, with the Spokane Symphony providing a soundtrack for Ballet British Columbia and the Alberta Ballet, who will be acting out the theatrical portion of the show. The story revolves around a nutcracker coming to life in the form of a handsome prince, while toy soldiers battle an evil mouse king and a little girl is whisked from her Christmas Eve home to the valley of the sweets.

The original story, "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice," is credited to E.T.A Hoffman, who strikes me as one weird dude. Not only does The Nutcracker sound like it was written during an acid trip, but he married his cousin (how Edgar Allen Poe of him) and was obsessed with some pretty bizarre themes. The Sandman, for example, is about a guy who throws sand in kids' eyes when they won't go to sleep. Translated from German, one block of text reads something like, "He is a wicked man, who comes to children when they won't go to bed, and throws a handful of sand into their eyes, so that they start out bleeding from their heads. He puts their eyes in a bag and carries them to the crescent moon to feed his own children, who sit in the nest up there. They have crooked beaks like owls so that they can pick up the eyes of naughty human children." Um, yeah, what say we call off Operation One of Us is Crazy.

Anyway, The Nutcracker is a well-loved holiday icon and Hoffman has been dead for nearly 200 years, so that anecdote has very little to do with anything, and you should have no reservations about seeing the symphonic ballet of The Nutcracker. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night, with weekend matinees at 2 on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets range from \$17 – \$35, with discounts for children or patrons who purchase tickets for all three days.

Holiday Pops will see the Symphony return to its roots, getting away from audio accompaniment to a visual performance and focusing purely on the music. Associate conductor Morihiko Nakahara will take the helm, joined by the Spokane Symphony Chorale and Spokane Area Children's Chorus, presenting a mélange of Christmas songs you all know and love (presumably).

This Holiday Pops concert will be on stage Saturday, December 16th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 19th at 2. All of these shows will take place at the INB Performing Arts Center (which I seem legally obligated to mention used to be called the Spokane Opera House), located at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Tickets are available through www.ticketwest.com, all TicketsWest outlets around town (see page 8 for a list), or by calling 1-800-325-SEAT. For more information, visit www.spokanesymphony.org. 🎧



Overly sentimental Collin Raye gets in on Christmas spirit

By Brian Clark

Collin Raye's Family Christmas Tour, which is taking place neither on Christmas nor involving anybody from his immediate family, is coming to Spokane anyway for a Tuesday, December 12th concert at the INB Performing Arts Center. Despite an inaccurate and/or misleading tour name, Raye will be bringing some pretty significant commercial country music success to the show. According to his press release, he has 15 #1 hits to his name, though I've no idea what chart they're going off of, as I count four singles to top the Hot 100 Country List.

At any rate, it might not be as stupid of a tour name as I'm letting on,



as Raye is a sentimental fool whose catalogue is probably the most akin to the Christmas spirit as anything you're likely to hear outside of singing actual holiday songs. Included in his chart topping singles are "Love, Me," "My Kind of Girl" and "I Can Still Feel You." It should also be noted that he released a proper Christmas album in 1996 and will

presumably be playing some of those tracks on his current tour.

Tickets are on sale now, set between \$27.50 and \$47.50, available through all TicketsWest outlets listed on page 8, as well as their website (www.ticketwest.com) and hotline (1-800-325-SEAT). The concert gets underway at 7:30 p.m. at the INB Performing Arts Center – formerly known as the Spokane Opera House – in downtown Spokane. For more information, we're once again going to pimp our website on you, because it's a really great resource and we spend a lot of time making it as complete as we can. Check it out at www.spokanesidekick.com, then let us know what you think, if you want. Or not. It's up to you. 🎧



A Salute to Awful Christmas Sweaters

Spreading holiday cheer whether you want it or not



The Homemade Sweater:

We salute you, grown man wearing a Christmas sweater that was undoubtedly knitted by your grandmother. It makes you look at least 10 years younger, but not necessarily in a good way. Easily identified by the bad iron-ons and possible inclusion of bells, tassels and/or flashing lights, you are the most festive variety of sweater out there. If there's not a reindeer involved in some way, it doesn't count as far as you're concerned, and we admire that.



The Ball of Yarn:

Probably the least attractive variety of any sweater (regardless of the season), we salute the Ball of Yarn sweater, for it is easily the most colorful. These are the sweaters that look like they were made by a giant press squishing together every leftover piece of string from an arts and crafts fair, thrown in with the occasional piece of twine, bailing wire and an assortment of other stringy pieces of fabric, as long as they're bright enough to provide reflection at night, and clash with every other color on the rest of the sweater. We may have to shield our eyes when you walk by, but cataracts is a small price to pay for a little holiday cheer.



The Turtleneck:

You almost certainly can't pull off the turtleneck, so we salute you, wearers of the turtleneck, for trying anyway. Mind you, this isn't a judgment on you personally; it's simple mathematics. You see, only one in roughly 6,000 people can be seen in a turtleneck and not look absolutely ridiculous, so the law of averages states there's a very, very good chance that you're not that person. If you're in doubt email us a picture and we will help you decide. Bonus points for anyone who wears the turtleneck without folding the neck part first, so it basically swallows your entire head. Classic.



The Pet Sweater (a.k.a. The Petter):

A salute to any pet owner that feels the need to dress their dog, cat or potbellied pig in any form of clothing, especially that of the holiday sweater. Your sheer enthusiasm for the Christmas season has spilled over to every moment of your winter existence; it's not enough that your house is bright enough to divert aircrafts and your own body is donned from head to toe in green and red, but you force festive tidings unnecessarily on your pet, as well. There's nothing that says Happy Holidays like a French poodle wearing a snowflake cardigan, dry-humping a Christmas wreath.

Drink of the Issue: Santa's Little Helper

Sponsored by the **Blue Spark**



Santa's Little Helper Ingredients

- 1/2 pint Winter Ale
- 1/2 shot Kahlua
- 1/2 shot Irish Cream
- Splash of Fireball Whisky
- Whipped Cream

Mixing Instructions

Pour Kahlua and Irish Cream into a shot glass. Add a splash of Fireball and top with whipped cream. Drop the shot into a half pint of winter ale and enjoy the flavor.

Give Santa one of these on Christmas Eve and he'll leave you any present that you desire. Best served with an oatmeal cookie.

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 #282 - Spell Check

A	P	I	G			C	R	A	G		A	M	I	N	
C	E	N	A			D	I	A	L	A		N	U	D	E
H	E	R	M	I	O	N	E	G	R	A	N	G	E	R	
S	T	E	E	P	L	E		A	C	C	U	S	E	D	
				H	O	L	M	S		E	D	A			
F	A	Z	E	D			A	U	N	T	C	L	A	R	A
B	E	E	N	S			M	A	T			V	A	N	
O	I	L	S			J	A	M	B	I		W	A	N	T
M	O	I				O	N	O			R	I	N	G	O
B	U	G	S	B	U	N	N	Y			O	F	T	E	N
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A	C	T	I	O	N	S		L	E	S	S	E	N	S	
P	H	O	E	B	E	H	A	L	L	I	W	E	L	L	
P	A	U	L			Y	O	K	E	L		A	R	C	O
S	I	R	S			S	T	A	R			P	O	S	T

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 your 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.

Drink and be Merry



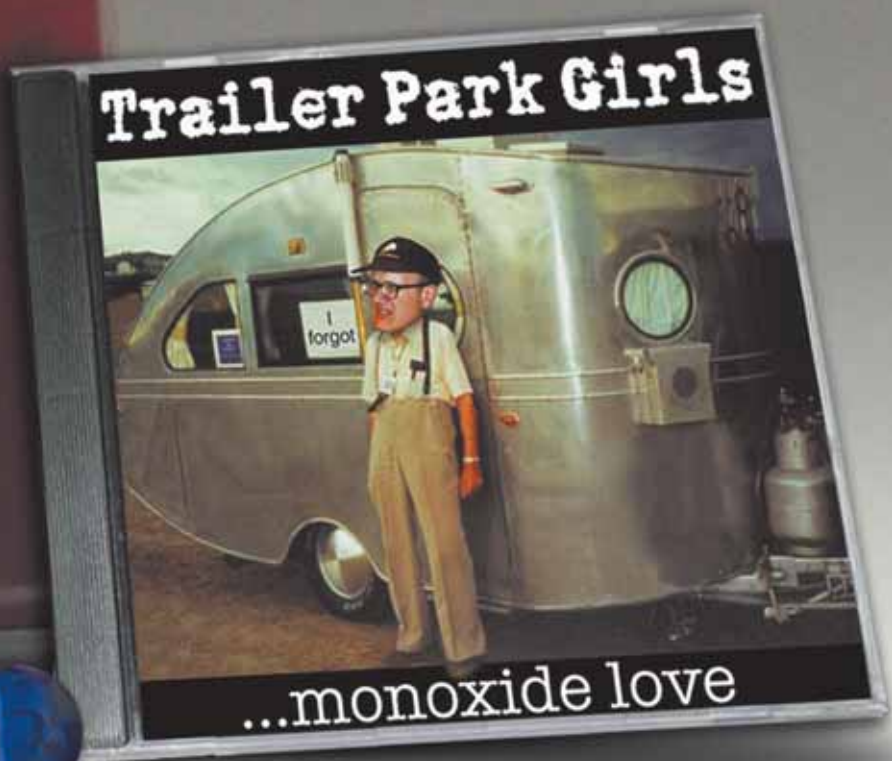
Dollar Beers
on Christmas eve
and Christmas day

Bring in the New Year with James Pants
Dec. 31st

Trailer Park Girls



CD Release
Party
Dec. 16
\$4.00 @ the door
9:00 PM



@ The BLVD 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd