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YEAR IN  
REVIEW  
ISSUE

THE SPOKANE

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**YEARS  
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PAGES  
8 - 10

➤ PARTY GUIDE ➤



**THE SPOKANE SIDEKICK,**  
YES, WE DRINK FANCY CHAMPAGNE

IN THIS ISSUE  
THE CLUMSY LOVERS - PAGE 5  
THE WAILERS - PAGE 7  
'HAIRSPRAY' - PAGE 19  
THE MAIN DISH - PAGE 22

SPOKANE'S MOST COMPLETE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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## Letter from the Editors

Howdy,

One of the things we're interested in here at the Spokane SiDEKiCK is breaking down the barrier between the people who dispense information and the people who consume it. As such, we rely heavily on feedback and user input to keep our paper and website fresh, exciting and up-to-date.

So please, get in touch with us and let us know how we're doing. We're not claiming to be the greatest publication in the history of the northwest or anything like that, but the advantage of a paper like ours is that it has a certain personal voice that can be fostered if anyone cares to take the time to email (info@spokanesidekick.com). We respond personally to all our emails, no matter the subject. For example, we recently had a Disney on Ice ticket giveaway contest, where several readers responded with their favorite Disney movie or character and the dialogue that spawned from that turned out to be a lot of fun us

personally, not to mention that it enhances the sort of communal atmosphere we're looking to build. So thanks to everyone who responded, and anyone who hasn't gotten in touch with us is hereby encouraged to do so.

Also know that you can add events to our website database, which in turn assures that they're sent out in our highly informative email newsletter and at least in our print calendar in the middle of this paper, if not reappearing elsewhere in the form of an article, info box or blurb of some kind.

So the point here, I guess, is to take advantage of the SiDEKiCK as a resource. Check out [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com). Sign up for our iKiCK, a free update of the day's entertainment events in our area. Download our widget so the hyperlinked events are there whenever you're in the mood to go out on the town. Everything is cross-referenced and our band database is easily the most complete in town.

Otherwise, just get in touch and let us

know your thoughts on anything, whether it's related with the Spokane cultural scene or not. And please consider supporting us in the way of purchasing an advertisement for a business or upcoming event, if you have one. Our sponsors have been great, so far, and the vast majority seem satisfied with the results. We're flexible, easy to work with and ridiculously cheap. We don't have any bureaucratic hoops to jump through – we're just a couple of guys with a little print media experience who happen to love the Spokane arts and entertainment scene – so we can work with you on pretty much anything. Also, it's the only way to ensure that the SiDEKiCK continues to serve the Spokane community in the weeks, months and years that lie ahead.

Thanks for listening. Warmest holiday wishes.

Brian Clark  
Andy Rowse  
Spokane SiDEKiCK



## LIVE MUSIC |

# Local singer/ songwriters spread holiday cheer at Caterina Christmas show

### SiDEKiCK Editors

In the spirit of Christmas and community, we're choosing a night of holiday music by some of the best local singer/songwriters around as our Pick of the Issue, our opinion of the one show happening over the course of the next few weeks that's truly not to miss. This modest Christmas sing-a-long of sorts will take place at the Caterina Winery, 905 N. Washington, on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Brought to you by Rock Coffee, this evening of Christmas music, will see a number of local favorites singing original Christmas songs, a Christmas carol or two and, of course, the canonical sing-a-long holiday songs that everyone knows and loves, livened up with the style of whomever happens to be on stage. I can't guarantee that there won't be some non-Christmas songs thrown in here and there, but I give you permission to heckle the performer mercilessly if they're not at least displaying appropriate Christmas cheer (preferably while wearing a really bad sweater).


Performers comprising this mostly acoustic rock lineup will include **Karli Fairbanks and Caroline Evans, Joel Smith, Adam David, Zac Fairbanks**, the three-piece outfit **TeeVee** and Danny Lopez, alias **TableTop Joe**. As if there wasn't enough unity and spirit in the air already, Adam David will be recording on a pretty bitchin' sound

system over the course of the evening, and attendees can opt to pay \$8 (including cover) to get a limited quantity Christmas compilation cd that will include all of the night's musicians. CD's will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

The Caterina can be found at 905 N. Washington, roughly where Washington meets

North River Drive.

There is a \$5 cover to see this all-ages show (which is the non-CD price, as mentioned above. Basically a CD runs you a scant \$3 and will probably pass off as a Christmas gift to a sibling you're not all that close with).

Music starts at 7:30 or 8 p.m., depending on who you ask, so we would recommend arriving at 7:30, especially if you want a CD, and because, with this many performers, the set lengths will undoubtedly be short. For more information on the performing artists, including links to various myspace pages and websites of interest, check out [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://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><b>The Cowboy</b> 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><b>Party Girl</b> 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><b>Tattoo Guy</b> 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><b>Emo Dude</b> 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><b>The Hipster</b> 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><b>Rock Chick</b> 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><b>The Greek</b> 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.

### SIDEKICK STAFF

**Publisher:** Pacific Northwest Media Productions, LLC  
info@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com

**Production Manager:** A.W. Rowse  
andy@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com

**Managing Editor:** Brian Clark  
brian@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com

**Ad Sales:** A.W. Rowse  
sales@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com

**Writers:** Katie Champeny, A.W. Rowse, Amanda Chandler, Brian Clark, M.W. Fritz, Jeff Downz

To submit an event to the SiDEKiCK either go online to [www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com](http://www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com) and complete our online form, or send an email to [events@SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com](mailto: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

SPOKANE'S MOST COMPLETE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Music

**Pick of the Issue:**  
Gosling, Village Green ..... pg. 3

Clumsy Lovers ..... pg. 5

**Spotlight:** Skillet Jonez..... pg. 6

The Wallers ..... pg. 11

**Alphabet Soup** ..... pg. 11

**News & Notes** ..... pg. 15

Rick Springfield ..... pg. 15

**New Years Eve Festivities** ..... pg. 8-9

First Night ..... pg. 10

**Calendar** ..... pgs. 11-13

**Features**

Karaoke listings ..... pg. 14

**Straight outta my astrology** . pg. 14

**Crossword Puzzle** ..... pg. 14

**Letters From the Radical Middle**.... pg. 16

**Echoes from the Other Washington**.. pg. 16

**Comedy**

**SIDETRACKED:** Brickwall..... pg. 17

### Year in Review

Best Albums of the Year ..... pg. 18

### Theatre

Hairspray ..... pg. 19

A Reduced Christmas Carol .... pg. 19

### Film

**Reel Review** We are Marshall .. pg. 20

**Bottom Shelf** Naked..... pg. 20

### Sports

**Around the world in 80 plays**.... pg. 21

### Food

**Main Dish** ..... pg. 22

**Back Burner** ..... pg. 22

### Features

Drink of the Issue..... pg. 23

Crossword Solutions ..... pg. 23

**We Salute**  
The Christmas Sweater ..... pg. 23

About our theme: **2006 THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

With 2006 rapidly coming to a close, we're celebrating the year that was with some of our favorite moments that made us laugh and/

or stare blankly at the television in disbelief. It's like one of those VH1 specials, only without all the washed-up comedians and child

actors you'd forgotten about.

The **Greatest Moments of the Year** blurbs can be found at the bottom of several pages, with a

**Political Recap** on page 16, a look back at the **Best Albums of the Year** on page 18, and a brief **Sports Reflection** on page 21. Enjoy.



# Lovers for the New Year

By Brian Clark

**Clumsy Lovers**, a high-energy bluegrass band who filter their folk roots through a punk rock siv, are Canadian and therefore don't believe in Christmas, New Year's Eve or anything else relating to the Gregorian calendar. So they've migrated south for their current Christmas tour and will be bringing in the New Year in and around Spokane, where these sorts of end of the year celebrations are encouraged. You can catch them on Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Big Easy Concert House in Spokane, followed by a New Year's Eve show at Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint, Idaho.

Clumsy Lovers can be described as a relentlessly touring jam band that's on the road over 300 days a year, a group that has embraced the term "ragging Celtic bluegrass rock" as an adequate encapsulation of their tenacious music. They cover everything from AC/DC to Woody Guthrie in their concerts, and are known for their rollicking live shows that include foot-stomping fiddle and banjo solos, with the drummer occasionally hitting fiddle notes with his drumsticks. The mandolin, harmonica and, of course, bass and guitar all figure prominently in crafting the unique and extremely popular Clumsy

Lovers sound.


They recently released their seventh album, *Smart Kid*, a typical Clumsy Lovers release in that it's routinely surprising, while never really straying from their distinctive style. There's a more laid-back, almost reggae vibe to some of the tracks, while the sort of hard working rock 'n roll ethic is ever present, a principle instilled after a decade of incessant touring where they've played over 1500 live shows since the mid-90s. Unassuming, this happy-go-lucky Vancouver quintet never seems to take a day off; they make Bruce Springsteen look like a bit of a pussy.


**The Clumsy Lovers**

Sat, Dec 30th, 8 p.m.  
The Big Easy, All Ages  
(509) 244-3279

Sun, Dec 31st, 8:30 p.m.  
Schweitzer Mt. Resort  
SOLD OUT



The Big Easy show on Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> gets underway at 8 p.m., an all-ages performance with tickets available for \$13.50 through [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com), 1-800-325-SEAT, or any of the TicketWest outlets throughout the Inland Northwest (see page 11 for a list). The New Year's Eve extravaganza on top of the beautiful Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort is sold out, but you can contact the Schweitzer Mountain Activities Center at 255-3081 ext. 2152, in case there was a cancellation or something, and you absolutely must try and get tickets. For more information, visit the band's website at [www.clumsylovers.com](http://www.clumsylovers.com). 



**Greatest Athlete of 2006:**

**Runners-Up:** If we were a paper that honored things like integrity and principles, we'd probably give a shout out to Roger Federer or Lance Armstrong. But we're not that paper, so they can be our runners-up, along with Albert Pujols, Lebron James and everyone else who had a stellar athletic campaign in 2006.

**The Winner:** Chad Johnson. Not because the Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver has 1,274 receiving yards so far this season, setting the all-time team record in a game against the Chargers with a 260-yard, two-touchdown day. No, he wins for shaving his head into a blonde Mohawk, changing his name to "Ocho Cinco," and knowing how to celebrate a touchdown in style. If Cincy ends up in the Super Bowl, I wouldn't rule out the possibility that Johnson enters the stadium riding a unicorn while eating his own head.



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**LIVE MUSIC**

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(Reggae / Dance)

Every Wed :: Skillet Jones  
and th Funky-Fi Collectors  
(Funk / Reggae / Soul)

---

Dec 21st :: College Night w/ DJ Big Mike

Dec 22nd :: SHOOT THE GIFT  
See page 15 of this issue for more info  
(Hip Hop / Rap)

Dec 23rd :: DJ Doorman

Dec 25th :: Burns Like Hellfire  
(Rock / Country / Indie)

Dec 26th :: Real Life Sound (DJ)

Dec 28th :: College Night w/ DJ Big Mike

Dec 29th :: Shoved  
(Rock / Alternative / Classic Rock)

Dec 30th :: Soul Smoov  
(R&B / Soul)

Dec 31st :: Flee the Century  
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Laylah's Drink (New Wave / Punk / Rock)

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## LIVE MUSIC

# Spotlight: Skillet Jones and the Funky-Fi Collectors



By A.W. Rowse

Normal interviews bore me – typically I couldn't care less how a musician was inspired by their grandfather, or how their music stems from The Beatles and Danzig at the same time. This is not one of those interviews.

I sat down with Skillet Jones and Danger Dan of **Skillet Jones and the Funky-Fi Collectors** during one of their weekly band practices... that happen to take place every Wednesday night at The Spread.

"This is only the second time we have ever played together," admits Jones, who is no stranger to the Spokane music scene. Jones was an integral part of SOUP, a tour de force of rotating musicians that played weekly at Mootsy's back in the 90's.

"Wednesday nights at The Spread is where we hone our game for weekend gigs," adds Dan, also a veteran of the music scene. Dan is the keyboardist of Jupiter Effect, a funky-threesome that plays frequently around town.

The first question I ask is "What is sadder? That I am drinking alone or that I am double fisting while drinking alone?" This is actually a test to see if I want to continue the interview.

"Seven drinks is sad; you're OK," answers Jones. Correct answer, the interview continues.

On to the name – what the hell is Skillet Jones and the Funky-Fi Collectors? It is an awesome name, but where does it

come from?

"Actually it is a mistake that you guys (The SiDEKiCK) printed last week, but we liked it so much we kept it," answers Jones.

Opps.

"But don't tall anyone. We don't want you to feel embarrassed," says Dan.

Double Opps.

On to sound. I inform the guys that I could just straight up tell people that Skillet Jones and the Funky-Fi Collectors play island-inspired funk. But that doesn't mean much to most people, so I find it helpful to compare music to an alcohol drink. For example, Ryan Adams is a shot of whiskey while Sinatra is a vodka martini. Do you get the drift?

"I would say that we are a Funky Comadina," says Dan.

"Is that a drink?" I ask.

"It should be," says Dan.

"Yeah, it would be lime flavored with a twist of lime," adds Jones.

If you couldn't tell from the interview, these guys are entertaining, and their music is equally fun to listen to. It takes me back to the easier periods in my life, like when I was a beach bum in Costa Rica. Good times.

For a taste of this feeling, check out Skillet Jones and the Funky-Fi collectors every Wednesday night at The Spread, located at 230 W. Riverside in downtown Spokane. There is never a cover but admission is limited to those 21 and older. Music usually starts around 10 p.m. For more information, as always, check out [www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com](http://www.SpokaneSiDEKiCK.com).



**Skillet Jones**  
and the  
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## Greatest Soulless Corporation of 2006:

**Runner-Up:** Halliburton could be the annual recipient of this award, if it were an actual distinction. As if they hadn't done enough over the past few years – taking a dump on historic Middle Eastern sites, polluting the Earth, securing oil contracts by any and all means necessary – it was revealed recently (though severely underreported) that Halliburton sold nuclear technologies to the Iranians. There needs to be a harsher word than "opportunistic" to describe these money hungry bastards.

**The Winner:** Exxon Mobile. What a bunch of wankers. Seriously. While the American people are getting gouged for \$3 to \$4 for a gallon of gas, Exxon was recording record profits ... again. Of the 10 most lucrative fiscal quarters ever recorded, Exxon boasts eight of them. Meaning they make \$70,000 every minute while we pay out the ass. They represent everything that is vicious and immoral in the American character, and I want to see them all torn apart by a pack of rabid badgers, hopefully after some sort of disembowelment occurs, and I wouldn't mind seeing an accident involving sulfuric acid, while we're at it.



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## The Wailers bring insanely popular reggae act to Spokane




By Brian Clark

It would be lazy of us to merely say that **The Wailers** need no introduction, but it's kind of pointless to try and familiarize you with a band as universally known as this seven-piece reggae outfit that was led by a bonafide cultural icon. So I'm going to tell you a bunch of facts and accolades about The Wailers that you might not have known:

Counting their days since they were Bob Marley & The Wailers, the band has sold more than a quarter billion albums worldwide, (exactly one record for every dollar the Texas Rangers blew on Alex Rodriguez record-setting contract in 2001). They were named "Band of the Year" by Rolling Stone in 1976, have a Peace Medal of the Third World from the United Nations and their song "One Love" was named "Song of the Millennium" by the BBC. The feces of current Wailers singers is covered in gold and can be used as an acceptable currency in forty-two countries around the world. OK, I made one of those up, but you get the point. These guys are insanely successful, responsible for a ridiculous amount of songs that

one encounters on a highly regular basis.


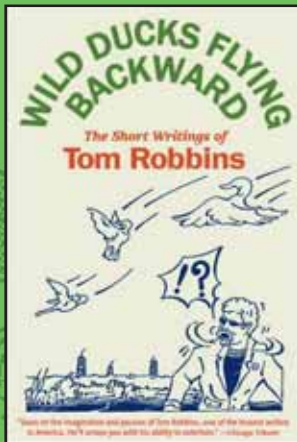
Even if you've never voluntarily listened to reggae, you still can't help but know every word to "Buffalo Soldier," "I Shot the Sheriff," "Redemption Song," "Get Up Stand Up," and many, many others. I guess in "Buffalo Soldier's" case, it's only because there are, like, six words in the entire song, but the point by now should be obvious. The Wailers not only are the most universally loved band this side of The Beatles, but they were influential in easing tension between warring factions in Jamaica and are mostly responsible for white kids thinking it's OK to wear dreadlocks (two out of three having a positive affect on the world isn't bad, I guess).

The Wailers will be performing at The Big Easy Concert House on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m., with doors opening an hour earlier. Tickets are set at \$19.50 for this all ages performance, available now through [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com), all TicketWest outlets around town (see page 11), or by calling 1-800-325-SEAT. For more information, [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com) is an indispensable resource to keep you up to date on everything happening in the Spokane arts and entertainment scene. 



**The Wailers**  
Wed, Jan 10th, 8 p.m.  
The Big Easy  
All Ages, \$19.50  
(509) 244-3279

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Limited Time Offer expires 12-31-06

### 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...



**teamAWESOME!**

Thurs, Jan 4th, 9 pm  
The Spread, 21+  
230 W. Riverside Ave  
(509) 456-4515

### ALPHABET SOUP

#### "THE H LIST"

Welcome to part eight 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 H List," in no particular order:

#### OUR PICKS

- Hurt  
Johnny Cash / Nine Inch Nails
- Holiday in Spain  
Counting Crows
- Hallelujah  
Jeff Buckley / Leonard Cohen
- Here I Dreamt I was an Architect  
The Decemberists
- Hail to Whatever You Found in the Sunlight that Surrounds You  
Rilo Kiley

#### READER PICKS

- Hit the Ground Running  
Jonny Lang
- Here With Me  
Dido
- Here Comes the Sun  
The Beatles
- Have Fun Go Mad  
Blair
- Hallelujah  
Leonard Cohen

This week's Reader Picks were sent by Julie Smith. For sharing her opinion, she gets a gift certificate to 4000 Holes.

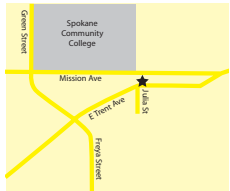
Email your five favorite songs starting with the letter I to [info@spokanesidekick.com](mailto:info@spokanesidekick.com) and we'll print one of the responses alongside our picks in the next issue. If we pick yours, we'll give you some free stuff.

The New Blue Dolphin's  
**New Years Eve Party with**

**BATCHED** ONEFALL  
and Special Guest.

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21+ only Listen to 94.5 for free tickets and details

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THE SPOKANE  
**SiDEKiCK**

SPOKANE'S MOST COMPLETE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE  
MUSIC | THEATRE | FOOD | MOVIES | ART | CALENDAR

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



NEW YEARS EVE 



NEW  
**YEARS  
EVE**

➤ **PARTY GUIDE** ◀

**Because First Night isn't the only party in Spokane**



First Night is fun an all but sometimes you just want to get away from those family-friendly festivities and enjoy the company of adults. The following is a extensive list of alternative parties and events happening in the Spokane area that feature music, drinks, food, fun and friends – the

only civilized way to ring in 2007. For more details please call the venues. We have provided a phone number to make it easy.

Thank you for reading the SiDEKiCK and have a Happy New Year. And remember, if you drink please don't drive. That's just poor form.

 **Blue Spark**

**DJ James Pants**, who may or may not have a clone that allows him to be at two places at once (seriously, he seems to play *at least* one show every night of the week), will be ushering in the New Year at The Blue Spark. This 21 and over dance party begins at 9 p.m. for a \$5 cover. Miller High Life, the self-proclaimed champagne of beers, will be the appropriate drink of choice throughout the course of the evening, available all night long for \$2 a pint. The Blue Spark can be found at 15 S. Howard in downtown Spokane, or give them a ring at (509) 838-5787.

 **Frank Sinatra Jr. at Northern Quest**

**Frank Sinatra Jr.** will be celebrating the turning of the calendar at Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, for those that find themselves able to stay up past midnight for a change (because, let's face it, Frank Sinatra Jr. appeals to a demographic where that's not as easy as it once was). This son of the legendary lounge singer will be singing a selection of classic songs and cuts from his recently released album, "That Face" and, in the true showmanship style of his father (who, by law, must be mentioned at least twice anytime his son is under discussion) Frank Sinatra Jr. will be backed by a full 38-piece orchestra.

A limited number of tickets are available for \$175 (hey, it's New Years) or \$250 with hotel accomo-

dations included. Other packages are also available, and there will be a second concert on New Year's Day, to boot. The New Year's Eve show starts at 9 p.m., with the Jan. 1st concert beginning at 8:30. Tickets for both concerts are available through [www.ticketswest.com](http://www.ticketswest.com), 1-800-325-SEAT, or any of the TicketsWest outlets listed on page 11. Northern Quest is located in Airway Heights at 100 N. Hayford Rd. For more information, visit their website at [www.northernquest.com](http://www.northernquest.com), or call them at (509) 242-7000.

 **The Spread**

The Spread is celebrating the end of 2006 (or the beginning of 2007, depending on how you want to look at it) with a quartet of local bands. The unique (read: bizarre) rock of **Flee the Century** will be headlining, with local punk bands **The Blowouts** and **Yokohama Hooks**, and the garage rock of **Laylah's Drink** getting things started. This 21 and over concert gets going at 9 p.m., give or take, and is guaranteed to bring you kicking and screaming into the New Year. For more information, The Spread can be reached at (509) 456-4515.

 **Big Al's**

Big Al's Country Club, the premiere country bar on the Idaho/Washington border (at least as far as we're concerned) is offering a pretty insane New Years package. Where to begin? Doors open at four, with the all-night performers, **Latigo Lace**, taking the stage at

9 p.m., playing a popular medley of country music, and entertaining attendees until well into 2007. Tickets for the concert alone are \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. Anybody who shows up will be treated to complimentary champagne at midnight, party favors, keg racing, mechanical bull riding contests, and their signature table dance, the latter of which involves a lot of drunken yelling to Garth Brooks. In the spirit of safety, they're also offering Stay and Play packages that start at \$70 per couple for concert admission and hotel accomodations and go up to \$100 for hotel and admission, plus free rides to and from the hotel and a steak dinner, which is just a hell of a deal and I would absolutely take advantage of it if I had, you know, a date. (Stabbing myself in the eye with a candy cane). The steak dinner (and other delectable entrees) will be available to everyone from 7 to 9 for a nominal fee. Big Al's is located in an old barn at 6152 W. Seltice Way, just outside of Post Falls. For more information, call Big Al's at (208) 777-8312. Or email [brian@spokanesidekick.com](mailto:brian@spokanesidekick.com) if you happen to be a good looking female looking for a date.

 **The Merq**

The Merq Liquid Lounge, 706 N. Monroe, is hosting their annual New Year's dinner, an extravaganza of entertainment and a five course meal, with your servers doubling as the entertainers for the evening. For more information, see the article on page 22.



 **First Night Buttons**

The visual and performing arts extravaganza that is **First Night** is obviously a big part of Spokane's New Year's celebration, and deserves to be mentioned. Admission buttons get you into every event in the First Night lineup, and are available at a number of local merchants, including Zip Trip food stores, Yoke's Fresh Market Place, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Tomlinson Black Real Estate Offices, the River Park Square consierge desk, Auntie's Bookstore, Goodworks Gallery, and City Perk (1st floor STA Plaza). Buttons cost \$12 and get you into everything listed on page 10. For more information, look on the following page.

 **Blue Dolphin**

The Blue Dolphin, located at 16 S. Robie road in the Spokane Valley, is throwing a little hard rock/heavy metal into the New Year's Eve mix, with a concert featuring **Botched, One Fall**, and a special guest to be named later. Playing metal/rock in the vein of Godsmack and Static X, the idea is for these bands to rock loud enough that you can't hear anything for the first week of 2007. Tickets can be purchased directly from the performing bands, with several being given away in the coming days on Rock 94.5 FM, where you can also find out more info on the special guest, the price of the show, and other pertinent info. Or call the bar at (509) 924-7168.

 **The Slab**

The Slab Inn, 801 W. Selice Way in Post Falls, is marshalling in the dawn of 2007 with a Cat Country DJ and drink specials throughout the night. The party starts at 9 p.m. for 21+ with free food while it lasts and plenty of champagne come midnight. They are also offering free cab rides within the Post Falls/Coeur d'Alene area, so if you plan on attending it's best to try and hook up with somebody local, or stay sober enough to make the trek back to Spokane. Admission to the party is \$10. For more information, call The Slab at (208) 773-5440.

 **Big Easy Masquerade Ball**

The Big Easy Concert House is billing their Masquerade Ball as the biggest New Year's Eve Party in the Pacific Northwest, which leads us to muse that we love how you're allowed to say whatever you want in advertising. Like when the SiDEKiCK claims to be "Spokane's most

complete arts and entertainment guide" and then offers virtually no evidence to back that up. There should be some sort of government body that oversees advertising claims and makes you support outlandish declarations. But we digress; the Masquerade Ball in question is certain to be a major event in Spokane. **Smash Hit Carnival** and **DJ Mayhem** will be providing the tunes, which kick off at 8 p.m., and there will be free masks and party favors for everyone attending. Note that, somewhat unusual for the Big Easy, this show is for 21 and over only. The venue can be found at 919 W. Sprague in downtown Spokane. For additional information, or to reserve a table, call (509) 244-3279 ext. 8.

 **Everything Else**

The preceding entries, while helpful, clearly don't exhaust all your celebration possibilities. Some of the following we were told about at the last minute, some were brought to our attention with minimal information given, and some we were generally too lazy to gather enough information to write any more. Regardless, here are a few more options when you're planning your New Years night out ...

Spokane's favorite Latin band, **Milonga**, will be playing at Mootsy's, 406 W. Sprague in downtown Spokane, from 10 p.m. until the early hours of January 1st (or roughly 2 a.m.). Cover is set at \$5 for 21+. Call (509) 838-1570 for more ... **Dog House Blues** are slated for a New Year's Eve performance at Mr. G's Bar and Grill, 18115 Corbin Place in the Spokane Valley. In addition to their New Year gig, this house band can also be seen every Sunday at Mr. G's, starting at 3 p.m. For more info, call (509) 928-9404 ...

Bolo's Bar and Grill, one of the SiDEKiCK's favorite places for Sunday afternoon football, is getting in on the night life action, with a New Year's Eve party featuring **Inner Sanctum**. The concert starts at 10 p.m. for a 21 and over crowd. For more information, they can be found at 116 S. Best in Spokane Valley, or by calling (509) 891-8995 ...

Fizzie Mulligans is shepherding in 2007 with a North side celebration that includes **The Perones** playing from 9 p.m. until

after the ball drops at midnight for a 21+ audience. For more information, call (509) 466-5354, otherwise the bar can be found at 331 W. Hatings road ...

**Nick Schaur and friends** will be capping off three straight nights at the Davenport's Peacock room with a New Year's Eve extravaganza. This 21 and over show starts at 9 p.m. The Davenport Hotel can be found, quite conspicuously, at 15 S. Post in the district of downtown named in the hotel's honor. For more information, call (509) 789-6839 ...

Classic rock cover band **After the Fall** will be playing at the Star Restaraunt and Lounge from 9 o'clock onward. The Star is located at 1329 N. Hamilton, near the Gonzaga campus, and can be reached at (509) 487-1530 ...

The psychedelic reggae of **Working Spliffs**, will be at the Bear Creek Lodge providing evening entertainment for those looking for a relaxing New Year's retreat. Located at the base of Mt. Spokane State Park, the Bear Creek Lodge, can be contacted at (509) 238-9114 ...

The Flame, located on the corner of Altamont and Sprague, is hosting a hip hop/ R&B show that will feature seven artists. Doors open at 8 p.m. and cover is \$5 at the door. This party is for those 21 and older. For more information call (509) 534-9121 ...

Brooklyn Nights sees the New Year arrive with the rock 'n roll of **Smokewaggin** and **Inspired by Mystery**. Brooklyn Nights can be found in the alley behind Far West at 122 S. Monroe. For specifics on the show, the bar can be reached at (509) 835-4177 ...

There are sure to be other New Year's parties worth considering if you have any hopes of celebrating the coming of the new year in style, so be sure to periodically check [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com), where we'll be adding additional shows as soon as we know about them. Simply click on the calendar link on our home-

page, and check out all the events slated for Dec. 31st ...



**3RD ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL!**

**THE BIGGEST NEW YEARS EVE PARTY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST!**

**LIVE MUSIC BY SMASH HIT CARNIVAL ALSO FEATURING DJ MAYHEM**

**Free Masks and Party Favors**

**Doors open at 8pm**

**21+ Reserve a table! Call 244-3279 ext. 8 for more information**

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**ATTENTION LOCAL MUSICIANS**

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Competition on Jan 18th, 7:00 pm  
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Limited Time Offer expires 12-31-06



2007 First Night Spokane Schedule  
(See previous page for more info)

Venue	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.
809 W. Main	Ben Preslee Klein & the Rockabellies <i>(Elvis Tribute)</i>	Ben Preslee Klein & the Rockabellies <i>(Elvis Tribute)</i>	Ben Preslee Klein & the Rockabellies <i>(Elvis Tribute)</i>	Ben Preslee Klein & the Rockabellies <i>(Elvis Tribute)</i>	Ben Preslee Klein & the Rockabellies <i>(Elvis Tribute)</i>
Bank of America	Spokane Children's Theatre	Spokane Children's Theatre	The 3 Dogg Down Project <i>(Variety / Blues / Rock)</i>	The 3 Dogg Down Project <i>(Variety / Blues / Rock)</i>	The 3 Dogg Down Project <i>(Variety / Blues / Rock)</i>
Bank of America Gallery	Inland Empire Bonsai Society, Tom Quinn, Spokane Camera Club <i>(like it says, Bonsai!)</i>				
The Met	Theatre Ballet of Spokane 7:30				
Cathedral of Our Lady Lourdes	Spokane Symphony 7:30 p.m.	Spokane Symphony 8:30 p.m.			
Center Stage 1	Riders of the Rockin' B <i>(Cowboy Band)</i>	Riders of the Rockin' B <i>(Cowboy Band)</i>	Riders of the Rockin' B <i>(Cowboy Band)</i>	Riders of the Rockin' B <i>(Cowboy Band)</i>	Riders of the Rockin' B <i>(Cowboy Band)</i>
Center Stage 2	Variety Show	Variety Show	Variety Show	Variety Show	Variety Show
Central United Methodist Church	Blue Door Theatre <i>(Improv)</i>	Blue Door Theatre <i>(Improv)</i>	Brothers from Different Mothers <i>(Comedy / Magic)</i>	Brothers from Different Mothers <i>(Comedy / Magic)</i>	Brothers from Different Mothers <i>(Comedy / Magic)</i>
Conexion Del Tango	Argentine Tango Lessons	Argentine Tango Lessons	Argentine Tango Lessons	Argentine Tango Lessons	Argentine Tango Lessons
Crescent Court, Upstairs	Keeler, Melvin, Morse <i>(Dixie/Folk)</i>	Keeler, Melvin, Morse <i>(Dixie/Folk)</i>	Keeler, Melvin, Morse <i>(Dixie/Folk)</i>	Keeler, Melvin, Morse <i>(Dixie/Folk)</i>	Keeler, Melvin, Morse <i>(Dixie/Folk)</i>
	Raging Grannies <i>(comedy)</i>	Raging Grannies <i>(comedy)</i>	Seniors on the Move <i>(dance)</i>	Seniors on the Move <i>(dance)</i>	
	Get Lit! <i>(Literary Festival)</i>	Get Lit! <i>(Literary Festival)</i>	Get Lit! <i>(Literary Festival)</i>	Get Lit! <i>(Literary Festival)</i>	Get Lit! <i>(Literary Festival)</i>
Crescent Court, Downstairs	Matt DeRyan (Flamenco Guitar)	Matt DeRyan (Flamenco Guitar)	Matt DeRyan (Flamenco Guitar)	Matt DeRyan (Flamenco Guitar)	Matt DeRyan (Flamenco Guitar)
DoubleTree Hotel Ballroom	Spokane Dance Company	Spokane Dance Company	Spokane Jazz Orchestra <i>(Jazz / Dancing)</i>	Spokane Jazz Orchestra <i>(Jazz / Dancing)</i>	Spokane Jazz Orchestra <i>(Jazz / Dancing)</i>
DoubleTree Hotel Entrance	Spokane Porcelain Artists <i>(like it sounds)</i>				
Goodworks Gallery	Gallery Display <i>(we imagine their will be art, but no promises)</i>				
Holley Mason Building (across from Interplayers)	Just Plain Darin <i>(Acoustic)</i>	Just Plain Darin <i>(Acoustic)</i>	Chris Brown <i>(Folk/Blues)</i>	Chris Brown <i>(Folk/Blues)</i>	Chris Brown <i>(Folk/Blues)</i>
	Irene Dahl & Loraine Krank <i>(Painting Demo / Hands on Painting)</i>				
Interplayer's Theatre	Snehpets Puppetry	Snehpets Puppetry	Snehpets Puppetry	Masque Theatre	Masque Theatre
Interplayer's Entrance	Fabric and Glass <i>(Quilt Collage Glass &amp; Fabric Combinations)</i>				
Interplayer's Gellhorn Gallery	Gay Waldman <i>(Manipulated Photography)</i>				
Lewis & Clark Auditorium	Contemporary Praise Band	Bethel B.A.S.I.C. Gospel Choir	Clasic Praise	Contemporary Praise Band	Eternal Story in Dance
Main & Post (River Park Square)	Street Performers, Artists, Glass Blowing, Ice Carving, Fire Sculptures & More				
Masonic Temple Auditorium	Celtic Nots, An Dochas & Haran Irish Dancers <i>(Celtic / Dancing)</i>	Celtic Nots, An Dochas & Haran Irish Dancers <i>(Celtic / Dancing)</i>	Celtic Nots, An Dochas & Haran Irish Dancers <i>(Celtic / Dancing)</i>	Celtic Nots, An Dochas & Haran Irish Dancers <i>(Celtic / Dancing)</i>	Celtic Nots, An Dochas & Haran Irish Dancers <i>(Celtic / Dancing)</i>
Masonic Temple Ballroom	Northwest Hula <i>(Lessons)</i>	Northwest Hula <i>(Lessons)</i>	Silver Spurs <i>(Dance Lessons)</i>	Contra Dancing <i>(Lessons)</i>	Contra Dancing <i>(Lessons)</i>
M. Temple Commandery Rm	Rhymes w/ Orange <i>(vibraphone)</i>	Rhymes w/ Orange <i>(vibraphone)</i>	Ashe <i>(African Music &amp; Dance)</i>	Ashe <i>(African Music &amp; Dance)</i>	Ashe <i>(African Music &amp; Dance)</i>
Masonic Temple Falls Room	NW Renaissance Festival	NW Renaissance Festival	Kung Fu For Life <i>(Demo)</i>	Kung Fu For Life <i>(Demo)</i>	Kung Fu For Life <i>(Demo)</i>
River Pk Sq - Color Me Mine	Paint Your Own Pottery <i>(like it sounds)</i>				
River Pk Sq - Atrium	Rex James <i>(Folk/Acoustic)</i>	Rex James <i>(Folk/Acoustic)</i>	Rex James <i>(Folk/Acoustic)</i>	Rex James <i>(Folk/Acoustic)</i>	Rex James <i>(Folk/Acoustic)</i>
River Pk Sq - Kress Gallery	Gallery Display <i>(I bet there will be art, but no promises)</i>				
River Pk Sq - Kress Stage	Thistle n' Thyme <i>(Celtic)</i>	Thistle n' Thyme <i>(Celtic)</i>	Thistle n' Thyme <i>(Celtic)</i>	A. Kenney & C. Lee <i>(Flamenco)</i>	A. Kenney & C. Lee <i>(Flamenco)</i>
River Pk Sq - Mobius Kids	Eric Herman, Kenn Nesbit <i>(kids)</i>	Dick Frost, Eric Herman <i>(kids)</i>			
River Front Park - Ice Palace	Free Ice Skating				
River Front Park - Pavillion	Creative Memories Scrapbooking <i>(wow)</i>				
River Front Park - Carousel	Free Carousel Rides <i>(w/ admission button)</i>				
City Hall Chase Gallery	Gallery Display <i>(I bet there will be art, but no promises)</i>				
City Hall Council Chambers	NWNW 48 Hr Film Festival	NWNW 48 Hr Film Festival	NWNW 48 Hr Film Festival	NWNW 48 Hr Film Festival	NWNW 48 Hr Film Festival
Spokane Convention Center	11th Hour Teen Visual Arts Festival <i>(local highschoolers present their best work)</i>				
	Unison w/ If You're Lucky	Small Town Nation <i>(Pop Punk)</i>	Vax Lavala <i>(Rock / Progressive)</i>	Derby <i>(Pop Punk)</i>	Auralust <i>(Rock)</i>
Spokane Public Library	CS 4Kidz <i>(Comedy Sportz)</i>	CS 4Kidz <i>(Comedy Sportz)</i>	Emma's Nasty Apple <i>(blues trio)</i>	Emma's Nasty Apple <i>(blues trio)</i>	Emma's Nasty Apple <i>(blues trio)</i>
STA 1st Floor	Albatross Studio <i>(boat construction demo)</i> Lydia Quinones <i>(spinning and weaving demonstration)</i>				
STA 2nd Floor	Spokane Youth Symphony	Spokane Youth Symphony	Spokane Youth Symphony	Trailer Park Girls <i>(rock/blues)</i>	Trailer Park Girls <i>(rock/blues)</i>
	Spokane Youth Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo <i>(Ongoing Demonstration)</i>				
Wheatland Bank	Adrian Empire/Duchy of Alhambra <i>(medieval costumes, blacksmithing demo)</i>				

Music
  Theater/Film
  Hands-On/Lessons
  Demos/Art Displays



# Dec 21st - Jan 10th



## Thursday • 21

## Friday • 22

## Saturday • 23

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### Locations

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#### DOWNTOWN SPOKANE

**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

**College Long Island Night\*\***  
4:00 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

**Customer Appreciation Night (\$1 PBR)\*\***  
6:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

#### ----- Music -----

**Open Mic Night** 6:00 PM *Ionic Burrito*

**Jazz Jam\*\*** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

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

**Exit 7\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*

**Ken Luker, Solo Jazz Guitar**  
5:00 PM *ella's Supper Club*

**Sammy Eubanks** 8:00 PM *Buckhorn Inn*

**Laffin' Bones\*\*** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**Avery w/ First to Rise, Falsaint\***  
8:00 PM *Blvd., The*

**7th Degree, Jazz Quartet** 8:00 PM *ella's*

**Real Life Sound w/ Josh Gardener, Wan Parris\*\***  
9:00 PM *Far West Billiards*

**College Night w/ DJ Big Mike\*\***  
9:00 PM *Spread, The*

**A Christmas show fea. Karli Fairbanks & friends**  
8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*

**Aerodrone w/ David G./Limbs, Tokio Weigh Station\*\***  
9:00 PM *Mootsy's*

**Club U\*** 10:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*

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

**DJ Doorman**  
9:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*

#### ----- Theater -----

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

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

**Comedy Show** 8:00 PM *Brick Wall*

**Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'**  
1:00 PM, 3:00 PM *Campbell House*

#### ----- Other -----

**Free Tango Lessons** 7:30 PM *CenterStage Theater*

**Samba Dancing** 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*

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

**Free Argentine Tango Class**  
7:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*

#### 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.

#### ----- Music -----

**Papa Glenn\*\*** 9:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*

**Party 101\*\*** 9:00 PM *Volcano's*

**Don Goodwin, solo piano** 5:45 PM *ella's*

**Auston Robb w/ Brett Hite** 7:00 PM *Ionic Burrito*

**Stephanie Hatzinikolis w/ Logan Hefel, Martin Nelson** 7:00 PM *Leonardo's Coffee*

**Matt Russell\*\*** 7:30 PM *Barrel Room No. 6 (C'DA)*

**Mark Ward w/ Thomas Bechard, Kori Henderson**  
8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*

**Money Shot\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*

**Steve Starkey\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*

**Mr. Happy\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*

**Southern Comfort\*\*** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*

**Age of Neffim, Concrete Grip, Catacomb, Pim-gora\*** 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*

**Laffin' Bones\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**7th Degree, Jazz Quartet\*\*** 9:00 PM *ella's*

**Noah Peterson\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peacock Room*

**River City Walkers\*\*** 9:00 PM *Big Al's*

**SHOOT THE GIFT feat. Erik Beats, Cozz McDust, Tom Foolery, Cursive Adonis, Freetime Synthetic, Quiz Ten, Ionic, Smeg, Trigzone & The Savage, Stitch Jones, Sake One\*\*** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*

**Satellite\*\*** 9:00 PM *Thumpers Bar & Grill*

**David G./Limbs w/ Jeremy Hughes\*\***  
9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*

**The Longnecks' Christmas Spectacular\*\***  
9:30 PM *Blue Spark*

**King of Candelsticks** 10:00 PM *Prago*

**Klub Merq - DJ Dance**  
9:30 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

**Latino Salsa Party\*** 9:30 PM *Bourbon Street*

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

**DJ Bee\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peking North*

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

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

**Pajama Party\*** 9:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*

#### ----- Theater -----

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

**'A Reduced Christmas Carol'**  
2:00, 7:00 PM *Interplayers Theatre*

**ComedySportz: The Original Show**  
8:00 PM *ComedySportz*

**Uncle D's Comedy Club**  
8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**Comedy Show** 7:00, 9:45 PM *Brick Wall*

**Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'**  
1:00, 3:00 PM *Campbell House*

#### ----- Other -----

**Beginning Belly Dancing** 6:00 PM *Simply Dance*

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

**Beginning Argentine Tango** 8:00 PM *Simply Dance*

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

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

#### ----- Music -----

**Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band\*\***  
8:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*

**Party 101\*\*** 9:00 PM *Volcano's*

**Joe Kloess** 5:45 PM *ella's Supper Club*

**Kristen Marlo w/ Bridget Vogel** 7 PM *Ionic Burrito*

**Brad Keeler, Blues Guitar\*\***  
7:30 PM *Barrel Room No. 6 (C'DA)*

**Abe Kenny, Classical Guitar** 8 PM *Prago Cafe*

**Trailer Park Girls** 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*

**Money Shot\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*

**Steve Starkey\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*

**Mr. Happy\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*

**Southern Comfort\*\*** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*

**Laffin' Bones\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**7th Degree, Jazz Quartet\*\*** 9 PM *ella's Supper Club*

**DJ Doorman\*\*** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*

**Noah Peterson\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peacock Room*

**River City Walkers\*\*** 9:00 PM *Big Al's*

**Satellite\*\*** 9:00 PM *Thumpers Bar & Grill*

**Mother Load w/ The Fume, Scatterbox\*** 9 PM *Blvd.*

**Klub Merq - DJ Dance** 9:30 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

**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*

**DJ Marcus Randall** 9 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*

**DJ Bee\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peking North*

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

**3rd Annual Deck The Halls Ball\*** 9 PM *Big Easy*

**Ricochet (DJ Eric Thorne, Marcus Randal)\*\***  
9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*

#### ----- Theater -----

**'A Reduced Christmas Carol'**  
2:00 PM, 7:00 PM *Interplayers Theatre*

**ComedySportz: The Original Show**  
8:00 PM *ComedySportz*

**Uncle D's Comedy Club**  
8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**Comedy Show** 7:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

**Comedy: Body Massage w/ Barats, Bereta, Strine, and Strine** 10:00 PM *ComedySportz*

**Book Reading: 'The Night Before Christmas'**  
1:00 PM, 3:00 PM *Campbell House*

#### ----- Class -----

**Hustle Dance Class**  
7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*

**Saturday Night Salsa**  
8:15 PM *Simply Dance Studio*

#### ----- Misc -----

**Game Show Night** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**Santa @ Road House** 12 PM *Road House Cycles*

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

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

## Sunday • 24

## Monday • 25

## Tuesday • 26

## Wednesday • 27

#### ----- Music -----

**Cary Fly's Jam Session\*\***  
8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*

**Dog House Blues\*\***  
3:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service w/ the Unity Choir**  
8:00 PM *Unity Church*

**Contemplative Candlelight Christmas Eve Service w/ harp music by Alisa Gergawy**  
10:00 PM *Unity Church*

**Industry Night\*\***  
9:00 PM *Blvd., The*

#### ----- Other -----

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

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

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

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

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

#### ----- Music -----

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

**Jonathan Nicolson**  
7:00 PM *Europa Pizzeria*

**Burns Like Hellfire\*\***  
9:00 PM *Spread, The*

**Karaoke\*\***  
8:00 PM *Big Al's*

#### ----- Other -----

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

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

**Argentine Tango**  
6:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*

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

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

#### ----- Music -----

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

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

**Matt Tansy\*\*** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

**Real Life Sound\*\*** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*

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

**Reggae Night\*\***  
9:00 PM *Spread, The*

#### ----- Other -----

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

**Class: The Actor's Playground**  
7:00 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*

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

#### ----- Music -----

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

**Open Turntable Night**  
9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*

**Skillet Jones & the Funky-Fi Collectors\*\***  
10:00 PM *Spread, The*

**Re-Mix Wednesdays w/ DJ Mayhem\*\***  
9:30 PM *Bourbon Street*

#### ----- Other -----

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

**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*

**50¢ Beer Night**  
9:00 PM *Blvd., The*

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



# December 7th - 20th



## Thursday • 28

## Friday • 29

## Saturday • 30



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Come check out our selection

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COLLEGE NIGHT  
Every Thursday

\$3.50 Long Islands  
\$2.50 Wells  
\$1.50 Domestic

(Must be College Student w/ ID)

Karaoke with Ian  
starts at 9 p.m.

SPOKANE'S ONLY  
COSMOPLITAN CLUB  
NEVER A COVER

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

### ----- Music -----

Open Mic **Open Mic Night** 6:00 PM *Ionic Burrito*  
Live Music **Jazz Jam\*\*** 9:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*  
**Donny Emerson w/ friends\*\*** 9 PM *Bigfoot Pub*  
**Exit 7\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*  
**Greg Beumer, Joel Smith, Karli Fairbanks, Adam David** 7 PM *Empyrean Coffee House*  
**Amy Bleu** 7:00 PM *Huckleberry's Natural Market*  
**Wildside (Motley Crue Tribute)** 7:30 PM *Big Easy*  
**Sammy Eubanks** 8:00 PM *Buckhorn Inn*  
**Cary Fly Band\*\*** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Secondary Sense, Jazz\*\*** 8 PM *ella's Supper Club*  
**Artistic Fusion. (reggae/poets/DJ/acoustic/hiphop/ comedy)** 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*  
**Fallside\*\*** 9:00 PM *Far West Billiards*  
**Los Sons of Bitches\*** 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*  
**Beer Pong\*\*** 10:00 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*  
**DJ / Dance Club U\*** 10 PM *Big Easy Concert House*  
**Ladies Night w/ DJ\*\*** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*  
**DJ James Pants** 9:00 PM *Prago Argentine Cafe*  
**College Night w/ DJ Big Mike\*\*** 9 PM *Spread, The*

### ----- Comedy -----

**Comedy Show** 8 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

### ----- Sports -----

Basketball **Bigfoot Classic: Highline CC vs Walla Walla CC** 6 PM *Walter S. Johnson Sports Center*  
**Bigfoot Classic: Seattle CC vs Spokane CC** 8:00 PM *Walter S. Johnson Sports Center (SCC)*

### ----- Dance -----

**Free Tango Lessons** 7:30 PM *CenterStage Theater*  
**Samba Dancing** 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**Street Style Hip-Hop Class** 8 PM *Simply Dance*  
**Free Argentine Tango Class** 7:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*

### ----- Misc. -----

**Cupid.com Speed Dating Event (women 30-46, men 36-52)** 7:30 PM *O'Doherty's Irish Grill*  
**College Long Island Night\*\*** 4 PM *Merq*  
**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.

### ----- Music -----

**Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band\*\*** 9:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*  
**Party 101\*\*** 9:00 PM *Volcano's*  
**Dave Hannon w/ Shane Evans** 7 PM *Ionic Burrito*  
**Martin Nelson w/ guest** 7 PM *Leonardo's Coffee*  
**Table Top Joe w/ Robert Dunn & the North Country** 7:00 PM *Empyrean Coffee House (RE-OPENED)*  
**Mike Ross\*\*** 7:30 PM *Barrel Room No. 6 (C'DA)*  
**Chill Cats\*\*** 8:00 PM *Hedge House, The*  
**Jigsaw Republic w/ Flicky** 8 PM *Caterina Winery*  
**Trailer Park Girls** 8 PM *Pacific Pizza*  
**Free Show: Flyreal w/ Neveready, OneFall, Odd Number Out** 8:00 PM *Big Easy Concert House*  
**Mr. Happy\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*  
**The Perones\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*  
**Inner Sanctum\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*  
**Tamarack Ridge\*\*** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*  
**Cary Fly Band\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Mistress & The Mistery\*** 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*  
**Secondary Sense, Jazz\*\*** 9 PM *ella's Supper Club*  
**Belt of Vapor\*\*** 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*  
**Latigo Lace\*\*** 9:00 PM *Big Al's*  
**Fifty-Cent Suit\*\*** 9:00 PM *Thumpers Bar & Grill*  
**Shoved\*\*** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*  
**After the Fall\*\*** 9:00 PM *Star Restaurant & Lounge*  
**Klub Merq - DJ Dance** 9:30 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*  
**DJ Carlos' Latino Salsa Party\*** 9:30 PM *Bourbon Street*  
**DJ Loud Richard\*\*** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*  
**DJ Bee\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peking North*  
**The Cutz Hip-Hop Dance w/ Sterling** 9:30 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**DJ Little John\*\*** 9:00 PM *Flame, The*

### ----- Theater -----

**A Fairy Tale?** 8:00 PM *Blue Door Theater, The*  
**ComedySportz: The Original Show** 8 PM *ComedySportz*

### ----- Comedy -----

**Uncle D's Comedy Club** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Comedy Show** 7 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*  
**Comedy Show** 9:45 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

### ----- Sports -----

Basketball **Bigfoot Classic: Seattle CC vs Walla Walla CC** 6 PM *Walter S. Johnson Sports Center*

### ----- Dance -----

**Beginning Belly Dancing** 6 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**Int/Adv Belly Dancing** 7 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**Beginning Argentine Tango** 8 PM *Simply Dance*

### ----- Misc. -----

**Dempsey's Drag Show\*\*** 10 PM *Dempseys Brass Rail*  
**Amateur Drag Show Night\*\*** 9 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

### ----- Music -----

**Papa Glenn & The Border Run Blues Band\*\*** 8:00 PM *Mr G's Bar & Grill*  
**Party 101\*\*** 9:00 PM *Volcano's*  
**TeeVee w/ The Monroe, Zavala Lopez** 7 PM *Empyrean Coffee House (RE-OPENED)*  
**Clumsy Lovers** 8:00 PM *Big Easy*  
**Michael Trew w/ Jonathan Nicholson** 8:00 PM *Caterina Winery*  
**Lines Collide, Belt of Vapor** 8:00 PM *Prago*  
**Rick Springfield** 8:30 PM *Northern Quest Casino*  
**Mr. Happy\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bigfoot Pub & Eatery*  
**After the Fall\*\*** 9:00 PM *Star Restaurant & Lounge*  
**The Perones\*\*** 9:00 PM *Fizzie Mulligans*  
**La Cha-Cha\*\*** 9:00 PM *Blue Spark*  
**DJ James Pants** 9:00 PM *Mizuna*  
**Inner Sanctum\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bolo's Bar & Grill*  
**Tamarack Ridge\*\*** 9:00 PM *Slab Inn*  
**Cary Fly Band\*\*** 9:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Coretta Scott\*\*** 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*  
**Secondary Sense, Jazz\*\*** 9 PM *ella's Supper Club*  
**Nick Schaur w/ Friends\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peacock Room*  
**Fifty-Cent Suit\*\*** 9:00 PM *Thumpers Bar & Grill*  
**Soul Smoo\*\*** 9:00 PM *Spread, The*  
**Latigo Lace\*\*** 9:00 PM *Big Al's*  
**Klub Merq - DJ Dance** 9:30 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*  
**The Dance Factory\*\*** 10 PM *Big Easy Concert House*  
**Mexican Dance Party\*** 10:00 PM *Bourbon Street*  
**DJ Loud Richard\*\*** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*  
**DJ Marcus Randall** 9 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*  
**DJ Bee\*\*** 9:00 PM *Peking North*  
**DJ Little John\*\*** 9:00 PM *Flame, The*  
**DJs Eric Thorne, Marcus Randall\*\*** 9 PM *Raw Sushi*

### ----- Comedy -----

**ComedySportz: The Original Show** 8:00 PM *ComedySportz*  
**Uncle D's Comedy Club** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Comedy Show** 7 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*

### ----- Sports -----

**Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Tri-City** 7:00 PM *Spokane Arena*

### ----- Dance -----

**Hustle Dance Class** 7:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**Saturday Night Salsa** 8:15 PM *Simply Dance Studio*

### ----- Misc. -----

**Game Show Night** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**Dempsey's Drag Show\*\*** 10 PM *Dempseys Brass Rail*  
**Drag Show: Lexi Sapphire w/ the Merquettes\*\*** 10:30 AM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

## Sunday • 31

Please see our New Year's Eve Spread on pages 8-10 for a slew of entertainment options to celebrate the New Year.

And please drink responsibly. Don't be "that guy."

## Monday • 1

### ----- Music -----

**Spokane's Original Open Mic Night\*\*** 9:15 PM *Blue Spark*  
**Jonathan Nicolson** 7:00 PM *Europa Pizzeria*  
**Frank Sinatra Jr** 8:30 PM *Northern Quest Casino*

### ----- Sports -----

**Fantasy Football Lounge** 5 PM *Raw Sushi*

### ----- Dance -----

**Hip-Hop/Break Dance Class w/ Shanner** 8:00 PM *Simply Dance Studio*  
**Argentine Tango** 6:30 PM *Conexion del Tango*

### ----- Misc. -----

**Texas Hold'em Tournament** 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*  
**Monday Night Football Party (\$1 PBR)\*\*** 6:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*

## Tuesday • 2

### ----- 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*  
**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 -----

**'Hairspray'** 7:30 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*  
**Beer Pong Tournament\*\*** 10:00 PM *Talotti's 211*  
**Beginning Belly Dancing** 6:00 PM *Simply Dance*  
**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*  
**Texas Hold'em Tournament** 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*  
**Game Show Night** 8:00 PM *Bluz at the Bend*  
**\$Two Buck Tuesday\*\*** 4:00 PM *Merq Liquid Lounge*

## Wednesday • 3

### ----- Music -----

**Open Mic Night\*\*** 8:00 PM *Brooklyn Nights*  
**Open Turntable Night** 9:00 PM *Raw Sushi & Island Grill*  
**Skillet Jones & the Funky-Fi Collectors\*\*** 10:00 PM *Spread, The*  
**Re-Mix Wednesdays w/ DJ Mayhem\*\*** 9:30 PM *Bourbon Street*

### ----- Other -----

**'Hairspray'** 7:30 PM *INB Performing Arts Center*  
**Free Comedy Show** 8:00 PM *Brick Wall Comedy Club, The*  
**Audition: 'All My Sons'** 6:30 PM *Spokane Civic Theater*  
**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*  
**50¢ Beer Night** 9:00 PM *Blvd., The*  
**Beer Bucket Night (\$10)\*\*** 7:00 PM *Blue Spark*

The SiDEKiCK is printed every other Thursday and distributed free to 275 venues & businesses around Spokane. Look for your next issue on Thursday, January 10th

Thursday • 4

Friday • 5

Saturday • 6



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 21st  
Avery w/ First to Rise, Falsaint  
(Hardcore / Rock / Emo)

Friday 22nd  
Age of Nefilim, Concrete Grip  
Catacomb, Pimagora  
(Metal / Black Metal / Death Metal)

Saturday 23rd  
Mother Load w/ The Fumes  
Scatterbox (Punk / Rock)

Thursday 28th  
Los Sons of Bitches

Friday 29th  
Mistress & the Mistfers (Rock)

Saturday 30th  
Coretta Scott (Rock / Pop)

Thursday 4th  
Smokewaggin w/  
Inspired By The Mystery  
(Rock / Hardcore)

Friday 5th  
Doctor Skoob  
(Folk / Jam Band)

the Blvd.

333 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.  
455-7826

College Long Island Night\*\*  
4:00 PM Merq Liquid Lounge  
Customer Appreciation Night (\$1 PBR)\*\*  
6:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

----- Music -----  
Open Mic Night  
6:00 PM Ionic Burrito  
Jazz Jam\*\*  
9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights  
Donny Emerson w/ friends\*\*  
9:00 PM Bigfoot Pub & Eatery  
Exit 7\*\*  
9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans  
Summer Breeze  
7:00 PM Caterina Winery  
Smokewaggin w/ Inspired By The Mystery\*  
8:00 PM Blvd., The



teamAWESOME\*\* 9:00 PM Spread, The  
Ben Mancke\*\* 9:00 PM Far West Billiards  
Club U\* 10:00 PM Big Easy Concert House  
Ladies Night w/ DJ\*\* 10:00 PM Talotti's 211  
DJ James Pants 9:00 PM Prago

----- Other -----  
'Hairspray'  
7:30 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
Comedy Show  
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The  
Audition: 'All My Sons'  
6:30 PM Spokane Civic Theater  
Free Tango Lessons  
7:30 PM CenterStage Theater  
Samba Dancing  
7:00 PM Simply Dance Studio  
Street Style Hip-Hop Class  
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio  
Free Argentine Tango Class  
7:30 PM Conexion del Tango

----- Music -----  
Party 101\*\* 9:00 PM Volcano's  
Joe Kloess 5:45 PM ella's Supper Club  
Matt Russell w/ Dave Hannon  
7:00 PM Empyrean Coffee House (RE-OPENED)  
Karli Fairbanks w/ Nineteen Points of Nowhere  
7:00 PM Caterina Winery  
'Fabulous Five-dollar First Friday Dance' w/ Side-  
track 8:00 PM CenterStage Theater  
Chill Cats\*\* 8:00 PM Hedge House, The  
The Cronkites\*\* 9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans  
Nineteen Points of Nowhere\*\* 9:00 PM Mootsy's  
After the Fall\*\* 9:00 PM Annie Fannie's  
The Perones\*\* 9:00 PM Bolo's Bar & Grill  
Doctor Skoob\* 9:00 PM Blvd., The  
DJ Yehon\*\* 9:00 PM Blue Spark  
Brent Edstrom Trio\*\* 9:00 PM ella's Supper Club  
The Other White Meat\*\*  
9:00 PM Thumpers Bar & Grill  
Soul Smoov 9:00 PM Big Dipper  
Klub Merq - DJ Dance  
9:30 PM Merq Liquid Lounge  
DJ Carlos' Latino Salsa Party\*  
9:30 PM Bourbon Street  
DJ Loud Richard\*\* 10:00 PM Talotti's 211  
DJ Bee\*\* 9:00 PM Peking North  
The Cutz Hip-Hop Dance w/ Sterling  
9:30 PM Simply Dance Studio  
DJ Little John\*\* 9:00 PM Flame, The  
Cat Country DJ\*\* 9:00 PM Slab Inn

----- Theater -----  
'Hairspray'  
8:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
ComedySportz: The Original Show  
8:00 PM ComedySportz  
Uncle D's Comedy Club  
8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend  
Comedy Show  
7:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The  
Comedy Show  
9:45 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

----- Other -----  
Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Everett  
7:00 PM Spokane Arena  
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 -----  
Party 101\*\* 9:00 PM Volcano's  
Joe Kloess 5:45 PM ella's Supper Club  
Viktor Nivorski Swing Band\*\*  
9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights  
The Cronkites\*\*  
9:00 PM Fizzie Mulligans  
Thunder Road\*\*  
9:00 PM Slab Inn  
The Perones\*\*  
9:00 PM Bolo's Bar & Grill  
Brent Edstrom Trio\*\*  
9:00 PM ella's Supper Club  
The Other White Meat\*\*  
9:00 PM Thumpers Bar & Grill  
Dan Purser\*\*  
9:00 PM Bistango  
Klub Merq - DJ Dance  
9:30 PM Merq Liquid Lounge  
The Dance Factory\*\*  
10:00 PM Big Easy Concert House  
Mexican Dance Party\*  
10:00 PM Bourbon Street  
DJ Loud Richard\*\* 10:00 PM Talotti's 211  
DJ Marcus Randall 9:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill  
DJ Bee\*\* 9:00 PM Peking North  
DJ Little John\*\* 9:00 PM Flame, The  
Valis, Stich Jones w/ MC Sake1, DJ Snuggs\*\*  
10:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill

----- Theater -----  
'Hairspray'  
2:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
'Hairspray'  
8:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
ComedySportz: The Original Show  
8:00 PM ComedySportz  
Uncle D's Comedy Club  
8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend  
Comedy Show  
7:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The

----- Sports -----  
Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Kootenay  
7:00 PM Spokane Arena  
Hustle Dance Class  
7:00 PM Simply Dance Studio  
Saturday Night Salsa  
8:15 PM Simply Dance Studio  
Game Show Night  
8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend  
Dempsey's Drag Show\*\*  
10:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail  
Drag Show: Lexi Sapphire w/ the Merquettes\*\*  
10:30 AM Merq Liquid Lounge

Sunday • 7

Monday • 8

Tuesday • 9

Wednesday • 10

'Hairspray'  
1:00 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
'Hairspray'  
6:30 PM INB Performing Arts Center  
Industry Night\*\*  
9:00 PM Blvd., The  
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  
Dempsey's Brass Rail Bingo  
4:00 PM Dempseys Brass Rail  
Kill the Keg (\$1 pints until gone)\*\*  
6:00 PM Blue Spark

----- Music -----  
Spokane's Original Open Mic Night\*\*  
9:15 PM Blue Spark  
Jonathan Nicolson  
7:00 PM Europa Pizzeria  
iPod DJ Night\*\*  
8:00 PM Baby Bar  
----- Sports -----  
Fantasy Football Lounge  
5:00 PM Raw Sushi & Island Grill  
Hip-Hop/Break Dance Class w/ Shanner  
8:00 PM Simply Dance Studio  
Argentine Tango  
6:30 PM Conexion del Tango  
Texas Hold'em Tournament  
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The  
Monday Night Football Party (\$1 PBR)\*\*  
6:00 PM Brooklyn Nights

----- 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  
Matt Tansy\*\* 9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights  
Danny McCollim, solo jazz piano  
6:00 PM ella's Supper Club  
Old School DJ Mix 9:00 PM Raw Sushi  
Reggae Night\*\* 9:00 PM Spread, The  
----- Other -----  
Beer Pong Tournament\*\*  
10:00 PM Talotti's 211  
Beginning Belly Dancing 6PM Simply Dance  
Street Style Hip-Hop Class 8PM Simply Dance  
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  
Poker Texas Hold'em Tournament  
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The  
Game Show Night  
8:00 PM Bluz at the Bend  
\$Two Buck Tuesday\*\*  
4:00 PM Merq Liquid Lounge

----- Music -----  
Open Turntable Night 9:00 PM Raw Sushi  
The Celtic Nots 6:00 PM ella's Supper Club  
The Waiters 8:00 PM Big Easy Concert House  
Flee the Century w/ Belt of Vapor, The Flood Covers  
The Earth 8:00 PM Prago Argentine Cafe  
Six Foot of Swing\*\* 9:00 PM Brooklyn Nights  
Sign-up Deadline: "Make Your Break" see pg 9\*\*  
9:00 PM Far West Billiards  
Skillet Jones & the Funky-Fi Collectors\*\*  
10:00 PM Spread, The  
Re-Mix Wednesdays w/ DJ Mayhem\*\*  
9:30 PM Bourbon Street  
----- Other -----  
Free Comedy Show  
8:00 PM Brick Wall Comedy Club, The  
Hockey: Spokane Chiefs vs Kamloops  
7:00 PM Spokane Arena  
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  
50¢ Beer Night  
9:00 PM Blvd., The  
Beer Bucket Night (\$10)\*\*  
7:00 PM Blue Spark



# Straight outta my Asstrology

By Brian Clark and M.W. Fritz - Dec. 21st through Jan 10th

<p><b>Aries</b> March 21 to April 19</p> <p>You will achieve great fame on the internet next week. Unfortunately, it will be short-lived fame as "the guy whose head exploded under extreme cabin pressure."</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b> April 20 to May 20</p> <p>The big trip you had planned will leave you sorely disappointed, and virtually penniless, when it's revealed that Hogwarts doesn't actually exist, and Jensen's won't let you return the ring you'd planned on giving Hermione.</p>	<p><b>Gemini</b> May 21 to June 20</p> <p>They say love often sits at the back of the classroom. However, you struggle with the meaning of this adage as you dropped out several years ago, and are presently asleep.</p>
<p><b>Cancer</b> June 21 to July 22</p> <p>This month you'll come across unproven scientific evidence that shows how cigarettes actually help the respiratory system. Next month, depending on the stars, you'll be fired from your PR position at Marlboro.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> July 23 to Aug 22</p> <p>Upon looking in the mirror, you'll immediately regret your drunken decision to go through with the sex change operation.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> Aug 23 to Sept 22</p> <p>Oh, you're a Virgo. You're fucked, pal.</p>
<p><b>Libra</b> Sept 23 to Oct 22</p> <p>An ill fated acid trip will lead you to believe that you have uncovered the secret ingredients to Colonel Sanders' recipe.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> Oct 23 to Nov 21</p> <p>You'll be proud of yourself for finally taking a risk, but this self-satisfaction will be followed by a short period of anger directed at the Peruvian Nacional, whose bungee cord happens to be twelve and a half feet too long.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b> Nov 22 to Dec 21</p> <p>This month you will - or will not, depending on your appearance - have sex.</p>
<p><b>Capricorn</b> Dec 22 to Jan 19</p> <p>Your decision to enlist in the Armed Forces turns out to be a lot less like that Charlie Sheen movie that inspired you, than you'd hoped. Consequently, you'll be spending Christmas fighting off Sunni insurgents, armed with little more than a potato peeler and a stethoscope.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius</b> Jan 20 to Feb 18</p> <p>It only takes you a few days to realize that the New Years resolution to cut down on your cottage cheese intake will eventually lead to the largest mass suicide in 20 years. It's too late, Aquarius, the wheels are already in motion.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> Feb 19 to March 20</p> <p>Black holes are widely accepted realities in the world of science but are, after all, merely theoretical. That is, until your family vacation to NASA next Tuesday ends somewhere between Betlegeuse and Orion, concluding the debate once and for all when your body breaks in half.</p>

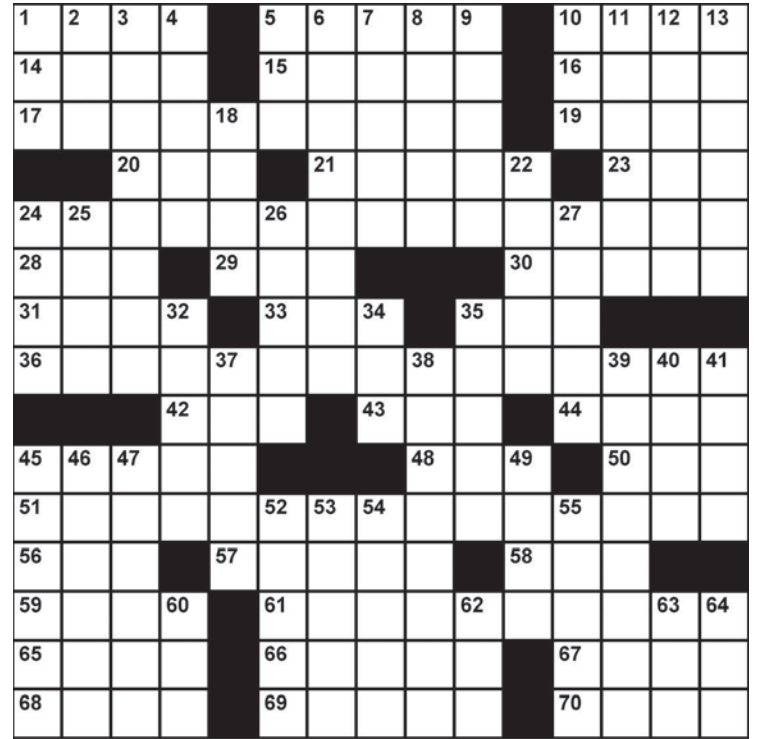
# "POW!"

## That Old Familiar Sound

by Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 "Saturn Devouring His Son" painter
  - 5 Only character who appeared in every episode of "Star Trek"
  - 10 13th or 15th
  - 14 Fixated on neatness, say
  - 15 Kama \_\_\_\_
  - 16 Slight taste
  - 17 Step #1 of cool trick
  - 19 Pot foundation
  - 20 Computer addresses, for short
  - 21 Old intoxicating elixirs
  - 23 Big brother of the SAT
  - 24 Beginning of Step #2 of trick
  - 28 "It's \_\_\_\_-brainer"
  - 29 AFL's labor partner
  - 30 "Now I remember!"
  - 31 \_\_\_\_ Bora (Afghan mountain area)
  - 33 Early gangsta rap collective...
  - 35 ...and the Dr. in the group
  - 36 Middle of Step #2
  - 42 How-\_\_\_\_ (guides)
  - 43 DiFranco with the 2005 album "Knuckle Down"
  - 44 Marty Feldman, in "Young Frankenstein"
  - 45 Oak starter
  - 48 Hummus, for one
  - 50 Miracle \_\_\_\_
  - 51 End of Step #2
  - 56 Regret
  - 57 Poe's middle name
  - 58 Nugget content, in Nicaragua
  - 59 Magazine with an annual Style Awards
  - 61 Step #3 of trick
  - 65 Half a kids' game
  - 66 "What did \_\_\_\_ do to you?"
  - 67 Cat weapon
  - 68 Head of the Seine?
  - 69 Gothamites, in headlines
  - 70 In \_\_\_\_ (at heart)
- Down**
- 1 Gangster's sidearm
  - 2 Get \_\_\_\_ roll
  - 3 Japanese dish on skewers
  - 4 Beth preceder
  - 5 Leaky tire sound
  - 6 Disses
  - 7 Others, in Oaxaca
  - 8 PMS problem
  - 9 Electric piano brand
  - 10 James on guitar
  - 11 Boat to a boat
  - 12 It gets the largest compartment in a TV dinner
  - 13 Noble horses
  - 18 "Hey, wait \_\_\_\_!"
  - 22 Make some noise in bed
  - 24 Bulb unit
  - 25 "\_\_\_\_ pronounce you..."
  - 26 Sixty-\_\_\_\_ (engages in a sex act)
  - 27 Will's Spartan Cheerleaders skit partner
  - 32 \_\_\_\_Zeneca (pharmaceutical group)
  - 34 Org. mentioned on toothpaste boxes
  - 35 508, to Ovid
  - 37 Toy dump truck maker
  - 38 Command given to one of Santa's reindeer
  - 39 Appetizers with chow yuk
  - 40 NPR newscaster Raum
  - 41 Plummet
  - 45 Like lowered heart rates
  - 46 Grand \_\_\_\_ Dam
  - 47 Folded dish
  - 49 "No \_\_\_\_!"
  - 52 Like Keebler's cookie makers
  - 53 Scary road at night
  - 54 Artless
  - 55 Cessation of hostilities
  - 60 Barely make do, with "out"
  - 62 \_\_\_\_-ONE (rapper who guested on R.E.M.'s "Radio Song")
  - 63 Word after mustard or natural
  - 64 Ram's ma'am



[www.SpokaneSIDEKiCK.com](http://www.SpokaneSIDEKiCK.com)  
Better Than Sliced Bread

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(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 Pear Tree Inn** - 7:30 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 Pear Tree Inn** - 9 pm (2nd Friday of Month Only) 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 Pear Tree Inn** - 9 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 <a href="mailto:info@spokanesidekick.com">info@spokanesidekick.com</a> so we can fix our list!						

## Shoot the Gift brings slew of DJs and MCs under roof of The Spread

The Spread is hosting a packed night of dj and mc acts in a Christmas party extravaganza dubbed **Shoot the Gift**. This overflowing plate of music will be held on Friday, December 22nd. **Erik Beats, Cozz McDust, Tom Foolery, Cursive Adonis, Freetime Synthetic, Jaeda, Ionic, Smeg, Sake One, Stitch Jones, Trigz 1 and the Savage, Tranch one, P-Wrecks** and more will be on hand for an insane evening of non-stop hip hop and rap turntable exhibitions of all shapes and sizes. The show gets underway at 9 p.m. for ages 21 and over only, with a \$5 cover allowing you to see all 600 acts (give or take). The Spread can be found at 230 W. Riverside Ave. in downtown Spokane. For more information, check out [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com).

## Blvd. puts the "bash" in Christmas bash



The Blvd. is playing host to a mosh pit friendly night of punk when **Mother Load, The Fumes** and **Scatterbox** all descend upon the venue. Headliners Mother Load, from Portland, will bring a sort of thrash punk sound to the evening, with local band The Fumes bringing a high-energy power-punk/hard rock mix and Coeur d'Alene's Scatterbox kicking things off with something of a cross between the two – as they're both exploding with energy and angry as all get out – amounting to an apocalyptic heavy metal/ in-your-face punk mix. Entry is \$10 for your last chance to let off some steam before heading home for the holidays and pretending to be nice to your bitch of a sister-in-law. The concert starts at 9ish on Saturday, December 23rd at The Blvd, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. For links to all the performing band's websites, where you can hear samples for the three participating acts, check out our extensive band database on [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com).

## Fabulous Five-dollar First Friday Dance Party with Sidetrack at CenterStage



Local front porch jam band **Sidetrack**, a sort of old-time, folksy rock band with a definite blues/swing vibe, will be at CenterStage for the first Art Walk of the new year on Friday, January 5th. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the band taking the stage at 8, when Sidetrack will be performing their dance-friendly concoction in the spacious confines of CenterStage which, thankfully, has plenty of room to cut loose on the dance floor. Cover is \$5, with food and beverage service available and all ages invited to attend. CenterStage can be found below Ella's Supper Club at 1017 W. 1st Ave. in downtown Spokane. For more information, check out [www.sidetrackmusicband.com](http://www.sidetrackmusicband.com).

## Coretta Scott gears up for January CD release with pre-show at The Blvd.

Officially, local four-piece, power-pop outfit **Coretta Scott** (which is deceptively made up entirely of dudes) will not release their new 7 song EP until their show at the Big Dipper on Friday, January 12th. But, if you can't wait that long, they're giving a Saturday, December 30th concert at the Blvd. that will surely include several tracks from the new album, "Red Delicious." They will be joined at the Blvd. by a couple of local guests that have yet to be announced. Then, their CD release extravaganza at the Big Dipper in mid-January will be an all-ages affair that will also see Seattle's **Siren's Sister** and **Tyson**, and Lewiston's **Not for Now** playing at the gig. Both venues can be found in downtown Spokane, with The Blvd. housed at 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., and The Big Dipper at 171 S. Washington. For more information, including a link to purchase their new album, check out Coretta Scott's myspace page at [www.myspace.com/corettascott](http://www.myspace.com/corettascott). 🍷

## Rick Springfield scours Airway Heights looking for Jesse's Girl

**Rick Springfield**, the dude responsible for 80s mega-hit "Jesse's Girl", will be performing at the Northern Quest Casino's Pend Oreille Pavillion on Saturday, December 30th. Springfield, a native Aussie, has been leaving his mark on the American music industry since coming to the States in the early 70s, winning a Grammy, scoring 17 Top 40 hits, and gaining daytime television fans as Dr. Noah Drake on General Hospital (a role that he reprised last year after a hiatus spanning almost two decades).

While Springfield obviously hit a peak from 1981 to 1983, perhaps his most entertaining career choice came ten years earlier, when he was the subject of a Saturday morning cartoon called *Mission: Magic*, where he provided the voice for his character, joined by the teacher Miss Tickle (!) and her teenaged students. Granted, that has nothing to do with his upcoming performance, but it's pretty funny and surreptitiously sets up his latest album, in a dubious way.

In 2005, Springfield released his first album of the 21st century and gave it one of my favorite titles ever, *The Day After Yesterday*. Seriously? I think Wayne Newton considered that title once and decided it was too cheesy, even for him. Good stuff. At any rate, *The Day After Yesterday* is comprised completely of cover songs, ranging from Foreigner and Human League to Gerry Rafferty and John Lennon. Hmmm, one 80s has-been covering other 80s has-beens: Where do I sign up?

This concert will take place on Saturday, December 30th in the Pend Oreille Pavillion at the Northern Quest Casino, 100 N. Hayford Rd. in Airway Heights. Start time is 8:30 p.m., with tickets on sale now through [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com), all the TicketsWest outlets around town (see page 11 for a list), or by contacting the Northern Quest box office at 340-6700. For more information, visit the casino's web page at [www.northernquest.com](http://www.northernquest.com). 🍷

## Greatest Fuck-Up of 2006:

**Runner-Up:** The whole debacle in Iraq. While you could argue that the mistake was made in 2003, not 2006, this was the year it finally sank in. We're not even really taking political sides, here, it's just that when the Secretary of Defense resigns and the American public votes so resoundingly with the non-majority, largely anti-war party, it's clear that everybody and their brother views Operation: Iraqi Freedom as a total shit storm. The evidence, as it relates to November's midterm elections, is overwhelming: no Democratic incumbent lost a single race and no Republican picked up a single seat – be it in the House, Senate or on the gubernatorial level – that was previously held by a Democrat. That's never happened before in the history of the United States.

**The Winner:** Dick Cheney shot a guy in the face. I don't know how to make that sound any funnier; our active Vice President blasted a friend with birdshot from pretty close range. Let me say it again, there was an accidental shooting of a man in which Dick Cheney peppered a 78 year-old Texas attorney in the face, neck and upper torso. Now, obviously, if the guy had died, this would be tragic. But he didn't – he's fine – and that makes it hilarious. If you were to call the TBS Hotline, they would tell you that it's OK to laugh unmercifully at this poor man's suffering.



## Greatest Invention of 2006:

**Runner-up:** YouTube. This Internet video haven would easily win Invention of the Year had Time magazine not bestowed the same distinction upon it. Screw Time magazine. But YouTube, a collection of over 100 million videos encompassing television clips, homemade shorts, painful human exploits and everything – I mean everything – in between, is still the greatest thing on the Internet this side of Wikipedia. Amazingly, one year ago, it didn't exist.

**The Winner:** A team of students from the University of British Columbia designed a "car" that could drive from coast to coast on a single gallon of gas – and almost have enough left over to make it back again. The team took first place in an annual Supermileage Competition held by the Society of Automotive Engineers in Michigan every summer, with a design that was able to travel 3,145 miles on one gallon of gas. While the aerodynamic construction requires the driver to lie down, and the general size and design of the car make it unfeasible for contemporary driving situations, the fact that they nearly doubled the winning results from last year, and the potential for environmental improvement that this could have in mainstream automotive design, makes it a pretty rad accomplishment.





# The Holy Bible, dirty Phish fans and why Pat Robertson should be drawn and quartered

By Brian Clark

Dear Whomever,

One of the major gaps between the left and right that I'm particularly concerned with is the religious gap. It's a chasm that I'm not sure how exactly to identify – since obviously there are Democratic Christians and spiritual leftists that believe in God with the same conviction that Conservatives adhere to. But the media is fond of making sweeping generalizations, and I'm no exception, so here goes: On some overarching level, the right is united and focused, bound by the instructions of The Bible, while the left is a ragtag group of Democrats, anarchists, tree-huggers, environmentalists, libertarians and a host of others that are more loosely defined and not centered around any one text that instructs them how to live.

As such, there is very little room for interpretation on the right side of the line. If you are directed by the word of God, then any political, sociological or environmental questions that arise outside of that are virtually insignificant in comparison.

Anybody that identifies his or herself as a Conservative Christian is going to have a hard time coming to any personally realized beliefs when there is a set of rules instructing them how to live, and it is generally assumed that the Republican Party is following the will of God in anything they do. In this instance, obedience is an immediate reaction, and investigation comes secondary, if at all.

On the other hand, the loose cluster on the left side of that somewhat arbitrary line I've drawn often feels the need to shun God entirely. There is often an immediate contempt towards those that are tied to their faith with the conviction that a little league coach teaches fundamentals. Anyone who does not hold The Bible in such high esteem usually runs the gamut from complete religious apathy to an instinctual rejection of God because they distrust the way a belief in God has manifested itself in the day-to-day running of the world.

This, to me, is a tragedy on both counts. Last time I checked, God was not the acting political leader for any country in the world (even if President Bush seems to think He visits him in his dreams, bringing cupcakes and foreign policy suggestions). Rejecting God because you don't like his fan club is illogical. It's on par with hating the band Phish when what you really hate is their

legion of fans who are unbearably annoying in their deification of a mediocre Vermont jam band (and aren't helping their cause with a complete indifference to the act of showering). Yet blindly assuming that every action carried out by the Fundamentalist regime we've elected is in the best interest of the world because they are devote believers and must certainly be acting in the best of Christian interests is equally as deplorable, in my mind.

There is a logical ground here that is severely lacking in contemporary thought. In practice, there is room on the left for spirituality and accepting God. "If God didn't exist, it would be necessary to invent him," as Voltaire said, and he's absolutely right. Nothing makes sense without God and the way we choose to "glorify" him has nothing to do with his existence or absence. Similarly, refusing to evolve or adapt socially in the beliefs you hold because of fear or devotion is a distressing line of thought that prevents us from anything resembling progressive action.

Isn't there a logical meeting point where we can accept God but choose, as worship, to live our lives presently to the best of our abilities, instead of waiting for the rewards of heaven? Isn't there a way where we can come to more honest values that are individually held instead of kowtowing to a

set of beliefs that are largely outdated? Isn't there some way that we can have people like Pat Robertson drawn and quartered?

I can't be the only one who thinks that, for too long, religious groups have pushed pacifists and leftists and countless others to the margins, alienating millions of people that believe in fundamental goodness and a universal sense of belonging. There is a logical desensitization to religion by people that don't like the way religious beliefs have adversely affected public policy, but this is the easy way out. On the one side, shunning good people because they don't align with your beliefs is pious and deceitful, but shunning God out of some sort of desire to look cool or some sort of contempt towards secular fundamentalist practices is simply dishonest. We've evolved enough to the point where we can ask these questions for ourselves and arrive at our own answers instead of reverting to base, visceral reactions that are only widening an already vast and imposing gap in thought. ▣

*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](mailto:brian@spokanesidekick.com). As always, feedback is encouraged.*

## Echoes from the OTHER Washington

By M.W. Fritz

2006 had it all in the world of politics. A transition of power at home, disaster after disaster abroad, and a vice president who shot a guy in the face.

It was the year we got to read Rep. Mark Foley's instant messages to a Congressional Page about how he prefers to masturbate, and the year we found out why Rep. William Jefferson stashes \$90,000 worth of cash in his freezer (just a petty fund hidden in frozen food containers, makes sense to me).

Yes, this was quite the year indeed. We learned more about the National Security Agency's domestic wiretapping program, and how regular citizens might be falling victim to the clandestine operations.

"Uh, hey Chip," a suspected terrorist with known Al-Qaeda and Starbucks Coffee links says. "Oh, hey Rick, you still coming over for the Cowboys game?" A biological weapons manufacturer and full-time Target employer responds – (*walkie-talkie message from secure bunker*) "Alpha Delta Charlie to

## Long vacations, good pay, fit Pages: What's not to like about being a Congressman?

base, Ranger Rick here, I think we've tapped into a cell. 10-4."

At the year's end, the Bush Administration will have spent a total of \$495 billion for Iraq and terrorism related efforts since 2001, according to a report out of the Los Angeles Times on Dec. 13. Well, at least we got Saddam, god dammit.

So what else can politicians hang their hat on as the year comes to a close? Not much.

In fact, the outgoing 109<sup>th</sup> Congress set a record for the fewest days worked – 93. As utterly mind boggling as that is, it's easy to figure out how they did so little. They took a five-week vacation at the beginning of August, a week off for fucking St. Patrick's Day, the same for Easter, a week and a half for Thanksgiving, and they pretty much all skedaddled for beachfront properties once December rolled around. Just in case you're wondering, the average salary for a member of both the House and Senate is \$165,000. Not bad for three months.

And in those three months, Congress cut \$13 billion dollars in college-student aid, came up with nothing on illegal immigration or a new forward in Iraq and

Afghanistan, instead choosing to devote whole weeks to issues like Terry Schiavo and gay marriage.

This is the year we also got another study group to deliver insipid recommendations on how the rest of the world should be dealt with. Remember the 9/11 Commission? Now try to remember any benefits coming from it?

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which decided to wait until after the midterm elections to deliver their findings, was the talk of the town for weeks. And what did they conclude about the quagmire we created? That we should begin a phased withdrawal, starting in 2008, the year of the next presidential election. Oh yeah, and engage Iran and Syria – the two countries Bush tells to get bent on a weekly basis.

And the president, a firm believer in the benefits of procrastination and relaxation, seems content not to address the report's conclusions until after the Holidays, saying he would present his plans for a "new way forward" in Iraq early next year. Ok, sure. No rush, pal.

This was no doubt a good year to be a

Democrat. Hell, they showed us how to sweep an election cycle simply by staying out of the self-destructive path of the former majority. The party won 24 of 33 Senate races and picked up 31 seats in the House, and now holds majorities in both chambers.

And it was no doubt a bad year to be a Republican. Whether you're a disgraced lobbyist that used to go down on Tom Delay or a racist Senator from Virginia, the cards were stacked against you. Bush's coattails, which were perfect to grab onto only two years ago, became a smallpox-infested blanket that even the most adroit could not shake.

But with the year drawing to a close, the outgoing Congress can be grateful for at least one thing. Most will have new jobs come January. ▣

*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. He can be reached at [mwfritz99@yahoo.com](mailto:mwfritz99@yahoo.com).*



# TeamAWESOME! actually lives up to their name

By Brian Clark

I want to say something outlandish about **TeamAWESOME!**, like they're my new favorite band, or that they're the greatest thing to happen to music since cavemen evolved past grunting, but I'm refraining (and I certainly wouldn't find a surreptitious way to bestow such ridiculous accolades).

Whatever else you want to say (or not say) about the band, they are undeniably a breath of fresh air. Sounding a lot like Clap Your Hands Say Yeah! or Architecture in Helsinki, the numerous performers they cram on stage jokingly refer to themselves as a "retro band from the future," and somehow that distinction encapsulates their sound almost perfectly.

Wielding a medley of instruments from the traditional guitar, bass and highly rhythmic drumming to the synth, flute, glockenspiel, bells and a variety of programmed electronic noises, TeamAWESOME! finishes off their highly unique sound with a singing style that can't really even be called singing – it's more akin to kindergarteners trying to outyell each other during a nursery rhyme-off at recess.


But that's appropriate, as odd as it may seem, since this is a band that celebrates everything that's wonderful about life when you're still coloring outside the lines. They

sing about everything from fort building to robots to missing the family pet to being stranded on the moon (and how it might be a good idea to call NASA in such a situation). All their song titles end in exclamation points, and they claim to be inspired by playgrounds, hi-fives and hugs.

If you don't smile listening to this infectious and unassuming Colorado band, then you certainly don't have a sense of

humor, and probably don't have a soul. They're one of the most fun bands we've heard in a long time. In fact, this is a show that easily could have been our Pick of the Issue (and undoubtedly would

have been, had we not found out about it a scant few hours before we went to print). Check out their first ever Spokane concert; we definitely will be.

TeamAWESOME! can be seen at The Spread, 230 W. Riverside in downtown Spokane, on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m., for 21+ only. For more information, log onto [www.myspace.com/weareteamawesome](http://www.myspace.com/weareteamawesome) and listen to the songs they've posted (and watch their completely awesome music video for "Robots" while you're at it). Otherwise, [www.spokanesidekick.com](http://www.spokanesidekick.com) will keep you updated on other bands performing, and any additional information that comes to our attention. 

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(Rock / Pop)

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# TOP FIVE ALBUMS OF 2006

By Brian Clark

Whittling this list down to five records was difficult, verging on impossible (**Gnarls Barkley's** *St. Elsewhere* and **The Raconteurs'** *Broken Boy Soldiers* were especially difficult to exclude). But I managed to boil it down to what I consider the essentials for

the past 12 months. As a disclaimer, you should know that I'm an unabashed lover of rock 'n roll and all these albums fall into that category in some way, shape or form. But here they are, the five best albums of the year, in one man's opinion:

5



**Snow Patrol**  
*Eyes Open*

On their latest release, Snow Patrol sound like they're trying to be U2 at their most epic and, with any other band, that would be a recipe for disaster. But they pull it off, and quite easily, may I add. *Eyes Open* is epic to the extreme, a lovestruck collection of songs that sometimes suffers from what can only be described as poor lyrics, but other times is as beautiful as anything you're likely to hear on mainstream radio. Musically, their latest album blows away anything they've done so far. After striking gold a few years ago with *Final Straw*, it would have made more sense to pull it back a bit than try to outrock an album that stretched the bounds of what most people thought them capable. But they didn't – they turned it up a notch – and listening to *Eyes Open*, it's recommended that you do the same.

young century. Obviously Radiohead is at the forefront here, but Cloud Cult, Air, Sia and many, many others are all creating consistently interesting works. After Clap Your Hands Say Yeah's debut album, it's now mandatory to include them in this conversation, as well. Their songs are an infectious blend of ambient sounds, a medley of instruments, off-key singing and lyrics like, "You look like David Bowie/But you've nothing new to show me/start another fire/ And watch it slowly die," an emotive slice of happiness in a strange, almost haunting sadness.

concerned. Their revolution failed and it's time to pass the torch.

However, there are a couple of notable exceptions to this sweeping, self-imposed rule. Bruce Springsteen falls in a somewhat more interesting category, while Bob Dylan and Neil Young never cease to amaze me, rewriting the rulebook every few years.

You could probably say this about Neil Young's entire career, but for the past decade or more it's been especially true: roughly every other album that Neil Young releases is wholly mediocre; the other is entirely phenomenal. 1995's *Mirror Ball* was so good that he brought on Pearl Jam as a supporting band, and you almost don't care who's backing him up. 2000's *Silver & Gold* has one standout track – "Razor Love" – and the rest is mired in mediocrity. The same can be said of 2002's *Are You Passionate?*, with "Let's Roll" being the one consistently listenable song surrounded by some ill-conceived and somewhat dull R&B. The following year, Neil crafted the concept album *Greendale*, a Village Green type look at an American

2



**Rainer Maria**  
*Catastrophe Keeps us Together*

*Catastrophe Keeps Us Together* is part melancholy, part hope, part stripped down rock and part straight up roll. It's not quite a concept album, but there's something cohesive about it – painting a bittersweet portrait of disconnection (or maybe connection) amidst some sort of apocalypse, even if it's almost certainly all in lead singer Caithlin De Marra's head. There isn't a weak song on the entire disc, but there are certainly a couple of strong ones. Of all the singles I've played to death over the past year, the title track that kicks off the album and the beautiful "Terrified" are both somewhere near the top of the list. Rainer Maria has exited at the top of their game - playing their last show on December 16th before reportedly going their separate ways, and *Catastrophe* is a wholly worthy swan song.

community and enigmatic investigation of contemporary values that fluctuates from fantastic blues-rock to a breathtakingly beautiful portrait of a small town. Top notch stuff. Then, last year Neil thought he was dying and wrote what he intended to be his swan song, *Prarie Wind*, a decent but somewhat rushed collection that relied heavily on images and ideas he'd already mulled over one too many times.

**ROUGHLY EVERY OTHER ALBUM THAT NEIL YOUNG RELEASES IS WHOLLY MEDIOCRE; THE OTHER IS ENTIRELY PHENOMENAL**

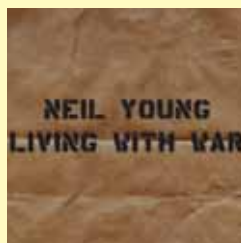
4



**The Killers**  
*Sam's Town*

As with their debut album, The Killers sophomore effort wavers from somewhat forgettable background music to impossibly engaging rock 'n roll. Their songs don't always work but, when The Killers are firing on all cylinders, it's some of the catchiest rock around. The radio single "When You Were Young," remains one of the best tracks on the album, but it certainly isn't the only one worth mentioning. The opening, title track explodes with energy, while the last three songs, "My List," "This River is Wild" and "Why do I Keep Counting?" build to a nice crescendo to close the record out before the beautiful "Exitlude" signs off the album entirely. All in all, a strong second effort from the Las Vegas quartet.

1



**Neil Young**  
*Living with War*

I'm a staunch believer that younger generations have the right to challenge older ones, especially as it comes to art forms, forging their own way as they see fit. As such, I'm much more impressed with a band like Wilco or Modest Mouse, or even the Red Hot Chili Peppers, reinventing their sound or carving a new one, than I am by the canonical groups rehashing the same old blues chords over and over again. I have almost no interest in listening to the newest Rolling Stones or Paul Simon albums, for example, or even Tom Petty, Billy Joel or U2. Most of their outputs are perfectly acceptable, but their time is up, as far as I'm

concerned. Finally, this year, Neil got pissed off.

Simply put, *Living with War* is his best effort since at least *Rust Never Sleeps* (1979), and possibly *After the Gold Rush* (1970). Arguably his angriest album, and probably his most rockin', he still maintains a sense of hope and purpose that's as progressive as it is coherent. At times it's admittedly about as eloquent as the liner notes to a Creed album, with lyrics like "Let's Impeach the President for hijacking our religion, and using it to get elected," but it's as timely an output since Springsteen's *The Rising* captured the post 9/11 mood with equal verve.

*Living With War* is an unabashed indictment of American consumerist and war-mongering attitudes that's unapologetically blunt, but still manages to avoid being disrespectful. The clunky guitars and signature Neil voice, coupled with backup singers belting out choruses amidst spoken word quips from George W. Bush and Neil himself, it's easily the best record in a year where there were a lot of good records. It's an immediate and extremely timely album that should be listened to for years to come.

3



**Clap Your Hands Say Yeah**  
*Clap Your Hands Say Yeah*

There is an extraordinarily healthy synthesis of rhythmic, often electronic rock 'n roll that's emerging in this

# Hairspray next on stage in Best of Broadway Series

By Brian Clark

Already halfway through the 2006-2007 Best of Broadway in Spokane series, the Tony-award winning musical comedy **Hairspray** is next on the BOB calendar, going up the day after New Years and staying on the INB Performing Arts stage for a full week.

Hairspray tells the story of a Baltimore chick with big hair and big dreams, which include achieving celebrity stardom and racially integrating a local TV show. It's also a bit of a temporal whirlwind, as the play is based of a 1988 film, yet didn't make it to Broadway until 2002, and the content takes the audience all the way back to the "pleasantly pimp" decade of the 60s. Oh, and they're remaking the movie based off the musical based off the movie, which is due to come out in 2007, starring John Travolta, Michelle




Pfeifer, Christopher Walken, and others. My head hurts.

Hairspray won eight Tony Awards in 2003, including Best Musical, and is generally regarded as an irresistible blend of romance, comedy and musical numbers. John Waters originally created the story, meaning it's set in Baltimore and has some characteristically off-color humor. However, the filmed version of Hairspray was tagged with a PG rating, a definite first for Waters, and somewhat on par with Walt Disney doing a hardcore porno.

At any rate, know that the staged musical version of Hairspray is appropriate for all ages, a singing, dancing, family-friendly affair that will be opening the new year in Spokane. Hairspray will be on stage at the INB Performing Arts Center (former Opera House at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd) from Janu-



ary 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. The show starts at 7:30 for the first three nights, followed by 8 p.m. showings on Friday and Saturday, with a 6:30 Sunday performance rounding out the run. There will also be matinees over the weekend, with afternoon curtains going up at 2 on Saturday and 1 on Sunday.

Tickets are available for anywhere between \$30 and \$65, on sale now through [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com), all TicketWest outlets in and around Spokane (see page 11) or by calling 1-800-325-SEAT. For more information, visit [www.bestof-broadwayspokane.com](http://www.bestof-broadwayspokane.com). 

# Interplayers gears up for Christmas with classic Dickens tale

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 has been running for over a week already, but there are a couple more chances to catch the play, as it remains on the Interplayers stage through December 23<sup>rd</sup>, with show times at 2 or 7 p.m., depending on the day.

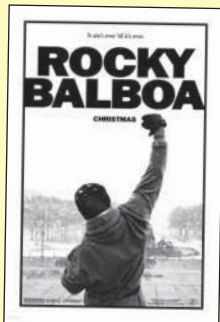
Tickets are \$2 for children, \$5 for students, seniors and military personnel, \$8 for Interplayers subscribers and \$10 for everyone else. Tickets can be purchased through [ticketwest.com](http://ticketwest.com) and their various outlets (see page 11), or through the Interplayers box office at (509) 455-PLAY. The Interplayers Theatre can be found at 174 S. Howard in downtown Spokane. For more information, they have a very informative and easy to navigate website at [www.interplayers.com](http://www.interplayers.com). 



## Greatest Attempt to Hold onto the Past in 2006:

**Runner-up:** Meat Loaf, for releasing *Bat Out of Hell III* a full 11 years after *Bat Out of Hell II*. Mind you, the 1995 sequel was intended to cash in off the success of a record made in the mid-70s. Let it go, Mr. Loaf, let it go.

**The Winner:** Sylvester Stallone, for making *Rocky VI* (or whatever the hell it's called). I'm not sure if this series is funny anymore, or if it's just sad at this point. Probably a little of both. Either way, Sly reincarnates the role of boxer for this latest installment. Yet when *Rocky V* was made, he was relegated to being a trainer, coach and mentor, really too old to be in the ring at that point. And *Rocky V* came out 16 years ago!



## Greatest Hypocrite of 2006:

**Runner-up:** Mark Foley, a Republican Representative from Florida, who was chair of the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, a body that targets sexual predators, until his sudden resignation in September. Which was asked for when it turned out that Foley was, himself, a sexual predator. When he isn't the biggest hypocrite of 2006, you know it was a banner year for deceptive and dishonest public figures.

**The Winner:** Actually, Ted Haggard wins this category pretty easily, which is just scary. This high profile Colorado pastor has been one of the most outspoken opponents of gay marriage for years yet, in 2006, it was revealed that not only was he paying for gay sex from a male prostitute, but the prostitute was also his drug dealer who, on several occasions, supplied Haggard with crystal meth. Wow. He's one accidental death of a hooker away from making the Cincinnati Bengals Hall of Fame.



# We are Marshall packs an emotional punch

By Brian Clark

I'm a sucker for inspirational sports films, so I knew heading into **We are Marshall** that I was going to like it. It's everything you'd expect from the trailers, meaning it's a decidedly cheesy and inspiring tale of hardships, heart and football.

And that suits me just fine.

This pretty remarkable true story tells of the Marshall Thundering Herd football team when, in 1970, the entire team – save a couple injured players – are killed in a plane crash coming back from a game in North Carolina. The following, rebuilding season that ensues is rife for heartbreak and triumph, and the filmmakers tease these emotions out

with a high degree of success.

I often have a problem with true stories, as any faults that arise are immediately dismissed because, hey, you can't blame somebody for simply telling you what happened. But, as golden age of Hollywood producer David O. Selznick said, "If the legend outlives history, rewrite history," and director Joseph McGinty Nichol (I refuse to call him McG, although that's what he commands to be credited as) does a commendable job playing loose enough with the dialogue and characters to craft an engaging story that stays true enough to the events that transpired.

If you're looking for a documentary on the struggles of the 1970's Marshall football program – this isn't it. If you're looking for an uplifting story of moral sports victories and interesting characters, *We are Marshall* is the best such output I've seen in years.

The football footage is pretty typical for Hollywood, which is to say it's unrealistic as all get out. Every hit looks like it should leave somebody paralyzed or possibly decapitated. But the on-the-field action remains an integral part of the story, and doesn't take away from the story of this devastated town and the various people that make it up.


Matthew McConaughey is borderline retarded as their new football coach, although that's not altogether unexpected, as that's what you get when you cast Matthew

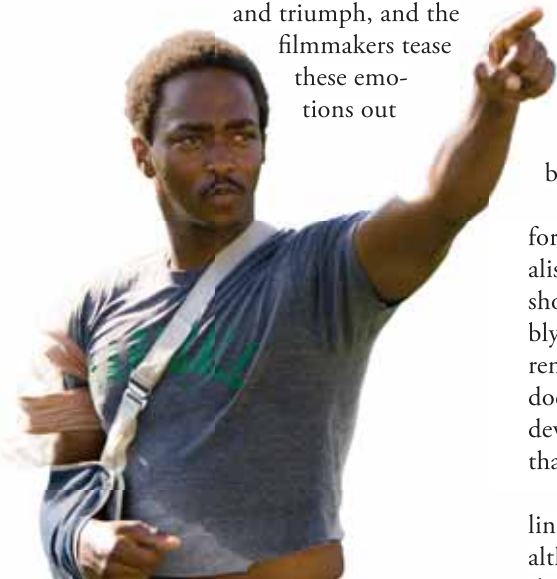


McConaughey. It doesn't matter, though, as he's immensely entertaining in a lead role of sorts, which is a lot more than I can say about Matthew Fox, who's, unfortunately, vintage Matthew Fox. He brings out the "Matthew Fox Face" in full force here, the patented look that he uses to try and convey every emotion, whether he's telling a knock-knock joke or weeping at a funeral. The key element is the scrunched face that's trying to be likeable but is, in reality, pure seriousness at every turn. As a result, it always sort of looks like he's sucking on a lemon or possibly smelling a fart.

On the plus side, David Straitharn is

in *We are Marshall* and he's just a fantastic actor that pumps additional emotion into a story that's already overflowing with it. Make no mistake in that regard, I was an emotional train wreck watching this film. There was more than one occasion where I wept like a little girl who just saw Bambi for the first time.

*We are Marshall* isn't as beautifully shot as *Seabiscuit* – my all-time favorite film in this genre – nor is it as well acted or as adeptly told across the board. But it's every bit as emotional and heart-rendering, which makes it an unequivocal success in my mind. 



# Naked a difficult but rewarding British art film

By Brian Clark

Despite sounding like the most generic porno ever made, **Naked** is actually a 1993 art film of sorts from the United Kingdom. The story, as such, revolves around Johnny, a transient who's probably best described by that well-worn but tried and true distinction "brilliant but troubled." He's the central, complex figure in a relatively simple tale of a drifter bumming about London on the lam from the law after stealing a car and possibly raping a girl.

Clearly, Johnny is a complete asshole – a brutal, homeless intellectual who has a mild obsession with the apocalypse and a definite pension for violent sex. He's an anti-hero on steroids, as he's completely deplorable in almost every way, yet you somehow find yourself liking him – if only a little bit – despite these gaping character flaws. Other characters weave in and out to mold a darkly funny and extremely poignant view of post-modern England that's somewhat enigmatic but nevertheless tangible. The movie loses steam towards the end, but remains an undeniably entertaining and scintillating indictment of consumerist

attitudes and emotional disconnection.

Obviously, I really liked *Naked*, but you should now going in that, at times, this is a pretty difficult film to watch, with harsh sex scenes verging on rape that makes anything David Cronenberg ever shot look like tender love between two consenting adults. But there's much more to *Naked* than the title would indicate, and much of that revolves around Johnny challenging and offending pretty much everyone he meets.

David Thewlis, the dude that played Professor Lupin in the last couple Harry Potter flicks, is pretty decent in the lead role. He's like the British version of Ethan Hawke – not a particularly talented actor but it doesn't matter because he's so engaging to watch. On the other hand, Katrin Cartlidge (*From Hell*, *Breaking the Waves*) gives, in my estimation, the best performance in the film as an aloof cross between a drug addict and



**Naked (1993 - UK)**

Director: Mike Leigh  
Starring: David Thewlis  
Louise Clancy  
Katrin Cartlidge  
Greg Cruttwell


a sort of nurturing figure for the disillusioned and largely disgusting Johnny.

All in all, the characters are interesting, the actors adept, the dialogue engaging, the soundtrack beautiful and the cinematography jaw-dropping. Everything here is working in its favor. Yet it probably seems somewhat random that I would review a 90s art film that has absolutely nothing

to do with the theme of this issue or the rest of the paper in general. The justification, if I even need one, is that I found it such a rewarding viewing experience, I simply wanted to share it.

I've watched a lot of supposedly great, usually foreign art films over the years and have come to the conclusion that most of them pretty much blow. A couple days before watching *Naked*, for example, I checked out a Jean-Luc Goddard film called *Masculine/Feminine* that's supposed to be this shining exemplar of French New Wave Cinema. It's not. There are some nice moments but,

when they're connected in only the loosest and vaguest possible ways, then the novelty is completely lost. If you're allowed to come to whatever conclusions you want about the story, then every conclusion becomes equally meaningless. You need some sort of framework to operate in or there will be nothing tangible to take away beyond an image or a line of dialogue. Yet you see this sort of approach time and time again in movies that are conscious of their standing outside the exclusive Hollywood club.

So I think that's what I found so refreshing about *Naked*. It's creative enough to be unique yet smart enough to be coherent. If you're OK with the rental clerk giving you an askew glance, assuming you've rented a low-budget porn, then *Naked* strikes me as a nice tiptoe away from Hollywood cinema in a self-contained story that's still transcendent in all the ways blockbusters typically aren't. 

*The Bottom Shelf* is a SiDEKiCK feature where we review an old, classic or cult film – or pretty much anything else we feel like renting. The movie in question will usually have something to do with our theme, but we're not making any guarantees.



# Around the World in 80 Plays

Quick hits from the sports world

By Brian Clark

From a professional sports standpoint, 2006 only solidified a growing trend where hitting your stride at the right time has become more important than being the best, most complete team over the course of the year. The Pittsburgh Steelers won one of the dullest and worst officiated Super Bowls in recent memory after garnering the last playoff spot and rattling off 8 straight wins in a season where they started a respectable but modest 7-5. The St. Louis Cardinals were one of the most unimpressive World Series champions of all time, from the standpoint of nearly squandering an 8 1/2 game lead in the NL Central with a week and a half left in the season, limping into the playoffs with a meager 79 wins. They then, all of a sudden, reinvented themselves and impressively took care of the Padres, outlasted the Mets and dismantled the Tigers in route to their first World Series title in 24 years...

It was also a poor year for defending champs. My favorite sports columnist, ESPN.com's Bill Simmons, joked that the Pittsburgh Steelers 2006 team picture should just be a frozen turd at midfield, and the Miami Heat have begun their defense of the NBA title with an unremarkable 10-13 start ...

Speaking of the NBA, I've got to ask because I don't follow it all that closely, how frustrating is it for all you Sonics fans out there? They've got enough talent to get your hopes up, but never do enough in the off-season to really be competitive. They're going to be around .500 all year, possibly get a seven or eight seed in the playoffs, and have an early playoff exit, if they make it at all. I think it's almost more fun to root for a team that's exceptionally bad, as you can bitch about their hack of a coach and sloppy team play, and openly fantasize about that stellar college player you'll pick up in the draft next season, as opposed to watching a completely middle-of-the-pack club that has no foreseeable way of improving in the near future. But I'm probably being too hard on

the Sonics, as Ray Allen means a hell of a lot to the team and his return from a foot injury could spark a run that has the potential to carry them into contention in the Western Conference. Of course, at some point, they're going to have to develop something that even remotely resembles a defense ...

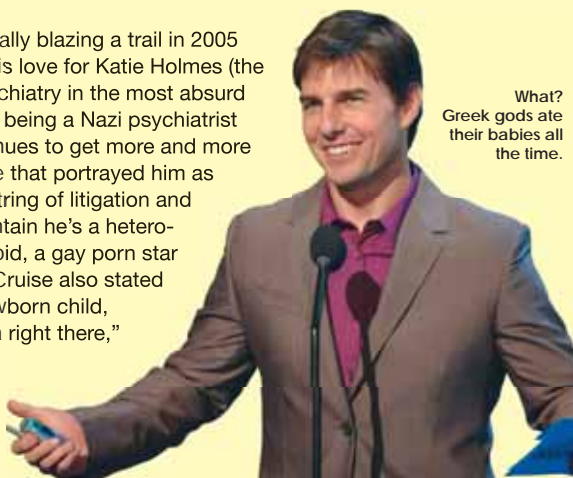
You could make the argument right now that the PAC-10 is the best basketball conference in the country, which is not something I would have thought possible a few weeks ago, and is something we haven't seen in many, many years. UCLA is everyone's consensus #1, Arizona is clearly a top 10 program, Oregon is still undefeated and Washington is a talented, young team with a lot of potential. The conference is so good that Washington State is 10-1 with a win over Gonzaga, and nobody's talking about them as a serious contender within the conference. As of press time, the top five teams in the PAC-10 were a combined 45-3, with nobody sporting a losing record ...

I don't know enough about the history of Gonzaga basketball to say whether or not they're in the midst of their toughest non-conference schedule in school history, but it's got to be up there. In a stretch that started with their win over Texas and continues through December 30th's matchup against Nevada, the Zags play four ranked opponents in the span of six games, with their "off" dates against Washington State and Georgia (games that account for two of their three losses). And I haven't even mentioned the fact that they already beat UNC, a lot of people's preseason #1, face an unranked (so far) but solid Virginia squad and will square off against C-USA favorite Memphis in February. Just a brutal schedule all around. When Kansas transfer Micah Downs makes his debut with the Zags in the near future, watch out. They're a good team without him, and he's going to give them some HUGE minutes. Also, as a side note, can I say that I love the play of David Pendergraft - he just finds a way to contribute every moment he's on the floor ...

## Greatest Celebrity Gone Batshit Insane of 2006:

**Runners-up:** Michael Richards and Mel Gibson for staggeringly deep-seeded public displays of racist and anti-Semitic attitudes.

**The Winner:** Tom Cruise. Hands down. After really blazing a trail in 2005 that included unstable displays of confessing his love for Katie Holmes (the Couch Incident) and by linking Nazism and psychiatry in the most absurd possible way that somehow involved Carl Jung being a Nazi psychiatrist (all of which is completely untrue), Cruise continues to get more and more crazy. He flipped out over a South Park episode that portrayed him as "in the closet," resulting in the latest in a long string of litigation and outrages where Cruise vehemently tries to maintain he's a heterosexual, including lawsuits against a British tabloid, a gay porn star and a magazine publisher. In April of this year, Cruise also stated that he was going to eat the placenta of his newborn child, saying "I'm going to eat the chord and placenta right there," adding - and I'm not making this up - that he thought it would be "very nutritious." Jesus. At this point I give it even odds that Cruise is a robot controlled by the Scientologists.



What? Greek gods ate their babies all the time.

# ATTENTION NEW BUSINESSES



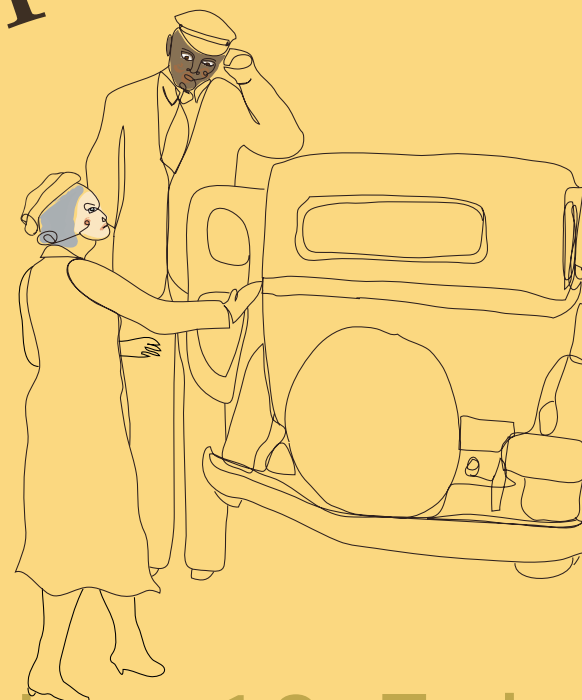
Did you know that the Spokane SiDEKiCK has a special ad rate for new businesses? We know how hard it is to start a business and have created a special deal to help you get started. For more information call the SiDEKiCK at 216-5771.



# Driving Miss Daisy

Alfredo Uhry

INTERPLAYERS THEATRE



Jan 18-Feb 3

WED·THU 7:30PM FRI·SAT 8PM SAT·SUN 2PM  
JAN 18 - FEB 3, 2007 TICKETS \$10 - 21  
(509) 455-PLAY WWW.INTERPLAYERS.COM  
174 S HOWARD SPOKANE, WA  
SPECIAL MLK DAY MATINEE JAN. 15



## How to Eat out on a College Budget

Going out can be expensive, but if you do it right you can eat and drink every night of the week and still have money for rent. Below is a list of suggestions of where to get unbelievable deals nearly every day of the week. If you know of an awesome weekly special that isn't listed below email us at [info@spokanesidekick.com](mailto:info@spokanesidekick.com). We are always open to suggestions.

### Everyday

#### David's Pizza:

\$1 Slices of Cheese Pizza from 2 - 5 p.m.  
For more information call (509) 483-7460.

#### Little Bennies:

Weekly Special - Fried fish, fries, coleslaw and a drink for \$6.49. For more information call (509) 926-6188.

### Sunday

#### Blue Spark:

Kill the Keg Night - \$1 pints until the beer is gone. For more info call (509) 838-5787.

### Monday

#### Brooklyn Nights:

Monday Night Football Party - \$1 during the game. For more info call (509) 835-4177.



### Tuesday

#### Merq Liquid Lounge:

\$Two Buck Tuesday - Two tacos or a burrito, rice and beans and a beer for \$2. Margarita for \$2. Starts at 6 p.m. For more info call (509) 325-3871.

### Wednesday

#### The Blvd:

50-cent beer night. Enough said. For more information call (509) 455-7826.

#### The Blue Spark:

\$10 Bucket Night. Five bottles of beer (domestics & corona) in a bucket for only \$10. For more information call (509) 838-5787.

### Thursday

#### Merq Liquid Lounge:

College Night - \$3.50 Long Island Iced Teas, \$2.50 wells and \$1.50 domestics. You must be a student with ID to get this deal. Stay for Karaoke which starts at 9 p.m. For more info call (509) 325-3871.

#### Brooklyn Nights:

Customer Appreciation Night - \$3 for a cup of tomato parmesan soup and 1/2 grilled cheese sandwich. Also, PBR is \$1. For more info call (509) 835-4177.

## The Main Dish: Casey's Place

By A.W. Rowse

Sometimes I just don't have time to sit down for a full meal – hell, most of the time I don't even have time to eat. This being the case, if I find a place that makes great food and is snappy about it I don't forget it. Casey's Place, located at 13817 E. Sprague Ave in the Spokane Valley across from Target, falls into this category.

The food here is very simple – sandwiches, soups and salads. Everything is easy to make and is out to you fast. My food was at my table before I made it back from the bathroom (This could mean a lot so to clarify, I was washing my hands. There was no paperwork involved). I was in and out in under 30 minutes with only a mild case of indigestion from eating too fast.

I ordered the daily special, which was an awesome deal – a half sandwich (note: a few of the more exotic sandwiches are excluded from this deal), cup of soup, bag of chips and soda for \$6.25. Oh, and free popcorn. The sandwich was a Casey's Club containing turkey, ham, bacon, provolone and cheddar on thick French bread with mayo and mustard. It was awesome. You know the bread is fresh when you finish your meal and there are no breadcrumbs on the plate. The meat was equally moist and piled high in a way that would make Subway green with envy.



### Katie Says:

I found Casey's Place to be quaint but quite good. My sandwich was awesome, my soup was a little bland, but the lunch special was a really great deal. It was a very quick turn around time which is great when you don't have a lot of time for lunch. I would most definitely visit Casey's again for lunch.

On the other hand the split pea soup was totally forgettable. While it wasn't bad, and I definitely devoured the whole cup, it lacked that special something that would make it stand on its own. Combined with the sandwich it was totally sufficient – on its own I would have been wholly disappointed.

With a good variety of sandwiches, salads and soups, Casey's Place is a restaurant that I never seem to get bored with. You may have to order your sandwich from a

cashier like at a fast food restaurant but because of this you are able to get your order faster and you don't have to worry about the extra time it takes to get a check and pay when you are finished with your meal.

Casey's Place is a lunch only establishment so if you want to give it a try you will have to get there sometime after 10 a.m. and before 3 p.m. Also, the shop isn't open on Sunday. For more information on the restaurant or for delivery call (509) 921-6545. 🍴

## A New Years Eve dinner fit for a King, served by a Queen

By A.W. Rowse

We had a debate at SiDEKiCK headquarters as to where to put this article – it could have easily ended up on either our Theater or New Years Eve pages, but we decided that the key element to The Merq's Annual New Years Eve dinner is the food.

Typically they just serve a very nice dinner, but for 2007 The Merq has decided to make things a bit more interesting. This year The Merquettes, the clubs very own female impersonators, will serve the five-course meal. You

can find them every Saturday Night at the Merq at 10:30 p.m. performing their weekly show.

The girls, Lexi Lewis Sapphire, Felicity Bliss, and Nomi Merlot, will be done up in their New Year's best and will be your hosts, your servers and your entertainment for the night. Be prepared for the girls to harass you, like your mother, for putting your elbows on the table or to sample your food straight from your plate to make sure that the quality is up to their standards.

Remember, this is more than fine dining; this is dinner and a show.

The five course meal includes your choice of French onion soup or Caesar salad; garlic, mashed, or twice baked potato; asparagus with hollandaise sauce; an entree of either prime rib, Cornish game hen, steak oscar or baked salmon and scampi; a glass of champagne; and crème brûlée for desert. The meal price is set at \$28.95 per person.

There will be two seating times of 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Seating is very limited so make your reservations now by calling (509) 325-3871. The Merquettes will also perform a few numbers from their show, as well as some special new skits, during the meal.

The Merq is located at 706 N Monroe Street just across the bridge from downtown. The dinner will take place on New Years Eve only – this is Sunday, December 31st for those who don't know. For a full breakdown of everything happening at The Merq please look on the back page of this issue. Pay close attention to \$Two Buck Tuesday – this is where you will find the SiDEKiCK staff every week. 🍴



photo by Jarrott Moonitz

## A Salute to Years Past

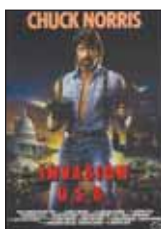
Because 2006 wasn't the only year that kicked ass

### 1983 A.D.



This was the year that President Ronald Reagan declared "The Year of the Bible" (apparently The Bible was suffering due to the burgeoning popularity of denim jackets). Not one to be outdone, Pope John Paul II officially lifted the ban on Gallileo Galilei, a scant 351 years after the father of astronomy was effectively excommunicated and banished by the Holy Catholic Church. Most importantly, though, 1983 was the year that Andrew Wayne Rowse and Brian Michael Clark were born, a chain of events that would ultimately lead to the citizens of Spokane getting overrun with inane cultural musings and entertainment updates in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 1940 A.D.



While the year will go down in history for the innumerable WWII events that transpired – from Winston Churchill assuming duties as Britain's Prime Minister to the German invasion of every country Hitler knew how to spell – those events are a mere blip on the map compared to what transpired on March 10, 1940. On that fateful day, one Chuck Norris emerged from his mother's womb, sporting a full beard and boasting an unparalleled knowledge of the roundhouse kick. Forty-five years later, the world be introduced to the film "Invasion U.S.A." where ex-CIA agent Matt Hunter (Norris) almost singlehandedly defeats a band of Latin American communist guerillas who have overtaken the U.S. This will go down in history as the greatest single piece of art the world has ever seen.

### 354 A.D.



With civilizations torn on when to celebrate the birth of Jesus (some were putting his birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>, others on January 6<sup>th</sup>) or even whether they should celebrate it at all, the Philocalian Calendar became the first known document to pin Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>. So we're – somewhat arbitrarily– giving props to the year 354 A.D. as the year Christmas was invented, ultimately leading to long drives in the snow, obnoxious sweaters that periodically light up, egg nog, awkward company Christmas parties, and a high percentage of insufferable holiday films. 354 A.D., as it turns out, is a year to be celebrated and rued with equal verve.

### Puzzle #283 - POW!

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

### 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 of the Issue: The Champagne of Beer

Sponsored by the **Blue Spark**

### Miller High Life Ingredients

- Water
- Barley
- Hops
- Yeast

### Mixing Instructions

You don't need mixing instructions. It is beer. Either go to the store and buy Miller High Life or go to The Blue Spark on New Year's Eve for \$2 pints all night long. For more information look on page 8. This special will be on New Year's Eve only so don't miss it.



Bring in 2007  
with  
DJ James Pants

**BLUE SPARK**  
www.bluesparkspokane.com

9pm

\$5

# NEW YEARS EVE DINNER

a meal fit for a KING,  
served by a QUEEN

Sunday, Dec 31st, 2006, Seatings at 7 and 9 pm  
Make Your Reservations Now, Seating is Limited  
5 course dinner served by the Merquettes  
(see page 22 for details)



706 N. MONROE ST. 325-3871  
5 PM - 2 AM EVERYDAY  
NEVER A COVER



## TIRED OF THE ORDINARY?

COME DOWN TO THE MEROQ, SPOKANE'S ONLY COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

### \$TWO BUCK TUESDAYS



Two Tacos or a Burrito & pint of beer for \$2  
Margaritas only \$2  
Karaoke with Diane start at 9:00 p.m.



### COLLEGE NIGHT

Every Thursday  
\$3.50 Long Islands, \$2.50 Wells  
Karaoke starts at 9 p.m.,  
Must be College Student w/ ID for drink discounts



### NEW GAME ROOM

Pool Tables, Darts, Ping Pong...



### KARAOKE

Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday nights 9 p.m.

### SPOKANE'S BEST FEMALE IMPERSONATORS

THE MERQUETTES: THE POWER OF THREE  
Saturday nights 10:30  
Staring Lexi Lewis Sapphire,  
Felicity Bliss, and Nomi Merlot

Merquette photos by Jarrott Moonitz