

MONDAY • AUGUST 15, 2005

THE City
Paper

CITY SEVEN

Many hands steered 'Night Train' mural

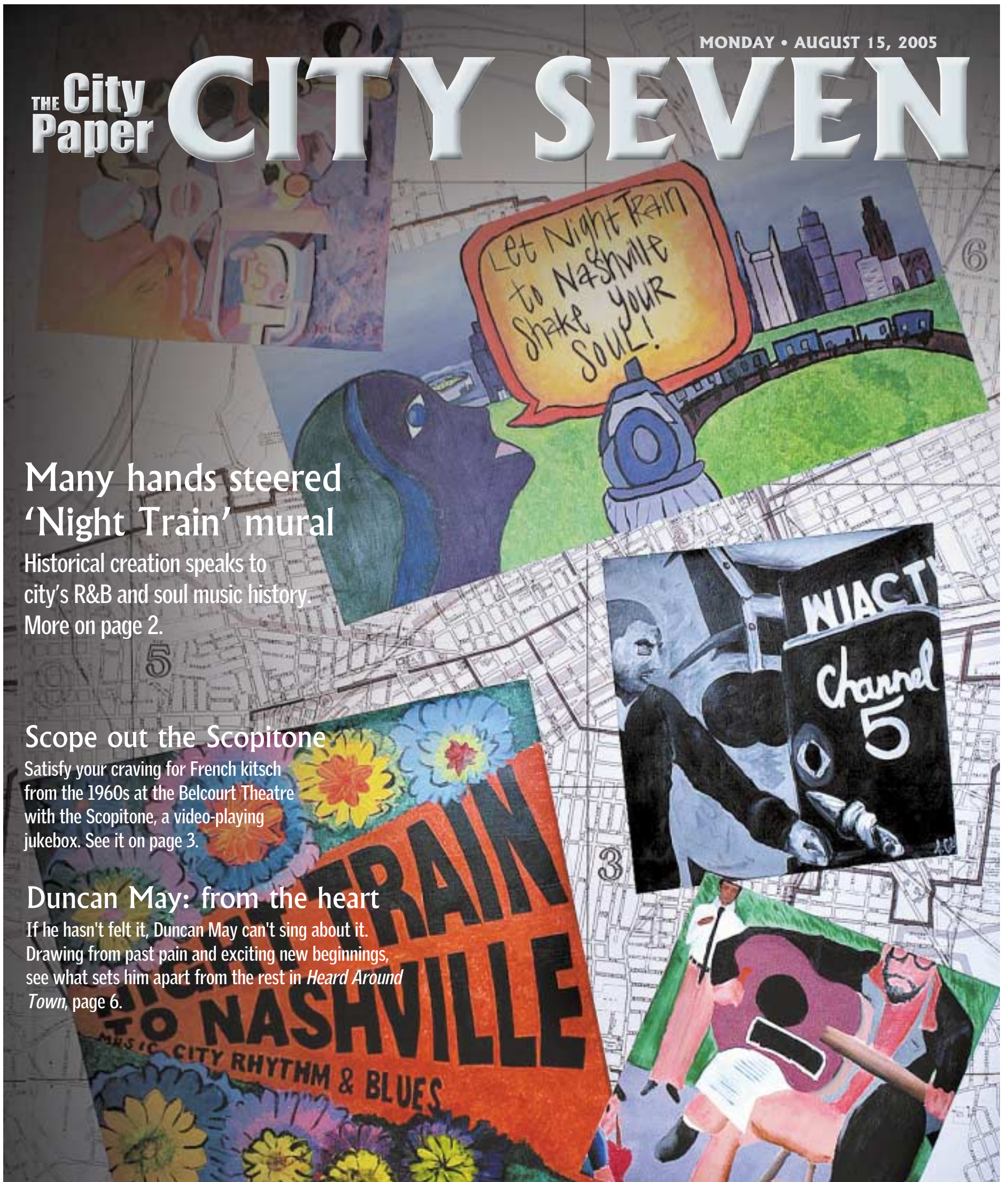
Historical creation speaks to
city's R&B and soul music history.
More on page 2.

Scope out the Scopitone

Satisfy your craving for French kitsch
from the 1960s at the Belcourt Theatre
with the Scopitone, a video-playing
jukebox. See it on page 3.

Duncan May: from the heart

If he hasn't felt it, Duncan May can't sing about it.
Drawing from past pain and exciting new beginnings,
see what sets him apart from the rest in *Heard Around
Town*, page 6.



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Area schools pitch in on commemorative mural

Ron Kates, associate professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University, envisioned a project that would give students in his seminar "Revisiting and Re-visioning the Hometown" a better understanding of how Nashville truly became Music City. But Kates admitted that he didn't fully anticipate what resulted from this idea, the visually striking mural *Keep The Night Train Rolling*, that's inspired by the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's landmark exhibition *Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm & Blues, 1945-1970*.

The mural represents a yearlong collaboration between MTSU, Watkins College of Art & Design and area high schools Riverdale, Oakland and Stratford. The mural is currently on display in the visitor queuing area (adjacent to the Curb Conservatory) at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and will remain there through December.

"It (the mural) really took on a life of its own rather quickly," Kates said. "My original vision was that this would be a small mural. But we gave the artists free reign to create whatever they wanted, and the results really represent the things from the exhibit that greatly influenced them. This project has helped them in many other ways besides their learning how country music and R&B influenced each other. We had students working together from rival high schools. They had to set aside their differences and collaborate on a common goal."

The mural consists of six 6' by 8' panels and three 3' by 3' canvases. The large panels feature an oversized map of the Nashville area in 1940, with the Jefferson Street area spotlighted. This serves as a backdrop for the collage of 34 acrylic-on-campus paintings. Mural images include the video from the single "Soul Shake" by the duo of Peggy Scott and Jo Jo Benson, as well as depictions of Ray Charles appearing at Maceo's and Etta James recording the classic album

Etta James Rocks the House at the old New Era Club. There's also a portrait of Frank Howard and the Commanders that serves as the cover for the Grammy-winning *Night Train To Nashville* CD.

More than three dozen artists and art instructors helped create the mural, with students getting a tour of the *Night Train* exhibit.

"The project's co-coordinators Tobi Hancock and Katie Mirgalipta deserve special credit," Kates added. "They kept everything on track and provided assistance whenever and wherever it was needed. Katie's father has a long history in the country music business, and she knew many of these names and musicians because of that, while Tobi was invaluable in helping relationships between all the different participants in the venture."

"From the beginning, the Hall of Fame knew that we couldn't tell the whole story of Nashville R&B," *Night Train* exhibit curator and compiler Michael Gray added. "We were always hoping that others would come along and pick up the ball, and we're really thrilled about the mural and the care that the students have taken to reflect the era and the music through their work."

Gray added that *Night Train to Nashville: Music City R&B 1945-1970, Vol. II* would be released in late September.

With the *Night Train* exhibit closing at year's end, Kates hopes to find a permanent home later for the mural.

"We haven't really investigated that yet, but one possibility might be housing it somewhere at

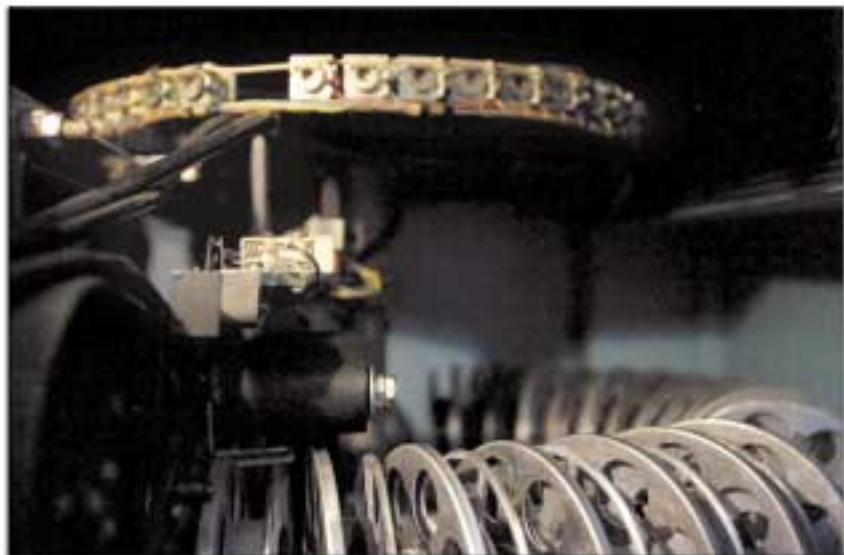
the airport," Kates said. "This should be on permanent display somewhere where both Nashvillians and visitors can see it, because it does so clearly and fully communicate a major part of what has made this Music City."

By Ron Wynn

rwyynn@nashvillecitypaper.com



Photos by Donn Jones



The Scopitone: VH1 Classic ain't got nothing on this.

Photos by Josh Anderson

More than movies at the Belcourt

Using cameras and film technology created by their military during World War II, in the 1960s the French created the Scopitone, a jukebox that played music videos in bowling alleys, bars, hotels and pizza parlors around the country. It soon spread to the United States before the craze eventually died down at the end of the decade.

A Scopitone is a rare thing to come across these days, but now there's one right here in Music City. The Belcourt Theatre, 2102 Belcourt Ave., recently came into possession of one and has it on display in their lobby. For a quarter, patrons can choose from 32 different American and French '60s-era music videos.

The machine by itself is a wonder, but it's the Scopitone films that are the real draw. Each three-

to four-minute video is pure kitsch, with a French woman walking towards the camera calmly singing as bombs explode behind her, or Kay Starr singing "Around the World" as she spins around on a roulette wheel in a skimpy red outfit, or Bobby Vee singing "The Night has a Thousand Eyes" as girls in bikinis dance around him.

Belcourt head projectionist and box office manager Kirk Futrell believes the Belcourt's Scopitone to be the only one on public display in the whole country. So the next time you've got some change in your pocket and an itch to see something off the beaten path, stop by the Belcourt for some time with the Scopitone. **CP**

—Wil Moss



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GO·SEE·DO

Today

8 off 8th Showcase of local bands w/special guests, 9 p.m., Mercy Lounge. Free

All About Music City Band contest, 8 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Patty Hurst Shifter opens, 6 p.m.

Big Baby w/Labeling Deloris, 9 p.m., The 5 Spot. \$5

John England and the Western Swingers Country-Western music and dancing, 6 p.m., Robert's Western World. Free

Bill Ferrari lounge music, 4-8 p.m., Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, 2100 West End 320-1700.

Four Letter Lie w/guests, 8 p.m., The Muse.

Irish Music w/Jim Prendergast and Jeff Taylor, 6 p.m., Dan McGuinness. Free

Larry Ladon 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Matty 9 p.m., The Pond.

Andrea Moran Singer/songwriter for a rainy day, 8 p.m., The Basement.

Open mic w/Barbara Cloyd and guests, 6 p.m., free; Mike Henderson Band w/guests, 9:30 p.m., \$7, Bluebird Café.

Joe Silva Solo acoustic Texas blues, 9 p.m., Beyond the Edge.

The Time Jumpers Country/Western swing, 9 p.m., The Station Inn. \$7

Charles Walker 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$5

Writers' night 9 p.m., Reflections, 514 Eighth Ave. S. 264-6044. Free

Writers in the Round w/BMG guests, 7 p.m., Douglas Corner Café.

Writers in the Round w/Trent Willmon and guests, 6 p.m., The Basement. Free

Tuesday

615 Live Country songwriters' showcase w/full band featuring Debra Bradshaw and guests, 6:15 p.m., Blue Bar, 1911 Broadway 336-9169. Free

Pete Sallis w/Craig Monday and guests, 6 p.m., free; Don Schlitz, 9 p.m., \$1, Bluebird Café.

Billy Block's Western Beat Showcase of alt-country, Americana and blues w/Kevin Welch and guests, 7 p.m., Exit/In. \$5

Debi Champion's Writers' Night Showcase of local songwriters w/Tom Fedora and guests, 7 p.m., Commodore Lounge. Free

Comedy Night 8 p.m., The Bar Car. \$2

Moe Denham 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Zanny Gaudet benefit Fund-raiser to pay the medical costs of a local musician with cancer w/Old Union, Garage Deluxe and guests, 6 p.m., Mercy Lounge. \$10

The Green White CD release, 6 p.m., Douglas Corner Café.

Jimmy Hall Southern rock and soul w/The Prisoners of Love, 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$5

Hillsong United 7 p.m., Rockettown. Free

In the Dying Light w/39 Reasons and guests, 8 p.m., Hair of the Dog.

Jeremy Lister w/Katie Herzog, 9 p.m., Radio Café. \$5

Open Mic 8 p.m., Douglas Corner Café.

Open Mic 7 p.m., Pie in the Sky Pizza.

Open Wide w/Set Your Goals and guests, 7 p.m., The Muse.

David Parrett w/Joe Luth and guests, 8 p.m., The 5 Spot. Free

Joe Rohan 9 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Kingbilly opens at 6.

The Sidemen 9 p.m., Station Inn. \$7

Pam Weston lounge music, 8 p.m., Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, 2100 West End 320-1700.

Writers' night 7 p.m., Cocktails. Free

Writers' night w/Rose Falcon and guests, 9 p.m., The Pond. Free

Wednesday

Americana showcase Local strummers sing their hearts out, 8 p.m., The Suttler. \$5

Bluebird Café In the Round w/Lorna Flowers and Full Court Press guests, 6 p.m., free; In the Round w/Sherrie Austin and guests, 9 p.m. \$10

Burning Las Vegas Soul show band, 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$5

Debi Champion's writers' night Showcase of local songwriters w/Jamey Whiting and guests, 7 p.m., Commodore Lounge. Free

Chris Clausen Band w/Muldoon Felton Goad, 7 p.m., The 5 Spot.

Comedy night Showcase of local stand-up, 8:30 p.m., Nashville Smokehouse, 327 Hermitage Ave. 474-2568. Free

Greg Crowe Band Blues jam, 9 p.m., The Pond.

Deep South Southern supergroup w/members of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Wet Willie and others, 8:30 p.m., Mercy Lounge. \$10

Kalisa Ewing w/Jeff Miller, 7:30 p.m., Pie in the Sky. Free

Girls With Guitars 8:30 p.m., Douglas Corner Café.

The Hard Way New band featuring members of the Alcohol Stuntband and the Black Diamond Heavies, 9 p.m., Radio Café. Free

Stewart Huff Stand-up comedy, 8 p.m., Zanies. \$10

Jesse Lee Jones w/Brazilbilly, 9 p.m., Station Inn. \$7

Stacy Mitchhart w/Blues-U-Can-Use, 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Rosco 10 p.m., Windows on the Cumberland.

The Twilight of Idols w/guests, 7 p.m., The Muse.

Lisa Webb lounge music, 8 p.m., Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, 2100 West End 320-1700.

The Wooten Brothers The brothers of Flecktones fame jam at 9:30 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Melissa Brett opens at 6.

Writers' night 7 p.m., Cocktails. Free

Thursday

Kai Brown Australian singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Caffeine. Free

Commander w/guests, 8 p.m., Hair of the Dog.

Dancin' in the District w/Buddy Guy, Adrian Belew, Matt King and Duwayne Burnside, 6 p.m., Riverfront Park. Info: (800) 521-6435. \$5

Patton James and the Synchronomatics Swing dancing, 8 p.m., Reflection, 514 Eighth Ave. S. 264-6044. \$5

Killer Beaz Stand-up comedy, 8 p.m., Zanies. \$15

Stacy Mitchhart w/Blues-U-Can-Use, 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Motivational Speakers 10 p.m., Windows on the Cumberland.

The Narrator w/Theory in Fall and guests, 7 p.m., The Muse.

The Nashville Stringbusters w/Janice Young, 8 p.m., Station Inn. \$8

Wendy Newcomer 8 p.m., Radio Café. \$5

November w/Shadows of Light, 9 p.m., Mercy Lounge. \$5

Jeff Pearson w/guests, 6:30 p.m., free; In the Round w/Swan Dive, 9 p.m. \$10

Roots Rock Night w/Joey Allcom and the Hillbilly Band and guests, 8 p.m., The 5 Spot, \$5. Craig Havighurst and guests open at 6.

Royal Scam 8 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Jason Minton opens at 7.

Soul Searchers Nine-piece soul powerhouse, 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$5

Stretch Arm Strong w/Haste the Day and guests, 7 p.m., Rockettown. \$10

Tootsie's to the Ryman Country battle of the bands, 7 p.m., Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, 422 Broadway 726-0463. Free

Lisa Webb lounge music, 8 p.m., Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, 2100 West End 320-1700.

Stack Magic w/The New Arrival, 10 p.m., Radio Café. \$5

Deon Taylor Band 9 p.m., Douglas Corner Café. Jeff Jackson opens at 6.

Joe White w/Jason Courson, 7:30 p.m., Pie in the Sky. Free

Writers' night 7 p.m., Cocktails. Free

Friday

The 8th Grade w/Drew Holcomb and guests, 8 p.m., The Muse.

Ace 80 9:30 p.m., Double E Bar & Grill. Free

Lucy Arvin Jazz/cabaret, 7 p.m., Michaelangelo's Pizza. Free

Brother Men 7 p.m., Red Caboose Park, 7400 Highway 70 S. Info: 862-8439. Free

Byrd's Auto Parts 9 p.m., The 5 Spot.

The Cretin Grims Punk rock party w/Rock 'n' Roll Hooligans and The First Wave, 8 p.m., Hair of the Dog.

The Grascals 9 p.m., The Station Inn. \$10

Mark Huff w/Jon Byrd, 9 p.m., The 5 Spot. \$5

Mark Aaron James w/guests, 6:30 p.m., free; In the Round w/Marshall Chapman and guests, 9:30 p.m., \$10. Bluebird Café.

Norris Johnson and the Memphis Rhythm Kings 10 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$10

Killer Beaz Stand-up comedy, 8 and 10:15 p.m., Zanies. \$18

Gail Lloyd and The Tricksters 9:30 p.m., The Pond. \$5

Amanda Martin 9 p.m., Douglas Corner Café. Joe West and guests open at 6.

Georgia Middleman w/guests, 8 p.m., Puckett's After Hours, Leiper's Fork.

Stacy Mitchhart w/Blues-U-Can-Use, 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Keith Morris 9 p.m., Bongo After Hours Theatre. \$5

The Original Charades w/The Exotics, 8 p.m., Mercy Lounge. \$15

Bill Richie w/guests, 7:30 p.m., Pie in the Sky. Free

Single Tree w/Undershade, 10 p.m., Windows on the Cumberland. \$5

Sarah Siskind w/guests, 9 p.m., Family Wash. Free

Billy Smith Bluegrass, 9 p.m., Sportsman's Grille, 1601 21st Ave. S. 320-1633. Free

Smog w/Lylas and guests, 9 p.m., The Basement. \$10

Super T and the Tyrone Smith Revue 10 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. The Whiskey Trippers open at 7.

World Class Bluegrass 8 p.m., Kokopeli, 7695 River Road Pike 604-5551.

Saturday

Ace 80 9:30 p.m., Double E Bar & Grill. Free

Bluebird Café In the Round w/Jude Toy and guests, 6:30 p.m., free; In the Round w/Gary Nicholson and guests, 9:30 p.m., \$10, Bluebird Café.

Blues Jones 9:30 p.m., The Pond. \$5

Buried Under Broken Glass w/guests, 8 p.m., Hair of the Dog.

Melonie Cannon 9 p.m., The Station Inn. \$10

Chicago Rhythm Kings 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.

Falls City Angels w/Touchy Subjects and The Squibs, 9 p.m., The 5 Spot. \$5

Erin Frazier Stand-up comedy, 7 p.m., Bongo After Hours Theatre. \$5

Diana Gatto 7:30 p.m., Pie in the Sky. Free



Clear Blue 22 take their name for Air Force weather jargon for a day so clear you can see 22 miles. They bring their wide-open country to Nashville at 6 tonight in the Exit/In. Free



The Kings of Leon have been called a lot of things on Nashvillezine.com, the forum of the local indie rock scene: fake, pretentious, untalented, and so on. Perhaps to ease the pain, they're raking in \$25 a ticket w/The Helio Sequence at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Ryman Auditorium.



Keller Williams is known for shuffling barefoot between a variety of instruments onstage and tearing the fire out of each one with blazing-fast fingers. He plays with the eclectic Mu'tet led by saxophonist Jeff Coffin at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Cannery Ballroom parking lot. \$5

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4 **Gratis** w/guests, 8 p.m., The Muse.
Kevin Harris w/The Baker Girls and Mike Mobley, 8:30 p.m., Puckett's After Hours Franklin.
Norris Johnson and the Memphis Rhythm Kings 9:30 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$10
Killer Beaz Stand-up comedy, 7, 9 and 11:15 p.m., Zanies. \$18
Steff Mahan w/Eve Goodman, 7 p.m., The Basement. \$8
Ryan Michaels and the Karg Boys w/guests, 7 p.m., Douglas Corner Café.
Music City Bop Club Bop, swing and shag dancing, 8 p.m., Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, 2025 MetroCenter Blvd. 259-4343. Free
The Redwalls hit Nashville fresh off a UK tour opening for Oasis, 8 p.m., Exit/In. The Colour opens.
The Reliabilities CD release w/Rufus Grove, 10 p.m., Windows on the Cumberland.
Jeffrey Steele w/Tom Hambridge, 9 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Ray Herndon opens at 7:30.
Jerry Vandiver w/Tim Buppert, noon, Country Music Hall of Fame's Ford Theater.

Sunday

Bayou Swamp Stomp w/Wigg Walker, 9 p.m., Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.
Bluebird Café Sunday Spotlight w/Kristi Rose and Fats Kaplin, 6:30 p.m., free; Writers' Night w/Jamie Teachnor, 8 p.m., free.
Bluegrass jam 9 p.m., Station Inn. Free
Jeremy Lister 9 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley. Tracy Bonham opens at 8.
Killer Beaz Stand-up comedy, 8 p.m., Zanies. \$15
Red Letter Agent 9 p.m., The 5 Spot. \$5
Singles dance w/Michael B, 7 p.m., Legends Bar & Grill, 3436 Lebanon Road, Hermitage. Info: 773-8863. \$6 includes dinner.
Tom Smith 9 p.m., The Pond.
Waldo Weathers Sax veteran of James Brown's band, 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club. \$5
Writers' night 7:30 p.m., Dumas Walker's Café, 1402 Artie Ave. Info: (215) 779-7415.

By Will Ayers. For inclusion in City 7, visit Event.Submissions.at/www.nashvillecitypaper.com.



HEARD around town

Duncan May has been through enough. In the course of about a year his wife was stricken with bone cancer, and the couple's baby daughter slipped away shortly after birth. But the singer/songwriter's music is as strong as ever: He's just released two albums, the alt-rock *Push & Pull* and the earthy, Americana-tinged *This Day Coming*. He spoke about inspiration, dealing with loss and the finer points of playing at the Bluebird Café.

These two albums you've just put out bear little resemblance to one another. That was a marketing idea so I could market them to different people. I've been shopping *Push and Pull* to indie labels, and obviously one's a little more Americana. With *This Day Coming*, those were songs I had written over the past year. I had a daughter who passed away after seven weeks at home; a lot of these songs came out of that experience. It was just an opportunity to have an outlet for going through that. It was important to get those songs recorded for me and my family and friends and for her. It's not necessarily a concept album, but it has a lot to do with that. I hired some world-class players to really just make it sing and it really came across how I was hoping it would.

Were you apprehensive about hiring musicians to work on such a personal project? I really was. That's what made me stick to the best players I could. I had done two albums years ago that I



did all the instruments on, except drums. That was an avenue we talked about taking, but I decided to see if we could get a really good piano player and a good dobro player and so on. I was apprehensive, but I'm at a time in my life where I need to get some kind of attention. I've been doing it so long, and I've been in town 10 years shaking trees. It seemed like the thing to do.

How has your music changed since then? After getting those [songs] out of my system I've tried to do more light-hearted things. It's very hard for me to write about cars and things that don't mean anything to me personally. That may be my downfall in this town. No

matter how hard I try I can't write or sing it with as much conviction as I'd like to. It's been a learning process. It's kind of like taking a picture. One out of 20 might be worth it, might be what you're looking for. Now the inspiration is just constantly on and I'm using what I've learned to try to be entertaining and interesting.

I understand you've played that vaunted hall of singer/songwriters, The Bluebird Café, several times. They have judges — the bartender keeps score — I've been able to get continual high scores. My audience has been getting bigger and bigger. It's intimidating to be there, but I was playing there when I was going through all these things and it was a real thrill the first couple of times I played. It was real emotional. I would literally be crying and the audience would know what was happening with me, and by end of the show

there would be a room full of people with tears in their eyes.

What are your plans for the next few months? My wife has been cancer-free for two years and we just found out she's expecting, so that's opening up a whole other can of inspiration. Probably around the end of winter I'll start another album. The next five or six months is going to be really focused on networking and working towards a publicity deal or distribution. I set the first two hours of the day to hit every publishing company I can. E-mails and phone calls are one thing, but those can be done out of town. It's my responsibility to actually get in and meet them.

Web site: www.duncanmay.com

—By Will Ayers. Bands interested in *Heard Around Town* may e-mail wayers@nashvillecitypaper.com.

GO·SEE·DO it here

This list of venues corresponds to the Go-See-Do listings.
To have your events listed, see Event Submissions at www.nashvillecitypaper.com.

3rd & Lindsley

818 Third Ave. S., 259-9891,
www.3rdandlindsley.com

615

201 Woodland St., 248-3100

About Time Sports Grill

4804 Lebanon Road, Hermitage,
885-2937

All American Sports Grill

941 NW. Broad St., Murfreesboro,
896-9661

Alleycat Lounge

1008 Woodland St., 262-5888

Alleygators

207 Third Ave. N., 255-8840

The Bar Car

209 10th Ave. S., 259-4875

Bartwenty3

503 12th Ave. S., 963-9998

The Basement

1604 Eighth Ave. S., 254-1604

B.B. King's Blues Club

152 Second Ave. N., 256-2727

Belcourt Theatre

2102 Belcourt Ave., 846-3150

Beyond the Edge

112 S. 11th St., 226-3343

Big River Grille

111 Broadway, 251-4677

Bluebird Café

4104 Hillsboro Road, 383-1461,
www.bluebirdcafe.com

Bongo After Hours Theatre

2007 Belmont Blvd., 385-1188,
www.bongojava.com

Boots Reverb

209 Printers Alley, 256-3495

Borders

2525 West End Ave, 327-9656

Borders Brentwood

330 Franklin Road, 221-8804

Borders Cool Springs

545 Cool Springs Blvd., Suite 190,
771-2870

The Boro Bar & Grill

1211 Greenland Drive, Murfreesboro,
895-4800

Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar

220 Printers Alley, 242-5837,
www.bourbonstreetblues.com

Bunganut Pig Franklin

1143 Columbia Ave., 794-4777

Bunganut Pig Murfreesboro

1602 W. Northfield Blvd., 893-7860

Café Coco

210 Louise Ave., 321-2626

Caffeine

1516 Demonbreun St., 259-4993
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1 Cannery Row, 251-3020,
www.mercylounge.com

Caribbean Hut

1316 Antioch Pike, 832-3547

Chapel Bistro

701 Chapel Ave., 627-1088

Church Street Pub

7022 Church St., Brentwood, 377-6979

Club 612

515 Second Ave. S., 242-3399

Coaches Sports Bar and Grill

700 Rivergate Parkway, 851-2929

Cocktail's Bar and Grill

408 George L. Davis Blvd., 256-1130

Coco Loco

4600 Nolensville Road, 403-4488

Commodore Lounge

2613 West End, 327-4707

Country Music Hall of Fame

222 Fifth Ave. S., 416-2001

Double E Bar & Grill

4857 Lebanon Road, Hermitage,
885-3400

Douglas Corner Café

2106-A Eighth Ave. S., 298-1688,
www.douglascorner.com

The End

2219 Elliston Place, 321-4457

Exit/In

2208 Elliston Place, 321-3340,
www.exitin.com

F. Scott's Restaurant

2110 Crestmoor Drive, 269-5861

Family Wash

2038 Greenwood Ave., 226-6070

The Fiddle and Steel Guitar Bar

210 Printers Alley, 251-9002

The 5 Spot

1006 Forrest St., 650-9333,
www.thefivespot.net

French Quarter Café

823 Woodland St., 227-3100

Frothy Monkey

2509 12th Ave. S., 292-1808

Gaylord Entertainment Center

501 Broadway, 770-2000

Gibson Showcase

433 Opry Mills Drive, 514-2200

Global Soup

2119 Belcourt Ave., 463-0079

Graham Central Station

128 Second Ave. N., 251-9593

Grimey's Music

1604 Eighth Ave. S., 254-4801,
www.grimeys.com

Hair of the Dog

1831 12th Ave. S., 386-3311

Hard Rock Café

100 Broadway, 742-9900

Kijiji Coffee

1207 Jefferson St., 321-0403

Kozibeau Coffee House

1441 New Highway 96 W., Franklin,
599-1123

Layla's Bluegrass Inn

418 Broadway, 248-6334

Legends Corner

428 Broadway, 248-6334

Level 88 Jazz Bistro

609 Ninth Ave. S., 254-4399

Lipstick Lounge

1400 Woodland St., 226-6343

Dan McGuinness Pub

1538 Demonbreun St., 252-1991

McKendree Christian Life Center

523 Church St., 227-1854

Mercy Lounge

1 Cannery Row, 251-3020,
www.mercylounge.com

Mexicali Grille

330 Mayfield Drive, Franklin, 771-0717

Michaelangelo's Pizza

2200 Elliston Place, 329-2979

Mulligan's Pub

117 Second Ave. N., 242-8010

Municipal Auditorium

417 Fourth Ave. N., 862-6390

Murphy's Loft

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835 Fourth St. S. 251-0190, www.the-musenashville.com

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771-7911

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120 Fourth Ave. S., 791-6484

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4142 Old Hillsboro Road, 791-6484

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867-9090

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224-9331 www.w274.com

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Arts

Art

Classes

Art classes The Hendersonville Arts Council, 1154 W. Main St., offers classes in all art mediums for children and adults all summer. Info: 822-0789.

Art classes Ongoing programs in calligraphy, drawing, bookbinding and painting, The Art Store, 2000 Mallory Lane, Cool Springs 771-8889.

Art history classes A series of seminars on Renaissance art (no homework involved) continues every Monday in August at 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. Info: 862-8431. \$60 for the series.

Ballroom dancing classes A six-week course for beginners starts at 11 a.m. Saturday, Centennial Sportsplex, 222 25th Ave. N. 862-8480. \$40

Book making classes Open all summer, The Art Store, Cool Springs Market, 2000 Mallory Lane 771-8889.

Meet the Instruments Concert featuring a wide scope of instruments to help children and their parents decide which lessons to pursue, 7 p.m. Thursday, Renaissance Center, 855 Highway 46, Dickson 740-5533. \$3

Oil painting classes Visiting artist Greg Decker offers evening and weekend classes for all skill levels in the Decker Studio, 1222 Fourth Ave. N. 259-2313. \$50/class

Pottery classes Sign-ups are open for classes to fit any schedule at Mud Puddle, 538 Highway 70, Pegram 646-6644.

Watkins community classes Registration opens for fall classes in filmmaking, animation, sculpture, glass blowing and more on Tuesday. Info: 383-4848.

Special events

Artistic yard sale Theatrical furniture, costumes, set pieces and more is on the block to benefit the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 429B Chestnut St. Info: 244-4878.

Astronomy Kids' Night Hands-on educational program about comets for kids 6 and older, 7 p.m., Dyer Observatory, 1000 Oman Drive 373-4897. Free

Avant Garage Sale and Vintage Show Show of art from the Art's Company's vault and sale of rare art, 2-6 p.m. Saturday, The Arts Company, 215 Fifth Ave. 254-2040.

Call for artists The Hendersonville Arts Council seeks visual artists and sculptors for exhibits beginning in February. Info: 822-1789.

Children's story time Juggling, puppets, music and stories, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Main Library, 615 Church St. 862-5785. Free

Dark Side of Oz Watch *The Wizard of Oz* set to Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* with a laser show, 9 p.m. every Saturday in August, Renaissance Center, 855 Highway 46, Dickson 740-5533. \$6

Gallery talk Learn about *The Fragile Species* exhibit from the local artists whose work it features, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, 919 Broadway 244-3340.

Game show contest Venerable game show host Bob Eubanks hosts an evening of entertainment with a grand prize jackpot on Saturday in the Opryland Resort, 2800 Opryland Drive 871-6848.

Ghost tours Learn about the historical, haunted heritage of Music City on a guided walking tour of downtown, 8 p.m. nightly in front of the Hermitage Hotel, 600 Union Ave. N. Info: 884-3999. \$12

Science exhibit Get inside a virtual body and fight microbes while learning about the history of humans and pathogens through Oct. 9 in the Adventure Science Center, 800 Fort Negley Blvd. 862-5160. Adults \$8.75, children \$6.75.

Performing arts

Children's puppet shows Nashville perform Ginger Sands presents music and puppet shows for kids, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Aug. 20, Main Library, 615 Church St. 862-5753. Free

Music in the Grand Lobby Sam Warshaw Jazz Trio, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Frist Center, 919 Broadway 244-3340. Free

Music in the Grand Lobby Wayne Avers plays classical and jazz guitar, 6 p.m. Friday, Frist Center, 919 Broadway 244-3340. Free

Visual arts

Opening

Belcourt Theatre (2102 Belcourt Ave. 846-3150) Through Sept. 7. Paintings in the folk/outside style by Harry C. Underwood.

Frist Center for the Visual Arts (919 Broadway 244-3340) Friday through Dec. 31. *Cumberland Exposures*, nature photography by local artists.

Tennessee Arts Commission (401 Charlotte Ave. 532-9798) Aug. 18-Sept. 23. Recent works by Murfreesboro artist Andrew Kaufman. Reception 5 p.m. Saturday.

Tribe (1517 Church St. 329-2912) 6 p.m. Tuesday. New work by Trevor Mikula.

Ongoing

Belle Meade Plantation Gallery (5025 Harding Pike 356-0501, ext. 21) Through Aug. 31. Works by students of local artist

Shirley Pharris.

Cheekwood Museum of Art (1200 Forrest Park Drive 356-8000) Through Sunday. Garments and plans chronicling the career of fashion designer Halston.

Through Aug. 28. Work by various video artists.

Country Music Hall of Fame (222 Fifth Ave. S. 416-2001)

Through Dec. 31. *Keep the Night Train Rolling*, a mural celebrating Nashville's R&B history created by local high school and college students.

Through January. Relics from the career of country troubadour Porter Wagoner.

Through June 16. The museum presents *Banjo Man*, a retrospective on the work of Earl Scruggs.

Chromatics (625 Fogg St. 254-0063) Through Aug. 31. Work by members of the Brentwood Camera Club.

Cumberland Gallery (4107 Hillsboro Circle 297-0296) Through Sept. 3. Summer show of sculpture, painting and photography by local artists including Marilyn Murphy and Jack Spencer.

Downtown Artists' Co-Op Gallery (96 Franklin St., Clarksville (931) 647-6171) Through Saturday. Mixed-media art by Cyndi McGrail and Becky Keene.

Eye Galleries (521 Gallatin Road, Suite Five 228-1711) Through Saturday. New art by Leroy and Dr. Barbara Hodges and LaRhonda Angelisa.

Framo (722 Melrose Ave. 456-8580) Ongoing show by appointment. Work by local artists Hunter Brice, Amy Huston and others.

Frist Center for the Visual Arts (919 Broadway 244-3340) Through Aug. 28. *Renaissance to Rococo*, masterpieces from the Wadsworth Museum.

Through Aug. 28. *Twilight*, Photographic tableaux of suburban American life by Gregory Crewdson.

Through Sept. 25. *Fragile Species*, new work by 20 Nashville artists.

Through Apr. 30. *The Splendid Palette*, masterpieces by French painters such as Monet, van Gogh and others.

Gallery One (5133 Harding Road Suite 1A 352-3006) Through Oct. 1. New work by Kentucky abstract artist Patrick Adams.

Reception 6 p.m. Saturday.

Ruby Green Center (514 Fifth Ave. S. 244-7179) Through Sept. 24. Art by Michael Baggarly, Thomas Thayer and Andrew Kaufman.

Green Hills Library (3701 Benham Ave. 862-5863) Through Aug. 31. Batik, clay, oil and watercolors by Susan Hudgens.

Hanging Around (113 17th Ave. S., 254-4850) Through Sept. 5. Work by W.J. Cunningham.

In the Gallery (624-A Jefferson St. 255-0705) Through Saturday. Mixed media by Samuel Dunson and others.

Jackson's (1800 21st Ave. S. 385-9968) Through Sept. 5. Art by Brenan Sharp.

LeQuire Gallery (4304 Charlotte Ave. 298-4611) Through Sept. 10. Sculpture and paintings by "Musica" and "Athena" creator Alan LeQuire.

The Mad Platter (239 Sixth Ave. N. 242-2563) Through Aug. 27. Colorful contemporary oil paintings by Anne Smaldone.

Madison Art Center (403 Gallatin Road. S. 868-8000) Through Saturday. Local landscapes by Phil Ponder.

Main Library (615 Church St. 862-5753) Through Sept. 2. *Nashville Neighbors*, a collection of photographs of Music City from 1895-1959.

Through Sept. 22. Color photographs of Nashville by Metro photographer Gary Layda.

Metro Archives (3801 Green Hills Village Drive Info: 862-5800) Through Sept. 30. Baseball photographs and memorabilia from Nashville's past.

The Parthenon Museum Centennial Park, 2500 West End 862-8431) Through Sept. 10. Photographs by William Wegman.

Through Sept. 25. Furniture art by Zev Goering.

Renaissance Center (855 Highway 46, Dickson 740-5533) Through Sept. 14. Photographs of water and plant life by Nashville photographer Michael Moryc.

Striped Door Gallery (522B Third Ave. S. 252-6655) Through Sept. 1. New art by Isabel Koopman and Ellen Pollack.

Tennessee Arts Commission (401 Charlotte Ave. 532-9798) Through Aug. 30. *A Sense of Place*, sculpture by Johan Hagaman and Virginia McKinney.

Zeitgeist (1819 21st Ave. S. 256-4805) Through Sept. 3. *Eponymous*, work by 10 Southern artists.

Through Sept. 30. Floral photographs by Trent Boysen. Reception 3 p.m. Saturday.

Theater

Aladdin 10 a.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 28, Bellevue Center, 7620 Highway 70 S. Tickets: 673-8225. Children \$6, adults \$3.

Arsenic and Old Lace 7 p.m. Friday-Aug. 28, Community Players Theatre, 3220 Bell Road. Tickets: 586-9378. Adults \$8, children \$5.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying Musical farce of corporate life, 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 27., Boiler Room Theatre, 230 Franklin Road, Franklin 794-7744. \$19



Book events

Thursday

Howard Klausner signs *Rocketman*, his biography of astronaut Pete Conrad, 6 p.m., Davis-Kidd, 4007 Hillsboro Road 385-2645.

Friday

Telia Galloway signs *The Inheritance*, a novel about a young Civil War-era abolitionist who inherits a plantation complete with slaves, 6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 1701 Mallory Lane, Brentwood 377-9979.

Sunday

Janice Thompson discusses *Separate the Sheep from the Goats*, her guide to Christian financial planning, 2 p.m., Bordeaux Branch Library, 4000 Clarksville Highway 862-5856.



These sculptures of Tina Turner by the late Vannoy Streeter, along with a trove of vintage art, will be for sale at the Arts Company's Vintage Show and Avant Garage Sale on Saturday.

Middle Passage Stories and music celebrating the black American experience, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Renaissance Center, 855 Highway 46, Dickson. Info: 740-5551. \$27

Miss Saigon Drama set in the Vietnam War era, 7 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Roxy Theatre, 100 Franklin St., Clarksville (931) 645-7699. \$15

Nashville Shakespeare Festival Some of Music City's finest actors perform the tragicomedy *The Winter's Tale* plain air, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays through Sept. 4, Centennial Park band shell, 2500 West End. Info: 255-2273, www.nashvilleshakes.org. Free

Auditions and workshops

Business of acting workshop Actor Alan Dysert teaches the tricks of the trade, 3-6 p.m. Saturday, The Actor's School, 100 Oaks Tower, 719 Thompson Lane, Suites 242 A-B, 385-5181.

www.moviecareers.net. \$35

Commercial acting workshop Dysert leads a program on breaking into commercials, 4-7 p.m. Sunday and Sept. 4, The Actor's School, 100 Oaks Tower, 719 Thompson Lane, Suites 242 A-B, 385-5181, www.moviecareers.net. \$95

Little Shop of Horrors auditions 6-9 p.m. today and Tuesday, Renaissance Center, 855 Highway 46, Dickson. Info: 740-5551.

Macabaret auditions Campy musical revue, 2-6 p.m. Saturday, East End Methodist Church, 1212 Holly St. Info: 319-9661.

Shakespeare Festival volunteering The Festival needs volunteers to hand out programs, sell concessions etc. through Sept. 4. Info: 255-2273, www.nashvilleshakes.org.

By Will Ayers. For inclusion in City 7, visit Event Submissions at www.nashvillecitypaper.com.



Well-read

Movies like *Must Love Dogs* and dating sites like lovemelove-mypets.com focus on the trendy new romance criterion for single pet owners — whether or not Mr. or Ms. Could-Be-Right loves animals. Deborah Wood's delightful *The Dog Lover's Guide to Dating: Using Cold Noses to Find Warm Hearts* is written as a win-win for both single owner and pet, with ways to improve your chances of finding a good person to date — or at least good ways to stimulate your dog while meeting new friends.

Wood, a trainer and award-winning pet columnist for *The Oregonian*, has advice on writing a pet-friendly personal ad, and lists likely spots where dog lovers congregate (selecting the right dog park can mean the difference between being single and slobbered by your St. Bernard and slobbering over some hottie with a lovable furhead of his own). Humorous ice breakers for approaching an attractive owner and pooch stimulate the imagination, and her section on how to make sure Ms. Incredible's dog loves you at first sight is funny yet sound advice for anyone approaching an unknown dog or human.

"A dog trainer is more than a relationship guru," Wood writes. "She's a relationship goddess." And the goddess doesn't stop at getting a sniff and a greeting: she also has tips for turning your dog into Lassie reincarnated by training him to wave at a cute girl or cuing your flirty Corgi to gather the adorable guy standing by himself with "go get gorgeous" (Wood is blessed with ambition as well as a great sense of humor).

Once you score, make sure that Max the Golden and Sophie the Dachshund get along with Wood's ideas for successful human/animal "play dates" and inventive ways to either prolong the moment or cut it short. Parallels between dog breeds and personality types, a quiz for determining pet and person compatibility, a list of animal/owner turn-offs and how to avoid those who should sit and stay far away (a rottweiler named Luger and a male poodle called Precious serve as warnings) round out this enjoyable guide to finding a less furry animal to share your life.

By Deanna Larson
dlarson@nashvillecitypaper.com

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We all scream for ice cream, but there's more to Bobbie's than you can fit in a cone. Try the sweet potato fries — you won't be sorry. **\$**

Bread & Company

4105 Hillsboro Pike • 292-7323; 2525 West End Ave. • 329-1400; 430 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin • 771-6600

Stop by for a loaf of crusty sourdough or rosemary olive oil and take a seat to enjoy a fresh sandwich or salad. **\$**

Bronte

4007 Hillsboro Rd. • 385-0043 • www.daviskidd.com

With a full lunch and dinner menu, this is more than your average bookstore café. Sip hot tea or spoon yourself to the bottom of their chicken pot pie. **\$**

Bruegger's Bagel Bakery

330 Franklin St. • 661-5668; 5311 Harding Pike • 352-1128

If it's bagels, you crave, it's bagels you'll have at Bruegger's, with patio seating to boot. But other options abound, such as soups, salads and square breads for sandwiches, including the herby Asiago-Parmesan. **\$**

City Limits Bakery & Café

361 Clifton Dr., Bellevue • 646-0062

Sandwiches, soups, and vegetarian dishes dot the menu of this blink-if-you-miss-it Bellevue establishment. **\$**

The Melting Pot

166 Second Ave. N. • 742-4970 • www.themeltingpot.com

The Melting Pot offers four different varieties of cheese and chocolate fondue, plus a multitude of main course options to dip and savor. **\$\$\$\$**

Mike's Ice Cream Fountain

208 Broadway • 742-MIKE

As you may have guessed, Mike's specializes in ice cream, including the 24 flavor Behemoth. Other popular items are the fudge and candy. **\$**

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406 21st Ave. • 320-1500 • www.panerabread.com

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231 Franklin Road, Brentwood • 373-2741

A ladies lunch venue for sure, the sweets are the treat at Puffy Muffin. **\$**

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1911 Broadway • 327-8001

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1805 21st Ave. S. • 385-0050 • www.boscosbeer.com

Located in the heart of Hillsboro Village, Boscos is known for beer but its menu is nothing to sneeze at. Graze the goat cheese empanada. **\$\$**

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2102 Blair Blvd. • 269-5509

Guests can indulge in the famous burgers and fries and revel in the lowbrow atmosphere. **\$**

Corner Pub

4111 Hillsboro Circle • 298-9698

Whether it's for a frothy brew to get the night started or a steamed deli sandwich and a basket of fried pickles after work, the Corner Pub has good grub. **\$**

The Family Wash

2038 Greenwood Ave. • 226-6070 • www.familywash.com

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Gold Rush

2205 Elliston Place • 327-2809 • www.goldrushnashville.com

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Hair of the Dog

1831 12th Ave. S. • 386-3311 • www.hairofthedoglive.com

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McCabe's Pub

4410 Murphy Rd. • 269-9406

You'll think you've died and gone to fried heaven. Heavy, homemade fare packs the menu from front to back. Two more words: Hershey's pie. **\$**

Piranhas

113 Second Ave. N. • 248-4375

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Rippy's Smokin' Bar & Grill

429 Broadway • 244-7477

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1803 21st Ave. S. • 383-3601; 7648 Highway 70 S. • 662-7474

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Two Doors Down Sports Bar and Grille

1524 Demonbreun St. • 780-0020 • www.twodoorsdown.net

Two Doors Down serves hearty fare to go along with its sports bar image. **\$**

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120 Second Ave. N. • 902-8200 • www.wildhorsosaloon.com

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Buffet

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Blue Bar & Rack Room

1911 Broadway • 327-8001

Settle in for some innovative fare that includes lots of seafood and sandwiches with Cajun flavor. **\$**

Mojo Grill/Broadway Brewhouse

1900 Broadway • 321-3363

Mojo Grill specializes in Cajun food, with a few salads, sammys and burgers thrown in for good measure. You can order from the grill or the brewhouse, complete with its wall of draft beer. **\$**

Patrick's

1711 Division St. • 742-3900

It's upscale but affordable — from po' boys to ribeye to etoufee. **\$\$\$**

Chinese

August Moon

4004 Hillsboro Road • 298-9999; 1010 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin 791-4999

Your fortune cookie says: "All the usual Chinese suspects can be found at August Moon." **\$**

China Dragon

2914 W End Ave. Ste. B. • 327-9200; 2286 Lebanon Pike • 883-9966

Chinese food delivered to your door, including combo meals, family style dishes, noodle and rice dishes. **\$**

Chinese Kitchen

2010 Richard Jones Rd. • 298-2929

Buffet style Chinese means never having to say, "More crab rangoon, please." **\$**

P.F. Chang's China Bistro

2525 West End Ave. • 329-8901; 439 Cool Springs Boulevard • 503-9640 • www.pfchangs.com

An American twist on a Chinese theme, where else can you wash down spicy eggplant and ground chicken with a Great Wall of China chocolate cake? **\$\$**

Coffee shops

Bongo Java

2007 Belmont Blvd. • 385-JAVA

More than just coffee: A full menu, handpainted booths and wi-fi access are all features of the home of the nun bun. **\$**

Cafe Coco

210 Louise Ave. • 321-COCO • www.cafecoco.com

This 24-hour coffeehouse caters to all types of diners, including carb-phobics, vegetarians, and chocoholics, and you can hear live music out back. **\$**

Fido

1812 21st Ave. • 777-3436 • www.bongojava.com

Fido serves fresh coffee and breakfast all day, as well as salads, sandwiches and entrees, and daily specials. Bury yourself in a newspaper with a bagel and let the world go by. **\$**

JJ's Market

1912 Broadway • 327-9055

More than food and drink, customers can peruse their selection of international magazines, beer and snacks. **\$**

Dinner theater

Miss Marple's Dinner Theatre

135 Second Ave. N. • 242-8000 • www.missmarples.com

At Miss Marple's, you will eat well as you attempt to solve "something sinister on Second Ave." **\$50 ticket includes dinner and a show**

Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theater

8204 Hwy 100 • 662-5439 • www.dinnertheatre.com

See a show on a full stomach on the outskirts of West Nashville. **\$40 adult ticket includes buffet and show.**

Everything else

12th South Market & Deli

2318 12th Ave. S. • 463-7552

This restaurant and market has a host of freshly-made sandwiches, pastas, desserts and more — perfect for a quick lunch on the go. **\$**

Acorn

114 28th Ave. N. • 320-4399

Perch on the patio or snuggle up inside for a trip around Acorn's eclectic menu. **\$\$\$\$**

Admiral Jim's

4027 LaVergne Couchville Pike • 641-9523

Jim's menu features down-home favorites, and even includes a fried baloney and cheese sandwich. **\$**

B.B. King's Blues Club

152 2nd Ave. N. • 256-2727 • www.bbkingblues.com

B.B. King's specializes in Southern food and blues music; two things that'll make you heavy but happy about it. **\$\$\$**

Bistro Zone5

3821 Green Hills Village Dr. • 385-3636

Feeling French in Green Hills? Oui! **\$\$\$**

Beyond the Edge

112 South 11th St. • 226-3343

The huge menu features an array of soups, salads, sandwiches, wraps, pizzas and desserts. Come for dinner, stay till the wee hours. **\$**

Bronte

4007 Hillsboro Rd. • 385-0043 • www.daviskidd.com

Pile up with a stack of magazines and a sandwich or salad in this cozy upstairs venue. **\$**

Cafe Coco

210 Louise Ave. • 321-COCO • www.cafecoco.com

This 24-hour coffeehouse caters to all types of diners, including carb-phobics, vegetarians, and chocoholics, and you can hear live music out back. **\$**

Calypso Café

424 Elliston Pl. • 321-3878; 700 Thompson Lane • 297-3888; 5101

Harding Pike • 356-1678; 2279 Gallatin Rd. N. • 855-1680 • www.calypsocafe.com

Probably known best for their coconut cornbread muffins, Calypso has made a name for itself as a common ground for meat lovers and veg heads. **\$**

Cheeseburger Charley's

400 21st Ave. S. • 327-0220; Green Hills Village Dr. • 292-8685;

7777 Nolensville Rd. • 332-0502; 2048 Metro Center Blvd. • 244-9247

Build your own burger — black bean, turkey and salmon included — with their fabulous toppings bar. **\$**

Fido

1812 21st Ave. • 777-3436 • www.bongojava.com

Fido serves fresh coffee and breakfast all day, as well as an extensive menu of "gourmet and junk food." **\$**

The Food Company

2211 Bandywood Dr. • 385-4311

Lighter fare with serious flavor. See why they won't give out the recipe for their tomato basil soup. **\$**

Germantown Café

1200 5th Ave. N. • 242-3226

You're in Nashville, you just don't feel like it. Let their crabcakes melt in your mouth and you see Nashville from behind the Capitol. Three words: French onion soup. **\$\$\$**

Gerst Haus

301 Woodland St. • 244-8886

Go to this German restaurant and order a fishbowl of draft beer and a brat, schnitzel or reuben. **\$\$**

Green Hills Grille

2122 Hillsboro Dr. • 383-6444; 1645 Westgate Circle • 661-4682 • www.greenhillsgrille.com

From low-carb to high calorie, this is consistency at its best. Give the smoked chicken enchiladas a roll. **\$\$\$**



Andrew Wagoner directs his parents Allen and Judy, left, in the strange yet endearing *The Talent Given Us*.

FILMclips

★★★★ excellent

★★★ good

★★ fair

★ poor



Michael Pitt plays the troubled rock star Blake in Gus Van Santa's *Last Days*, a film he says is inspired by the chaotic last days of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain.

The Talent Given Us ★★★

The Talent Given Us, currently playing at the Belcourt, is a strange and voyeuristic film by filmmaker Andrew Wagoner. He gathers his parents, his two adult sisters and some friends, shoves them in a van on a road trip from New York to Los Angeles, and has them act out a script that presumably doesn't steer too far from real life.

The result is a film that is at times claustrophobic, funny, boring, touching and a bit sycophantic. Being trapped in the car with the family can be a little much at times, as none of them hold back on anything from their sex lives to bad parenting to infidelity to liposuction.

Still, Wagoner's parents Allan and Judy, both non-professional actors, are

very charming, definitely the stars of the show.

At times, *The Talent Given Us* is like watching someone's home movie, and it basically is, but it's a lot more interesting because this family is much more open and honest than most.

Like any road trip, yeah, you're likely to get tired of your fellow passengers after spending too much time with them, but ultimately the journey proves worthwhile and rewarding, both to the audience and, one suspects, the real life Wagoner family.

—Wil Moss

Last Days ★★★

Gus Van Sant's *Last Days* tackles what's now become the director's

Quote me

"Winds in the east, mist coming in, like somethin' is brewin' and bout to begin. Can't put me finger on what lies in store, but I fear what's to happen all happened before."

If you know the movie this came from, be the first to e-mail us at quoteme@nashvillecitypaper.com and win the dubious honor of having your name published in next week's issue.

LAST WEEK'S QUOTE: "Love, love, you know what love is? Love is an illusion created by lawyer types like yourself to perpetuate another illusion called marriage to create the reality of divorce and then the illusionary need for divorce lawyers."

ANSWER: *St. Elmo's Fire*

WINNER: Katie Allen

WRONGEST ANSWER SUBMITTED: *War of the Roses*

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12 Top independent publishing firm celebrates its 15th year

About 15 years ago Roger Murrah was a highly successful songwriter whose compositions had been turned into big hits by such acts as Alabama, Tanya Tucker and the Oak Ridge Boys. But he had always wanted to operate his own business, and he decided the time was right to launch that venture. Today Murrah Music is a multi-million dollar corporation that ranks among the city's most profitable independent publishing operations.

From within the busy shuffle of songwriting, publishing and country music, Murrah offered his thoughts on the Country Music Association and its board, on which he once served.

"There's been a lot of controversy in the news lately regarding the decision of the Country Music Association to have the 2005 awards show in New York," Murrah said. "I personally believe that the Country Music Association has always been one of the most forward-thinking and progressive organizations around, and I think that their decision was a great one. The things that they've done for country music, including the new contract with ABC for the awards show, are, in my view, phenomenal. I think we're headed for a long-term boom period in country music that is unequalled in my time within the music, and I've been through at least three of them."

Q: Why did you decide to start your own business?

M: I went outside one day at the last music firm where I'd been working and took a look up and down Music Row. I didn't see anything that really appealed to me. Having my own business had always been a dream, and it seemed like the time was right at this point, so I made the move.

Q: What is the greatest challenge that you face daily from a business standpoint?

M: Our business is an asset-building entity, but from a cash flow standpoint you are usually running six months to a year behind in terms of what you are actually earning. So the toughest thing that you have to do is balance the cash flow and overhead.



Q: How does the process work in terms of getting a song to a performer?

M: We actually do that in different ways. Once we have a finished song and are interested in getting it to a particular artist, sometimes we get it directly to the artist in any way that we can, even if it involves going to his bus driver or publicist or whomever. Other times we'll go to the label and then they'll take that song directly to the publisher.

Q: Are you still directly involved in the day-to-day business of songwriting?

M: I still do some of the writing, but a lot of my time is now spent in the editing, monitoring and teaching end of the business. We have staff writers who write songs, and we then get those songs recorded. The writers are paid from the writers' share and we keep the publisher's share. Then there are writers who get to the point where

they earn co-publishing status, and we're in partnership with them on the publishing end. I still hear about 98 percent of everything that's produced here before it goes out.

Q: What are the important attributes for a successful songwriter?

M: We look for someone who can express emotion, a songwriter with a good work ethic. For me, a song really has to have a soul. There are a lot of writers who can write lines that are clean and good, but for a song to really connect with the public, that takes something special.

Q: What tips do you give either aspiring songwriters or songwriters?

M: Write from the heart is the most important thing. There are more than enough contrived songs out there. Be honest in your writing; honesty is the most important thing in a song. I always tell them that we can clean

things up once they have the song in rough form, but the basic qualities must be there at the start.

Q: Do you believe the contention that songwriting is a form of poetry?

M: In my view, the only similarity between the two is that they both rhyme. One thing that we don't do here is take blind lyrics, because you often end up approaching it like it is poetry. The two are completely different entities.

Q: What initially interested you in songwriting as a profession?

M: My father once traded a pickup truck for an old piano. I would sit in a room at home, mouth words and just sing from the heart. It was a great release for me. It was a way of dealing with pent up emotions and expressing things about whatever was happening in my life. Even today, I don't know very many things that move me anymore than a great song.

Q: What are favorites among the songs you've personally written?

M: "Ozark Mountain Jubilee" (Oak Ridge Boys), "Where Corn Don't Grow" (Travis Tritt/Waylon Jennings), "High Cotton" (Alabama)

Q: How about songs from Murrah Music?

M: "I'm In A Hurry (And Don't Know Why)" (Alabama), "Only Love" (Wynonna), "Two Sparrows In A Hurricane" (Tanya Tucker).

Q: What trends do you like or dislike about what's happening today in country music?

M: The main thing that I don't like is anything that takes country music too far over into the pop-rock area. There are a number of great young writers around now whose songs are reaching a broader audience, and they've gotten a lot of young and college-age people interested in the music. But writers also have to remain flexible, because this business goes in cycles. Anytime you get locked into one particular thing or style, then you risk immediately becoming obsolete if a trend changes.

By Ron Wynn

rwynn@nashvillecitypaper.com



Blake (Michael Pitt), a major star and personality whose emotional turmoil and decline has been ignored by everyone around him, continues his steady decline in *Last Days*.

Van Sant twists tale of 'Last Days'

His favorite subject: impending death. This time he uses the troubled last portion of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain as the inspiration for his rambling, moody and often troubling work about a deeply disturbed musician named Blake. He's retreated to an isolated home in the woods, and clearly has lost all hope and desire for life. When first shown, Blake is wandering through trees, swimming in the nude and looking dazed and uncertain. He finally returns to his home, which looks like a mansion from the outside and a pig sty on the inside. As various people drift in and out of the haze, among them a private detective, management and record label types and supposed friends, Blake continues his descent into oblivion. While various people residing in the home keep asking him questions about everything

from heaters to getting a loan, Blake remains adrift. Finally, following one last attempt at creativity and a visit to an underground rock club, Blake decides it's time to set things straight. The film has both appealing and tiring segments, and Michael Pitt's portrayal doesn't make Blake either a sympathetic or pathetic figure, just a deeply confused and desperate one. Rather than filling in the biographical detail or taking the audience through a lengthy, unfolding drama, Van Sant condenses a lifetime into a handful of hours. Others with key roles include Lukas Haas, Asia Argento, Scott Green, Nicole Vicius, and Ricky Jay. At the end, there are far numerous unresolved questions and issues, something that makes this both a stimulating and puzzling exercise.

—Ron Wynn

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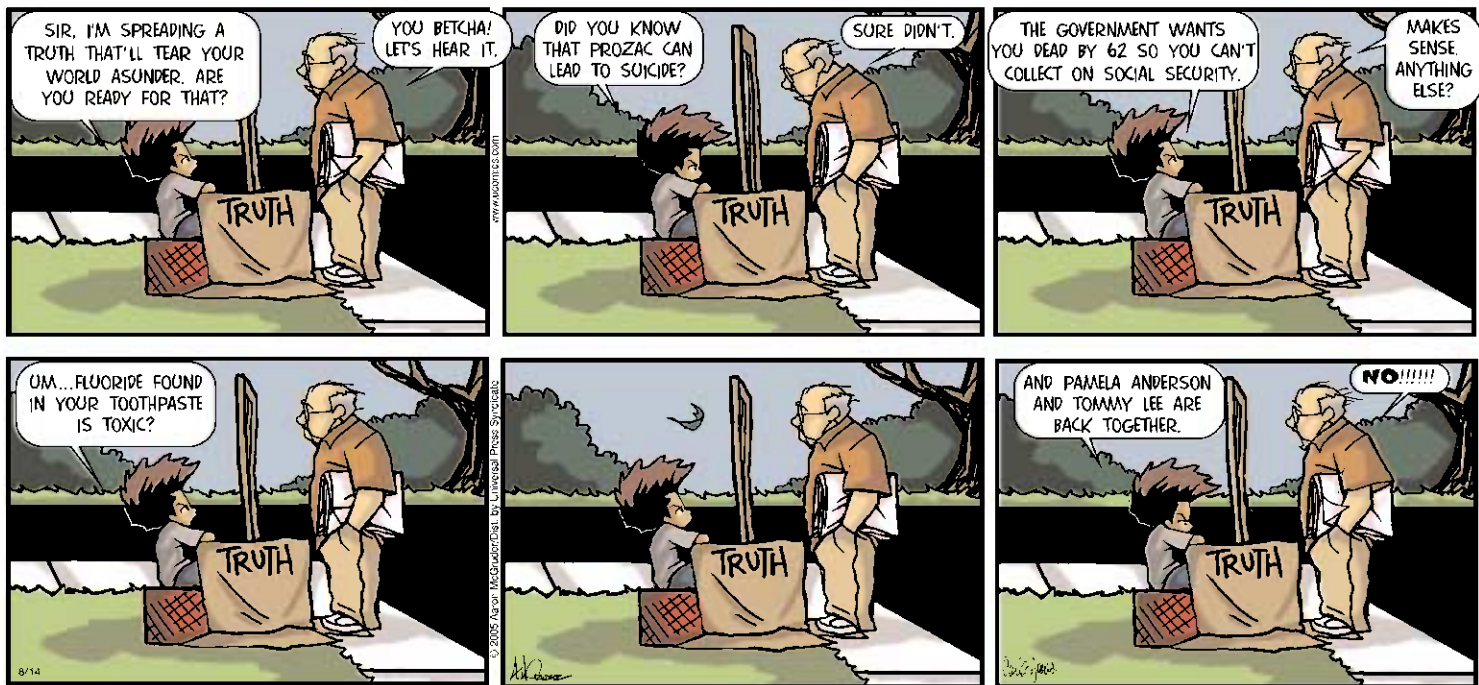
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THE BOONDOCKS

BY AARON McGRUDER



No time for a book? Try comics

It's Vacation Week here on the *North Side of the Tree*, aka Phone-It-In Week, so here, to slake your budding interest in comics and graphic novels, are ten excellent, no-strings-attached prime examples of the medium that you should be able to find no problem at your local comic store or book store.



Batman: The Dark Knight Returns

Sin City creator Frank Miller has never been better than on his story here of a retired Bruce Wayne who dons the cape and cowl one last time to set things right.



Bone: One Volume Edition

A terrific fantasy story fit for kids and adults alike, *Bone* comes in several different formats (including the current color serialization), but you might as well take Jeff Smith's story of three cousins lost in a strange land all in one big gulp.

The Fixer

Joe Sacco doesn't like the term

North Side of the Tree



"graphic novel" because that implies his work is fiction, which is not the case. Sacco is a war correspondent who happens to file his reports in comic book format. Here he spotlights a "fixer," a Sarajevo local who helps journalists cover the Bosnian war.



From Hell

From Hell is a gripping and methodical retelling of the legend of Jack the Ripper. Forget the lame Johnny Depp movie; here comics' best writer, Alan Moore, teaches you the secret history of London in this, his best work.



100%

100% is gifted artist Paul Pope's romance set 15 years in the future where New York is still pretty much New York, but connecting

with people is just as challenging.



Preacher Vol. 2: Until the End of the World

Preacher is the great American novel told through the sensibilities of Flannery O'Connor. This volume packs the series' most punch, telling the tale of how protagonist Jesse Custer grew up before deciding to go hunt down God.



Scene of the Crime

With *Scene of the Crime*, Ed Brubaker and Michael Lark craft a subtle and compelling crime story about an aiming-for-redemption P.I. This ain't no dime novel; Brubaker and Lark use real people with real emotions to tell their tale of woe and gumshoes.



Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life

Scott Pilgrim is an aimless twentysomething who finds himself dating two girls, one a 17-year-old, another a girl with seven evil ex-

boyfriends Scott must defeat in battle, in Bryan Lee O'Malley's excellent and hilarious video game/comics tale.



Why I Hate Saturn

A lot of people have crazy sisters. But Anne's sister thinks she's the Queen of the Leather-Astro Girls of Saturn. Beat that. Master cartoonist Kyle Baker packs in more wit here than a *Seinfeld* box set.



Y: The Last Man Vol. 1: Unmanned

Writer Brian K. Vaughan took a clichéd premise — what if all the men in the world died except one? — threw in a monkey, some pop culture-laden scripts, actually interesting ideas on gender, and boom, produced one of comics' most enthralling reads. See it begin here.

To find a comic store near you, call 1-888-COMIC-BOOK or visit www.csls.diamondcomics.com.

By Wil Moss

wmoss@nashvillecitypaper.com

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Where's a 'Fletch' doll when you need one?

Few things are more irritating than people who quote movies in lieu of forming their own sentences. Even fewer things trump people who quote that touchstone of today's disaffected youth, *Napoleon Dynamite*. Case in point:

"Hey, what are you up to these days?" you say to an acquaintance you haven't seen in a while.

"Whatever I feel like I wanna do, gosh!"

You're supposed to find this clever. You try to steer the topic elsewhere. "Yeah, well I just got a new wok. I think I'll make some pad thai this weekend."

"Sweet!"

And so on.

For the miserable few who know no such joy, there is now the official *Napoleon Dynamite* talking doll, which spouts 18 gnomic sayings of the movie's eponymous main character. Yes, for \$15 plus shipping, handling and three-eighths of your sanity, you can press a button and hear such comic gems as "I caught you a delicious bass" and "Tina, you fat lard, come get some dinner!"

You can buy the accursed thing at www.funtalking.com.
