

**FREE**  
LIKE SPEECH

Live music, P.8 | Events, P.15 | Movies, P.12  
Issue 2, Vol. 1 • March 14, 2013

**WEEKLY**  
EVERY THURSDAY



# F5

*work like a farmer  
party like a rock star*

## >Ruckus to the roots

The Giving Tree Band plays some of that good ol' time country music — and means it. p.5

## >Café Élite

Establishing the café Americano as the barista baseline may just get us into hot water. p.9

## >Oz the Good and Pretty

Oz the Great and Powerful is a fun watch despite a few internal inconsistencies (and Franco). p.11

## >BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Canadian Army won't put down its guns just because it forgot to bring the ammo. p.4

## >Wonderland adventure

The now-gone Ackerman Island park was killed by blue laws and changing flood plans. p.17

# F5

# View: OTHER PERSPECTIVES

## Thanks for the great launch party

by Mike Marlett  
mmarlett@f5paper.com

**D**aylight saving time is a waste of time. I say this every year, and every year I mean it. But this year, I really, really mean it. This year I capped off a week of getting up at 7 a.m. and working until 3 a.m. with a great big party with hundreds of people, only to finally get to the one night where I could really sleep and — bam! — short sheeted. Curse you, outdated World War I energy conservation efforts!

However, if you happened to be one of the hundreds of people who came out to see Truckstop Honeymoon at our opening night party on Friday, March 8, I put on my best game face for you and did my best to party like a rock star.

I came up with the phrase “work like a farmer, party like a rock star” 10 years ago when I was preparing to start F5 the first time. I went to Sunday lunch

### > GET HEARD

Send letters addressed “To the Editor”

Email  
letters@f5paper.com

Mail  
F5 Paper Inc  
PO Box 49406  
Wichita, KS 67201



PHOTO BY ZE BERNARDINELLO

**FOR US?:** Hundreds of people packed the Fisch Haus on Friday, March 8, for the F5 launch party featuring Truckstop Honeymoon.

with my parents and grandparents like I always did — and do still — but that one Sunday I was hung over. It wasn't the worst hang over I've ever had, but it was uncomfortable.

My dad asked me, “Son, how are you going to put out a newspaper if you keep going out all the time?”

Without pause or reflection, I said, “Well, Dad, I guess I'll just have to work like farmer and party like a rock star.” And I knew I'd said something that was gold, so I wrote it down on a napkin.

I probably told that story a half dozen times last Friday night. There were so many people to talk to that I was surprised I didn't lose my voice. The other thing that I said a lot that night — even on stage in front of the whole crowd — was that I could not imagine 10 years ago having a launch party and having that many people who gave a damn. If we'd done a launch party the first time, it would have been maybe six guys in the

see “Launch” page 10

## State legislature is punching Kansas teachers in the face

by Jean Schodorf  
ourkansasoic.com

**A** new bill in the Kansas legislature is specifically aimed at teachers and the teachers' union. In the bill — HB 2027 — the list of mandatory negotiable items would be decreased from 30 to five.

The purpose of the bill — written largely by Kansas Association of School Boards and the Kansas School Superintendents Association — is to give local boards and administrators more flexibility in administering the school system.

Teacher evaluations, discipline, dress and reduction in force would not be negotiated. Five areas that would remain are compensation, amount of time worked and other permissively negotiated items. The bill also gives authority to the school board to provide additional compensation based on teacher performance or shortage areas.

The teachers' union KNEA is vehemently opposed to this bill — and for good reason. Having served for 12 years

on the Wichita School Board and 11 years as a speech pathologist in the Wichita School District, I find this bill to be very sad because it is pitting friend against friend, and it is targeting teachers. While school boards, superintendents and teachers each have specific and different roles in achieving the mission of school districts, i.e. educating our children, they also have worked together for many years for the same reason. They all want the best educational system for the children of Kansas.

In a few short weeks when more budget cuts are being discussed, the school board and superintendents associations will want the help of the teachers union to fight the cuts. However, presently, they are barely speaking to each other.

Last year, the governor proposed a bill that would make the process used for teacher evaluations to become non-negotiable. I opposed taking it out of negotiations because I believe that teachers should have a voice in their

see “Teachers” page 6

## Letters:

### WELL THAT'S A START

I am so glad to see you back in business and doing what you do BEST! Seeing F5 at Theatrical Services really took me back to the good ol' days! Good luck! ... and I'll be reading and advertising! — **Michael Kasselmann, Wichita**

### FROM FACEBOOK

Just did the crossword. “Last week's answer” from 2007. That's hilarious! — **Tim Rogers, Wichita**

Shocked, surprised and so happy to see the return of F5! I hope Mike continues to write excellent commentary that I enjoyed in the past. — **Paul Sherman, Wichita**

Work like a farmer, party like a rock star, read like an F5er. — **Bob Hamrick, Wichita**

I was honored to have an article written about me in the last F5. Maybe this run my artwork will make the cover. Glad to hear it is coming back. Good show Mike! — **Chris Frank, Wichita**

If I still lived in Wichita, I'd take my old delivery route back! Congrats on this rebirth — Wichita deserves it! — **Jennifer Unruh, Ausitn**

### ABOUT THE COVER



PHOTO BY RYAN HENDRIX

The Giving Tree Band's Eric Fink would like you to know that things are just getting started.

**THIS IS MY RIFLE:**  
Yes, Elizabeth Stevenson, artist and architect, was a trained sniper in an elite corps of the Canadian military. This is not Photoshop.



## BANG! and other secrets of the Canadian Army

**You don't need a bunch of fancy ammunition to make a mean fighting force.**

by Elizabeth Stevenson  
estevenson@f5paper.com

The Canadian Army is a reasonably well-dressed, well-fed, well-housed, and — for the most part — a well-equipped fighting force. We did, however, find ourselves occasionally rather short on ammunition when sent out to play. War games are an always popular way to while away a few hours in any infantry unit, and the Queen's Own Foot Soldiers, the elite Grenadier Guard, were no different. We learned to dig holes ("trenches" — WWII was a long time ago, but I guess some things never go out of style), guard said trenches (if you've ever wanted to whisper, "Who goes there?" in the middle of the night, then this is the game for you), and, if provoked, storm the other team's trenches; a somewhat random activity that entailed much running amok and shooting of blanks.

Before setting off into the field, we would usually each be issued a few magazines of these blanks. But one

day the battalion was neglected by our Ordnance Corps, and each soldier was only given 30 rounds or so. Should you have been obliged to fire an automatic rifle at any point in your life, you'll know that 30 rounds will last you about 1.8 seconds, or less, if you've got an itchy trigger finger. To remedy this HQ oversight, our always resourceful leaders convened in a quickie field summit and emerged minutes later with their orders: the expression of a verbal offensive in the assault vector, thereby rendering targets instantly deceased, as though they had actually been shot by real blanks.

We were told to shout, "BANG!"

This seemed like a good, and economical solution to our ammo shortage, or at least until the barrage began.

Crashing through the underbrush, I could hear my fellow soldiers attacking on both flanks, firing tentatively at first ("uh ... bang?"), then more and more gleefully, as the 10-year-old cowboy and/or indian resurfaced. "BANG!" soon echoed throughout the woods, or, alternately, "BANGBANGBANG" if weapons had been set on automatic mode.

I took aim at a particularly obvious opponent, who had carelessly positioned himself in front of a sun-bleached rock wall, evidently having forgotten he was in full fighting order: resplendent

see "BANG" page 4

# Social Security is a Ponzi scheme that works well

**Paying into the system may piss off young whippersnappers, but you aren't the only one who paid in.**

by Bill Jenkins  
bjenkins@f5paper.com

I know you. You are under 40 and work hard to make ends meet. It's hard to put anything aside for the future. You have been paying into Social Security since the fast food job when you were in high school. You will keep paying into it because you have little choice. Still, you are under no illusion that you will get anything out of it. You are sure that it will be gone when you reach retirement age. That pisses you off.

A few years ago, President Bush the Younger (not that you liked him much) got your interest by proposing that younger workers should be able to take part or all of their Social Security and invest it however they wanted to. That sounded like a plan. Maybe you could build up a nest egg after all.



**BILL JENKINS**

It sounded good. Really good, though you don't know a whole lot about investing. The problem is that it won't help you — and it will really hurt me. Let me explain.

Social Security is, in some ways, like a Ponzi scheme. Money coming in is paid right out to old farts like me. We geezers will draw more money out of the system than we put in. That pisses you off, too.


I started paying into Social Security when I was 14. I had a summer job shoveling bricks into a dumpster at a construction site. I got a buck an hour. A little was taken out. It didn't add up very fast. After college, I got a teaching job for \$5,700 a year. Still not a great amount taken out.

What you have to take into consideration is that these were 1950s and 1960s dollars. The minimum wage was \$1 per hour. Of course, that dollar would buy four gallons of gas or four loaves of bread.


The \$5,700 I got in 1967 was exactly the price I paid for a new MGB GT. Those were some powerful dollars.

Over the years, the value of the dollar has fallen. The dollars I get from Social Security won't even buy a loaf of bread and it takes 3-1/2 of them to buy a gallon of gas. So yeah, I'm getting a check from Social Security, but it doesn't buy much more than the dollars I paid in.

If you are able to stop paying into the SS fund in order to invest in the market or some other investment scheme, my checks will stop. I'll be up that well known creek. It's not fair to me after 50-plus years of paying in. And what's more, it won't help you either. I'll try to explain that next week.



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**"BANG" from page 3**

in gaudy forest camouflage complete with shrubby-sprouting helmet. When he was clearly in my sights, I hollered "BANG!" as authoritatively as I could muster with my own foliage coiffure tickling my nose. There was a pause, and I peered through the underbrush, watching him as he looked frantically up and down and to each side, apparently surprised to have been picked off so easily. Instinctively, he lifted each arm and inspected his midsection, appeared to contemplate his narrow escape for a moment, and then shouted in the wrong direction, "You missed!"

I certainly had not — being trained as a sniper, I was a crack shot — so I belatedly responded, "No way! I got you!"

Insultingly underestimating my skill, he responded, "Negative! You missed!" "I hit you right in the chest!"

"Bullshit!"

"OK, BANG AGAIN!"

"You missed again!"

"BLOW ME!" This digression did nothing for my cover, and I soon heard, from about 50 meters to my left, "BANG!"

Whirling around, I beheld Private DePommier's head poking above a fallen tree trunk, weapon pointed straight at my own chest.

"BANG Stevenson! I got you!" he called.

"You missed!" I screamed back, terribly frustrated. If my man wasn't going down, there was no way I was going to be left out of all the fun.

"BANG! I at least got your arm!"

DePommier shouted again, now joined by the unmistakable jaunty cap and pie plate-sized ears of my sadistic Master Corporal, some little acne-scarred punk kid who used to work at a gas station in Southwestern Ontario but is all grown up now and ready to kill some ... Germans? Arabs? Women? It seemed that Master Corporal McLean had decided, upon our introduction, that he wasn't a fan of the Army's affirmative action program, especially when one of the affirmative acts was in his section. Our relationship had not yet managed to develop past that point.

Waving both arms at DePommier, to prove that I was, in truth, the picture of good health, I yelled, "Nope — you missed — see?"

"Dude, you know I got you," he shouted back. I was just maneuvering myself to display an unharmed middle finger, when Master Corporal McLean joined our exchange, roaring, "GET DOWN STEVENSON, RIGHT NOW, AND CUT THE BULLSHIT!"

"Damn," I muttered, and slumped to the ground; gratified at least to be able to put my edifying semester of high school drama class to good use, I clutched at my throat and convulsed violently, waiting until I had drawn my last, shuddering breath to take the position. (Canadian Army Field Exercises Rule #472(b): a soldier will indicate death in combat by reclining on the ground with legs and arms extended upwards.)



COURTESY PHOTO

**LIKE TOY SOLDIERS, BUT NOT: Elizabeth in her full dress uniform as part of the elite infantry regiment, the Grenadier Guard.**

I heard DePommier gloating — "Now you can blow ME!" — and scramble away. I didn't move until I was sure Master Corporal McLean had decamped as well, and then glanced around, to confirm that my "buddy" (every infantry recruit is assigned a partner, called a buddy, who must stick with him or her through thick and thin, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer. This is an arranged marriage that is literally only dissolvable by death), Private Freddo, and I were completely alone. I certainly did not intend on wasting the rest of the beautiful afternoon lying on my back in the mud. Lumbering up like an overloaded camel, I kneeled to hike my pack higher onto my back, leaned on my rifle and staggered to my feet. Freddo looked scandalized, but I suggested that, due to the fact that you only live once (or, in my case, twice or three times), it was our duty, to Queen and Country, to rejoin the

fray and fight on to victory.

Racing ahead, I spied another ill-concealed foe, Private Oiseau, and yelled "BANG on you Private Oiseau!" as loudly as I could. As expected, a distant voice warbled back through the trees, "You missed!"; but, in anticipation of this event, I had already formulated a response.

"OK, then, BANG right through the forehead, sniper style!"

"SHIT! OK, fine," Oiseau retorted petulantly, and I saw his helmet descend behind a rock and his hands and feet emerge in its place. Finally satisfied, I only had a second to revel in my triumph, before the dulcet tones of Master Corporal McLean came bawling from across the field, "IS THAT YOU STEVENSON?"

"Um ... No?" I tried.

"YOU'VE BEEN DEAD FOR TEN MINUTES! GET DOWN RIGHT NOW, AND STAY DOWN! JESUS CHRIST!"

"OK, OK," I grumbled, and resumed my death rattle. Freddo self-righteously whispered, "I told you so!"

"Fuck off — bang yourself," I hissed back, accidentally responsible for the first friendly fire casualty of the day.

This also inadvertently introduced a new, and very handy, universal remote

control. If someone was bothering you, all you had to do was kill them. Should a dining companion be reaching for the last piece of pizza in the mess hall while you were still hungry, you could say, "BANG! That slice is mine," and the slice would be surrendered.

Likewise, two people rushing for the only clean bathroom stall could engage in a brief small arms aggression, shouting "BANG!" back and forth at each other until superiority was established.

This unorthodox method of dispute mediation eventually became so automatic that I ran into some minor difficulties upon my discharge.

I found myself dispatching schoolmates and other civilians left and right. "BANG! That's my coffee," or "BANG! How dare you imply my proposed infrastructure is too derivative of Le Corbusier?!" Usually, an explanation was required.

Being that I have always upheld a staunch belief in pacifism and spoken openly about my resentment of being ordered around by men, this often turned into an extended narrative: tune in again to find out how and why a peace-loving, conflict-averse architecture student came to join the Canadian Army.

**"JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP AND DIE ALREADY, STEVENSON!"**

— Master Corporal McLean



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**On its way south for SXSW, TGTB puts on a good show.**



PHOTOS BY RYAN HENDRIX

## The Giving Tree Band puts the sex in septet

by Jedd Beaudoin  
[jbeaudoin@f5paper.com](mailto:jbeaudoin@f5paper.com)

**T**he Giving Tree Band. Forget the beards, the weird hats and the acoustic instruments — this ain't no gentle music. Hailing from Yorkville, Illinois — close to the Windy City, closer to the sticks — the seven-piece unit prides itself in performing music that's a little bit removed from today, harkening back to the green, green grass upon which Crosby, Stills and Nash, Neil Young, and The Band first planted themselves upon.

And, yes, I know: There are a whole lotta bands right now that fancy themselves hayseeds, think they're making music for the people by the people and living in a house and pretending it's Big Pink. But, hey, what can that hurt? And, hey, The Giving Tree Band does what it does better than a whole lotta dudes who wouldn't know Garth Hudson if he bit them in the ass.

When the band took to the John Barleycorn's stage last Friday night at the early, early hour of 10:30 it was impossible not to be knocked about

by the unit's full force — banjo, steel guitar, keyboards, drums, bass, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, plus both mandolin and fiddle tucked away for safe keeping.

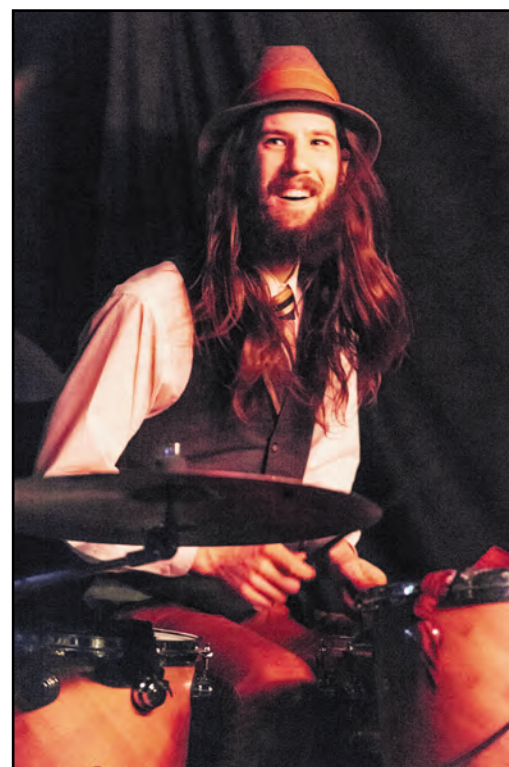
And then? The singing. Oh, the singing. Within a few measures you might begin to think, "Damn, I bet these guys skipped right by Ryan Adams and went straight to Amazing Rhythm Aces and Pure Prairie League. I bet they might even own a few Nitty Gritty Dirty Band albums."

But tracing the band's sonic lineage really isn't the point. It doesn't matter whether the fellas have listened to Memphis Minnie or Alabama Shakes, those Louvin Brothers or Mumford and Sons.

What it comes down to, at the end of the night, when the tables have cleared, the bottles been thrown out, after you've forked over your hard-earned pelf, your dollars, your bob, your quid, is this: Did it make the time pass and your worries fall away? Did you want to let down your ass and shake your hair? The answer, in this

see "Giving Tree" page 7

**THE UNIT'S FULL FORCE:** The Giving Tree Band's musical lineage isn't as important as the fact that they can make a joyous wall of country sound.



**YOU CAN NEVER JUDGE A DRUMMER BY THE SMILE ON HIS FACE:** Drummer Z was subtle and solid and occasionally unleashed a mighty fury of fills and flourish.



★☆☆☆☆

## What About Now

**Bon Jovi**

Island, 2013

by Jedd Beaudoin  
jbeaudoin@f5paper.com

Thirty years after first quietly sneaking out of New Jersey Bon Jovi is still at it. Kind of. Listening to the 15 tracks that comprise the deluxe edition of this album you begin to wonder if Jon and the boys weren't abducted by aliens sometime around 1987 — maybe earlier, I'll give you that but at least "Runaway" was a cool single — and sent to another planet where they had their human parts replaced with machines.

This is a record so devoid of anything human — including Jon Jon's voice — that that can be the only logical explanation. There are 15 songs on the deluxe edition of this record and yet I defy you to make it any deeper than four cuts in before you begin looking for a way out. It's not just that the "songs" are interchangeable with each other but that there really aren't songs at all. These are collages generated by a computer, then spat out for Jon — or his robot clone — to put lyrics over.

And take a gander at some of these titles — "That's What The Water Made Me"? What? Wet?!? Dangerous! If you're a machine.

At least Robot Jon gets some credit for something approaching an original title. The others here — "Pictures of You," "Room At The Top of the World," "The Fighter" and "With These Two Hands" — are as cliché ridden as the sounds they're wrapped around.

"What's Left of Me" is an attempt at writing a song through the eyes of a combat vet and also has one more rewrite of "Livin' on a Prayer" tucked away in its interminable verses. As instrumental as machines are in fighting wars these days they just don't understand the human cost of war or poverty. And neither does Jon. Robot or otherwise.

### "Teachers" from page 2

evaluations and work. They should be able to talk through negotiations about what works and what doesn't.

Teachers have gotten one raise in four years. They have been understanding about that because of the economy and are working even harder. More is being asked of teachers. The pressures in the classroom are greater than ever before. And they are doing a great job. Test scores are going up every year. We are closing the achievement gap between low income and middle income students. Instead of thanking our teachers, they



★★☆☆☆

## Old Sock

**Eric Clapton**

Bushbranch, 2013

by Jedd Beaudoin  
jbeaudoin@f5paper.com

If you've followed Clapton for any length of time you've come to expect two things from his records: that there will be filler and that you'll probably mutter something about ol' Slowhand working beneath his potential. *Old Sock* doesn't disappoint in either regard.

Comprised mostly of covers, this record finds Clapton covering some of his favorite songs, include a few that he first encountered in his childhood. There's the Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein 1937 gem "The Folks Who Live On The Hill," Lead Belly's "Goodnight, Irene" and Gary Moore's "Still Got The Blues."

Most of those are fairly unremarkable. Ry Cooder's take on the Lead Belly classic from his *Chicken Skin Music* remains one of the best versions. Moore's song demands a fire and passion that Clapton doesn't seem to have here. It's nice that Paul McCartney turns up for "All Of Me" but you'll probably forget why you were listening by the second chorus.

That's not to say that there aren't some nice moments. "Born To Lose" finds our hero in fine voice on a song that would have made for a nice collaboration between he and old friend George Harrison. His take on Taj Mahal's brilliant "Further On Down The Road," which opens the album, is probably the best thing here. The only two originals — "Gotta Get Over" and "Every Little Thing" — are forgettable, as is the closer, "Our Love Is Here To Stay."

Clapton doesn't sound tired here but he does sound defeated, as though he's ready to give up the fight. And that's too bad. We could use one last great album from him.

are getting punched in the face this bill. They are being told that they are not valued as team players by taking away 25 items to negotiate and talk about at the negotiations table. And I think it is wrong. We should be supporting teachers, not knocking them down and make them feel that they are not valued for the job they are doing.

There are other bills that also are negative for teachers and other employees. The Senate passed the Innovative Schools bill 31-7. This bill would allow 10 percent of school districts to waive all laws required by the state of Kansas if they will try to increase student achievement. This includes collective bargaining

and the possibility of using non-certified teachers.

House Bill 2325 would eliminate longevity bonuses for classified employees. HB 2384 would take away the current civil service system for new hires, transfers, promotions, demotions and the like. The charter school bill, HB 2320 and SB 195, would also waive all the negotiations, wage laws and again using non-certified teachers.

In Senator Julia Lynn's newsletter, she said that these bills were originally introduced to mirror the Wisconsin anti-worker bills.

I want to know why these bills are focusing on the employees in such

negative ways. In education, there probably won't be pay raises again this year because there is no new funding and next year only \$14 will be put on the base. New duties are expected of teachers and other employees almost weekly, but these bills are saying that workers, employees, teachers are not valued. I think it is wrong.



★★★☆☆

## Live In Paris 1975

**Deep Purple**

Eagle Rock, 2013

by Jedd Beaudoin  
jbeaudoin@f5paper.com

True to its title this two-disc set — first issued on Purple Records some years back — captures Deep Purple in all its glory at Paris's Palais des Sports April 17, 1975. It was the very last time that DP founder Ritchie Blackmore shared the boards with the band during the 1970s. Shortly after this night he would scurry off to form Rainbow with the diminutive Ronnie James Dio and members of the metal god's band Elf. Purple would recruit the mercurial Tommy Bolin for one more go around the world, then dissolve for nearly a decade.

Led by David Coverdale, this version of Purple has both its devotees and detractors — Coverdale ain't Ian Gillan but he and bassist/vocalist Glenn Hughes add a soulfulness that previous iterations of the band lacked. Yep, there are some tracks that stretch to epic proportions — a 21-minute reading of "Space Truckin'," a nearly 20-minute version of "You Fool No One" — but there are many concise statements as well ("Burn," "Stormbringer").

Blackmore, simply put, plays his ass off here — he and late keyboardist Jon Lord are in especially fine form on "Lady Double Dealer" and the vast stretches of "Mistreated." With drummer Ian Paice driving the band throughout there's no chance that things could go wrong, right? Coverdale and Hughes have especially fine stage patter as well — Coverdale promises that the evening will stretch from rock to roll and Hughes, well, you'll just have to hear for yourself.

An extensive interview with Hughes, Coverdale and Paice closes out the second disc, a real gift for archival fanatics, but maybe a bit much for the casual listener.

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**"Giving Tree" from page 5**

case is, thankfully — and resoundingly — yes.

For well over two hours these cats locked in and rocked, rolled, sang, shook, strummed, shouted and did just about everything in between to a crowd that grew more enthusiastic as the night wore on. (Them ladies love to dance to this here stuff, sure 'nuff 'n yes they do.) After something like three or four grab-you-by-the-throat cuts, during which the frontline of Eric Fink (guitar/vocals), Todd Fink (banjo), Phil Roach (electric guitar/fiddle) and Woody Woods (all manner of steel and sliding guitar) grabbed the room and shook it like a rabbit in the teeth of a hungry hound, Eric Fink announced that things were just getting started.

Well, damn.

Guitarist Roach also blazed like a house on fire with his Gibson — pulling off licks that called to mind the glory of Chet Atkins while Roach fused country, jazz and rock with his leads, suggesting that if anyone were ever to chop down the Giving Tree he might have a fine career ahead of him as a studio rat.

Whereas some guitarists might find it necessary to wheedle and wail while they solo Roach goes for memorable lines, ones that you can — or most often can — sing, ones that stick with you even after he's chopped your head clean off.

He's also a fine fiddler (with impeccable posture no less), pulling out his bow a little while into the set as if to say, "Oh, yeah, I almost forgot! I also play *this!*"

As rowdy and right as the band could get during its own numbers there were moments of the quiet that were also remarkable — Norm Norman's performance during a particularly gooseflesh-inspiring take on "I'll Shall Be Released" chief among them. That was one impressive nod to tradition throughout the night as was an inspired take on the Faces classic "Ooh La La" (there were a few times when the band called to mind

former Faces man Ronnie Lane's criminally under heard band Slim Chance) and a Dead-worthy trip through "I Know You Rider."

Drummer Z seemed cool and relaxed through most of the set — smiling more than Eddie Van Halen in the "Jump" video no less. You might have begun to think that the dude was just kind of along for the ride, just there to bring an extra ray of sunshine, right? His drumming was subtle and solid enough that he could stop and you probably wouldn't have noticed, right? Except you would have, which he demonstrated more than once as he unleashed a mighty fury of fills and flourish that demonstrated the old adage that you can never judge a drummer by the smile on his face. Actually, there's no adage like that. Just forget you ever read that.

Z and bassist Charlie Karls form a most formidable rhythm section, better than many, and serving as a further testament to the seven-piece's full range of power, all of this demonstrated, with scintillating clarity on the group's new long player *Vacilador*.

Don't know when that Tree will make its way back to our town again but we can hope it's soon and that there are plenty more of us there to shake loose and enjoy its fruit.




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### Thursday, March 14

**Lucrezio, Faux Reality, The Fever Trend and Foxy Cloxx**  
6 p.m. All ages. \$5 @Below the Mainstream, 2142 N. Broadway.

**OTEP, One Eyed Doll, Picture Me Broken and Apparition**  
7 p.m. \$16.50 to \$20. @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

**Robert Thornton Kent**  
7 p.m. All ages. @Artichoke Sandwich Bar, 811 N. Broadway.

**Kentucky's Gentleman, New Event, Old Warhorse**  
8 p.m. Must be 21. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

### Friday, March 15

**Monty Harrison**  
6 p.m. @Piccadilly Market, Grill & Bakery East, 7728 E. Central.

**Here Come the Mummies**  
7 p.m. With The Soul Project. All ages. \$30 @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

**Adam Case**  
8 p.m. All ages. Free. @Public at Brickyard, 129 N. Rock Island.

**Lord, Drummond, and Hake Standard Jazz Trio**  
8 p.m. All ages. Free. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

**L. Wayne's Sojourner Trio**  
8:30 p.m. @Candle Club, 6135 E. 13th.

**Noise Night at Kirby's**  
9 p.m. Flower of Flesh and Blood, Boar, I Like You Go Home, Pusdrainer, JML, Developer, Machismo and special guests. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

**The Old No. 5s**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Speakeasy Lounge, 911 E. Morris.

**Scott Allan Knost**  
9 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

**Scott Allan Knost**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

**Slaughter Daughters, Ricket Pass and Looka Looka**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5 @Lizard's Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

**80 Proof Engine and Cowgirls Train Set**  
9:30 p.m. Bluegrass/folk @Snug Harbor, 845 S. Christine.

**The New Imperialism and Japanese Game Show**  
10 p.m. Must be 21. \$5 @Lucky's Everyday, 1217 E. Douglas.

### Saturday, March 16

**Friday's Waiting, Victims of Spotlight and The Gabriel Project**  
2 p.m. Outside after St. Patrick's Day Parade. Bring lawn chairs and coolers. All ages. Free. @Junk in the Trunk Clothing, 805 W. Maple.

**Raging Sea**  
4 p.m. Free. @Artichoke Sandwich Bar, 811 N. Broadway.

**The Lacey Cruse Band**  
7 p.m. St. Patrick's Day party, green beer, potluck including corned beef and cabbage. Must be 21. Free. @Snug Harbor, 845 S. Christine.

**Stand for Freedom WSU with Carson Mac and Michael Carmody**  
8 p.m. Celebration concert for Stand for Freedom, a Wichita State University organization created to raise awareness of human slavery. Donations will be accepted. All ages. Free. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

**The Old No. 5s**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Speakeasy Lounge, 911 E. Morris.

**Justin France**  
8 p.m. Singer-songwriter @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Biting.

**Band of Oz**  
8:30 p.m. @Candle Club, 6135 E. 13th.

**Art Bentley**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Magoo's Bar & Grill, 2304 S Oliver St.

**Andy D., Furniture Girls and SightSeer**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

**Dialin Watts, Widow's Arm and Odds Against**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5. @Lizard's Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

**Sunshine the Bunny**  
9 p.m. With special guests Those Party Bros. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

**North Platte and Tom Page Trio**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5 @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

**Shyner**  
9:30 p.m. Must be 21. @Champs Bar & Grill, 1106 S. Seneca.

**Bruce Huss**  
10 p.m. @Mike's Wine Dive, 4714 E. Douglas Ave.

**Nick McEwen and The 33 with Scott Allan Knost**  
10 p.m. Must be 21. @Jon's Ale House, 917 E. Douglas.

**Bottom Feeder**  
10 p.m. Must be 21. @RT's Alibi, 1552 S. Broadway.

### Sunday, March 17

**The Substitutes, Pullman Standard, and Nick McEwen & The 33**  
Sunday, March 17 Must be 21. @Port of Wichita Galley & Pub, 1548 S. Webb.

**Knocknasheega Celtic Band**  
1 p.m. @Shamrock Lounge, 1724 W. Douglas.

**Raging Sea**  
2 p.m. Free. @Public at Brickyard, 129 N. Rock Island.

**Father Tom's Acoustic Jam**  
2 p.m. Open jam, everyone welcome. Must be 21. Free. @Snug Harbor, 845 S. Christine.

**URM, Down With Dignity Jazz Combo, Yusif and Rob Marcus**  
4 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

**Sunshine the Bunny**  
6 p.m. With special guests Those Party Bros. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

**Tech N9ne**  
7 p.m. With Brotha Lynch Hung, Krizz Kaliko, Kutt Calhoun, Rittz, Ces Cru and Big Mike Leis. \$25 advanced, \$30 day of show @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

**Ribbons and The Calm**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

**The Sluggos**  
10:30 p.m. Finale to The Shamrock's St. Patrick's Day Party. Must be 21. @Shamrock Lounge, 1724 W. Douglas.

### Monday, March 18

**Gypsy Lumberjacks**  
7 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

**Reggie Littleton Trio**  
8 p.m. All ages. Free. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

**Faux Reality and The Deer Tracks**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5. @Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island.

### Tuesday, March 19

**Sworn In**  
7 p.m. All ages. @Below the Mainstream, 2142 N. Broadway.

**Ghost Town Strays and Nacosta**  
7 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

**Tuesday Night Jazz Series: Kendall Wohaska**  
8 p.m. All ages. Free @Fisch Haus Studios, 524 S. Commerce.

### Wednesday, March 20

**Casey James**  
7 p.m. With special guest Corey Crowder. All ages. \$10. @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

**Joe Stumpe**  
7 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Magoo's Bar & Grill, 2304 S Oliver St.

**Think No Think and Wolvie**  
7 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

### Friday, March 22

**Lacey Cruse**  
8 p.m. All ages. Free. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

**Jenny Wood and The Watchers**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5 @Loft 150, 150 1/2 N. Mosley.

**Pistolas**  
9 p.m. Must be 21. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

**Lady and the Tramps**  
9:30 p.m. Must be 21. Free. @Betty's Runway Lounge, 4000 S. Broadway.

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# Despite the French, Café Americano more than watered down espresso

by Don Winsor  
dwinsor@f5paper.com

Years ago, I asked a thinly-mustached waiter at a small café in France how the “Café Americano” was named. He gave me a condescending smirk as only a native Frenchman is able and said, “I don’t want to say, because I think you are an American.”

“No, no, please tell me. For the moment, assume I’m Canadian.”

“It is called Americano because it is the same amount of coffee only made fat and weak,” he enunciated clearly as his smirk grew. “Like the ... you see?”

The waiter walked away, satisfied with himself. I let him have his victory; his countrymen have had so few in the last century. I know now that the café Americano was actually invented by our troops in World War II in attempt to make the dark shots of European coffee into something more like the cups of Joe back home. Because I wanted to “blend,” I didn’t try an Americano for years after that. That’s a shame. Having been raised in Kansas on Folgers Crystals flowing from my parents’ Mr. Coffee, graduating first to syrupy mochas in the early days of Il Primo Espresso Café and then in time to “actual coffee,” I relied on doppio espressos and the occasional cappuccino while overseas.

Now, we are well into what coffee snobs the coffee elite are calling the third wave of American coffee. The first wave was commodity coffee: basic Folgers-style, often freeze-dried and bought in bulk sitting on supermarket shelves for who knows how long. This is how coffee found its way into most homes: on the counter in a drip machine.

Next, thanks primarily to Starbucks, came the European espresso-based coffees of the second wave. In the wrong hands, second wave coffee devolves into giant cups of warm milk and sickly sweet flavors. This wave led many hipster baristas to spontaneously combust upon hearing soccer moms misuse terms like “macchiato” and “socialism.”

The third wave is a bit more complex. Now we are encouraged to know where our beans come from, when they were roasted, and to grind them ourselves. The giant steampunk contraptions for the pressurization and extraction of espresso are being replaced with the gentle boiling of kettles and sedate Sunday afternoons with the French Press. Or the AeroPress. Or the Chemex. All this is geared at producing the best simple cup of coffee.

It turns out that in many people’s opinions — including my own — the best way to get this best “simple” cup of coffee, the best way to see if a barista knows what they’re doing and the best



**COFFEE SNOBS UNITE:** The third wave of coffee elitism encourages us to know where your beans came from, when they were roasted and the exact temperature and p.s.i. of the steampunk contraption taking up half the kitchen.

way to compare any two coffees is the Americano.

Usually two shots of espresso in a mug, filled to taste with what should be 197° water. Magically, you have something that really isn’t too different, on the face of it, from the coffee in my parent’s percolator circa 1979. (I assume they had a percolator then. I didn’t care about coffee at that age. I just wanted to get through kindergarten and to the premiere of *The Empire Strikes Back*, but I digress.) Making an Americano does for good coffee what a touch of water does for a good single malt whiskey — with just the right mix, you unlock flavors and tones that are overpowered when you drink it on its own.

In 2008, I spent some time hanging around Wichita for the first time in years. I saw the town through fresh eyes. There were so many things that simply hadn’t existed when I was growing up. “Revitalized” neighborhoods, venues, an expanding arts scene and most importantly: coffee. There are at least a dozen independent coffee places in Wichita right now. That’s before you count all the Starbucks, bookstores with coffee and guys selling lattes from unmarked vans outside of elementary schools. There are also plenty of local roasters and purveyors of coffee-making gadgetry around town, so that even the agoraphobic can enjoy quality coffee from behind their closed blinds.

I’m here to give you the lowdown on local coffee culture. I’ll give you some ideas about what’s good and what’s not so good about all these places and their

wares. Also, just to start arguments, I will occasionally declare a “best of” in a certain category — a drink, a venue, a barista, maybe even best chair.

To begin with, in our most basic category we revisit my friend and yours, the Café Americano. In the past few weeks, I have had Americanos at every place in town. While now completely hypertensive, I am comfortable saying that the best Americano in Wichita, consistently, can be found at Mead’s Corner.

I’m a fan of the smooth, velvety Americanos at The Donut Whole and can spend the day swilling the slightly sweeter concoction down at The Vagabond (which uses, it should be noted, the same coffee supplier as Mead’s), but no place in town makes as consistently tasty and well-made an Americano as Mead’s. It’s never over watered and always well-extracted. What you wind up with is a bold without being bitter sort of dark chocolate hit of coffee, comforting and just right to keep you from remembering your own mortality and the inescapable entropy that decays everything around us.

I’d better go find more coffee. I think I’m coming down. Next time I’ll be profiling and reviewing a place in full, and perhaps declaring a best cappuccino with a sub-category of best soy cappuccino (because those are really hard to do well and sometimes wind up tasting like old lo mein.) In the meantime, if you know of a coffee place I may not have heard about, drop me a line here at dwinsor@f5paper.com and I will be sure to add them to the list.



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## Late Night Imbibe

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PHOTO BY ZE BERNARDINELLO



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**LEFT TO RIGHT: Custom F5 donuts from the Donut Whole; Will Darrah sabers a bottle; and Truckstop Honeymoon plays for the crowd.**

**See more photos from our launch party online.**

**"Launch" from page 2**

corner of a florescently lit office building sipping beer.

It was a great night full of faces from the past and honestly a lot of people I've never seen before in my life.

F5 Paper, LLC's secretary and chief financial backer, Will Darrah, hosted the shindig and provided the food, T-shirts and sharp weapons. He surprised the crowd and the band by saberring the top off of a bottle of champaign with a machete.

Wichita artist Andrea Stockdale came by with a pack of woodblock printed, hand-made gift cards for me. The ink was still wet. Andrea created a mixed media work that was used as one of the very first F5 covers back in 2003.

Angela Mallory (co-owner of the Donut Whole with our very own Michael Carmody) insisted on supplementing the catering with some custom F5 donuts — donuts that were gone so fast they might as well have been sucked up by a tornado.

Angela's husband Erik is the great secret link in most of the original F5 staff.

When I started the paper, I didn't know any of the people who would become its writers or editors. But someone knew someone who know someone

who would be a good something for F5. Probably about 75 percent of those came somehow through Erik, whom I did not know either. He knew Julie Baker Brin, who knew a lot of people in her own right, and was my assistant.

My current assistant is Cassie Lehnher, and she has the very hard task of trying to follow what I'm telling her even though most days I've not really slept or used my mouth for speaking until I tried to use it to tell her something. She is very patient with me. She also tracks down,

compiles, verifies, clarifies and otherwise deals with all the events you see in the paper. And she's in charge of making sure the paper gets delivered.

As tired as I was at the end of last week, though, I was truly happy to cap it off with a great big party in honor of the paper. And as angry as I was at Daylight Saving Time for robbing me of an hour to recover, at least this weekend is St. Patrick's Day and we can look forward to a quiet, sedate evening out in the bars with no shenanigans whatsoever.

# RYAN HENDRIX

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**PRETTY AND FUN:** Almost entirely CGI scenes like this one work well, and the only flaws come when the innocence is ignored, not lost.

## > SEE IT

**What:** *Oz the Great and Powerful*

**Rating:** F4

**Short review:** A well-crafted, fun time at the movies despite having a little trouble finding the balance between high fantasy and darker emotional overtones.

## Raimi's Oz is Great Though Franco is not always so Powerful.

by Jeremy Webster  
jwebster@f5paper.com

Over his long and varied career, Sam Raimi has proven to be nothing if not versatile. From the roaring visual kineticism of his *Evil Dead/Army of Darkness* roots, through taut thrillers like *A Simple Plan* and *The Gift*, through the monstrously expensive first *Spider-Man* trilogy, Raimi's filmography may have its blemishes, but they're rarely due to lack of cinematic vision. *Oz the Great and Powerful* is a solid continuation of this streak, and, as can be imagined, it's absolutely gorgeous to watch unfold.

A "spiritual prequel" to the L. Frank Baum tales and the seemingly immortal 1939 MGM film *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oz the Great and Powerful* sets the clock back so we can see how a ne'er do well carnival magician named Oscar "Oz" Diggs (James Franco) wound up riding a hot air balloon that got scooped up in a tornado and dropped in the merry old land of Oz.

The script hauls out the hideously creaky old notion of "The Prophecy," and in this case a wizard is supposed to come to their land from elsewhere and defeat the forces of evil in order to become the rightful and just king of Oz.

Oscar, seeing value in a good con should the opportunity arise, proclaims that he's the wizard and gets himself embroiled in the local political battles between three witches — Evanora (Rachel Weisz), an evil witch posing as a good witch who is essentially ruler of the Emerald City; Theodora (Mila Kunis), naive little sister of Evanora who is impassioned, temperamental, yet hasn't put two-and-two together yet and figured out that her sister is evil; and Glinda (Michelle Williams), the *actually* good witch who has been cast out by Evanora.

see "Oz" page 13

## > SEE IT

**What:** *Dead Man Down*

**Rating:** F1

**Short review:** There's a lot that *Dead Man Down* could say about love, intimacy and trust. But it's too busy making up its mind about what kind of movie it wants to be that most of its brains get sucked along in the stream of confusion.

## Dead Man Down is more like Dumb Movie Dull

by Jedd Beaudoin  
jbeaudoin@f5paper.com

*Dead Man Down* is the latest film from director Niels Arden Oplev (the original *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*) and it's a muddled, sometimes stupid, mess.

Colin Farrell plays Victor, a man deeply embedded in a New York crime syndicate led by Alphonse Hoyt (Terrence Howard). There's trouble afoot as someone's murdered a close associate of Hoyt's and has been sending cryptic messages to the boss for something like three months when the story opens. (There's lots of exposition through dialogue to explain this and, yes, it is clumsy.) Hoyt's

twisted up about this predicament, threatened even. He wants desperately to find the person responsible and even goes after a drug thug he thinks might be the source of those threatening messages.

Of course, the dude isn't responsible at all. It's really Victor.

Ah, Victor. Victor doesn't speak much for, say, the first 10-15 minutes of the film and you begin to wonder if he's going to speak at all. This would be a nifty trick in the hands of a more expressive actor but Farrell doesn't quite have the range to pull it off.

We're supposed to feel connected to and invested in



**SOMEBODY AIM AT SOMETHING:** The only thing worse than the dialog is the movie's inability to decide if it wants to be an American popcorn seller or a smart European feature.

see "Dead" page 13

# F5

## MOVIE RATINGS GUIDE

- F5 • Awe-Inspiring
- F4 • Batten Down the Trailer!
- F3 • Blew Off A Few Shingles
- F2 • Slightly Sucks
- F1 • Just Blows

Showtimes are from Friday, March 15 to Thursday, March 21

### >NEW THIS WEEK

- *The Call*
- *The Incredible Burt Wonderstone*

### **21 and Over (R)**

Starring Miles Teller, Justin Chon, Jonathan Keltz. Directed by Jon Lucas, Scott Moore.  
**Plot:** The night before a straight-A college student's big medical school exam, he celebrates his 21st birthday with a night of humiliation, over indulgence and utter debauchery.  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Warren Oldtown:** 7:30 daily with 1:15 Sat-Sun and Wed; **13th Ave Warren:** 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; **21st St Warren:** 12:40, 3:45, 6:40, 9:25

### **A Good Day to Die Hard (R)**

Starring Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney, Sebastian Koch. Directed by John Moore.  
**Plot:** John McClane travels to Russia to help out his seemingly wayward son, Jack, only to discover that Jack is a CIA operative working to prevent a nuclear-weapons heist, causing the father and son to team up against underworld forces.  
**Genre:** Action, Crime, Thriller  
**Rating:** F1  
**Short review:** Someone is certainly insisting on dying hard. And while Willis could probably do a great job of convincing Congress that the AARP means business, this 25-year-old movie franchise has failed to age gracefully. Ironically, this was all based on an 1979 Robert Thorp novel called "Nothing Lasts Forever." Apparently Thorp couldn't see far enough into the future to sit through this cliched, uninspired conclusion to what was initially one of the best action movies ever made.  
**13th Ave Warren:** 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15; **21st St Warren:** 1:20, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30

## NEW THIS WEEK

### **The Call (R)**

Starring Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin. Directed by Brad Anderson.  
**Plot:** When veteran 911 operator Jordan Turner receives a call from a girl who has just been abducted, she soon realizes that she must confront a killer from her past in order to save the girl's life.  
**Genre:** Thriller  
**Warren Oldtown:** 7, 10:20 daily with 4, 6:45 Sat-Thu and 1:45, 4, 6:30 Fri; **13th Ave Warren:** (no pass) 12:30, 1:30, 3:15, 4:20, 6:15, 7, 9, 9:50; **21st St Warren:** (no pass) 12:50, 1:45, 3:50, 4:35, 6:30, 7:25, 9:10, 10:05; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:40, 3:55, 7:10, 9:25

### **Dark Skies (PG-13)**

Starring Keri Russell, Jake Brennan, Josh Hamilton. Directed by Scott Stewart.  
**Plot:** As the Barret family's peaceful suburban life is rocked by an escalating series of disturbing events, they come to learn that a terrifying and deadly force is after them.  
**Genre:** Horror, Sci-Fi, Thriller  
**Rating:** F3  
**Short review:** Dark Skies takes a proven but creaky subgenre of the past, infuses it with good casting and some requisite good scares, and the result is a scary movie lucky enough to get out of the gate with more positives than negatives.  
**13th Ave Warren:** 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45; **21st St Warren:** 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

### **Dead Man Down (R)**

Starring Colin Farrell, Noomi Rapace, Dominic Cooper. Directed by Niels Arden Oplev.  
**Plot:** A rising gangland player has infiltrated the crime empire run by ruthless kingpin to make him pay for destroying his once happy life. On his path for vengeance he finds a woman who has her own campaign of retribution.  
**Genre:** Action, Crime, Drama, Thriller  
**Rating:** F1  
**Short review:** There's a lot that Dead Man Down could say about intimacy and trust, a lot that it seems to want to say about love as well. But it's too busy making up its mind about what kind of movie it wants to be — a revenge thriller, a dark love story, a violent action flick, American popcorn seller or smart European feature — that most of its brains get sucked along in the stream of confusion.  
**Warren Oldtown:** 3:45, 6:30, 9:45 daily with 12:45 Sat-Sun and Wed; **13th Ave Warren:** 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10; **21st St Warren:** 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10



**OPENING THIS WEEK: *The Incredible Burt Wonderstone* stars Steve Carell and Steve Buscemi as two washed up Vegas magicians forced to reinvent themselves to an upstart street magician played by Jim Carrey.**

### **Escape from Planet Earth (PG)**

Starring Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba. Directed by Cal Brunker.  
**Plot:** Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.  
**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Sci-Fi  
**13th Ave Warren:** 12:45, 3:45; **Movie Machine:** 2, 4:15; **21st St Warren:** 12:45, 3:25

### **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)**

Starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage. Directed by Peter Jackson.  
**Plot:** A younger and more reluctant Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, sets out on an "unexpected journey" to the Lonely Mountain with a spirited group of Dwarves to reclaim their stolen mountain home from a dragon named Smaug.  
**Genre:** Adventure, Fantasy  
**Rating:** F3  
**Short review:** This Lord of the Rings prequel is a fun ride and a big, epic movie. But we could have done without the John Woo-style fight choreography and the non-Tolkien turns in the dialog. Sure, witty banter is all the rage in action films, but you've already got the comic relief of dancing, singing dwarves.  
**Palace West:** 1:25, 5, 8:30

### **Identity Thief (R)**

Starring Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, John Cho. Directed by Seth Gordon.  
**Plot:** Mild-mannered businessman Sandy Patterson travels from Denver to Miami to confront the deceptively harmless-looking woman who has been living it up after stealing Sandy's identity.  
**Genre:** Comedy, Crime  
**Warren Oldtown:** 3:30, 6:30, 9:55 daily with 12:30 Sat-Sun and Wed; **13th Ave Warren:** 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30; **21st St Warren:** 1:10, 4:15, 7, 9:55; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:30, 4, 7, 9:30

## NEW THIS WEEK

### **The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG-13)**

Starring Steve Carell, Steve Buscemi, Jim Carrey. Directed by Don Scardino.

**Plot:** When a street magician's stunt begins to make their show look stale, superstar magicians Burt Wonderstone and Anton Marvelton look to salvage on their act — and their friendship - by staging their own daring stunt.

**Genre:** Comedy  
**Warren Oldtown:** 3:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10, 10:20 with 1:15 Sat-Sun and Wed; **13th Ave Warren:** 12:15, 12:50, 3, 3:50, 6, 6:45, 9, 9:45; **Movie Machine:** 1:45, 4:10, 7 with 9:20 Fri-Sat; **21st St Warren:** 12:45, 1:25, 3:30, 4:20, 6:30, 7:20, 9:20, 10:05; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:35, 3:55, 7:05, 9:25

### **Jack Reacher (PG-13)**

Starring Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Richard Jenkins. Directed by Christopher McQuarrie.  
**Plot:** A homicide investigator digs deeper into a case involving a trained military sniper who shot five random victims.  
**Genre:** Action, Crime, Thriller  
**Palace West:** 1:55, 4:35, 7:15 with 10 p.m. Fri-Sat

### **Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13)**

Starring Nicholas Hoult, Stanley Tucci, Ewan McGregor. Directed by Bryan Singer.  
**Plot:** The ancient war between humans and a race of giants is reignited when Jack, a young farmhand fighting for a kingdom and the love of a princess, opens a gateway between the two worlds.  
**Genre:** Adventure, Drama, Fantasy  
**Rating:** F2  
**Short review:** Heavy handed and filled with silly anachronisms, it pulls off some mild entertainment but largely it's just unsettling.  
**13th Ave Warren:** 12:50, 4, 7 (3D, no pass), 10 (3D, no pass); **Movie Machine:** 1, 3:45, 6:35 with 9:20 Fri-Sat; **21st St Warren:** 12:30, 3:25, 6:20 (3D, no pass), 9:15 (3D, no pass); **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:40, 4:15 (3D), 7:10, 9:45 (3D)

### **The Last Exorcism Part II (PG-13)**

Starring Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark. Directed by Ed Gass-Donnelly.  
**Plot:** As Nell Sweetzer tries to build a new life after the events of the first movie, the evil force that once possessed her returns with an even more horrific plan.  
**Genre:** Horror, Thriller  
**13th Ave Warren:** 6:50, 9:20; **Movie Machine:** 7 with 9:25 Fri-Sat; **21st St Warren:** 6:45, 9:40

### **Lincoln (PG-13)**

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn. Directed by Steven Spielberg.  
**Plot:** As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.  
**Genre:** Biography, Drama, History, War  
**Palace West:** 1:40, 4:45, 7:50 with 11 p.m. Fri-Sat

### **Monsters, Inc. (G)**

Starring Billy Crystal, John Goodman, Mary Gibbs. Directed by Pete Docter, David Silverman.  
**Plot:** Monsters generate their city's power by scaring children, but they are terribly afraid themselves of being contaminated by children. When a toddler dubbed "Boo" sneaks into the monster world by following the leading scarer, Sulley, through his door, it falls on Sulley and his door man Mike to send Boo back through her door before anyone finds out.  
**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy  
**Palace West:** 2:05, 4:40

### **Movie 43 (R)**

Starring Emma Stone, Stephen Merchant, Richard Gere. Directed by Bob Odenkirk, Elizabeth Banks.  
**Plot:** A series of interconnected short films follows a washed-up producer as he pitches insane story lines featuring some of the biggest stars in Hollywood.  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Palace West:** 7:10, 9:25 with 11:40 p.m. Fri-Sat

### **Oz the Great and Powerful (PG)**

Starring James Franco, Michelle Williams, Rachel Weisz. Directed by Sam Raimi.  
**Plot:** A small-time circus magician with dubious ethics is hurled away from dusty Kansas to the vibrant Land of Oz. At first he thinks fame and

**"Dead" from page 11**

this wallflower's story but that never happens — the oh-so-thick atmosphere and clumsy, stilted dialogue won't let it. Victor does try to connect with his neighbor Beatrice (played by Swedish actor Noomi Rapace). She's French, lives with her mother, and is recovering from a recent car accident in which she was disfigured. She has scars. Victor has scars. Though his are less visible. Oh, and he's Hungarian, though he doesn't carry a trace of an accent. He worked hard to get rid of it, he tells Beatrice.

Beatrice and Victor both want the same thing — revenge. She wants to hurt the man who has left her disfigured, he wants to hurt the men who have hurt him. (We'll save the how here. Can't ruin everything for you.) And just to add a little something to the plot Beatrice knows something about Victor that he doesn't know she knows. Until she tells him. She threatens to reveal the secret if he doesn't help her. It doesn't really make much sense, but then neither do a lot of things when these two share the screen together. The dialogue is frequently painfully bad, on rival with what Costner and Houston pulled off in *The Bodyguard*, and with neither she nor him able to connect on an emotional level, those romantic sparks — damaged or not — never really fly, although there is an awkward and unbelievable kiss early in the story.



**SCARS AND REVENGE: Noomi Rapace's Beatrice wants revenge so bad she'll blackmail for no reason.**

Victor, for as smart as he is — or, rather, as smart as the movie wants us to want him to be — is found out before he can fully execute his plan. That leaves him only one option: To go over the top. And over the top it is. What could and should be dramatic and powerful and even climactic is *stupid* and *stupidly* comical, so much so that I actually laughed out loud when the moment came. Things get messy, CGI-intensive and downright boneheaded for most of the last reel, finally squashing whatever slender hopes we had for this picture in the previous hour-and-a-half.

**"Movies" from page 12**

fortune are his for the taking, until he meets three witches who are not convinced he is the great wizard everyone's been expecting.

**Rating:** F4

**Short review:** A well-crafted, fun time at the movies despite having a little trouble finding the balance between high fantasy and darker emotional overtones. And Franco maybe isn't the most convincing con man wizard.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure, Fantasy  
**Warren Oldtown:** 3:30, 7 (3D) 9:45 daily with (3D) 12:45 Sat-Sun and Wed; **13th Ave Warren:** 11:45 (3D, no pass), 12:15, 1, 3 (3D, no pass), 3:30, 4:45, 6:15 (3D, no pass), 6:50, 8, 9:30 (3D, no pass), 10:10;  
**Movie Machine:** 1, 3:45, 6:30 with 9:20 Fri-Sat;  
**21st St Warren:** 12:30, 1 (IMAX 3D, no pass), 3:35, 4:05 (IMAX 3D, no pass), 6:40, 7:10 (IMAX 3D, no pass), 9:45, 10:15 (IMAX 3D, no pass); **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:25, 1:45 (3D), 4:10, 4:20 (3D), 7:05, 7:15 (3D), 9:50, 10 (3D)

**Parental Guidance (PG)**

Starring Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei. Directed by Andy Fickman.

**Plot:** Artie and Diane agree to look after their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents need to leave town for work. Problems arise when the kids' 21st-century behavior collides with Artie and Diane's old-school methods.

**Genre:** Comedy  
**Palace West:** 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30 with 11:45 p.m. Fri-Sat

**Quartet (PG-13)**

Starring Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Billy Connolly. Directed by Dustin Hoffman.

**Plot:** At a home for retired musicians, the annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, an eternal diva and the former wife of one of the residents.

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama  
**13th Ave Warren:** 2:30, 5, 8

**Rise of the Guardians (PG)**

Starring Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Isla Fisher. Directed by Peter Ramsey.

**Plot:** When the evil spirit Pitch launches an assault on Earth, the Immortal Guardians team up to protect the innocence of children all around the world.

**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Family, Fantasy  
**Palace West:** 1:45, 4:25, 6:55, 9:10 with 11:25 p.m. Fri-Sat

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R)**

Starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick. Directed by Jim Sharman.

**Plot:** A newly engaged couple have a breakdown in an isolated area and must pay a call to the bizarre residence of Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

**Genre:** Comedy, Musical

**Rating:** F4

**Short review:** As a movie, it's frankly a bit hard to watch. As audience participation theater, it's a hell of a good time. If you don't jump up and do the "Time Warp" along with the movie, you'll be missing something. We're not sure what, but something.

**Palace West:** 9:30, 11:55 Fri-Sat only

**Safe Haven (PG-13)**

Starring Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, Cobie Smulders. Directed by Lasse Hallström.

**Plot:** A young woman with a mysterious past lands in Southport, North Carolina where her bond with a widower forces her to confront the dark secret that haunts her.

**Genre:** Drama, Mystery, Romance, Thriller  
**13th Ave Warren:** 1, 4, 7:15, 10:15; **21st St Warren:** 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:45, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50

**Side Effects (R)**

Starring Rooney Mara, Channing Tatum, Jude Law, Catherine Zeta Jones. Directed by Steven Soderbergh.

**Plot:** A young woman's world unravels when a drug prescribed by her psychiatrist causes her to kill her husband.

**Genre:** Crime, Drama, Thriller  
**13th Ave Warren:** 2:30, 5, 7:50; **21st St Warren:** 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30

**Silver Linings Playbook (R)**

Starring Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro. Directed by David O. Russell.

There's a lot that *Dead Man Down* could say about intimacy and trust, a lot that it seems to want to say about love as well. But it's too busy making up its mind about what kind of movie it wants to be — a revenge thriller, a dark love story, a violent action flick, American popcorn seller or smart European feature — that most of its brains get sucked along in the stream of confusion.

Terrence Howard, an actor who is usually reliable and who almost always brings an impeccable dignity to the characters he portrays is also shoved aside here. He's given some real crap lines and asked to play a character that is, frankly, beneath him. There are moments when you want to have him surgically removed from this sucker. F. Murray Abraham also appears and it's all you can do to not blurt out, "What the hell is *he* doing down here?" Armand Assante turns in a flaccid Marlon Brando impression that would be unremarkable but I mention it here so that you can cover your eyes and ears when he shows up and not have to suffer through his somewhat pointless scene. Rapace is at least interesting to watch, although the script refuses to fully explore the complexity and ambiguity of her character and she never quite seems comfortable being Beatrice.

*Dead Man Down* is, overall, the kind of movie you wish you could un-see. While that can't happen you are in luck — it won't take you long to forget.

**Plot:** After a stint in a mental institution, former teacher Pat Solitano moves back in with his parents and tries to reconcile with his ex-wife. Things get more challenging when Pat meets Tiffany, a mysterious girl with problems of her own.

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama, Romance  
**13th Ave Warren:** 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50; **21st St Warren:** 2, 5, 8:10

**Snitch (PG-13)**

Starring Dwayne Johnson, Susan Sarandon, Jon Bernthal. Directed by Ric Roman Waugh.

**Plot:** A father goes undercover for the DEA in order to free his son who was imprisoned after being set up in drug deal.

**Genre:** Action, Drama, Thriller  
**Warren Oldtown:** 4:15, 10:10; **13th Ave Warren:** 12:45, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40; **Movie Machine:** 1:30, 4, 6:45 with 9:15 Fri-Sat; **21st St Warren:** 1:10, 4:10, 7, 10:10

**Warm Bodies (PG-13)**

Starring Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich. Directed by Jonathan Levine.

**Plot:** After R (a highly unusual zombie) saves Julie from an attack, the two form a relationship that sets in motion a sequence of events that might transform the entire lifeless world.

**Genre:** Comedy, Horror, Romance  
**13th Ave Warren:** 2:40, 5:10, 7:50; **21st St Warren:** 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 10

**Wreck-It Ralph (PG)**

Starring John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch. Directed by Rich Moore.

**Plot:** A video game villain wants to be a hero and sets out to fulfill his dream, but his quest brings havoc to the whole arcade where he lives.

**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family  
**Palace West:** 1:30, 4, 6:30 with 9 p.m. Fri-Sat

**Zero Dark Thirty (R)**

Starring Jessica Chastain, Joel Edgerton, Chris Pratt. Directed by Kathryn Bigelow.

**Plot:** A chronicle of the decade-long hunt for al-Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden after the September 2001 attacks, and his death at the hands of the Navy S.E.A.L. Team 6 in May 2011.

**Genre:** Drama, History, Thriller  
**Palace West:** 1:15, 4:25, 7:45 with 10:50 p.m. Fri-Sat

**"Oz" from page 11**

Along his journeys Oscar, as is to be expected, picks up some oddball traveling companions in the form of a talking, winged bellhop monkey voiced by Zach Braff, and a living china doll voiced by Joey King.

And, of course, this being a Raimi film, Bruce Campbell gets a cameo as a door guard who takes a gratuitous number of hits to the head with a stick. Thirty years on, Raimi's still hitting Campbell with sticks. Gotta love it.

Visually, *Oz the Great and Powerful* leaves nothing to complain about. The fantastical world — along with the CGI and practical effects that combine to make it and its characters — is top-notch work.

Outside of the eye candy, though, the film has a few issues, particularly in the form of tonal unevenness.

Early on we have a charming scene where Oscar glues the legs of China Doll Girl back on after they were broken off in a flying baboon raid.

The China Doll Girl is largely presented throughout the film as a representation of childlike innocence. Mere moments after we're introduced to this fairly timid character, we see her skipping up the yellow brick road declaring how great it is to be going to kill a witch. A few minutes later she suggests Oscar use what looks like a tiny paring knife to kill the witch.

These two moments are completely out of character in contrast with the rest of the film, and are somewhat indicative of the fact that the film seems to have difficulty finding a stable balance between high fantasy wonder and darker emotional tones.

And yet, not all of the darker nuance goes to waste, particularly with the character arc of Theodora, whose destiny it is to ultimately become the wicked witch we know so well from *The Wizard of Oz*. We're supplied with very human failings that, along with the machinations of Evanora and Oscar, lead her to become a tragic monster of the first order.

Sadly, the film's biggest weakness lies in the fact Franco is likely miscast in the part of Oscar. While he's a talented guy in his own right, he just isn't quite clicking in place with the machinery. Oscar is a con man and somewhat of a charlatan, and, as such, there's a certain suave hucksterism that has to come with the role. Oscar needs to have a heavy dose of theatrical, exuberant charisma, and, be it the fault of Raimi as director or the casting of an actor who just isn't good at putting on such a performance, this necessary element is almost completely lacking.

Still, despite these flaws, *Oz the Great and Powerful* is an immensely well-crafted experience as well as an overall fun time at the movies. Of course, according to reports, Disney has a franchise in mind with this being the first entry, so with any luck they'll recognize what didn't work quite right with this initial outing and work at smoothing it out in future entries.

# Tallgrass filmmaker returns to teach class

**T**allgrass alumni filmmaker James Choi returns to Wichita for the fourth year in a row to lead the Tallgrass Film Association's first Project Nano, an intensive, hands-on, short film-making workshop.

Choi has brought the films *Made In China*, *Joint Body* and *Faith In Destiny* to previous Tallgrass Film Festivals. He is actively writing, directing and producing films in Chicago and also teaches at DePaul University and Tribeca Flashpoint Academy.

The class takes place from April 12 to 15 at the Digital Arts Studio at CityArts and on location throughout the city. Students will learn the art of independent filmmaking from pre-production through the lens of Choi, an accomplished filmmaker and instructor.

Starting with an original short screenplay, selected by Choi and Wichita-area film professionals from submissions from across the country, the class will learn the process of filmmaking from script to screen – including producing, directing, casting, production design, lighting, sound and editing music – and how to do it all with little to no cash budget.

Project Nano is open to filmmakers of all ages, with all levels of experience, who want to learn and practice the craft of filmmaking. The end result of Project Nano will include a completed short film, and more importantly, a group of students who will possess the knowledge to go out and continue making films.

"We're absolutely thrilled to have James Choi as our Filmmaker in Residence for the first Project Nano. He's an incredibly talented and generous filmmaker. We're excited for local filmmakers to have the incredible opportunity to work with him and learn about filmmaking, Choi-style," said TFA Executive Director Lela Meadow-Conner. "Independent film is so inherently DIY, and each filmmaker has a unique approach. We hope to continue this program each year with different filmmakers sharing their perspectives and processes with the Wichita community."

Class space is limited to 20 people and advanced registration is required. Registration is \$175, or for students, seniors, TFA members and past City Arts Digital Filmmaking Lab students, it is \$150. To register and for more information, visit [tallgrassfilmfest.com](http://tallgrassfilmfest.com).

# Reputation Management slithers into Wichita

by Aaron Wirtz  
awirtz@f5paper.com

**L**ast week, I received a letter at my job that had the following headline: **WARNING: Is Your Competition Trying To Bad Mouth You?**

The letter was five pages thick and adorned with the colored logos of Google, Yelp and the Yellow Pages, and they were even nice enough to reprint some of our own photos from our Google+ Local listing. This letter must have taken half an inkjet cartridge to print, so I gave it a look. Naturally, the claims got worse.

The next page was labeled "Reputation Report: *Discover What's Being Said About You*," and claimed we had a "Listing Score" of 14.29%. Meaning, the report said, that we were not listed on Bing, Yahoo, Yelp, Superpages or Citysearch. How could that be? I wondered. I've seen us listed on every one of those services, so I dialed the number for this Reputation Consultant, and left a voice mail. He called back immediately.

"Sorry, I was on the other line. The response to my direct mail campaign has been overwhelming."

"I see," I said, playing dumb. "I'm calling about the letter we received, too. I have a few questions about the information you've shared with us."

He sounded nice enough. "Sure, go ahead."

"Your report claims that we're not listed on Bing, Yahoo, Yelp, and so forth, but I'm looking at our listings on my computer right now. What's happening here?"

"Well, my system collects all of the information for these reports, and sometimes there are a few inaccuracies."

"Your system?" I asked.

"Yeah, I've got this software that searches all of those websites for your business all at once."

"And is this a usual failure rate for basic searches like this?"

"I'm just going on what my system tells me."

"You don't think it's wrong to scare people into buying your services by giving them false information?"

He wasn't following. "That's just what my system tells me."

That wasn't even the worst of it. After claiming that he regularly helps businesses achieve a 5 to 10 percent increase in sales, he told me he could install a section on our website to capture customer reviews, which he would then post on review sites after creating fake accounts under the customers' names. "How is this ethical?" I asked.

Unfazed, he replied "there's a terms of service box they have to check, and that gives me permission to do it."

"And what about so many reviews coming from the same IP address?"

"We've got thousands of proxy IP

addresses that will keep Google guessing for years."

"Wow. Won't Google punish you for trying to trick them? They do punish pretty severely."

"I know," he said, and the conversation took a surreal turn. "Six thousand of my websites got crushed by their last Penguin Algorithm update."

Then it hit me — Reputation Management is the next mutation of the sagging Search Engine Optimization (or SEO as you'll often hear it) industry. The word is out that a website's organic search ranking in Google can no longer be inflated by stuffing the page with keywords or links, so scaring people about their online reviews is next. Sadly, many businesses take the bait. And I guess I can see why — Google now lists a review rating next to business listings right on their main search results page, and unlike word of mouth feedback, online reviews never go away.

Don't be fooled, however. There's nothing a reputation management company can do for you that you can't do yourself, and most of the time, they'll end

up doing more harm than good. Google requires you to be an *active* Google+ user before any reviews you write will stay posted online, and Yelp has what is known as the "501 Rule" — if your first review is for five stars but you have zero friends, that review will be flagged as spam. These are only a couple of ways they combat the practice of setting up fake accounts for the purpose of inflating review numbers. As for pulling a fast one with proxy IP addresses, well, my money's on Google engineers.

Every legitimate review site will give you the opportunity to "claim" your business listing, so it would be advisable to claim yours as soon as possible. This usually involves a verification by phone or postcard, so the chances of the boogymen claiming your business profile are pretty slim, unless they really put their minds to it. Once you've claimed your listing, you'll have the chance to respond to the reviews as the business owner, and life will go on. Treat any such "Reputation Management Experts" who reach out to you from the shadows with extreme suspicion.

BONUS: Sometimes online reviews can become an internet sensation of their own. Search for "Bic Cristal For Her Ball Pens" on Amazon. Good stuff.



AARON WIRTZ

## TULIPS, FAIRIES & FRIENDS

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# Events::

## > GET LISTED

Don't see your event? Send an email to news@F5paper.com

## ARTS

### Thursday, March 14

#### Artist Talk: Bonnie Yochelson

6 p.m. Bonnie Yochelson is an independent curator and art historian with a specialty in photography. At this artist talk she will discuss the photos of Berenice Abbott, who captured images that reflected the transitions of New York City. The talk is in conjunction with show "Berenice Abbott: Changing New York," which is on view until April 21. @Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

### Thursday, March 21

#### Presence Program: The Gift of Art

2 p.m. Those with early to mid-stage Alzheimer's are invited to attend a free, interactive program with the museum docents aimed at encouraging art appreciation, personal expression and emotional well-being. Call 268-4929 for make a reservation. Free. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

### Friday, March 22

#### Opening: Landon Schmidt Solo Exhibit

7 p.m. Paintings and prints. @Go Away Garage, 514 S. Commerce.

### Friday, March 29

#### Christopher Gulick: In the Studio, Solo Exhibit

Fri., March 29 to Fri., April 19  
Exhibit to be built on-site with audience participation. Audience will help choose design's from Gulick's sketchbooks and idea pages. Patrons and students will determine Gulick's work-orders and Gulick will then construct as the first stage maquettes and a few finished sculptures. Begins on Final Friday, March 29. Artist lunch lecture April 2, noon to 1 p.m. @Steckline Gallery, Newman University, DeMattias Hall, 3100 McCormick Ave.

#### Landon Schmidt Solo Exhibit

7 p.m. Paintings and prints. @Go Away Garage, 514 S. Commerce.

### Ongoing

#### Occupy Art: Protest and Empathy for the Worker

Sat., Dec. 8, 2012 to Sun., March 17  
Occupy Art examines the significance artists have long held for picturing the 99 percent or the common man. Works of art in this exhibition — spanning 150 years — reflect the ongoing empathy artists have had for the everyman and for populism. Drawn from the Wichita Art Museum collection, this exhibition is guest curated by Dr. Rachel Epp Buller, Assistant Professor of Art, Bethel College. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

#### Up Close and Personal

Fri., Feb. 22 to Tue., March 26  
New works by Shauna J. Shelton. @Gallery XII, 412 E. Douglas.

#### Christopher Gulick: 3D in 2D

Fri., Feb. 22 to Tue., March 26  
Sketches for sculpture concepts, mixed media on heavy stock. The exhibit is about Gulick's sketches for sculpture standing alone in their own right as drawings. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

#### Curt Clonts: "This Asshole"

Sun., March 3 to Sun., March 31  
A selection of new works by Wichita native Curt Clonts. These mixed media pieces focus on happiness and freedom, represented by bright colors, birds and leaves. @Bluebird Arthouse, 924 W. Douglas.

#### Artist Ed Davison and His Friends

Thu., March 7 to Sun., March 31  
Edmund L. Davidson was a nationally acclaimed artist from Wichita in the 1920's through 1940s, whose largely self taught, post-impressionistic style was influenced by his friends B.J.O. Nordfeldt and



Birger Sandzén. This exhibit focuses on he and his compatriots whom he supported by exchanging art a purchasing their work. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

#### Stocked: Contemporary Art from the Grocery Aisles

Sat., Jan. 19 to Sun., April 14  
Free. @Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

#### Berenice Abbott: Changing New York

Mon., Jan. 21 to Sun., April 21  
Collection of images by Berenice Abbott on the changes in New York City up to and the beyond the skyscraper boom of the 20th Century. @Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

#### George Vollmer Collection

Sat., Nov. 3, 2012 to Sun., April 21  
George Vollmer has been an influential advocate of the Wichita Art Museum, acting as patron, director, adjunct curator, and booster. This exhibition in the Vollmer Gallery features a selection of his donations of artwork. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

#### Under Pressure: Contemporary prints from the collections of Jordan Schnitzer and his family foundation

Sat., Feb. 2 to Sun., May 19  
Bringing together 40 artists and more than 100 works from the past five decades, Under Pressure illustrates the infinite versatility and creative power of printmaking today. Charting artistic concerns from minimalism to pop and conceptual art as well as more recent art addressing race, gender, and identity, the exhibition examines the primacy of printmaking in recent American art. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

#### Bridging Art & Science

Sat., Feb. 23 to Sun., June 23  
In this linear exhibit space located on Exploration Place's indoor bridge, enjoy pieces by local artists that illustrate the intermingling of art and science. @Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd.

#### "Howard Greer Designs for Hollywood and Wichita"

Tue., March 5 to Fri., Aug. 9

The designer Howard Greer's "ready to wear" pieces were sold from the Topaz Room of Wichita's Innes Department Store and are featured in this special exhibit. Museum hours are Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$4 adults, \$2 children @Wichita - Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### Friday, March 15

#### Samuel Ramey Scholars Concert

7:30 p.m. Internationally renowned opera star and WSU alum Samuel Ramey has been a Distinguished Visiting Artist in residency at WSU since fall of 2012. His residency concludes this March 15 with a concert of arias and opera scenes, featuring Ramey and the students he has worked with during his residency. All proceeds will augment the Samuel L. Ramey Professional Development Fund, which helps WSU students launch their careers. Miller Concert Hall. Box office, 978-3233 Students, \$6; senior or military, \$16; and adults, \$25. @Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

### Saturday, March 16

#### Francesca da Rimini

11 a.m. The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: opera by Riccardo Zandonai, *Francesca da Rimini*. Libretto by Tito Ricordi. \$24 GA; \$22 for seniors; and \$18 for students. @Murdock Theater, 536 N. Broadway.

#### The Marriage of Figaro

7 p.m. Wichita Grand Opera's rendition of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. \$85-\$35 @Century II Concert Hall, 225 W. Douglas.

## FOOD & DRINK

### Friday, March 15

#### Authentic Mexican Food for Lent

5 p.m. Every year during Lent, Our Lady of Perpetual Help sells authentic Mexican meatless dinners on Friday evenings. Reasonable prices. Cash only. @Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 2409 N. Market.

### Tuesday, March 19

#### Wichita Hops Club March Meeting

6:30 p.m. Typical early Spring. Warm, cold, warm, cold, snow, then more snow. Well lets get to something a little more predictable on the pleasure meter: beer! Please RSVP wichita.area.hops.club@gmail.com by March 14. Must be 21. @River City Brewing Co., 150 N. Mosley.

### Wednesday, March 20

#### Ad Astra Selections Wine Tasting

6:30 p.m. Eighteen to 20 new Kansas wines to taste with food prepared by the chef of Oeno Wine Bar. Must be 21. \$35 members; \$40 nonmembers. @Oeno Wine Bar, 330 N Mead Suit #100.

## FILM

### Thursday, March 14

#### BURN: One Year on the Front Lines of the Battle To Save Detroit

7:30 p.m. This action-packed documentary captures a year in the lives of Detroit firefighters in charge of saving a city written off by many as already in ruins. The film goes inside the fires and into the hearts and minds of the men who fight them and explores courage and hope in the face of overwhelming odds. \$15 @Murdock Theater, 536 N. Broadway.

### Thursday, March 21

#### From Here To Eternity

7 p.m. 60th Anniversary screening. \$5 @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

### Friday, March 22

#### West of Memphis

Fri., March 22 to Sun., March 24  
8 p.m. An examination of a failure of justice in the case against the West Memphis Three. An official selection of the Toronto and Sundance Film Festivals. \$7 @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

see "Events" page 16

Ruth Ozeki, the author of *My Year of Meats* and *All Over Creation* will be reading and signing her new book *A Tale For The Time Being* at Watermark Books on Friday.



## Writers really should get out more often

by Jason Quinn Malott  
jmalott@f5paper.com

The Slow Movement has become a bit of a thing lately: Carlo Petrini's protest against the opening of a McDonald's franchise in Rome in 1986, has led to Cittaslow, Slow Living, Slow Travel, Slow Design, Slow Parenting and so on. The idea behind the Slow Movement is to slow down life's pace, which is a fabulous idea, and the thing perfectly suited to slowness is a book. Books, by their nature, seem to stubbornly resist speed and, so, books must, surely, constitute the Ur-Slow Movement.

So, how do you write about "books" anyway without just piling on the book reviews, and where the hell are those book reviews anyway? Hush. They're coming. It takes a while to read a book and write a good review. People are working on it, and I'm always looking for promising writers to review something before it's published.

Of course, I'm always looking for writers in general. As a writer, it's one of my hobbies. Since 1990, I've left and come back to Wichita a couple of times and every time I've been here, I've looked around for other writers. I've heard about and attended a few open mic readings, sat in on a few early meetings of the Kansas Writer's Association back in the '90s when Gordon Kessler revived it, became acquainted with some of the Wichita State MFA candidates and various creative writing professors around town (yeah, I'm talking about you, Albert), pulled a stint in the front-lines selling books at Watermark Books, and I briefly published a not-for-profit DIY literary journal. I've met YA writers, mystery writers, poets, poetasters, professors, spoken word artists, memoirists, essayists and even a certain bald movie maker turned rising-star movie reviewer, but none of them seem to know each other. Or, if they did know each other, seemed

adverse to name-dropping. Or maybe they hated each other ... or maybe ... ah, who knows.

So, how are we going to cover books? Well, there's always something going on. On Friday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas (<http://www.watermarkbooks.com>). Ruth Ozeki, the author of *My Year of Meats* and *All Over Creation* will be reading and signing her new book *A Tale For The Time Being* (Viking, \$28.95, ISBN 9780670026630). The event is free and open to the public. It's a great way to start a Friday night. I plan on attending the reading with my girlfriend and then heading out for dinner and drinks afterwards.

Then, on Saturday, March 16, I'll be attending the Kansas Writers Association's Scene Conference 2013 (<http://kwawriters.org/scene/>). Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Holiday Inn at 549 S. Rock Road. It's \$50 for members of the KWA and \$60 for non-members. Students with a valid ID pay \$45. I just found out about this a week ago. Funny, Wichita Eagle reporters Stan Finger and Roy Wenzl are presenting, but I never saw anything in the Eagle about this event. Also presenting are the poets John Jenkinson and Esper. *New York Times* bestselling author Jenna Blum will be the keynote speaker.

### Other things to look forward to:

- Scott Philips has a new novel that will be released in June called *Rake* (Counterpoint, \$25, ISBN 9781619021518)
- The WSU MFA graduates will be reading their work on Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m. in the Ablah Library.
- PBS Frontline reporter Blaine Harden will be at Watermark Books on April 1, at 7 p.m. to discuss his book *Escape from Camp 14* (Viking, \$26.95, ISBN 9780670023325), which is about Shin Dong-hyuk, the only person known to have escaped North Korea's political prisoner camps.

### "Events" from page 15

#### Friday, April 12

**Tallgrass Filmmakers Lab: Project Nano Filmmaker Workshop with James Choi**  
5:30 p.m. Project Nano is an intensive, hands-on, short filmmaking workshop. Open to filmmakers of all ages and experience level, students will learn the process of filmmaking from script to screen on a low budget. Class space is limited to 20. Online registration available at [tallgrassfilmfest.com](http://tallgrassfilmfest.com). All ages. \$175 GA; \$150 for students, seniors and TFA members. @CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

### LECTURE

#### Saturday, March 16

**A Fast Ride Through Texas History**  
1 p.m. Until 1822, the Texas population remained about the same. Then there was a large Anglo immigration with the founding of the Austin Colony and population grew quickly. Learn more about the Lone Star State with this presentation. Free. @Wichita Public Library - Lionel Alford Regional Branch, 3447 S. Meridian.

#### Wednesday, March 20

**African American Contributions to Wichita's Music**  
1:30 p.m. Wichita's blues and jazz music was deeply influenced by African Americans. Pat O'Connor interviewed 19 African American musicians who played in the 1930s to 1960s. Hear their story. Come early to view the music exhibit. @Kansas African American Museum, 601 N. Water St.

### LITERARY

#### Friday, March 15

**Ruth Ozeki**  
7 p.m. Ruth Ozeki will be at Watermark for a reading and signing for "A Tale for the Time Being." Author of "My Year of Meats" and "All Over Creation," Ruth Ozeki is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

#### Tuesday, March 19

**Poetry Open Mic**  
8 p.m. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

### NATURE

#### Friday, March 15

**Journey To Jupiter**  
Fri., March 15 - 8 p.m. to Sat., March 16 - 8 p.m.  
The journey's first stop will be Earth's nearest celestial neighbor, the moon. Here, the mission is to use the Afton Observatory's telescope to explore its craters, smooth plains and mountains. The next stop is the gas giant Jupiter. Here, the many moons and astounding cloud features of the largest planet in our solar system will be explored. \$5 adults, \$3 children 6-12, free for children under 6. @Lake Afton Public Observatory, MacArthur Road and 247th St. W., Goddard.

#### Saturday, March 23

**Tulips, Fairies, and Friends**  
10 a.m. Also on March 30th, April 6 and April 13. \$7 adults, \$5 kids 3-12, Members Free @Botanica, 701 Amidon.

### SPECIAL

#### Saturday, March 16

**Fifty Shades of Men**  
7:30 p.m. U.S. Chippendales. All seating is general admission. Table reservations for groups of four or more are available for an additional charge at The Cotillion in person or by phone. Party packages for groups of 10 or more including a pre-show meet-and-greet, reserved seating and party favors are available at The Cotillion box office. 18 and older. \$15-\$20 @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

#### Friday, March 22

**Odell Beer Tasting**  
7 p.m. Sample six beers from the Odell line-up with brewery representative, Matt Shadid. Reservations with payment are required to Auburn Spirits and can be made by phone at (316) 440-111 or in person at 13303 W. Maple. Must be 21. \$15, includes hors

d'oeuvres. @Rolling Hills Country Club, 223 S Westlink St.

#### Wednesday, March 27

**Shaken Not Stirred: A 007 Event**  
6:30 p.m. Tallgrass Film Association Presents- Shaken Not Stirred. The evening serves as a fundraiser for the TSA and will feature a martini competition between various Wichita bars, cigar tent, and live-action entertainment featuring Bond, with a twist. Tickets may be purchased online via the Tallgrass website or by phone at 303-9292. \$77, which includes a membership to the Tallgrass Film Association @ Abode Venue, 1330 E. Douglas.

### SPORTS

#### Friday, March 22

**Hockey: Wichita Thunder vs. Allen**  
7 p.m. Doors open at 6:05 p.m. @Intrust Bank Arena, 500 E. Waterman.

#### Sunday, March 24

**Hockey: Wichita Thunder vs. Missouri**  
7 p.m. Doors open at 6:05 p.m. @Intrust Bank Arena, 500 E. Waterman.

### THEATER & DANCE

#### Thursday, March 14

**Jake's Women**  
Thu., March 14 - 7:30 p.m. to Sat., March 16 - 7:30 p.m.  
Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical play about Jake, a writer, and seven important women in his life. Jake faces many life issues and interacts through real and imaginary conversations with his current girlfriend, a wife from whom he is currently separated, his psychiatrist, his sister, his deceased first wife and his daughter at age 12 and at age 21. For ticket information, call the WSU College of Fine Arts Box Office at (316)-978-3233. \$10 GA @Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

#### Friday, March 15

**"Annie Get Your Gun"**  
Fri., March 15 to Sat., April 27  
This version of the 1946 Broadway classic, revised in 1999. The new "Annie Get Your Gun" features a Wild West show-within-a-show that frames the ageless "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" love story of sharpshooters Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Fridays and Saturdays, doors open 5 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m. Sunday matinees, 12:30 p.m. for lunch; show starts at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 25, special matinee, 10:30 a.m. for lunch; show starts at 12:30 p.m. All ages. \$58 with dinner, \$43 show only. Crown Uptown @Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, 3207 E. Douglas.

#### Saturday, March 16

**Say What?! Comedy Improv**  
6:30 p.m. Say What?! improv troupe performs as part of Cowtown's "Empire House Live!" series. Tickets on sale at [WichitaTix.com](http://WichitaTix.com). \$10 Empire House Theater @Old Cowtown Museum, 1871 Sim Park Dr.

#### Sunday, March 17

**"Doubt: A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley**  
7 p.m. "Doubt" is set in a Bronx Catholic school in 1964, where a strong-minded woman wrestles with conscience and uncertainty as she is faced with concerns about one of her male colleagues. This new play by John Patrick Shanley—the Bronx-born-and-bred playwright and Academy Award-winning author of "Moonstruck"—dramatizes issues straight from today's headlines within a world re-created with knowing detail and a judicious eye. \$14 @Wichita Community Theater, 258 N Fountain St.

#### Tuesday, March 19

**Dreamgirls**  
Tue., March 19 - 7:30 p.m. to Fri., March 22 - 7:30 p.m.  
The Tony and Academy Award winning musical comes to Century II. All ages. \$35-\$65 @Century II Concert Hall, 225 W. Douglas.

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**Ackerman Island's Wonderland Park was a smash hit in early Wichita, until blue laws took it down.**



**THAT'S SOME BIG SANDBAR:** Ackerman Island was a 50-acre sandbar in the Arkansas River in the middle of Wichita. The area pictured here is more or less where Exploration Place sits now.

PHOTO COURTESY WICHITAPHOTOS.ORG

## On an island in the sun

by Michael Carmody  
mcarmody@f5paper.com

**E**nough time has passed since the closing of Joyland to see the maturation of a generation of young Wichitans who have neither fond memories of its creaky wooden "Queen of the Prairie" rollercoaster nor terrifying nightmares of Louie the Clown at the Wurlitzer Band Organ. But one must backtrack several additional generations to find among the living those who recall Wichita's earlier amusement attraction, Wonderland Park.

In the 1870s, when Wichita was a freshly chartered municipality, the Arkansas River began developing a massive sandbar that split it into two channels starting at its confluence with the Little Arkansas and tapering off right at the Douglas Avenue bridge. Over the years this sandbar amassed itself into an island more than 50 acres in size.

It was purchased in 1890 by local meatpacker Joseph Ackerman, who moved his family onto the island and ran a sand business there for 15 years before selling the property; forever after the whole of the massive bar would be known as Ackerman Island. And in 1905, with the construction of Wonderland Park, it would become the chief entertainment destination for Wichita and surrounding towns.

Wonderland's buildings were comprised largely of concrete blocks made on-site using sand dredged from the river.

Among them were the "coliseum" (a



PHOTO COURTESY WICHITAPHOTOS.ORG

**ORIGINAL MULTI-USE FACILITY:** The Wonderland "coliseum" was an auditorium with a roller rink that could also be used as a basketball court.

castle-turreted auditorium complete with a roller rink that doubled as a basketball court), a bandstand, a shooting gallery, a bowling alley, three theaters (including one that seated 1,100 patrons), a dancing pavilion, a fun house and numerous other structures.

A small roller coaster was built, then in 1911 replaced with a larger one called "The Giant Thriller;" this was reported to be the longest coaster in America at the time of its construction.

A carousel was built, and an "electric fountain." The grounds were decorated with statuary leftover from the dazzling 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. A baseball

field was erected on the island just south of the park.

Access to the island, surrounded as it was on all sides by the Arkansas River, was made possible by foot (via a staircase descending from the Douglas Avenue Bridge), by horse or automobile (via two wooden trestle bridges) or by trolley (via a double-track spar off the Waco streetcar line).

At the peak of Wonderland's popularity, the trolleys ran as frequently as every three minutes, carrying up to 50 people per car.

see "Wonderland" page 20

## ASTROPOOP!

THE SKINNY ON YOUR WEEK  
by Diviner Mme Zanzibird

**Aries:** (March 21 — April 19)  
Week rating: F2  
Don't forget to treat your Pisces friends to birthday drinks and sushi. They may return the favor when your birthday comes along. This week: Sing out the pain at karaoke.

**Taurus:** (April 20 — May 20)  
Week rating: F5  
You'll get more support than you anticipate when you wear Ziggy Stardust-era Bowie makeup. This week: Take a road trip to Dunkin' Donuts.

**Gemini:** (May 21 — June 21)  
Week rating: F4  
Get ready; your glockenspiel-playing skills are about to come in handy. This week: Mystery and enchantment awaits at the Super 8.

**Cancer:** (June 22 — July 22)  
Week rating: F5  
When you finally get the courage to step out on the town, you'll run into a Minaj-level celebrity. This week: Try to last longer than a Republican filibuster.

**Leo:** (July 23 — Aug. 22)  
Week rating: F1  
You'll discover who stole the doormat from your front porch. It's not who you think it is. This week: It's punch-drunk lust.

**Virgo:** (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22)  
Week rating: F3  
Virtuous Virgo, did you know that you are a tin-whistle virtuoso? This week: Calibrate your engines.

**Libra:** (Sept. 23 — Oct. 23)  
Week rating: F4  
You'd think Googling "call your girlfriend" and "butter tub" would get dirty results, but it does not. This week: Fix your jones for Cupcake Jones.

**Scorpio:** (Oct. 24 — Nov. 21)  
Week rating: F2  
It takes a while to reach your "final straw" when you have so many straws to begin with. This week: Something itchy this way comes.

**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21)  
Week rating: F5  
There's a surprise waiting for you in Pawnee Prairie Park. This week: Put the "Mike's" in Mike's Hard Lemonade.

**Capricorn:** (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19)  
Week rating: F4  
It's in the cards, it's in the tea leaves, and it's written on your palm: go, go, go. This week: Share the Jolly Ranchers.

**Aquarius:** (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18)  
Week rating: F2  
Running the numbers is a bummer, so don't do it. This week: Wink at the next hipster you see.

**Pisces:** (Feb. 19 — March 20)  
Week rating: F5  
Hayyyy, birthday Pisces! You look so good for your age. This week: Call someone "cookie," and make it convincing.

## ¡Ask a Mexican!

by Gustavo Arellano  
themexican@f5paper.com

**D**ear Mexican: I would be most interested in hearing your point of view regarding our *raza* always voting for someone with a Latino last name, without even considering if the *vato/vata* is qualified for a particular office. Often I hear comments like, "If he is Latino it makes up for all the years of injustice." But don't you think that our Mexican forefathers and recent immigrant friends left our native countries because Latino politicians have been unable to govern without corruption? Lately, we have seen what happens when we vote for Latinos without engaging in the issues or their backgrounds — just look at the California cities of Bell, Cudahy and Pico Rivera, where I live.

There was recently a race for one of

the most important positions that will actually affect L.A. Latino students: a L.A. Community College District trustee position. In District 6, we have an incumbent *güera* that everyone agrees has to go. Then we have a Latino *vato* politician who is looking for his next big political gig. The *Los Angeles Times* endorsed an old white guy, but he is a *firme vato* who has 30 years in the community college system, from *profe* to *presidente*. Unfortunately, the old *vato* lost, and the *güera* and *vendido* moved on to a runoff. I'm afraid that our *raza* voted for the Latino dude without realizing that he will not know how to fix the problems at L.A.C.C.D., and our students will get the short end of the stick — just like the residents in Bell, Cudahy and Pico

Rivera. What can we do to help our people do the right thing?  
Tony Villar is a Vendido



¡ASK A MEXICAN!

Dear Wab: *Mira*, Latinos are not somehow more predisposed to corruption in politics—look at most of Europe, or any big city in the United States — so your theory that Latinos immigrated to the United States for its less-corrupt politics is like saying Mexicans like pinto beans because they produce fabulous *pedos*. That said, I do join you in railing against Mexis voting for the Mexi on the ballot just because they're Mexi — but again, idiocy in the American electorate is nothing new. How else do you explain two terms of Dubya? The only way around this is education, education,

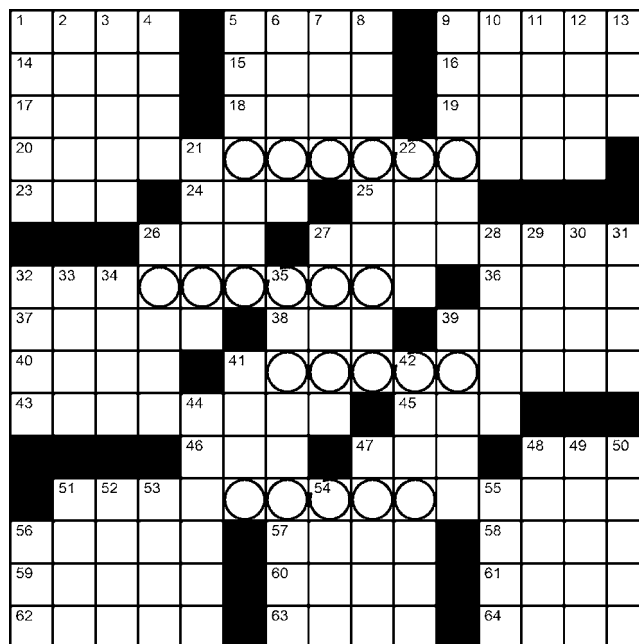
see "Mexican" page 19

## Jonesin' Crosswords "Nuclear Disasters" — stuck in the middle with...ewww.

by Matt Jones

### ACROSS

- 1 Cool, in 1990s rap parlance
- 5 Disaster, like the four movies in the theme entries
- 9 Hide words from the kids, maybe
- 14 Host with rumors of retiring in 2014
- 15 One woodwind
- 16 The present
- 17 "Edit" menu option
- 18 It may be more
- 19 Orange Muppet
- 20 Pattern for highland families
- 23 \_\_\_ Majesty
- 24 Mass \_\_\_ (Boston thoroughfare, to locals)
- 25 Word after Gator or Power
- 26 "Now I see!"
- 27 Richard or Maurice of 1940s fast food
- 32 Trips around the earth
- 36 Village Voice award
- 37 Golfer Palmer
- 38 Yoko of "Dear Yoko"
- 39 SeaWorld star attraction
- 40 Geometric shape: abbr.
- 41 Outside the box
- 43 Comet, for example
- 45 "I'm amazed!"
- 46 Columbus Day's mo.
- 47 Dizzy Gillespie genre
- 48 Gp. that regulates carry-on luggage
- 51 Itinerary collected by a rock historian
- 56 The South
- 57 "\_\_\_ Window"
- 58 Vizquel of baseball
- 59 "Fanny" author Jong
- 60 Prefix meaning "within"



- 61 Clue weapon
- 62 Ford's famous flop
- 63 TV chef Paula
- 64 Scrape spot

### DOWN

- 1 Stuffed doll material
- 2 Therefore
- 3 Conjunctions seen with a slash
- 4 Honk the horn
- 5 Simon in South American history

- 6 With a high BMI
- 7 \_\_\_ pit
- 8 Category for Daniel Day-Lewis
- 9 Sound purchase?
- 10 After-dinner wine
- 11 Krabappel of "The Simpsons"
- 12 \_\_\_ to rest
- 13 Soapmaking caustic
- 21 California/Nevada lake
- 22 Makes new friends?
- 26 Hill of the Clarence Thomas scandal

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWER



- 27 Secondary study
- 28 Not in any way
- 29 Having \_\_\_ hair day
- 30 Super-long ride
- 31 Two, in Toulouse
- 32 Pop singer Anthony
- 33 "Moral \_\_\_" (Cartoon Network show)
- 34 Way back when
- 35 Exhausted
- 39 Market divisions?
- 41 Maritime patrol gp.
- 42 Club on the fairway
- 44 Option given by Howie Mandel
- 47 Wesley Snipes title role
- 48 Pumbaa's cartoon buddy
- 49 Rickman, in the "Harry Potter" films
- 50 Terms and conditions option
- 51 Snipe or thrush
- 52 Line on a graph
- 53 Pleasant
- 54 It may be spliced
- 55 Monkees member Peter
- 56 Wallace of "E.T."

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# Skeptics of Oz Conference offers debates

by Kate Clause  
kclause@f5paper.com

The folks behind the Skeptics of Oz conference want you to fill your free time this weekend by learning about skepticism, or by watching some sweet atheist stand-up comedy.

The Wichita Coalition of Reason — composed of the Air Capital Skeptics, Wichita Atheists and the WSU Atheists and Agnostics — have teamed up for this conference on skepticism, science and atheism. It takes place Friday and Saturday at Wichita State University's CAC Theater.

Austin Harper is the president of the Air Capital Skeptics. He says his group tries to promote science and critical thinking in the Wichita area and to "have some fun while doing it." Harper says last year's conference attracted around 100 visitors, but this year's event has 150 RSVPs and counting.

This is Skeptics of Oz third year in Wichita with a lineup of writers, bloggers, scientists, scholars and educators.

Dr. Caleb Lack, a scientist and psychologist from Oklahoma, will kick things off Friday with an "Intro to Skepticism."

J.T. Eberhard, a blogger, atheist activist and self-labeled opera singer, will talk about how the skeptic community can support people with depression and mental illness.

Air Capital Skeptics vice president Ellise Hauth said she is excited about Eberhard's lecture on mental illness. Hauth adds that Baptist preacher-turned-atheist Teresa Macbain should be a good draw for people who are "new to questioning (religion) and don't know what to do about that."

D.J. Grothe of the For Good Reason podcast will lecture on the enchantingly named topic of "Psychic Charlatanry" — how psychics use cold reading, men-



PHOTO BY KATE CLAUSE

Conference-goers Andrew Juby, Ellise Hauth, and Austin Harper attend the Donut Whole's Science Cafe Tuesday talk about skepticism.

talism and other tricks to fool people. There is a lecture on how religion makes sex shameful by Darrel Ray. And there is a session on group fundraising led by Sharon Moss. There will also be a debate between Jamar Martin of Wichita Atheists, Abraham Howell of WSU Atheists and Agnostics and Father James Weldon of the Church of the Resurrection in Wichita.

Conference-goer Andrew Juby of Wichita says he's excited to learn new things at the conference, but also to see his fellow skeptic friends, "many of whom you talk to mostly online, or only online. There's a heavy social aspect to it."

Harper adds that, while they're definitely trying to attract self-proclaimed atheists, skeptics and agnostics, anyone is welcome. "One thing that is important

in skepticism is being well-informed and I certainly think this conference will be a great place to do that," he adds.

All events at the Skeptics of Oz Conference are free. More information on the conference is at: <http://lanyrd.com/2013/skeptics-of-oz/>.

**ourselves lusting for this nice piece of chamorro! Can you please help us out why we lust for Lindsay? And before you ask: If you are wondering why the French name, I'm sick and tired of gabachos and wabs always claiming 1/16 something else, so I claim 1/16 French nobleman with a chingonazo of chile colorado!**

**Le Chorizo del douleur**

Dear Frenchy: Mexicans like Lindsay Lohan? Sure, she appeared naked in *Machete*, but I would peg Kate Upton before LiLo as the current *gabacha* Mexican man crush. Then again, they both are an *hombre's* ultimate combo plate of desire: *gabachas*, young, and *chichonas*.

Ask the Mexican at [themexican@f5paper.com](mailto:themexican@f5paper.com), be his fan on Facebook, follow him on Twitter @gustavoarellano or ask him a video question at [youtube.com/askamexicano!](http://youtube.com/askamexicano!)

**Final Friday  
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"Mexican" from page 18

educación — but we live in the United States, where questions like the following are far more pressing to our *raza*...

**My camaradas and I always discuss famous celebrity women and how we would like to court them and make sweet love to them! It turns out we wind up always talking about Raquel Welch, Moncia Belluci, Paquita la del Barrio and Lindsay Lohan (Lindsay is la reyna of them all). And we ask ourselves why is it that she is our hot topic of conversation every time we talk about women and sex?**

**Do you think she might possibly be Mexican? She is always going to court because of legal and financial problems. Is it that somehow deep down inside, we want to be her father figure like that one puto sings about? Es porque esta tiernita, fresquesita, chiquitita, y güerita that we find**



PHOTO COURTESY WICHITAPHOTOS.ORG

**BIG THRILLS:** Wonderland's "Giant Thriller," built in 1911, was reported to be the longest coaster in America at the time of its construction.

**"Wonderland" from page 17**

Wonderland's attractions first opened to the public in late 1905, but the park's grand opening celebration came the following April, and it quickly became a rousing success. On July 4, 1906, more than 12,000 people paid the 25¢ admission, and total attendance for the year topped 200,000 visitors — and this is when Wichita's population was roughly 60,000.

The theaters and bandstand drew big-name touring bands, comedy acts and lecturers to Wonderland Park; among the luminaries to appear there were the Marx Brothers, John Philip Sousa and baseball-star-turned-prohibitionist-preacher Billy Sunday.

In 1915 the newly formed Wichita Aero Club hosted the National Balloon Race at the baseball park on the island, drawing national attention to Wichita and Wonderland; in that year the park set a new attendance record, with 16,600 paying guests visiting on the 5th of July. But times were changing. Temperance

unions and various church and civic organizations led morality crusades with increasing volume and vigor, and in their wake were enacted scads of "blue laws" prohibiting all manner of "immoral" activity. In Wichita, this included the sale of tickets to theaters on Sundays.

This struck the death knell for Wonderland's profitability, as Sunday shows were among the park's biggest draws. Wonderland's management, unable to keep the business afloat, sold the island to a startup movie outfit, the Palestinian Film Company, for \$40,000 in early 1918. That organization appears to have gone bust before setting up shop in Wichita, and by 1920 the property was being used by the Ark Valley Interurban Railroad (after which the Broadview Hotel's AVI restaurant is named) to house its maintenance sheds.

In 1933, due to concerns about flooding, a plan was hatched to fill in the west river channel separating Ackerman Island from the mainland. The Works Progress Administration, a "New Deal" program designed to put unemployed Americans to work during the Depression, hired men to move the dirt from the island into the channel using picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. Their handiwork remains today in the landscape along the west bank of the river from the Mid-America All-Indian Center all the way down to the Century II; if you visit Exploration Place, you are standing roughly on the old site of Wonderland Park.

The question today seems to be how long it will be before a generation matures that does not remember water flowing in the Arkansas River at all.





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