

FREE
LIKE SPEECH

Live music, P.11 | Events, P.16 | Movies, P.14
Issue 1, Vol. 2 • Jan. 9, 2014

WEEKLY
EVERY THURSDAY

F5

*work like a farmer
party like a rock star*

>Guitar anti-hero

The guitar is easy to pick up and just as easily it can turn you into a raging douchebag. p.2

>Income despair

As large employers work the system to keep wages low, real people struggle with life. p.2

>Keep your music

Be it vinyl, cassettes, CDs or old wax cylinders, music on physical media can be important. p.6

>Get set, go!

At one time, bicycle riders used to outnumber car drivers in the dusty streets of Doo-Dah. p.4

>Time for thick beer

Winter is the season for the dark, rich stouts with their luxurious mouth feel. p.8

F5

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LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

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ABOUT THE COVER



A detail from "Novem Passionis," a mixed media collage by Curt Clonts.

Beware of the guitouchebags

by Don Winsor
dwinsor@f5paper.com

Full disclosure: I enjoy playing the guitar, but I'm not very good. I've never had a lesson and there are chords I have to fake and some I have to completely pretend don't exist. I rarely play in front of other people, it is something I do to relax, like shooting at Floridians from hotel windows with a high powered sniper rifle. It's "me" time.



DON WINSOR

I had to disclose my guitariness because of what I'm about to say. This is not an original thought, but recent events and a conversation with an Actual Guitarist™ tell me people need to be reminded. The guitar is easy to pick up, easy to become relatively proficient with, and can very easily turn you into a douchebag.

Playing the guitar is the age-old way for men to suddenly seem to have a sensitive side and for women to add an

air of apparent undiscovered depth and artsiness. In truth, mostly the songs we write are terrible — I include myself in this — and we should go back to journaling or perhaps even start a tumblr.

Guys sitting on campus lawns trying to get laid by pubescently warbling soft ballads is a storied tradition. Girls, that guy isn't sitting there with that guitar because it's the best place to compose, or play, or learn a song. That guitar could be a puppy or a friend's baby. It's bait.

My friend Marcel, the bassist on tour here, made an excellent point. No one — or at least far fewer people — would sit in their hallways playing saxophone or French horn. The violinists are not sitting around publicly trying to score.* Why? Their instruments are more difficult to begin with and require a great deal more proficiency before one is comfortable noodling around in public. It is

see "Guitouchebags" page 18

Fixing low-income inequality is a must

by Bill Jenkins
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One hundred years ago, Henry Ford made an announcement that shocked the auto industry. He said that all of his workers would be receiving \$5 per day in wages. That was about twice the prevailing rate in the industry. It also leveled the salary scale since a skilled mechanic and the kid who swept the floors received the same wage.



BILL JENKINS

Ford understood something that most others did not. He saw that the American economy had entered a phase where consumer goods would be the engine that kept the economy running. And he knew that for consumers to buy manufactured goods and use services they had to have money. He was able to see

that his workers would now be able to buy the Model T cars that they produced.

The economic powers-that-be seem to have forgotten this lesson. That may be why President Obama has announced that the big push in 2014 will be reducing income inequality. This, he thinks, will help to move the economy out of the recovery stage into full blown prosperity. I think he's right.

One manifestation of this push will be an attempt to raise the minimum wage from the present \$7.25 to at least \$9. No one is arguing that \$9 is a living wage but that is about all he can expect to get from the Republican House of Representatives. More than 20 states

see "Inequality" page 3

F5

OFFICIAL POSITIONS

The opinions of the newspaper are not always the opinions of the individual contributors and vice versa. To avoid confusion, we will update you every week on the paper's official position on things going on in the world.



2013: So last year.



David Lynch hired an actress to film a new Twin Peaks thing: Anyone confusing this with a new ad for that chain restaurant will be very, very confused. The rest of us will just be very confused.



Speaking of Twin Peaks: sdrawkcab esnes hcum sa tsuj sekam tl.



Polar vortex: We will miss saying it now that it's gone. "Polar vortex." It sounds so cool.



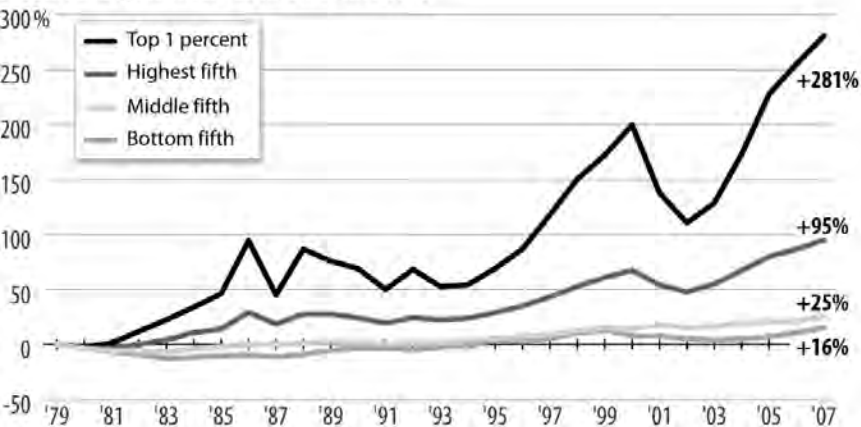
Colorado pot: We hear that legal weed in Colorado costs less than illegal weed in Kansas — even after Colorado adds 38% in taxes to the price. We wouldn't actually know that for sure, though. Not at all. We wouldn't even know whom to ask.

>GET HEARD

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Income Gains at the Top Dwarf Those of Low- and Middle-Income Households

Percent Change in After-Tax Income Since 1979



SOURCE: CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PROPERTIES FROM CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE DATA

POOR PEOPLE HAVE POOR CHANGE: The ultra-rich have been leaving the rest of us behind for a long time. And by "us," we mean everyone except the Koch brothers.

"Inequality" from page 2

have already hiked the base to over \$9. And the governing body of the District of Columbia has been trying to set a minimum of \$15 for employees of the multi-billion dollar corporations like Walmart and McDonalds.

Of course, there are loopholes. In Kansas, there is a sub minimum wage rate less than a third of the minimum wage for people who are likely to receive tips — waiters, bar maids, etc. It isn't hard to see that this just amounts to transferring the responsibility for adequately compensating these workers from the employer to the customer.

While this scheme may be effective at a sports bar on Super Bowl Sunday, it certainly isn't on a snowy Tuesday to the folks who work the day shift. It undoubtedly works for lawmakers who benefit materially from "correct" votes according to lobbyists.

Large employers work the system to keep wages low. Boeing just worked the state of Washington and the machinists for concessions to keep production in the Puget Sound area. Cities and states vie to bribe companies to relocate, to expand or to stay in their areas. This protects jobs, they say, but it does not protect the workers who do those jobs.

Educational institutions find ways to cut costs while raising tuition. For years, teaching assistants and grad students have taught the lower-level classes at most institutions. The heavy use of local teachers, business people or retirees as adjunct instructors drops the cost of instruction. Some teachers have to work at two or three institutions to put together a full time job at a low wage. Now the big trend is online education. No brick and mortar site needed. Follow the University of Phoenix model to rake in big bucks for computer-based instruction.

These same institutions reacted to the Obama administration's redefinition of full-time workers to include any work-

ing over 30 hours per week by dropping job assignments to 28 hours a week and forbidding overtime. A nightmare for managers but a big cost savings. And an end-around to avoid responsibilities under the Affordable Care Act.

Breaking unions is another way to fight upward pressure on wages. Move to a "right to work" state, start a subsidiary company, threaten to move offshore. Unions are now at a critical point in their struggle to exist and be an effective advocate for their members because of these tactics.

Henry Ford was no big fan of unions. But he knew that the best way to fight unionization is to pay the workers enough to keep them happy. The fates of the company and the workers were tied together and still are.

Over the past 30 years, compensation for executives has increased exponentially. The buying power of the average family, however, has not increased and some statistics suggest that it has decreased. Corporations have unprecedented cash reserves and stocks are at an all time high. What is wrong with this picture?

Since the 1950s, in order to maintain their standards of living, most families have become accustomed to having two wage earners. Stay-at-home parenting is nearly a thing of the past. Many "breadwinners" have to work two or three jobs to keep from slipping into poverty. How can this be good for the economy? How long can consumers keep the economy afloat while being squeezed harder and harder by pressure to keep wages low.

I'm old. I live on pensions. I know these pensions, which are adequate now, will lose in the long run to cost of living increases. But I'll be OK. I have a little put back for the future. But I see young people trying to get ahead, buy a house and start a retirement or a college fund and I am afraid for them. Go, Mr. President. Do something that will narrow the gap.

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MICHAEL CARMODY



SOURCE: WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PRETTY DANDY: The members of the city's first formal bicycling organization, the Wichita Bicycle Club, in 1885. The same year, in England, the Rover "safety bicycle" was introduced; within a few short years these high-wheeled "penny-farthing" bikes would be relegated entirely to the scrapheap of history.

Bicycle! Bicycle!

by Michael Carmody
mcarmody@f5paper.com

There has never been a better time in Wichita history in which to be a bicycle enthusiast. Revitalization of the core urban areas of the city, combined with sustained high gasoline prices and increased public interest in fitness, have provoked a substantial escalation in bicycle travel. The city maintains over 60 miles of bicycle paths, dedicated street lanes and other assorted bike-centric features, and has developed an ongoing project to determine the best ways to accommodate the ever-increasing use of bicycles along with existing pedestrian and automotive traffic.

But this is by no means the first time bicycles have been in such vogue in our fair city; records of their use go all the way back to the first decade of Wichita's cityhood.

When Wichita was founded in 1870, the dominant style of bicycle was the high-wheel, sometimes known as the "penny-farthing" after the large and small British coins the front and rear

wheels resembled. These bicycles were difficult to ride, very expensive and considered little more than dangerous toys for affluent boys and devil-may-care young rakes. By the early 1880s the Wichita Bicycle Club had been formed and maintained a roster of active members and an agenda of ambitious activities.

The May 30, 1888 edition of the *Wichita Beacon* reported: "Eighteen or twenty members of the Bicycle club left this morning on their wheels for Hutchinson, a run of about 50 miles." By this time the "safety bicycle," of which almost all modern bicycles are a direct variant, had been developed; one must hope that the club members riding to Hutchinson were on this style of machine rather than their high-wheeled ancestors.

That same year, the *Beacon* reported on the club's enterprises at least twice more. On Sept. 1: "The bicycle club has sent one of the recent photographs of itself to the Board of Trade rooms to be sent to the Cincinnati [Industrial] Exposition."

see "Wichitarchaeology" page 5

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WORLD'S FASTEST BIKE: James L. "Bunny" Mead, son of Wichita pioneer John R. Mead, founded the Mead Cycle Company and ran it from a factory headquartered in Chicago for half a century. Mead bicycles were popularized with a widespread print advertising campaign in youth magazines such as the Boy Scouts' *Boys Life* and today are highly prized collectibles.

SOURCE: PUBLIC DOMAIN

I want to ride my bicycle. I want to ride it where I like.

MONEY BIKES: The home of Alfred Bitting, co-founder of the Bitting Brothers store, at 259 N. Emporia in 1882. Note Bitting's son on the sidewalk with his high-wheel bicycle; at the time these were very expensive status symbols, only accessible to the affluent.

SOURCE: WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



"Wichitarchaeology" from page 4

And on Oct. 29: "Through efforts of the bicycle club, a new cinder track for bicycle racing is being put down at the Davidson Park and is almost completed. It is one-quarter mile long and 20 feet wide on the home stretch and 10 feet in the back stretch. It is to be completed some time next week."

What was known then as Davidson Park is now the main area of Riverside Park. The section of the modern park inside the horseshoe bend of the Little River, including the Ralph Wulz Tennis Center, was for a time in the 19th Century known as Griswold's Park. It, too, had its own bicycle track.

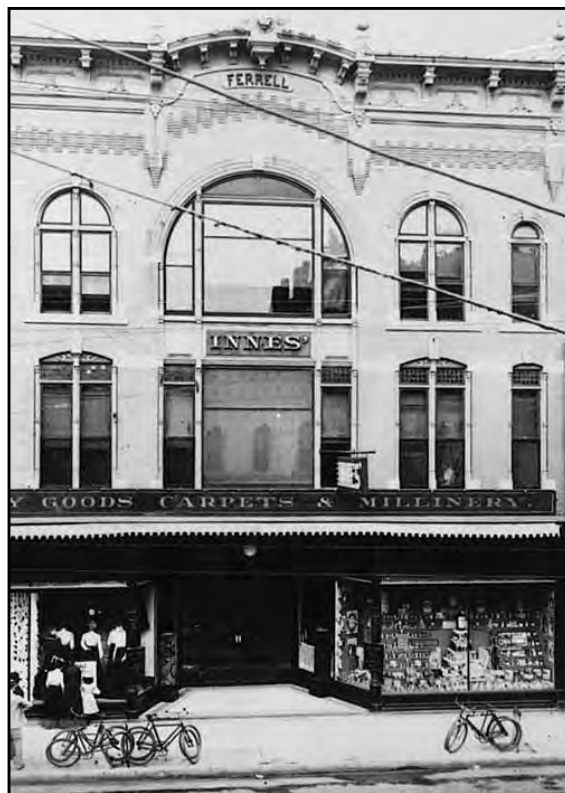
An April 24, 1894 *Wichita Eagle* article about Griswold's Park says: "nearly 7,000 people visited it last Sunday. It has been thoroughly cleaned up, 150 rustic seats put in, and a bicycle and race track fixed. Mr. Griswold has had six men working on it since last November. A fine fence has been put in all around it, swings put up, and the Little river well stocked with boats. The park gate is open to everybody free and in all respects it is a public park. Mr. Griswold is a wealthy summer show man who has been here all winter. He bought the park for speculation in the future and will build a home for himself there. He expects the lemonade stand and the boats to pay the taxes and the expenses. He contemplates building a dam that will raise the water in the river two feet more."

(The very same edition of the *Eagle* coincidentally reported: "City council yesterday decided to place a dam across the Little river near its confluence with the Big Arkansas." This dam is still in evidence today where Central bends toward Seneca at Museum Drive.)

In 1895, James Lucas "Bunny" Mead, son of legendary Wichita founding father James R. Mead, started the Mead Cycle Company, which established its headquarters in Chicago. Mead bicycles were popular for several decades thereafter and today are highly sought after by collectors.

1896 saw the formation of another bicycle club, the Wichita Wheelmen.

As the safety bicycle caught on, it sold like hotcakes.



SOURCE: WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
The original Innes Store at 123 N. Main in 1900. Note the pair of bicycle racks in front, with numerous modern-style "safety" bicycles parked therein.

For the first time, bicycling was democratized beyond wild boys to include proper gentlemen and even ladies. The popularity of the bicycle led to some of the earliest cries for public street paving, and more public and private tracks and velodromes were built to meet the demand.

In 1898 a baseball park was erected on South Main Street. The March 10 *Beacon* had details: "Grounds have been secured for an athletic park in the block between Gilbert and Morris streets nine blocks south of Douglas Avenue on Main Street. The ground is owned by a number of persons, but year leases have been obtained from all of them, and some with options for renewal. Work will be rapidly pushed on the baseball diamond and enclosure, the latter being 450 feet long, 320 feet wide, and eight feet in height. A grand stand with capacity of 1,500 will be finished in time for opening of the ball season the first week in April. A five lap bicycle track is to be constructed outside the baseball diamond and the street railway company has agreed to install 25 arc lights so that night races can be held. The street car company will offer a six-minute service to the park and will probably build a special switch so that the traffic can be better cared for."

In 1900 the city's earliest reported street bike path opened in the vicinity of Fairmount College (later WSU), along the "grade of the old 15th street car line." (From the *Eagle*.) Bicycle use continued to grow, and in June 1909, the city commission enacted a law requiring bicycle owners to purchase a license plate for their bikes, at a cost of 25 cents per year. The law, though not widely enforced, stayed on the books until 2010.

By the 1910s, bicycles became so commonplace as a means of personal transportation that the few times they were newsworthy were when people on them were struck by freight trains, streetcars or city buses. On May 1, 1911, a traffic survey on the Douglas Avenue Bridge was taken between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Some 422 automobiles crossed the bridge in that time frame — and 636 bicycles. (Numbers for both, incidentally, were completely eclipsed by horse-drawn vehicles, of which there were 2,031!)

Today the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan is an evolving project, soliciting public input toward the end goal of making Wichita a more bike-able city. For more information on how you can take part in making a difference, visit <http://tinyurl.com/bicycleict> online.

>HEAR IT

Who: Ras Kass and Copywrite with Jessie Lives, Big Boyz and Cash Hollistah
What: Rap
Where: Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island
When: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9 p.m.
How much: 21+ \$5, 18-21 \$8



HERE IN DOODAH: Ras Kass is a world-class rapper and a must-see event.

COURTESY PHOTO

Ras Kass brings Writers Block

by **Torin Andersen**
tandersen@f5paper.com

Pitchfork Media named Ras Kass “one of the best rappers of all time,” and he will be stopping in Wichita to perform at Rock Island Live, Sunday, Jan. 12 with Copywrite as a part of the Writers Block Tour. Special guest Jessie Lives (Los Angeles) will perform with locals Big Boyz and Cash Hollistah all of which will be hosted by Antimosity.

With an impressive list of contributions and collaborations including artists Snoop Dog, Dr. Dre, RZA, Too Short, Lauryn Hill, DJ Qbert, Cypress Hill and Talib Kweli (the list goes on and on), Ras Kass is a not-to-be-missed Wichita event.

Along with Ras Kass is a member of the Columbus crew MegaHertz, Copywrite. An underground hip-hop artist who broke into the scene with MHZ in 1998, Copywrite continues to work and tour. Promoting his latest

release, *God Save the King*, this, his fourth full length release features contributions from Torae, Casual, Evidence and Mac Lethal to name a few.

If you’re looking forward to the future of live music in Wichita and want to support bringing in more acts like this, be proactive and check out these shows from performers taking a risk from their regularly scheduled tour to experiment with the potential market in your backyard.

Don't get rid of your music

by **Jorts McDude**
jmcdude@f5paper.com

Here's a picture of (most of) the 1,100 or so CDs I've accumulated over the past 20 years. I keep them in our home office where I can mostly ignore them, because that's where Mrs. McDude goes for little nerdy work retreats.

While I was up there a few minutes ago, shredding old bills, I looked at these and got really sad. Some

of these things I really had to hunt for. Some of them I was really proud to buy, like paying membership dues into an elite club of like-minded heavy metal nerds. Now they're all but forgotten, coated in dust. The way I listen to music — like the way many of you also listen to music, I'm sure — has changed. I mostly stream my music on Spotify or Youtube or Bandcamp or any of a



PHOTO BY JORTS MCDUDE

DUSTY BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: The Jorts McDude music collection is increasingly digital and less photogenic, but this is the pile of physical — and nostalgic — media that were in some cases hard-fought discoveries.

see “Music” page 10

Embrace the dark side

Winter is time for the rich flavor of stouts.

by Will Darrah
wdarrah@f5paper.com

It is with a bit of trepidation that I do now ask you to *put down the I.P.A.*! Yes it is a great beer style but there is one or two others to try out there too. Now take that newly freed hand, stop making cheeky gestures for the benefit of the beer columnist and grab a stout.

Stouts are great, and they are often under-appreciated — possibly because they are a little bit intimidating. There are so many variations that one might not know where to begin. They often have a very intense flavor — maybe too intense.

Whatever the reason, it is time to step up to the plate and introduce yourself to a pint of the plain. As winter sets in, the rich, full-flavored beer is quite nice. They often will have a silky head that is oh so pleasant when it touches your upper lip.

If you are not yet sold on the idea, try a porter. New Belgium Brewing's 1554 was my transition beer to the dark side. It actually is marketed as a "Belgian Dark Ale," but it is arguably one of the greatest porters under a Belgian hat.

If you think you are ready to add an acidic bite and more flavor then you're ready to come over to the dark side, you are ready for a pint of the black stuff.

Now what to get first? Well there is always a Guinness. Guinness is a good beer, but we are awfully far away from

see "Beer" page 9



IT'S ALL GOOD: Dry stouts, cream stouts and imperial stouts all bring their own unique experiences to your palate.

Wichita, you have it good

by Don Winsor
dwinsor@f5paper.com

Wichita, you don't know how lucky you are, insofar as coffee is concerned. Being home for a bit a couple of weeks ago solidified that to me.

As a friend picked me up from the airport, before even going to my condo we stopped at The Donut Whole and had their great '90s Seattle-style cappuccinos. Later that day, I hit Reverie and tried their Maple Spice toddy, which is

not usually my style but which I became addicted to during this visit home.

R Coffeehouse, Espresso To Go Go, The Vagabond and the myriad of other local options are far more than many cities of our size have to offer.

I've been very lucky to even find one really decent place in many of the cities I've visited as I travel the country for my job.

Great local places run by great people and they *all* offer free massages in the back. OK, that last part isn't true, but you get my point.

Wichita has a lot to offer, locally. If you want coffee, don't grab the easy Starbucks at Dillon's, go visit Angelo at R Coffeehouse and let him make you something you never realized you'd like. Go to Reverie and buy some excellent coffee to make at home. Go to The Donut Whole and FedEx me some donuts.

Since Christmas I've been in Tucson, Tempe and now Las Vegas. There have been great coffee

see "Coffee" page 9



WILL
DARRAH

Excellent independent coffee options abound at home.



DON
WINSOR

"Beer" from page 8

Dublin, aren't we, and there are plenty of craft breweries that offer stouts too.

To help guide you on your first stout expedition here is a bit of a road map so you know what you're drinking and when you might have fallen off course. Stouts fall in to three general categories: dry, cream or imperial. Each of them can further be described as American or English. The distinction between English and American stouts, or any other form of beer with the label "American" in front of the traditional beer style name, is easily simplified as the old traditional style versus the new American craft style.

Dry Stout

A dry stout is your typical plain Jane stout. Plain in the sense that there are no bells or whistles, not in its potential as a beer. Think of it as the pale ale of stouts — or to enter Don's world of coffee, the Columbian Roast. There are not many "American" styles of the dry stout, as the recipe is a bit constraining by definition, but that does not mean there are not plenty of good ones. Guinness is really a fine beer. There are also plenty of good craft examples readily available in Wichita as well, Boulevard for one seems to have good representation on taps in town.

Cream Stout

Here things get a little more interesting. The cream stout — also covering milk, oyster and sweat stouts — takes the

coffee flavors of the dry and takes them up a notch with more flavors. Think of all of those exotic coffee variations. I despise the frilly coffee but not a Cream stout. There are plenty of great ones. The freedom does however create the potential for follies, which there are some, but over all there are mostly great beers to be had here. Tallgrass does well with its Buffalo Sweat. One of my current favorites is Left Hand's Milk Stout.

Imperial Stout

Meaning strong, strong porter, imperial stouts are high-alcohol-content stouts. As a general observation this is the category in which most brewing failures occur. There are plenty of stouts here that taste like someone cleaned the burnings off the bottom of a frying pan with Everclear and then served it as an imperial stout. If you had a bad imperial stout and declared that you don't like stouts, it is likely that you just had a bad stout. All that said, some of my favorite beers in the world are imperial stouts and when done properly can be some of the most amazing beers available. Take Old Rasputin, if you had one of these and said you don't like stout, you might just not like beer. Boulevard also has a great stout in their Bourbon Barrel Quad.

So try a stout. No try lots of stouts and discover the style. I promise you will be the better for the experience. I will leave you with an Irish toast: "In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship but never in want." Prost!

"Coffee" from page 8

options in each city, but per capita Wichita is above average in this regard.

Tucson had a few great places, my personal favorite being "Epic" and not just because it allowed me to say to people "let me take you to this place, it's Epic." The best coffee in Tuscon was a toss-up between Epic and Cafe Luce, with Epic edging ahead due to their atmosphere and the other stuff they had on offer. Cafe Luce roasts their own, and their coffee was great, but I'd rather hang out at Epic. Honorable mention goes to Revolution Coffee and Books, which has a great little bookstore and is sort of themed after the various communist revolutions of the 20th century.

Tempe had less quality in their caffeine, though I found one place whose coffee was pretty good. It's called Cartel Coffee, and their coffee is at least as pretentious as it is good, which on some level I appreciated. The barista argued with me when I ordered a flat white with an extra shot, and she was right to do so,

because that's not a flat white anymore. It becomes something else, it throws off the balance. I like being told when I'm wrong, as long as I agree that I'm wrong. They roast their own, too, though I'm not a huge fan of some of their beans.

Now I'm in Vegas, and I've only been here for a night but I imagine I will have to work a bit harder to find anything you might call "indie" or "local" here, as everything is very, well, Vegas. I'll find something, I'm sure. In the meantime, enjoy what you have and appreciate Wichita for me.

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Also Makes a Fun
& Unique Gift

"Music" from page 6

number of other sites.

Out with nothing, in with the new. It's seriously been years since I listened to some of these, but I can't bring myself to get rid of any of them. I can listen to anything by Swans, John Zorn, or Converge any time I want on the internet, but that doesn't stop me from getting rid of their CDs, because some of it's autographed (Swans' *My Father Will Guide Me up a Rope to the Sky*); or reminds me of my first apartment (John Zorn's *Spillane*); or reminds me of that one night I worked "security" for a shithole club (Converge's *No Heroes*).

I also remember just feeling mortified at both my parents', and Mrs. McDude's parents' revelation that in preparing for parenting, they got rid of tons of old LPs that they deemed unsuitable for small ears (but would've been worth a fortune today). I don't anticipate most of what I've got to be worth much to anyone outside niche collectors, but who

knows — maybe my kid will one day liberate my original copy of Agoraphobic Nosebleed's *Honky Reduction* and really enjoy how hilarious the whole thing is — not just the music, but the packaging, too. Maybe she'll invite your kid over. Hell, maybe she'll sell it for beer money. I hope she doesn't find my baseball cards in the basement — I've got a '56 Mickey Mantle in that collection somewhere.

And I guess that's the thing: I bought TWO CDs last year: the Joy Formidable's *Wolf's Law* (because I took Mini McDude to see them at SXSW last March and they autographed her CD) and Lizzo's *Bangers* (because she floored me at Lizard Lounge and she did not have any LPs available). In addition to the above, I've got another 300 or so LPs and assorted collectible records. I'd rather buy LPs because of the large-scale artwork, superior sound quality, the overall experience of feeling tethered — if even for 15 minutes a side — to the music and the commitment of keeping them in nice shape. A nice change, no doubt, from the

ease at which I/we tear through streaming music.

Anyway, I hope you have a great

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LiveMusic::

CRANK IT UP

>GET LISTED

To get on this page, submit your info to events@f5paper.com.

Thursday, January 9

EDITOR'S PICK

KingShifter with Scattered Hamlet
8 p.m. \$10. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

Friday, January 10

Cathead
5 p.m. @Heroes Sports Bar, 117 N. Mosley.
Keeper with Jeremy Stokely and Sydney Steele
8 p.m. @Mead's Corner, 430 E Douglas.

Charles Nida
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Uyen Tran
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

The Calm with Delano
9 p.m. \$3. @Betty's Runway Lounge, 4000 S Broadway.

Fly By Night
9 p.m. @Heroes Sports Bar, 117 N. Mosley.

Ryan Smothers, We Are at War, Crunk Witch and Faux Reality
9 p.m. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

Jayke Orvis and the Broken Band, Fishgutz and His Ignorant Band and Deadman Flats
9 p.m. \$8. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

Devin the Dude
9 p.m. \$15-\$20. @Pandora, 115 N. Rock Island.

Sleepy Truckers
9 p.m. \$5. @Shamrock Lounge, 1724 W. Douglas.

Crunk Witch, Southernland Nights and We Are at War
10 p.m. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Saturday, January 11

The Lacs with Haywired
7 p.m. All ages. \$12.50-\$15. @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

The Serpent Overlord with Dialin Watts and Domestic Drone
8 p.m. @Betty's Runway Lounge, 4000 S Broadway.

Stumble Home
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

EDITOR'S PICK

The Donut Whole's Beatles Birthday Bazzazzle
8 p.m. The Donut Whole's fifth birthday celebration will feature music from Georgia Andersen, Michael Carmody, Lacey Cruse, Emily Gilliam, Haymakers, Jonathan Hicks, Mark Horton, John Jenkinson, Ron Land, Carson Mac, Marta McKim, Curt Mitchell, Nikki Modellmog, Hawley Shoffner, Zach Shoffner, Dude Stewart and VWL. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

David Holland Band
3 p.m. Benefit for David Holland and the Holland family. \$20 suggested donation. @Loft 150, 150 1/2 N. Mosley.

Tas Cru and His Band of Tortured Souls
8 p.m. No cover. @Shamrock Lounge, 1724 W. Douglas.

EDITOR'S PICK

Ras Kass and Copywrite
9 p.m. 18 and older. \$5-\$8. @Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island.

Monday, January 13

Lionize, Diviner and Soleb Theory
8 p.m. \$8-\$10. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.
Mobile Death Camp and Plaguebot
9 p.m. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

see "Live Music" page 15



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>SEE IT

Title: *The Wolf of Wall Street*

Rating: F3

Short review:

Scorsese's tale of greed and excess may be Oscar material, but is rather dull and shallow compared to his other works.

SPOILER ALERT: *Wolf* spends three hours telling us that nothing lasts forever, in case you didn't know. Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese have collaborated on a number of projects with great success — this is not one of them.

Wolf of Wall Street is no Goodfellas

by Dan Kampling
dkampling@f5paper.com

Martin Scorsese is a name many filmgoers love to see under a "Directed By" credit. He's not only well revered as a filmmaker, but for his efforts for making motion pictures a viable form of art.

With that being said, it's impossible to expect that every movie with "Directed By Martin Scorsese" is void of criticism. For every *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*, there's a

New York, New York and *After Hours*. In regard to Scorsese's latest film that opened last Christmas, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, it should be filed alongside the latter mentioned films.

A common theme in a Scorsese film is the story of how an underdog overcomes obstacles to become a champion, whether it's a vengeful taxi driver, a determined boxer or an aspiring gangster. *Wolf of Wall Street* is not about an underdog, but rather a smarmy stockbroker (Leonardo DiCaprio) whose smooth talking and illegal activities make

him rich enough to engage in hardcore drugs and an extremely frivolous lifestyle. There's not much else to tell, since that's all what the movie spends its three-hour run time presenting with an obvious inevitable conclusion that nothing lasts forever. Sure there are supporting characters like his business partner (Jonah Hill), his trophy wife (Margot Robbie) and his financial advising father (Rob Reiner), but all of them combined can't contribute anything

see "Wolf" page 13

>SEE IT

Title: *47 Ronin*

Rating: F2

Short review:

Beautiful to look at, but flat, predictable character archetypes and Hollywood cultural shenanigans render it a chore to sit through.

47 Ronin commits seppuku

by Jeremy Webster
jwebster@f5paper.com

As *47 Ronin* joins *The Lone Ranger* and *R.I.P.D.* as one of 2013's most embarrassing box office flops, it's worth pointing out that it really isn't as bad as either of those films — it's just not really all that good.

To say it's extremely loosely based on the factual story of the 18th Century 47 Ronin is being generous,

as the only real similarities are that there are 47 ronin and they're seeking revenge after the head of their clan was sentenced to seppuku — ritual suicide — for an act that brought dishonor on his clan.

The film is a sort of PG-13 light beer variant of *300*, using feudal Japan rather than ancient Greece as its locale. It shares that film's notion of fatalism as

see "47 Ronin" page 13



NEVER MIND HISTORY: Hollywood's attempt at telling a classic Japanese legend has as much to do with what really happened as *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*.

SHOGUN SHOWDOWN: Between the CGI dragon and the white-guy-samurai-in-feudal Japan, it's hard to decide which character is more unbelievable.



"47 Ronin" from page 12

well, though, as history shows, the ronin actually succeeded in their quest and, for them, seppuku was the *happy* option. Since real history isn't badass enough, there's a witch who shapeshifts into unconvincing CGI beasts (although some of the effects work involving her hair operating as tentacles is pretty cool) and enchants characters to do things against their will, a standardly shallow egomaniacally evil villain and a forbidden love between the clan leader's daughter and Keanu Reeves' ill-treated "half breed" orphan Kai. Ah yes, it's another Hollywood film set in Japan with Japanese actors and Japanese characters that just needed a Hollywood A-lister for whatever reason. *The Last Samurai*, anyone? In fact, Reeves'

character was completely made up for the film. Now, doesn't *that* feel awkward? We spend much of the film watching Kai get treated like crap only to earn the group's respect and acceptance throughout the course of the film. Considering this is a film where someone thought a Hollywood staple with a bit of Chinese heritage needed to be rammed down our throats to make a film set in Japan with a 99.9 percent Japanese cast palatable to Western audiences, the words "screw off" sort of just want to roll right off the tongue. A movie that won't trust its audience to see Japanese-only actors that wants to present themes of radical cross-cultural acceptance? Yeah, "screw off" are the *exact* words that come to mind. Anyway, skewed Hollywood cultural B.S. aside, it's a would-be epic with expansive vistas and beautiful costuming

that is two-dimensional in almost every way. There's nothing surprising, nothing revealing, nothing really special going on here. The characters are, despite a terrific cast, purely stock archetypes. Hell, there's even a comic humor fat guy who gets to pull off the "heroic fat guy self sacrifice" early in the ronin quest, and we'd just *hate* to think fat people in movies serve any purpose other than that, amirite? What was that phrase again? Oh, right. Screw off. The film also has a number of light fantasy elements in it aside from the witch, such as a visit to a forbidding temple in the woods in an attempt to collect weaponry from a world renouncing sect of what appears to be reptilian Buddhist monks. None of it's particularly necessary, and it seems like it's just bloating up the script with things to fill the running

time. With this sequence in particular I began to wonder if I had wandered into some curious reinvisioning of *Conan the Destroyer*. *47 Ronin* isn't a terrible movie, it's simply a film whose ambitions were in the wrong areas. It's beautiful to look at, it has an adequately somber feel, it seems to be trying to keep the effects setpieces under restraint to allow for dramatic development, and it has a more than adequate cast. It falls apart because its characters and action are all rote. You can get away with that with a film like *300* because that film's intensity and over-the-top violence fill in the gap. This film has neither element, and is all the more hampered by the awkward shoehorning of Reeves' character in an otherwise completely Japan-centric affair.

"Wolf" from page 12

engaging or interesting to the narrative, which largely borrowed from another Scorsese film, *Goodfellas*. Since this film's "story" is based on the memoirs of the real-life title character, Jordan Belfort, there should be a massive amount of doubt in the minds of the audience as to just how much we can trust a man like Belfort's word. Only a couple of scenes in the film make the audience question this, notably a scene involving a drug overdose, and it would have been beneficial to have more scenes like that to provide something else than just the cast living out a shallow fantasy of drugs, sex and money. The performances provided by the cast don't provide anything noteworthy. This is DiCaprio's fifth collaboration with Scorsese, who provides him the chance to use his charm and yet another opportunity to yell at the top of his lungs, because apparently that's what they

think makes their movies good. Co-star Hill lacks brevity and feels the need to wear fake glasses and perma-white teeth so he can feel like a true "actor" to be in a film of this stature. Lead actress Robbie is rather embarrassing, as she apparently only got the part for her looks, willingness to show off certain parts of her body and engage in sexual acts. It's rather best not to give an actress like Robbie a chance to create a credible Brooklyn accent, because she falters and it gives her less of an ability to provide emotional depth when those rare scenes in the film call for it. *The Wolf of Wall Street* is a contender for the upcoming Academy Awards ceremony, but I trust the Oscar gold will be given to the more deserving recipients. It may be more competent than most recent films, but there's certainly a lot more to improve upon. The only thing to walk away from with *The Wolf of Wall Street* is that money can truly buy you anything, including a biopic.



NOW THAT'S ACTING: *The Wolf of Wall Street*'s lead actress, Australian Margot Robbie, can't pull off a Brooklyn accent but succeeds at pulling off her clothes.

F5

MOVIE RATINGS GUIDE

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

>NEW THIS WEEK

- August: *Osage County*
- Her
- Inside Llewyn Davis
- The Legend of Hercules
- Lone Survivor

47 Ronin (PG-13)

Starring Keanu Reeves, Hiroyuki Sanada, Kô Shibasaki. Directed by Carl Rinsch.
Plot: A band of samurai set out to avenge the death and dishonor of their master at the hands of a ruthless shogun.
Genre: Action, Adventure, Fantasy
Rating: F2
Short review: Beautiful to look at, but flat, predictable character archetypes and Hollywood cultural shenanigans render it a chore to sit through.
13th Ave Warren: 6:45, 9:30; **21st St Warren:** 6:35, 9:50

American Hustle (R)

Starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper. Directed by David O. Russell.
Plot: A con man and his seductive British partner are forced to work for a wild FBI agent who pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia.
Genre: Crime, Drama
Rating: F5
Short review: A well-made throwback to the 1970s with con artists working with the law in making a mark out of a mayor.
13th Ave Warren: 11:45 a.m., 3:15, 6:40, 10; **21st St Warren:** 12:45, 4:15, 7:45; **Warren Oldtown:** 6:30, 9:45 daily with 11:45 a.m. Sat-Sun and 3 Fri-Sun and Wed

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13)

Starring Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd. Directed by Adam McKay.
Plot: With the 70s behind him, San Diego's top rated newsman, Ron Burgundy, returns to take New York's first 24-hour news channel by storm.
Genre: Comedy
Rating: F3
Short review: A comedic Rorschach test, viewers are likely to find something worthwhile in it due to its "everything including the kitchen sink" approach.
13th Ave Warren: 1, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:15, 4:05, 7:10 with 9:50 Fri-Sat; **Movie Machine:** 1:15, 7; **21st St Warren:** 1:05, 4:10, 7:05, 10:05; **Warren Oldtown:** 7, 10:10 daily with 12:15 Sat-Sun and 3:45 Fri-Sun and Wed

New This Week

August: *Osage County* (R)

Starring Meryl Streep, Dermot Mulroney, Julia Roberts. Directed by John Wells.
Plot: A look at the lives of the strong-willed women of the Weston family, whose paths have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them.
Genre: Comedy, Drama
13th Ave Warren: 12:20, 3:20, 6:45, 9:45; **21st St Warren:** 12:30, 3:50, 6:55, 10:05

Bad Grandpa (R)

Starring Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll, Spike Jonze. Directed by Jeff Tremaine.
Plot: 86-year-old Irving Zisman is on a journey across America with the most unlikely companion: his 8-year-old grandson, Billy.
Genre: Comedy
Rating: F3
Short review: Full of crude humor, pranks and stunts, audiences should find laughs in a man and boy's unusual cross-country journey.
Palace West: 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35 with 11:45 p.m. Fri-Sat



NEW THIS WEEK: Ewan McGregor, Julia Roberts, Juliette Lewis, Dermot Mulroney, Chris Cooper, Margo Martindale, Julianne Nicholson, Abigail Breslin and Benedict Cumberbatch star in *August: Osage County*, a film based on Tracy Lett's Pulitzer Prize winning dramedy.

The Book Thief (PG-13)

Starring Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson. Directed by Brian Percival.
Plot: While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. Under the stairs in her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents.
Genre: Drama, War
Rating: F5
Short review: The film adaptation of the acclaimed book handles the subject matter of the Holocaust with a unique perspective and narrative to drive it.
13th Ave Warren: 12:15, 6:15

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG)

Starring Bill Hader, Anna Farris, Will Forte. Directed by Cody Cameron, Kris Pearn.
Plot: Flint Lockwood now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids.
Genre: Animation, Comedy, Family, Sci-Fi
Rating: F4
Short review: The story may be nothing too notable, but the gleefully absurd world and characters onscreen go a long way toward making up for it.
Palace West: 1:30, 4, 6:30, 8:50 with 11 p.m. Fri-Sat

Despicable Me 2 (PG)

Starring Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Miranda Cosgrove. Directed by Chris Renaud, Pierre Coffin.
Plot: Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal.
Genre: Animation, Comedy, Crime, Family
Rating: F2
Short review: Felonious Gru and the gang return for a cash-in sequel that's only entertaining for the kids in the audience.
Palace West: 4:25, 6:50

Ender's Game (PG-13)

Starring Harrison Ford, Asa Butterfield, Hailee Steinfeld. Directed by Gavin Hood.
Plot: The International Military seek out a leader who can save the human race from an alien attack. Ender Wiggin, a brilliant young mind, is recruited and trained to lead his fellow soldiers into a battle that will determine the future of Earth.
Genre: Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi
Rating: F2
Short review: Despite a respectable cast and polished look, the feature film version of the acclaimed book arrives too late for modern audiences.
Palace West: 1:20, 3:55, 6:45, 9:15 with 11:40 p.m. Fri-Sat

Free Birds (PG)

Starring Woody Harrelson, Owen Wilson, Dan Fogler. Directed by Jimmy Hayward.
Plot: Two turkeys from opposite sides of the tracks must put aside their differences and team up to travel back in time to change the course of history — and get turkey off the holiday menu for good.
Genre: Animation, Comedy
Rating: F2
Short review: An uninspired, lazy cash-in on the children's entertainment market that feels like the product of pure, unmitigated apathy.
Palace West: 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:10 with 11:10 p.m. Fri-Sat

Frozen (PG)

Starring Kristen Bell, Josh Gad, Idina Menzel. Directed by Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee.
Plot: Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, in a race to find Anna's sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter.
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy
Rating: F4
Short review: A successful continuation of Disney's longstanding tradition with

children's fantasy, with really very little to trip it up.
13th Ave Warren: 12:30, 1:15, 3:15, 4, 6:30, 9:40; **21st St Warren:** 12:05, 12:50, 3, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:20, 3:50; **Movie Machine:** 1, 4, 7:05 with 9:30 Fri-Sat

Grudge Match (PG-13)

Starring Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone, Kim Basinger. Directed by Peter Segal.
Plot: A pair of aging boxing rivals are coaxed out of retirement to fight one final bout — 30 years after their last match.
Genre: Comedy, Sport
13th Ave Warren: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10; **21st St Warren:** 1:05, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10; **Movie Machine:** 4:25 with 9:40 Fri-Sat; **Warren Oldtown:** 10:20 daily with 3:15 Fri-Sun and Wed

New This Week

Her (R)

Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, Scarlett Johansson. Directed by Spike Jonze.
Plot: A lonely writer develops an unlikely relationship with his newly purchased operating system that's designed to meet his every need.
Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi
13th Ave Warren: 12:40, 3:40, 7, 9:50; **21st St Warren:** 1, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)

Starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage. Directed by Peter Jackson.
Plot: The dwarves, along with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey, continue

"Movies" from page 14

their quest to reclaim Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug. Bilbo Baggins is in possession of a mysterious and magical ring.

Genre: Adventure, Drama, Fantasy

Rating: F4

Short review: The film keeps the franchise on a sure footing, though some of the filmmakers' additions may be unwelcome for some.

13th Ave Warren: 11:50 a.m., 3:30, 7:30; **Warren Oldtown:** 6:30 daily with 11:30 a.m. Sat-Sun; **21st St Warren:** Noon (IMAX, 3D), 12:45, 3:40 (IMAX, 3D), 4:30, 7:20 (IMAX, 3D), 8:15; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1, 4:15, 7:30; **Movie Machine:** 12:45, 4:10, 7:30

Homefront (R)

Starring Jason Statham, James Franco, Winona Ryder. Directed by Gary Fleder.

Plot: A former DEA agent moves his family to a quiet town, where he soon tangles with a local meth druglord.

Genre: Action, Crime, Thriller

Rating: F2

Short review: A capable, likable cast and good action setpieces can't make up for its own moral naivety toward its characters' brutal game of one-upmanship.

Palace West: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20 with 11:30 p.m. Fri-Sat

The Hunger Games: Catching

Fire (PG-13)

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth. Directed by Francis Lawrence.

Plot: Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark become targets of the Capitol after their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem.

Genre: Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi, Thriller

Rating: F5

Short review: The second installment of *The Hunger Games* series lives up to the hype with a stellar cast and steadier camera.

13th Ave Warren: Noon, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50; **21st St Warren:** 12:10, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 7:20; **Movie Machine:** 6:25 with 9:25 Fri-Sat



NEW THIS WEEK: Lone Survivor stars Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch and Emile Hirsch as members of SEAL Team 10 who were tasked with the mission to capture or kill notorious Taliban leader Ahmad Shahd.

Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG-13)

Starring Forest Whitaker, David Oyelowo, Lenny Kravitz. Directed by Lee Daniels.

Plot: An African American's eyewitness accounts of notable events of the 20th century during his tenure as a White House butler.

Genre: Biography, Drama

Rating: F4

Short review: The Civil Rights Movement is effectively dramatized with a good juxtaposition of African Americans then and now.

Palace West: 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45 with 11:20 p.m. Fri-Sat

Genre: Action, Biography, Drama, Thriller, War

13th Ave Warren: 1:30, 4:50, 7:50, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 10:10; **21st St Warren:** 12:40, 2, 3:50, 5, 6:50, 8, 10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:20, 4, 7 with 9:40 Fri-Sat; **Warren Oldtown:** 6:45, 7, 9:45, 9:55 daily with Noon, 12:30 Sat-Sun and 3, 4 Fri-Sun and Wed

Nebraska (R)

Starring Bruce Dern, Will Forte, June Squibb. Directed by Alexander Payne.

Plot: An aging, booze-addled father makes the trip from Montana to Nebraska with his estranged son in order to claim a million-dollar Mega Sweepstakes Marketing prize.

Genre: Adventure, Drama

13th Ave Warren: 2, 5, 8

Paranormal Activity: The

Marked Ones (R)

Starring Andrew Jacobs, Jorge Diaz, Gabrielle Walsh. Directed by Christopher Landon.

Plot: Jessie begins experiencing a number of disturbing and unexplainable things after the death of his neighbor and soon finds that he has been marked for possession by a malevolent demon.

Genre: Horror, Thriller

13th Ave Warren: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40; **21st St Warren:** 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

Philomena (PG-13)

Starring Judi Dench, Steve Coogan, Sophie Kennedy Clark. Directed by Stephen Frears.

Plot: A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent.

Genre: Drama

13th Ave Warren: 3:45, 9:20

New This Week

The Legend of Hercules (PG-13)

Starring Kellan Lutz, Gaia Weiss, Scott Adkins. Directed by Renny Harlin.

Plot: Betrayed by his stepfather, the King, and exiled and sold into slavery because of a forbidden love, Hercules must use his formidable powers to fight his way back to his rightful kingdom.

Genre: Action, Adventure

13th Ave Warren: 11:45 a.m., 3 (3D), 6:20 (3D), 9:30; **21st St Warren:** 1, 10, 4 (3D), 7 (3D); **Movie Machine:** 1:15, 4:05, 6:45 with 9:35 Fri-Sat; **Warren Oldtown:** 7:30 (3D), 10:20 daily with 12:45 Sat-Sun and 4:15 (3D) Fri-Sun and Wed

New This Week

Lone Survivor (R)

Starring Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch. Directed by Peter Berg.

Plot: Based on the failed June 28, 2005 mission "Operation Red Wings." Four members of SEAL Team 10 were tasked with the mission to capture or kill notorious Taliban leader Ahmad Shahd.

Cody Jinks

8 p.m. Must be 21. \$5. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

Friday, January 17

Meat Fest

Friday, January 17 Three night event featuring music by The Tits, Ant Avery, Shawn James and The Shapeshifters, Calamity Cubes, Cricket Wand, Midnight Success, Soleb Theory, Virgin Mary Satellite, Japanese Gameshow, Tom Page Trio, iiis, Death Black Flowers, False Flag, Softie, New Imperialism, Sluggos, Carrie Nation & The Speakeasy and more. Band schedule and more details to be announced. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Ms. Lady Dee "Me and the Boyz"

7 p.m. CD release party. \$5. @Soggy Bottom Too, 779 N West St.

Casey Donahew with JB and the Moonshine Band

7 p.m. All ages. \$21.50-\$25. @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

Dynamic Entry

8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Freeway Revival

10 p.m. Must be 21. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

Saturday, January 18

Meat Fest

Saturday, January 18 Three night event featuring music by The Tits, Ant Avery, Shawn James and The Shapeshifters, Calamity Cubes, Cricket Wand, Midnight Success, Soleb Theory, Virgin Mary Satellite, Japanese Gameshow, Tom Page Trio, iiis, Death Black Flowers, False Flag, Softie, New

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)

Starring Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Annie Rose Buckley. Directed by John Lee Hancock.

Plot: Author P. L. Travers reflects on her difficult childhood while meeting with filmmaker Walt Disney during production for the adaptation of her novel, *Mary Poppins*.

Genre: Biography, Comedy, Drama, Family, History

13th Ave Warren: 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15; **21st St Warren:** 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:15, 4:05, 7:05 with 9:50 Fri-Sat

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG)

Starring Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig, Adam Scott. Directed by Ben Stiller.

Plot: A day-dreamer escapes his anonymous life by disappearing into a world of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and action. When his job along with that of his co-worker are threatened, he takes action in the real world embarking on a global journey that turns into an adventure more extraordinary than anything he could have ever imagined.

Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Drama, Fantasy

13th Ave Warren: 12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 10; **21st St Warren:** 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:30, 4:05, 7 with 9:35 Fri-Sat

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas

(PG-13)

Starring Tyler Perry, Chad Michael Murray, Tika Sumpter. Directed by Tyler Perry.

Plot: Madea dispenses her unique form of holiday spirit on a rural town when she's coaxed into helping a friend pay her daughter a surprise visit in the country for Christmas.

Genre: Comedy, Drama

13th Ave Warren: 6:20, 9:15; **21st St Warren:** 6:30, 9:20

Walking with Dinosaurs (PG)

Starring Charlie Rowe, Karl Urban, Angourie Rice. Directed by Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale.

Plot: See and feel what it was like when dinosaurs ruled the Earth, in a story where an underdog dino triumphs to become a hero for the ages.

Genre: Animation, Action, Family

13th Ave Warren: 1:20, 3:40; **21st St Warren:** 12:25, 3:25; **Movie Machine:** 1:30, 4:20

We're the Millers (R)

Starring Jennifer Aniston, Emma Roberts, Jason Sudeikis. Directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber.

Plot: A veteran pot dealer creates a fake family as part of his plan to move a huge shipment of weed into the U.S. from Mexico.

Genre: Comedy

Palace West: 1:45, 9:15 with 11:35 p.m. Fri-Sat

The Wolf of Wall Street (R)

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, P.J. Byrne, Jon Favreau. Directed by Martin Scorsese.

Plot: Based on the true story of Jordan Belfort, from his rise to a wealthy stockbroker living the high life to his fall involving crime, corruption and the federal government.

Genre: Biography, Comedy, Crime, Drama

Rating: F3

Short review: Scorsese's tale of greed and excess may be Oscar material, but is rather dull and shallow compared to his other works.

13th Ave Warren: Noon, 4, 8; **21st St Warren:** 12:10, 4:10, 8:15; **Warren Oldtown:** 7:30 daily with 11:30 a.m. Sat-Sun and 3:30 Fri-Sun and Wed

"Live Music" from page 11

Tuesday, January 14

Jared Becker and Lunii Copi Quintet

10 p.m. @Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.

Thursday, January 16

Meat Fest

Thursday, January 16 Meat Fest kick-off. Bands and more details to be announced. @Lucky's Everyday, 1217 E. Douglas.

Jeremiah Wheeler with Lacey Cruse

7 p.m. 18 and older. @Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island.

Imperialism, Sluggos, Carrie Nation & The Speakeasy and more. Band schedule and more details to be announced. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Clockwork

6 p.m. 18 and older. @Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island.

2014 Wichita Blues Society Blues Ball

7 p.m. Headlining singer/guitarist, Anthony Gomes, will be supported by Ms. Lady Dee, "Me and the Boyz" and Cleveland Blue. All ages. \$15-\$20 @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

"A Racket for Jackets" Charity Coat Drive

8 p.m. Featuring music by Knifefound, The Cups, Serpent Overlord, Went Missing and Snowchild. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

CutterJ the Absurdist, Cleme and Keeper

8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Events::

>GET LISTED

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

ARTS

Thursday, January 16

Fine Art for the Wine Heart- Van Gogh: Sunflowers

7 p.m. Enjoy a fun evening of painting while sipping wine and expressing your creativity. With step-by-step guidance, you will recreate a selected painting, but in your own way. No previous painting experience is necessary. At the end of the night you will get to take your masterpiece home with you. The canvas, paint, easel, brushes and wine glasses will all be provided. All you need to bring is yourself, a couple friends, and your own bottle of wine. \$35 for WCFTA members, \$45 general tuition. @The Wichita Center for the Arts, 9112 E. Central.

Ongoing

Exhibition: "Vital Signs: New Media Art from the San Jose Museum of Art"

Sat., Sept. 14 to Sun., Jan. 19

Vital Signs focuses on recent new media art that links people and the natural world. @Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

Exhibition: Cary Conover, "Contrasts"

Fri., Nov. 1 to Sat., Jan. 18

@Derby Public Library, 1600 E. Walnut Grove, Derby.

Exhibition: Hugh Greer and Danny Polk

Fri., Nov. 29 to Tue., Jan. 28

@Gallery XII, 412 E. Douglas.

Exhibition: Robert J. Schmidt, "Wurlitzer Works"

Thu., Dec. 5 to Fri., Jan. 31

Original works of art designed from 1939 Wurlitzer piano parts. @The Fiber Studio, 418 S. Commerce.

Exhibition: Paul Bowen

Sat., Dec. 7 to Fri., Jan. 31

Aerial photography presentation by renowned aviation photographer, Paul Bowen. @The Gallery at Larkfield Place, 7373 E. 29th St. N.

Exhibition: "The Era of Downton Abbey, British Watercolors"

Thu., Dec. 26 to Sun., June 1

@Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

Exhibition: Bill Goffrier, "Oil and Water"

Fri., Dec. 27 to Fri., Jan. 31

@Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

ARTS: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Ongoing

6th Annual Sculpture WalkAbout

Thu., Dec. 12 to Sat., Feb. 22

Visit WichitaArts.com for entry procedure and criteria. @CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Saturday, January 18

Wichita Symphony Orchestra presents "Franck Symphony"

Sat., Jan. 18 to Sun., Jan. 19

Cesar Franck's symphony in D Minor. Visit wichita-symphony.org for show times and tickets. @Century II, 225 W. Douglas.

Thursday, February 6

WSU Symphony Concerto-Aria Concert

7:30 p.m. Dr. Mark Laycock will conduct the WSU Symphony Orchestra in the annual Concerto-Aria Concert. Student soloists compete during the fall semester for the opportunity to play or sing with the WSU Symphony, at Miller Concert Hall. For more information, call the WSU Fine Arts Box Office at 978-3233. \$7. @Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount.



Ragamuffin is the true story of Rich Mullins, a prodigy musician who rose to Christian music fame and fortune only to walk away and live on a Navajo reservation. The film is making its world premiere at the Orpheum on Thursday, Jan. 9.

FILM

Thursday, January 9

EDITOR'S PICK

World Premiere: Ragamuffin

7 p.m. *Ragamuffin* is a narrative feature film based on the life of Rich Mullins. @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

Saturday, January 11

The Road to Valhalla

7 p.m. This is the Wichita premiere of Lone Chimney Films' third full length documentary. The 90 minute documentary tells the story of the Kansas-Missouri border during the American Civil War. The film uses historic photographs, interviews and reenactment footage to tell the tale that covers everything from large battles to guerilla actions and the effect that the war had on the civilian population. \$8. @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

Thursday, January 16

Forrest Gump

7 p.m. This 1994 film depicts several decades in the life of Forrest Gump, a naive and slow-witted yet athletically prodigious native of Alabama who witnesses, and in some cases influences, some of the defining events of the latter half of the 20th century in the United States. \$4-\$5. @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

Saturday, January 18

Perfect Little Planet

Sat., Jan. 18 to Sat., April 19

Find out what happens when an alien family tries to decide where to take a cosmic vacation. Screening in the Boeing Dome Theater. See exploration.org for show times and ticket information. All ages. Kids 2-under free, 3-11 are \$3, adults 12-64 are \$5 and seniors are \$4. @Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd.

FOOD & DRINK

Thursday, January 9

Goose Island Beers Tap Takeover

7 p.m. Limited edition beers Goose Island Bourbon County Stout, Lolita, Matilda, as well as Honker's Ale, will be on tap. @Public at Brickyard, 129 N. Rock Island.

Thursday, January 23

Home Coffee Brewing Workshop

6:30 p.m. This hands-on workshop will help you gain knowledge on various brewing techniques, including pour over, French Press, Chemex, AeroPress, and the Toddy Cold Brewing System. Tickets can be purchased at Reverie or by calling 616-4362. \$25. @Reverie Coffee Roasters, 2611 E. Douglas.

Thursday, February 6

Espresso Technique Workshop

6:30 p.m. Workshop participants will learn the techniques baristas use to create perfect espresso shots, practice pulling espresso shots on Reverie's La Marzocco machine and learn to trouble-shoot bad shots. Tickets can be purchased at Reverie or by calling 616-4362. \$25. @Reverie Coffee Roasters, 2611 E. Douglas.

LITERARY

Friday, January 10

Open Mic Poetry Series

7:30 p.m. This event will feature poet Greg Walker and music by Ryan Leiker. \$5. @Anna Murdoc's Cafe, 209 E. William, Ste. 101.

Monday, January 13

Syntactics 001

6:30 p.m. Open mic catered towards short story writers and novelists wanting to read excerpts to an audience of fellow writers. Free. @Reverie Coffee Roasters, 2611 E. Douglas.

Wednesday, January 15

EDITOR'S PICK

Ruth Ozeki, "A Tale for the Time Being"

5 p.m. Watermark Books is pleased to present Ruth Ozeki for a reading and signing of her new book, "A Tale of the Time Being." \$16-\$26. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

Sunday, February 2

Book Club Sunday

2 p.m. The staff at Watermark discuss their thirteen different book clubs along with book club selections, a meet and greet with book club leaders and drawings for prizes. Free. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

NATURE

Friday, January 10

"Voyage Through the Solar System"

Fri., Jan. 10 to Sat., Jan. 11

Using the Observatory's big telescope, visitors can journey through our solar system as the Observatory commemorates the 35th anniversary of the Voyager spacecraft's fly-by of Jupiter. The first stop will be the Moon, then on to Jupiter, and then on to Uranus. Presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. both evenings. All ages. \$3-\$5. @Lake Afton Public Observatory, MacArthur Road and 247th St. W., Goddard.

Monday, January 13

Science Cafe

7:30 p.m. This Science Cafe Topic is "Comets: What Are They; Where Do They Come From; and What Can They Tell Us?" All ages. Free. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Friday, January 17

"Discovering Stellar Secrets"

7:30 p.m. Visit the Observatory to look through the big telescope at a gas giant planet, the spectrum of a bright star, a multiple star system, clusters of stars and glowing clouds of gas during a discussion on how the secrets of stars are revealed. \$3-\$5. @Lake Afton Public Observatory, MacArthur Road and 247th St. W., Goddard.

THEATER & DANCE

Thursday, January 16

EDITOR'S PICK

"Driving Miss Daisy"

Thu., Jan. 16 to Sun., Feb. 2

Set in mid-century Atlanta, "Driving Miss Daisy" tells the story of an elderly Jewish matron, Daisy, and her chauffeur, Hoke. At first Daisy is none too happy about being forced to rely on a black man. But Hoke gradually wins her over, and during the 25-year span of the play the two develop a deep-rooted affection. Visit forumtheatre.com or call 618-0444. \$23-\$25. @The Forum Theatre, 147 S. Hillside.

Saturday, January 18

Say What?! Comedy Improv

7:30 p.m. \$10. @Old Cowtown Museum, 1871 Sim Park Dr.

Thursday, January 23

Inherit the Wind

Thu., Jan. 23 to Sun., Feb. 9

This play, which debuted in 1955, is a story that fictionalizes the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial as a means to discuss the then-contemporary McCarthy trials. The debate over creationism versus evolution has contemporary resonance, as evidenced by the play's numerous revivals and screen adaptations decades after its initial theatrical run. See wichtact.org for ticket information and show times. @Wichita Community Theatre, 258 N. Fountain.

Friday, January 31

Godspell

Fri., Jan. 31 to Sat., Feb. 22

Godspell is a musical by Stephen Schwartz that paints, with various musical parables from the Gospel According to Matthew, a portrait set in late 1960s New York City. Jesus Christ recruits a group of followers and teaches them important lessons through song and dance featuring a wide range of musical genres including bluegrass, R&B and rock and roll. This electrifying tale follows the teachings of Jesus Christ with levity and reverence and has appealed to a wide range of audiences around the world. Call 612-7696 for more details. @Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, 3207 E. Douglas.

ASTROPOOP!

THE SKINNY ON YOUR WEEK
by Diviner Mme Zanzibird

Aries: (March 21 — April 19)
Week rating: F5
You're just one good snow storm away from finishing your igloo. This week: Listen to *The Thieving Magpie* while catching up on old episodes of *Sherlock*.

Taurus: (April 20 — May 20)
Week rating: F1
While you were deciding the best time to make your Facebook post, 1 million more Facebook users quit Facebook. This week: Plan a Hawaiian get-away trip.

Gemini: (May 21 — June 21)
Week rating: F3
Your grandmother will accidentally let it slip that there's a werewolf in your family. This week: Stock up on silver bullets.

Cancer: (June 22 — July 22)
Week rating: F4
You're ready to tackle the challenges 2014 brings, kind of. This week: Set up a coffee date with an old friend.

Leo: (July 23 — Aug. 22)
Week rating: F2
In a dream, you will learn that Lorde time-traveled here from the 1600s. This week: Invite a friend over for beers and fish sticks.

Virgo: (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22)
Week rating: F5
You'll meet your Valentine's Day date at the gym with the other New Year's resolutioners. This week: Scare a group of chatty teenagers at Panera.

Libra: (Sept. 23 — Oct. 23)
Week rating: F3
The best fun you'll have all week will be watching *Downton Abbey* with a friend, accompanied by beers and fish sticks. This week: Invent a new way to tie a necktie.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24 — Nov. 21)
Week rating: F3
There are always other fish in the sea, unless you're looking for cod at Cape Cod. This week: Finish writing thank-you notes and donating unwanted Christmas presents to the DAV.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21)
Week rating: F4
The more it snows, the longer you can get away with drinking hot chocolate for breakfast every day. This week: Send a copy of *The Room* to your best friend.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19)
Week rating: F5
An admirer will send some Donut Whole donuts to your office as a birthday gift. This week: Accept an offer to go for coffee but insist on buying.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18)
Week rating: F1
You'll only be able to tolerate gluten for two more weeks. This week: Do an interpretive dance in Gander Mountain.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 — March 20)
Week rating: F4
The sight of a stranger dancing at Gander Mountain will make your week. This week: Hug anyone who looks sad.

Ask a Mexican!

by Gustavo Arellano
themexican@f5paper.com

Dear Mexican: How do we humanize the illegals in this country? My reasons for asking this question are many, but mainly a very personal one. I've been in this country illegally for 16 years, y *ya chole* no? For 16 years I lived

my life like anyone else: going to school and working.

Eventually I became a teacher for the public schools. It is too long to explain how I did all this. I knew it would come to an end at some point — as the gringos say, the shit would hit the fan eventually.

Well it has, and now I am a nanny to my best friend's kid.

We were talking one day and decided that if anything were to happen, if I was arrested or in trouble for some reason she may be the one to be judged as a bad mother for leaving her child with a criminal such as myself.

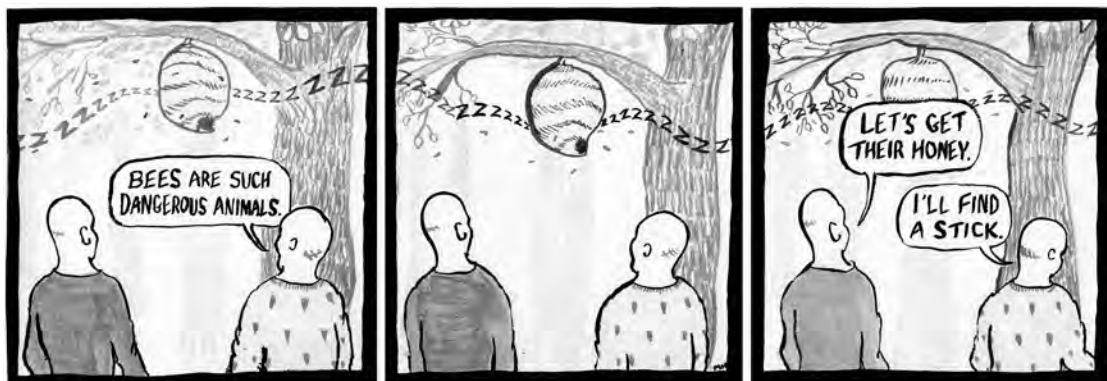
You see, I am no criminal. I've never done anything wrong. I was brought here when I was 14 years old, so I had no choice. The only wrong I've done is run

see "Mexican" page 20



iASK A MEXICAN!

Bohunk & Kern
By Mike Hill



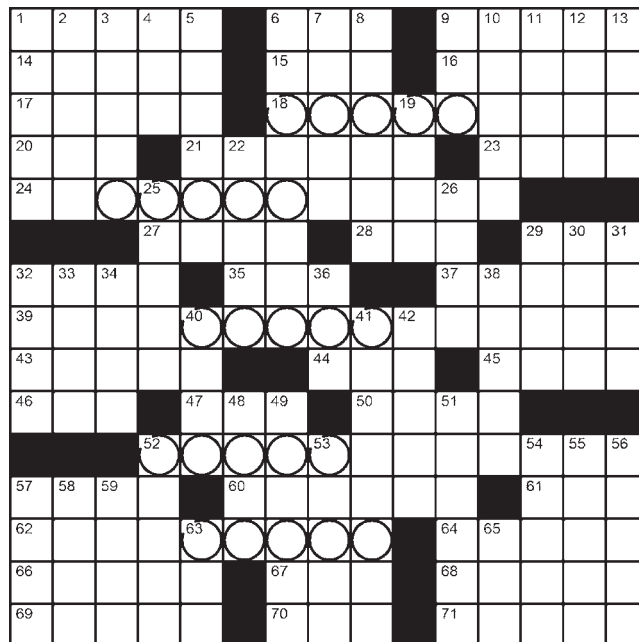
More at Facebook.com/BohunkAndKern

Jonesin' Crosswords "Full Houses" — a pair plus three of a kind, and no Uncle Jesse.

by Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1 Camera setting
- 6 Play around with some music
- 9 Bar display
- 14 1986 Indy 500 champ Bobby
- 15 Prefix with scope or sclerosis
- 16 Last in a Greek series
- 17 Hill in a 1991 hearing
- 18 Howard Stern's producer/sidekick
- 20 Emmy-winning scientist Bill
- 21 Leachman of "Young Frankenstein"
- 23 "Go back" computer command
- 24 Ground-water separator?
- 27 Since
- 28 Go to brunch
- 29 Day, to Don Quixote
- 32 Abbr. on a mountain peak sign
- 35 Fresh, in Frankfurt
- 37 "Bye Bye Bye" band, 2000
- 39 Pest
- 43 Language that gave us "kiwi"
- 44 Phoenix-to-Vancouver dir.
- 45 Photographer Geddes
- 46 2013 and 2014, e.g.
- 47 Curvy shape
- 50 Phobia
- 52 Appetizer trays at a luau
- 57 Bravo preceder
- 60 Kindle buys
- 61 Dennis's sister on "It's Always Sunny"
- 62 Rapper who dropped part of his name after 2001's "Doggy Bag"
- 64 Fireplace nook
- 66 City of central Florida
- 67 Ginger ____
- 68 "Wall Street" theme
- 69 SATB section



- 70 Gen-____ (Millennial)
- 71 Disgusting

DOWN

- 1 Swiss cash
- 2 Big name in consumer electronics
- 3 Man of steal?
- 4 Cereal grain
- 5 Yell on the set before "curtain up"
- 6 Posting sought by some seekers
- 7 "Asteroids" game company
- 8 Cell

- 9 Melodramatic sound
- 10 Love, French-style
- 11 Kings of ____
- 12 Like some cheddar
- 13 "The Banana Boat Song" opening
- 19 "The Thin Man" dog
- 22 "Jurassic Park III" star Tea
- 25 Noisemaker or party hat
- 26 Mountain on the Mediterranean
- 29 Bob Dylan's "In My Time of ____"

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

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

- 30 Get ____ the ground floor
- 31 Face trouble
- 32 Soap-making award?
- 33 "I don't believe you!"
- 34 "Dukes of Hazzard" deputy
- 36 Tea server
- 38 Begin
- 40 Modern waltz violinist Andre ____
- 41 Blooming
- 42 Make a slight adjustment to
- 48 Gush
- 49 Chain pitched by Michael Phelps
- 51 Punctuation in an e-mail address
- 52 Nobel-winning poet Neruda
- 53 Good surname for a lifeguard?
- 54 They may be sanded down
- 55 Get new tenants
- 56 Broken-down
- 57 "I get that ____"
- 58 Hair scare
- 59 Dessert after paella
- 63 Paddle cousin
- 65 Org. for shooters

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I GAVE MY LOVE A CHERRY: The question is not, "Should some guitar players be stopped?" but rather, "How can we find the guitouchebags at a glance?"

"Guitouchebags" from page 2

Also worth considering that guitars can be soft and pensive while a saxophone will likely generate noise complaints, even at its quietest.

Also, no one can hear your beautiful new lyrics about your car, or that guy who dumped you, or the girl you dream of who just *might* be in front of you right now if your mouth is wrapped around a saxophone.

This is worth mentioning now because there's an entire new breed of guitouchebags™ (pronounced "gih-toosh-bags") whose beards are full of Mumford and Sons, whether loving or professing to hate them. Real guitarists cringe at this, as they are the ones who are supposed to be getting all the girls. Wait, that's not actually what Marcel said, it was something less about girls and more about actual music. Boring, right?

What we need now is a contemporary John Belushi to smash the guitars played on every metaphorical stairwell in every metaphorical frathouse in America. Still, not everyone who plays guitar as a hobby is a douchebag... how do we distinguish those with whom Bluto should intervene from those who just like their guitars?

"More people want to be guitarists than want to learn to play guitar," Marcel said. "I always ask, is there a song you want to learn to play? If they don't have one in mind, some song that made them want to learn, I know they're doing it for the wrong reasons and I don't really want to teach them."

So play your guitars, work out your intimate acoustic covers of the best of Styx, but watch yourself for signs of guitouchery. Are you wearing a hoodie with the hood up indoors or in non-inclement weather? Is your Facebook profile picture



BY MIKE PIVONKA

an unironic instagrammed photo of you with your guitar? Are you sitting in a public park or lawn space right now playing a song you wrote about hiking? None of these things individually make you a guitouchebag™, but they are all signs you're headed in the wrong direction.

*Side note: As I wrote this, picturing the idea of a beautiful woman softly playing a pensive melody on a violin in a public park made me realize this would TOTALLY work.

Letters to the editor ::

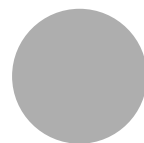
GET ON THE BUS

To the editor,
I am a concerned citizen who has an issue with the Wichita transit. Specifically the bus system. As you may or may not know it is on a limited run schedule. Now, let me be clear about something before I start my complaint. I understand that more than likely it is a funding issue, but this is a bigger problem than just the buses not running after 6:30 p.m. or so. i.e. I have a dear friend of mine who was released from prison some time ago with the conditions that he would be a productive member of society. Well, the judicial system wants him to do this with no drivers license. But I have a question. How is a person supposed to go to work, bank, grocery store, take kids to and from school, without a car or decent public transit? I am writing you in hopes that the F5 would take a story on such as this one. I myself am inclined to contact the

director of Wichita Transit, and ask him these same questions. But I understand the power of the pen can be a very effective way to get things done. Another statement I would like to make is that I am under the impression that no other media outlet would even consider doing an effective story on how to change the system.

Your saying is "work like a farmer party like a rock star." That tells me that if change is going to be made this would be the place to start. Farmers are what built this land of ours through trials and tribulations. If anyone has had to fight for themselves or fellow mankind it has been the farmers. I hope this finds someone well, and it will at the very least let someone in the media know that there are people out here like me who care about others, and want to see positive change. Even if that change is a big one.

Thank You,
— Mehadi Ali Mohamed, Wichita 🐦



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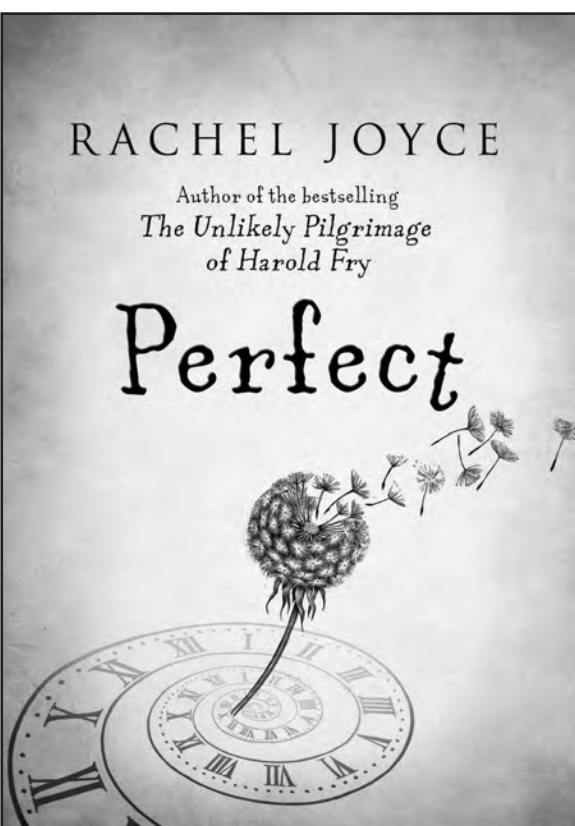
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Schadenfreude abounds in Joyce's *Perfect*



by Kelsie Baab
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The holidays are over and it's back to the grind for most of us. As we put away our Christmas decorations, we will also hang our sentimental cloaks of generosity in the attic until next year, and there's no better way to jolt yourself back into the reality of a new year than to immerse yourself in an eerie and hard-to-read book.

That's right, Rachel Joyce's new novel, *Perfect*, includes all the elements of disturba: glaring class differences, boys at private school, vanity, depressed suburban housewife, absent husband, blackmail, suicide, and to top it off, an autistic-seeming narrator. Oh yeah, the plot also jumps between the past and the present, in case you miss the connection between the unsatisfying upbringing and the protagonist's solitary, obsessive-compulsive adult existence.

None of the characters are particularly relatable. Not Diana, the mother who dresses in old-fashioned pencil skirts, "the way her husband [likes]," nor her husband who constantly inquires of the Jaguar he bought his wife, "Do the [other] mothers still notice?" and certainly not Beverly, Diana's tacky new friend who, since their first meeting, "seemed to be fixed on [Diana's] rings." Not even Byron's friend, James, who is endearing in an Owen Meany kind of way, is dependable as, when Byron needs him most, James is M.I.A. due to his parents forbidding him to visit the Hemmings' residence

after an unfortunate incident in their pond the previous summer.

The only character left to care about is Byron himself, the plump, neurotic narrator who is frustrating throughout the book for his lack of agency and inability to comprehend the bigger picture.

So why should you spend time and energy reading Joyce's newest narrative? Because, despite this pathetic cast of characters (or, more probably *because* of this lousy lot), Joyce masterfully speaks to that black area in each of our hearts we like to pretend doesn't exist, to the part of our brain specifically designed for *schadenfreuden*-ous situations which make us feel better about ourselves.

Joyce acknowledges this guilty pleasure when she admits to *The Guardian* that "Shiny, happy people get quite enough coverage. I'm drawn to people who find themselves on the outside of things," and again to *The Metro Newspaper* when she claims, "I'm drawn to people who struggle [and] *Perfect* is about a broken person."

So if you're willing to admit that what your new year needs is a little bit of the stuff that makes you feel better than other people (and even if you're not willing to admit it), go get Joyce's new novel today. No one else needs to know. And I'll let you in on a little secret; the ending isn't devastatingly heartbreaking, either. So if your heart needs a little bit of warming due to post-holiday blues, *Perfect* might be just what you need to get you through January.

>READ IT

Title: *Perfect*

Author: Rachel Joyce

Publisher: Random House

Price: \$10.99, 16.39, 11.10 (Kindle, Hardcover, Paperback), 400 pgs.

ISBN: 0812993306



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"Mexican" from page 17

across with the rest of *mi gente*; the only difference is that I didn't know why I had to do it. I was only obeying my family.

So how do we share this with the rest of the world so that they see that us *mojados* are people with feelings, families, friends, schooling, hobbies, ideas and ambitions? We're only missing a few papers along the way.

— Tu Paisa Jarocha

Dear Chica from Veracruz: Easy — by telling your story and that of people like *ustedes* to the rest of America until you're *azul* in the face. By calling your local politician, from school board members to Barack Obama. And, finally, by telling everyone to no longer refer to undocumented folks as "illegals" — unless it's a satirist with a point, of course!

You've poked fun at the guardians of Cervantes before, so I just had to write to you now that I've finished reading the 1962 Walter Starkie translation of *Don Quixote*. Since I had very little trouble understanding it, I'm guessing that Starkie modernized the Spanish in addition to translating it. Have you read in the original Spanish, by chance? If so, would you say that the Renaissance-era Spanish is as difficult for Spanish speakers as Shakespeare is for English speakers? Also, is Cervantes required reading for Mexican high school kids as Shakespeare is for kids in the U.S.? (I imagine it is for kids in Spain.)

— Gabacha Que Lee

Dear Gabacha: Cervantes in the original *español* is a *chingadera* to read, what with all those damn medial *s locuras* and forays into Old Castilian when the Man of the Mancha speaks, but it's far more palatable than reading a bunch of "anons," you know? Starkie's translation is fine, but *más mejor* is Edith Grossman's version. And, *finalmente*, *Don Quixote* is not required reading for Mexi *prepa* kids, — but *Condorito* sure is.

I get that gabachos complain about all the wabs sneaking across the border and taking jobs from gaba-



Pirtle's sketchbook



chos, and that Mexicans complain about all the Guatamalans sneaking across their border and taking jobs from Mexicans. Who do the Guatamalans complain about, or are they at the bottom?

— Living in Brasil but Like Watching America. But Unlike Mexico and America, Looking Forward to our

Copa do Mundo

Dear Carioca: Death squads.

Ask the Mexican at themexicanof5paper.com, be his fan on Facebook, follow him on Twitter @gustavoarellano or ask him a video question at youtube.com/askamexicano!

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